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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

VANGUARD

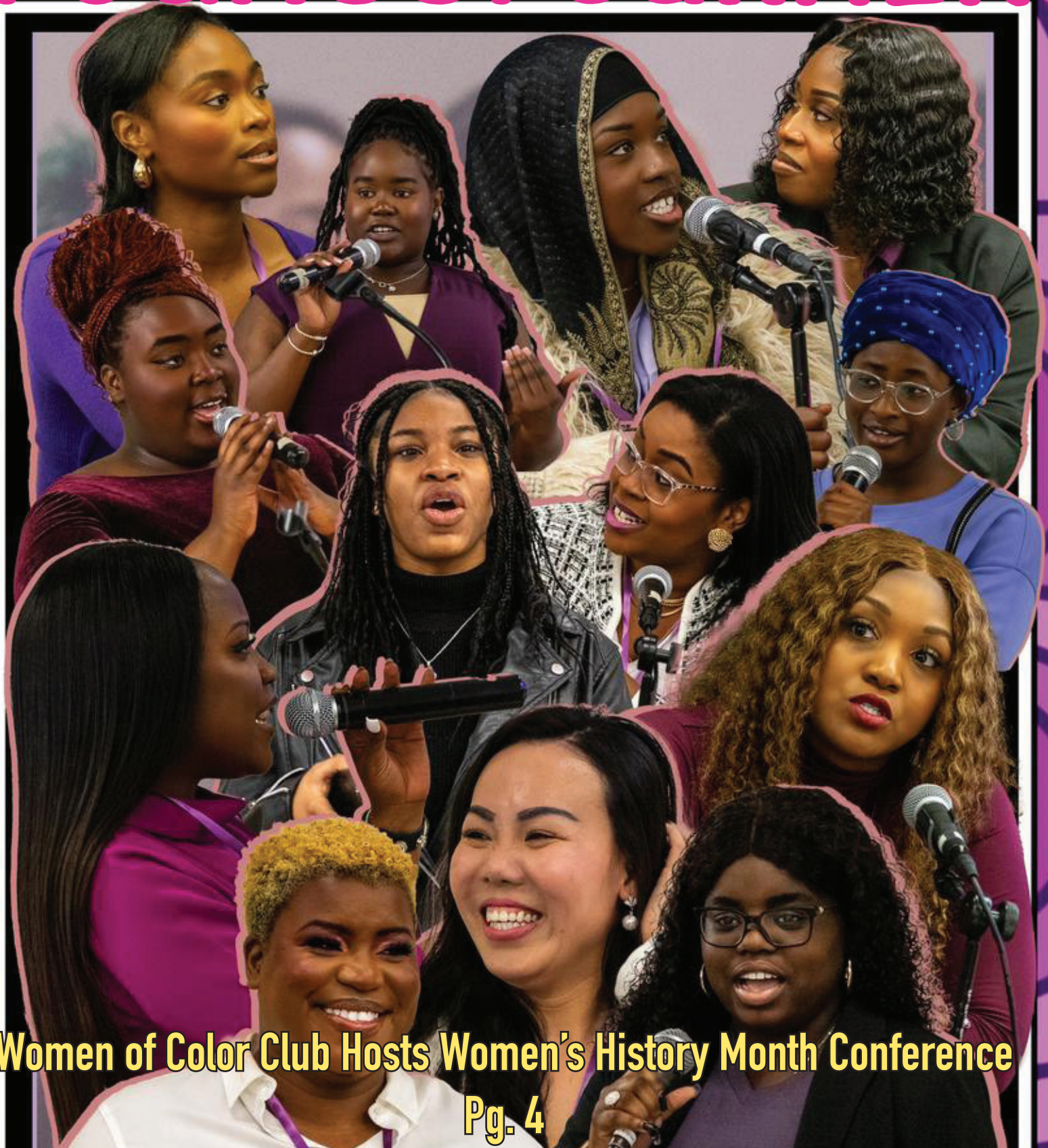
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Monday, March 25th

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Cover by Tony Lipka

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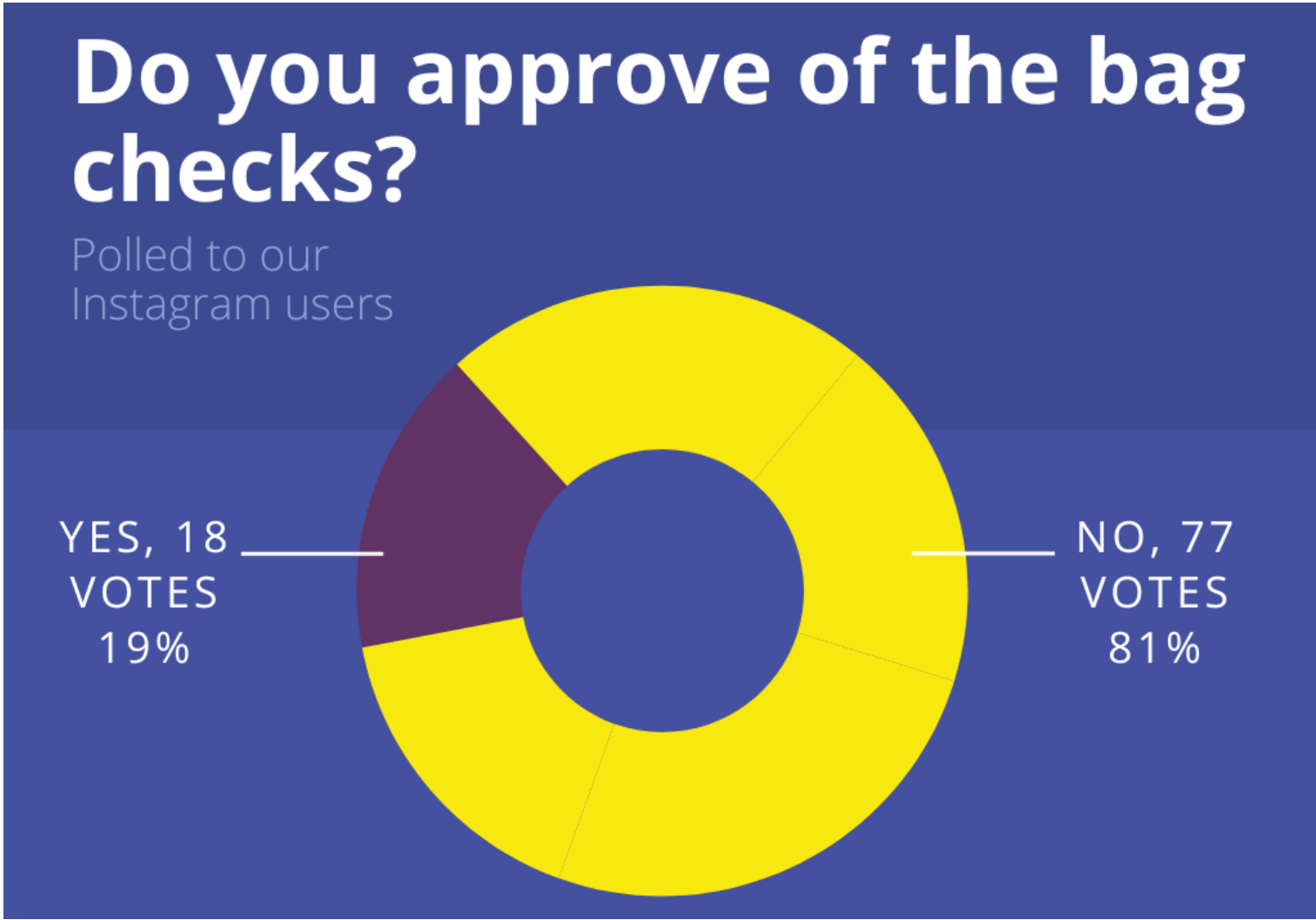
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FACULTY ADVISOR
MJ ROBINSON

