MTA Hikes Fare
Pg. 3

When Beyoncé Said Girls Run The World, She Wasn’t Kidding
Pg. 9

NY Jets Looking To Win Big
Pg. 11
Women's Center At Risk Of Closing

By Serin Sarsour
Editor-in-Chief

The Women’s Center at Brooklyn College is facing a severe staffing and funding crisis that could potentially lead to the Center’s demise. While in the final stages of the hiring process for two full-time positions (or staff positions) at the Center last spring, CUNY Central set forth a hiring freeze in March. Since then, no one from the college’s administration, including BC President Michelle Anderson, has officially addressed the Center or released a public statement about the freeze and the Center’s current state.

The Vacancy Review Board (VRB) at BC, which oversees the financial condition of the campus, suggested that President Anderson fulfill these hires as soon as possible after recognizing the importance of these positions. However, President Anderson has yet to respond, even after members of the Women’s Center came together to create a petition over the summer, which has since garnered over 800 signatures. Although numerous students and staff have shown up for the Center, its search for hires cannot be completed without support from President Anderson and the rest of the administration.

According to the petition, “Without this support, the Center will see its staffing reduced by 40%. These cuts will have a catastrophic impact on services and programs: a reduction of 80% in the number of events and programming, a reduction of 40% or more in hours of operation, and the closure of successful leadership programs.”

Some employees at the Women’s Center were let go with no official notice during the hiring freeze, in which they were offered part-time employment for doing work that should be receiving full-time pay. As a result, students and staff are outraged that those who work towards creating a safe space on campus for women are being exploited for their labor.

“It’s not only one position we’re fighting for now, but two. We have the program coordinator, and then we have the office manager [...] which is currently like being paid on part-time lines but is a full-time job and requires a lot of work. And if it’s not being done, our office quite literally cannot function,” said Igura Naheed, a BC alumna and an employee at the Women’s Center working as the program coordinator for the Muslim Women’s Leadership Development Project.

Other than offering free sanitary napkins, tampons, and contraceptives such as male and female condoms, the Center provides Brooklyn College students with crisis intervention, referrals, a place to study, a place to pray, and more. The Center also hosts events on campus, such as potlucks. But with the understaffing and underfunding at the Women’s Center is facing, the staff has concerns about the Center’s ability to host many events. Without a program coordinator, there won’t be anyone to lay out the calendar for the entire school year in terms of upcoming events. Moreover noted that the Center held about 40 events in the fall of last year and almost 40 in the spring, and that was with only four people working in the office.

“Now this year with one less full-time person and just three part-time people, it’s even harder. So I think we’ll barely have 10 [events],” she said. “So I don’t know if the doors will close. That would be like the very ultimate bad result. But it’s definitely already cut back on the services we can provide for students and how much time we can have the office open because we need people to staff the office.”

For student employees, they are worried that a space they feel welcomed and comfortable in will be pulled away from them. The elimination of the two lines will impact the office’s services, as well as its hours.

“Honest to God, it breaks my heart because even since I found the Women’s Center, it has been such a beacon of light for me on campus,” said Alleyah Charlton, the Center’s social media manager and a junior at BC. “I know people say the words ‘safe space’, but it truly is like that for me. They’re there for you emotionally. And having a support system like that on campus being taken away, it’s scary, honestly.”

Charlton also highlighted that a large portion of the women of color population on campus looks to the Women’s Center as a haven. Charlton, among other student employees at the Women’s Center, wants President Anderson and the administration to recognize the potential long-term negative effects the decision to not approve VRB’s recommendation and appoint candidates to the positions will have on the Center and the Brooklyn College community as a whole.

“I want them to take student voices seriously because we’ve been ignored since we began and we’ve tried talking to administration personally, and we didn’t feel like they were being the most forthcoming with us. We even felt discouraged trying to fight for the center,” Charlton said. “But, you know, we really had to comfort each other and re-find our voice.”

