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Students For Justice In Palestine Protest
CUNY, Advocate For Palestinians

Pro-Palestine protesters outside of the East Quad on Oct. 12. /Kate Dempsey

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The Vanguard would like to encourage readers to read the Editors’ Note on methodology and transparency in writing this article.

Chants from protesters reverberated outside of Brooklyn College’s East Quad on Thursday, Oct. 12, as students and faculty made their daily commute to and from classes. What would have been a normal school day was filled with barricades, police, and press helicopters whirling overhead. On one side of the CUNY-wide rally organized by the BC Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) Club stood pro-Palestine supporters, and on the other side, separated by the barricade of student traffic, were counter-protesters supporting Israel.

The protest came five days after Hamas, a militant political group that governs the Gaza Strip and designated by many western countries as a terrorist organization, launched an attack on Israel that killed over 1,200 people and injured 3,000, according to the United Nations as of Oct. 12. Israel has since launched its own counteroffensive against Hamas, its retaliatory airstrikes killing 1,500 Palestinians and injuring 6,000 more, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health as of Oct. 12.

 Civilians on both sides have been facing the brunt of these deaths. BC President Michelle Anderson released her condemnation of the Hamas attack on Oct. 9 in a college-wide email and on social media, urging the BC community to stand against hate and come together. "We condemn the violent attacks by Hamas on Israel and its diverse peoples […]. We stand against hate. The college remains committed to fostering an inclusive college and its diverse peoples […]" Anderson wrote.

SJP leadership told The Vanguard on Oct. 15 regarding the actions of the group they believed were a part of SJP. “We are deeply disturbed by the actions of Students for Justice in Palestine club and protesters who disrupted our peaceful vigil to mourn more than 1,200 Israelis dead. Mass cheering the loss of life and calling for the destruction of Israel does not include the latest condemnations of the actions of the group that they believed were a part of SJP.” The letter read.

United4Israel's executive board released a statement to The Vanguard on Oct. 15 in response to the actions of the group they believed were a part of SJP. “We condemn the violent attacks by Hamas on Israel and its diverse peoples […]” United4Israel's executive board wrote in a joint open letter released on Oct. 12.

BC administrators also noted that CUNY and its allies, including BC's Puerto Rican Alliance, its allies, including BC's South Asian Student Alliance (MENA) and its allies, including BC's Muslim Student Association (MSA), and Muslims Giving Back (MGB) Club at BC, allowing open support for Justice in Palestine in their statements.

Pro-Palestine protesters outside of the East Quad on Oct. 12.
We wholeheartedly reject the participation of organizations affiliated with CUNY in demonstrations that glorify Saturday's violence and celebrate the killings, injuries and capture of innocent people,” Chancellor Rodriguez wrote. “We respect their right to free speech but condemn their support of these crimes against humanity. We want to be clear that students or anyone from CUNY who chooses to organize or attend these events are in no way speaking for or representing our University or its 25 campuses.”

In the letter by SJP, MSA, and MGB, they refuted Chancellor Rodriguez’s claim that the goal of the protest is to “celebrate” the killings, demanding that administration recognize the distinction between Hamas and the Palestinian people, and the harms that could come by associating all with Hamas actions. “We wish to unequivocally state that the Brooklyn College Muslim & CUNY community has never endorsed the actions of Hamas, or any militant group in any of our protests, nor will we ever do in future events or programs,” the joint open letter read. “It is imperative that the BC & CUNY administration distinguish between the actions of Hamas and the broader Palestinian people. Unjustly associating Palestinians, our student organizations, and our larger communities with violence is a dangerous and unsubstantiated claim.”

In President Anderson’s statement released prior to the Oct. 12 protest, she stated that the administration would be “taking proactive steps to increase campus security,” adding that students would not be penalized for choosing to not attend school on Thursday out of safety concerns. SJP leaders told The Vanguard that protesters made a point to cover their faces and heads with keffiyehs, traditional Palestinian scarves worn for solidarity, and to remove any identifiable traits in fear of being “doxxed” – the publication of identifying information about a protester on the internet.

Student leaders of SJP also told the Vanguard that they were fearful of some counter-protesters, who they claim were combative. NYC Councilwoman Inna Vernikov, who represents the 48th District that includes neighborhoods in southern Brooklyn, was spotted openly carrying a pistol on her waistband at the protest, according to The New York Times. Vernikov went to the protest to show her support for Israel, calling the pro-Palestinian rally a “pro-Hamas” rally on social media. Vernikov turned herself into police on Oct. 13 and has been charged with criminal possession of a firearm, an NYPD spokesperson told THE CITY. Vernikov violated New York’s carry concealed firearms only law and possession of a firearm in “sensitive locations,” such as schools and protests, added under new legislation that was passed last year.

