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Developing: Dems Secure Senate Hold, Congress Control Remains Uncalled

By Michela Arlia & By Gabriela Flores
Managing Editor & Editor In Chief

Following last week's midterm elections nationwide, the Democratic Party clenched wins in states where races were close to their Republican opponents.

Twelve women will take their seat as governor in 2023, including New York's Governor Kathy Hochul, who won her first fully elected term and became the first woman elected to serve in the position for the state.

Hochul earned 5.8% more votes against her opponent, Lee Zeldin. In Arizona, Secretary of State Katie Hobbs won the governor seat against Republican Kari Lake in a highly publicized election. Hobbs' win marks a "rebuke to a prominent election denier," according to NBC News, providing a battleground for Democrats in the upcoming presidential 2024 race.

Other tight races included that of the Senate race in Pennsylvania, where Lt. Governor John Fetterman won a seat against GOP candidate Dr. Mehmet Oz. In Nevada, incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto was re-elected to serve, sealing the Democrats' hold over the Senate with her win against Republican Adam Laxalt, the state's former attorney general who was backed by former President Donald Trump. As of press time, Cortez Masto won the majority by a slim 0.8% margin against Laxalt.

Another big question raised during this election season was whether the Senate and House, which have been under Democrat majority, would have a chance to be flipped to Republican. All 435 seats in the House, and 35 out of 100 seats in the Senate, were on the ballot this year. Following the closure of polls on election night, these decisions on seat majority could not be called.

As of press time, the



Nevada's Catherine Cortez Masto wins re-election for senator, seals the Democratic Party's hold over Senate./Getty Images

majority ruling of the House has not been called for either party, as ballots have yet to be finalized in districts in California, Colorado, and New York, according to the New York Times. With the final vote count incoming, seven uncalled districts have been reported to lean mainly Republican. The GOP secured Congress seats in states including Arizona, Montana, and districts in California. On Monday, Nov. 14, Republicans had 214 seats, four away from

the 218 total needed for House control. Democrats trail behind with 204 seats secured, as of reporting.

The holdup of the finalized count is also dependent on the upcoming runoff vote of Georgia's race for senator between GOP candidate Herschel Walker and incumbent Senator Raphael Warnock. This runoff will take place Dec. 6.

The Vanguard will continue reporting election updates as they become available.

Parkland School Shooter Sentenced After 4 Years

By Gabriela Flores
Editor In Chief

Four years after murdering 17 students and faculty at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Nikolas Cruz was sentenced to life in prison on Nov. 2. Defendants argued Cruz is mentally impaired due to his birth mother taking drugs and alcohol while pregnant.

On Valentine's Day in 2018, 17 were killed in less than four minutes, including students Alyssa Alhadeff, 14 years old; Gina Montalto, 14; Joaquin Oliver, 17; Martin Duque, 14; Alaina Petty, 14; Nicholas Dworet, 17; Meadow Pollack, 18; Helena Ramsay, 17; Jaime Guttenberg, 14; Alex Schachter, 14; Carmen Schentrup, 16; Luke Hoyer, 15; Peter Wang, 15; and Cara Loughran, 14. Faculty members Scott Beigel, 35; Aaron Feis, 37; and Chris Hixon, 49, were also murdered.

The month-long trial ended with a jury recommending a life sentence instead of the death penalty. Cruz, who was 19 years old at the time of his mass shooting, pleaded guilty in



A memorial in Parkland, Florida for the 17 victims killed by Nikolas Cruz./Miami Herald

October before the trial began, narrowing his sentence to life in prison or capital punishment. The 24-year-old was sentenced to 17 counts of first degree murder. During his killing spree against his former high school, Cruz injured another 17 students and faculty who took the stand against their shooter.

"The idea that you, a coldblooded killer, can actually live each day, eat your meals and put your head down at night - it

seems completely unjust," said Stacey Lippel, a teacher who was wounded in the shooting, during a two-day court hearing where survivors and affected families addressed Cruz after the sentencing.

Several of the victims' relatives wanted Cruz to die under capital punishment. Cruz's defense team claimed in the trial's closing that they were being harassed, with ruling Broward County Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer denying

their allegations.

The mass shooting led to national protests in 2018, with calls for gun reform. After the jury's verdict was released, Florida's state legislatures have called for changes to their state's death penalty rules. Death penalty cases tried in Florida's courts must have a unanimous jury verdict, which many state lawmakers opine should be reverted to a simply majority for a death sentence.