Although some employees did not want it to get this far, the Women’s Center is planning to host a rally on Monday, Sept. 18, in between the Bedford gates just outside of campus, which will most likely last from 12:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. Council Member Shahan Hanif is coming to speak and advocate for the Women’s Center, as well; she is the first Muslim woman to be elected to the New York City Council, as well as the first woman to represent District 39 in Brooklyn. If you are interested in signing the Women’s Center’s petition to invite President Anderson to fill the two vacant positions, please visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdonhXb6WvePmtqirvtdHAAxXdYI7pD0N8GKuUmbhh8e5SN3g/viewform.
**MTA Fare Hike**

By Allison Dubrow  
*Staff Writer*

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has increased the transportation fare from $2.75 to $2.90 starting on Aug. 20 across all subways, buses, and commuter railroads. The increase has been the first since 2015 when it was raised from $2.50 to $2.75. The reduced fare for those who are eligible and express bus fares also rose from $1.35 to $1.45 and $6.75 to $7 respectively. Ridership on the subway decreased during the coronavirus pandemic and ever since, the MTA has been trying to find ways to bring it back to the way it was pre-COVID. Before the pandemic, the MTA made the decision to increase the fare every two years. However, once the pandemic began, the MTA was able to hold off on raising the base fare in 2021 due to Governor Kathy Hochul providing funds, according to the MTA. The MTA has stated that “with additional funding from New York State, we are able to keep the fare increase to 4%, rather than 5.5%. The MTA is always working to cut costs to reduce operating expenses and keep fares affordable for customers.” While the MTA finds the service as affordable as possible, many customers have expressed discontent with the rise in the price. Inflation has already increased the cost of living in New York City, now the rise of the MTA fare is one more thing residents have to worry about. This will especially impact those who have to take the train daily for school and work. “There’s a give and take, you’re taking more of our money but you’re not giving us more service. You’re not providing a safer space, if anything we’re getting worse conditions,” said Krystal Alvarado, a recent graduate of Brooklyn College. “That’s actually why I stopped taking the MTA because it got more expensive and it’s not safe.”

The rise in fare follows MTA’s recent decision to increase toll prices for bridges and tunnels on Aug. 6 in an attempt to keep up with inflation and toll instability. For those with E-ZPass, the tolls went from $6.55 to $6.94. According to NBC News, this “represents a 6% increase for drivers with an E-ZPass – while those who don’t have one will see a 10% increase.”

This comes ahead of congestion pricing, which is expected to take effect early next year, enabling tolls south of 96th Street as drivers enter the city. This move stems from the hope of raising money for the MTA and easing traffic and pollution in NYC.

---

**Student Loan Interest Resumes**

By Allison Dubrow  
*Staff Writer*

Student loan interest resumed on Sept. 1, following a three-year pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal policy that has kept student loan interest at 0% has officially come to an end this past week. “As of Sept. 1, the Department of Education says that borrowers will once again be charged the interest rate they were paying before March 2020,” according to ABC News. Borrowers have to start paying back their loans around Oct. 1, but the exact date for every individual depends on their loan servicers. Individuals should receive a billing statement around 21 days before the payment is due. The start of payments goes against what the Biden administration had planned for, as his student debt relief plan was overturned by the Supreme Court. “As I announced earlier this summer in the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision on our student debt relief plan, we will continue to pursue an alternative path to deliver student debt relief to as many borrowers as possible as quickly as possible,” said President Biden. Biden has tried making it easier for borrowers by allowing a grace period of one year for people who miss payments, where they will not be reported to authorities.

“Among all existing borrowers, 5.8% is the average student loan interest rate. For new undergraduate loans, the current federal interest rate is 4.99%,” according to the Education Data Initiative. Interest rates can end up determining how much a borrower needs to pay. Some servicers have changed around the pandemic. If individuals do not know who their servicer is, they can find out that information through the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA). The Biden Administration is trying to find other ways to help borrowers with their payments, one way being with the SAVE plan. “The SAVE plan is an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan that calculates payments based on a borrower’s income and family size – not their loan balance – and forgives remaining balances after a certain number of years,” according to the Biden administration. Under the SAVE plan, payments will be based on an individual’s income, rather than the amount that they owe in student loans. For more information regarding student loan payments, you can visit: https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/prepare-payments-restart.
Migrant Crisis Grows As NYC Grapples With Funding Issues

By Allison Dubrow
Staff Writer

The migrant crisis continues to grow as city leaders debate over funding to help solve the predicament that began in the spring of 2022. New York City has already spent $1.45 billion to help asylum seekers with regard to food, shelter, and other services, according to Mayor Eric Adams’ administration. Recently, there have been many disputes over where to house the migrants.

