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**THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE**

# VANGUARD

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Friday, November 17th

## The Results Are In



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# NYC Election Results Finalized



Council members at New York City Council./City & State

By Shlomie Katash  
News Editor

Every single one of New York City's 51 city council seats, alongside several other borough-specific positions, were up for election on Nov. 7 due to a once-in-a-decade redistricting process. While some districts witnessed their races being permeated with more drama than others, every race has now concluded, with few votes remaining to be counted.

Brooklyn's District 47, which includes Bay Ridge and Coney Island, featured a hotly-contested race between two city council members who were drawn into the same area in last year's redistricting. Democrat Justin Brannan ended up victorious over ex-Democrat, now-Republican Ari Kagan, who conceded an hour after polls ended, according to CBS News. Brannan's victory

came in spite of a seeming lack of support from the chair of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, who refused to campaign for Brannan and boosted harassment allegations against him that Brannan had denied – decisions criticized by district leaders across the borough.

Brannan's old district, District 43, was redrawn into an Asian-majority district, encompassing parts of Sunset Park, Bensonhurst, and Gravesend. The new district had no incumbent after Brannan stepped aside, though Democrat Susan Zhang won the race handily.

In Manhattan's District 9, Yuusef Salam, a member of the famously exonerated Central Park Five, officially won the right to represent Harlem in the city council, winning the general election without a challenger after a controversial

primary election that featured Mayor Eric Adams endorsing one of Salam's opponents.

No Republican incumbent lost their elections, including Brooklyn's District 48's Inna Vernikov, who was recently arraigned for carrying a gun near Brooklyn College's campus during a pro-Palestine protest, and Vickie Paladino in Manhattan's District 19, who easily defeated Democrat Tony Avella in a rematch of the close 2021 race for the district.

However, Democrats cannot say the same. GOP candidate Kristy Marmorato was able to defeat Democratic incumbent Marjorie Velázquez in the District 13 race, ending a 40-year drought of Republican victories in the Bronx. Despite the district carrying 62% Democratic enrollment, Republicans pounced on Velázquez for her vote to rezone a part of her district

to allow for the construction of affordable housing in the area, according to Intelligencer.

The loss in the Bronx marks the third straight loss for Democrats in the area, per The New York Times, not including the district sending more votes in favor of the Republican candidate for mayor in 2021, Curtis Silwa. The streak will continue to cause worry among Democrats who fear that a right-wing shift is happening in the city, a fear that was born primarily after last year's shocking losses for the party in the House of Representatives midterms.

Aside from NYC's city council races, voters across New York were polled on two proposals that would amend the state constitution with regard to debt limits surrounding small city school districts and sewage facilities, both winning easily.

Following Election Day, the city's Board of Elections announced that approximately 313,000 people voted, representing less than 7% of the 4.6 million eligible voters in NYC. Some argue that the anemic turnout is partly caused by the local elections always being held in odd-numbered years, where they do not synchronize with federal elections. While some advocate for the shift to holding elections on even-numbered years to help boost voter turnout, others believe that doing so would take away from the attention given to local issues, per City & State New York.

## FBI Investigation Into Mayor Adams' Campaign Escalates



NYC Mayor Eric Adams at a press conference at City Hall on Nov. 14./CNN

By Shlomie Katash  
News Editor

New York City Mayor Eric Adams was approached by the FBI on Nov. 6 and complied with a court order to hand over at least two cell phones and an iPad as part of an ongoing federal investigation into potential illegal foreign donations made to Adams' 2021 campaign.

This seizure is the latest step in determining if the campaign criminally conspired with the Turkish government to transfer funds for their electoral efforts, according to The New York

Times. Though no charges have been brought yet, and the mayor himself has yet to be implicated, this is not the first time Adams or one of his staff have been improperly connected to Turkey.

The probe became public when the FBI raided the home of Brianna Suggs, one of the mayor's longest-tenured aides and top fundraisers, on Nov. 2. Per The New York Times, the agents were authorized to search for travel and financial records that would link the campaign to the Turkish government, eventually confiscating several documents and electronic devices.

In addition to foreign connections, the FBI was looking into possible links with several domestic plots that illegally funneled money to Adams' campaign. One was allegedly carried out by six people who were arrested this summer, including a social acquaintance of Adams who worked for the NYPD. Two others were Turkish nationals who, on Oct. 24, pleaded guilty to bypassing the legal donation limit by purchasing money orders with the identities of employees of their construction company, according to THE CITY. The mayor's campaign denied any knowledge

of the plan, though members ignored multiple inquiries into the donations from the city's Campaign Finance Board.

Moreover, prior to the beginning of the FBI's investigation, the Adams campaign accepted and then returned five \$2,000 donations from a Turkish-owned university based in Washington, D.C. None of the donors are registered to vote, and despite citing total donation limits as the reason for their return, the campaign continued to accept donations in the following weeks and had not returned any others, according to THE CITY.

Adams himself has repeatedly highlighted his strong relationship with Turkey, one that goes back to at least as far as 2015 when, as Brooklyn borough president, the Turkish consulate paid for his visit to the country.

"I'm probably the only mayor in the history of this city that has not only visited Turkey once, but I think I'm on my sixth or seventh visit to Turkey," Adams said at a Turkish flag-raising event on Oct. 27.

Adams' devices have since been returned to him, but the investigation remains active for the time being.

# Political Intrigue Swirls At Somos



NY Governor Kathy Hochul at Somos on Nov. 11./*City & State*

By Shlomie Katash  
News Editor

New York's most powerful lawmakers, lobbyists, journalists, and industries gathered in San Juan, Puerto Rico between Nov. 8 and Nov. 12 for an annual conference hosted by the state legislature's Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force called Somos. Aimed to strengthen the bond between the island territory and New York, the gathering serves as an unofficial hotbed for political wheeling and dealing. This year proved no exception against the backdrop of recent electoral results and impending electoral decisions.

Somos offers attendees the chance to engage with various workshops co-hosted by lawmakers, leading experts, and local community members, while mingling with those at the top of the New York political food chain. The events include panels and information sessions on topics such as helping asylum seekers, applying harm reduction methods, and empowering LGBTQ+ homeless youth, according to the Somos website.

