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# **THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD**

Spring 2023, Issue 2

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Wednesday, February 1st

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# Dr. Betty Lee Sung, City College's Asian American Studies Founder, Dies At 98



Dr. Betty Lee Sung teaching at City College./New York Times

By Gabriela Flores  
*Editor-In-Chief*

Dr. Betty Lee Sung was a pioneer that accomplished many firsts as an activist, CUNY professor, and scholar who actively addressed Asian American and immigrant issues throughout her lifetime. On Thursday, Jan. 19, Sung died in her Maryland home. She was 98.

“Betty Lee Sung can only be described as a force. She defied traditional cultural and familial expectations as a woman, and broke Asian stereotypes, paving the path and opening doors to Asian American studies for so many who came after her,” wrote Joyce Moy, former executive director of CUNY’s Asian and Asian American Research Institute, in the organization’s obituary.

Born in 1924 in Baltimore, Maryland, Sung was the daughter of two Chinese immigrant parents. As a Chinese American scholar, Sung’s research on Chinese American history led her to write countless publications and nine books.

One of her earlier books, “Mountain of Gold,” became the first documentation of Chinese American history by a Chinese American

when it was published in 1967. Asian Americans and other students of color used “Mountain of Gold” in their activism and demand for ethnic studies, according to the Museum of Chinese in America. Sung’s book held a decade’s worth of research that described Chinese immigration and subsequent assimilation in the United States. Much of its research content was drawn from Sung’s travels and interviews of Chinese Americans around the country for her show on Voice of America, a state-owned international broadcaster, where she worked as a scriptwriter.

By 1970, she taught City College’s first full-time course in Asian studies, later founding its Asian American studies program. The program was a first on the country’s east coast, The New York Times reported. She taught at City College for 22 years, eventually leading the program as chairperson, before retiring in 1992.

Sung’s decades-worth of research centered around employment inequality, bigotry, and other issues that affected Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans, while actively

challenging the stereotypes posed against her community. Years before her monumental strides in CUNY as a professor, she was raised with four other siblings, and eventually moved to China with her parents during the Great Depression in 1934 when she was 9. Her father soon returned to the States with one of her brothers, and her mother and another sibling died in China. Sung and her two remaining siblings later sailed internationally to their father’s Washington home, escaping Japanese invaders in 1938.

During World War II, Sung earned a scholarship to the University of Illinois after working with the Library of Congress for Chinese translation work. There, at the university, she earned her bachelor’s in sociology and economics. She later moved to New York and earned her master’s degree in library science at Queens College in 1968. Twenty-eight years later, she received an honorary doctorate from SUNY Old Westbury in 1996.

Sung’s imprint on CUNY and Asian American studies did not end with her retirement. In 2001, she co-founded the university’s

Asian and Asian American Research Institute. By 2015, she published her ninth and final book, a memoir entitled “Defiant Second Daughter: My First 90 Years,” later going on to receive the 2016 CUNY Award from the Graduate Center. In 2017, she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association for Asian American Studies. She then continued her work, creating a \$100,000 endowment at CUNY for AAARI to fund research on Asian American topics.

Beyond her mark at the university, Sung also played a significant role in archiving the voices, documentation, and rich history of Asian Americans in the United States. She ensured that the Library of Congress had its own Asian American section, where many of her published works are housed under the “Betty Lee Sung Collection.”

A memorial service will be held on Jun. 11 at the Museum of Chinese in America. Her funeral is set for Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home in Maryland.

# Developing: COVID's Impacts On BC's Transfer Student Enrollment

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

Brooklyn College's student enrollment for spring 2023 remains in flux as spring registration continues. A Jan. 26 report details that 581 entering transfer students are enrolled for this term, with numbers subject to change as registration closes. The entering transfer enrollment count is currently about 5.5% lower in comparison to last January.

Transfer enrollment has steadily decreased since spring 2020 when CUNY and other campuses nationwide shut down due to COVID-19. In March 2021, approximately one year after the start of remote learning, entering transfer enrollment dropped by 31.9% from the previous spring.

"A large number of our students have faced similar challenges all across the country, including interruption to their studies," wrote Richard Pietras, the college's media relations manager, in a statement to The Vanguard. "The college is committed to offering our students proactive, timely, and tailored support in order for these students to return and ultimately graduate."

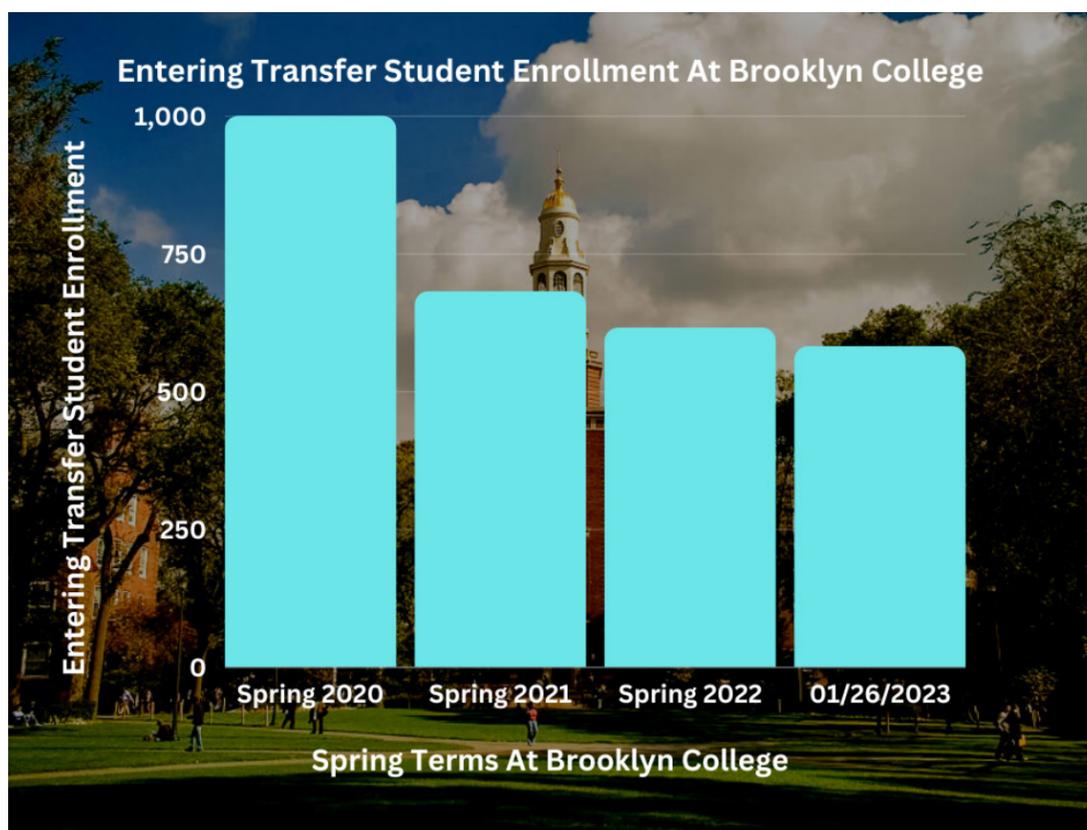
While data for the number of transfer students continuing their bachelor's studies are not yet available for this spring, most transfers that enroll in BC come from CUNY community colleges, including Kingsborough, Borough of Manhattan, LaGuardia, and others. The university's community colleges were reported in

2022 to have undergone a 13.2% plunge in student enrollment, according to THE CITY, with all but Kingsborough experiencing drops in students. At Brooklyn College, resources and new partnerships with CUNY community colleges have been instated to boost enrollment and better aid transfers in their transition to campus.

