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By Kate Dempsey  
Managing Editor

Advocates from the Street Homeless Advocacy Project (SHAP) visited Brooklyn College last Tuesday, Sept. 26, to begin recruiting student volunteers for its advocacy project in helping homeless New Yorkers off the streets. The project, which was greenlit last year on Aug. 11, is a partnership between Mayor Eric Adams’ administration, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), CUNY, and other city agencies. The partnership with CUNY includes five of its colleges to include one from each borough: College of Staten Island, Hostos Community College, York College, Hunter College, and Brooklyn College. In conceptualizing the project, founder and former executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), Norman Siegel, highlighted that the project’s goal is to focus on building a connection with the homeless person and directing them towards options for getting off of the streets.

“There are four to five thousand homeless people on the streets. We start with the premise that they don’t want to be on the streets. We don’t want them to be on the streets,” Siegel told The Vanguard. “And if we can begin to talk to them (find out who they are, why they are on the streets, do they want to be on the streets), 70% of them tell us they don’t want to be on the streets, but they don’t have viable options.”

CUNY students would be part of the first step in helping the homeless access viable options, which could include sustainable long-term living situations, mental health programs, drug treatment programs, and job training. Self-described as “neighborhood-based, New Yorker-to-New Yorker volunteer teams,” students first train with a project leader in approaching homeless people. From there, students would aim to build a connection with the homeless person and direct them to resources. Not only is the experience rewarding for the homeless person, but advocates shared that volunteers can also feel rewarded for helping the cause. “As a person of color in America and growing up poor, you’re usually a heartbeat away from being homeless. You’re watching your parents live check to check, and you are also dealing with racism, and the idea of even having a better life just seems so far,” said Andre Donegan, a program coordinator for SHAP. “What is so special about SHAP to me is that it kind of allows me to kind of pay it forward. I was fortunate enough. Even though I had parents that worked hard really hard, we were still poor. So for me, this is just a matter of paying it forward.”

The project stresses that this is a way for students to become agents for change, emphasizing that the social justice principle of going onto the same level as the homeless person, New Yorker to New Yorker, is a key component of the work they do. For advocates who have experience homelessness themselves, they can pay it forward by helping those out on the streets. “I slept on a bench […] I rode the buses all night because I was so absolutely scared to go back into a women’s shelter again,” said Danielle James, a volunteer at SHAP. “We need people like [the attendees here] to revolutionize what’s going on because the migrant system, DHS just can’t handle it. We need people to help advocate.”

The project comes after Mayor Adams’ controversial “Subway Safety Plan” enacted in February 2022 that authorizes first responders, such as police officers, to involuntarily admit homeless people into hospitals. According to the Adams administration, the move was meant to combat the increased crime happening in the subway system. The organizers of SHAP stated that while the Adams administration sponsors their program, they are opposed to Mayor Adams’ plan of involuntarily committing homeless people, and will honor any homeless person’s request to stay on the street. “We fundamentally disagree with [Mayor Adams’] approach. We’ve been very visible and vocal in the media and on TV criticizing it and advocated for a voluntary approach rather than involuntary approach. […] And if you are going to have anyone enforce it, whether someone’s a danger to themselves or others for mental health reasons, you need either social workers or you need mental health experts or a combination of both who are more experienced and trained to make those decisions,” said Siegel.

In an op-ed opined by the New York Daily News, SHAP leaders stated that their approach “will not replace official responses to street homelessness” and that “city teams of social workers and police will continue to move people into shelters and services.” The project will focus on its advocacy support network while calling on the administration to eliminate barriers, such as shelter regulations, that stand in the way for homeless people. According to the project, in a year of work, SHAP has helped one-third of the homeless people in NYC off the streets, predominantly in the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx. With the initial five colleges through the partnership with CUNY, SHAP leaders hope the project’s success will allow them to expand the project to more campuses so that even more homeless people can be reached. “How many times have we passed by people who sit on the subway stations and we just don’t know what to say,” James said. “Let’s help [Siegel] help Mayor Adams not send people to psych wards unnecessarily, when all they really need is a ‘Hello’, a water bottle, and ‘Let’s help you get through this system.’”