The day before the conference began was Election Day in New York City, allowing the visitors to absorb and discuss the results as the days progressed. Two outcomes were especially discussed among attendees: Bronx Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez's shocking loss and Brooklyn Councilman Justin Brannan's divisive victory.

The former led to reflection among Democratic leadership in the Bronx as it raised another red flag regarding the party's strength in the borough. "There is a movement and Republicans are gaining more ground," said Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson to NY1, urging that Democrats must go back to the drawing board.

Meanwhile, Brooklyn Democrats expressed confusion and frustration with their leaders' handling of Brannan's race. Brannan, a sitting councilman who had to run in a different district due to last year's redrawing of the maps, received little campaign support and even scathing criticism from the chair of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn.

"I think there needs to be a significant change and accountability in the Brooklyn Democratic Party," said Brooklyn's Democratic Borough President Antonio Reynoso to NY1, adding that even the bluest parts of the city shouldn't take races for granted.

Journalists from City & State reported that Hermelyn appeared in good spirits on Nov. 9, expecting to work and reconcile with Brannan, though Brannan expressed less optimism.

On Nov. 10, as The New York Times broke that the FBI seized electronic devices from Mayor Eric Adams as part of a federal investigation into potential illegal campaign finance conspiracies, conversations quickly turned to Adams' future in the role, with many possible primary challengers being discussed.

Talks were especially prevalent with the mayor's conspicuous absence. Adams claimed he preferred to stay in the city due to the poor optics of spending time in sunny San Juan while the city is facing potential budget cuts, though the organizers of Somos stated that he previously

said he would be present.

While no push has coalesced around any candidates, hopeful challengers took the opportunity to build potential support among New York's most powerful, with the goal being to present one unified challenger to Adams in 2025.

"These are smart people. They know a big field is a win for Adams," said Ryan Adams, a political consultant who attended Somos, to City & State. "They have to convince each other behind closed doors how to present as a united front for everyone's mutual success."

In the evening of that same day, many gathered for one of the conference's most popular events, Somos Shabbat, which was interrupted by pro-Palestinian protesters. Those who were able to physically enter the hotel where the event was taking place chanted, "Genocide! Never again for anyone!" to resounding boos. The demonstration was organized by Jornada: Se Acabaron Las Promesas, an anticapitalist group advocating for Puerto Rican independence, according to City & State.

The hosts of the event criticized

the protesters for bringing up the conflict at an event that was meant to celebrate unity between Jews and Hispanics and advance social services that helped all people regardless of their background. "If you look at the headline of this event [...] it says nothing about Israel. It talks about unity," said Daniel Rosenthal, one of the event's main organizers to applause.

Somos wrapped up over the weekend of Nov. 11 and 12 with breakfasts, receptions, and parties as most returned home from Puerto Rico to begin preparing for a crucial 2024. New York is likely to once again be the center of the political world as Democrats and Republicans will battle for control of the House of Representatives.

## JOIN THE VANGUARD!

From covering the latest campus demonstrations to profiling the most interesting creatives a reporter can find, you'll have plenty of topics you could cover at The Vanguard.

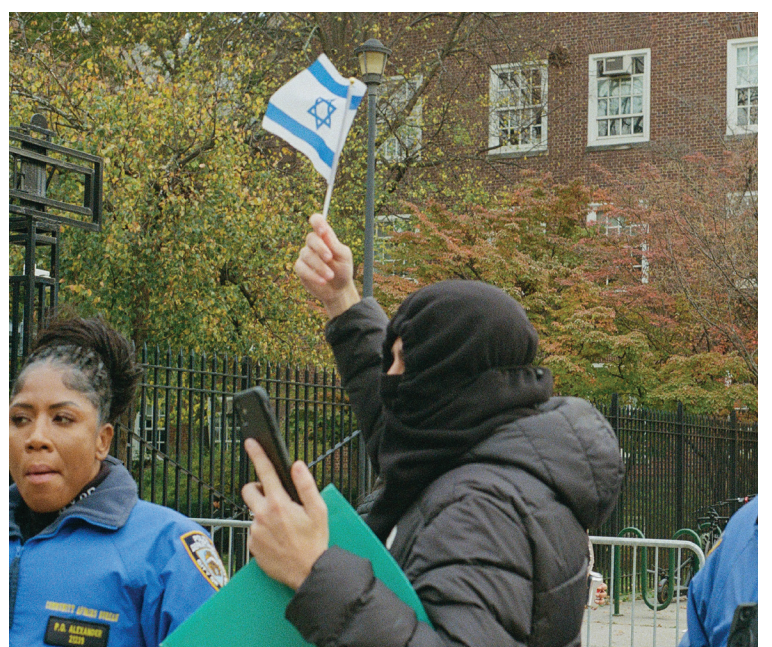
Email us [thebcvanguard@gmail.com](mailto:thebcvanguard@gmail.com).

# In Photos: Students For Justice In Palestine Organize School Walkout

Photos By Sarah Rescigno  
Staff Photographer

By Kate Dempsey  
Managing Editor

Brooklyn College's Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) Club joined the CUNY-wide student walkout day on Thursday, Nov. 9, just outside of BC's East Quad on Bedford Avenue. The purpose of this walkout, and the one held on Nov. 2, was to express their solidarity with Palestine.



# Legal Scholar Melissa Murray, Democracy Under Scrutiny

THE WOLFE INSTITUTE

**Samuel J. Konefsky Memorial Lecture**

## **Dobbs, Democracy, and Distrust**

**Prof. Melissa Murray,**  
**NYU School of Law Professor**  
**and MSNBC legal analyst**



**Thursday,**  
**Nov. 9 @ 12:30 PM**  
**Woody Tanger**  
**Auditorium, BC**

*Courtesy of @Wolfe\_Institute via X*

Murray also shed light on the sacrifices women often make in the pursuit of political engagement as she showed images of mothers struggling at polling stations with their children clinging to them, painting a memorable picture of the challenges faced by women trying to exercise their right to vote. Additionally, she emphasized the delayed entry of women into political roles, often after their children have grown up and left the family as adults.

BC students who attended the event expressed their concerns regarding the Supreme Court and their decisions for several cases, especially *Dobbs v. Jackson*, as they have the potential to affect laws in which women will be negatively impacted in the end. "Our constitutional rights are not as solid as they used to be due to the fact that rights are enumerated. Clearly, that can be manipulated to take rights away like we saw in *Roe*. Can we use that loose interpretation of the Constitution to get back some of those rights?" said a BC student in the audience.

