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# THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

# VANGUARD

Fall 2023, Issue 9

[vanguard.blog.brooklyn.edu](http://vanguard.blog.brooklyn.edu)

Thursday, November 9th

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# Council woman Vernikov Arraigned For Gun Possession, Wins Re-Election



Councilwoman Inna Vernikov at the Brooklyn Criminal Court for her arraignment on Nov. 2. *THE CITY*

By Kate Dempsey  
*Managing Editor*

Councilwoman Inna Vernikov was arraigned on Nov. 2 with one criminal possession of a firearm after being spotted open-carrying a pistol at the Brooklyn College Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) Club's protest held on Oct. 12 in photos posted on social media. Vernikov turned herself in and surrendered her firearm a day after the protest. She now faces one count of criminal possession of a firearm near "sensitive locations," which includes schools and protests, under new legislation passed last year. The charge is a low-level class E felony. If convicted, she would have to resign from City Council, as per the state's Public Officers law. In a criminal complaint filed against her, NYPD officers found a gun resembling the one in the photos

at her home, according to NY Daily News. Protesters outside the courtroom on Thursday called for the Councilwoman's resignation. As they picketed outside, they chanted "Vernikov, you can't hide; you're supporting genocide," according to Brooklyn Paper. Vernikov, a Republican who represents the 48th District that includes southern Brooklyn, won the recent re-election against Amber Adler (D) and Igor Kazatsker (R). When asked on Election Day on Tuesday, Nov. 7, if she foresees any challenges in her re-election, Vernikov said, "I don't see any challenges. I think that we have a lot of work to do. We have about 180,000 people to fight for, and I will continue doing that," according to News 12 Brooklyn. Vernikov's defense argued that prosecutors

will need proof beyond reasonable doubt that she was carrying a firearm, and that photos are not enough to indict her. "In today's world of artificial intelligence, you can put anything on social media," Arthur Aidala, Vernikov's defense attorney, told reporters on Thursday. "Rules of evidence are, it's a human being who has to make these descriptions, not based on what you see on a computer screen." Prosecutors will have to prove the images have not been altered, and witnesses will have to take the stand in front of a grand jury. Vernikov's possession has received widespread condemnation from elected officials, who state that, even as an elected official, she is not above the law and must be held accountable. "Council Member Vernikov carrying and showing off a weapon as a tool of intimidation

and seeming threat of violence against protesters shows a dangerous dereliction of our duty as elected officials to help New Yorkers be and feel safe," NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams said in a statement on Oct. 13. "I am relieved that she has now been charged for this action and surrendered her permit." Governor Kathy Hochul and the office of Mayor Adams released statements, as well, stating that gun laws apply to everyone and no one is above them, according to City and State New York. Vernikov, who, according to THE CITY, did not submit a plea, is slated to appear back in court on Jan. 24.



# Food Trucks Drive Onto Campus



Wafels & Dinges food truck at Brooklyn College./Kate Dempsey

By Shlomie Katash  
News Editor

Following the shutdown of the Boylan Hall cafeteria, Brooklyn College officially welcomed multiple food trucks on Nov. 1 as part of an effort to increase food accessibility on campus.

The effort to bring in food trucks on campus was primarily organized by BC's Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation (AEC) and Undergraduate Student Government (USG) as a response to the campus losing the cafeteria's only food vendor, Mangia Fresco, over the COVID-19 pandemic.

"[W]e are taking swift action to minimize the inconvenience to the campus community and provide food service options on campus," announced BC's Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Alan Gilbert in an email sent out schoolwide on Oct. 3. "I

want to assure you that every decision we make is with the utmost consideration for the well-being and satisfaction of our campus community." Some efforts have already been made, including the acquisition of two "Farmer's Fridge" vending machines on campus, providing students with healthier meal options.

About four weeks after Gilbert's email was sent out, BC shared that their brand new "Campus Food Truck Initiative" is "ready to roll" in an email to students on Oct. 31. Currently, there are three food trucks that have been offered to students on a rotating basis throughout the last week. There is La Braza, which sells Central and South American cuisine, Moshe's Falafel, which provides students with kosher and vegan options, and Wafels & Dinges, which carries sweet and savory waffles and other treats.

Under USG's current

leadership, President Carrie Ebbin and Vice President Huda Ayaz, promised to bring more food options onto campus as a part of their campaign. The food trucks represent the first step toward a campus with more eating options for students.

When advocating for food trucks with BC's administration, USG took into account student voices and diversity when determining which food trucks would be the best fit for the campus.

"We definitely took into consideration student voices. Students reached out to us, we reached out to them to find out what they would like," Dylan Karlowski, USG's press director, told The Vanguard. "We reached out to different vendors. We researched to find out what had worked on other colleges. Basically, through a combination of research and involving student voices, we are able

to advocate for what we think the college wants."

While updates regarding food truck availability are solely released on a week-to-week basis via email, USG is planning to make efforts to increase the ease of that information's accessibility.

"We're currently working on a list that will publicize exactly what food trucks are coming out. There are emails being released, but we'll also be posting on student gov Instagram some graphics so that people are more well-informed," said Karlowski. "We're also working on compiling menus so that way people can see what's being offered."

Food trucks aside, USG plans to continue working with BC's administration to continue expanding the availability of food on campus.

"[Food trucks are] part of a three-tiered plan for addressing a lack of food on campus," said Karlowski. "This is step one where, as a short-term fix, we have these food trucks, which USG helped in advocating for and pushing the administration to

continue with as an idea. The mid-term solution will be satellite kitchens, which are bringing in vendors who will operate temporarily. Long-term will be getting a vendor back in the cafeteria."

The food trucks joined campus shortly after some students informed The Vanguard of expired items being sold in the vending machines at the Student Center. One student, in particular, who wished to remain anonymous, actually bought food products from a vending machine in the basement of the Student Center without realizing they were expired at first, which he explained in an email to The Vanguard sent on Oct. 31. This student is currently demanding a refund. A Vanguard staffer went to the Student Center following this email on the same day and confirmed that the vending machine's items were expired.