BC Reacts: Bag Checks in the Subway

By Kiara Jones-Ford
Staff Writer

New York Governor Kathy Hochul has turned her attention towards the safety of the New York City transit system, and in collaboration with Mayor Eric Adams, has proposed and implemented several new measures in order to ensure the safety of riders. According to NBC News, Governor Hochul ordered a force of National Guard members, state police, and transit police into the subway system on Wednesday, March 6, in order to perform bag checks at stations in the city. It was also reported by NBC News that Hochul aims to increase the amount of surveillance cameras, and has proposed legislation that gives judges the power to ban a felon from using the public transit system. This is being done in response to an observed rise in crime on the subway. The NYPD reported on Feb. 19 that there was a “22.6% increase in subway crime” compared to the same time last year. Additionally, according to an analysis by CBS New York Investigates, there were three times as many felony assaults in the subway as compared to 2022, and 46% more assaults compared to 2019. Governor Hochul announced this amidst a string of violent acts reported on since the beginning of the year. Before the announcement, there was already an increase in police presence in the subway proposed by Mayor Adams and Governor Hochul, according to The Gothamist. The Gothamist additionally reported that this is a part of Hochul’s larger plan that began in 2022 to “beef up” the presence of police, which they call “the three Cs”: “cops, cameras, care.” Train conductors have now also been instructed to announce when they are in a station that has a transit precinct attached to it. To get a sense of how Brooklyn College students feel about the bag checks, The Vanguard hosted a poll on its Instagram account story to gather a consensus about its approval. Of the 95 respondents, 81% do not support the bag checks taking place while the remaining 19% agree with the increased checks.



Graphic by Kate Dempsey

House Representatives Pass Bill that Includes the Prohibition of TikTok

By Khalailah Bynoe
Staff Writer

On March 13, U.S. representatives passed legislation addressing measures to combat national security interference by foreign social media companies. The bill, which now passed to the Senate, includes the prohibition of any applications directly or indirectly operated by ByteDance Ltd. or TikTok in the U.S.

Dubbed the “Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act,” it was introduced by a group of bipartisan representatives due to concerns over national security. Representatives Mike Gallagher, R-Wis, and Raja Krishnamoorthi D-Ill spearheaded the bill and claimed the popular social media app to be a security threat by Chinese authorities.

“So long as it is owned by ByteDance and thus required to collaborate with the CCP [Chinese Communist Party], TikTok poses critical threats to our national security,” Representative Krishnamoorthi said in a Select Committee on the CCP press release on March 5.

The House’s vote for the bill was 352 to 65; of the 65 who opposed

the bill’s passing, 50 were Democrats and 15 were Republicans, according to CNN.

“This bill prohibits distributing, maintaining, or providing internet hosting services for a foreign adversary controlled application (e.g., TikTok). However,

driving the divestment of foreign adversary-controlled apps to ensure that Americans are protected from the digital surveillance and influence operations of regimes,” Representative Krishnamoorthi said in the CCP press release. The concern over

speed with which the bill was passed, stating that the bill is a direct ban on the social media app.

“This bill is an outright ban of TikTok, no matter how much authors try to disguise it,” said Alex Haurek, a TikTok spokesperson in an interview with NPR.

of the app in the U.S. The legislation in its current form requires ByteDance to divest TikTok within roughly six months in order for the app to remain available in the United States, per CNBC. This would mean that an American-owned company would have to be in control of TikTok for it to keep operating in the U.S.

Although this is a potential solution, TikTok has amassed an estimated value of \$100 billion. Major companies in the U.S., including Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, and Google, are among the few that can afford to purchase the app. These four tech companies have run into trouble with antitrust laws on many occasions, according to CNBC. This situation could make it harder for TikTok to sell in the U.S. if they choose to.

Despite bipartisan support for TikTok prohibition, politicians have maintained a following on the platform. This includes President Joe Biden who remarked that “If they pass it, I’ll sign it,” despite joining the platform in 2024, according to the Washington Post.



The Act requires ByteDance Ltd. to give up control of TikTok in order for it to operate in the U.S./TechCrunch

the prohibition does not apply to a covered application that executes a qualified divestiture as determined by the President,” stated Congress.

For TikTok to continue operating in the U.S, there would need to be a mandated divestiture from the Chinese Communist Party, which representatives cite would protect users.