Most recently, the college signed an articulation agreement with Guttman Community College on Jan. 9, where credits for entering transfers could count towards a bachelor's in earth and environmental studies at BC.

"These seamless paths prepare students to learn at a critical time in our history how the environment affects humans and how human activities impact our environment," said Anne Lopes, BC's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, in a press release. "We look forward to preparing our Guttman transfer students further for important careers and contributions in the Earth and Environmental Sciences."

Following its decline in incoming transfer student enrollment in fall 2021, BC implemented a Transfer Student Success Team with a two-year, \$300,000 grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation. The team includes advisement and degree completion coaches, according to Brooklyn College's website. Other efforts between Brooklyn College and CUNY schools aim "to streamline and improve the transfer student enrollment experience," according to Pietras. Academic advisors and admissions counselors



A look into entering transfer student enrollment./*Gabriela Flores*

from BC, for instance, meet with potential transfers at Kingsborough and BMCC, where the majority of the college's transfer student population hails from.

"Our transfer students bring so much to the campus community and we try to 'meet them where they are' since they have already attended college," said Pietras, noting the college

**“In March 2021, approximately one year after the start of remote learning, entering transfer enrollment dropped by 31.9% from the previous spring.”**

works to aid enrollment for first-time freshmen, returning students, students who took a break from their studies, and others. "The goal is to make the process as seamless and welcoming

as possible for our transfer students."

For transfers who enrolled during the pandemic's peak, when classes were mostly online, other resources attracted them to BC.

"I got an associate's degree in liberal arts at BMCC," said Samuel Kelleher, a journalism and media studies major who transferred to BC. "I wanted to get my bachelor's from Brooklyn College because I knew it was the field I wanted to be in." Since joining the college, Kelleher received extensive support from his professors, aid with transferring his credits to BC, and joined the campus radio station.

"The one piece of advice I would give to someone transferring is don't be afraid to ask for help. I can't speak to the other majors and departments at BC, but in JAMS, I've never been around such an understanding and helpful department," he said.

CUNY recently boosted the re-enrollment of

former students through CUNY Reconnect, a program backed by a \$4.4 million budget from City Council. Over 14,000 students re-enrolled this fall semester, after leaving their studies "due to personal circumstances stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic."

Slight improvements are shown with more entering first-year students enrolling. At Brooklyn College, the total enrollment for undergraduate and graduate students is currently 12,736 students as of Jan. 26, approximately 7.19% less than the enrollment during the same time last year. With spring registration closing soon, the count of this spring's total enrollment will likely finalize in March. "Students are still registering for spring semester, and we are still reaching out to continuing students who have not yet registered to provide assistance wherever possible," wrote Pietras.

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# Whitman Gets New Floors, Removes Asbestos-Containing Materials



*Edited by Kaylin Guzman*

By Gabriela Flores  
*Editor-In-Chief*

Two rooms in Whitman Hall were retiled early this January after a flood loosened their previous flooring material during Hurricane Ida in 2021. The retiling comes after a hired environmental consultant recently confirmed the presence of

asbestos, thin fibers that could cause diseases, in the tiles and flooring adhesive of Whitman B024.

“As tiles became loose, Facilities installed Masonite boards over the tile to prevent further damage until [asbestos] abatement and repairs could be scheduled,” Carrie Sadovnik, the director of BC’s Office of Environmental Health and

Safety, wrote in a statement to The Vanguard. Sadovnik explained that the previous flooring was made up of vinyl asbestos tiles (VAT) and an adhesive called mastic, which are common materials for buildings built before 1980. VAT and mastic cannot easily pulverize and release hazardous airborne fibers, making them legal to use despite containing asbestos. Since Whitman B052 was built during the same time as B024, its flooring material was assumed to contain asbestos as well.

“As of early January 2023, all VAT and associated mastic have been removed from these two rooms, and new tile has been installed,” wrote Sadovnik. “EHS monitors the condition of VAT across the campus and prioritizes repair and/or removal using licensed abatement

contractors.”

No other rooms in the Tow Center were identified as needing asbestos abatement, or removal of the hazardous material, during a damage assessment conducted after Ida in 2021.

Though exposure to asbestos could cause diseases such as lung cancer and mesothelioma, VAT and similar building materials that contain asbestos are non-friable, or not easy to pulverize when handled properly. Several infrastructures throughout New York City also have asbestos-containing materials, but do not pose a high risk to public health if regulations are followed.

“The risk of high exposure from accessing the building or working in B024 and B052 is small because tile/adhesive is non-friable and

because abatement methods are required which prevent the release of fibers into the environment,” Sadovnik wrote.

While a building on campus is being abated, licensed contractors follow strict guidelines to ensure that the air from a work area containing asbestos does not travel outside. Plywood and plastic sheeting are also used to isolate the work area.

“Only the abatement contractors are allowed to enter the abatement area once the project begins. During the removal process, the contractors take several precautions to minimize the dispersal of asbestos fibers,” according to the college’s “Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Asbestos Removal” document.

## CUNY Ends Non-Credit, Remedial Courses For Associate’s Programs

By Michela Arlia  
*Managing Editor*

CUNY announced that as of the fall 2022 semester, traditional remedial courses across the university are terminated after a seven-year phase-out, according to a Jan. 12 media release.

The courses were assigned to new students in associate’s degree programs who had low course completion, retention, and graduation rates prior to their college admission. Most remedial classes were in math.

Students assigned to remedial courses were required to pay tuition and use time-stamped federal and state financial aid for the courses. Remedial classes did not provide credits that could count towards a student’s degree requirements.

In 2016, CUNY began

its remedial course reform, replacing the once mandatory, non-credit learning with inclusive and equitable “corequisite” courses.

“Corequisite courses are credit-bearing courses that provide students with embedded academic supports to help them succeed in the course and count toward their degree requirements,” read the press release. “They replace costly, non-credit bearing remedial courses that students had been required to pass before embarking on college-level courses.”

Students were placed into remedial courses after taking placement exams before their first college semester. Those who showed the need for more support in either English or math had to complete said remedial courses before they could enroll in any other credit-



Remedial classes end for students pursuing associate’s degree./CUNY

bearing courses in those subjects.

These practices disadvantaged students from underserved communities, as most of those enrolled were reported to be low-income students of color.

CUNY noted that despite being too early to measure the impact this change will have on students, indicators suggest the switch to corequisites is positive.