Vernikov is due back in court on Nov. 2 where she will face her charges. At the end of the rally, protesters made their way down Campus Road and toward Tanger Hillel, which is self-described by its members as a non-profit organization that “seeks to strengthen Jewish identity among the college’s Jewish students; to sustain and develop their commitment to Israel […]” as stated on their website. Much like the last protest held by SJP outside of Tanger Hillel, as reported by The Vanguard in May, speeches highlighted a call for justice for Palestinians.

Tanger Hillel released a statement to The Vanguard on Oct. 16. “Tanger Hillel’s top priority since last Saturday morning has been ensuring that our students feel safe and supported. The recent barbaric terror attack in Israel has deeply shaken the Jewish community, hitting close to home for many of our students who have relatives and friends directly affected. Although we are devastated, we have witnessed incredible moments of leadership, unity, and togetherness from our student leaders. We will continue to support our students’ decisions,” said Sarah Cohen, engagement associate at Tanger Hillel.

For students returning to their day-to-day school lives while grappling with the attacks affecting their people thousands of miles away, student leaders at BC emphasize that support is there for them as they navigate the rest of the fall semester. “Every student has the right to express their opinions and feel safe on campus. Students’ well-being and mental health are [the Undergraduate Student Government’s (USG)] top priorities,” USG Press Director Dylan Karowski told The Vanguard. “As your student representatives, we will continue doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our students. Our office door is open to anyone in need of support or assistance connecting to resources.”

This is a developing story. The Vanguard will report on updates as they are made available.
Mayor Adams Claims Success After Returning From Latin America Trip

By Shlomie Katash
News Editor

In response to the worsening migrant crisis, Mayor Eric Adams went on a four-day trip south of the border to deliver a message to potential asylum seekers: New York City is full. He concluded his tour on Oct. 7 in Colombia.

As the city has continued to buckle under the administrative and financial burdens coming from an influx of migrants, Adams believed that urgent action was necessary to mitigate the crisis.

“What tears my heart apart, what motivated me to come here is that when I look at the circumstances that are facing the migrant and asylum seekers who are in New York and everyday struggling New Yorkers, and it is not our desire to pit the groups against each other as we stabilize the situation,” said Adams, per CBS News.

First, he stopped in Puebla, Mexico to simultaneously celebrate immigrants and their contributions while also warning them against migrating. “Our hearts are endless, but our resources are not,” Adams said during a speech in the city. “[Migrants] deserve a more dignified environment than we are able to give.”

He then moved onto Ecuador where he visited a migrant shelter, which he called “an example of upstream solutions” to the crisis in a tweet. By providing support, food, shelter, water, and other resources to families before they leave for the United States, these centers hope to allow people to stay in their home countries.

Adams concluded his trip in Colombia, spending time with officials in the region to devise plans to curb the increasing number of migrants. “Our plan is to stop the tide and stop the flow of coming into the city,” Adams said, per Spectrum News NY1. “And we believe there’s ways to do it, particularly by partnering with Colombia.”

Additionally, he visited the Darien Gap, a dangerous jungle in Colombia that migrants must travel through to arrive in the U.S. Adams celebrated his trip as a success, both in countering misinformation in the local press regarding the state of the capacities available to them in New York, and in broadening his perspective of the crisis and the potential solutions for it.

