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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

VANGUARD

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Monday, April 15th

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Cover by Tony Lipka

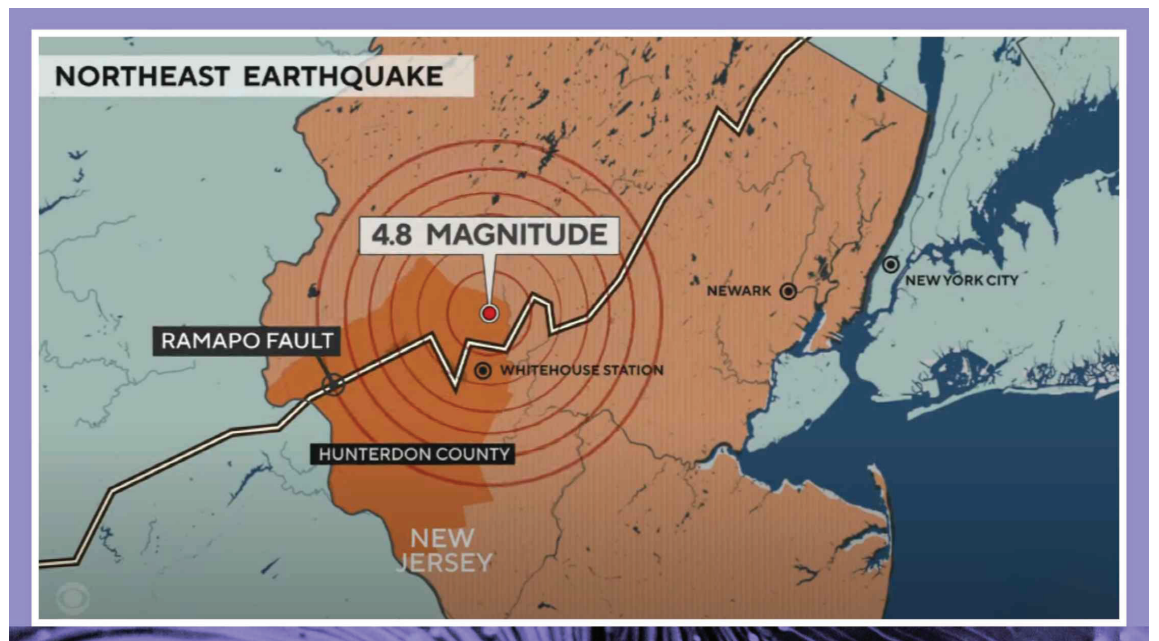
NYC Hit, Not Harmed by Magnitude 4.8 Earthquake

By Shlomie Katash
News Editor

At approximately 10:23 A.M. on April 5, a magnitude 4.8 earthquake emerging in New Jersey rocked the northeast corridor from Boston to Philadelphia, which included all five boroughs of New York City.

In a seismological sense, NYC is no stranger to earthquakes. According to The New York Times, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has logged 188 magnitude 2.5 or greater earthquakes within a 250-mile radius of NYC since 1957, with only seven being greater than a magnitude of 4.5. Friday's earthquake is the third strongest in that record, though it occurred only forty miles west of NYC. Compared to other earthquakes, it was the strongest since the estimated 5.0 magnitude earthquake that centered in Brooklyn in 1884, according to THE CITY. The most recent earthquake prior to April 5 was one centered in Queens on Jan. 2, measured to be of magnitude 1.7, per The New York Times.

Both Governor Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams scheduled press conferences soon after the earthquake to discuss its aftermath. Neither said that there have been any reports of serious damage or injuries, but both affirmed that inspections would continue to assess the impacts, according to



The recent earthquake was one of the biggest recorded. *Rev*

The New York Times. City and state officials, including those representing the public education system, infrastructure and subway maintenance, and the New York Police Department, echoed their statements.

"Fortunately, here in the state of New York, we are masters of disasters. We know how to handle this," Hochul said in a press conference on April 5. "We're always ready. We have planning in place for all our teams to activate instantaneously, and I feel very comfortable about that. But again, these are emerging situations. It could be over, but also there could be another effect, and we have to prepare for that."