Murray's insights urged a reexamination of the complexities of legal decisions, the delicate balance between established legal norms and evolving societal values, and the multifaceted challenges faced by individuals seeking to engage in the democratic process. "We have to get out and vote in massive numbers [...] It's not impossible, it just has to be massive [...] You gotta be ready to be persistent. You gotta be ready to pack a lunch and limber up and stay hydrated because it's not a one-and-done," Murray said, highlighting collective responsibility and the importance of focusing on all issues and all parts of the government that people need to advocate for to see change.

By Reima Choute  
*Features Editor*

The Wolfe Institute at Brooklyn College invited an MSNBC legal analyst and NYU School of Law Professor Melissa Murray to deliver the Samuel J. Konefsky Memorial Lecture on Nov. 9. At the event titled "Dobbs, Democracy, and Distrust," Murray discussed the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* Organization case and its potential harmful ripple effect.

This pivotal case centered on the Mississippi Gestational Age Act established in 2018, imposing strict limitations on abortions past 15 weeks of pregnancy, except in cases of medical emergencies

and fetal abnormalities. The consequential ruling by the Supreme Court stripped the federal right to abortion in June last year, granting states the authority to impose severe bans. Murray's concerns echoed far beyond the immediate implications for abortion rights. She highlighted the potential ramifications of the Supreme Court's decision on other cases, such as *Obergefell v. Hodges*, a case affirming marriage equality for same-sex couples. The fear was if *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, it could pave the way for further erosion of hard-fought rights such as the right for same-sex marriages.

The Court's decision to overturn an established precedent sowed seeds of

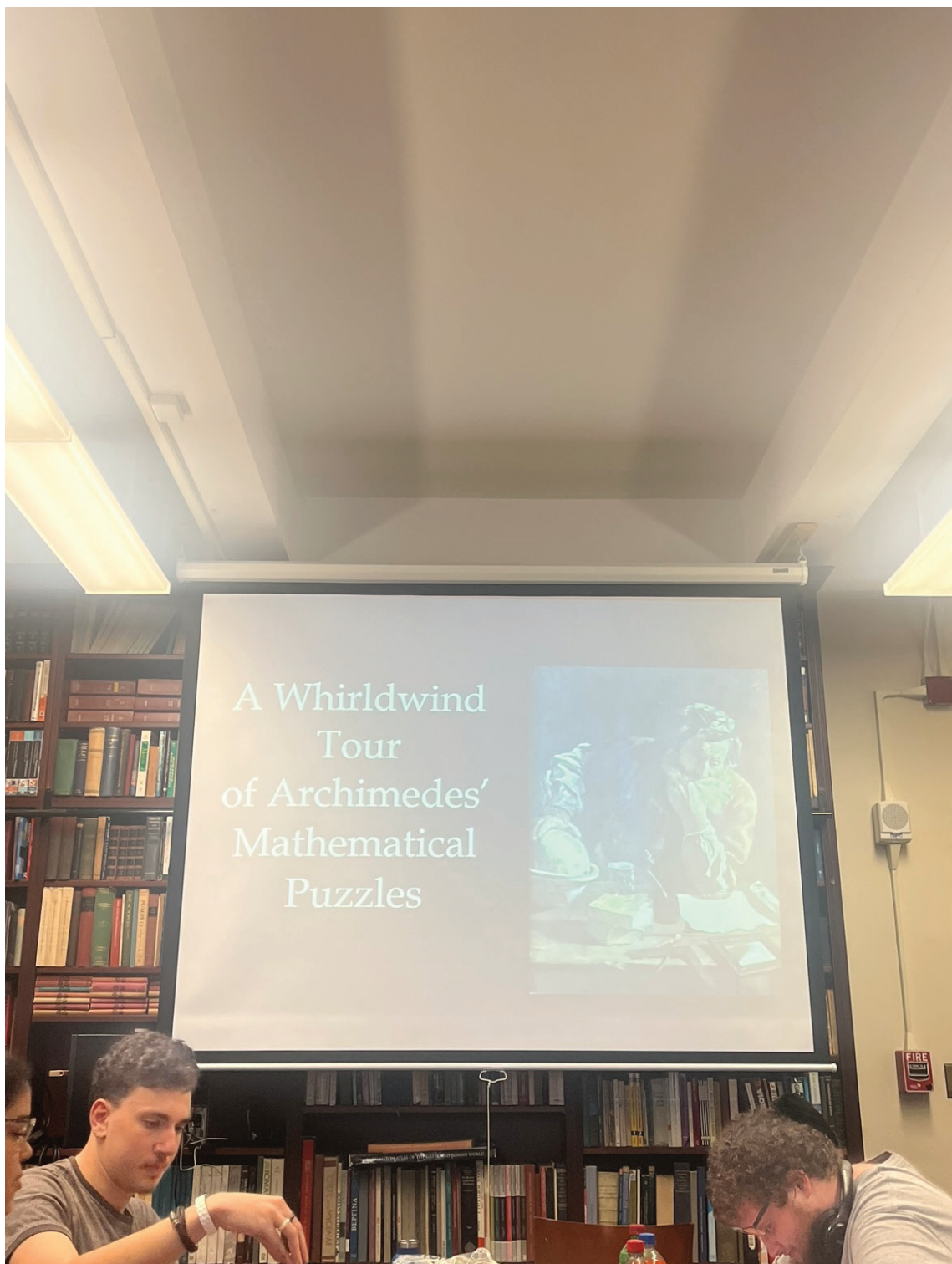
distrust, raising concerns about whether other rights were at risk of being taken away or modified to favor one specific viewpoint. Murray mentioned several different cases to allow the audience to hear the many occasions in which the rights of millions of people were not taken into consideration, covering topics such as interracial marriage.

Central to Murray's discourse was the Court's failure to uphold equal protection under the law. She expressed her concern regarding democracy within the Court in reference to overturning a past Supreme Court ruling. She shared that she does not feel as though the Supreme Court is taking majoritarian preferences into account.

"The Court in majority opinion understands democratic deliberation on abortion to proceed in only one direction, towards the further restriction and curtailment of abortion rights. It does not even conceive the possibility that sexual liberation might lead to the preservation or even the expansion of reproductive freedom," Murray said at the event.