“Since CUNY began corequisite adoption, the

percentage of first-year associate-degree students who earned math credit in their first two semesters rose from 36% in 2016, when the transition began, to 50% in 2020,” read the statement.

# BC Reacts: Biden, Pence, Trump Found With Classified Documents



(L to R) Donald Trump, Joe Biden, and Mike Pence were found with classified documents they should not have./Kaylin Guzman

By Serin Sarsour  
Features Editor

Six classified documents and other materials were found and taken from President Joe Biden's home in Wilmington, Delaware after a 13-hour search was conducted by Justice Department investigators on Jan. 20. It was revealed that some of the documents found were classified, dating back to his time as senator and vice president. Some Brooklyn College students are not shocked by the news.

"I think it's not a surprise. So often so many vice presidents and presidents get caught in something," said a BC junior Destiny Mateo.

Former Vice President Mike Pence was also found with classified material in his home after he was searched in the wake of the

news of Biden's possession of classified documents. Although Pence repeatedly denied having knowledge of classified documents being in his home, his attorneys found about a dozen documents in his private residence with the FBI doing a thorough review of how the documents ended up there.

"I think that is alarming to me as classified documents should be in professional settings so the public can trust that the documents are safe and in the right hands," said a BC junior who wanted to remain anonymous. "I think that they are holding high powered positions and need to be held accountable if they are taking advantage of their power."

Since Trump's departure from office in January 2021, about 300 documents with classification markings have been recovered,

some of which were top secret, as reported by AP News. As of press time, the Justice Department has also searched the home of former President Donald Trump, who refused to return classified documents before the FBI executed a search warrant on Aug. 8 at his home in Mar-a-Lago, Florida.

Although many do not believe that officials and people in office have the right to take hold of classified documents, other BC students do not see a problem with it.

"Trump was the president of the US. He can keep any kind of documents with him. He had the right to do whatever he wanted with them when was president," said Saad Ahmad, a BC senior.

According to NPR, Biden shared that he has "no regrets" about the way he has handled the discovery

and search of the documents in his home and offices.

Ahmad believes that Biden should receive the same treatment that Trump received when he was found with classified documents. "Biden is not above law; he and his Democratic Party exaggerated the classified documents found at Trump's home, but when similar documents were found at his house in Delaware, he was not even apologetic for all his previous statements. He needs to be held accountable for mishandling this situation," he opined.

The National Archives and Records Administration has asked former presidents and vice presidents to look for any classified documents they should not have. Although Ahmad believes

it should be up to the elected officials to choose to return the documents or not, he, Mateo, and the anonymous BC student are all in agreement that this is not an effective way to have more classified documents returned.

"I doubt anyone would willingly come clean if they held off for this long," said the anonymous BC student.

The student added that they feel as though those in possession of classified documents should face consequences for not upholding that they work for the well-being of all Americans. On the other hand, Mateo believes that all Americans should find out what is inside of the documents and how it could affect others before deciding to punish them.

"There are boundaries people shouldn't be able to cross, including those in high positions," Mateo said.

# Bridges For Yemen Hosts Mental Health Awareness Panel For Yemeni Americans

By Kate Dempsey  
Staff Writer

Having good mental health is quintessential for one's well-being. Unfortunately, discussing mental health is stigmatized in many countries and the communities within them. For Yemeni Americans, there are added barriers for this ethnic minority in the United States where talking about mental health as a Muslim can feel for some as coming into conflict with their faith.

Brooklyn College's Bridges for Yemen club hosted its panel "Alhamdulillah and? Navigating Life Stressors as Yemeni-Americans" on Saturday, Jan. 28, in collaboration with the Yemeni American Merchants Association, the Muslim American Society, and Eihā, a Yemeni community organization based in Brooklyn. Alhamdulillah, which translates to "praise be to God," was paired with "and?" to reflect the panel's open discussion about mental health and its relation to faith, providing resources and support for those in the community who are struggling.

"The goal of this event is to talk through or just start to educate regarding mental health in our Muslim Yemeni American community. Stigma is universal across all cultures,

but we see the erasure and it is deeply stigmatized," said Hanan Yafai, organizer and president of Bridges for Yemen. "We wanted to start by first just educating about what is mental health, what is trauma, and tying trauma to the war."

The civil war in Yemen has created what the United Nations calls the "world's worst humanitarian crisis." An estimated 24 million, or 70% of the country, are in need of humanitarian assistance. Here and abroad, the war has compounded stressors for Yemeni Americans whose families may be facing the conflict back home. For those living in Yemen's war, air strikes, torture, food insecurity, COVID-19, and other factors have contributed to their stress, according to panelist Waleed Alhariri, director of the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies.

"The Yemeni community is a very close community. So they copy and paste whatever [is] in Yemen and brought it here. So even the same approaches to mental health we see reflected here [is] in the Yemeni community," Alhariri said.

Alhariri, who recently co-authored a study called "The Right to Mental Health in Yemen: A Distressed and Ignored Foundation for Peace," added that out of every religious group in the



Therapists Roua Eltayeib (left) and Somer Saleh (middle) discuss their work with Muslim clients./Kate Dempsey

United States, Muslims face the highest rates of suicide. Even using words like "depression" and "anxiety" in the community can be a trigger. To avoid further stigma, Arabic phrases such as "My soul/self is tired" ("Ta'aban nafsiiyyan") and "There is a mountain on my chest" ("Fi jabal a' sidri") are used to describe mental health conditions. For many in the audience who have experienced their own mental health struggles, coming to this event was a means of expressing solidarity with the community.

"I've suffered through struggles growing up and wasn't able to identify them as a child or adolescent and learn more about them psychologically as an adult," Nagi Alsubai, the managing

director of the non-profit Humanity for Relief and Development, said. "I now see it slowly coming into light for our community, for the Muslim community, for the Arab community. We see how much more common it is, and we learn from a different perspective on the psychology of mental health, especially within that community."

The panel also discussed reasons why depression and anxiety tend to manifest during the ages of 15-23 across different cultures. These ages form a transitional period where many young adults start to face peer pressure, family and school stressors, hormonal fluctuations, inadequate sleep, as well as navigating their own independence for the first time. Destigmatizing mental health requires education about the causes and treatments for mental health illnesses. Panelists emphasized that social connection and a sense of community are key factors in finding support and improving mental health.

"Stigma has no bounds. It doesn't matter if you are educated, uneducated. It doesn't matter where you live, your status, your wealth; we all have these biases and they come from

a place of fear," said Dr. Sana F. Ali, director of mentorship for the Institute for Muslim Mental Health. "Talking about it [mental health] is scary [...] but maybe we take away one more morsel of hope."

During the panel, a jar was passed around for audience members to write their thoughts or questions down on post-its to share anonymously. To a member in the audience, the event itself gave them hope that they could overcome their mental health struggles.

"I am one who went through a very traumatic experience, and because of it, I went through intense stress, anxiety, and severe panic attacks. It got bad for me because I couldn't speak to anyone about it. This event helped me so much. Thank you, and looking for more," the anonymous note read.