Aftershocks remain a possibility. As of April 7, USGS has reported 32 aftershocks, including one of a 3.8 magnitude that struck at 5:59 p.m. on Friday around New Jersey and NYC. The USGS calculated that there is an 8% chance that an aftershock above a magnitude of 4.0 could occur within the next week, a 16%

chance within the next month, and a 37% chance within the next year.

Concerns have been raised about the city's response to this earthquake and its capability to respond to future ones. Residents of NYC were not notified of the earthquake until 26 minutes after it happened via the "Notify NYC" service. Those who were not previously signed up for it were only informed later by a Wireless Emergency Alert. Adams has previously been criticized for failing to give adequate warnings about hazards, particularly in regards to flooding and wildfire smoke emergencies last year, according to The New York Times.

"We're not here to break news that there was an earthquake that happened. Everybody felt it, everybody knew," NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Zachary Iscol said to Fox 5 NY. "Our job is to make sure people are safe, and people have the information they need

to help us keep people safe."

Considerations regarding building safety in the event of a major earthquake were first put in place by regulations in the early 2000s, according to The New York Times. According to a 2019 report by the NYC Emergency Management Department, since the majority of NYC's one million buildings having been built prior to the turn of the century, an earthquake with the severity of the one in 1884 could cause \$4.7 billion in property damage, force over two thousand people into shelters, and cause significant personal injuries and mortalities.

"Because earthquakes occur unexpectedly, New Yorkers will not have advanced warning that one will strike, so promoting awareness and preparedness among local communities is essential," the report concluded.

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BC Geology Society and Sustainability Club Host Eclipse Viewing Event

By Tejaswi Kunamneni
Staff Writer

The Brooklyn College Geology Society and the Sustainability Club collaborated to host a solar eclipse viewing event on Monday, April 8 on the East Quad. The campus came alive as hundreds of BC students, professors, and administrators came together to witness the rare solar experience.

Solar eclipses are phenomena in which the moon crosses directly between Earth and the Sun, thereby temporarily blocking the face of the Sun from certain locations. It occurs about every 18 months, seen by certain places on Earth. To organizers of the event, the partnership was to combine sustainable measures with science to foster a greater understanding of the natural processes of Earth and beyond.

“The primary goal of collaborating with the Geology Society for the eclipse viewing event was to integrate the concepts of sustainability with geological sciences. It’s essential to recognize that sustainability efforts extend beyond biological ecosystems to include the geophysical environment. Geologists play a crucial role in understanding our planet’s systems and resources, which directly impacts

sustainable practices,” Sofia Maryiamis, president of the Sustainability Club, told The Vanguard.

This specific eclipse is considered to be a rare occurrence as it has a wide path of totality throughout North America, providing visibility to tens of millions. Attendees expressed that they wanted to be a part of seeing this rare phenomenon.

“I came to the event because I myself am a physics major and do want to pursue astrophysics one day [...] Even though we might not have 100%, other places are and it’s a pretty rare event,” said BC student Jessic Goldstein. “Especially in NYC, to see any solar event is incredible because of the light you can’t see any stars or comets, so it’s a really cool thing to see.”

The eclipse traveled over 4,000 miles, with totality beginning in Texas and making its way up to New York and Canada after traveling through southern states. NYC was just outside the path of totality, with about 90% of the moon’s shadow covering the sun. Upstate locations, such as Syracuse and Buffalo, had thousands of people gather to observe full darkness resulting from 100% totality for up to 4 minutes and 28 seconds, according to Daily Mail. The eclipse comes at a time when NYC recently faced another rare environmental



Attendees on the East Quad / Tejaswi Kunamneni

phenomena: an 4.8 magnitude earthquake. While some scientists claim there lies a connection between eclipses and earthquakes, it remains highly debated.

“From a 2017 study, some scientists believe that the high stress on the tides caused by the new moon may affect the plates, which is why some people believe that earthquakes precede solar eclipses,” Tiasha Dey, president of the Geology Club, told The Vanguard. “However, the relation between geology and astronomical events is heavily debated. Some even claim it’s non-existent.”