A Vanguard staffer discovered expired products in the vending machines at Brooklyn College's Student Center after receiving a tip from a student.



# Save The Earth, Smash Some Pumpkins



People of all ages smashed pumpkins at the Brooklyn College Sustainability Club's event on Nov. 2./*Sarah Rescigno*

By Reima Choute  
*Features Editor*  
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Serin Sarsour  
*Editor-In-Chief*

New York City goes all out when it comes to Halloween, so it should come as no surprise that an abundance of pumpkins go to waste every spooky season. Brooklyn College's Sustainability Club, however, decided to take action and put a twist on composting by hosting their first-ever "Pumpkin Smash" at the Flatbush Nostrand Junction on Thursday, Nov. 2. This five-hour event featured pumpkin-themed games, compost education stations, and the much-anticipated pumpkin smashing, where attendees could smash donated, used pumpkins and pumpkins of their own. Amidst their sustainability efforts throughout the school year, the club was able to create a fun way to merge composting with spooky season festivities.

"The Sustainability Club's motivation for holding the Pumpkin Smash event around Halloween was a strategic response to show and combat the substantial food waste generated during the holiday season, particularly around Halloween [...] we were able to compost over 1.7 tons of compost at this event," said BC Sustainability Club President Sofia Mariyamis. During the fall season, many farms produce an abundance of pumpkins for consumers to buy. The pumpkins purchased for fun aesthetics and carving often lead to a surplus that goes to waste. Instead of wasting them this season, the Sustainability Club wanted to find an enticing way to get BC students and the Flatbush community to compost. The smashing allowed students to let out frustrations from midterms week, test their strength, and take a meaningful step toward preserving

the environment. The composting process after the pumpkins were smashed was facilitated by GROWN NYC, an NYC environmental organization that provides services like food scrap drop offs, clothing collections, and more. They were able to help the Sustainability Club by collecting the compost and transporting it to composting facilities, where they go through the process of being "mixed with carbon-rich materials like leaves and wood chips," Mariyamis explained. "The finished compost soil is then put to good use, benefiting farms local to New York, houseplants, gardens, and street trees." Mariyamis also noted that this just goes to show how everyone can all contribute to the sustainability effort and find ways to lessen food waste. Through highlighting the importance of composting within the BC and Flatbush communities, Mariyamis noted that

this event emphasized the cultivation of environmental consciousness and knowledge. By engaging students in the practice of composting, it not only encourages a reduction in waste, but it also "empowers students to reduce waste, minimize their carbon footprint, and actively contribute to a greener future," Mariyamis said. The Sustainability Club acknowledged that the Flatbush Junction Business Improvement District played a crucial role in helping make this event come to life by supplying the club with a space to hold the event, which was then able to reach a broader audience. The BC Vanguard's very own Kate Dempsey was also there to show her support for the composting initiative and even demonstrated her DJing skills during the event to bring excitement and add more fun to the atmosphere. This elevated the overall experience, ensuring

that attendees were thoroughly entertained. The BC Sustainability Club is always finding interesting ways to bring sustainability awareness on campus and make these opportunities accessible to students. The club plans on making the Pumpkin Smash an annual event to continue making strides like this every Halloween. "As for upcoming events, in November, we have another highly anticipated Leaf Raking event scheduled for the end of the month," said Mariyamis. Interested students can stay up-to-date on events hosted by the Sustainability Club and ways to get involved by checking out @bcsustainabilityclub on Instagram.





Courtesy of Sarah Rescigno



Courtesy of Mousa (@flixbymoe on Instagram)



Courtesy of Sarah Rescigno



Courtesy of Mousa (@flixbymoe on Instagram)



Courtesy of Sarah Rescigno



Courtesy of Sarah Rescigno



# “Twelve Feminist Lessons Of War,” BC Hosts Author Cynthia Enloe



Cynthia Enloe holding up her new book “Twelve Feminist Lessons of War” at a book talk at Brooklyn College’s Women’s Center on Oct. 30./Kate Dempsey

By Kate Dempsey  
*Managing Editor*

“Women’s wars are not men’s wars.” In Cynthia Enloe’s new book “Twelve Feminist Lessons of War,” the internationally renowned author dives into why, during wartime, women possess unique disadvantages and will continue to do so unless more equitable change is brought about.

Brooklyn College’s Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, the Institute of Gender,

Law, and Transformative Peace Initiative at CUNY School of Law, BC’s Women’s Center, and other departments hosted Enloe on Oct. 30 to discuss her newest release. Enloe, a political theorist, feminist scholar, and professor, has studied women around the globe and their roles in becoming “resistors” to the structural force of patriarchy.

“Twelve Feminist Lessons of War” draws specifically on the experiences of feminists in Ukraine, Myanmar,

Somalia, Vietnam, Rwanda, Algeria, Syria, and Northern Ireland during wartime. The book examines the disparities faced by women and how they are often made invisible during times of conflict. To resist is for women to continue to advocate for women’s rights in war, Enloe explained, adding that it was essential that she drew on the women’s experiences that were shared with her when writing the book.

“These are people who

take me places to make sure that I really understand what happens in war and who tries to resist it [...] so that I could at least see what it takes to resist,” Enloe said.

In Enloe’s book, she highlights that discourse about war oftentimes “blot[s] out complex gender dynamics”; terms like refugees and soldiers do not specifically state whether it is men or women who make up these groups. In order to utilize a gender justice lens of war, language should be more gender-specific in order to fully contextualize a conflict. Instead of “refugees,” we should ask, “Are women more likely to be refugees than men?” Instead of “soldiers,” we should ask, “Are men’s experiences as soldiers different from women’s?”

The book highlights the numerous wartime disparities between men and women. While both are forced into refugee status, women often struggle worse with higher rates of illiteracy, rendering them unable to read directions. Both men and women are paid for work, but with lower rates of pay for women, they are the ones unable to buy supplies in wartime. Both men and women are citizens of a country, but it is women who are considered second-class citizens to men and, therefore, barred from autonomy in wartime.