(L to R): Abdullah Al-Muhaya, Waleed Hassan, Waleed Alhariri, Hanan Yafai, Somer Saleh, Roua Eltayeib, and Dr. Sana F. Ali, the event's organizers and speakers./Kate Dempsey



If you or someone you know is in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts, help is available. Call or text the national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 or 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

# Mixed Martial Arts Club Is Returning This Spring



TBC's MMA club during a meeting last fall./@brooklyncollegemma via Instagram

By Allison Dubrow  
Staff Writer

After a short hiatus, the Mixed Martial Arts club at Brooklyn College is back! Despite its members meeting last fall to get to know each other, they have not yet had an official session. They hope to get started shortly and offer students an opportunity to join a club like no other on campus.

"I didn't know how I was going to schedule MMA, and work and college at the same time, so I just decided to open the club here because there's no clubs here for it. And I don't think this school even has a wrestling team, that got me surprised," said Tahashin Aktab, the president of the MMA club and a sophomore majoring in computer

and information systems.

Aktab first picked up wrestling and ended up practicing MMA, branching off into jiu-jitsu and muay thai. He delved into MMA while attending high school when he wanted to work on self-improvement. In leading the new club at Brooklyn College, Aktab is joined by Kentaro Machida, the group's vice president who has a background in karate that springboarded his interest in MMA.

In hoping to share mixed martial arts with BC this spring, the club is figuring out the specifics of its first official session pending the arrival of gym equipment.

"So we haven't had our first session yet cause we've still been waiting for equipment, but for the planning I was going

to mimic my gym how we have one person teaching like, let's say a basic technique and then branching that off into more difficult techniques," said Aktab.

He noted that since members have different knowledge of the forms of MMA, he would like to have members act as an instructor for one meeting and rotate throughout so that everyone can learn multiple techniques.

"I was thinking about doing sparring, like light sparring, as well for like half of the class, and the other half of the class would be drilling techniques and stuff, but I still have to plan that out," he said.

While MMA can be useful for self-defense in the streets of New York, Aktab explained how he would rather not use his

skills outside, but instead continue practicing for the sake of competition. Aktab personally enjoys the mindset of MMA, where he has to try and figure out the mentality of the person he is up against by using certain techniques to try and defeat his opponent.

"And then there is a good sense of fulfillment when you actually get to use your technique properly on someone or like you figure out what they're going to do with and counter it, and then you just feel good about yourself," he explained.

In regards to any challenges they've had when creating the club, Aktab mentioned how the club has experienced a lack of response from Brooklyn College.

"We've been asking for a lot of things like a room or

like budgeting for a while, but it's not their [Brooklyn College's] fault because they've also been really busy with a lot of other clubs and stuff. So kind of just playing the waiting game," Aktab explained.

Currently, the MMA club has around 25 members. Both Aktab and Machida are excited to get the club up and running again and are encouraging anyone who may be interested in MMA to join. The organization is open to everyone regardless of their MMA experience.

If you are interested in joining, you can reach Tahashin Aktab at Tahashinaktab@gmail.com, or follow the club's Instagram account (@brooklyncollegemma).

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# BC And Baruch Student Leaders Visit Israel With Hillel



Participants visited the neighborhood of Florentine while on a graffiti tour./Hillel Staff

By Haritha Lakshmanan  
Staff Writer

The Hillel organizations at Brooklyn and Baruch College jointly organized the IsraelLead trip during the winter 2023 intersession, where CUNY student leaders visited Israel for nine days. This year saw 26 students from different backgrounds and two staff members exploring the country.

“The Tanger Hillel is a Jewish organization on campus that strives to create a safe space for all students regardless of background,” said Sarali Cohen, an engagement associate at

BC’s Hillel. Student leaders from all organizations were encouraged to apply, and the trip featured different sites throughout Israel.

Students were screened and accepted onto the trip after filling out an application and being interviewed. For those who participated, the journey to Israel was an opportunity to not only travel overseas but explore new land and all it has to offer.

“I was interested by the possibility and experience of traveling to a new country as well as the religious and historical value of the land of Israel,” said Mara Matos, sophomore and secretary of CUNY Brooklyn College’s

NYPIRG chapter, noting she also wanted to learn more about the religions of the world.

The group visited the Old City of Jerusalem, the Golan Heights – Israel’s northern border with Syria, the Sea of Galilee, markets in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and other locations. Some of the activities on the trip included hiking the mountaintop fortress of Masada, touring the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, visiting the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish quarters of Jerusalem, and floating in the Dead Sea.

“One of my favorite moments was when we meditated by the Sea of Galilee. I found myself able to connect with

my surroundings, and that feeling was surreal,” said Matos.

Several students on the trip stated they were initially nervous about traveling to and seeing the Western Wall in case they did something that was not acceptable. The Western Wall is the most religious site in the world for Jewish people. The site itself is split into two partitions - one for men and the other for women to pray. Their nerves soon melted away the instant they were pulled towards groups of singing and dancing people. “First, everyone was silently praying, placing pieces of papers with their

prayers into the wall. Then all of a sudden, we were jumping, dancing, and holding hands under the moonlight,” said Sade Garcia, sophomore and president of Brooklyn College’s Marketing Society. “There was a startling unity when we all threw aside our differences and enjoyed the moment.”

The trip also featured speakers from various occupations. Students on the trip had the opportunity to meet with a Palestinian journalist, a Holocaust survivor, and many others who spoke of their experiences and lives. “One of the most memorable parts of my trip was meeting a Holocaust survivor and hearing her story about losing her family. By the end of the story, many of us had tears in our eyes,” remarked Gabriel Cruz, senior and past participant of IsraeLead.

Outside of learning about Israel, Cohen stated she was able to learn from the students on the trip as well.

“My favorite activity was when everyone shared the meaning behind their names. Who knew that people had such unique stories behind their names? I loved that I could learn something from everyone,” she said.

Following their winter trip, Brooklyn College’s Hillel members are hosting an open house on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 12:30 PM, where they hope students will stop by and learn more about the organization and get involved. The Hillel also plans to have a blood drive in March and hosts Sabbath dinners on Friday evenings for students who are interested.



**VANGUARD'S NEW RADIO SHOW:**

# VANGUARDIAN VOICES

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# Reclaiming Years Of Identity Erasure, Oscar yi Hou's Exhibit In BK Museum

By Gabriela Flores  
Editor-In-Chief

There's always something to admire about conviction, especially when it comes through incredible art that oozes talent and wits. In 24-year-old Oscar yi Hou's exhibit, "East of sun, west of moon," the young artist leaves no stone unturned as he delves into what it means to be Asian American in the United States. Backdropped by his 11-piece installation is the heightened violence against Asian Americans following the rise of anti-Asian hate during the COVID-19 pandemic. But to say that yi

Hou is simply confronting centuries-long racism against people of East Asian descent is to ignore what the Liverpool-born creative is attempting to accomplish. That is, he aims to reclaim through his exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum what years of bigotry have tried to erase: the multilayeredness of Asian American identity.