Moreover, she noted the portrayal of a fetus as an "underrepresented and vulnerable entity needing judicial protection," while simultaneously describing abortion as murder. This complex narrative surrounding a fetus and the ethical debate over abortion was a focal point of her discussion.

# Archimedes: Puzzles Of The Past



BC students and professors analyzing Archimedes' puzzles in the Costas Library on Nov. 9. *Paulina Gajewski*

By Paulina Gajewski  
*Arts Editor*

Brooklyn College Classics Professor Philip Thibodeau mystified students and professors alike in the Costas Library on Thursday, Nov. 9, with what remains of the puzzles ancient mathematicians and scientists left behind, plenty of which still fascinate scientists today.

Archimedes was born in 287 BCE in the seaport city of Syracuse, Italy. At the time, it was a self-governing colony of Magna Graecia, predominantly made up of southern Italian coastal areas inhabited by Greek settlers. He grew to be well-known for his discoveries in many fields,

including mathematics, physics, astronomy, and engineering.

Not much is known about the personal details of his life other than the name of his father, Phidias, which was discovered in one of his puzzles. A contemporary biography had been written about Archimedes by his friend Heracleides, but this work was later lost, leaving only versions of his life written long after his death by historians. Several anecdotes relating to his discoveries were written after his death. Prior to Archimedes, an individual could only find the volume of a regular object by measuring it, but there had been no way of determining the volume of an irregularly shaped object. Vitruvius,

a Roman architect and engineer, provided an origin story for such a revelation.

King Hiero II of Syracuse had received a crown, beautifully welded into the shape of a votive wreath, for which he had supplied the pure gold. Suspecting foul play, Hiero II asked Archimedes to determine whether silver had substituted the real gold. One day, Archimedes stepped into his bathtub, realizing the level of the water had risen significantly, and relating this back to his task.

In this account, Archimedes, so thrilled by his revelation, jumped out of the tub and, forgetting to dress, ran nude through the

streets yelling, "Eureka!" (Greek for "I have found it!"); Archimedes managed to prove the suspicions of the king.

Archimedes' inventions hold much gravity in the ancient world of science, and so do his puzzles. The first of his puzzles is often coined the "Sandman," based on a series of texts in which Archimedes is writing to King Gelo II of Syracuse. The challenge was to figure out the amount of grains of sand that would fit into the upper bounds of the universe, inherently meaning that he too would have to estimate the size of the universe, and also invent a way to talk about extremely large numbers.

Before Archimedes, the numerical system was constituted of Greek letter notation that spanned from one to 999. Archimedes invented new terminology, the "chiliad," which is 1,000, and "myriad," which is 10,000. These new terms would allow for discussions involving larger numbers. He also used the heliocentric model, the model in which the Earth revolves around the sun, and had not been standard.

The second of his puzzles was the "Cattle Problem." This stemmed from a poem influenced by Homer's "Odyssey," in which Odysseus and his men come upon the sacred cattle of the God Helios. Archimedes attempted to estimate the actual number of cattle in the poem. Such a problem includes the study of polynomial equations and has an infinite number of solutions, as you could continue multiplying the equation by an integer to get an even larger number than the last. A solution came about in the nineteenth century, though a computer was able to tackle it around 30 years ago.

The last puzzle was called "Ostomachion,"

whose name does not have a singular direct translation; it could mean either "Little Bones" or "Little Stomach Ache." "Probably because it gives you a stomach ache when you try to solve it," said Professor Thibodeau.

The origin of the puzzle had remained a mystery for centuries. In 900 CE, a large portion of Greek texts had been translated into Arabic, and much of what we know stems from these translations. This puzzle had been found on a palimpsest, a type of document in which an original text is erased from the page and later reused. In this case, Archimedes' works had been written over by monks.

This did not mean, however, that the entire Archimedes source had been completely erased. Centuries later, ultraviolet light and scanning were utilized to view the original text. This puzzle dealt with the idea of permutation and involved the amount of rearrangements possible when trying to form a perfect square out of only triangular pieces.

At the end of the lecture, Professor Thibodeau passed around a modern version of such a puzzle, and heads shook in disappointment when it became too complicated. The lecture allowed attendees to connect with the past and reminded them that there are still mysteries from centuries ago left to solve.

# From Beirut To Brooklyn: Empowering Voices And Life Stories



The "Beirut to Brooklyn" art installment in the BC Library./Paulina Gajewski

By Paulina Gajewski  
**Arts Editor**

An art installation titled "Beirut to Brooklyn" debuted in the Brooklyn College Library this past Sunday, Nov. 12. Farid Elias Nassif, a BC English professor, designed an ongoing project at CUNY in an attempt to help his students understand Beirut identity and the way in which it is communicated and perceived.

Nassif's cousin, Fida, is a college professor in Lebanon, and recognizes the ways in which student identification has been influenced by the Lebanese Civil War, which began in 1975 and lasted 15 years.

The conflict, often attributed to the divide between Lebanon's Christian and Muslim populations, was exacerbated by social and economic disparities. The Cold War caused an even greater divide between groups who aligned with the Western world, and those who sided with the Soviet-aligned Arab countries.

The lasting wounds of the war were opened up by both the Arab Spring protests and the port explosion in Beirut in 2020. Utilizing the same steps of understanding identity as he had used with his English students, Nassif guided the Lebanese students towards their own life stories.

Dr. Eben Wood, also an English professor at CUNY, was Nassif's mentor and investigator of this project. This collaboration with students brings insight into shared traumas and challenges of life, deeply interweaving histories.

The exhibition utilizes powerful photographs taken by Wood himself, alongside moving testimonies and life stories of a variety of students. The Lebanese Civil War was characterized by divides, and identities were severely impacted, including those whose own families represented each side of the conflict.

"A Muslim mother with a Christian father

during the time when every sect in this country was fighting for their own rightful reasons. Each thought they were right and everyone had a lawful claim to fight for," wrote BC student Joe Komeir.

Families were diverse and interconnected, yet the war resembled a larger conflict that set groups against one another. Komeir reflected on his family dynamic as having parents from each of these two diverse groups in his work.