The East Quad was filled with attendees to see the rare celestial event, all coming together to experience it. It was mostly sunny skies and good weather making for a good viewing experience. People began gathering for the

event at around 2:00 P.M., with the eclipse starting at 2:10 P.M. and ending at 4:36 P.M. The peak was at 3:25 P.M., during which everyone on the quad looked up at the sky awe-inspired with their eclipse glasses on.

“I came as a last-minute thing but being on campus for the eclipse is exciting, I didn’t expect so many people to show up, so I’m really excited,” said BC student Diana Khaimova.

Students claimed that it was the largest number of students and faculty on campus they had ever seen, with a diverse range of majors and departments sharing a common curiosity in science. “I think this is absolutely electric, I have never seen this many people on campus,” said BC student Carmine Tepedino. Student Mahdiya Siddiqui added, “I love seeing the community show up, both students and administrators.”

To prepare for the event, the Geology Society and Sustainability Club made sure to purchase enough glasses so that everyone could safely view it. Ensuring attendees had classes was critical, since the intense light and radiation from solar rays can burn through the eye lens, according to CBS News.

“We purchased these glasses in bulk to ensure that everyone attending could safely view the eclipse without any barriers.

This proactive step was fundamental, considering the unexpected high turnout,” said Maryiamis.

Many faculty and students shared glasses to ensure everyone could take part. “I knew the eclipse was happening so I ordered glasses for both my classes today, and we planned to come out here,” adjunct professor Kathleen Gilrain told The Vanguard.

As for sustainable measures on what to do with the glasses after the event, organizers suggest attendees bring them to Ingersoll 2131 so that they can be donated to Eclipse Glasses USA. This organization will send the glasses to underserved communities and schools in different parts of the world for future eclipses, supporting children who may otherwise not have had the opportunity to safely witness the spectacle.

The next solar eclipse won’t be until Aug. 23, 2024, and while far away, the 2024 eclipse created a foundation of lasting community.

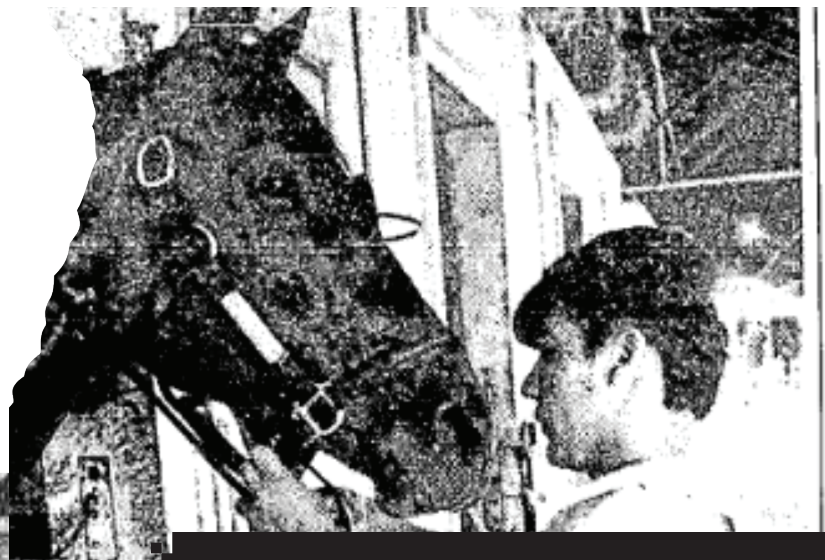
“One of the most remarkable aspects of the event was the spontaneous interaction between students from diverse majors who share a common interest in sustainability and science,” said Maryiamis. “It was beautiful. These events are not just educational; they are a celebration of community and shared curiosity.”



Attendees saw 90% of the sun covered by the moon’s shadow at its peak / Tony Lipka

THIS WEEK IN BC HISTORY!