“Our bipartisan legislation would protect American social media users by

TikTok specifically is that ByteDance Ltd., a Chinese-owned company, could take users’ data and relay it to Chinese authorities.

“When TikTok’s CEO came before the Energy and Commerce Committee last year, he readily admitted to me that ByteDance employees in China have access to U.S. user data,” Representative Bob Latta claimed in the press release.

TikTok’s spokespersons found this decision to be unfair because of the

Wang Weibin, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry, stated that the U.S. does not have enough evidence to go forward with this decision.

“Even though the U.S. has not found evidence on how TikTok endangers its national security, it has never stopped going after TikTok,” Weibin said in a statement on March 13.

TikTok will be able to continue operating in the U.S. if ByteDance Ltd. gives up control

Excellence and Beyond: Women of Color Club Hosts “GroundbreakHERS Conference”

By Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor
&
Paulina Gajewski
Managing Editor

Women of Color (WOC) at Brooklyn College, in collaboration with the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), held the “GroundbreakHERS Conference” in the Student Center on March 5. The conference brought together 11 female panelists of color to celebrate, discuss, and share their experiences and knowledge in their respective areas of expertise.

The Women of Color at BC specializes in the upliftment, academic welfare, and emotional well-being of women of color on campus and the general student body according to their mission statement. The theme of the conference was “Celebrating the untold stories and resilience behind today’s successful women.” WOC President Wisdom Obadofin began with an opening address and introduced the host “IvieTheMC.” A strong intention was to create a dynamic and supportive space where attendees could learn, thrive, and be inspired.

“I think it was a really good thing that we could come together and make this happen, different women from varying backgrounds being up close and personal,” Abigail Edouard, Vice President of WOC and senior at BC, told The Vanguard. “From influencers to med school students and

everyone in between. They’re living proof that anything is possible.” Panelists included Harvard and Columbia law graduate and beauty influencer Eni Popoola, data engineer and makeup artist Grace Eniton, entrepreneur Farra Saint-Flavin, social worker Emmanuella Duroska, and more. “As a new member of the e-board, there wasn’t a moment where I felt out of place with anyone,” Dakota Mitchell, Academic Affairs Coordinator and a freshman at BC, told The Vanguard. “The environment, as well as the speakers’ moving statements, gave the event a radiance that was felt throughout the entire night.” To create a welcoming and dynamic

environment, attendees engaged in rounds of icebreakers. Shannon Dyett and Tamia Gordon, members of WOC, delighted the audience with a poem, leading the way for IvieTheMC to introduce the panelists. The first section of the panel was brought to an end with the intermission, during which Edouard sang “Never Enough” from the 2017 movie “The Greatest Showman,” a moving ballad regarding the pursuit of success. After the conclusion of the second panel, WOC member Rebecca Turay performed the song “Beautiful” by Christina Aguilera, a testament to self-acceptance and inner beauty. To close off the event, Obadofin provided a

final address followed by an hour of networking, refreshments, and fellow interaction. Edouard delivered a statement revolving around a quote from rapper and artist Nicki Minaj. “Barbz stay in school, don’t even be lazy, don’t you ever complain about hard work. Work hard, it pays off.” The conference was able to give all of these ‘work hard, play hard’ concepts a sense of personality,” stated Edouard. “So if they can do it, why can’t be, you know?” The preparation needed to host an event of this size and influence was no small feat. “When we landed on a title and theme for the event in December, we went in full steam ahead with all preparations. I think that seeing the

impact of hearing the feedback from attendees is truly encouraging and makes it all very worthwhile,” Obadofin told The Vanguard. “We had women who came in from Philadelphia and Miami for our little group at BC, and everyone truly poured out virtue.” WOC at BC hopes to continue events like this in the future. “I hope that this can be a recurring event for Women of Color, these avenues are very vital in maintaining motivation and inspiration,” Obadofin told The Vanguard. Women Of Color can be found on Instagram @womenofcolor_bc, hosting events and programs throughout the semester.



Courtesy of Mousa (@flixbymoe on Instagram)

A Hub For Creativity: Stuck In The Library's Upcoming Issue



Stuck in the Library staff / *Courtesy of Stuck in the Library*

By T'Neil Gooden
Features Editor

Submissions for the spring issue of the Stuck in the Library Magazine close on March 21, and the magazine is excited to see what the students of Brooklyn College have to share.

The magazine has two issues for each semester, and the issues consist of poetry and BC student work. The fall semester issue is usually a poetry booklet, whereas the spring issue is a larger booklet based on the submissions the students of BC provide to the magazine. The booklets produced in the spring are much more open to the artistry and originality of students based on their varying themes.

"The themes are usually picked by a poll that we take with all the ideas that were given by the members of the club. We try to make sure that we include diverse choices in our polls and consider themes that we didn't pick but

would use for another situation," Amira Francis, president of the magazine, told The Vanguard.

In previous semesters, the magazine had themes that were portrayed through the cover drawings of the issues. For last fall's issue, the theme was poetry and the cover art of the magazine was a background wall of books with a human standing with the face of a clock, done by Lex Rivera, a contributor to the issue. The magazine also uses special events to be the cover of their magazines while being filled with BC student poets, the spring 23 issue was the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the magazine's creation.

This semester, the magazine decided not to go for themes and allow BC students to let their creativity be the star of the magazine.

"This semester, we decided not to deal with the theme really, just because we want to get everybody's submissions and not

limit people's creative freedom," Lilith Leys, treasurer of the magazine, told The Vanguard.

The magazine wants to hear from the students of BC through photography, drawings, and three-dimensional creations that can be appropriately shared within the school environment.

"We're not overly selective, but we do like to make sure that people are putting quality work out there, to make sure that everybody is putting their best foot forward creatively," Leys said. "We are a school publication, we can't necessarily put out some things, even if it's artistically worthwhile."

The magazine has found its mark within BC and is ready to allow students into their world of expression. The magazine is a community that wants students to spread their talents and get their work published, and students are free to join the magazine as staff

members.

"Everyone is so kind and eager to help one another. The thing about having a creative community is that everyone is in tune with their emotions and feelings about their work or other people's works and we always find a way to build everyone up or give out friendly advice," Francis said.