Interested students can reach out to SHAP at shapnewyorkcity@gmail.com.
The WGA Strike Ends

By Shlomie Katash
News Editor

After 148 days of striking, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) has come to terms with Hollywood’s studios, streaming services, and entertainment companies. The tentative agreement was reached on Sunday, Sept. 24, leading to a unanimous decision among WGA leaders to allow its members to return to work.

While, at first, many of the WGA’s proposals were outright rejected by the entertainment industries, their position has appeared to soften recently as the strike continued to cause a financial strain on Hollywood. The contract includes provisions that address many of the concerns that spurred the writers to strike in the first place, including residual earnings for writers from streaming media, the use of artificial intelligence in the creative process, and general increases in pay and benefits. The contract is set to expire in May 2026, but it will first need to be ratified by the members of the WGA to take effect. According to CNN, streaming companies agreed to increase minimum writer compensation by 18% and residual pay minimum by more than 25%, while also broadly introducing the possibility for writers being directly paid if their shows become popular. Companies have also pledged to increase transparency surrounding the performance of their streaming projects.

Additionally, companies are now prohibited from using AI to write or rewrite material. Though, writers may choose to use the tool if they are complying with their employer’s policies and are not being forced to do so. Unions secured an immediate minimum pay boost of 5% with another 4% coming in May 2024, and a similar 3.5% expansion in May 2025, per CNN. Health fund contributions will also benefit from a .5% increase while no longer requiring writers to split them with their pension contributions.

The WGA lauded this deal as a massive and historic win for its members, adding alongside the announcement of the agreement that, “We can say, with great pride, that this deal is exceptional – with meaningful gains and protections for writers in every sector of the membership.”

While the deal is reached for writers, the WGA’s co-strikers of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), which represents actors, have yet to find a similar resolution. They remain on strike for the foreseeable future.

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NYPIRG Welcomes Student Activism With Kickoff Event

By Shlomie Katash
News Editor

Brooklyn College's New York Public Interest Group (NYPIRG) chapter held their annual campaign kickoff on Thursday, Sept. 28. The event focused on the social change campaigns NYPIRG is planning on doing this semester and ways interested students can get involved.

The event's speakers discussed how NYPIRG and its members can impact politics, which is woven into the history of student activism. This legacy links the problems of today to the various initiatives NYPIRG is hosting, showcasing that anyone could make a difference. For example, one of NYPIRG's central pushes this semester will be the "Democracy Campaign," which is going to help register students to vote every day and educate them regarding the process of voting ahead of the city council elections on Nov. 7.

Another focus of the meeting was the concept of environmental justice and the intersection between the impacts of climate change and other social justice issues. NYPIRG believes that it is key to advocate for Mayor Eric Adams to enforce Local Law 97, which will help improve energy efficiency and reduce harmful emissions from certain buildings. "Local Law 97 will make sure that these buildings are cutting their emissions because currently, oil and gas is harming our communities, especially those low income areas," said Damien Andrade, a senior at BC and the NYPIRG chair on the statewide Board of Directors.

This semester comes off of a big year for NYPIRG, with several legislative victories for its chapter in Albany. The group played a central role in the passage and implementation of several of their initiatives, including more funding for CUNY and SUNY, and the All-Electric Building Act that helps move New York to a more climate-friendly future, both of which were enacted this past May.

BC's NYPIRG has several events already planned for the fall semester, including their "Trick or Eat" food drive at the end of October that in years past has seen thousands of food donations. Additionally, they are hoping to host a trip to Albany to advocate for the New Deal for CUNY, a proposed bill that pushes to make all CUNY schools tuition-free, among other goals.

More information can be found on the chapter's Instagram page @brooklyn_nypirg, or in their office in Ingersoll Hall 1433.
By Rami Mansi  
*Staff Writer*

Latinx Heritage Month has been a subject of cultural diffusion within the Latinx community from the start of its creation. In honor of Latinx Heritage Month, Brooklyn College’s Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership (SAIL) Center, Black and Latino Male Initiative, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department, and Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO), all came together for a discussion panel called “More Than A Month: Latinx Perspectives 365” on Tuesday, Sept. 26. The panel discussed the irony, dangers, and Eurocentric ideals embedded into Latinx Heritage Month.