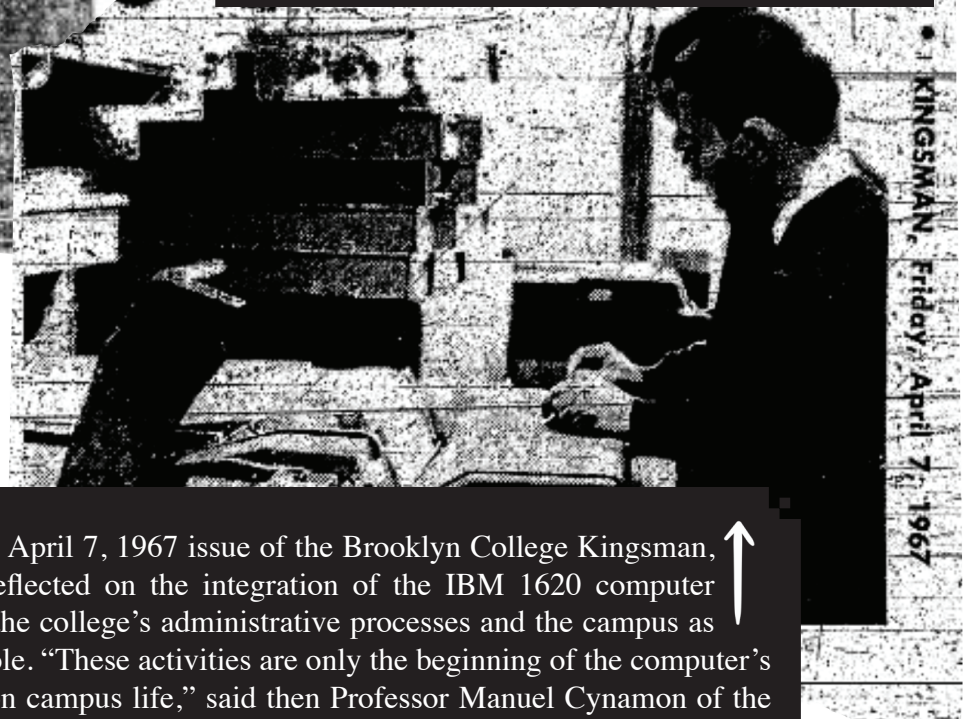
By Daniel Afanasyev
Staff Writer



↑ On April 4, 1976, the Brooklyn College Equestrian Club won a total of five awards at the third Annual Intercollegiate Horse Show at the LIU Post Campus. Vying with 44 other schools from across New York and New Jersey, the club landed in the top six in both the beginner and advanced categories of the show. Coach Nancy Sebastiani applauded the team's achievements, and stressed that the "BC Equestrian Club is proof that students are able to organize clubs on their own and enjoy themselves while they're at it."



↑ On April 12, 1960, the Brooklyn College community gathered at the intersection of Campus Road and E 27 St to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Student Center building. Plans for a student building went back a decade, and had been rejected twice several years prior. Morton Leibowitz, President of Executive Council, and Robert Seizer, President of the Student Governing Council (SGS), were the honorary shovel-bearers.



↑ In the April 7, 1967 issue of the Brooklyn College Kingsman, BC reflected on the integration of the IBM 1620 computer with the college's administrative processes and the campus as a whole. "These activities are only the beginning of the computer's role on campus life," said then Professor Manuel Cynamon of the Office of Testing and Research.

Self-Defense Workshop Set For BC Students

By LAVERN McDONALD
An antiviolence workshop led by instructors from the Safety and Fitness Exchange (SAFE) will be held on Wednesday, April 16 in the Student Center, in an effort to teach methods of countering violence. The workshop is being funded entirely and sponsored in part by the Office of the Vice President For Campus Affairs. Other sponsors include the Newman Center, the Department of Special Services and the Women's Center. A similar workshop was held on Wednesday March 5; however, on March 10, a female student was assaulted on campus and this prompted the follow up workshop. "The workshop is in part a response to the constructive arguments from faculty and students at the Security Speakout (a response to the March 10 assault) which were duly considered," said Hilary Gold, Vice President for Campus Affairs. "We, as a college, are concerned with providing the best educational techniques to assist students in coping with all that happens in society, including acts of violence," then Vice President for Campus Affairs Hilary Gold said.