“How can you tell someone not to follow their American dream?” asked one migrant in Ecuador. Some New Yorkers have criticized the mayor for attempting to do just that while also offering mixed messages. “I don’t blame the mayor for trying to have it both ways,” wrote Ralph Ortega, the editor of City and State. “Unfortunately, offering, ‘Mi casa es su casa,’ is cruel when someone is trying to shut the door on that casa.”
Chantel Peters would have never thought that her own body would be the source of her postponement in life. After being diagnosed with lupus, an autoimmune disease that attacks tissues and organs, attending school soon became intertwined with dialysis treatments that remove excess water, solutes, and toxins from her blood. Peters is a junior at Brooklyn College majoring in journalism and media studies. Her journey at BC began in 2020 when she transferred from Monroe College after earning her associate’s degree in applied sports management. Today, Peters holds the honorable position of treasurer of the Black Student Union (BSU) at Brooklyn College. Her journey with BSU began as a quest for more significant connections and to expand her network, while also finding a sense of belonging. “BSU has become a home away from home,” she said. After being a member of BSU for three years, including a year as the club’s secretary during the 2021-2022 academic year, Peters assumed the role of treasurer. “I would say this is my first year putting myself out there and joining different student life activities, from interning at the radio station to facilitating various BSU events,” Peters said, reflecting on her involvement and experiences at BC. She has been actively engaged within the campus community, demonstrating her commitment to making the most of her time at Brooklyn College. Peters’ path has not been without its share of challenges. She is a lupus warrior, receiving dialysis treatment three times a week. The impact of lupus on her academic journey delayed her graduation from Monroe College, a testament to her resilience and determination. “If I’m being honest, my journey has been tough and quite a roller coaster ride. I began dialysis in 2019 due to my kidneys failing from living with lupus for the past 11 years.” Lupus is an inflammatory disease in which the immune system mistakenly targets healthy tissues. Peters recognizes the disease’s prevalence within communities of color and emphasizes the need for awareness and early testing. “Unfortunately, there is no cure, only progress,” she said. “I have a healthy support system that makes living life as a ‘disabled’ individual worthwhile. Lupus is notably prevalent in the African American and Latino communities, and I urge everyone to go out and get tested.” Peters extends her gratitude to her professors at BC, acknowledging their support through her challenges. She emphasized the role of Josephine Patterson from the campus’s Center for Student Disability Services, where she is the assistant director. “Mrs. Josephine from the disability office is the best. School would not be doable if it wasn’t for her and how much she truly cared about us. We are not just another statistic for the school. We are actually seen as equals.” Admitting to the occasional tough days, Peters acknowledges the emotions that accompany her journey. “I’m not going to lie, I do have my sad days, down days, good days, okay days,” she said. “But every day is not going to be perfect, and I had to learn that from a very young age. Missing out on certain events or activities because of something I couldn’t control is something I need help understanding from family, friends, and even therapy at one point in time.” Through the ups and downs of her journey this year, Peters counts her personal growth as her most significant accomplishment, noting that she has come a long way and is not done yet. BSU is an integral part of Peters’ journey, offering numerous events throughout the year, including their Black Student Mixer that was held on Tuesday, Oct. 17. This event included collaborations with other campus organizations, such as the Dominican Student Movement, Women of Color, Phi Sigma Chi Multicultural Fraternity, Caribbean Student Union, Haitian American Student Association, and African Student Union. BSU provides BC students with an opportunity to connect and build a sense of community. “Everyone has their setbacks, but it’s up to you to decide how you will overcome them,” Peters said. “Life is all about the journey, not the destination.”
Prof. Rachel Brownstein Discusses “American Born: An Immigrant Story, A Daughter’s Memoir” Book

By Paulina Gajewski

The Wolfe Institute for the Humanities joined two Brooklyn College professors, Allan Amanik and Rachel Brownstein, last Thursday, Oct. 12, to discuss the American experience of identity and nationalism in the twentieth century through the lens of a daughter telling a story of her mother’s life.

Amanik, one of the professors in conversation from the Department of Judaic Studies, specializes in U.S. history, American Jewish history, immigration, ethnicity, and gender studies. His works include, “Dust to Dust: A History of Jewish Death and Burial in New York,” and alongside Kami Fletcher, “Till Death Do Us Part: American Ethnic Cemeteries as Borders Uncrossed.”

Rachel Brownstein, an emeritus professor of English at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center, specializes in the novels of eighteenth and nineteenth-century literature, life writing, essays, and caricature. Brownstein’s works include, “Becoming a Heroine: Reading about Women in Novels,” “Tragic Muse: Rachel of the Comédie-Française,” and “Why Jane Austen?” Her most recent work and topic of this talk, “American Born: An Immigrant Story, A Daughter’s Memoir,” was published earlier this year in March.

To kick off the discussion, Brownstein was introduced by Ellen Tremper, the current chair of the English Department at BC. The pair met due to their shared interest in eighteenth and nineteenth-century novels back in 1973. They connected as a result of studying Jane Austen, a female English novelist of the late eighteenth century. “Whether medievalist or postmodernist, one at some point encounters Jane Austen,” Tremper said.

Just as the female novelists of centuries past breathed life into their female characters, Brownstein depicts a lively, seemingly quintessential portrait of her own heroine and mother, Reisel Thaler. The memoir also serves as a biography, beginning with Thaler’s birth in New York City in 1905. Shortly after Thaler’s mother passed away, her father moved the four children out of the Lower East Side, taking two-year-old Reisel Thaler back to Western Galicia, now Poland.

Thaler was able to return to America in 1924 with the help of birthright citizenship. The book deals with an interesting duality of being both a citizen and an immigrant. Back then, it was significantly easier for an immigrant to find a job, so Thaler took up work as a seamstress. Working, to her, was a sign of independence.