Through oil on canvas, the occasional charcoal, and other mediums, yi Hou beautifully links the present to the past. Using Western images, Chinese calligraphy and zodiac signs, Taoist symbols, and other visual references to the cultures he's commenting on, yi

Hou creates an iconography unlike no other. Seriously, you can't help but be captivated by the busyness of the symbolic backgrounds and how it draws your attention to the portraits at the forefront.

Seeing the strokes of his brush up close, anyone can see the rich details and vibrancy exuding from pieces like his self-portrait "Coolieisms, aka: Sly Son Goku turns 23," which carries the weight of uprooting Asian stereotypes in such an unapologetic, yet arguably playful way. You see yi Hou with the signature Son Goku hairstyle from "Dragon Ball Z," dressed in the same blue and orange apparel the anime character sports. In the background, a collection of references to Chinese culture collectively build frames within frames to allow a viewer's attention to zero in on the subject's deadpan expression and crossed arms.

Honestly, you're left conflicted as a curious onlooker. Do you consider it an illustration of what Asian Americans and their culture are reduced to in the United States? Or do you interpret it as reclaiming Asian American identity by wittingly depicting the "stereotypes" and the community's resiliency against it? I can't tell you, and I'm sure it's not even my place to do so as a Mexican-American.

What I can tell you is that yi Hou is brilliant in his execution of thought-provoking pieces for his exhibition. Through his



Artist Oscar yi Hou in his studio./New York Times

intricate use of different symbols and techniques, yi Hou illustrates the complexity of Asian American identity. In doing so, he's reclaiming what Asian Americans have long been targeted for. Take the piece "Coolieisms, aka: Leather Daddy's Highbinder Odalisque," an oil, acrylic, gouache on canvas. The work of art shows yi Hou decked in leather, a cowboy hat, and most notably, a queue - a long braided hairstyle male Chinese migrants wore in the 19th century. This hairdo was eventually taken as "feminized otherness" in the West for its long length, leading to said Chinese migrants being violently attacked or even lynched. Yi Hou, being a queer, Asian, British, and newly

established Brooklynite artist, could not have done a more stunning display of figuratively reclaiming what his ancestors were targeted for.

You see this poised portrait, with yi Hou holding his queue as a whip, showing how he embraces and finds power in what led to the death of several Chinese men years ago. Without a shadow of a doubt, you can find so much more meaning embedded in these pieces that circled yi Hou's mind for ages, despite being only 24 years young.

Yi Hou's paintings and poetry will continue running through Sept. 17 at the Brooklyn Museum.



"birds of a feather flock together, aka: A New Family Portrait."/Brooklyn Museum

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# Review: 'The Menu' Cleverly And Enjoyingly Chews Up Elitism



Courtesy of Searchlight Pictures

By Samia Afsar  
Arts Editor

If you have any dinner reservations this week, you might want to consider taking your order to-go after viewing Mark Mylod's satirical horror and thriller "The Menu."

"The Menu" is a cleverly written tale depicting class, elitism, and the horrors one is faced with when their ego is pulled apart and served back on a silver platter, forcing restaurant-goers to digest more than just some really good food. It released in

theaters in late November of 2022, and has just hit streaming services earlier this month.

The entirety of the almost two-hour-long movie takes place on a private island located in the Pacific Northwest, where renowned chef, and perhaps arguable cult leader, Julian Slowik (Ralph Fiennes) runs and maintains his upscale restaurant, Hawthorn. Slowik charges patrons \$1,250 to indulge in a night of his fine, but really not so fine, dining.

"The Menu" begins with a boat ride to the secluded

island where audience members are introduced to the salivating and vain one percent-ers that have been carefully selected to feast at Hawthorn that night. These diners include Tyler (Nicholas Hoult), an unbearably obnoxious foodie, and his replacement date, Margot (Anya Taylor-Joy); Lillian (Janet McTeer), a conceited career-ending food critic accompanied by her editor Ted (Paul Adelstein), who seems to lack a voice of his own. Also at dinner are three arrogant tech workers (Rob Yang, Mark St. Cyr,

and Arturo Castro); an old, bored couple that has dined at the restaurant eleven times before (Judith Light and Reed Birney); and finally a fading actor (John Leguizamo) and his fed up assistant, Felicity (Aimee Carreo).

Once on the island, the diners are met with their straight-faced, intimidating host, Elsa (Hong Chau), who does an excellent job at reminding them they are guests at the Hawthorne, not at Chick-fil-A. Definitely no "thank you's" or "have a nice day" to be expected here! After a detailed tour of the island and the restaurant staff's responsibilities, Elsa escorts the elite to Hawthorn, where unbeknownst to them they will experience the highs and lows of gourmet dining through Chef Slowik's carefully crafted menu.

Acting and cinematography aside, the writing is what I personally believe makes Mylod's film stellar. The script, which was written by Seth Reiss and Will Tracy, portrays a perfect commentary on the elite's unsympathetic and unsatisfactory involvement in the world of the arts, making the film impeccably sharp, witty, dark, comedic, and perfectly poetic at its very core.

Each character is exaggerated so eloquently that the actors' performance never once becomes overpowering. Instead, each character's dialogue compliments the next to perfectly execute the pretentiousness being illustrated.

In one notable scene, the diners are served a breadless bread plate

made up of only its savory accompaniments. Inspired by class history and the concept of bread and grain being the food of the common man, the breadless bread plate suggests that since the guests are far from ordinary, they are not deserving of bread. Offended, some of the guests believe the dish is simply part of the overtop theatrics of the dining experience at Hawthorne.

"It's gotta be a bit," says one guest with an amused, childlike expression on his face just for his guise to shift to addled anger and disappointment within mere seconds. He humorously ends his dialogue with, "are you f\*cking serious?"

Other guests, quite literally, eat up the irony. "Wait, you like this? He's [Chef Slowik] basically insulting you," says Margot to her date, Tyler. To which he replies "No, no, no, you don't get it. It's a concept."

Simply put, if you are going to watch anything - watch "The Menu." And if you've already seen it, tune in again with a friend, a neighbor, a pet, or even that ex you've been debating to call. Because the only thing better than experiencing such a beautifully crafted film such as that of Mylod's "The Menu," is observing someone else fortunate enough to experience it for the first time. Ah, how lucky!

"The Menu" is currently available to stream on HBO Max, Prime Video, Vudu, and Redbox. Watch it, seriously.

# Review: 'Skinamarink' Is The Future of Horror



Promotional flyer for "Skinamarink." / BayView Entertainment

By Shea Stevenson  
*Opinions Editor*

If you haven't heard of "Skinamarink," don't worry. No one has. The movie is director Kyle Ball's first feature film and was released earlier this month. It's near-silent, abstract, and asks you to pay close attention to largely static frames for 90-ish minutes. The magic trick is that "Skinamarink" is exactly as good as you let it be – and you can let it be the best.

There are three major camps that an audience member might fall into after seeing this movie.

1. This is not a movie.

To these people, the way it presents its narrative is so incompatible with their idea of how to interpret meaning from cinema that it comes across as totally meaningless and a waste of time.