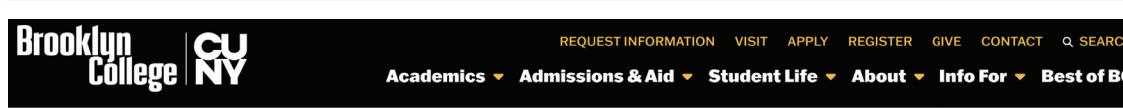
Another BC student named Tala Fakhreddine provided a stark contrast between the life of a woman and the life of a man growing up in her written work. "The blindfold slowly started ripping off to see our world's truth," she wrote. "Reality scarred my schedule and bounded it within specific periods as it unfolded experiences of unfair hypocrisy."

The exhibition was an amalgam of voices and perspectives, coming together to voice their personal life stories and the way in which they interact with their own identities. It is these experiences and stories that mold identities, and part of the larger story that Nassif hopes to share through the exhibit.

"I am not a single experience, or a single trait," wrote BC student Gael Al Alam. "I am a mosaic brought together by every encounter, every experience, every person that tries to hurt me and every incident I tried to erase, every time I fell down and got back up."



# Opinion: Free Speech Stifled, Let's Have Open Dialogue About Israel And Palestine



## Campus Conversations: Faculty Panel on the Situation in Gaza and Israel

November 7 @ 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

This is the first event in the "Campus Conversations" initiative. A group of faculty and staff from all across the Brooklyn College campus came together in response to the impact of the violence in Gaza and Israel on the Brooklyn College community. They share different personal connections to the conflict and hold differing political positions, but are united in the belief that communicating and forging resilient connections with each other is what will hold our campus community together in times of crisis.

Notice of the panel on BC's website./Courtesy of Vanguard staff

By Vanguard Staff

A group of Brooklyn College faculty organized a panel called "Campus Conversations: Faculty Panel on the Situation in Gaza and Israel" on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The panel, which was advertised on Brooklyn College's website, was meant to "[communicate] and [forge] resilient connections with each other [which] is what will hold our campus community together in times of crisis." What it did instead was stifle free speech.

Upon entering the panel held at the Woody Tanger Auditorium in the library, Vanguard staff, along with the rest of the attendees, were handed a piece of paper called "Community Guidelines" that outlined rules about the event. The

most troubling stipulation listed was: "Please do not record either video or audio of this conversation [...] Context matters and we ask that you respect the context of this conversation being one between only those of us here today."

How can you invite the entire BC campus community to a conversation, hold the event in a full auditorium, and then hand attendees a piece of paper limiting the conversation to those present? Context does indeed matter, but you cannot keep something to a room and expect that everything will always be perfectly contextualized within, and outside, of that space. Holding conversation to that standard effectively prohibits it entirely.

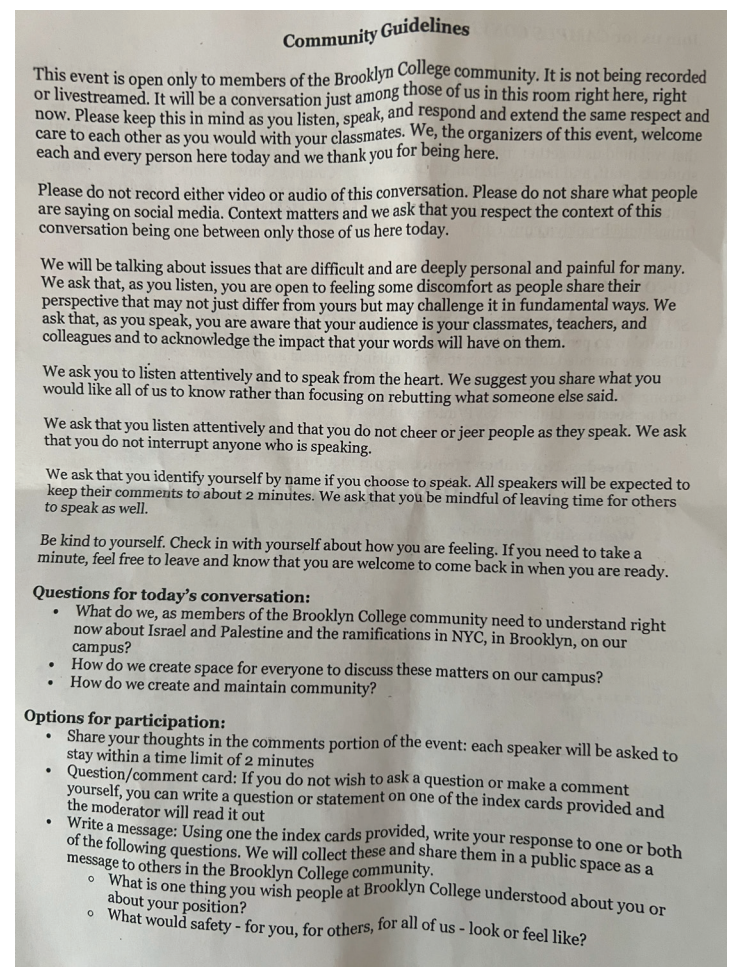
The panelists elected

themselves to speak in front of 50-plus people publicly – they accepted any risk of retaliation, and their ideas were "leaked" anyway as students discussed the professors' ideas after the event. Additionally, here at The Vanguard, we have made it explicitly clear that we would not be using the names of students who wished to remain anonymous in our reportage of Israel and Palestine in order to avoid doxxing – the publishing of identifiable personal information online – and being singled out by peers and faculty, making retaliation against students impossible.