GENERAL INQUIRIES
THEBCVANGUARD@GMAIL.COM

CLUB HOURS
118 ROOSEVELT HALL
MONDAY: 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.
TUESDAY: 11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
GABRIELA FLORES
23FLORESG@GMAIL.COM

MANAGING EDITOR
MICHELA ARLIA
MICHELACA24@GMAIL.COM

BUSINESS MANAGER
HIFZA HAMEED
IHFZAHAMEEDII.COM

LAYOUT EDITOR
ANAKIN JACKSON
ANAKINJACKSONM@GMAIL.COM

DIGITAL EDITOR
EMMAD KASHMIRI
EMMADK01@GMAIL.COM

PHOTO EDITOR
KAYLIN GUZMAN
KAYLINGT01@GMAIL.COM

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
BRIE UNDERWOOD
BRIECUNDERWOOD@GMAIL.COM

SECTION EDITORS

NEWS: RADWAN FARRAJ
RADWANFARRAJ47@GMAIL.COM

FEATURES: SERIN SARSOOR
SERIN.SARSOOR@BCMAIL.CUNY.EDU

ARTS: SAMIA AFSAR
SAMII.AFSAR@GMAIL.COM

OPINIONS: TBD

SPORTS: OWEN RUSSELL
OWENNRUSSELL@GMAIL.COM

STAFF WRITERS
DIANA BAUTISTA
PATRICK BOYD RICHARDSON
HELEN DANG
TRAVIS FREEMAN
DAVID GLANZMAN
CHAYA GURKOV
MARWA IKHMAYES
STEPHANIE JIMENEZ REYES
SHLOMIE KATASH
HARITHA LAKSHMANAN
CYNTHIA LEUNG
PRISCILLA MENSAH
MELISSA MORALES
DAMIEN OVALLE
CAILAH PARKER
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AMIRA TURNER
DYLAN TYLER
DELASIA VANTERPOOL
AVI WIZWER
ALEXANDRIA WOOLFE

CARTOONIST
NITU FARHIN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
SOPHIA KEBADZE

FACULTY ADVISOR
MJ ROBINSON

Efforts For A Native American Studies Minor Continue



Prof. Jocelyn Wills receiving gifts from AICH members during the Nov. 1 Ceremony./Kaylin Guzman

By Shlomie Katash
Staff Writer

Students and faculty at Brooklyn College have been long calling for the implementation of a Native American Studies minor that would focus on the history of colonization and the process of decolonization in the United States. Advocates for the minor are demanding the college to take more steps toward building Native American presence on campus.

“We can develop classes in Native and Indigenous Studies, but if we don’t have people to consistently teach, shepherd, and grow it, then we can’t have a viable minor,” Professor Diana Pan, the director of BC’s American Studies Program, wrote in an email to *The Vanguard*. “We need full-time, faculty

experts in Indigenous American Studies (and more than one) to fully nurture a minor.”

Currently, the college has had an official “Native American and Indigenous Studies of North America” class on the books for over twenty-five years, but it was not taught “until this past spring 2022,” according to Professor Elizabeth Cooper, who works with Pan and other CUNY faculty in the push for more Native American-related courses.

Noticing the lack of Native American and Indigenous representation in the curriculum, a diverse group of advocates for Native American Studies has been pushing Brooklyn College for change for four years now. Native leaders, including those from the American Indian Community House,

are also working alongside faculty to raise visibility of Native American presence on CUNY campuses. Students, especially, have been key in the ongoing movement.

“In 2018, over 200 students at Brooklyn College - led by students in Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, Africana Studies, English, and American Studies - signed a petition calling on the administration to hire full-time faculty in Native and American Studies,” wrote Cooper in an email to *The Vanguard*, noting the demand “didn’t receive a response from the administration.”

Since then, Native American Studies has become a talking point on campus and several steps have been taken to advance the cause. On Nov. 1, for instance, an Opening Ceremony was held in honor of Native American

Heritage Month, where over 100 participants were in attendance, including BC’s Chief Diversity Officer Anthony Brown and President Michelle Anderson.

“Hopefully this signifies a shift in their support for Native American and Indigenous studies,” said Cooper.

There is still a long road ahead for implementing a minor in Native American Studies, but for its advocates, the curriculum is important and necessary for Brooklyn College’s community.

“After all, we live, learn, and socialize on stolen land,” wrote Pan. “How do we fully understand the history of the United States without learning about the First Peoples who inhabited this land? Without Native American and Indigenous

Studies, we are not learning complete histories and experiences of the American people, writ large.”

Moving forward, students can continue to demand BC and CUNY to bring about a campus that works toward decolonization, Cooper explained.

“We want to transform the campus so that it resembles, or actualizes, its decolonial potential,” Cooper said. “Sign up for the courses we already offer, and remain vocal about what you want. The more that students say that they want more offerings in Native American and Indigenous [Studies], the more that the administration will listen.”

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A Creative Space For All: Stuck In The Library Hosts Fall Open Mic

By Gabriela Flores
Editor in Chief

In an afternoon filled with spoken word, jokes, and music, Brooklyn College's Stuck in the Library let students and their creativity run free. Celebrating the publication of their fall poetry magazine in masquerade fashion on Tuesday, Nov. 15, STL continued their traditional open mic.

"I think it's really good for people to have this creative outlet to express themselves and their individuality. It was really nice to see people out here and perform," said Melissa Morales, the club's vice president. "I just hope that STL continues to be alive and continues to be this creative space where people can connect and enjoy themselves."

From thought-provoking and reflective poems, to unfiltered jokes from a standup comedian, the latest STL event came in full swing with the community's creative wits. In the Student Center's State Lounge, participants embraced every performance, anxiety jitters, any hiccups along the way, and the vulnerability that many who recited their works powerfully embodied. Through it all, students supported, cheered, and listened to those who took the podium.