A focus in Enloe’s work is the role of nurses, one often given to women based on historical presumptions of women as caregivers. The work is important, but it is governments who often take advantage of women when assigning this role, which leads to less upward mobility when the conflict has ended.

“Every government wants to lower two things: they want to lower the actual costs of waging a militarized operation, and that means they want women as wives and mothers to do the unpaid work of caring for the wounded. The second

thing that governments want is they want all of us to imagine that wars are cheaper than they are,” Enloe said. “If we all actually followed every wife and mother who took care of every traumatized soldier or severely wounded civilian that was a result of war, if we actually followed what those women do, sometimes they give up paid work so that they can be full-time carers of the wounded. And that’s not just until the war ends; it is for months and years.”

A pertinent topic was brought up towards the end of Enloe’s book talk: the state of violence occurring globally right now. As news media floods images of violence in Gaza, Sudan, and many other regions, an enormous amount of violence is being waged against women. Enloe advocated that, as citizens of the world, we all need to continue to do our part to meaningfully engage—to not let the violence overshadow those suffering from it.

“We’ve got a lot of horrible conditions of collective violence around the globe now. And we all are in some ways, because we are all on this planet together, have to be able to engage usefully, valuably,” Enloe said. “And as hard as it is, stay conversational because that means you are a citizen, a citizen of the world.”





# Revolutionary Feminists: A Conversation Between Barbara Winslow And Zinga Fraser



Barbara Winslow and a student from the Brooklyn College Wolfe Institute on Nov. 2./*Paulina Gajewski*

By Paulina Gajewski  
*Arts Editor*

The Wolfe Institute held its fifth event in a series of celebrations of recent books published by Brooklyn College faculty on Thursday, Nov. 2. Barbara Winslow, former professor of secondary education and women's and gender studies at BC, tackles the issue of portrayal of feminist movements in her new book, "Revolutionary Feminists: The Women's Liberation Movement in Seattle."

Various feminist movements of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries conjure images of a certain type of woman advocating for women's rights. This may include figures such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Sojourner Truth, as well as extending to celebrities and political figures of the present world. In recent years, historians and women's rights activists have aimed to study the nuances of feminism and its figures, and the ways in which it has transformed over time.

Prudence Cumberbatch, chair of the Africana

Studies Department at BC, introduced the author of the book. Winslow entered BC as a professor in 1996 and retired in 2013, and spent her time teaching and coordinating various women's and gender studies programs. She has written a variety of books, one of which is a biography of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to Congress, who also attended Brooklyn College.

Distinguished Political Science Professor Jeanne Theoharis led the conversation with questions and her complementing insights into the history behind the book. Her work on civil rights helped provide nuance into the intersectionality of feminist movements.

Winslow lived in Seattle from 1967 to 1973. At the beginning of the conversation, she introduced a plethora of movements she had been involved in, most of which were staunchly related to the efforts of the soon-to-be women's liberation movement in Seattle. Winslow differentiated this from the women's movement, which was

mainstream feminism, often characterized by bourgeois members. The women's liberation movement, on the other hand, was "anti-capitalist, anti-racist, and anti-imperialist. It wanted more than women's rights. It wanted a total destruction of the patriarchal system," as Winslow characterized it during the talk.

Winslow's objective with "Revolutionary Feminists" was to not only bring light to the movement, but to also bring light to her grievances with the way women's liberation movements have been presented. They have often been depicted as adhering to misandry and being composed of all white women. Both, as Winslow attempts to tackle in her book, are false prejudices.

The importance of local histories is the backbone of the book. "By focusing on local histories in cities that have larger populations of people of color," Winslow said, "it introduces us to a larger cast of feminists."

She continued by introducing a few outstanding figures from her book. The first, Fannie Lou Hamer, was a civil rights activist. In 1969, she

spoke at an event hosted by the women's liberation in Seattle, where she was a catalyst for stopping the issue of forced sterilization amongst women of color. In 1961, Hamer underwent surgery for removal of a fibroid, and years later, was given a hysterectomy without her knowledge. This was a historical trend for marginalized women that many white people were unaware of.

Nina Harding, too, was an African-American woman who Winslow highlighted. Coming from a middle-class background, she had moved to Seattle, where she wrote outright about her experience of getting an abortion. Harding helped to form a number of African-American and women-of-color groups at the University of Washington.

Winslow had to tackle the ways in which her background informed her research and books. She came from a school in which there was not a single professor of color, and no courses dealt with the concept of race. The population of where she lived was 94% white and

exhibited racial cluelessness. Looking into the local histories, Black and Latinx women played foundational and fundamental roles in founding the first women's liberation groups.

"In a sense," Winslow recounted, "before Kimberlé Crenshaw defined the word intersectional, we were involved in intersectional politics." The women's liberation of Seattle was made up of several coalitions, including women of the Black Panthers and domestic workers of America. The movement aimed to recenter socialist feminism and move away from the ideas of the mainstream women's movement.

On a final note, Winslow exemplified the importance of how change is made. The revolutionary feminists of the past paved the way for future change, beginning locally. "The women's and gender studies programs didn't start because the BC president and administration thought it was a good idea," Winslow said. "It started because people like yourself fought, struggled, demonstrated, and sat in."



# Student Pianists Demonstrate Prowess At “Afternoons At The Piano” Showcase



The set up for the “Afternoons At The Piano” showcase in Brooklyn College’s Topfer Recital Hall on Nov. 2./*Rami Mansi*

By Rami Mansi  
*Staff Writer*

The yellow-lit Topfer Recital Hall inside the Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College hosted “Afternoons At The Piano,” a showcase of four various piano pieces played by four different student conservatory pianists, on Nov. 2. These pieces ranged from soft-spoken songs to powerful demonstrations of instrumental prowess, which the plentiful audience was delighted to hear.

Kicking the afternoon off was Christopher Tavernier playing Beethoven’s “Piano Sonata No. 21 in C Major ‘Waldstein,’ Op. 53: I. Allegro con brio,” enticing listeners from the start.