2. "Oh, huh, yeah, neat."

While this crowd

acknowledges that the movie is trying to do something different, they find it inane. Whether that's the digital grain, the fact that they do know the scene it arose from and therefore are not impressed by its freshness, or just a more open-minded statement of the first crowd's point. Viewers are damning with faint praise; the two-point-five stars says it all.

3. This rules severely.

These people liked it. This one is me.

"Skinamarink" is one of the only horror movies that's ever gotten to me. I saw this last year, prior to wide release, and it hasn't left my head. The more thought I give to it, the more meaning I get back. In its meditative emptiness, "Skinamarink" manages to capture a visceral sense of depth and mystery, the kind I stopped being able to feel when I was 10 and

realized there weren't ghosts in Minecraft. It feels like it doesn't end when the credits roll or where the frame stops.

To me, "Skinamarink" is the first true flower of the next wave of creatives who grew up not on classic horror cinema or literature, but creepypastas and internet urban legends. Things that operate primarily on negative space and folkloric iteration with the sense that there is always more to learn.

Its effectiveness feels primordial, like a horror movie beamed into our world from another much more patient one. The fears it draws upon are those that would be true to any person; obfuscation of things we want to see, claustrophobia, and bad things happening to children.

Your first viewing will consist almost entirely of doing a real-time mind-

puzzle where you try to figure out what is going on, both at any given moment and in general. With every shot focused only on the negative space of what we really want to see, we slowly come to understand what's happening. With each realization comes increasing dread – it's always worse than we thought. By the end, if you're anything like me, you'll have grasped the plot and vibes. Only after some reading and critical thinking do you unlock the full sense of terror while sitting by the computer late at night, not even watching the movie.

Boy, that's a lot of hoops to jump through just to trick your brain into thinking it's in danger! If that all sounds lame to you, steer clear of "Skinamarink." This will be easy for you, as it's hard to get to even if you want to see it. But if any of that sounds slightly

interesting, I implore you to check it out.

Most theaters have simply never played a movie like this before, but if there's one thing I'm sure of, it's that they will again. "Skinamarink" reportedly made about \$1.5 million at the box office on a budget of \$15,000. Love it or hate it, it won't be the last. I think there's a decent shot we'll look back on "Skinamarink" and be taken aback at the contemporary reception to the most influential horror movie of its time.



# How Hip-Hop Has Evolved For Nearly 50 Years

By Amira Turner  
Staff Writer

In the year 2023, hip-hop is arguably the most pervasive genre of popular music. The top 50 charts are full of a wide variety of hip-hop tracks, so it might seem surprising that the genre itself is younger than most of our parents. This August marks the 50th anniversary of hip-hop, when DJ Kool Herc hosted a back-to-school party in the Bronx, combining elements of breakdancing, graffiti, record scratching and beats to create what we now know as hip-hop music.

In just 50 years, hip-hop has evolved more than any other genre. While the key tenets of hip-hop such as rapping, beats, and sampling are still present, you'd be hard-pressed to find a hip-hop song today that resembles the music of 70s hip-hop legends like Sugar Hill Gang, Grandmaster Flash, or Kurtis Blow. In contrast, genres like rock continue to churn out music that harkens back to the height of the genre. Bands like Greta Van Fleet still release popular music that sounds just like the music released by Led Zeppelin in the 70s.

So what makes hip-hop so different? For one, Hip Hop, as a genre and a culture, has a focus on youth.

LLCoolJ was only 16 when he released "I Need a Beat."



Courtesy of Kaylin Guzman

Tyler the Creator was 19 when he saw mainstream success from his song "Yonkers." XXXTentacion had reached the peak of his career at 20. Part of this can be attributed to hip-hop's emphasis on trending culture. Success in the genre hinges on references to the latest pop culture trends and sporting the most popular clothes. Because of this, being young gives rappers a leg up on their older competitors, creating a culture where innovation reigns supreme. Within hip-hop culture, there is no faster way to get labeled

an 'Old Head' or 'corny' than claiming you prefer older rap to the current hits.

Another contributing factor to the ever-evolving hip-hop scene is how easily accessible it is. Becoming a rapper doesn't require expensive instruments and years of music lessons. In the 70s, all you needed was a turntable, a couple records, a microphone, and the ability to rap. This fact hasn't changed much, now you can achieve success in hip-hop with basic music software and talent. This makes it easier for more people, as well as

younger people, to create music within this space, increasing the amount of music put out in the genre, and accelerating its trend cycle. With so much innovative music coming out, artists that don't evolve from hip-hop's original form are left behind.

None of this is to say that hip-hop doesn't have respect for its elders. While modern hip-hop hits stray far from old-school hits, the genre is still full of homage to its past, particularly through sampling. While City Girls' hit "Twerkulator" is far

from a 1980s rap song, it still features a sample from the classic "Planet Rock" by Afrika Bambaataa and Soulsonic Force. Fans of NWA might not find much in common with fans of Megan Thee Stallion, but her song "Girls in the Hood" is an homage to Eazy-E's "Boyz-n-the-Hood." So while hip-hop has evolved so quickly that it's nearly unrecognizable from where it started only 50 years ago, it's still full of the same core values and admiration of the culture that birthed it.

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# Opinion: Who Is Copyright For?



Shea Stevenson delves into the copyright issues surrounding “Dungeons & Dragons.”/Kaylin Guzman

By Shea Stevenson  
*Opinions Editor*

Hasbro, parent company of “Dungeons & Dragons,” was recently revealed via a leaked document to be planning on doubling back on something called the “open gaming license,” or OGL. The OGL is a legal statement that basically allows anyone to use D&D names, rules, and other features in their own published products and make money off of those products with impunity. It’s been around in one form or another since 2000, and Hasbro wanted to replace it with anything that gives them more control and higher profits.

After this document was leaked earlier this month, the entire D&D community went into an uproar. I couldn’t kick a rock without it landing on the same hot take that changing the OGL was bad. That’s for good reason; it was bad. As of right now, Hasbro has

double doubled back and is instead further reinforcing the OGL, even moving the rules into the Creative Commons. How nice.

This was only after there were mass unsubscriptions from D&D apps and publications, an immense push to just find and play different games, and more. In other words, only when it became clear that this would cost Hasbro more money than it might make them, they backed off. Good on the community. But if you take a step back for a moment and reappraise this situation... you might wonder what they have to be so angry about? After all, in any other medium, to have the biggest franchise of all time, be totally free to riff on, and make products for would be unthinkable! Imagine if anyone could make and release a game and declare it associated with “Call Of Duty,” up to and including using its assets and gameplay? “Call Of Duty: Killing Kennedy”

could hit local game store shelves. Investors would not be happy.

But that also asks the question: where is “Dungeons & Dragons: Killing Kennedy?” In other words, if people have been free to go stupid wild on these rules for twenty-three years, what have they been doing with that freedom? If it’s so dangerous for brands to be open like that, why is D&D seemingly unscathed by it?