"I love seeing these creatives when they were singing, sharing jokes and poems - they were very brave because they could've gotten booed, they could've gotten bad backlash," said Nyanna Barkley, a first-year BC student. "Some of them came on very nervous and anxious, but they still gave these great poems."

One of the event's opening pieces was delivered by Melanie Tapia, who read her short story that highlighted the challenges of being a migrant crossing the US-Mexican border. Over the course of six minutes, Tapia showcased Ernesto Lopez, a fictional protagonist that symbolized the migrants longing for the "sueño," or dream, of a better future. Lopez left his home in



BC student Delasia Vanterpool reciting her poem./Kaylin Guzman

Mexico to financially support his wife and their unborn daughter. Through first-person narration, Tapia shared a riveting prose that did not sugarcoat the dangers, threats, and violence that migrants could face in their journey to the States.

Before beginning her work, Tapia prefaced with mentioning the growing number of migrants who died en route to American soil.

"Who determines the value of a human life? Who decides which bodies are counted and deserve recognition? This year, we've had some of the highest migration rates in history," Tapia said. "What causes an individual to leave their home? Their families? A dream, a better life, and hope."

A slew of students followed Tapia with their original poetry. The listeners' attention hung on every word shared, some resonating with the narratives told. One of the many pieces that captivated students was Lexington Rivera's "Frankenstein." Despite the title paying oath

to the creation brought to life by fictional mad genius Victor Frankenstein, Rivera's piece spoke to struggles with body image and the desire to change one's own appearance. Her literary comparisons to Frankenstein's tale and the living human body were unparalleled, leaving many to admire Rivera's writing.

"I want to build a body and live inside it/The one I'm in is all full of scraps," recited Rivera while at the podium. "[...] Like the Monster, I can't talk about what's wrong all I know is the pain of being myself/I want to build a body and live inside it."

Channeling the lens of the average Brooklyn College student, Wei Jian Zhen later took the stage with "In These Streets." Though he is not an avid poem-writer, Zhen's knack for storytelling through spoken word was recognized as early as fifth grade by his teacher. Drawing inspiration from the campus community and surrounding neighborhood spots, including Brooklyn Best Eats, he recited a piece that he

intended to be relatable for many in the room.

"More specifically someone who may live near Brooklyn College," Zhen told The Vanguard.

As the scheduled open mic line-up came to a close, other student creatives took the floor. Whether it was finding courage in bearing witness to others pushing through their nerves or the idea of having their work connect with others, students like Barkley ended the event with more unique pieces. In "A Monologue for an Angel," first-year student Rose Popal laid out the complexities of spirituality.

"This was my first ever Stuck in the Library event, and after seeing everyone come together - even people who were visibly anxious still doing their best to perform - I decided to go up randomly," said Popal. "What I consider god, or angels, or demons, are completely different from someone else's perspective. But maybe in my way of explaining how I feel about these divine objects, someone

else can relate to that.

Looking to the future, STL members will continue publishing and embracing the university's creativity through their events and printed editions. Though submissions for this fall are closed, STL's spring literary edition is drawing near for those interested in having their art, short stories, and poems published, according to the club's president, Skyla Medina.

"It feels great to provide a space for creatives to share work especially for people who aren't majoring in anything creative," said Medina, who is a psychology major. "STL was always a way for me [to have] a creative outlet since I don't really do that in my classes and I hope it's like that for a lot of other people."



BC Desi Club And Women's Center Co-Host A Diwali Celebration

By Haritha Lakshmanan
Staff Writer

Diwali, commonly referred to as the "Festival of Lights," is perhaps one of the most important holidays in Hinduism. As such, the BC Desi Club and the Women's Center on campus co-hosted a Diwali Celebration on Thursday, Nov. 3.

"[...] The main goal of this event was to create a safe space for everyone to celebrate or to understand Diwali and its related festivities," said Pooja Solayman, a senior and the co-president of Desi Club. "We wanted to have an event where everyone could come and hang out."

Diwali is described as the triumph of good over evil and there are many components that build part of the holiday. Like much of the regions of the world that celebrate Diwali, its traditions are extremely diverse. Through their event, the Desi Club wanted to give participants a rich range of festivities.

"We wanted to have various stations and to make this event a celebration, but also a learning event," said Stella Matthew, a senior and the co-president of Desi Club. These stations included henna, a plant-based dye that is used to create designs on the skin; diya painting, where participants decorated clay lamps; rangoli art, or colored powders that are used for pattern making; and typical



Participants of the Diwali Celebration./BC Desi Club

Desi food, such as samosas, gulab jamun, mango lassi.

At the henna station, there were several BC students who volunteered their time to put henna on fellow students.

"Henna is a typical part at most South Asian events as it represents happiness and beauty," explained Solayman. The diya painting station featured paint, paintbrushes, and unpainted diyas.