The magazine's board and student community have become closer as they begin to find their place for BC students. This semester has been especially helpful for the magazine as they have found confidence in their environment.

"I'd say that this semester, we kind of hit our stride in terms of production," Leys said. "We've hosted 'Write, Paint and Sips,' and we've been trying to do whatever we can to kind of get the word out there about the magazine, and that we are here to stay," Leys told The Vanguard.

The magazine wants to do many more events as they have found their place within the BC community and are ready to bring in new members.

"When the magazine releases we are going to be hosting a gala, basically like a release event," Leys told The Vanguard. "We host one every time we release a magazine, it's something to look forward to as we hand out the magazines and have open mics."

These open mics encourage students to share and showcase the work they have

added to the magazine.

The magazine wants students to be proud and secure in the work they have shared with BC students, allowing for extended exposure and the continuous push for more submissions.

"We have people reading the magazines, we have people reading their own works besides the magazine, and with all that people are just given a place to chill and celebrate the fact that your friends and everything got published," Leys said.

The magazine board wants students to understand that this magazine is a place for expression and artistry to be celebrated, and people should not be intimidated or scared to send in work even if it will be reviewed.

"This is a good place to get started and put out your work. There are plenty of people who start out just submitting to a school magazine. It's something that can snowball into future submissions, future things, and replenishing your art is just fun," Leys told The Vanguard.

Interested students can learn more by following Stuck in The Library on their Instagram: @stuckinthelibrary.



Lips Café: Bringing Art and Community to Little Caribbean

By Emmad Kashmiri
Digital Editor
&
Kate Dempsey
Editor-in-Chief

Upon first glance, passersby might mistake Lips Café for a 60s Pop Art movement-inspired museum. Displayed prominently on its facade is its logo of red lips, reminiscent of the works of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, which provide a blush of color to the neighborhood of Little Caribbean. To owners Jamane and Donna Weekes, creating this café space is more than just about selling coffee: it is about having an artistic experience.

Opened in 2019, the café began as Jamane Weekes’ way of paying homage to his exploration of New York City’s café culture and bringing different art movements into the neighborhood.

“I went to Soho and I got really into cafés, and I used to go to all over the city like Harlem, Bronx, all over NYC just to go to different cafés and check them out [...] I used to go to art galleries all the time. In my pastime I would either go to a new café

or try to check out a new exhibition or gathering in Chelsea or anywhere,” Jamane Weekes told The Vanguard. “So what I realized is that there are none here, like none in Flatbush.”

Inspired by what he saw, Weekes knew that if he established his own café it would incorporate the art world into its being. His idea: having a revolving door of artwork showcasing local artists’ talents.

“Art was always going to be a major part of this space, so every month we switch the artwork; we give artists the opportunity to adorn our walls and showcase their talents every month, just like how an art gallery works,” Jamane Weekes said.

Jamane and Donna Weekes learned the ropes of running a café through trial and error, encountering challenges and discovering solutions in real time.

“It was a long process because we really had no experience. We kinda just like went on a whim with and figured everything out [...] It really took a lot of time and it took a lot of research because

we were doing it and we were learning in real time,” Jamane Weekes said. “I think because we didn’t have the set, the knowledge, we were kinda able to put our own twist on things, so I think that made it like unique.”

Lips Café isn’t just a place to grab a coffee and catch up on work: it’s also a community hub that captures the diversity and bustling nature of Little Caribbean. Just three stops away from Brooklyn College, students can enjoy a relaxing atmosphere where they can study, create, and hangout with their peers. Regulars and newcomers alike are welcomed with open arms, invited to share their stories and connect over food and a laid-back atmosphere.

“People from different walks of life come here; it’s like a ‘home away from home,’” Jamane explained. “The café isn’t transactional; it’s more like a fellowship.”

For Donna Weekes, the café is a way of building connections and feeling welcomed in the community. In the space, people catch up with old friends, students pore over their work, and cafe-

goers take the opportunity to run into someone new.

“All are welcomed. All are encouraged to be who they are and we celebrate that. On any given day you walk in and hear conversations from students, business owners, artists, hair stylists, politicians, musicians, parents, everyone and usually, at the middle table, all those worlds come together in a way that still warms my heart,” Donna Weekes told The Vanguard. “It’s naturally coded into our café, the moment you walk through the doors you’re welcomed into this constant state of community.”

Being a Black-owned business is integral to the identity of the cafe, and while they would like to be acknowledged as just another namesake in the broader Brooklyn area, they hope to provide support to other Black-owned enterprises.

“I just want to be looked at as this dope, successful business, but because I know what it means on a grander scale because of how little opportunities [Black people] sometimes have and resources we sometimes don’t have,”

Jamane Weekes told The Vanguard. “Because of others that’s why it means a lot to me.”

Donna and Jamane Weekes use their influence to support other Black-owned businesses as a virtue of being one themselves by providing mutual aid through resources and advertising. The café is currently partnering with 333 Lounge, a Black-owned lounge in Downtown Brooklyn, to support their business efforts.

“We are just trying to show that as businesses we come together, especially as Black businesses [...] it’s not about competition and stuff like that, it’s about coming together to see what we can build together and using our resources,” Jamane Weekes told The Vanguard.

Books by Black artists and writers embellish the café, and traditional Caribbean dishes such as “bake and saltfish” and beverages such as “sorrel” join typical café offerings. To Donna Weekes, the aesthetic was modeled after her own fashion brand designs, an ethos she carries into the café’s food and drinks now.

“I’m a designer and



Lips Café, located at 1412 Nostrand Ave., serves its delights in the heart of Little Caribbean. /*Kate Dempsey*

each meal is designed by me. Similar to the artistic expression and construction of a garment, each meal, each dish is an expression of my heart and soul. Colorful, tasteful, it awakens your senses,” Donna Weekes told The Vanguard.

The bond between the mother-son duo is stronger than ever thanks to their café, having faced the difficulties of starting a business together. It’s a way for the family to stay together and share what they have accomplished as a result of their hard work.