The panel consisted of moderator Dr. Maria Perez Y Gonzalez, and panelists Dr. Carla Espana, Dr. Jasmine Mitchell, Dr. Carla Santamaria, and Dr. Mike Mena, all of whom specialize in Puerto Rican and Latino Studies.

Latinx, by definition, is the gender-neutral term for people of ethnic descent from Latin America. Originally called “Hispanic Heritage Month,” Latinx replaced Hispanic for a more cultural, gender-diverse opening within the month. The month, lasting from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, celebrates the achievements, culture, and presence of the Latinx community. The purpose of the panel’s discussion was to deconstruct the challenges presented within the community and devise solutions to combat these issues.

Dr. Mena questioned the legitimacy of Latinx Heritage Month. “If we’re trying to attach Hispanic Heritage Month to selling Latino stuff, I don’t know if people are starting to forget that capitalism is not in the business of equality.” Capitalist companies have been using heritage months as a yearly marketing strategy that has only escalated in recent years, seen often as “Taco Tuesdays” in food chains and some newer ones like Target’s “Más Que A Month.” These strategies have led to mass stereotyping of not only Latinx individuals, but also any culture that gets used as a marketing strategy.

Marginalized communities now face more stereotyping at the hands of these new marketing practices, which brought the panel to their second question: What can we do to push back against stigmatization and discrimination? To some of the professors on the panel, it requires escaping outside of one’s “bubble” of the world. “Find those connections and get out of those tiny bubbles we’re in because that will open your world to what is possible. One of the most powerful things we can do is dream beyond the confines of what capitalism offers us,” Dr. Espana said, adding that once we abandon these selfish capitalist ideals and focus on others, we see our neighbors in a new light and the way we perceive and help others drastically changes.

Dr. Santamaria questioned the reality of the month and its hidden irony. If this month is to celebrate the Latinx community, yet most communities are still underfunded and underprivileged, then what’s being celebrated is in question. “Just because we have Hispanic Heritage Month, it doesn’t mean that our communities are not experiencing the social inequality that we are facing every day. What is the narrative that they are trying to perpetuate? What are we really celebrating?”

However, the speaker noted that there is hope within students by putting them on the frontlines to help future generations combat these socio-political issues, all the while educating themselves on how to help their communities. The professor reminded that when she was a student, different student clubs and organizations came together to fight the ongoing discrimination happening on campus. Dr. Santamaria inspired the audience to keep fighting for not only themselves but for other generations claiming that the students of today are the key to tomorrow.

With a panel dedicated to helping the audience learn about the faux credibility within Latinx Heritage Month, the audience was occupied by classes that were taught by two of the panelists, who are also the founders and leaders of the Puerto Rican and Latin Studies at BC, Black and Latino Initiative, MenTeach, and allied professors of the varying organizations.

The catering was fit for a Latinx Heritage Month celebration, with food such as sweet plantanos, rice, pork and beef, and a variety of empanadas. These delectables are all varying types of traditional Latin food, stemming from all over Latin America. These foods have lived on for thousands of years and have a history to be seen through the love that goes into cooking these flavorful cuisines.

“Who do we want to be in communities with and how do we build bridges?” asked Dr. Santamaria, summing up the end goal of the panel. She emphasized that Latinx Heritage Month is all about bridging together the communities and cultures of Latin America to build a better future for everyone.
Creating Solidarity: Activist Víctor Navarro For The Oslo Freedom Forum

Victor Navarro speaking at the Oslo Freedom Forum on Sept. 28.

By Kate Dempsey
Managing Editor

The Vanguard had the honor of being invited to the annual Oslo Freedom Forum held in New York City on Sept. 28, an event dedicated to promoting human rights initiatives and highlighting the work of activists, humanitarians, and innovators globally. With this year's theme being "Creating Solidarity," the forum presented activists fighting authoritarian regimes, using their voices to power change. The Vanguard had the incredible honor of interviewing one of these voices.