"A typical Diwali festival includes painting them and lighting the diyas to represent the victory of light over

darkness," Solayman said. The rangoli station featured paper plates and colored powder where students were able to use the powder to create designs.

The event's high turnout was one of the club's major successes, and one that many members did not expect. "We are glad that so many students could make time and enjoy this event with us," said sophomore Alana Abraham, Desi Club's secretary.

In collaborating with the Women's Center,

club members wanted to introduce BC students to the organization's resources. "Our club has several freshmen and sophomores who may not have had the chance to fully explore campus. We really wanted to highlight the Women's Center as a great asset and support to turn to on campus, so we reached out to them," said Solayman.

Overall, BC's Desi Club and the Women's Center consider their event a success attributed to all of the students who were able to make it. The

club aims to continue being an inclusive space that fosters growth among students by embracing diversity.

Desi Club will host a grand Desi Night in the spring, similar to the one they hosted last year, where members hope people regardless of race and gender can show up and have a great time.

VANGUARD GAZETTE

By Nitu Farhin



VANGUARD GAZETTE : THANKSGIVING SPECIAL

Nitu Farhin

Composers' Collective Return With Enthralling Original Pieces



Zhi Chen and his friends performing their original piece "Lots of B's."/*Donghui Han*

By Samia Afsar
Arts Editor

As BC students rushed to and from classes, the Composers' Collective gathered music lovers to its first in-person concert following a two-year pandemic hiatus. Bordered between the glass walls of the Claire Tow Center, the Collective performed on Monday, Nov. 7 in the lobby of the building for a memorable afternoon of original pieces composed by the student members themselves.

The event opened with a welcome address by the club's president, Gidong Kim, who thanked the patrons for attending the Collective's first in-person concert since COVID struck. Emmanuel Ortiz, the club's treasurer, then took the make-shift stage to present the closing piece from an original murder-

suspense musical he has been constructing. Being the final piece from his musical, Ortiz's composition did not illustrate the thrilling melody you would typically expect from a murder-suspense story. Instead, it beautifully exhibited tunes traditionally parallel to redemption, relief, and reassurance.

Theodore Mankiewicz, a baritone, followed immediately after with two vocal performances while being accompanied by Maxwell Hinton on the piano. His first, a setting of French poet Paul Verlaine's "Colloque Sentimental," and the second being an original composition entitled "The Rain," which was about the desperation that springs from unreciprocated love. Standing with his shoulders back and his hand oftentimes resting on his heart, passion oozed from Mankiewicz's performance

as he delivered powerful storytelling through song. As a baritone with a full, rich voice, Mankiewicz's song vibrated off the walls as he rhythmically held each note; keeping the audience's focus even when disrupted by the sounds of a vacuum cleaner.

Kim took the stage next to present his composition "Boundless love." Accompanied by soprano Zoe Gao, Kim balletically played the piano as each note paired beautifully, syncing almost magnetically to his vocal accompaniment.

Kim's set marked the end of the event's vocal performances with the second half of the show presenting original instrumental compositions. The first of these compositions was Samer Chiaviello's "Rift." Accompanied by an upbeat audio playback, Chiaviello played the violin, constructing an audibly

captivating twist on the classical instrument.

Similarly, Douglas Hertz's piece, "Formerly Busy Place," was also accompanied by an audio playback as he played the piano. Being a quite lighthearted, almost dreamy piece, there was a familiar sense of comfort and nostalgia that radiated from his composition, much like that of a forgotten dream or fading memory, which entrapped much of the room.

Jesse McFadden followed immediately after to present his electronic composition which he showcased earlier this semester at the 32nd Bi-Annual Electroacoustic Concert. Needless to say, McFadden's performance is one that uplifts the entire room with listeners involuntarily nodding their heads to each beat, creating a sea of satisfied patrons who could feel his music in their bones.

Zhi Chen was the last to perform, showcasing a jazz composition he and his friends composed together entitled "Lots of B's." While playing the vibraphone, Chen was accompanied by his friends on the trumpet, piano, electric bass, and drums. Capturing the pure essence of jazz, the band started off with an exuberant, upbeat melody before each member exhibited a solo with much encouragement from Chen, who gestured for the audience to clap for each band member as they played their instrument.

As the concert came to a close, Kim thanked the audience members once more for attending the Composers' Collective "comeback." The Collective will captivate listeners again in the spring with another show.

'Black Panther' Is The Best Culmination To MCU's Phase 4

By Kaylin Guzman
Photo Editor

"Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" hit theaters and fans' hearts on Nov. 11. After the unexpected death of Chadwick Boseman in 2020, the future of Marvel's Black Panther was in question. Although executives from Marvel knew they would not recast the character, fans of the franchise had high expectations of the sequel that would signal the end of Boseman's reign as the titular superhero.

If you have not watched the movie, this review will contain spoilers and should be avoided if you want to experience the film to its full potential.

With an abrupt start, the movie explains T'challa's death. News sources within the Marvel Cinematic Universe even say the death occurred due to an undisclosed disease. It was a respectful way to signal Boseman's death without taking advantage of the situation surrounding his passing. With a funeral held for the fallen king, we get a glimpse of African traditions and their experience with death. While many question why T'challa's funeral was not attended by his superhero counterparts, it is their presence in these scenes that would have been a distraction from the purpose of the opening act.