The biography features an amalgam of perspectives on Thaler from different generations in the family. Not only did the points of view vary amongst the family members, but they also changed as Brownstein herself grew older.

“I loved how stories and anecdotes about Brownstein’s mother were woven into her story about returning to America,” BC senior Loralei Sirota said about the book following the discussion. “While parts of it were heartwarming, there were definitely sad moments intertwining with Jewish history in Europe that tug at the heartstrings.”

Brownstein’s book tackles the ideas of immigration during a time period where its processes were different and held different opportunities. Balancing the identities of being American and Jewish, of being a citizen while also being an immigrant, Reisel Thaler’s story is emblematic of the lives of many others.

“This book is about my mother,” Brownstein recounted, “but it’s also about my journey into becoming an old woman.”
Opinion: Does Taking The B6 Have To Suck So Bad?

By Yacetie Santos
Staff Writer

Why can’t taking the B6 after class ever be a peaceful and wholesome experience? The moment you see the bus approaching the bench at Bedford Avenue/Campus Road just outside Brooklyn College, you sense the strain in its uneven gait and labored braking. It’s full. Too full. People are packed so tightly that you can discern what they’ve had for lunch. Even the hiss it emits as it shakily kneels feels like a very tired animal pushed beyond its limits.

As a frequent B6 rider, I’ve noticed an air of hostility permeating each bus ride. Communal transport should be a shared space for people to commute to and from work and school, and it should show consideration for the elderly, disabled, and pregnant. Yet, when you’re standing side by side, swaying into fellow passengers by the will of the titanium beast and the beast-driver, there arises an inhospitable atmosphere in which no one belongs, and no one thinks anyone else belongs either. You’re simultaneously in everyone’s personal space, and everyone’s in yours. You’re stepping on feet, scrunching into yourself, and heaven forbid you wear a bookbag!

The other day, while I was riding the bus after school, two men began screaming at each other over the heads of fellow passengers. This particular B6 wasn’t a limited bus, and for the 40-minute drive to Rockaway Parkway station in Canarsie, these two men yelled, insulted, and nearly came to blows twice – all over a seat. This exchange continued, each exclamation escalating the fight until it earned the official New Yorker look of disapproval from other passengers.

Sabrina Peguero, a student at BC, recounted an aggressive interaction we both witnessed on the B6 two semesters ago. “When we were on the bus together, there was a guy screaming and yelling, talking to the bus driver, asking why he’s driving slow,” she said. “He got up in the driver’s face, and the bus driver threatened to get the police involved. Everyone was staring at him and feeling uncomfortable. I felt like he was probably going to do something like hit the bus driver. Everyone was quiet, just waiting to see what he did next.”

This aggression isn’t limited to inter-passenger conflict; it affects drivers, as well. Assaults on bus drivers have increased by 36%, and spitting incidents are up by 21%, as reported by NBC New York. This has led to the initiative to implement cubicle partitions for bus drivers, limiting their interactions with passengers. While this policy prioritizes driver safety, it further highlights the increasingly asocial nature of public transportation. So, is the lack of space the sole source of this hostility? The actual bus route to Rockaway station from campus is populated with schools. Not only are we college students taking the bus, but so are the students of Midwood High School, P.S. 152, and South Shore High School. The B6 lines transport a significant number of students each weekday, adding to the stress and hostility of the bus ride.

Seating in transit defines personal space, providing a sense of privacy. When there’s no seating, defined standing space becomes your private bubble of personal space. However, as more passengers board, that bubble shrinks, and you’re surrounded by bodies. Many B6 buses can’t stop at scheduled stops because they can’t fit any more passengers inside.

Many people have submitted to the culture of entering buses through the back door, or as I like to call it, “back-door hopping;” desperate times call for desperate measures. Initially a precaution to protect drivers, it became a fare-evasion tactic. This quick, easy, and free method of boarding significantly contributes to buses filling up rapidly.

On off days, the drivers’ usual apathy about the tactic turns into annoyance, verbalized only through tired looks and muttering. On worse days, that annoyance becomes confrontation, sometimes closing the doors on passengers who back-door hop or passive-aggressively announcing that the only viable entrance is through the front. Confrontation on public transit very often veers into escalation, and this all adds to overall bus aggression.

Aaliah Hamilton Gibbons, another student at BC, ran the calculations with me. “$2.90, twice a day, Monday through Friday. So five days a week!” After a month, that’s like 116 dollars for fare […]” she paused, “[…] we have school nine months out of the year.”