Víctor Navarro never could have imagined himself as a political prisoner, tortured for helping others. Navarro suddenly went from a university student doing social work, helping young people off the streets, to being arbitrarily detained in Venezuela’s most notorious prison, “El Helicoide.” In Venezuela, offering opportunities can be considered a crime; the result for helping is state-sanctioned torture.

He spent five months in El Helicoide. Five months without seeing the sun. Five months of physical and psychological torture with his companions. The Bolivian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN), the political police that obey Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro, made sure to dehumanize the prisoners. Navarro was no longer Navarro; he was prisoner and terrorist number 25-510-806.

Upon being released, Navarro dedicated himself to fighting for those still trapped in El Helicoide. Along with 30 of his companions, the organization “Voces de la memoria” [translated to “Voices of memory” in English] was born. They created “Realidad Helicoide” [Helicoide Reality], a virtual-reality experience that takes users directly into El Helicoide, exposing President Maduro’s torture center to raise awareness about their crimes.

The project recreates how a political prisoner lives in the conditions in which a political prisoner is in the country, and what we seek to use technology to defend human rights and make visible what is still happening today because in Venezuela, there are at least 300 political prisoners today in the country,” Navarro told The Vanguard.

The virtual reality experience takes users directly into El Helicoide, witnessing the brutality that political prisoners face at the hands of SEBIN. The decision to use virtual reality as the outlet for exposing the torture, according to Navarro, is to express what might otherwise be difficult to put into words.

“It is the best way to generate empathy with other people. It is a technology of being able to explain what cannot be explained in words because it is no longer the same as you telling your story to someone in the same way being in the place where a political prisoner is,” Navarro said.

Realidad Helicoide was brought to New Yorkers at Times Square on Sept. 19, strategically coinciding with the United Nations convening in New York for their General Assembly meeting. The contrast was stark, even as the United Nations recently released a report detailing crimes against humanity in the country.

“For us, it was very important that the leaders of the world, while they are talking about justice, freedom, democracy here in New York, we show in one of the busiest places in the world that it is also important that they talk about torture, that it is also important that they talk about the autocracies,” Navarro said. “We did it with the intention to let people talk about autocracies. We did it with the intention that this would be done within the framework of the General Assembly.”

The United States has condemned President Maduro, accusing him of orchestrating illegitimate elections that allow him to remain in power, and characterizing Maduro’s government as a “regime” and a threat to Venezuela’s democracy. However, Navarro emphasized that more needs to be done to hold Maduro accountable, as many governments have maintained their diplomatic ties with the country.

“Governments do not want to know what is happening in Venezuela because there are economic relations, mainly ideological and political, where it is convenient for them to have a relationship with Venezuela,” Navarro said.

“The Biden administration must recognize that Maduro’s government is a dictatorship at the end of the day.”

Venezuela entered an economic crisis soon after President Maduro came to power in 2013. The country experienced hyperinflation in 2014 when the bolivar, Venezuela’s official currency, inflation rate increased to 69%, the highest in the world, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. A one million bolivar was depreciated to as little as 25 cents to the American dollar, and continues to depreciate in 2023.

At the time the Realidad Helicoide debuted in New York, the city continues to experience a migrant crisis of Central and South Americans fleeing their countries, with Venezuelans making up the largest group of the migrants, according to The New York Times. Navarro added that El Helicoide could potentially increase “the acceptance of the migrants and people understanding the plight of Venezuelans.”

As Navarro told the crowd at the Oslo Freedom Forum his story, he emphasized that the horrors he’s endured at the hands of El Helicoide do not define him. He is defined by what he has decided to do with the trauma. Realidad Helicoide exists because he persisted, and he can now help other political prisoners do the same.

“I know I’m not a terrorist, nor am I number 25-510-806,” Navarro said. “Above all, I am a human being that I decide to do with what I’ve lived. We will not be silent. I am not a number, I am Victor Navarro.”