“[The business] brought me and my mom closer together so I think that was another reason why I did it, so me and my mom could work together and stay close,” Jamane Weekes said. “When you

grow older, you start to see your mom a lot less, and now I’m able to keep that relationship, keep that bond, that closeness with her.”

To Donna and Jamane Weekes, each customer becomes an extension of their family as they continue to bring art and community together in their space.

“Lips is home, it’s home away from home for me and my family, and I wanted to make sure that when we walked in, when you walk in, you feel at home—you feel safe and inspired and embrace,” Donna Weekes told The Vanguard. “I think we achieved that.”



Owners Jamane Weekes (left) and Donna Weekes (right) extend their family to any customer that enters /Courtesy of Noah Love

The Women’s Center Weaves Fiber Arts into Feminism



Louisa Pira (left) and Rosalina Khanis (right) at Crochet and Chill. /Photo by Amira Turner, Graphic by Kaylin Guzman

By Amira Turner
Arts Editor

Since the Industrial Revolution, crocheting has been an extremely popular, yet gendered, craft. Like most fiber arts, crocheting has historically been deemed “women’s work,” or a hobby reserved for older women, according to crochet historian Ruthie Marks. With the help of the Brooklyn College’s Women’s Center, student Louisa Pira is dismantling that stereotype by hosting “Crochet and Chill.”

“We kind of want to fight

or work against the stigma of the ageism in the fiber arts community because a lot of people were like, oh, ‘it’s for grandmas’ like, why is that bad?” Pira told The Vanguard.

Beyond being an idle hobby, crocheting and knitting have not only served as tools for women to collaborate but also helped women to mobilize and participate in social or political movements.

According to History Link, Eleanor Roosevelt led an effort for women to knit and crochet for troops during World War II. In a time when women

had no other social or political agency, fiber arts became a way for women to be involved in the war effort. In 2016, artist Jayna Zweiman started the Pussy Hat Project after being inspired by a crocheting class she had attended. The Pussy Hat Project spread across the nation and became an iconic symbol of the 2017 Women’s March.

“There’s a lot of crochet or just like fiber art pieces where they reflect on recent social events or things like that,” Pira said.

Pira’s passion for crochet began in 2022, the same year she started working for the Women’s Center. During 2022, she was tasked with coming up with a summer project, “I was like, ‘Should we do a group discussion?’[...] And then I just started crocheting, like a couple of months before, and I mentioned it and they were interested,” Pira said.

Pira started hosting “Crochet and Chill” sessions weekly during the summer of 2022. They

ended up being so popular that they carried over into the fall and spring semesters. After taking the fall 2023 semester off, Pira’s “Crochet and Chill” sessions returned this spring.

During “Crochet and Chill,” attendees are encouraged to spend time together while creating whatever they want. “When they come here, they have a space where they can hang out and see people,” Pira said.

Pira’s main inspiration for creating, like thousands of female fiber artists throughout history, is giving back to her community “I think what really just inspires me the most like giving things to other people and bringing that joy to them,” she said.

For attendees, like loom and crochet small business owner and BC student Rosalina Khanis, the Women’s Center has provided opportunities to improve her skills and grow her confidence.

“Last year, I wasn’t part of the Women’s Center,

but they [had] a small business market part of it. I have my own small business. That was an opportunity that really helped me a lot,” Khanis told The Vanguard. “It was like I was able to actually be next to a lot of like powerful women that actually had this moment because I never had the opportunity. I was more introverted into like not selling outside of like social media and everything.”

This level is growth is what inspired Pira to create a space for people to pursue crochet in the first place.

“It’s so rewarding for me to see somebody go from like, like really beginner to making their own thing and they come up with their own ideas and stuff, and it makes me so happy,” Pira told The Vanguard.

The Women’s Center “Crochet and Chill” sessions will continue every Thursday, from 3:30pm - 5:00pm in Ingersoll 227 through March.

USG Hosts Narcan Training and Drug Overdose Prevention Workshop

By Yassir Azzam
Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 14, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) hosted a “Narcan Training Event” in Brooklyn College’s Student Center. The purpose of the event was to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to administer Naloxone Hydrochloride (“Narcan” for short)—a life-saving medication used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

The signs of an overdose include if the person is drowsy, passes out, having difficulty breathing, and has unusually small pupils. To the organizers of the event, hosting this workshop stemmed out of mutual aid campaigns working to provide citizens access to the drug.

“This project grew out of an initiative I started when I founded the [New York

Public Interest Group (NYPIRG)] free store on campus and stocked it with Narcan,” Dylan Karlowski, USG Events Director and a senior at BC, told The Vanguard. “I wanted to make sure students had access to this life-saving drug.”

The crisis remains a top priority for NYC officials as overdoses continue to rise. According to the NYC Health Department’s quarter one statistics, every three hours, someone dies of a drug overdose in NYC. In the 1st quarter of 2023 alone 712 overdose deaths occurred in NYC, with the Bronx continuing to be the most impacted by overdose deaths. Mayor Adams announced on Dec. 6, 2023, an increased allocation of \$12 million to fight the opioid overdose crisis, providing funding for treatment, outreach, and harm reduction organizations.

“The opioid epidemic is a crisis that impacts every corner of our

city, tearing apart too many families and too many communities [...] we will confront this crisis head-on by expanding treatment to increasing support for social services to help our communities recover and thrive,” Mayor Adams said. “These efforts will save countless lives.”

According to their mission statement, the NYC Health Department additionally offers training services to teach individuals how to administer Narcan, both virtually and in-person, to those experiencing an overdose. The city also provides treatment centers for people struggling with opioid addiction, recognizing that social services are critical to combating the crisis. The Department has also set up vending machines that dispense clean syringes and Narcan in low-income neighborhoods with limited access to such supplies.



NYC Health Overdose Rescue Kit with Naloxone./Kate Dempsey

“These vulnerabilities and the resulting deaths are as much a reflection of our lacking social supports as they are a historic lack of initiative in solving this specific problem. [...] We have to make sure care is accessible for all,” Karlowski told The Vanguard.

While BC holds training on campus for students to partake in, organizers suggest that more can be done to combat the crisis.