First, it’s worth mentioning that while you can use the rules and all as a base, you can’t literally copy and paste the words. You can say “this uses the core D&D rules” and refer back to them, but it’s not a case of people simply reprinting the books that make up the game of D&D.

That being said, people have been making cool stuff. Helpful stuff that they use to run and play the game themselves, or just things they think would be neat. Sure, there

are gag products and lots of bad stuff, but people just don’t tend to buy those, so they’re not very popular. Popular products are usually things like entire additional rulebooks. Things with an incredible amount of intelligence and heart poured into their creation, the sorts of products a company would spend years and big money to produce, and it’s being added to their game at no cost to them.

This, among other things, has been D&D’s secret elixir of longevity; if you don’t like the base rules, don’t worry, there’s more where those came from. Don’t like any of the starting classes? There are tens of thousands more, of varying quality, but there’s bound to be something you like. While only releasing a new edition once or twice a decade, D&D manages to stay fresh for a vast majority of people who play because of artists and creators whose livelihoods are in some cases built off of just

adding stuff to D&D.

So, really, “what do these people have to be angry about?” is not the question. The question is “why aren’t we more angry that this isn’t the normal way things work?” The copyright system in America and why it works the way it does is complicated, and outside of the purview of this piece, but suffice it to say that large organizations would like to have as much control over their own advertising, marketing, and products as possible. Copyright in America is entrenched in the idea of personal property. You thought of it, you own it, no one can touch it unless you say so.

This is sold to us as something that bolsters creative freedom and allows anyone to rise to the top if their ideas are good enough, protected by the law from imitators. The opposite seems to be the case.

# Opinion: Did It Only Take T. Swift For Our Government To Agree?



Senate has a hearing on the latest Ticketmaster fiasco that ensued for pre-sales of Taylor Swift's tour./Entertainment Tonight

By Michela Arlia  
*Managing Editor*

I would like to formally apologize to Dr. Taylor Alison Swift. With this apology, I will also be retracting my accusations from this past fall that there were “holes” or “missing links” in her latest “Midnights” studio album.

Fresh off its release on Oct. 21, the world went crazy. And by the world, I mean the Swifties. Spotify broke down for a brief moment in time, TikTok was in its most chaotic state, and an entirely new age range of fanaticism was created, as the 13-track album united original fans to the now next generation of younger siblings, children, and every listener in between.

To catch you up on what has happened all things Taylor since late October, an extended version of the album was released, “Midnights 3am;” she announced her U.S. summer tour, entitled “The Eras Tour;” and oh

yeah, she's the reason a lawsuit with TicketMaster was brought to Senate Judiciary Committee hearings this week. No biggie.

I originally took the stance that there wasn't that much to offer to the album, but I now wish to correct that to say that I just didn't get enough listening time before a proper review.

Once again, I stand by saying the inquisitive lyricist strikes again on this album, perhaps her strongest suit at times over that of the music production and sometimes even vocals. It's a good album, with some pretty snarky wordplay, pretty good messages, and easter eggs.

But being that I reviewed this album already, back to the Senate hearings.

This all began once Swift officially announced the U.S. leg of her tour. Ticketmaster, the world's largest ticket marketplace, was set to open up presales to 1.5 million verified fans prior to the general public's

chance to purchase tickets. Things went sour rather quickly, as over 14 million users, including bots, were allowed access to the presale.

Causing delays and full-on lockouts of ticket sales, Ticketmaster made the executive decision to cancel all ticket sales to the general public. Big no no there.

This whole fiasco is the classic Hasbro game “Monopoly” played out in real-time. Property owners (Ticketmaster) controlled the board and all its pieces, making its players (fans) believe they had control. However, in the least expected moment, they came in to sweep up all of the remaining properties and won't let any of the pieces move an inch.

Now, fans are stuck in jail, and can't strike luck with the community chest to get a “get out of jail free” card. They just keep paying their dues.

So Ticketmaster blames bots and glitches for this mistake. I, however, don't buy into that.

The live entertainment industry is still painfully recovering from the era of COVID. Things like free live-stream concerts on TikTok, and the use of cameras at concerts for audiences to have a virtual option for a fraction of the price to be in the physical stadiums have hurt Ticketmaster's role in our capitalist society.

As one of the biggest names in entertainment introduces her first major tour in five years, the site needed to up its game. Ticketmaster's strategy: manipulating supply and demand for revenue.

All of this escalated so much that it is now an issue being heard in one of the highest judicial committees this nation has to offer.

Forgetting the idea that we have a manipulated supply and demand chain, you're telling me that of all the things to allow both Republicans and Democrats to finally agree on, it's the queen of break up songs?

The bipartisanship on this matter shocks me in a way, not because it shouldn't be happening, but because basic principles of marketing, monopolizing, and merchandising really stand out in many other national issues, such as the Defense Production Act debacle. Nonetheless, the parties can't come to terms with them.

This string of events can't help but make me wonder, is this a D.C. issue to handle because we have a fundamental problem in this country of power-hungry companies that go unscathed by way of asserting unnecessary dominance? Or because Senators Klobuchar and Lee's daughters missed out on the presales?

Should the Committee on the Judiciary be successful in their hearings to tear down some, if not most of the chokeholds large entertainment companies such as Ticketmaster and Live Nation have on the world of arts, maybe there's hope for something. I don't know what exactly, but it could happen.

In closing, thanks Taylor, and once again, my apologies.



# Will The NY Giants Still Have Daniel Jones As Their QB?

By Owen Russell  
Sports Editor

The New York Giants exceeded everyone's expectations this season. Despite suffering a lopsided defeat in the divisional round of this year's playoffs, courtesy of the Philadelphia Eagles, the Giants outplayed even the most generous predictions. They won nine games and made the postseason. First-year head coach Brian Daboll deserves much of the credit. He revived the rushing game and created an offense, allowing quarterback Daniel Jones to shine.

Jones put together the best year of his career, silencing skeptics in the process. As Daboll and the Giants look to next season, it would be safe to assume Daniel Jones will be under center come September, right? Well...

When asked about Jones' future with the team after New York's loss to Philadelphia, Daboll was vague. "We have a long offseason," he told NBC Sports.

Daboll is not kidding. For the Giants, two big names enter the offseason as free agents. Of course, there is Daniel Jones going into his fifth season in the NFL. But Jones is not the only key player New York must make a decision on. Star running back Saquon Barkley enters unrestricted free agency and expects a big payday after a bounce-back season. Assuming the Giants resign Barkley, that will leave the team less money to spend on their franchise quarterback. That being the case, is it worth



Quarterback Daniel Jones./Al Bello for Getty Images

exploring other options?

Quarterbacks are tricky. They remain by far the most valuable position in the NFL, and the demand is always higher than the supply. There are roughly eight elite quarterbacks in the league, and beyond that, there are perhaps 10 more who are consistent enough to not doom their team each time they touch the ball. Jones falls within the higher percentile of that back 10. This season, Jones put up career numbers in completion percentage and yards. It is also worth noting that despite earning a reputation for being "turnover prone," Jones threw only five interceptions this season, his fewest since entering the league.