The switch-up of tempos led to dramatic pauses, where the audience wasn’t sure when the artist would begin again. Tavernier played not just through the sound of his art, but also through the expressions painted on his face. With powerful lifts planting delicate hits on his instrument, and dramatic expressions with a glare never leaving the piano, Tavernier was confident enough to demonstrate precision with his piece mixed with the right amount of suspense, leading to a beautiful showcase of his talents.

Next, Maxwell Hinton performed Alban Berg’s “Piano Sonata, Op.1.” This piece gave the audience a sorrowful and heart-tugging story told through a master class in instrumental

performance. Hinton performed the heartfelt piece with delicacy and precision; every press of the keys was calculated, and the sounds came out almost effortlessly. The audience adjusted to the switch between Tavernier’s ever-changing emotions leading up to Hinton’s consulting sonata with ease as both performers helped the audience dive into the music.

Ziling Julia Ma added the graceful energy needed to stand out in this collection of performers. The other pieces focused on prowess and were invigorated by the piano. However, Ma focused on the more elegant side of the instrument. Performing Claude Debussy’s “Ballade Slave,” Ma used the keys to not only play the music presented,

but also as a way to help convey the emotions needed. By pressing the keys with more delicacy and kindness compared to her fellow performers, the song was carried out through a gorgeous symphony.

Rounding off this assemblage of performances, Nikita Tumanov thanked the audience for coming and congratulated his preceding pianists on their beautiful performances.

Tumanov performed the last piece of the collection: “Improvisation No. 7 in C Major” by Francis Poulenc. Tumanov focused on the ease the piece delivers to the audience. Improvisation is already known for its complexity; this piece, although originated as an improvisation, was

not performed as one. Tumanov demonstrated to the audience his understanding of how to carry out Poulenc’s piece with enough emotional energy to match his preceding performers. A piano piece dedicated to its demeanor, this final song closed the session and left the audience with a proper goodbye.

“Afternoons At The Piano” provided the audience with a handful of dynamic performances. From heart-strung ballads to a sophisticated show of prowess, the four pianists demonstrated their diverse techniques on the piano.



# Flying Into The Next Wave With “Corps Extrêmes”



The performance of “Corps Extrêmes” at the Brooklyn Academy of Music’s New Wave Festival on Oct. 27./  
*Courtesy of BAM’s official website*

By Lina Mazioui  
 Staff Writer

French-Algerian choreographer Rachid Ouramdane made his debut at the Brooklyn Academy of Music with his aerial dance piece, “Corps Extrêmes,” for BAM’s 40th Next Wave Festival on Oct. 27.

The festival is all about pushing limits and unfathomable heights that have never been reached before. The most outlandish ideas are welcomed, and convention is shunned. The Next Wave shines a light on the future of the arts, showcasing the most groundbreaking, or perhaps in this case, atmosphere-tearing performances. Through projected video, rock climbing, tightrope walking, and soaring dance, “Corps Extrêmes” explores the tranquility that comes with adrenaline and risk, and the desire of the land-confined human to fly away.

“Corps Extrêmes” means “extreme bodies” in French, and what a fitting title it is. The divergent dance piece features eight acrobats, a

highliner, and a climber, all of whom push their bodies to the extreme. In their daily lives, they move and traverse in ways a human was not created for, but this rebellion against nature is the very trait that makes one inherently human.

The human spirit is fueled by breakthroughs and innovation, always looking for the extremes that will fulfill the ever-hungry soul. Though all of humanity is bound to traveling on Earth, it has found ways to sail on the sea and soar through the skies. It is always reaching, over and over again, higher and higher. The dance piece encapsulates that intense and innate human desire as the dancers and athletes take flight on stage, exemplified by the act of Nathan Paulin.

As the lights of the Howard Gilman Opera House dimmed, a rock climbing wall with a tightrope hanging across the stage was illuminated. A video projected onto the wall, filmed by videographer Jean-Camille Goimard, and a canyon made its way into the shot. The moving image was presented from a bird’s-eye view, giving the audience

the heart-sinking feeling of being at such an enormous height. The heart sinks lower, and the engagement higher, as Paulin tiptoed across a tightrope, both in the video and on the stage as he entered from the side.

His voice rang from the speakers, explaining both the thrill and peace that comes from bringing his body to such unbelievable heights. Every step he took on the tightrope was accompanied by sentimental words that radiated from his heart as he pursued his passion. In the video, he spoke about how, surprisingly, the wind aids him as he walks the line. The echoes of water running and birds chirping could be heard, supplementing Paulin’s intentional and balanced movements on stage. Sometimes, he sat or laid down and closed his eyes. Despite his dangerous position, he was at peace.

This moment of individual tranquility was broken when the video stopped, and Paulin looked behind him to find the nine other members of the show appearing from over the climbing wall. They climbed

over and scattered over the ledges and protrusions, making random movements that were simultaneously in harmony with one another. Once they reached the floor of the stage, the real show began.

The music, composed by Jean-Baptiste Julien, changed from peaceful to slightly more upbeat as the dancers got on each other’s heads, totems of three humans emerging from their movements. They walked around in this composition as Paulin continued his performance above them. As Paulin’s moves were predictable at this point, the focus shifted to those on the ground.

The dancers broke from their previous stances and went back to the wall, jumping from ledge to ledge, sometimes jumping off while another person awaited at the bottom to catch them. The performers ran around frantically and the music became intense as they seemingly searched for their next adrenaline-inducing task. They were desperate for risk and aimed to escape their mundane human experience.

A passionate desire took over the performers, and

they looked to each other for fulfillment. In their fervor, they took to the skies, jumping from the hands of their companions who so eagerly propelled them to greater heights. In an act of desperation, each performer took turns jumping from the knees and hands of two other dancers to reach for Paulin, who was looking down at them. This scene was reminiscent of Michelangelo’s “Creation of Adam,” which illustrates the moment in the Bible where God gives life to the first human, Adam. Adam reaches to God, and their fingers are just almost touching. The choreography is a testament to the divine feeling the performers and athletes derive from their work. This process repeated, but they could never reach Paulin. This demonstrated that however hard an artist works, however far they push themselves, they will never be satisfied; they will never achieve perfection.