This act was a goodbye to T'challa as king and protector of Wakanda. Audiences were allowed to have a moment to reflect on the loss of a beloved character and the actor that beautifully brought him to life.

The sequel is arguably one of the most authentic Marvel films after "Avengers: Endgame." Since Marvel has been

focusing on quantity over quality lately, it was nice to see they did not rush this movie and ensured the plot made sense to the character development. From small details in the new Black Panther suit to the explanation of new personas introduced to the MCU.

Two of the most critical characters introduced were Namor (Tenoch Huerta) and Riri "Ironheart" Williams (Dominique Thorne), who make the new story explored throughout the film. After T'challa opened the borders of Wakanda to the world, all world powers wanted to have a little bit of vibranium in their possession. Vibranium is the type of metal found in Wakanda and parts of the ocean. This material has allowed both civilizations to become significantly advanced compared to other nations in the MCU.

Williams, a brilliant young woman attending M.I.T., creates a machine that can detect vibranium, creating problems for Wakanda and its precious resource. Her invention was taken by United States officials and used to find small deposits of the resource deep within the seafloor. However, these deposits are not located near Wakanda, where the only deposits were believed to be. Instead, they are found in the vast oceanic kingdom of Talokan, where the first battle for underwater vibranium begins. To defend their precious metal, Talokan warriors take it upon themselves to fight against the invading military forces.

From this point on, Namor and his people are trying to defend their homes and precious resources. We get an origin story for Namor, "El Niño Sin Amor," and how he became the leader of the underwater Talokan kingdom. He is established



Marvel's newly released 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' film./Marvel Studios

to be a mutant, the second in the current MCU after Kamala Khan from the Disney+ series "Ms. Marvel."

The city of Talokan, hidden deep within the water's darkness, seems ancient but technologically advanced. Its people have assimilated to its environment and have developed like its above-water counterpart, Wakanda.

The incorporation of ancient Mesoamerican culture was exciting on its own. Audiences got to see art from that era and hear the native tongue spoken amongst characters. The production team's attention to detail even led them to color-coordinate subtitles for the different languages spoken so viewers could differentiate. Wakandan is always in yellow, the language of Talokan is blue, and any other language present needing translation is white.

Never before had I seen a film embrace such a forgotten culture as this

film did. Representation is essential for every culture shoved down to the bottom of the barrel. The way the writers and directors of the film decided to display this Mesoamerica-inspired city and its people was remarkable. I hope this is not the last we see of Namor, "El Niño Sin Amor."

My system of knowing a movie is good depends on how many times it can make me cry. I cried three times during "Wakanda Forever" since some scenes called for tears to be shed. From T'challa's funeral, the death of another central character, the introduction of the new Black Panther, and the grief beautifully explored in this film. Director Ryan Coogler truly delivered a fantastic experience to audiences. Although an unexpected journey for the characters such as Shuri, Queen Ramonda, and Nakia.

Nakia lost the love of her life. Queen Ramonda lost her son, a crucial part of her life and Wakanda. While Shuri follows in her brother

T'challa's footsteps and takes over the Black Panther role. Her suit displays silver and gold parts, exploring her persona and how she has been influenced by other characters. Silver was the prominent color of T'challa's suit. Gold was the color of Killmonger's suit, who was the vengeful cousin looking to right the wrongs done to his father when he was younger.

The new titular superhero goes through the five stages of grief, and the audience is along for the ride. It was interesting to see her attitude throughout the movie change.

I believe this narrative leaves the characters, like Shuri, in an excellent place for the future. They are open-ended characters that can develop in any way possible. Whether Shuri uses her skills for good or bad is up to Marvel. This is why 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' was the perfect way to end the MCU's phase four.

Opinion: Perks Of Joining BC's Revamped Moot Court Team

By Shlomie Katash
Staff Writer

Moot court is a staple of any law school curriculum. And at Brooklyn College's Moot Court Team, my peers and I hope to introduce it to prospective law students now.

The program, organized by the American Moot Court Association, is a competition between schools in which students argue over the legal details of a hypothetical case provided to them by the association. It's an opportunity for students to explore complicated legal topics, expand their education, meet like-minded students, and build on their communication and presentation skills.

In my opinion, there isn't any better chance for students even remotely interested in law school. It's a place to practice what you love while refining your craft alongside people with similar goals. Not only is moot court itself an integral part of any law school experience, but familiarizing yourself with it can only be helpful for you on both a personal and professional level. The lessons you learn can also carry you a long way in any field of work. Any professional would say that researching, communicating, adapting, and corresponding with teammates are skills that are more than helpful in any office.

The competition we have at the Moot Court Team is unlike most other legal competitions that students may already be familiar with. It's not a mock trial – there are no witnesses or juries – and it's not a debate team – opposing teams aren't directly communicating or

arguing with each other in the proceedings.

Rather, in moot court, students argue over an appellate case, or a case that was already decided but is being reviewed to ensure that the verdict was correct.