If the Giants were to move on from Jones, they would have to be convinced they can find a better option in the great beyond (free agency, trades, or the draft).

A few names stick out among the quarterbacks

who look to be available this offseason. At the top of every team's list is Lamar Jackson. The star quarterback for the Ravens is on the outs with management as contract negotiations have turned sour. When healthy, Jackson is a top-five talent and a game-changer. The problem is that Jackson has never played a full season and will command a record-breaking contract wherever he ends up. Jackson is a restricted free agent this offseason, so even if he wants out of Baltimore, the Ravens can retain him and ask for a hefty trade haul. If Jackson proves to be too pricey, the other options are less tantalizing. 45-year-old Tom Brady is coming off his worst season in recent memory, and 39-year-old Aaron Rodgers continues to flirt with retirement. Beyond them are options who would seem like a lateral move from Jones. Jimmy Garopolo, Derek Carr,

and Baker Mayfield don't offer much in the way of improvement.

The Giants could always draft a quarterback, but there are other holes that could be plugged by their first-round pick. According to CBS' most recent mock draft, the Giants will most likely draft a wide receiver with the 25th overall pick, bolstering their depleted core. Could New York surprise everyone and draft a quarterback? Consensus says there are four quarterbacks worth taking in the first round, with three of those names expected to go in the first 10 picks. The Giants most likely won't trade up, so they'll miss out on Bryce Young (Alabama), C.J. Stroud (Ohio State), and Will Levis (Kentucky). That leaves Anthony Richardson, the 6'4" athletic quarterback who is still a work in progress. His physical abilities are unquestioned, but his body of work leaves some scouts scratching

their heads. Richardson's biggest mark against him is his decision-making. Daniel Jones is coming off his best year ever in that department. Does New York want to start from scratch? Even if Richardson is at the top of New York's draft board, there are teams in front of them who also need a quarterback.

For better or for worse, New York is stuck with Daniel Jones. The options via free agency or trade are not viable for a myriad of reasons, and to draft a first-round quarterback is too risky for a team that just made the playoffs. Jones will likely command more money than he is worth, but if he can replicate this past season, Giants fans won't complain. New York could possibly spend a late-round pick on a quarterback with high upside (Hendon Hooker from Tennessee, for example), but expect Daniel Jones to be the signal caller next season.

# BC Sports Recap (Jan. 20 - Jan. 27)

## MEN'S BASKETBALL TRAILS BEHIND



David McFadden./Damion Reid for BC Athletics

By Owen Russell  
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team came up empty this week, losing both of their

conference matchups. The two losses extend their losing streak to six and sink their record to 3-16.

Brooklyn's first loss of the week came against

Medgar Evers on Jan. 24 after defeating the Cougars earlier this month. The Bulldogs started hot, jumping out to a seven-point lead within the first four minutes. By halftime, the lead had shrunk to just two, with Brooklyn up 32-30. The second half became a different story. The Bulldogs could not keep pace with the Cougars, allowing Medgar Evers to pull ahead. In the end, Brooklyn lost 65-56. A large portion of that deficit came by way of free throws. The Cougars got to

the foul line 13 times and converted nine of their chances. Brooklyn made it to the line 10 times, but could only capitalize for five points. Sophomore guards David McFadden and Serge Thraysbule led the team in scoring, with 17 points each.

On Jan. 27, the Bulldogs failed to redeem themselves against Baruch, losing their second game to the Bearcats this season. Once again, the Bulldogs jumped out to a big lead. This time the Bulldogs raced to a 10-point lead in the first 10

minutes. The pace became unsustainable, however, as Baruch chiseled away at the lead. The Bearcats took control at halftime and did not look back. As the final seconds ticked away, Baruch secured a double-digit victory, winning 74-62. Senior guard Kayin Olajide led the Bulldogs this time, scoring 17 points.

Five games remain before the postseason. The Bulldogs will look to string together some victories and build momentum heading into the playoffs.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STAYS SHINING IN THE CUNYAC

By Owen Russell  
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team continues to roll through the CUNYAC, securing their seventh and eighth straight wins against conference opponents this past week.

Brooklyn decimated Medgar Evers on Jan. 24. Everyone knew the game was over by halftime, as the Bulldogs led 37-13. The scoring torrent didn't stop there. In the second half, Brooklyn continued

to pour it on, adding another 37 points for good measure. The Bulldogs won 74-32, crushing another rival. Senior guard Gianna Gotti continued her dominant season, scoring 20 points while swiping five steals.

Jan. 27's game against Baruch proved a remarkably similar outcome. This time around, the Bulldogs stumbled out of the starter's block. The first quarter became a battle, with Brooklyn trailing

15-13 heading into the second. Some teams may have cracked under the pressure of an unexpected early challenge, but not the Bulldogs. Brooklyn held the Bearcats to one second-quarter point; from there, it was smooth sailing for the Bulldogs. Brooklyn cruised to a 76-39 win and improved their season record to 12-7. Leading scorer, senior guard Ericka James, scored 18 points. Gianna Gotti led the team in steals again with eight.

The Bulldogs are getting



Women's basketball keeps winning./Damion Reid for BC Athletics

hot at the right time, Brooklyn looks like the winning their last eight team to beat. With six games left until the playoffs,

## MEN'S VOLLEYBALL SEASON KICKS OFF



Courtesy of BC Athletics

By Owen Russell  
Sports Editor

The men's volleyball team kicked their season off on Jan. 21, with their record standing at 1-2.

Brooklyn started the season strong at the King's College tri-match. Their first opponent of the day, Pratt Institute, was no match for the Bulldogs. Brooklyn won a relatively close first

set (25-19), but from there, the Bulldogs had no trouble dispensing with the Cannoneers. Brooklyn handily won the subsequent sets, outplaying Pratt in every category including aces. The Bulldogs scored eight times off the serve compared to Pratt's mere two aces. Junior outside hitter Tommy Min led the team with 10 kills. Fellow junior outside hitter, Admir Cekic, led the team with four aces and 34 assists.

Brooklyn's second match of the day against King's College did not

play out similarly. The Bulldogs suffered a three-set sweep (25-13, 25-22, 25-7). Brooklyn could not stop the host team, as King's College dominated the box score. Unlike the match against Pratt, Brooklyn scored only four aces, while King's College earned 17. Junior outside hitter Armand Kaloshi led the team with seven kills.

The Bulldogs' game against SUNY Purchase on Jan. 25 resulted in a second straight sweep. Brooklyn kept things close. All three sets were determined by less than

four points each, but the Bulldogs could not tip the scale. Purchase won each set (25-21, 26-24, 25-23). Brooklyn's effort is evident in the box score. They scored more kills, assists, and digs. Luck just wasn't in their favor. Junior Zhao Ming Li scored 10 kills and three aces, leading the Bulldogs in both. Admir Cekic added 25 assists to his season total.

The Bulldogs still have a long season in front of them. Hopefully, they can correct their mistakes and pile up some wins.