Finally, in some kind of revelation, the performers came together to create steps with their bodies, and acrobat Airelle Caen trod on those fragile steps to reach her hand towards Paulin. Paulin now understood that he, too, must reach her, so he laid his body upside down from the tightrope in order to allow himself to be grabbed. Their hands clasped together, and Caen’s weight was no longer supported by those below her. She hung from Paulin’s arms and twirled like a decorative ornament. In this moment of peace, the score quieted down; the previous excitement seemed like a fever dream. After having their heads in the clouds, both the performers and the audience were brought back down to earth.

The state of a feverish dream is not unlike that of which the dancers and athletes experience in their field. The complexity and passion of someone who pushes their body to the absolute limit is unlike any other. Ouramdane’s choreography is the closest thing to a tangible embodiment of that dream-like state. With “Corps Extrêmes,” the Next Wave was taken to a new height.



# Opinion: Where's The Coffee?!?



The Boylan Hall Cafeteria at Brooklyn College./*Courtesy of Brooklyn College's official website*

By Isabelle Cachia-  
Riedl  
*Staff Writer*

Monday morning, mid-September, I left my first class and headed to the basement for a cup of coffee. I had overslept and didn't have enough time to make any before class. Every day after class, my friend and I would meet at a booth in the cafeteria; it was an unspoken tradition, one that we had fallen into over the last semester.

But on this Monday morning – parched, hungry, and groggy – I found the cafeteria closed. They had rolled down barriers, and I saw a group of boys ahead of me equally disappointed in their finding. One hopefully tugged at the fence, but there was no one inside. There was no pizza, cupcakes, or premade sandwiches. All display boxes were empty. The search that then ensued for a coffee before my next class was fruitless. I passed the long lines at the food trucks on Bedford

Avenue, checked the cafe in James Hall, which was also closed, checked the food truck lines again, crossed campus and gawked at the Starbucks line, then the deli line, and ran out of time.

I am writing this not to simply say this is a problem, that much is widely accepted. Obviously we need somewhere to buy food on campus, but it is not just an issue of food. The cafeteria, without food, has been effectively converted to another study space with a stinky microwave. People do not convene in a place that doesn't sell food, and if they do, they bring their food and drink with them. Each time they do, Brooklyn College is missing out on revenue. Socialization has always been closely tied with eating and meals. I have made many bonds at BC with the pretense of “grabbing a coffee.”

Brooklyn College is already a commuter campus where all other aspects of daily life are conducted elsewhere. It is hard to get to know your peers in a place like that. It is hard to form a community. It's hard to foster relationships

that make college a place that you feel a part of. You can join clubs if you have time, or go to an event hosted by the Undergraduate Student Government, but nothing quite matches the casual serendipity of bumping into a classmate, having a coffee, and the leisurely walk to class after (not rushing from one side of campus to the other). A common watering hole allows for chance encounters that make you feel known and included at college.

I found out in an email addressed to the student body that there was a problem with the third party vendor who the administration hired to run the cafeteria and cafes. There have been a few lackluster attempts to mitigate this “problem of food.” The other day, I saw a waffle truck on campus, as promised in an email from BC's Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Alan Gilbert. BC is implementing a cycle of different food trucks throughout the week,

but the problem is not only that there is a lack of food around campus. There are vendors close by (many of which are swamped during common hours). The problem at hand is that there needs to be a common space – and as winter approaches, preferably inside – that is consistent and affordable. Ten dollar sugar-drenched waffles and overpriced coffee will not solve the problem: the problem is that of a disconnected campus.

What we need is simple: a place to have a reasonably priced coffee, maybe a muffin, or better yet, an edible sandwich. I do not know the logistics involved with providing this, but I have to say it really is the bare minimum. It would also seem that this is a good opportunity for BC to make a few bucks considering the current state of the school's finances, suffering from low enrollment rates (though I understand that selling the privilege to exploit the student body to a third party is more profitable.)

A vibrant campus is one

where people talk to each other. They grab a coffee. You meet someone you might not have met otherwise because you reach for the same cupcake in the cold case... I don't know, something like that. The purpose of a cafeteria is not just for food: it is a well of humanity (with hopefully a decent cup of joe under three dollars). Supposedly, the administration is working to bring back a more permanent food service to Brooklyn College, but I am unsure that they understand the severity of the situation. With every passing day, our campus becomes more impersonal and transactive. As a student seeing amenities like the cafeteria being neglected and the general disrepair all over campus, it leaves me feeling hollow. I know my peers deserve a vibrant and personal campus life.

P.S. In the meantime, please take down the Boylan Hall Cafe sign. It is misleading.



# Opinion: Tune In To “Black Cake”



*Courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes*

By Katherine  
Hepburn  
Staff Writer

Imagine being lied to your whole life about your family’s origin and history. That, when your mother unfortunately passed away from cancer, her lawyer sits down with you to listen to the recordings she left on a flash drive of the truth, the truth of your history and how you came out to be. When listening, you learn the struggles and hard choices she had to make as all this news unravels. What a shocker, am I right?

Based on The New York Times bestselling book by

Charmaine Wilkerson, the show “Black Cake” was released on Hulu on Nov. 1, with new episodes following weekly. I watched the first three episodes that were released, and they left me questioning everything and wanting to know more. The episodes made me cry at some points, but also had me commenting to myself, “Okay, slay!” at other points. When a show like this puts you through a rollercoaster of emotions, you know it’s worth watching. You actually put your phone down and get comfortable, that’s when it’s game over.

Let’s now talk about the visual themes corresponding

throughout the series. It seems as though we occasionally get the impression that we are watching something we weren’t supposed to see. The series did a really good job depicting each scene from the novel, as well, when it shows Jamaica’s vibrant and brilliant colors to England’s subdued and dreary tones, and are displayed with distinctive visual themes so that you know exactly where and when a scene is taking place inside the story as soon as it begins.