The Vanguard would like to extend a special thanks to Alvaro Piaggio for serving as the translator, Olivia Young as a co-interviewer, and the Oslo Freedom Forum for the invitation.
Rooted in the heart of one of the most diverse and vibrant cities in the world, Brooklyn College’s campus is a melting pot of cultures and ideas where students from all corners of the globe come together to share their unique perspectives and experiences. Zyeem Nazir, a graduate student at BC pursuing an MBA in general business, exemplifies this commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

As a proud member of Phi Sigma Chi Multicultural Fraternity (ΦΣΧ), a six-chapter fraternity founded at the New York City College of Technology on November 16, 1996, Nazir has been a part of a unique community that has embraced diversity since its founding. With the founders comprising three African Americans, two Hispanics, and one Asian, the fraternity’s roots reflect the value of inclusivity.

Nazir initially heard about the fraternity at the Brooklyn College “Meet the Greeks” event. “It was refreshing to see bros that didn’t look anything like each other and to come from different walks of life. The only thing that was the same across all those bros was that they wore, with pride, the same letters across their chest,” he said.

A key factor that went into Nazir’s decision to choose Phi Sigma Chi was the evident diversity that the fraternity offered. Over the years, Nazir’s role within the fraternity evolved, from serving as the first philanthropic chair to becoming the secretary and, eventually, the chapter president. These experiences have contributed significantly to his personal growth and leadership development.

Nazir’s academic journey at Brooklyn College has also been marked by achievements. He graduated with an undergraduate degree in business and a minor in film this past spring, leaving BC with much growth. “I became more extroverted, a better leader, and more free-thinking and outspoken on my beliefs,” said Nazir, noting that he attributes his success to being able to connect with other students, especially during the pandemic when numerous student-led group chats were being created. His decision to go to graduate school came from an email that he received upon completing his undergraduate degree where he was offered a seat in the business program based on his academic records. He has been enjoying his first semester as a BC graduate student at the Murray Koppelman School of Business this fall. He gives credit to Professor David Lynch and Professor Myles Bassell, who “were highly encouraging and motivating to their students and [...] easy to approach and get along with.”

Prior to graduating this past June, Nazir and Mohammad Tusar, the chapter’s vice president, were awarded the “Greek Lettered Organization of the Year Award.” “[It was] very fulfilling to see that all the events that me and my chapter have hosted across this previous year have been recognized by the college and [...] as an organization worth noting when looking for events to attend on campus! It truly was an electrifying and redeeming night,” Nazir said.

Nazir’s journey at Brooklyn College serves as a testament to the institution’s commitment to diversity, academic excellence, and community engagement. His involvement with Phi Sigma Chi Multicultural Fraternity reflects the college’s ethos of inclusivity, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds under a common banner.

By Reima Choute
Features Editor
Companions To Rivals: Manet/Degas
Exhibition At The Met

The Metropolitan Museum of Art brought together 160 works from around the world by French artists Édouard Manet and Edgar Degas at an exhibit that premiered on Sept. 24. CUNY students may pay what they wish with a valid ID to enter the museum's virtual waitlist.

Entering the exhibit, the viewer first lays their eyes on a diagonal laceration between a work from each of the artists. The periodic rivalry between the two artists is represented in the juxtaposition between the two painters over the course of their artistic lives.

The Paris of the mid-nineteenth century was characterized by a booming economy and an exponentially growing consumer class. Slums were replaced by promenades and waterfronts. Department stores were built along lush parks and boulevards. The modern Paris, embodied by fashion, operas, and cafés, quickly became a subject of artistic fervor. Ironically, the medium that aimed to capture this modern world was part of an institution that was resisting these changes. The Salon of France promoted state-sponsored exhibitions, where the academy would admit auditioned artworks that both upheld the neoclassical genre of realism, as well as pertaining to one of three topics: religion, history, or mythology.