The questions purported in the "Community Guidelines" included, "How do we create space for everyone to discuss these matters on our

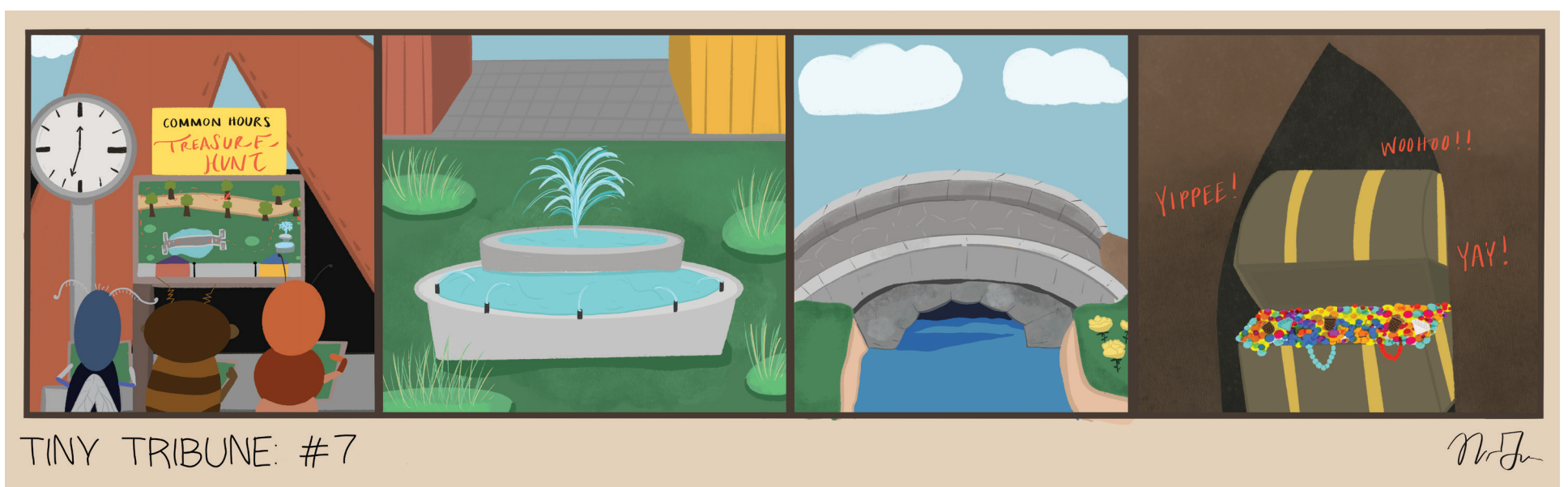
campus?" and "How do we create and maintain community?" This panel was the exact opposite of trying to create space and community. Space cannot be created and discussions cannot be held if "everyone" cannot be involved. Therefore, maintaining and creating community is far from being realized if we cannot trust one another to openly talk about it. The ethos of the "right here, right now" is inapplicable to a conversation that does not end right

when the event does. Vanguard staff went ahead and recorded the audio of the entire panel, all 90 minutes of it, and we could still write an article about it. If there are future "Campus Conversations," we will go ahead and record those, as well. As journalists, it is our duty to report on what happens at events so that the campus community can be better informed about their surroundings, and we will not be stifled in expressing our basic right to free speech.



"Community Guidelines" sheet handed out to attendees upon entering the panel on Nov. 7./Vanguard staff

### Tiny Tribune by Nitu Farhin





# Opinion: The Y2K Renaissance: Gen Z's Obsession With 2000s Culture



Actress Ashley Tisdale at the “Princess Diaries 2” movie premiere in 2004./Getty Images

By Rami Mansi  
Staff Writer

With paper-thin Victoria’s Secret models being the figure of the decade, and every celebrity finding their own gay best friend (“GBF”) of the week, the 2000s were known for iconic pop culture moments and even more iconic fashion statements. Wearing business casual to the club with statement necklaces and foundation on your lips was the energy that delusion and fashion needed to thrive

in the 2000s. This creates a struggle for Gen Z, as now we need to combat the ever-aching dilemma of loss of creativity. Known for our sarcasm and constant chase for nostalgia, Gen Z is obsessed with the 2000s era of fashion. With pleated skirt looks of the “Gossip Girl” set to the messy looks of “Jersey Shore,” the beloved Y2K is making its way back into current fashion trends. Fashion trends constantly fluctuate, and the switch from the 2000s to present-day fashion

is a phenomenon that begs the question: why does Gen Z constantly go back to the 2000s in search of new looks? Are we struck for creativity or just too infatuated with the fantasized 2000s? The phenomenon is explained by the 20-year cycle. As defined by A Magazine, trends that were popular 20 years ago tend to come back with a modern edge added. This is seen with the 2000s taking heavy influence from the 80s, the 80s being into the 60s, and so forth. The next decade

always uses the past decade as its foundation, and that doesn’t change for the 2020s.

With 2023 being defined by constant reflections of the past, it is a defining year of the 20-year cycle seen through newer trends like baggy clothes and weird clothing combinations that shouldn’t work but end up working perfectly.

Take over-layering your clothes. Get your favorite dress, put some denim jeans on, with a beret and ballet flats, and you have the perfect 2000s recreation. What was then a fashion statement is now an outfit to wear ironically to a themed party. However, this doesn’t stop people from still paying respects to the brave fashionistas that were 2000s “it girls!”

These trends create constant references to the past in our media in the act of paying homage. We see this in homage pieces like Ariana Grande’s music video for her hit single “Thank U, Next,” with references to popular 2000s movies like “Mean Girls,” “Clueless,” and “13 Going On 30.”

Another example of a clean-cut reference would be Iggy Azalea’s “Fancy” in which both the song and music video are taken after the 1995 bubblegum classic, “Clueless,” with outfits, the high school setting, and the iconic “Ugh! As if!” line being recreated, as well. The homage is done with respect being paid to the original and a clear intention of wanting to make the audience recognize the reference.

Gen Z is in an era where originality is faltering and original ideas are hard to come by (and have been for a while). It’s been new trends that start the new age of thinking through

the decades, but if our trends come from the past then most of our ideas will just be revamps of older trends. We simply get a reference and work off that and although it might work in the moment, it creates a sense of short-term victories.

That is why we are consistently looking back on the 2000s; the nostalgic era of new ideas being brought to the table excites us. Gen Z might be striving for originality, but what we lack in that department, we make up for in resourcefulness. We grab these ideas and mix them with our unique imagination raised by quick-witted TeenNick characters, “High School Musical,” and savvy “Wizards of Waverly Place” protagonist, Alex Russo.

This mentality of grabbing those moments and redoing them conveys the idea of just how much we rely on moments in 2000s history and how mainstream media relies on recreating older moments. Gen Z is a powerful generation, but fashion trend fluctuation is just as powerful. However, Gen Z has their moments of brilliance and revolutions in modern-day fashion. With a keen eye for sustainability, inclusivity, and individual expression, Gen Z is slowly reshaping the industry with lasting, positive impacts. Their embrace of diversity, disparate cultural influences, and a commitment to being eco-conscious are not just trends; they’re movements toward a more inclusive and responsible pop-cultural landscape.