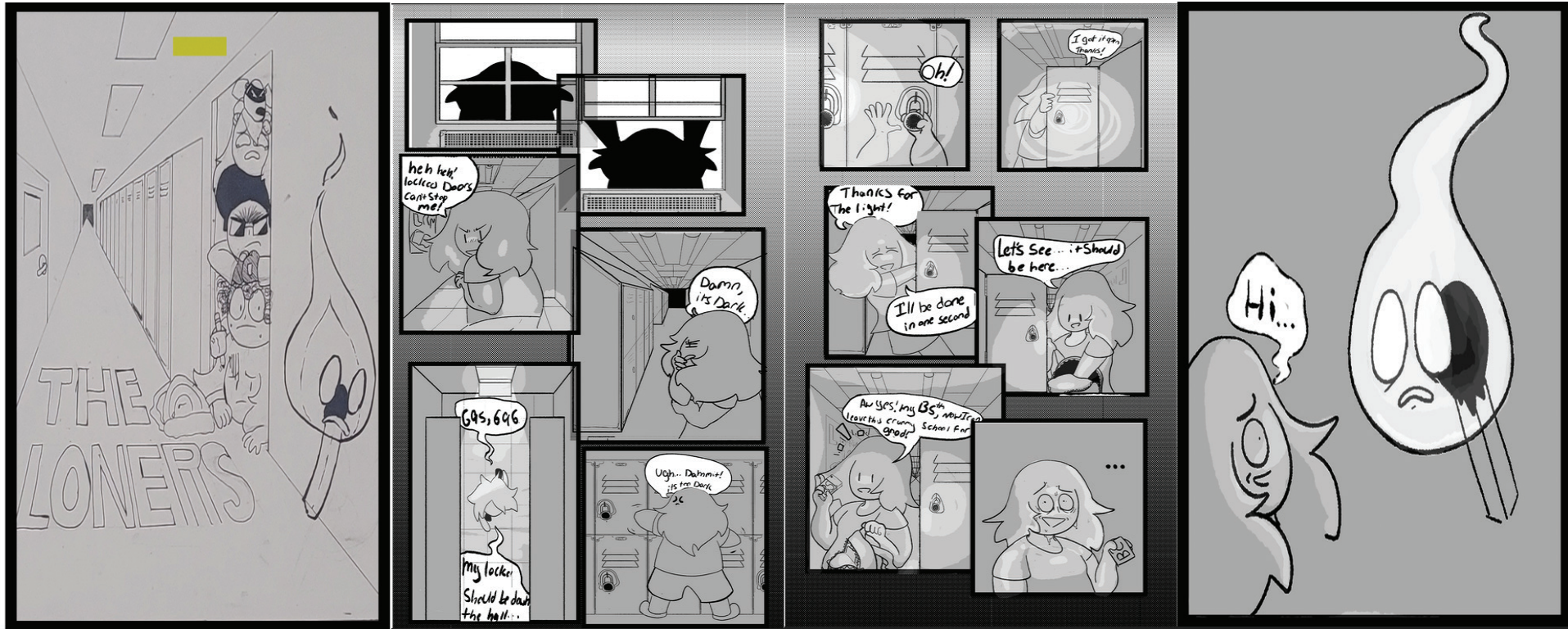
“All colleges should hold Narcan trainings [...] Our public health is a community concern, and the more tools we have to help each other, the better,” said Karlowski.

All New Yorkers can receive free naloxone and training from registered Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs (OOPPs) at [NYC.gov/health/map](https://www.nyc.gov/health/map).