techniques to assist students in coping with all that happens in society including acts of violence," said Hilary Gold. The suspect in the March 10 incident has also been charged with sexually abusing and sodomizing a 16-year-old boy on the BC campus and assaulting a young woman in the BC vicinity earlier this year. "Considering that both male and female students were attacked, it is important that the males on campus realize that they too are vulnerable to crime," said Alice Miller, director of the Women's Center. "And that is one of the reasons why we've brought in a male-female team to lead the workshop and why we've offered the workshop to both males and females." "The workshop is for any one who is not totally in favor of leaving the fate completely up to others," continued Miller. "At the Security Speakout, a lot of people concerned with providing the best educational techniques to assist students in coping with all that happens in society, including acts of violence," then Vice President for Campus Affairs Hilary Gold said.

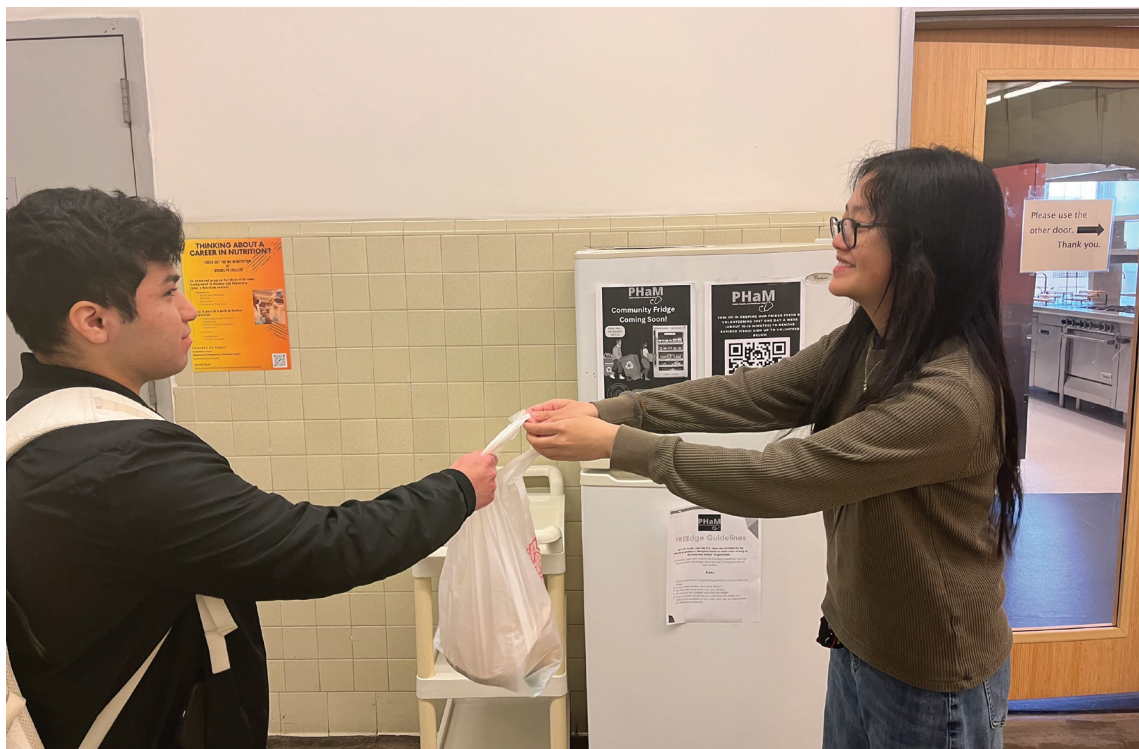
↓ On April 1 and 2, 1976, the Brooklyn College women's fencing team took second place after defending Champion San Jose State University at the 48th Annual Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Championship held at Montclair State College. Along with scoring the silver medal, the team members earned various individual accolades for their accomplishments, such as landing the first and second All-American teams and the Olympians Award. Coach Denise O'Conner, who was named "Coach of the Year" for the second year in a row, commended the team's performance in the competition. "The girls are proud of their achievement and very pleased to end their careers in collegiate fencing as the number two ranked team in the country."