Each side presents their overall argument in individual speeches given by each member of the team, but they must deal with questions from judges who are looking to properly decide on the case. Because of this, the most important skill for any student, beyond a vast knowledge of the case at hand, is the ability to think on their feet and adapt quickly to any difficulties.

Personally, as the group's treasurer, I decided to help restart Moot Court not only because of a passion for the law, but for the chance to connect with students around Brooklyn College. It's no secret that, especially after COVID, it's been difficult for students to find opportunities to meet like-minded peers. I believe this is especially true when it comes to political science and pre-law students. Not only is finding such peers crucial for having a fulfilling Brooklyn College social experience, but it's necessary for building a future career for yourself. Alumni networks, or any sort of community-building on campus, only work if students actually have a chance to meet each other.

With the Moot Court Team, we not only hope to give Brooklyn College students a chance to connect, but we hope to build an environment that lends itself to easy-going and spirited discussions, giving every student a chance to open up. For instance, the first case we're covering is a famous hypothetical case

Courtesy of the Moot Court Team

about trapped cavers forced to cannibalize another to survive.

Should they be sentenced to death? It's a difficult question to be tasked with answering, but it's one that anyone, no matter their familiarity with the law, could pick up and talk about.

One day, we hope to expand Moot Court from just discussions and practices between students on campus

to an actual team that competes regionally and nationally with other schools. Unfortunately, competitions begin in early fall, so it'll have to wait. The work, however, starts now. By building a community on campus, we want to build the foundation of a successful, fun team that represents Brooklyn College on any stage.

If reading this opinion piqued your curiosity of

moot court, consider joining us in 3129 Boylan on Nov. 22. In the next meetings, we hope to build upon the discussions of the theoretical miners case and introduce a legal case much more grounded in, well, the law.

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Opinion: It's Time To Cut College Years Short

By Jada Simon
Staff Writer

Every conversation I've ever had with a college student has always diverted to the topic of, why? Why is college so long? To that I always answer, "it's those Pathways classes."

For anyone that is unaware of what Pathways are, think of them as classes that you take while you figure out yourself and what you want to do with your life. While that seems like a great idea, Pathways are practically a repeat of courses that you likely already took in high school, so why repeat that again? Why not prepare students for their career earlier, maybe even as early as their later years in high school?

College can easily be cut in half if core courses are focused on earlier in a student's academic career, or if students are allowed professional career prep from junior year of high school to senior year of college. That means an associate's should be one year, a bachelor's two years, a master's a maximum of three years and so forth.

Just cut 'em all down.

Speaking from personal experience, college can fly by fast and students tend to arrive near the finish line with their major already chosen and still left unsure about their future.

One important motto of the U.S. is that good citizens must be made and everyone has to play their part. It was Gordon B. Hinckley, a renowned religious leader, who said, "Every good citizen adds to the strength of a nation."

We need career readiness courses for students in high school and we need to stop wasting their time by making them take

It's time to cut college's Pathways courses and start career readiness early on, Jada Simon opines. /OECD

liberal arts courses twice. What students need is a certainty on what they want to do with their life, and though that feat is hard for anyone, it's near impossible without proper guidance.

Without proper educational measures, who can have a fair shot in finding and playing their part in society? What will become our nation's backbone? As the saying goes, "The children are our future." Why aren't we working to give every student all we can so they can have a brighter future? Allowing all high schoolers the opportunity to experience AP classes and college counseling, affords them skills they can put to use in pursuit of their potential career, according to an article in Edutopia, an educational foundation. Students need to be able to

hone particular skills that can land them good jobs that can make them good money. It's the only way they'll survive because, in the framework of our society, money equals survival.

If some students are deemed stupid by a made up curriculum and no one sees the need to give them equal opportunity, that's essentially setting them up to fail. A study found that 81% of high school dropouts reported that 'seeing the connection between school and getting a job' would have convinced them to stay enrolled, according to the EAB, a consulting firm for educational institutions.

I decided to test this theory. I spoke with Shariyanna Gordon, a former high school classmate of mine, who had a career readiness

program in her school in Texas before transferring schools to Brooklyn. She said that being allowed to explore different career paths helped her to pursue a career in biology.

"My high school in Texas had classes pertaining to careers that students could possibly want to go into in the future," Gordon said, noting she was offered courses related to business, engineering, the medical field, and others. "It helped me in knowing what I wanted to pursue in college and make that career my future."

A little can go a long way. Implementing career-based classes in high schools gives students the time they need to decide what they really want to do with their life. That kind of decision is not easy.

It takes a while for someone to find their

groove, and leaving them to feel forced to choose a major and graduate from college leaves them with wasted time and nothing to go on. Essentially, what we need is to give students the preparation they need ahead of time so they can stop wondering what they want to be and actually know what they want to be.

That way, they can enter college, major in something they actually enjoy, and have a higher likelihood of a successful career. Instead of having their life amount to a 9 to 5 or living miserably at a job they hate.

It's time to cut the Pathways in college, and get careers in motion as early as high school.