COMIC OF THE WEEK

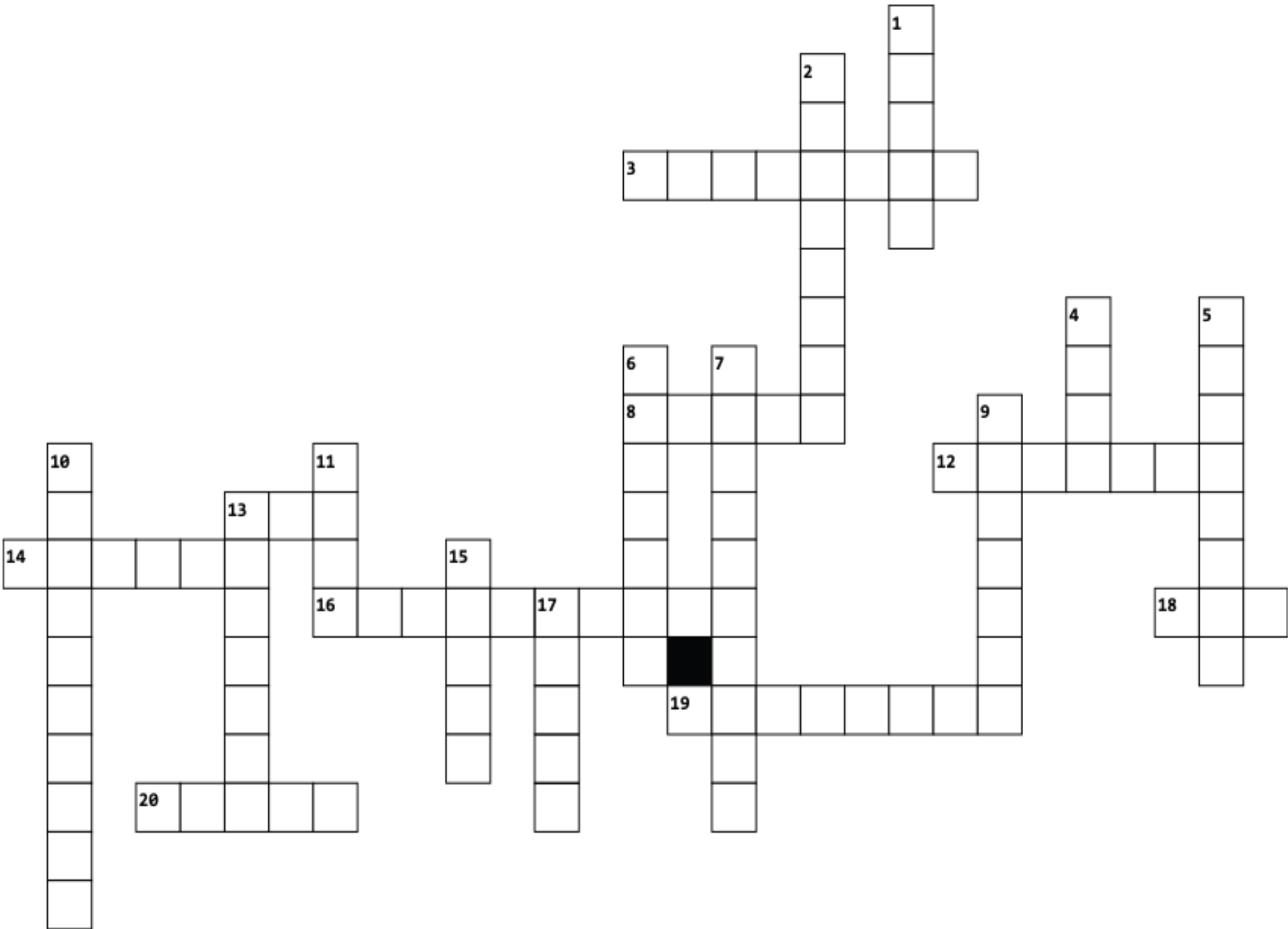
By Adam Touraity

Courtesy of BC Comics and Sequential Arts Club



Brooklyn Crossword Puzzle

By Sarah Rescigno



Answer Key can be found on our website!

ACROSS	DOWN
3. Iconic Brooklyn-based director who directed films such as Do The Right Thing and Malcolm X	1. ___ Point, the northernmost neighborhood in Brooklyn
8. Last name of former Brooklyn Borough President, current NYC Mayor	2. The O in DUMBO
12. A canal in Brooklyn near Red Hook and Park Slope	4. ___ Park, one of two amusement parks in Coney Island
13. An (in)famous expressway in Brooklyn that connects two boroughs	5. What trendy group of people DUMBO, then Williamsburg and Greenpoint, now Bushwick (and sometimes north Brooklyn as a whole) is known for
14. Brooklyn is not the densest or the largest borough, but it does have the most ___	6. A famous avenue in Manhattan known for its luxury shopping... or the last word of the high school where Chris Rock, Bernie Sanders, and Ruth Bader-Ginsburg all went
16. It's the Brooklyn way	7. The largest park in Brooklyn (also a neighborhood in south Brooklyn)
18. Pre-MTA Brooklyn train company	9. A former Brooklyn baseball team, since relocated to Los Angeles
19. A nickname for the busiest subway station in Brooklyn, which gets its namesake from a stadium that gets its namesake from a bank	10. ___ville, a sub-neighborhood of Crown Heights
20. This south Brooklyn neighborhood was originally named Yellow Hook in the 17th century, Bay ___	11. Brooklyn's basketball team
	13. Longest avenue in Brooklyn that also intersects with Brooklyn College
	15. ___ Stuyvesant, who served as the last Dutch leader of "New Netherland"
	17. Most mottos of American cities and states are in Latin but Brooklyn's is in ___

“Years of Hardship”: BC Archives’ New Exhibit



“Years of Hardship” Exhibit in the BC Library./Paulina Gajewski

By Paulina Gajewski
Managing Editor

The ethos of the mid-twentieth century was imbued with colonialism and struggle between foreign powers. At the zenith of colonial domination, over half of the world’s territories were partitioned between European empires, and in later years, anticolonial sentiments and movements grew stronger. Such movements took upon various forms, and in recent years society has aimed to depict the histories and unfortunate legacies of colonialism.

This month, the Brooklyn College Library unveiled a new exhibit titled “Years of Hardship: Colonialism in the Horn of Africa from 1935-1941.” Beneath the cases and across the walls were placed books, photographs,

documents, and other mediums regarding Italian colonialism in Ethiopia.

Spearheaded by BC archivist Colleen Bradley-Sanders, the exhibit drew upon artifacts and items from the Robert L. Hess collections on Ethiopia and the Continent of Africa, the bulk of which had been donated by his wife. Hess, the sixth president of BC, was a noted scholar of Ethiopian History and devoted to the colonial period.

The exhibition was conceived by collaborative efforts. “The inspiration for the exhibit came from conversations with a colleague at John Jay College: Professor James DeLorenzi,” Bradley-Sanders told The Vanguard. “He’s very familiar with our Hess Collection on Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, having both used it for his own research,

as well as providing expert advice when I’m considering purchasing different archival collections.”

In 1935, dictator Benito Mussolini invaded Ethiopia, and the following year established a new colony. The former emperor, Haylä Sellasé, fled into exile with his administration and the subsequent takeover came to be known in Ethiopia as the “Years of Hardship.”

Conceptualizing and creating exhibitions is no small feat. “[Professor James DeLorenzi] came up with the theme, and we worked together to decide which books and images best represented the various elements of that theme, as well as which archival manuscript collections were relevant to the topics,” Bradley-Sanders said. In addition to the pieces already present within the collections,

funding from the Hess endowment for the archives ensured Bradley-Sanders could purchase other supporting archival materials.

The effort to create settler colonies in Ethiopia was an imagined solution to the mass emigration of Italians to the Americas, as a way of keeping them within the Italian economy. Settler colonialism, based on the displacement and elimination of indigenous peoples, was supported by the Italian military occupations of Ethiopia, much of which played out under the Viceroy, or Governor General. Books on display presented the “leadership cults” that developed during the period.

The cases were dotted with photographs and images of the Viceroys. Paired with such images were documents from colonial official Tullio Antonelli that described his plans for training military troops and provided outlines for developing a counterinsurgency doctrine.

Within Ethiopia, anticolonial resistance movements arose. Men and women from all walks of life joined the anticolonial guerillas who spent five years ambushing Italian troops. Placed in the exhibit was an illustration depicting

Abebe Aregai, a famous guerilla commander that the Italian troops were determined on capturing, to no avail.