↑ On April 16, 1986, a self-defense workshop was held for students in the Student Center. The workshop was in part a response to the recent assaults that occurred on and around campus, and aimed to teach students the basics behind countering violence. "We, as a college, are concerned with providing the best educational techniques to assist students in coping with all that happens in society, including acts of violence," then Vice President for Campus Affairs Hilary Gold said.



Courtesy of Illumira

Public Health and Medicine Club Opens Community Fridge on Campus



Leaders of the community fridge handing out meals./T'Neil Gooden

By T'Neil Gooden
Features Editor

Brooklyn College's Public Health and Medicine Club (PHaM) opened a Community Fridge in 5129 Old Ingersoll on April 4.

This initiative was in collaboration with Nicole Cohen, director of the BC Food Pantry, providing PHaM with all the ingredients needed to create these meals.

"We reached out to Nicole Cohen, the director of the pantry, to collaborate with the fridge. The sustainability helped connect us with Cohen as well as getting the fridge donated by BC [New York Public Interest Group] (NYPIRG)," Natalie Wu, secretary of PHaM, told The Vanguard.

The food pantry is the main supplier of the PHaM community fridge. PHaM then gathers the different food items to make them into full meals.

"The food pantry is actually where PHaM

gathers our ingredients to prepare meals. We pick up produce such as carrots, potatoes, celery, etc., and utilize these in the food lab to cook meals. In other words, the food pantry has the ingredients. PHaM gathers them to make meals," Wu said.

The initiative comes at a time when BC's own cafeteria has closed down due to a contract expiring with the vendor, requiring new food options through food trucks, as previously reported by The Vanguard. The goal of the fridge, according to board members of PHaM, was to provide BC students with more options for accessing food.

"Food insecurity has become a bigger problem ever since the cafeteria on campus stopped serving food. It's been frustrating trying to find affordable, healthy foods to fuel us during our long, busy school days," Wu told The Vanguard. "A community fridge on campus takes our food

hunger worries away from us, making meals much more accessible plus, it's free."

The fridge will be supplied with new healthy meals weekly as the menu will be updated. Students can come to the pantry and pick up fully cooked meals ready to be warmed up and eaten.

"Students on campus can't live off expensive food trucks forever. Besides, there tend to be limited options for students with various food preferences," Wu said. "There is always a better option than pricey foods or just pure junk food. If this isn't the perfect time to open up a free community fridge, I don't know what is."

With the closing of the food sections within our school cafeteria, this community fridge can provide students with available meals within our school vicinity.

"Due to the closing of the cafeteria on campus, a lot of the students had complained about the

food trucks which were expensive and served unhealthy food," Rhema Mills, vice president of PHaM, told The Vanguard. "As future doctors, nurses, and public health professionals, we knew it was the time to get active and do something about it. The community fridge was our past president Abena Dinizulu's idea, and we knew it could be part of reducing food insecurity on campus."

The demand for healthier options came even before the cafeteria shutdown on campus. The CUNY's Campaign for Healthy Food (CHeF), as previously reported by The Vanguard, was a project that strived to make CUNY the healthiest urban public university in the country. It was used to help improve the healthy food choices of CUNY's cafeterias and vending machines. Organizers hope that the fridge will be part of the continued efforts to introduce healthier options on campus.

"The goal of the fridge is to really provide an alternative to the other options on and around campus. We've learned in so many of our classes that food and the access to healthy options is a determinant of health," Mills said.

Alan Gilbert, the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, sent an email on Jan. 31, 2024, to students explaining that progress has been

made with the state of the BC cafeteria as they are finalizing solutions for more food services on campus. In the meantime, the community fridge is now a permanent staple for BC students to get daily lunch meals even after the cafeteria's food services are in flux.

Students are able to pitch into the community fridge with donations of canned goods and other items. Before donating, students must contact the PHaM community to let them know the types of ingredients being added to their community before bringing them to the fridge location.

"We strive for students and faculty to no longer have to worry about what they're going to eat or how much money they're going to have to spend on their next meal," Wu said. "We want to provide free, accessible, and fulfilling healthy meals on campus to everyone."