# Opinion: Why I'm Leaving BC



*Courtesy of Serin Sarsour*

By Shea Stevenson  
*Opinions Editor*

After a year as a student at Brooklyn College, I'm setting out for greener pastures, or the hope of finding them, because this cannot be it. Having started here during the first in-person semester since the start of the pandemic in mid-2020, I've seen and held a fair share of optimism with regard to a re-emergence of the things that I'm told BC used to have. All that optimism has been in reaction to the underfunding-malaise that hangs over the student body. I haven't given up on recovery; I like this school. But I'd rather watch it from some miles away. These are some of the things that are keeping me away.

As has been mentioned multiple times by now in this opinions section, there's no food on campus. Vending machines are different. \$15 Belgian waffle trucks are different. We don't have a cafeteria, and it's almost winter. I have no doubt that the administration is trying, but that reflects pretty poorly on how much power they have. This is, it's worth keeping in mind, not the case with a vast majority of college campuses.

When my friends and I started planning our BC schedules for the spring, we were each taken aback by how many classes were listed but are not happening next year. It only tells you once you try to put them on your schedule, which both adds to the annoyance

and obscures exactly how many classes are cardboard facades and how many are real possible courses. The roster of classes has been filled out as the registration date creeps up, now looking decent with only days to go. Regardless, the sight of it (again, this isn't the case with the other CUNYs) was enough for me to change my mind about making a BC schedule at all.

This school is obsessed with locked doors: the iron gate between Whitehead and Boylan (perfectly fine, chained up since the pandemic), the shock barriers rolled down in the cafeteria, the gates still up on the upper floors of the library for no discernable purpose (the signs say to walk around them, as there's another

door right next to them. Why? Open this one, too. Or are they all broken?). Hopefully, the latter will be solved quietly between my writing this and you reading it, but it happened for at least a week. The cops and security guards, when they are scared of the students at protests, sometimes decide to block the alternative exits to the street, filtering you through the main gates. These things add up, this sense that the campus is literally shrinking and bending its course to impede you.

On a broader scale, it is worth remembering that this school has been beset by literal espionage from the U.S. government at least twice. Once: when it was revealed that former BC dean, Harry D. Gideonse, was a 1950s MacCarthy era FBI informant, according to Columbia Journalism Review; and twice: when an NYPD agent went undercover to infiltrate Muslim student organizations from 2011-2015, per Vice.

It can be assumed that this college likes cops, and we can see it when they swarm for each pro-Palestinian protest. When their helicopters circle campus, and when, as a passerby on Nov. 9 as the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) Club held a walkout, you too may have seen the cops hanging out and chatting near the campus gates, already outnumbering the protesters whom they kept behind an iron fence, while the waffle truck was sitting without any patrons, a stone's throw away.

There is an extent to

which this campus has a fascination with solving its financial problems by gutting itself and selling the organs. The music students will be charged for keeping their instruments at the college, and the cafeteria will be replaced (for however long) with overpriced mercenary food trucks. It seems like every club is keeping its head above water only with considerable effort and lots of begging.

This is not to say that the faculty is bad; in fact, quite the opposite. I love my professors, and I think we have a great English Department (I can't speak much about the others). I love the events they put on. But sometimes, they mention that the ceiling has caved in on them once or twice. They are failed by the campus and its tangles of apathy and nonsense.

It is remarkable the sorts of things you can get used to when, at least, you're getting your credits. And as I see it, the trend is unfortunately downwards. The students deserve better most of all. It's not like this everywhere, not even at other CUNYs.

I'm going someplace with a dining hall – maybe even more than one! Wouldn't that be nice? I hope Brooklyn College has a Grinch-like change of heart and becomes a utopian super-campus in the next couple of years. Unfortunately, we are transient in college as in life, and you deserve a good college right now, not just as you go. Good luck, everybody.

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# BC Sports Recap (Nov. 7 - Nov. 11)

## Women's Volleyball's Season Ends In Semifinals



BC's women's volleyball team playing against Hunter College in the CUNYAC semifinals on Nov. 9./BC Athletics

By Oscar Docavo  
Staff Writer

The Brooklyn College women's volleyball team's playoff run began on Tuesday, Nov. 7, resulting in the Bulldogs sweeping City College 3-0.

This generation of Bulldogs is unaccustomed to playing in the quarter-finals, having had a "bye week" in their past two seasons as first and second-placed teams get to rest and have a week off in the playoffs. This season, however, the Bulldogs were the fourth-best team in the conference. Their

position meant they had to play fifth-placed City College.

The Bulldogs won each set with scores of 8-25, 20-25, and 15-25 respectively. The first set was all Brooklyn. The Bulldogs began the set with a 10-0 scoring run. The score was 19-8 as the Bulldogs wrapped it up with six unanswered points.

In the second set, the Beavers came out with a 3-0 lead. The lead was exchanged several times throughout the set. The Bulldogs were ahead 22-20 before senior Megan Ortiz-Mengedoht had a block

assist and a kill in back-to-back scores. Junior Aleah Rafat put CCNY to sleep with back-to-back scores to close out the second set.

The third set saw the Beavers manage consecutive scores on a few occasions, but could not withstand the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs swatted their uptown rivals aside with minimal effort to the backdrop of a roaring West Quad. Senior Katia Mercado provided her teammates with 13 assists, which was only one away from tying her season high.

Rafat was on the receiving end of many of those assists. Rafat finished her night with 12 kills, two aces, and eight digs. The junior was key to Brooklyn's impressive display.

Ahead of their semifinal matchup with first-placed Hunter College, three Bulldogs were honored by CUNYAC. Both Ashley Fung and Rafat were named CUNYAC second-team all-stars. The accolades are well-deserved as Fung and Rafat are a duo that empowers the Bulldogs. In addition, Ruti Joshi was named to the conference's sportsmanship team. Joshi has emerged as a key player for the Bulldogs in her sophomore year at BC. At the time of her nomination, she was fifth in CUNYAC for digs, providing 3.39 per set.

The Bulldogs' season came to a close in the semifinals of the CUNYAC tournament. On Wednesday, Nov. 9, the Bulldogs traveled to Hunter College's Sportsplex and lost 3-0.