Manet and Degas, both French painters of the upper class, attempted to challenge the notions of art as it was accepted in mid-nineteenth-century society. Manet, who had two of his works accepted into the Salon, decided to confront notions of art by submitting nude female portraiture. "Manet presents us with a female nude who has no guise of mythology," Dunn said in a podcast on the Met's website. "She is a contemporary woman, a model named Victorine Meurent, and she is shown as a courtesan, and she has a direct gaze out at the viewer, and her gaze places the spectator in the position of patron."

Degas, on the other hand, was taking part in an art movement far less acceptable. Part of a group called “the New Realists” of the nineteenth century, which paved the way for impressionism, Degas understood how the changing world was going to impact art. Impressionist paintings, often associated with Claude Monet’s work, attempted to capture the industrial, fast-paced world of art.

Busy individuals often picked up their pens to scribble down notes in a flurry of words. Or make note of remarks in shorthand, attempting to grasp them before they inevitably leave their minds. Similarly, the quick, short brush strokes of the impressionists attempted to capture the movement of this new world. Masses of people were no longer living out long, toiling days out in the fields. They were hopping on steam trains and boats, rushing off to the cities, visiting the new race tracks used for horse racing. And, for the first time, the main subjects of portraiture were no longer nobility and aristocrats. They were instead replaced by the rising middle class, engaging in reading, shopping, and spending their time at parks and opera.

The art world was competitive, which is what art historians believe fostered this rivalry between Manet and Degas. They would often argue that one was plagiarizing the works of the other. After Manet's death, Degas took it upon himself to acquire over eighty of his works into his own collection. He reunited the previously fragmented “Execution of Maximilian,” one of Manet's most ambitious works.

Regardless of the competition between the two painters, they aided in expanding artistic genres to encompass a modern world and shattered the preconceived notions of what art was meant to be. In order to do so, they studied the works of their predecessors, utilizing museums as their classrooms. "They could see history in color," said Wolohojian in the podcast. "The Louvre became a training ground that could in many ways even substitute for the traditional classroom experiences of the Academy."

In a similar fashion, visitors can view this exhibit on display at the Met until Jan. 7 next year.

By Paulina Gajewski
Arts Editor

The Manet/Degas exhibition at the Met/Time Out
By Kate Dempsey
Managing Editor

Brilliant colors filled the stage, the adornments of gold on the Indian dancers creating a kaleidoscope of beauty. Audience members leaned in, mesmerized by the stage as they were transported to India. At the same time, the audience was transported to mid-century America as tap dancers joined the stage, entering a new realm of existence where these two periods meet.

The Erasing Borders Dance Festival returned to New York City from Sept. 23 to 24 at the Ailey Citigroup Theater, organized by the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC). IAAC is a non-profit arts organization whose goal is “promoting, showcasing and building an awareness of the arts and artists whose heritage lies in the India in the performing arts, visual arts, literary arts and folk arts.”

The festival has been held every year since 2008, with this year marking its 15th anniversary. According to organizers, the festival was created to bridge the gap between what the American public understood about Indian dance, and joining it with contemporary styles that they were more familiar with. “We felt at that time that not enough people understood the diversity that is in Indian dance and that they had a very sort of orientalized vision of it, a very stereotyped image of it, and we wanted to break that and bring dance into something fresh and contemporary,” said Uttara Coorlawala, head organizer and co-founder of the festival.

For choreographers of the show, the goal of the performance was to combine traditional Indian dance, such as the classical Bharatanatyam and modern dance, to express footwork and emotional expressions based on face and hand gestures, with contemporary styles of American dance. “The goal was to take a Margam, which is like a traditional Bharatanatyam evening show, and condense that into 25 minutes and see what would happen when you added tap dancers to it,” said Vikas Arun, one of the show’s choreographers.

A Margam typically starts with an offering and prayer, and uses chants to convey peace and religious practices. Organizers combined this with tap dance, a dance style originating from the West African tradition that relies on shoes striking the floor to create rhythm. The challenge with combining these types of dances is the use of polyrhythm in Indian music, which is not present in Western styles of dance and can make it difficult to coordinate.