Interested students who want to donate items to the community fridge can reach out via PHaM's Instagram page, @bc.phamclub.



Creativity Through Community: Women's Center Launches "Community Resilience" Art Project



Graphic by Amira Turner

By Amira Turner
Arts Editor

Gathered around tables in the Women's Center on Thursday, April 4 were dozens of students participating in the Women's Center's latest event, a collaborative community art project. Room 227 in Ingersol was filled with the sounds of scissors snipping, markers scribbling, and friendly conversation over plates of samosas, pizza, and quiche, provided by the Women's Center.

In preparation for the project, the Women's Center set up tables lined with assorted papers, stickers, pens, markers, tapes, magazines, and every other craft material one might need to properly collage.

Participants were encouraged to use the materials freely to create individual collages that will be ultimately combined into one piece and displayed in the Women's Center.

According to the Women's Center, the idea was sparked by Women's Center employee Aissata Cisse after seeing a similar project by the Black and Latino Male Initiative Project (BLMI), which features a mosaic of a variety of flags representing the countries of origins of their members. Other members who then viewed the project became inspired to create their own version.

"If you go into the BLMI office in James, they have a little collage art [project]

with all of their flags. We thought it would be a cute idea to try to do something similar in The Women's Center with other students," Amber Prophete, treasurer of the Women's Center, told The Vanguard.

While working on their collages, students were encouraged to think about what community and the Women's Center means to them. The prompt spawned a myriad of responses from participants, like Women's Center employee Mariella Gomez, who was inspired by the powerful women she works with. For Gomez, the collage reinforced the collaborative community the Women's Center has strove to build.

"I thought the sticker was great: 'empowered women empower women,' because that's what I felt as soon as I came here: a whole bunch of women just supporting each other," she told The Vanguard.

Others used more abstract elements to create their collage, like Luisa Pira, Women's Center employee and founder of the Women's Center "Crochet and Chill" sessions. Pira chose to focus on symbolism surrounding self-love. "Here there's a star because you're a star [...] we have a lightning bolt because lightning strikes your confidence, and that's when you realize, 'I'm actually so great,'" she said.

Participant Rabia Khalid chose to

focus on a "Live, Laugh, Love" theme combined with her cultural background by writing it in her native language. "Live, Laugh, Love" is the theme, that's why it's written in Arabic. The Arabic just feels wholesome and lively, like it was the missing touch."

To Iqura Naheed, leader of the Muslim Women's Leadership Development Project (MWLDP) housed in the Women's Center, the event was about fostering community. It is less about the final product and more about building connections with fellow peers, with the Women's Center itself a facilitator in doing so.

"I think I could highlight 'found family,'" she told The Vanguard. "I feel that's what this place is for a lot of people like a home away from home, people you can trust: a place where you can be unapologetic to yourself and not have to question that so you can explore what you need to explore while you're in college."

The Women's Center is looking forward to hosting more community-based events in the future, including their upcoming "Karaoke Night" and co-hosting an "Eid Community Potluck."

REAL BEES!



“Real BEES” event on April 1 to teach attendees about the environmental importance of bees, and to support Astor Apiaries / Courtesy of Sofia Maryiamis.