Mayor Adams has stated that the funding issue is due largely in part to the United States’ broken immigration system. “New York City has been left to pick up the pieces of a broken immigration system – one that is projected to cost our city $12 billion over the course of three fiscal years without policy changes and further support from the state and federal governments,” he said. Last week, there were multiple protests on Staten Island where residents expressed their discontent over the idea of migrants being housed in a shelter that was formerly a school. Many people in the community have expressed concerns that having the migrants stay in their neighborhood would be a safety concern.

One way in which the Adams administration is trying to help the migrants is by allowing them to work. The mayor held a rally on Thursday, Aug. 31, in support of giving asylum seekers expedited work authorization. “We must expedite work visas, it’s just common sense. Thousands of jobs are available to be filled, to provide the services we need in this city, this state, this country,” said Adams. “And to have a new wave of individuals coming here to participate in the American dream says it all.” Without work authorization, asylum seekers are not able to legally work and, therefore, cannot provide for themselves. The hope is that if the migrants are able to receive work authorization, then they would be able to make a living and move into housing that they can afford. For Governor Kathy Hochul, authorization is key to helping the migrants. “As New Yorkers know, securing expedited work authorization for asylum seekers and migrants has been and remains my top priority. It is the only way to help asylum seekers become self-sustaining, so they can move into permanent housing,” said Governor Hochul.

The obstacles that migrants face in getting work authorization are due to the fact that it is based on immigration laws that require waiting months on end. In addition to that, the influx of migrants has been so large that there is a backlog. On Aug. 28, business executives signed a letter to President Joe Biden requesting more federal help as “the New York business community is deeply concerned about the humanitarian crisis that has resulted from the continued flow of asylum seekers into our country.”

Courtesy of The New York Times
SAIL Welcomes All To Involvement Fair

By Jason Lin
Business Manager

With the start of a new semester, first-year students are flocking to campus to explore. To help newcomers to the Brooklyn College community feel more comfortable, the Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership (SAIL) Center hosted an Involvement Fair last Tuesday, Aug. 29, in the Student Center.

For many club leaders at the school, the fair was a means of reaching out to students who may otherwise not be aware of the ways they can connect with other students on campus. The fair also helped students find clubs that fit their interests or field of study.

"They should not be scared to join any social events. Socializing with people is very nice and friendly, like there's no pressure and you can relax since there's only four years on campus," said Ayatallah Elkothy, a junior at BC.

The Involvement Fair gathered all BC clubs and student-made groups to introduce their clubs’ initiatives and features. Each floor of the Student Center was dispersed with sections of specific clubs that had similar cultures. "Even if you feel like you're coming here, you go to class, you go home, try to get involved as much as you can," said Noam Abrahams, a junior at BC and the treasurer for the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), which hosts their own events that bring BC students together. "There are some great people on campus, there are tons of opportunities whether it is career-based or fun-based. It can look like it is impossible to make friends, but once you start trying on campus, you'll undoubtedly find someone who is similar to you." In addition to connecting students to clubs of their interest, SAIL provides educational, cultural, and social programs that enhance cultural awareness and foster unity and inclusivity. In addition, SAIL assists with budget management services that encourage fiscal responsibility. These resources allow students to be active and positive community members. "College is all about learning, college is all about experiencing. There's nothing that you will do here that will affect you for the rest of your life besides getting a degree [...] is to have the most fun you can possibly imagine in college," said Sofia Mariyamis, a junior at BC and the president of the BC Sustainability Club. The BC Sustainability Club centers itself on raising awareness of being sustainable and environmentally conscious both on and off campus. The event lasted around two hours, and even at that short time, every floor was filled with both club leaders and students mingling, demonstrating SAIL's goal of creating a welcoming atmosphere at BC.