This show skillfully shifts viewers from the past to the present and back

again as we meet the older Eleanor Bennett and how she relates her story of survival and perseverance, persistently fighting against the history of who she is and who she has to become. What makes the plot of the show even more intriguing is that Covey/Eleanor are the same person; she just changed her name when escaping to Europe.

Each episode is named after a different heroine, some based on names, others on roles. As we watch Byron and Benny learn about their late mother’s (Eleanor Bennett) past, which goes back to her 1960s childhood in the West Indies, it contradicts their perception they had of her. For instance, they unfold the truth about where and who truly raised her, her real name, and her passion for playing on an international level as a swimmer. As they take time to digest all of this information, Byron and Benny also learn of her arranged marriage with Little Man, a local neighborhood gangster, and that she faked her death and fled around the world to stay alive and safe. Hence, their mother changed her name from Covey to Eleanor.

All of the news unraveling had a different perspective for both of Eleanor’s children. For Byron, he was in utter shock and confusion. Benny, however, finds comfort in knowing

her “perfect” mother wasn’t so perfect, but rather she struggled and suffered and made choices that disturbed her for the rest of her life. Intriguing, huh?

Eleanor instructed her lawyer, when the moment came after her death, to listen to the flash drive with B and B (nickname for Byron and Benny) and to eat the black cake stored in the freezer in honor of her. What is black cake, though? The show is named “Black Cake” after all. In Caribbean culture, we eat tons of it. Food is a vital component of social events and family get-togethers, bringing back fond memories of previous occasions. In Wilkerson’s book, black cake, which is typically offered during celebrations, brings about memories and family togetherness in times of significant loss but also enjoyment.

But what happens now in the show? Unless you have read the book, we shall find out when the next episode comes out next Wednesday.





# Women's Basketball Primed To Defend CUNY Crown



Brooklyn College's 2022-23 women's basketball team./Courtesy of @bcbulldogswbb via Instagram

By Oscar Docavo  
Staff Writer

Lifting the CUNYAC trophy at the end of the year is not a dream for Brooklyn College women's basketball; it is the standard. Bulldogs fans are living in the golden age of their school's women's basketball team. The Bulldogs have appeared in the past eight CUNYAC finals in a row, winning four of them. Brooklyn has also won every game in CUNYAC play since 2019. The team is now hunting for their fourth consecutive CUNYAC title.

This season, however, they will be playing without the stewardship of legendary Coach Alex Lang. Lang was in charge of the BC women's team for 20 years, transforming a flailing program into a CUNY powerhouse. The Bulldogs are now led by a familiar face in Megan Campbell. Campbell has played for Lang in the past as a BC student from 2013-2015, and later served as a member of his coaching staff.

"Alex has done a very great job over the years just establishing the culture of the program.

I'm looking to build upon that now and continue the success," said Head Coach Campbell, making it clear that she will do her best to pick up right where the team left off last season.

Coach Campbell boasts two CUNYAC first-team all-star selections and a first-team Eastern College Athletic Conference honor. That is without mentioning the two CUNYAC Championships that Campbell won as an assistant coach. As the head coach now, she added that her increased responsibility means making sure her players are managing their time well and staying on top of their schoolwork.

Other than that, Coach Campbell looked at home in the preseason. "I'm really enjoying it. We have a really special team this year, so it's just an exciting time," she said.

Bulldog basketball has been characterized by scoring often and efficiently. BC has had the best offense in CUNYAC for the past two years, averaging 74.8 and 74.1 in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons respectively. The Bulldogs have also led CUNYAC in three-point field goals made for the past three years in a row. This has been a team

with lethal shooters who can score from anywhere. Fouling the Bulldogs is not a good idea either after they finished last season with the best free-throw percentage in all of CUNYAC at .677. No matter what their opposition does, BC finds ways to drop buckets on anyone.

"We have people that are able to put the ball in the basket. We wanna play a fast style of play, so if everybody is doing their job, the points will come," Coach Campbell said.

The Bulldogs will have to cope with the loss of the 2023 CUNYAC player of the year, Gianna Gotti. Gotti's 21.8 points per game were the most on the team and second in all of CUNYAC.

"We're looking to definitely have players step up this year and kind of fill that role," Coach Campbell told *The Vanguard*.

The player perhaps most poised to take on the mantle left bedding by Gotti is senior guard Ericka James. James was a top-10 scorer in the conference last year, averaging 13.8 points in conference play and 14.1 points in all play. James also averaged five rebounds a game in CUNYAC play. James was named a first-team CUNYAC all-star last

season and will look to build on that achievement. Coach Campbell also mentioned first-year Bulldogs Alina Estrella and Anna Kitch as players ready to break out this season. Additionally, BC will be counting on the top rebounder in the squad, senior Sarah James, to have a big year.

One of the Bulldogs' few weaknesses last season was their defense. The 2022-23 season was the first time since 2017 that Brooklyn did not have the stingiest defense in CUNYAC. The Bulldogs went from giving up 49.5 points a game in 2021-22 to 64.6 in 2022-23. The 15-point difference resulted in the Bulldogs going from first to sixth in CUNYAC's defensive category. Coach Campbell confirmed that defense is a priority for her team going into this season.

"We put a big emphasis on revamping our defense, getting a little bit more pressure and just really working on the defensive end, and focusing on the little details that we need to in order to get back to where we were defensively," Coach Campbell said.

Every team in CUNYAC will be trying to grab the crown from the Bulldogs this season. The likes of

Hunter and John Jay will most likely be BC's greatest CUNYAC competition.

"We've played them in the championship the last couple of years, so we definitely wanna pack the stands for that John Jay game," said Coach Campbell.

Given the Bulldogs' dominance in the conference, their real tests will be against their non-conference opponents. Games against Kean University and New York University will be particularly tough tests.

The Bulldogs will begin their season on Saturday, Nov. 11, hosting Stockton University. The Bulldogs are at the top of the mountain with all of CUNYAC waiting for them to slip up, but the team forms a united front. Though practice seems intense, there are plenty of smiles in between and after the action. This edition of Bulldogs women's basketball will look to spread the ball around, score efficiently, and above all else, continue their legacy of dominance.