If CUNY wants to strive for an accessible education for all, then how you get to school is absolutely their business. No barrier, especially one as trivial as a $2.90 bus fare, should stand in the way of your education. Further, the bus ride you take to get to school and to go home should not be one that is draining or hostile. Those moments before and after you get to school while you travel can set the tone around your education. In the best of times, they can reassure you that there is a strong, bonded community in and around the Brooklyn College campus. We are all on our separate journeys, but we don’t have to feel so far away while we are squished together.

Maybe a nurturing and wholesome environment on the B6 is possible, but it will take work. We must advocate for student needs; free bus fare is only one of many steps to creating accessibility for all Brooklyn College students.
Opinion: Consumerism And Girl Power: The Music Industry’s Adhesion To Capitalism

By Rami Mansi
Staff Writer

Twenty-first-century queer music reached a major peak on Sept. 22 when four artists of varying levels of superstardom released new respective albums: Doja Cat’s "Scarlet," Slayyyter’s "STARR***ER," Chappel Roan’s "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess," and Kylie Minogue’s "Tension." For two weeks, the community was ecstatic over the new pile of gold wrapped in electro-pop, femininity, and musical homage. However, this ecstasy wouldn’t last long as the fandoms moved on to the next release, and these four singers moved on to their next projects. This constant need for absorbing new entertainment is something that has plagued music fans for as long as you could buy music, but who caused this need for overstimulation? Why do we as fans crave that feeling, and how can we take a step back to appreciate the music that’s in front of us? Fans have always wanted an easier way to get music from their favorite artists, from pirating songs to supporting and encouraging an artist to create more content, or simply just buying the album when it’s out on iTunes. But now in the online age of YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music, et cetera, we have the choice to absorb this music at an easier and faster rate. If you give a lollipop to a child every time they ask for one, they’ll constantly crave that sweet confection. The same principle goes for music fans. If you give us the choice to absorb entertainment of our own free will, we will choose to do what we could never have done before: give ourselves everything. The reason this new-day issue of overstimulation hurts consumers is that we don’t know how to handle this newfound freedom of choice in a healthy and conceivably way. Artists have been releasing music at similar times for years. However, releasing on the same exact date has become a consistent trend after 2015 when charting for the Billboard Hot 100 changed the day that various factors for charting started counting. According to Complex, artists can maximize their chart potential by releasing music on Fridays. By reaching high on the charts, an artist can get free publicity, leading to snowballing listeners on their new piece. By acting in their best interest under this capitalist system, the main goal of enriching the music industry with new creatives gets ignored. But charting is not the only effect of this new streaming revolution. A sustained lack of releases from artists and music droughts have become normalized at a rapid pace. With multiple singers releasing and promoting their work at the same time, the periods of time in which no music from entire groups of artists is released have become substantial. This lack of music leads to the production of quick and cheap singles that burn out and don’t make any impact. Due to companies overproducing and overworking their artists to push out work rapidly, the end product is something that is half-baked. Although to some extent the songs are still a part of the artist’s discography and have some form of entertainment for fans, the contribution given to the music community is not impactful and sometimes ordinary. This coupled with the fans who are used to constant content means they’re quick to move on to another artist who is creating a similar sound. This is why when a song goes viral, we see twenty other songs being made just like it. Fans have developed a template of music to push out work rapidly, the end product is something that is half-baked. Although fans have a lesser sense of appreciation for the artists and instead care more about whatever music is being put in front of them. By quickly moving on to another musician with a similar sound, the relationship artists and fans once had is diminished. With money-making at the forefront and fans as an afterthought, labels push not only their artists to overwork themselves and create an obscene amount of music, but also expect fans to consume it all at once. This overproduction of content leads to overstimulation for fans. To enjoy the music and have so many artists releasing music and content at the same time, consumers can feel rushed to indulge in everything presented to them. This rush has its perks, like fast cash for labels and a constant stream of music for listeners, but do we want to sacrifice the traditional album cycle promotion for a quick burnout album or single? Fans, now conditioned to want these new fabs at an unhealthy rate, want new crash landings of pop music every week. But if all new releases are pop music shake-ups, then is anything musicians do impactful to their audience anymore? Will we truly ever have another Lady Gaga 2009 VMA debut, or perhaps another Nicki Minaj “Monster” verse? As a pop music fan, it’s tiresome to see what pop music has become. With songs being shortened to fit the length of a TikTok video of around 2 minutes, music is becoming less about creating the next pop culture shake-up and more about who can rake in the most money. It’s disheartening to know that we’ll seldom get another timeless piece of art due to the New York City level of speed the industry is running on. The reason pop music ran so well in the past was that labels took time with the art they put out; they put major artists together and let them collaborate. Music was not just about who could get the highest chart, but who could be a legendary performer and become an unstoppable force worldwide. The fans want that back, but with the labels and musicians taking a step back and slowing down, there’s a rush to create half-good short songs for TikTok, where we could have albums made that benefit pop culture history instead. In an age of constant online attention, fans should take a step back and really appreciate the music being put in front of them. Listening to music at your own pace is a practice I believe we can all learn and benefit from.
Opinion: You Should Watch “The Battle Of Algiers”