"Don't rush trying to find your group or people because eventually either you'll draw to them or they'll draw to you. And don't necessarily feel like you don't stand out," said Anastasia Johnson, a junior at BC and vice president of the Korean Culture Club, which focuses on appreciating Korean music, food, and the language.

The fair's purpose was also to showcase how fun college can be by joining a club or meeting new friends that students may have for their whole college careers. Every day, students have the opportunity to meet unique individuals since Brooklyn College is a large community home to diverse backgrounds and different hobbies. In the midst of the school year, it's easy to get wrapped up in schoolwork, but taking breaks and making new connections are essential to one's mental health and maintaining the energetic spirit all colleges wish to see for students.

"Go to the clubs and talk to the people because they teach you the shortcut and it just makes here more comfortable instead of just school, work, and home," said Sade Garcia, a junior at BC and the president of the Brooklyn College Marketing Society. This club is responsible for coordinating events and working closely with administration on issues of budgeting. Comfortable instead of just school, work, and home," said Sade Garcia, a junior at BC and the president of the Brooklyn College Marketing Society. This club is responsible for coordinating events and working closely with administration on issues of budgeting. As clubs packed up at the end of the event, ending their introductions to many BC students, meaningful connections were made. The Involvement Fair helped to ensure that students know this semester will be full of support and, of course, fun.
Vanguard Celebrates 100 Issues!

By Kate Dempsey
Managing Editor

This issue marks not only The Brooklyn College Vanguard’s 100th issue since our return in 2019, but it also marks a milestone in our team’s commitment to ensuring that Brooklyn College students are informed of issues relating to campus, and sharing student voices that make up our diverse community.

We’ve come a long way, to say the least. The Vanguard was originally established in 1936 during BC’s early years as a school. On May 12, 1950, the paper was suspended by then president Dr. Harry D. Gideonse due to a controversial article being published about internal politics involving the history department. Vanguard’s charter was revoked, and locks were changed on the Vanguard’s office door.

Nevertheless, the editors and staff writers persisted. These students rallied together and BC’s underground newspaper Draugnav (“Vanguard” spelled backward) was born, crowdfunding for resources and using a staffer’s home basement as the office. President Gideonse, unhappy with the resurgence, suspended all five editors and the staff writers. Funding then folded, and a newspaper for BC seemed bleak.

However, that did not stop the journalist’s quest for justice and truth, as BC’s next student newspaper, The Kingsman, was established in 1950. And later, The Kingsman’s rival newspaper, The Excelsior, was established in 1988. Many of the original members of The Vanguard went on to write for and become editors at news organizations like The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and The New York Post.

Others went on to found important institutions, such as Vanguard staffer Myron Kandel, who co-founded CNN, and Ann Lane, who founded the Women and Gender Studies department at the University of Virginia. The list of contributions connect with all that BC has to offer.

Even after only four years, the paper has been through a lot. For an entire year, we had to report in a digital world due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, working remotely to try and keep students informed on what was happening at BC. We have been here through all of BC’s ups and downs. From being in the streets covering protests, to capturing sports and music events, we are here for all of BC’s important moments.

Over the years, our staff members have won many accolades, including awards from the New York Press Association. Our paper itself has received several awards, the most recent being BC’s Undergraduate Student Organization of the Year for 2023. We are very proud of our writers past and present, and appreciate knowing that we will continue to uplift student voices.

A sincere thank you to all of the writers and editors before us who have made The Vanguard what it is today. And a big thank you to our readers, without whom this would not have been possible. We look forward to the next 100 issues, and the many more after that.
Pondering Pottery: Revival of the BC Ceramics Club

By Paulina Gajewski
Arts Editor

From earthenware dishes stacked across shelves in department stores, to particularly placed porcelain in a grandmother’s kitchen cabinet, to sculptures littered across museums, pottery has shaped arts and cultures around the world.

Brooklyn College offers some courses relating to studio practice in ceramics, but students on campus can engage themselves with pottery in a lax environment outside of the classroom. A year ago, Angela Auriti, who is currently pursuing a BFA in art, decided to pursue a different path after taking a painting class as an elective course. Clay, however, is a medium set apart from other physical art forms. She preferred a 3D artistic endeavor over 2D, or “flat” art.