Emperor Haylä Sellasé initially fled into exile, but became the national face for resistance, and placed within the case is his astonishing autobiography which details his actions during this period. His wife, Empress Menen Asfaw, was a defender of Ethiopian freedom and led the Ethiopian Red Cross war effort, contacting international feminist organizations to aid the cause.

Understanding colonial histories sheds light onto the social and political facets and foundations of today’s society, and such is the goal of these historical exhibitions.

“These events [...] shaped the lives of millions of people,” as written in the exhibition’s description, “and they continue to reverberate in our contemporary world.”

“Years of Hardship” will be displayed in the “Archives and Special Exhibitions Area” in the BC Library until Sept. 2024.



Common Hours Conundrum: How to Get Involved with Student Life

By Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor

Opportunities for student life and involvement are swept under the rug on a campus as large and diverse as Brooklyn College, with just as many events and activities as there are students. It's difficult and overwhelming at times to begin the search for a club that you fit right into while also accommodating both your interests and schedule. Although most BC students commute to the campus, this does not mean that we can't live out the dream college lifestyle instead of an ephemeral one: you can take classes and sustain a social life on campus, making an impact both academically and personally.

To take upon this initiative, however, requires an expenditure of time and effort, resources many students need to have. There are several places to find these clubs, one of which is Bulldog Connection, a website that lists all upcoming events across campus. Students can try their hand at finding an event suited to their interests and time restrictions.

Sometimes, the key to finding a club for you may be on a whim. Though it may



Involvement Fair 2022 / *Brie Underwood*

be hard to find friends to go to different activities with, don't be shy to go out on your own accord. A supplementary place to find some organizations is the bulletin boards across the campus. Including all of our buildings, the cafeteria, and the library, the bulletin boards are always packed with information regarding clubs, organizations, events, and other places for involvement on campus.

Either through physical flyers, social media posts, emails, or spoken word, events are constantly streamlined and communicated. Keeping your eyes peeled and becoming more present in campus life will aid in finding a space to suit you.

Taking a step outside the classroom can be

scary and stressful, as we students are consistently overwhelmed with finding time for our schoolwork, or actual work after classes. Dedicating the hours for a club or extracurricular can seem more like a burden than an opportunity to have fun.

A fresh motivation to stay on campus after class and do more with your common hours can be the new perspective that can change how you view campus life and have something to look forward to in everyday life.

I found BC to be overwhelming with opportunities, so overwhelming that I chose to go to every event I could until I found the right space for me. I went to various social gatherings hosted by

multiple organizations and scoured the social media platforms of BC organizations, clubs, and extracurriculars until I found just the right space for me.

Thankfully, I found my space within The Vanguard, a perfect fit for a person who likes to write and loves to open up conversations with people from all walks of life.

Some examples of possible events that can help you establish new beginnings could be the Undergraduate Student Government events. USG has various mixers, advisement from staff, academic support, and community engagement events all designed to provide support for the student community.

Stepping outside of your comfort zone may surprise you; sometimes you may find the most fun with

a completely new and unexpected topic of discussion.

Another great place for not only club outreach but also a sense of community and true BC culture would be areas of peace aside from the hustle and bustle of BC, like the Women's Center or the Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO). Such places are powerful areas of strength that can be used for both support and a quiet place to study.

It's an incredible feat to get involved. There are no morning announcements to share club events, and almost everything must be found on your own accord. But, with an area as great as student involvement, there is always a place for everyone.

Megan Campbell: A Force for Women’s Basketball at BC and Beyond

By Sean Markisic
Sports Editor

Megan Campbell’s love for the game began at a young age, and has only grown since. Her continuous passion for the game catapulted her into a career in basketball that was filled with constant hard work and always striving to always improve, whether it came from playing as a member of the team or coaching the team herself.

She took over as the head coach of BC’s women’s basketball team in April 2023 from her mentor, Alex Lang, who coached the team for 20 years. She used his methodology for coaching to inspire her own plays on the court.

“I played under Alex, I really appreciate the system he built here. I take and make tweaks here and there but keep a lot of it,” Campbell told The Vanguard. “It was a great learning experience, much different being an assistant as opposed to a player. You see things a little differently as an assistant, you get frustrated the same way our coaches used to get frustrated at us.”

Campbell has had a

successful basketball career during her time as both a player and a coach. She was awarded “Coach of the Year” for 2024 and won the fourth straight CUNY Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Championship for the women’s team, continuing a legacy of winning. Campbell also had a notable playing career in basketball at BC from 2013-2015, which included her being named on the first CUNYAC All-Star team and helping the Bulldogs to win the ECAC Tournament.

After graduating from BC, Campbell continued to build her basketball resume in Carlow, Ireland, where she attended the Institute of Technology and contributed to winning the Women’s National League championship. In addition to that honor, Campbell coached the Old Leighlin Girls’ Team to a championship in the All Ireland Club Championship. Campbell said to play at BC and then immediately transition into playing in Ireland was quite similar despite being in a foreign country.

“It’s pretty similar, it’s all about adapting



Coach Campbell has continued the team’s streak of winning CUNYAC’s */Kate Dempsey*

to the team style of play and the level of competition. There were usually two Americans going at it, so it wasn’t much of an adjustment,” Campbell said.

Campbell believes that the next step for the Bulldogs would be to compete at the national level, which many other CUNY schools have never gotten the opportunity to do. Currently, the most important thing for Campbell is to continue to win and build the team as it moves into a new era.

“It’s going to be somewhat of a rebuilding year next year, we’re losing a decent amount of seniors, we have to see the recruits that are coming in but the goal for next season is still to win a championship and continue to build on the success we’ve had the last few years,” Campbell told The Vanguard.

Despite the challenges of going from a player to leading a whole team, becoming a coach was a goal Campbell knew she wanted to achieve. Her leadership role as coach has meant that her love for the game will continue to propel her forward, appreciating how far she has come to achieve it.

“I actually knew in college that I wanted to go into coaching, I wanted to be a physical education teacher then coach. I wanted to always coach at the college level but didn’t think it was attainable,” Campbell said. “Looking back, it’s crazy to see where I am now, and I’m very appreciative of it.”