BC Sports Recap (Nov. 8 – Nov. 13)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WINS SEASON OPENER

By Avi Wizwer
Staff Writer

The defending CUNYAC Champions started the season with a statement victory in their home opener, defeating Farmingdale State 79-51. The Bulldogs were sharpshooters behind the arch, knocking down eight.

Senior Gianna Gotti led the team in scoring with 13, but four Bulldogs scored in double figures. Brooklyn College improves to 1-0 on the year, while the Rams fall to 0-1 on the season.

Brooklyn will look to build on their record on Nov. 16 against Kean University in Union, New Jersey.



BC's Sarah James./Damion Reid for BC Athletics

MEN'S SWIMMING EARNS SPLIT ON OPENING DAY

By Gabriela Flores
Editor In Chief

Taking the Bronxville pool alongside the women's swimming team, the Bulldogs beat SLC 90-16 on Nov. 12. Brooklyn shined in the 200 yard medley relay, with Max Bratkovsky, Devin Boodha, Christian Hoyek, and Ronaldo Barrios leading the matchup against Sarah Lawrence.

Brooklyn's performance against Baruch was a different story. The Bearcats' Youssef Elkhoully led the 200 yard freestyle, with Bulldog Hoyek earning second place at a 2:05:98 finish. In the 50 yard freestyle, Brooklyn's Boodha didn't come to play, leading first place and ahead of three swimmers from Baruch. Boodha also took first in the 100 yard breaststroke. BC's

competitors stunned in the 400 yard IM as three Bearcats led the charts, with a Bulldog trailing behind in fourth place. Despite some Bulldogs sitting high on the scoring sheet, the team ultimately came short against Baruch, who won 99-60.

The men's team will return for a non-conference match on Dec. 3 against William Paterson.



Men's swimming earns win against Sarah Lawrence./ Damion Reid for BC Athletics

MEN'S BASKETBALL DROPS THREE GAMES, WINS ONE

By Avi Wizwer
Staff Writer

The Brooklyn College men's basketball team took on Montclair State in their season opener at the West Quad Center on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The season began with a bang as the 2020 CUNYAC Championship team received their 2020 championship rings. Despite the festivities, it wasn't enough as the Hawks defeated the Bulldogs 93-51.

Montclair outscored Brooklyn 53-27 in the first half as the Bulldogs shot 34% from the field. Senior Zuric Harvey led Brooklyn with 14 points.

Bulldogs bounced back on Nov. 10, achieving their first win of the season. Brooklyn defeated the College at Old

Westbury 83-62, shining during the first half of their performance this time around. The Bulldogs rolled with a 23-5 run, blasting countless three pointers. Junior Malik Dale lit it up from behind the arch, swooshing seven three pointers for a game high 30 points.

Coming off of their impressive win on Thursday, the Bulldogs looked to open up their appearance at the Dan Greene and Wayne Cook Memorial Tournament on the same note. Despite their great efforts, Brooklyn fell short to St. Mary's College of Maryland, 65-89, on Saturday, Nov. 12. After trading baskets, Saint Mary's went on a 16-0 run and never let up. The Seahawks dominated the second half and put Brooklyn

away. Malik Dole and Kaylin Olajide dropped 12 a piece to lead Brooklyn in scoring.

Brooklyn's fourth and final game of the week came on Sunday, Nov. 13 against the University of Valley Forge. The Bulldogs could not secure a win in the consolation game, losing 62-81. The first half played out relatively close with the Bulldogs trailing 40-33. But a second half run led Brooklyn in a hole it could not climb out of. Olajide led Brooklyn in for the second time this season, dropping 20 in the loss. Brooklyn's record falls to 1-3.

The Bulldogs will look to stack wins in the coming weeks. Their next chance comes on Nov. 16 against William Paterson University.



BC's Tyler Lodge./Damion Reid for BC Athletics

WOMEN'S SWIMMING LOSES OPENING MATCHES

By Gabriela Flores
Editor In Chief

The Bulldogs dove into two losses on their Nov. 12 opening day, falling to Sarah Lawrence College and Baruch. Their 37-144 loss against the SLC Gryphons in Bronxville

was accompanied by BC's Anastasia Kutuzova, whose powerful performances made splashes in the competition. Kutuzova was neck-to-neck with SLC's Katherine McKane, landing second by a seven second margin, finishing the 400 IM at 5:13:01. The

Bulldog also scored second in the 100 yard butterfly and 100 breaststroke match-ups. BC's Susanna Buckley placed Brooklyn on the charts with her 3:00:00 finish in the 200 yard freestyle, earning fifth place.

When it came to their scores

with Baruch, Brooklyn's luck was much the same. The Bulldogs lost 54-93. The Bearcats led in the 100 yard freestyle with Kaetlyn Chavez finishing 1:01:51, while the Bulldogs trailed behind at fourth place in Julie Huang who completed the match in

1:05:60. Huang went on to earn sixth in the 100 yard backstroke, followed by Bulldog Anastasiya Gousseva.

Brooklyn is set to compete again on Saturday, Dec. 3 in New Jersey against William Paterson University.