Nana Santini, a member of the Ceramics Club and a student at BC pursuing childhood education with a concentration on art, notes that pottery is a hands-on art. Clay, “said Elizabeth Li, who is pursuing a BFA in art, “is what makes the club special. “You want it to be a safe space,” she told The Vanguard. “When you are doing something for the first time and you have no real knowledge of it, you don’t want people to judge you. You want to enter a space where you can ask questions.”

The club starts off each semester with a syllabus, which outlines the different varieties of ceramics they hope to work on. This by no means signifies that creativity is diluted. The majority of the members in the room were working on pinch pots, in which students simply pinch clay into a desired shape. Though the same method was used across the room, not one piece of work was similar to another in design.

“There is no exact way to deal with clay,” said Elizabeth Li, who is pursuing a BFA in art. “I like to just go with the flow. But clay can be a little temperamental. You can’t let it be too dry or too wet. After you know the basic rules, you can turn off your brain and work.”

Arts, whether pursued professionally or as a hobby, are generally associated with the element of inspiration and entertainment. Members like Emily Nguyen, a marketing major at BC, appreciate that pottery is a hands-on activity and is a long process. “Today, we’re just pinching the clay, but during the next meeting we’ll have to fire it, and then the next meeting, we’ll paint. It’s exciting knowing there’s always a next step,” she said.

Pottery is not just defined by working with the medium of clay. Combined with science and technology, pottery can form not only aesthetic features, but functional ones as well. Theo Stewart-Stand, who is currently pursuing a masters in sculpture, is working on a water feature that combines the two. “I’m working on a bird with a sensor, and the front presents itself like a water fountain.” Steward-Stand hopes that the sculpture will be placed somewhere on campus once it is completed.

In the wake of COVID, clubs across campus lessened in numbers until their presences were severely diminished. At the beginning of the second full year back, these clubs are currently attempting to bring back the lively communities that once flourished on campus.

“It’s always important to find something to let your creativity out, and pottery is perfect for that,” Nguyen said. The Ceramics Club meets every Friday in Whitehead Hall 104.
Your School Was Free, And It Still Should Be

By Shea Stevenson
Opinions Editor

CUNY schools were free when the first of them (City College, go figure) was established in 1847. To put that into perspective, the founding of City College is closer to the Revolutionary War than it is to 2023. It, along with a handful of other public schools in New York City, would later get melted down into the massive university you presumably attend if you’re reading this.

But when the city made CUNY in 1961, they also did something funny. The free public schools were both in need of investment and expecting a massive new wave of students, so then NY Governor Nelson Rockefeller formed a committee to see what should be done about it. The committee suggested consolidating the schools. The legislature did that, but also (in the same law) took it upon themselves to repeal the clause that mandated the schools remain tuition-free. It added instead a financial aid program that applied to both public and private schools.

Yet CUNY did not stop offering free tuition in 1961. It didn't cave in '62, '63, '68, or '69. It did not cave in the early 70s, nor in the mid-70s. They held on for fifteen years. It took until 1976, the absolute pit of New York City's bankruptcy, for tuition to be charged to full-time students at this university.

It's easy to imagine that urban idealists of the 1840s who lived on the cusp of the Civil War, half a century before there'd be a bridge between Brooklyn and Manhattan, when nothing on the island was taller than Trinity Church, who believed that this city might grow to become anything, would dedicate a college to an evident social good and make it free. It's hard for me to imagine that at the tipping point of the emerging global capitalist economy, the bureaucracy of CUNY didn't institute tuition payments even when they could have for fifteen consecutive years.

CUNY was strangled of its budget from the beginning. In 1975, New York City handed the reins to a new organization, the Emergency Financial Control Board (they've since dropped the "Emergency" part of the name), which gutted municipal spending of all kinds, including the already bleeding CUNY. But even then, they didn't instate tuition. The killing blow was another major cut in '76.

What's hard for me to imagine is my college putting up that kind of fight now. Not only for free tuition, but anything. We couldn't stop the tuition from getting higher, let alone lower it.