# Men's Basketball Team 2023-24 Season Preview



Brooklyn College's 2022-23 men's basketball team./Courtesy of @bcbulldogsmbb via Instagram

By Sean Markisic  
*Staff Writer*

The Brooklyn College Bulldogs have always chased championships for their sports teams, and the men's basketball team is no different. With the 2023-2024 season starting this week, the Bulldogs will go up against some tough competition. Regardless of the score, the Bulldogs will play hard until the very end of the season. This mindset will be crucial with a young team filled with sophomores and juniors who have a lot to prove.

Head Coach Jeffrey Jean-Baptiste believes his players will give

extraordinary effort regardless of the opponent. Given that the team is filled with new players, one player in particular that Coach Jean-Baptiste expects to have a breakout season is junior Malik Dale. Last season, Dale averaged 8.5 points, 1.8 rebounds, and 1.1 assists per game after he played 24 games and started in a total of 14 of those games. This coming season, Dale should have the ball in his hands more on offense, which will allow him to get more opportunities to score and boost his stats from last year.

Another player that really jumps out as a star on the team is

Franz Depra, who will now be entering his sophomore year at BC. In his freshman year campaign on the Bulldogs, Depra averaged 3.2 points, 1.1 rebounds, and 1.1 assists per game after starting in eight of the 24 games he played. Depra has the potential to become a more consistent scorer this season.

All across the board, the men's basketball team has potential; it's just a matter of finding good chemistry with one another and putting it all together on the court.

The Bulldogs' season opener will be against William Paterson University, a non-conference

matchup, in Wayne, New Jersey on Wednesday, Nov. 8. The first month of the season will consist of all non-conference schools, so the team won't play against any CUNY schools until Dec. 1 when they will face John Jay. This will be a good test for the team as they go up against different competition. Then, looking ahead into the season from Jan. 3 up until Feb. 13, the team will only play against CUNY schools. Having this long stretch of games in the middle of the season works in the Bulldogs' favor because they will gain an understanding of

what works and what doesn't from the games that they play. The Brooklyn College Bulldogs have had their ups and downs in past regular seasons, which has resulted in them winning a few CUNYAC Championship games throughout the history of the team – most recently in 2020. This season, they might not be expected to be at the top of the standing right out of the gate, but they have the potential to have a successful season even with all of the learning curves that come with having new players along the way.



# BC Sports Recap (Oct. 31 – Nov. 4)

## Women's Volleyball Ends Regular Season With Win And Loss



Brooklyn College's women's volleyball team celebrating Senior Night on Nov. 2./BC Athletics

By Oscar Docavo  
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College's women's volleyball team battered York College on Tuesday, Oct. 31. The Bulldogs' penultimate match of the season ended in a dominant sweep (3-0). The York Cardinals never came close to touching their hosts as Brooklyn won all three sets with scores of 25-5, 25-8, and 25-6 respectively.

Senior Katia Mercado and sophomore Emma Steele gave everything they had for Brooklyn in the first set. Mercado

supplied the Bulldogs with two aces at the beginning of the first set as Brooklyn would go on to cruise to victory. The first set ended with similar dominance as Brooklyn closed out with seven straight points.

The Bulldogs practically ended the second set at will. Already 16-8, the Bulldogs scored nine unanswered points to end it. The Cardinals watched any hope they had evaporate as they went from trailing by one point to trailing by 12 in an instant. Brooklyn had stomped out most of York's spirit

at that point as the sweep was completed.

Brooklyn produced 32 aces, while York had none. The Bulldogs were led by Steele in this category with 14. The Bulldogs also produced far more kills than the Cardinals, 22-6. Junior Aleah Rafat was in sensational form with a team-high seven kills, as well as seven aces and three digs. Even without star senior Ashley Fung, the Bulldogs rolled.

The Bulldogs celebrated Senior Night on Thursday, Nov. 2, as they hosted Kean University at the West Quad. A 3-0

loss to Kean did not stop the crowd from giving the seniors the standing ovation they deserved.

Seniors Ashley Fung, Katia Mercado, Megan Ortiz-Mengedoht, and Ayomide Adeoye got to play in front of the West Quad crowd for one last regular season game.

"Definitely felt the love, especially from my parents, team, coaches, event staff, and absolutely from the crowd. I also felt this mutual connection between the other seniors," Fung told The Vanguard.

Unfortunately, it was not an ideal sendoff

for the senior Bulldogs. Brooklyn lost each set with scores of 25-8, 25-16, and 25-11 respectively. Though, they did have four blocks to Kean's two.

Fung came back into the line up with four kills, seven digs, and a block, bowing out with a characteristically tenacious performance. Mercado led the team in assists with eight, and Ortiz-Mengedoht had two blocks. Rafat built on her Tuesday night performance with nine kills (leading the team) and four digs.

Fung, Mercado, and Ortiz-Mengedoht were all part of the 2021 championship team, cementing themselves in Bulldog history forever. Brooklyn ends the regular season this year with an overall record of 11-12 and 4-3 in CUNYAC play.

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# Men's Soccer Has Incredible Run End In Heartbreak



Brooklyn College's men's soccer team playing against Baruch College on Nov. 4./BC Athletics

By Oscar Docavo  
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College's quest for a first-ever CUNYAC men's soccer title will have to persist for at least one more year after facing a 2-0 loss against Baruch College in the final on Saturday, Nov. 4. The Bulldogs met the Baruch Bearcats at Queens College for a duel of the underdogs.