By Shea Stevenson
Opinions Editor

If you’re reading this, I bet you live in New York City. By some metrics, NYC is the colonial heart of the world, where if any country and her workers are exploited, you’re never more than a couple of miles from some of the grist that was stolen from those laborers. If a people are exploited for gain, those gains coalesce in places like New York. Not evenly, of course (we have seen the subways and buses), but you can see those gains when you’re in Manhattan and the sky is nearly blotted out by the white marble buildings on Wall Street. Nevertheless, if you were raised in the USA, this is a lens that you, perhaps unconsciously, inherit. Unless you go out of your way to find stories from different perspectives, the things you’ll hear from the media, the movies, your favorite sitcoms, etcetera, are more or less content imperialism, or at least (these days) yearning for a greater police state.

“The Battle of Algiers” is an Italian/Algerian movie from 1966 whose title tells you what you need to know. It’s about the Battle of Algiers, in which the Algerian resistance ousted their French colonizers and eventually liberated Algeria from the French military. It was filmed only a few years after the actual war, and some of its stars are veterans and survivors of the real conflict. All actors are nonprofessionals except for one, the lead French officer.

Two things about this movie: it is very good, and if you’ve grown up in an imperialist nation (and odds are you have), it’s morally imperative to have seen it.

“The Battle of Algiers” is a didactic war movie; it has two main modes and both involve teaching you something. The first is that it’s shot to look like newsreel footage from the actual conflict, and parts of it are so convincing that when the movie eventually came out in the U.S., it came with a disclaimer that they didn’t actually use any war footage. The shots are often framed in ways that we’re used to seeing in conflicts like this, like being behind the French soldiers, barred from close action until it’s dramatically necessary.

The other mode is in some ways more subtle: it’s obvious propaganda. The subtlety comes from the fact that if this is propaganda, so are most of the war movies you’ve ever seen, so it feels strange at first to see it used for the opposite side, anti-colonialists.

This is not a movie about brave western soldiers marching into a dangerous and oil-rich land, but one of violent resistance to that western conquest and oppression. It engages honestly with ethical questions about its violence, but its stance is resolute and obvious: of course we must resist. It’s for freedom by any means necessary.

The movie is also teaching its audience in a more simple way. It says "here is what happened, here is how we did it, here is what western nations said to us as we did it." It spends a long time tracing the process of recruitment, guerilla warfare tactics, and the basic logistics of what we’d call terrorism.

Beyond being a landmark movie in cinematic history for its particular effectiveness in its Italian neo-realist style, it’s important because movies are machines for empathy (as perhaps all stories are). When you’re watching something, or surveying what sorts of stories are made available to you, it is always useful to ask who you are being asked to empathize with and to what end. In the “Battle of Algiers,” those answers are obvious and not ones you’ve likely seen before. It wants you to see the righteousness of this war and this cause.

In particular, then, what makes “The Battle of Algiers” enlightening even to a modern American audience is that we live in one of the most heavily propagandized nations in the world, are surrounded by unimaginable wealth disparity, and subsist on these ill-gotten-gains whether we, as citizens, like it or not. We are predisposed against a story like “The Battle of Algiers” because it’s about the killing of colonial police, acts of terrorism against Europeans, and its unabashed endorsement of those means to its ultimate end of freedom for the Algerian people.

Regardless of what you take from a viewing, to hear the pendulum swing so far in the opposite direction from what you’d see from America is innately useful to you as a human being with your own ideas and your own sense of morality. It allows you, at least, to better understand the intent and the nature of the colonialist narratives you’ve spent your life accustomed to.

**Men’s Soccer Celebrates Senior Day Win**

The Bulldogs routed City College 4-0 last Wednesday, Oct. 11. Brooklyn College outshot their uptown foe 30-6 as they improved to 2-9 overall and 2-3 in CUNYAC play. CCNY gave away a penalty in the fifth minute, which BC junior forward Jordi Hernandez slotted into the opposition net. Brooklyn doubled their lead by halftime when freshman midfielder George Koufos whipped in a ball to sophomore midfielder Bradlej Cupi, which gave them a 2-0 lead. The CCNY Beavers struggled to defend away from home, committing nine fouls in the first half alone.