Clubs at Brooklyn College seem to be perpetually above a state fair dunk tank, where unless we all smile really hard and say over and over that they are useful additions to the campus, someone will flip the switch and the club will go under. At this very moment, the one in the spotlight is the Women's Center (go Women's Center). Last year it was the radio station. We're lucky that you can even be reading this in print after COVID.

When people bandy about terms like "unrealistic" regarding city budgets and schooling, it's useful to recognize the breadth of precedent human accomplishment. In 1974, the Newt Davidson Collective at CUNY published "Crisis at CUNY," which starts: "The City University of New York is as immense as one of the pyramids. It consists of ten four-year colleges, eight two-year colleges, a graduate center, and an affiliated medical school. It has over a quarter of a million students, over fifteen thousand faculty, and more than a thousand administrators [...]"

And that was when it was still free. These schools are the product of a public works project that is hardly conceivable in scale and effect. It is often infuriating and obtuse but it's also an idea with tangible power. CUNY deserves to be free, it deserves legislation that protects its funding, and it deserves to run itself like a school and not a business. More than the abstract idea of CUNY, its students deserve free college. Its adjuncts deserve to get paid.

Here's hoping that the "New Deal for CUNY," a bill going through the New York State Senate as you read this, goes all the way. There are student organizations like the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) that organize to that effect, and there'll be protests and petitions all throughout the year for all manners of smaller causes. The actors and writers are striking, big companies are unionizing all over the country, UPS almost went on strike (but got their deal just before it happened). It all adds up. Let's get our share.
An Economic Hot Girl Summer: What it Means to Make Women Spend

By Rami Mansi and Kiara Jones-Ford

The summer of 2023 was headlined by four things: a potential economic crash, and then a potential economic relief from the trio of Beyoncé’s “Renaissance World Tour,” Taylor Swift’s “Eras Tour,” and the “Barbie” movie.

Created during the pandemic, Beyoncé’s “Renaissance” took the world by storm. With each of the 24 cities she performed in, a change in the local economy followed. A perfect demonstration of this is during her stop in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. According to Thrillist, the travel and tourism industry saw a general financial increase. From beauty services by a 9% increase to restaurants by a whopping 30% increase, the impact Beyoncé has on the cities she performs in is undeniable.

Her first stop in Sweden brought in flocks of her fans (affectionately called the “Beyhive”) to see the start of the tour. CBS News reported that fans (called the “Beyhive”) brought in flocks of her to see the start of the tour. The announcement hit that Taylor Swift was going on her first tour in five years, everyone rushed to the chance to finally see her on stage again. So much so that Ticketmaster got launched into a class-action lawsuit over misleading fans about ticket availability. This was the start of what would be an economic makeover from Taylor Swift’s “Eras Tour,” a tour that takes Swift’s past ten “eras” and combines all these concepts into a show-stopping performance.

From bead and sequin shortages to boosting economies by the millions in one weekend, according to Newsweek, Taylor Swift’s fans’ (affectionately called “Swifties”) consumer spending could reach up to an impressive $4.6 billion as thousands of fans are spending an average of $1,300 for the concert. Other local economies have seen an upsurge, like Chicago’s hotel industry, with local hotels reaching the highest hotel occupancy seen in the city’s history. After the cancellation of the “Lover Fest” tour, the fight to get her master recordings back, and scrutiny from the media at all angles, Taylor Swift proves that it’s not endgame for her just yet. “The Eras Tour” is a sight to see and just shows that as a performing act, Swift is not going anywhere.

Something else that isn’t going anywhere is Barbie. “Barbie” – starring actress Margot Robbie as the titular toy – has shaped up to be the biggest blockbuster film of the summer. As of writing this article, the film has grossed over $1.3 billion USD globally, according to Time Magazine. The success of “Barbie” was not only the ticket sales, but also in part due to collaborations and sponsorships with the film. There were makeup collaborations with companies like NYX Cosmetics, clothing from mainstream department stores like Primark, and even ice cream from Coldstone Creamery. Across the board, it was bright, bold, and most importantly, pink. Women were spending money in droves to dress up and participate in what was being encouraged to collaborations and sponsorships with the film. There were makeup collaborations with companies like NYX Cosmetics, clothing from mainstream department stores like Primark, and even ice cream from Coldstone Creamery. Across the board, it was bright, bold, and most importantly, pink. Women were spending money in droves to dress up and participate in what was being encouraged.