At a panel discussion held on Sept. 25, choreographers and dancers discussed their processes for putting the show together, as well as sharing more about their backgrounds. The dancers offered advice to the audience on supporting oneself as a dancer, sharing their stories and the journey it took them to get to where they are now. For dancers attending the panel, it expanded their knowledge about the different movements happening in the dance world. “I do different Indian classical dance than like the panelists here today,” said Malavika Singh, a para-professional dancer and student at Columbia University. “I definitely want to learn more about the more modern explorations that are happening in the contemporary dance world, seeing how people are bridging these very traditional forms into a modern purpose.”

The panelists also discussed many of the additional hurdles that Indian dancers face when rehearsing or putting on a show compared to dance forms that are Eurocentric in tradition. Oftentimes, equipment such as microphones or proper wood floor paneling would not be provided for traditional Indian dance companies, whereas dance companies with Eurocentric styles of dance were easily granted proper equipment.

“It’s a little frustrating that there are these additional hurdles for forms that are not under that Eurocentric umbrella,” said Dipashreya Sur, co-organizer of the festival. “You really have to jump through some hoops to find a solution, and often, it’s not necessarily the most optimum solution but it’s just a solution that will do.”

To break the barriers between what is made available to Eurocentric styles of dance and those of the Indian tradition, organizers continue to advocate for their own equipment even through the dominance of the Eurocentric dance sphere.

“My career, I did experience a lot of Eurocentricity in the way that stage is and, for example, the inability to get back speakers at the back of the stage for our show [...] We have to sort of work with the current dominant practices and somehow come through with our own sensitivities and aesthetic ideas,” Coorlawala said. Despite these challenges, Coorlawala seeing how much the audience loved the show afterwards made it all worth it. Recognizing the immense diversity of the audience members who come to see the show proves that the festival is indeed erasing borders.

“Another favorite part is the moment backstage when people are just dreading to go on, and all the performers are there waiting for their turn and everyone is quiet and everyone is just focusing. One person is warming up, one person is just standing there, another is pacing up and down,” Coorlawala said. “But it’s a community, it’s a communal performance.”
By Shea Stevenson  
*Opinions Editor*

When I was a kid, I thought I should move to Brooklyn so I could be there for at least a while before it goes underwater. The other day (Sept. 29) there was some flooding across the city, and the only way I had to interface with that was that the subways weren’t running. There is an heir of detached finality to living in New York City now, or that’s what I’ve anecdotally gathered from my peers. Once in a while, an orange cloud descends over Times Square or blots out your view of the Brooklyn Bridge and all you can do is stay inside and keep your windows shut. It’s an easy time to be an apocalyptic thinker. Then again, is it ever hard to be? The vibe is that eventually our hurricane will come, one that makes vast swathes of the city unlivable and forces a radical shift in infrastructure. In other words, the city can’t survive whatever is happening to the water it sits on, but the people will, so it’ll wind up changed. But I don’t know. This is how disasters are, how we feel now. Life will not stop to indicate the curtain call because nothing is ending. Rather, the subways won’t be running, or the sky will be red, and we will think, “Huh, that’s unusual.” But mostly we will stay inside. The disaster started in the 1800s (perhaps earlier), and is ongoing. It seems like a totally disparate problem, but the end of the writers’ strike gives me hope for a better future. A massive, high-profile strike, where one of the most visible forms of labor can flex its real power and pull in other unions/guilds has been a pleasure to see play out in real time. The auto workers union is on strike and the president of the United States was on the picket line with the strikers. The president on a picket line! That’s nice! But what does that have to do with the flooding? Anti-capitalist (or rather pro-labor) movements must be central to any broad-scale effort against climate change. Without it, we have only performance and band aids. It is not a coincidence that the rise of global industrial capitalism has led to widespread ecological collapse; when the assumed stance of global capitalism is one of infinitely expanding profits (read: infinitely expanding extraction) on a finite planet, this is where that leads. Regulations be what they may, as long as each company is fundamentally incentivized to reap more than can be sown, we will be trapped in a death spiral. Labor movements can stem that tide. A world in which workers are treated fairly across the board is necessarily also a world in which the environment is not nearly so devastated. If workers (mostly outside the USA, but under the USA’s colonial money-power) weren’t exploited, if the people who lived in a place had the final say in what was extracted from it, all of this would be different. You wouldn’t get bananas when they’re out of season. Clothes would be more expensive. But you’ll live; in fact, I wager you’ll live longer.