It took the Bulldogs a little over six minutes to score their third goal of the day. Freshman midfielder Adan Khodorkovsky found fellow freshman Seif Mokhtar on the field. Mokhtar was clinical and scored Brooklyn’s third goal at the 51-minute mark. Hernandez made his second goal of the night at the 54-minute mark. The Bulldogs troubled the Beavers for the rest of the game. CCNY finished with only three shots on target. This was a special victory for Luis Garcia, Luis Gomez, and Alex Mishiyev as all three of these Bulldogs were honored as a part of Senior Day.

**Women’s Soccer Still Looking For A Spark**

Brooklyn College’s women’s soccer team traveled to Randall’s Island to play City College on Wednesday, Oct. 11. The CUNYAC showdown did not go the way BC wanted as the Bulldogs lost their second conference match of the season 8-0.

The Bulldogs could only muster a single shot on target as they were comprehensively defeated by the Beavers. The Bulldogs never had a chance to gain their footing, finding themselves down 4-0 before halftime. CCNY midfielder Karen Pineda scored a hat trick, finishing the day as the fourth highest scorer in CUNYAC with nine goals.

The Bulldogs are now 0-2 in conference play and 1-8-2 overall.

**Women’s Volleyball Searching For More Consistency**

The women’s volleyball team traveled to John Jay on Thursday, Oct. 12. The Bulldogs’ CUNYAC battle with the Bloodhounds ended in a bitter defeat, getting swept 3-0.

The Bulldogs entered the game in good form, winning two of their last three games. However, John Jay showed why they are the first place team in CUNYAC, roaring a 16-3 lead in the first set. The set went on to finish 25-9 in favor of the home team.

Brooklyn fought back by taking the lead in the beginning of the second set. Eventually, John Jay took the lead and closed the second set out 25-14. It was a similar story in the third set. Sophomore setter Amra Mulic provided the team with an ace as the Bulldogs went up 2-0. John Jay came back at 3-2 to go on and win the set 25-16.

Despite the loss, the Bulldogs showed their defensive prowess. Brooklyn unlocked their opponents 6-1. Senior middle blocker Megan Ortiz-Mengedoht led the team with five blocks, and senior outside hitter Ashley Fung led the Bulldogs with three kills.

The Bulldogs are now 3-3 in conference play and 8-10 overall.
Is The NY Giants’ Season Over?

By Avi Wizwer
Sports Editor

The New York Giants’ NFL season could be in jeopardy as key players on the team sustain injuries.

Their starting quarterback, Daniel Jones, will miss several weeks after suffering a neck injury following the game between the Giants and the Miami Dolphins on Oct. 8, where the Dolphins defeated the Giants 31-16. During the game, Jones was sacked six times, and the final sack from Miami’s defense forced him out of the game.

As for the team’s star running back, Saquon Barkley went down with an ankle injury that has had him on the sidelines for some time now. This injury resulted from the game against the Arizona Cardinals last month on Sept. 17, where the Giants won 31-28. With two key players down, questions are being raised on whether or not the team has any shot of making it to the playoffs this season.

With an unknown timetable for Jones’s return, the Giants will rely on their backup quarterback, Tyrod Taylor, to get the job done. As Taylor has veteran experience, he will look to keep the season alive. With Jones’s injury and performance in the past couple of years, his future in New York might be numbered as the team may look to move on from him as their starting quarterback next season.

It is safe to say that Jones isn’t the only one to blame; the Giants haven’t done a good job at protecting him in the pocket. So far, Jones has been sacked 28 times, which is a lot for somebody who has only played in five games this season. As a result, not only will the Giants have to potentially look for a new quarterback, but they will also have to look for some new offensive linemen.

Barkley will see an increase in offensive load whenever he returns from injury in the absence of Jones. This could be a good thing because it could spark his efforts as this season has been a struggle for him since he has only scored one touchdown and 197 total yards thus far. He must get something going for the Giants as soon as possible to have any type of success this season.

With a record of 1-5, the Giants desperately need to win a game soon in order to keep any ounce of playoff hope alive. The rest of the National Football Conference – Eastern Division is struggling as the Washington Commanders are 3-3, the Dallas Cowboys are 3-2, and the Philadelphia Eagles are out of reach at 5-1.

Despite their recent struggles, the Giants are looking to turn their season around soon.