In the past, women have been used as an economic measure of sorts. In particular, they are the group that is looked at with the proposed “lipstick index.” Coined by Leonard Lauder, NIQ explains that his theory is based on the idea that during times of economic struggle, cosmetic sales will increase due to the idea that people want “affordable luxury.” The general idea is that every once in a while during economic turmoils, a woman will decide to buy a lipstick, or an eyeshadow palette, or a new foundation because she is looking at the idea of “affordable luxury.” The general idea is that every once in a while during economic turmoils, a woman will decide to buy a lipstick, or an eyeshadow palette, or a new foundation because she is looking at the idea of “affordable luxury.”

Yet, the tours sold out due to the determination of those who wanted to go. “Barbie” is still in box offices, the final profit yet to be calculated. Restaurant and beauty industries benefited from the desire to dress up and participate. It was rhinestones for Beyoncé, friendship bracelets for Taylor, and pink everything for Barbie.

And while it’s all fair to argue that none of this means the economy is better overall, it does give way to the idea that, when women are marketed towards in a way that matters to them, the index is rendered useless because women are being encouraged to spend. Perhaps it was never the tightness of money or the desire to have an “affordable luxury” that was the issue. Perhaps it was the desire to have an “affordable luxury” that was the issue. Perhaps it was that women are more likely to spend their money in general when there’s something that is marketed towards them and makes them want to pull out their wallets.
Vivek Ramaswamy Vs. The Youth Vote

By Kim Gill
Staff Writer

In 1971 when the Voting Rights Act was amended to include age as a qualifier, it was understood that 18-21 years olds had single-purpose issues that would drive them to the polls. The same is true today, yet we are put in a position of having to not only defend but reiterate why this demographic deserves the right to vote. What’s bizarre is that we have to defend it against the only millennial running for president for his party. You would assume that being a millennial and a man of color would make a candidate relatable to the youth vote. However, this isn’t the case with Vivek Ramaswamy, the 38-year-old businessman from Ohio running for the GOP presidential nomination.

In his bid for the presidency, Ramaswamy has made it his mission to appeal to the most fringe conservatives with his extreme and dated views. One of which is his proposal to revoke voting rights for people ages 18 to 24 and force this demographic to pass a civics test in order to "earn the right to vote." This proposal is not only unconstitutional but draconian. The idea that the older generation is more educated in civics is highly subjective and negates young voters who are civically engaged and politically active. While I agree that all voters should know the essential functions of government, I don't agree that being well-versed in civics should determine your right to vote. You are still affected by the issues regardless of how extensive your knowledge is on the subject. There are a myriad of issues that affect people ages 18 to 24 that would drive them to the polls, and this demographic deserves the right to vote on these issues that affect them.

We can't ignore what has been happening in this country recently and how certain landmark decisions – especially the ones made by the Supreme Court – have impacted this demographic. We also can't ignore the impact of the many policies being driven by culture wars. One of these key issues affecting the youth voters is housing. Almost half of the homeless population is LGBTQ youth who have either been disowned by their families or ran away from home for safety. Housing is also a huge issue for an often overlooked part of this age range, parents between the ages of 18-24, and even more so for young mothers dealing with domestic violence. Housing also impacts 18-year-olds who aged out of the foster care system without having been adopted.

Another issue impacting this demographic is access to healthcare. Some young people work jobs and earn incomes that exceed the qualifications for Medicaid, yet their incomes aren't enough for them to afford market insurance. And if they can afford insurance, the type of healthcare they receive is inadequate. We have a maternal health crisis in this country that is harming young Black women, an issue that has been made a priority by the Biden/Harris administration. We also have the issue of young women having access to birth control and abortions ever since the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade last year. In the states where birth is being forced on young women especially, childcare is either too expensive or not available for young parents.

Lastly, two issues that we see impacting this demographic daily are the costs of tuition and climate. It's extremely sad to see young people forgo attending college, or otherwise sign away their lives and join the military just to afford tuition. It's even sadder to see young people graduate into astronomical debt. In regards to climate, we are in an extremely dire state, yet we are still debating on whether or not it's real despite experiencing extreme weather conditions.