Although the Bulldogs lost, fans can walk away knowing that their team lost to the eventual champions. Brooklyn did not go out sadly, taking the lead in each of the three sets. However, the defending champions at Hunter had the

scoring depth to come back each time. Brooklyn kept it competitive with scores of 20-25, 23-25, and 18-25 in each respective set.

The Bulldogs' resilience was thanks in no small part to Fung. The Bulldog legend produced one of her best stat lines of the season. Fung produced eight kills, one ace, nine digs, and one block, leading the team in digs and kills. It was a tough loss, but the Bulldogs left it all on the court.

The Bulldogs are entering a transitional period with key players soon graduating. Fans can rest assured that the team will still contain two-time CUNYAC second-team all-star Rafat. As well as Rafat, the Bulldogs will feature Olivia Fan next season, one of the team's best blockers, second-team all-star and CUNYAC champion Sydney Gdanski, and Joshi. There will be many others who can also step up next fall.

## Men's Basketball Starts The Season 0-2



BC's men's basketball team playing against William Paterson University on Nov. 8./BC Athletics

By Sean Markisic  
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College kicked off the men's basketball season

in New Jersey on Wednesday, Nov. 8, as the team went up against William Paterson University. The game was a close battle, with

both teams trading blows. However, BC came up short 70-66.

BC junior Malik Dale had a standout performance, scoring

31 points while shooting 12-22 from the field. The Bulldogs closed the first quarter on a 16-2 run to get themselves back in the game, but never had the chance to take over and win. During the fourth quarter, the Bulldogs gave up a 10-0 run near the three-minute mark of the closing quarter and were unable to recover.

The Bulldogs had their home opener on Saturday, Nov. 11, against New Jersey City University, ending with BC losing 71-51.

From the get-go, the Bulldogs had to play catch up as they went

on a 10-2 run toward the end of the first quarter. Despite the early struggles, the Bulldogs clawed back to end the first quarter 24-23. Jersey City rescinded with a 12-0 run to take command once again in the second quarter. From there, the Bulldogs went on to chip away at the lead, but were never truly able to make a comeback in the second half. The Bulldogs only shot 34% from the field, which does not lead to a win.

# Women's Basketball Pulls Off Comeback In Home Opener



BC's women's basketball team playing against Stockton University on Nov. 11./BC Athletics

By Oscar Docavo  
Staff Writer

A new era began for Brooklyn College's women's basketball on Saturday, Nov. 11. Coach Megan Campbell's first game as head coach ended in a 45-40 victory against visiting Stockton University.

Both teams started out very slowly on offense, with more fouls than buckets in the first two minutes. Neither team shot very accurately

in the first quarter. This could have been impacted by the quality of defense, with both teams rebounding well.

In the second half, Stockton pulled away from BC, sinking their only three-pointer of the game and capitalizing on some of the Bulldogs' turnovers. Down by six points and approaching the half, things were looking bleak for Brooklyn.

When Brooklyn needed a spark, sophomore guard Dior Dorsey answered

the call. Dorsey put away both free throws before halftime, bringing the Bulldogs within four of the Ospreys. With rebounds from senior Sarah James and points from junior Alina Estrella, the Bulldogs brought the score to 20-19. The Ospreys then went up by seven.

Brooklyn's defense stepped up big time to allow their shooters to do what they do best. Brooklyn started to get a lot more out of their bench in the second

half. Junior forward Mary Dolgin came off the bench to score seven points and four rebounds. Brooklyn's bench went from providing only two points in the first half to scoring 16 in the second. Junior Destiny Drummond nailed a pair of free throws to give the Bulldogs the lead. A steal from freshman guard Anna Kitch led to a lay-up from Dorsey to extend the Bulldogs' lead to three. Dorsey and Drummond added to their team's lead before Stockton started to make their way back into the game. The Bulldogs went on to clinch their comeback. Junior guard Suliati Afolabi knocked down a vital three-pointer before icing the game from the line. Estrella also added to Brooklyn's cushion with a free throw.

Brooklyn closed out the victory in front of an eager West Quad crowd. Brooklyn's bench and defense were key to the

victory. The Bulldogs had more points off turnovers and their bench out-scored the visitors. In Estrella's first game for the team, she led the team in scoring with nine points and provided five rebounds and three assists. James led the team in rebounding with six. Coach Campbell kicked off her tenure with a win. Not only was it a thrilling comeback, but Coach Campbell made the adjustment she needed to make when the team was down. Clearly, the Bulldogs responded well to their new coach.



# NBA Star Rookie Takes On The Garden



The New York Knicks playing against the San Antonio Spurs on Nov. 8 at Madison Square Garden./New York Daily News

By Avi Wizwer  
Sports Editor

The New York Knicks took on the San Antonio Spurs on Nov. 8 at Madison Square Garden. A new face for the new generation of players

has entered the league, and a young talent in Spurs player Victor Wembanyama has started his reign. Standing seven feet and four inches tall with guard-like skills, an incredible scoring arsenal that allows him to score

away from the basketball, and the ability to play center makes him an absolute nightmare. As he is only 19 years old, Wembanyama got his first taste of playing at the prestigious Madison Square Garden.

With the whole world watching Wembanyama, fans got a look at his role in the upcoming season.

The Knicks came out the gate swinging in the first quarter outscoring the Spurs 33-16, a dominant performance to say the least. The Spurs finally found their fitting in the second quarter, but still found themselves down in the ball game. As they cut the lead down to just a couple points going into halftime, the Spurs showed some resilience. The second half was more of the same from the Knicks, containing Wembanyama as he missed his first seven shots with two air balls through three quarters. The Knicks cruised their way into the fourth quarter, leading by as much as 20 points. A frustrated Wembanyama eventually

heard "Overrated!" being chanted at him from the crowd as the Knicks closed out the victory, winning 126-105.

The key scorers for the New York Knicks were Jalen Brunson scoring 25 points, RJ Barrett adding 24 points and six assists, and Julius Randle adding 23 points and 16 rebounds. Emmanuel Quickley contributed, as well, scoring 19 points off the bench. The Spurs' leading scorer was Jeremy Sochan as he had 16 points and six rebounds, and Wembanyama added 14 points.

Fans will have to wait and see just how successful young rookie Wembanyama will be this season.