Tiny Tribune by Nitu Farhin
Hiring David Stearns Signals A New Era For The Mets

By Bret Botfeld

Staff Writer

The New York Mets officially introduced David Stearns as the first president of baseball operations in team history at a press conference held on Oct. 2. The press conference took place at Citi Field and was hosted by Mets owner Steve Cohen.

Stearns was a former intern for the team, and much like Cohen, he grew up in New York City cheering on the Mets. “I've ridden the roller coaster of disappointment and hope along with every other Mets fan,” Stearns said at the press conference.

Stearns is a Harvard graduate and has had a role in Major League Baseball for over a decade. He worked in the commissioner’s office at MLB from 2008-2011. The Cleveland Indians hired him the following year to become their director of baseball operations. In 2013, the Houston Astros pried him away from Cleveland, and Stearns led a successful rebuild as their assistant general manager up until 2015.

“People describe him [Stearns] as incredibly smart, thoughtful, open to new ideas and inclusive. It aligns with my thinking about what I like and how I like to run an organization,” Cohen said.

Stearns’ big break occurred in September 2015 when the Milwaukee Brewers hired him as president of baseball operations. He created a track record of success with the small-market Brewers up until the time he stepped down in 2022. The team was one win shy of a World Series appearance in 2018, and made the playoffs three straight seasons while winning two division titles.

Cohen had his eyes on the executive a year ago, but the Brewers would not let Stearns out of his contract. Stearns stepped down into an advisory role for the Brewers last year. He had to wait until Aug. 1 of this year to begin speaking with other organizations. Many teams had interest in Stearns, including the Mets and the defending World Series champions, the Astros.

“The people who worked under David loved working for him, so he was really able to establish a followership wherever he was,” Cohen said. The Mets had championship aspirations entering the season with the highest payroll in MLB history. They missed the playoffs, finishing fourth in the National League East with a record of 74 wins and 87 losses. The Mets were never able to recapture the magic of last year after a 101-win season, the second highest in franchise history. Stearns has a lot of work to do as he builds his administration with an eye on free agency less than two months away.

His first major decision was firing manager Buck Showalter on Oct. 1, just one day before Stearns was officially announced as head honcho of the Mets front office. “When hiring a president of baseball operations, they’re entitled to bring in their own people,” Cohen said, explaining why Stearns decided to fire Showalter, the four-time manager of the year with one season remaining on his three-year contract.

“I’m proud of what the Mets did. We won close to 180 games in two years. Especially last year, as much fun as I’ve ever had in the game. It reminded me why I’ve always loved this kind of work,” an emotional Showalter said during his pregame news conference on Oct. 1.

The most talked about candidate to replace Showalter for the Mets is Craig Counsell, the Brewers’ manager. Counsell completed the final year of his contract on Oct. 4 after the team was swept by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the National League Wild Card Series. New York can begin negotiating with Counsell on a contract now that he is officially a free agent.

Stearns emphasized the need for building “a true partnership” with whoever he chooses to manage the team for the foreseeable future. Stearns described that partnership as someone who is extremely engaged and open to new ideas. Counsell worked side by side with Stearns in Milwaukee for seven years, building a consistent winner with one of the lowest payrolls in baseball. Counsell was hired by the Brewers in 2015 to become their manager. He owns the franchise record for wins and games managed with 707 wins and 625 losses, while leading Milwaukee to the playoffs five out of the last six seasons.

If the Mets truly want Counsell to manage the team moving forward, Cohen’s deep pockets will certainly allow New York to make him an offer he can’t refuse. However, Counsell leaving Beer City for the Big Apple isn’t as easy as it seems. The free agent manager has deep-rooted ties to the city of Milwaukee because he grew up in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin and has lived there his entire life. Before managing, Counsell had a 16-year-career as a player, and he played as a Brewer for six of those seasons. His father, John, also worked for the Brewers as their director of community relations.

Stearns faces another major decision just a few days into his tenure as the man in charge of the Mets: finding a new general manager. On Oct. 5, Billy Eppler resigned after two seasons due to an ongoing investigation by MLB for alleged improper use of the injured list. “I wanted David to have a clean slate and that meant me stepping down,” Eppler said in a statement released by the team, per CBS News.

Eppler had two years remaining on his contract and was prepared to go from first in charge to second working as Stearns’ right-hand man. “I have a lot of respect for the experience he has in this game, the experience he has in New York, and I’m looking forward to working with him,” Stearns said at his introductory press conference. But now Eppler is out, and his exit makes him the fourth general manager the Mets have had in the past five years.

With this hire, Cohen is counting on Stearns to stabilize the franchise and bring a championship back to Queens for the first time since 1986.