Overall, the right to vote has always been about the issues that impact us, and that's how it should be. In my opinion, Ramaswamy would rather this demographic not have the right to vote not because they aren't well-versed in civics, but because he knows that this demographic would not turn out to vote for him, because even as a millennial, he appeals far more to boomers.
Will The NY Jets Finally Become Contenders?

By Avi Wizwer  
Sports Editor

As the NFL season is heating up, one team in particular is looking to make themselves a contender: the New York Jets. This underdog team is looking to overthrow the league and take it by storm. Coming off an impressive season last year, with promising young talent such as Garrett Wilson and Ahmad “Sauce” Gardner, the Jets finished 7-10 in the 2022 season, where Gardner earned his first all-pro honor to add under his belt.

There has been some skepticism with all the hype that has surrounded the Jets. Former player and future Hall of Famer Joe Klecko believes that Aaron Rogers wasn’t the right move for the Jets, and they should’ve looked elsewhere for the quarterback position. With Rogers’ age being in question, he’s unsure if the veteran quarterback can rally the young guys to the promised land. In Klecko’s opinion, he believes the Jets should have gone with Derek Carr instead because of the locker room issues the Jets have been facing, with a lack of team chemistry and leadership in the locker room. As they continue to face scrutiny and criticism, we will be able to see how this group responds.

The team’s general manager, Joe Douglass, has been focused on creating a positive environment to get the team back to where they need to be, which is winning games. Additionally, the hiring of Head Coach Robert Saleh has been another big part of their recent success. With the coaching change, there has been a breath of fresh air in terms of a winning mentality as Douglass is enforcing into his players what it takes to win, and how they must show up in order for the Jets to be successful.

The Jets are moving in the right direction by making the right moves, and are all in on building their program to become a winning culture once again. This season could be the season that they have a breakout year and will silence the critics, naysayers, and doubters and get their fans around the world excited for the upcoming season.
By Kate Dempsey
Managing Editor

Brooklyn College’s Esports Club went head-to-head against other CUNY schools at the City College of New York’s Valorant Exhibition on Aug. 19, coming out on top at the first intramural tournament of the season. Esports is made up of teams that face off in the digital world, playing games like Call of Duty, League of Legends, and more. For this tournament, the BC team went up against Baruch, City College, and Hostos Community College in the game Valorant, a first-person, character-based shooter game.

To the BC esports team, the win comes as no surprise due to the team’s practice, dedication, and support for one another. “We had a lot of practice and scrimmages the week prior to the tournament. During the week, we mainly focused on the synergy and coordination within the team. As a result, we got the wins,” said Anthony Wong, BC’s esports team captain and a senior at the college.

The four teams playing were single elimination until the final match. There were 12 rounds in each half, a team needing 13 wins in order to claim victory for the whole match. As the BC team played, there were rounds that came down to the wire. In the end, the team won quickly, with a 13-5 win on Fracture and 13-4 on Icebox, and did not need to go into a 12-12 tie that would have required going into overtime. “There weren’t really any intense moments. I was pretty relaxed the whole time, and I think that’s the best mindset to keep for the tourneys,” said Grant Finkelstein Smay, a tournament player and a sophomore at BC.

Established in fall 2022, the club had its informal beginnings on the video game platform Discord, where it went from a group of 40 to a team of 400 when established at BC as a club. For the first year as a club, they were unable to receive the funding needed to buy computers and have a space to practice on campus.

A referendum calling for a $5.15 increase in the student activity fee was proposed by BC’s Undergraduate Student Government and was ratified for the fall 2023 semester after the Board of Trustees passed the referendum on Jun. 26. As a result, the increase in the activity fee enabled the esports team to meet their funding goals.

Esports Club President Sasha Calderon predicts that the club will continue to rack up wins in the upcoming season as they look forward to competing in the National Esports Collegiate Conference. “It was really an honor to win the tournament and we hope to win more in the future,” said Calderon.

“We have some really talented players and we cannot wait to see how their respective season plays out this semester.”