Will Edwin Diaz Become The Next Aroldis Chapman?

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

The New York Mets wasted no time putting the baseball world on notice. Just two days after the Houston Astros beat the Philadelphia Phillies in the World Series, it was reported that the Mets' relief pitcher Edwin Diaz had signed a five-year \$102 million contract.

The record-setting deal brings back baseball's best closer from 2022, and locks him down for half a decade. Undoubtedly, the move signifies that Mets' owner Steve Cohen is committed to winning a World Series. While fans in Queens are already popping the champagne, they may need to take a moment. While Diaz dominated late innings all of 2022, I find it hard to believe his monstrous contract won't come back to bite Cohen and the Mets where "the sun don't shine."

Cohen has spent big since acquiring the Mets. As of 2020, New York has boasted baseball's highest payroll, beating out perennial high-rollers like the Yankees and Dodgers. Multiple big ticket free agents have been lured to Queens by preposterous amounts of money. In 2021 shortstop Francisco Lindor inked a 10-year \$341 million contract, making him the tenth highest paid player in the league. Not to be out done, Max Scherzer signed a three-year \$130 million dollar deal to make him the highest paid player per year. Diaz's deal becomes just the latest in this trend. Not only is Diaz's \$102 million dollar contract the zenith among current relief pitchers, it is the richest deal ever struck by a reliever.

The previous richest reliever contract? Aroldis Chapman's contract with the Yankees in 2017. How did that turn out? Short answer, disastrously.

Obviously, Chapman and Diaz are different pitchers. It would be unfair to assume that just because the previous highest paid closer imploded like the Hindenburg, that Diaz would follow suit. But it is worth comparing each pitcher leading up to those contracts.

Both Chapman and Diaz

entered the majors at 22 years old. Both of them signed their historic contracts at 28 years old. And both pitchers were widely regarded as the best closers in baseball when they signed the dotted line.

In their contract years, both pitchers dazzled. Chapman earned 36 saves with a 1.55 earned run average while pitching for both the Yankees and Chicago Cubs, eventually helping Chicago win their first World Series since the early 1900s. It could be argued that Diaz had an even more dominant year. The Mets' closer earned four less saves than Chapman, but threw 115 strikeouts with an ERA of 1.31. Clearly a link exists between the two, but what separates them may prove to be more illuminating.

Diaz struggles with consistency. Since joining New York as part of a trade with the Seattle Mariners, Edwin Diaz has been an absolute wild card. In his first season as a Met, his ERA ballooned from 1.96 to 5.59. It fell under 2 in a bounce back second year, but his third year saw another increase as he threw for a 3.45 ERA. Obviously last season was a dominant performance, but it is fair to say that Diaz is a question mark in Queens.

As for Chapman, before signing his massive deal, he was as competent a closer there could be. From 2012 to 2015, Chapman threw for an ERA of 2.0 or lower three times, and earned four straight years with 100 or more strikeouts. Even in the two years before 2012, Chapman's skills set the baseball world on fire as he consistently threw 100 miles per hour. Chapman's dominance continued into 2016, and thus guaranteed his record-breaking contract.

Comparing the numbers, Chapman blows Diaz out of the water, and his deal makes much more sense. He had five straight seasons as the best relief pitcher in baseball, Diaz has yet to string together more than one. It's hard to justify that Diaz deserves such a large contract, but even if you think his numbers are worthy, take a look at how Chapman's contract panned out.



Mets' Edwin Diaz. /Getty Images

After signing with the Yankees, many assumed that Aroldis Chapman would be the reincarnation of Mariano Rivera – a callous closer who cared nothing about the batters he squared off against, sending them packing on three straight pitches. A pitcher who caused audiences to turn off their televisions because when he stepped on the mound there could only be one outcome. What did New York get for their money? A whisper of what Chapman used to be.

Chapman's ERA jumped and his strikeouts fell. His regular season play did enough to warrant three All-Star appearances, but he failed to be the playoff powerhouse New York needed. He earned a reputation for being unable to seal the deal. In his postseason

tenure with the Yankees, Chapman earned six saves, one win, and three losses in 17 appearances. He faded into obscurity once October rolled around. Chapman's career free fall culminated this year when he failed to make New York's postseason roster.

There is no crystal ball indicating that Diaz will follow in Chapman's footsteps, but the demise of baseball's formerly highest paid closer should be a warning sign for Steve Cohen and the Mets. There is no guarantee that Diaz can live up to his contract. His career has been streaky. Dominant at times, but a liability at others. And even if his career was as stunning as Chapman's once was, he is cresting 30. A drop off point for more than a few MLB pitchers.

The goal for New York is a World Series. Not in ten years. Now.

Perhaps signing Diaz brings New York one step closer. After such a phenomenal year, he was bound to command big bucks on the open market. Perhaps Cohen made the deal he thought no other team could match, sacrificing some of his own money so New York could bring back Diaz for the immediate future.

It is hard to rule whether this deal will sink the Mets, or bring them their first World Series since '86. Whatever the case may be, grab your trumpet, because Diaz is going to be around for a long time.