Brooklyn entered the CUNYAC tournament as the fifth-seeded team, while Baruch was ranked third. Brooklyn and Baruch went on to put these rankings to shame as the Bulldogs beat first-placed Lehman and the Bearcats dispatched second-placed Hunter. The Bulldogs started

off strong against an opponent that has appeared in the past three CUNYAC men's soccer finals. Brooklyn limited Baruch's ability to attack down the flanks and disrupted their attempts to string together coherent attacks. Due to the effectiveness of the Bulldogs' press, Baruch had to try and play the ball over Brooklyn's defensive line. Brooklyn won the key aerial duels and played the ball out from the back effectively. The Bulldogs' counterattacks forced Baruch into conceding multiple corner kicks. Though Baruch defended well, it seemed like Brooklyn would break through eventually. Tempers flared briefly with a little less than 20 minutes left

in the first half after physical play, harsh words, and shoves were exchanged between members of each team. These kinds of interactions are not uncommon in an evenly-contested final. Though there were several players involved in the bust-up, Brooklyn College's senior goalie, Carl-Henry Obeissant, was the only player to receive a yellow card. Three minutes later in the thirtieth minute, Baruch scored from a set piece. Baruch's Ammar Ahmedshaker played a ball into the box, which was then slotted home by substitute Julio Ramirez. The second half was even in the opening exchange with neither team attacking very effectively. Obeissant

was called into action at the 59-minute mark when CUNYAC player of the year, Baruch's Arman Celebi, ran down on him one-on-one. Obeissant pulled off a heroic save with his right leg to keep the score 1-0.

The game turned on its head at the 67-minute mark when sophomore Danny Torrentes was sent off after his second yellow card. Brooklyn almost equalized when freshman Adan Khodorkovsky let off a rocket of a shot, forcing Baruch keeper Jon Legasa to make a save. Baruch was able to dictate the flow of the game with much more ease, having a man advantage on Brooklyn. Baruch put a dagger in Brooklyn's heart at the 89-minute mark when Andrew

Kinal assisted Diego Sachun's goal. Baruch went on to collect their seventh title, a CUNYAC record.

Bulldogs fans can take solace in the fact that the core of this team will be back next year. The likes of George Koufos, Adan Khodorkovsky, and Bradlej Cupi are all underclassmen. Fans should expect to see a hungry team next fall.





# An Unlikely Hero In Brooklyn Is Born: Brooklyn Nets' Cam Thomas

By Avi Wizwer  
Sports Editor

The Brooklyn Nets have opened up their 2023-24 NBA regular season with three wins and four losses. One thing that seems to be missing for the team is a primary scorer, someone who can create their own shot and carry the load of the offense for the Nets. Though, they may already have one. Cam Thomas, a 22-year-old shooting guard, has shown glimpses of becoming an offensive weapon in previous seasons.

The team is coming off of a fairly impressive season with the roster being revamped completely, trading away all-star forward Kevin Durant to the Phoenix Suns for Mikal Bridges, Cam Johnson, Jae Crowder, and a fair share of future first-round picks. The Nets also traded away star point guard Kyrie Irving and Markieff Morris to the Dallas Mavericks for Spencer Dinwiddie, Dorian Finney-Smith, and future first-round and second-round picks. They finished off their 2022-23 season in sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

As we fast forward to the present, the Brooklyn



Brooklyn Nets' Cam Thomas./Courtesy of NetsDaily

Nets have Ben Simmons returning from an injury; he is a key player to look out for moving forward.

Additionally, Thomas could be what the team needs to perfect their offense. When the "big three" of Irving, Durant, and James Harden showed up, Thomas displayed great potential in some outings when one or all three of them would sit

out due to injury or rest.

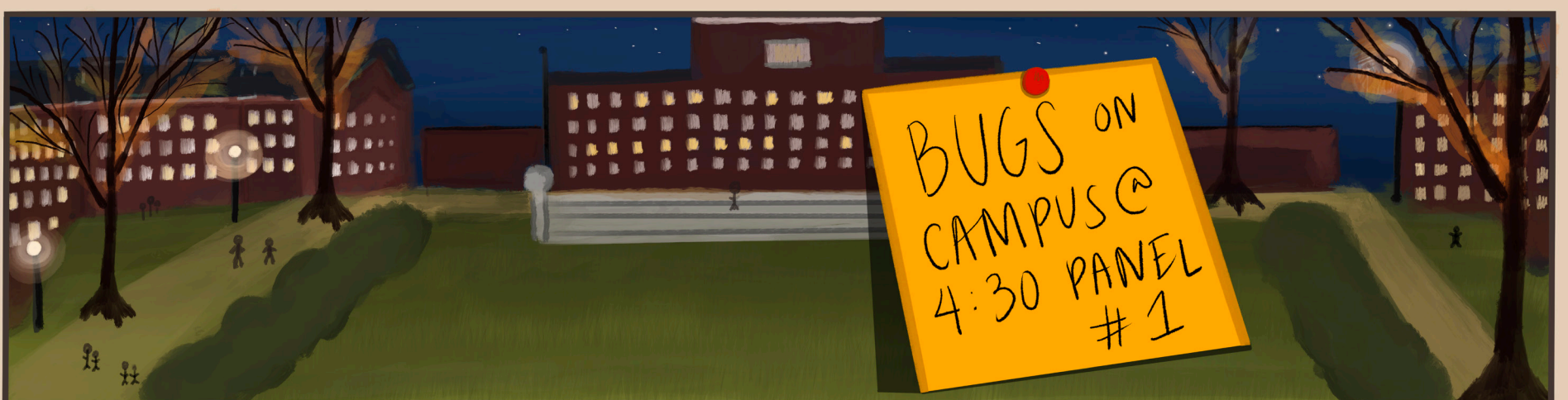
In his rookie season, Thomas averaged 8.5 points per game with 43% from the field and 27% from the three-point line. He showed some improvements in his sophomore campaign as he averaged 10.6 points per game, 44% from the field, and improved his three-point shooting to 38%. In only seven games in the

2023-24 season thus far, Thomas has skyrocketed, averaging 28 points per game, shooting 48% from the field and taking a dip in his three-point shooting 33%.

The Brooklyn Nets might just have the primary scoring option they have been looking for as they have had multiple 30-point games so far this season.

With a supporting cast of Simmons, Bridges, Lonnie Walker IV, Finney-Smith, Cam Johnson, and returning guard Dinwiddie, the Nets might be incredibly underrated and a team to look out for in the Eastern Conference. With Thomas being given the keys to the offense, it remains to be seen just how far this young hero can take this team.

## Tiny Tribune by Nitu Farhin



TINY TRIBUNE: #6

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