It’s easy to be pessimistic about the world ending, but to look around at the state of labor and civil rights movements recently, the immense (and growing) political unrest is reassuring. The actors are still on strike, the auto workers have only just gotten started, and UPS workers got very, very close to going on strike recently (only stopping because they got their deal without it). The power is there, if we’re willing to take it.
The Bulldogs began their homestand on Monday, Sept. 25, hosting Saint Elizabeth University. SEU forward Sebastian Londono capitalized on a Bulldog error to open the scoring at the 11-minute mark. Brooklyn answered toward the end of the first half with two goals in quick succession. Brooklyn then forced an own goal to equalize at the 38-minute mark. Less than two minutes later, BC senior midfielder Jordi Hernandez converted a penalty kick to give the Bulldogs the lead. The Bulldogs held the lead for a little more than ten minutes before Londono equalized with his second goal of the game. BC’s Alejandro Lopez scored from the penalty spot to take it 3-2 before Cody Ilner gave SEU a two-goal cushion. BC freshman Seif Mokhtar scored the third penalty of the game in the ninetieth minute. It proved to be too little for the Bulldogs, who went on to lose 3-4.

The Bulldogs liberated any frustration they may have felt by dismantling Medgar Evers College on Wednesday, Sept. 27. Brooklyn won their first game of the season in style, with freshman Rayan Vukovic scoring the first goal of the match within the first minute. Vukovic scored again in the fifth minute. Both goals were assisted by freshman George Koufos. Mokhtar then scored his second goal of the week in the fourteenth minute. Koufos would cap off his hat trick of assists when freshman midfielder Adam Khodorkovsky scored Brooklyn’s fourth goal at the 49-minute mark. The Bulldogs dominated the rest of the game, winning 6-0. The Bulldogs hope to use this victory as a turning point in their season.

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NY Knicks Pre-Season Outlook

By Avi Wizwer
Sports Editor

With the New York Knicks’ 2023-2024 season just less than a month away following their playoff series win last year for the first time in a decade, they are expected to take the next step in their evolution as a team.

The expectations will be high for this team as they have the core that led them back to the second round of the playoffs, with players like their all-star point guard Jalen Brunson, their go-to option Julius Randle, and secondary option RJ Barrett. The new addition of Donte DiVincenzo in the off-season gives the Knicks a different look and adds depth to their team. Despite this being true, the team had difficulties as they lacked perimeter shooting and consistency within their secondary scoring options in the prior season. These issues may be able to create bigger problems come playoff time if they don’t trade for anyone before the trade deadline.

As the East Conference is now even tougher than it was last year, it will be more difficult for the Knicks to make it to the NBA Finals. As the Milwaukee Bucks just traded for star point guard Damian Lillard, this makes them a serious title contender. The dynamic trio of Giannis Antentokounmpo, Khris Middleton, and now Lillard could potentially create problems for the rest of the league.

The Boston Celtics also added star guard Jrue Holiday this off-season but got rid of some of their key players as well, trading away Marcus Smart, Malcolm Brogdon, and Grant Williams to the Dallas Mavericks. What they received this off-season instead was Kristaps Porzingis. These new additions definitely spice things up for the Celtics, but they still lack depth if they want to make a good run in the playoffs.

With the Eastern Conference adding a lot of new talent this year, it may be difficult for the Knicks to make a deep playoff run. They are potentially one player away from being a championship-contending team. There are still some questions that will be answered this season regarding their lack of perimeter shooting and perimeter defense. The team could be just about where they were last year for their record and become a fourth or fifth seed going into the playoffs. The returning trio of Brunson, Randle, and Barrett, as well as the pieces they added in the off-season, might stop the elites of the Eastern Conference.

Tiny Tribune by Nitu Farhin