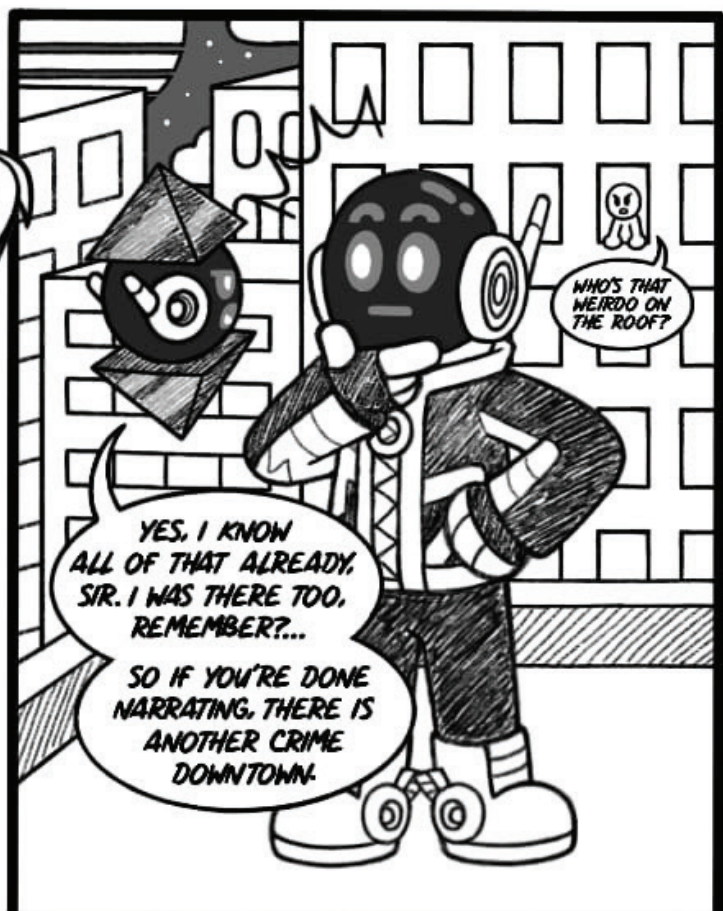
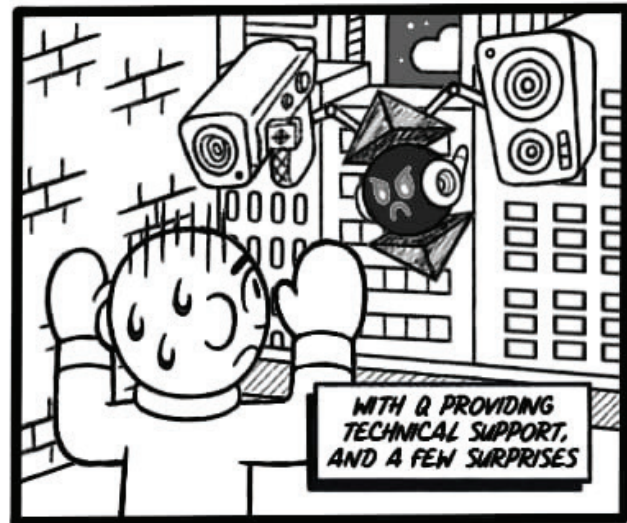
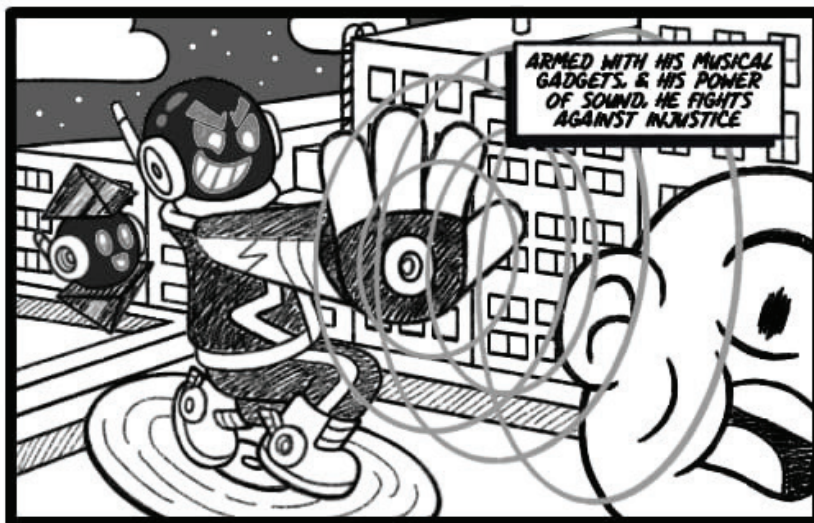


COMIC OF THE WEEK

By @martoonsarts

Courtesy of BC Comics and Sequential Arts Club

@martoonsarts



New Paths In Fashion Research: FIT's 31st Symposium

By Amira Turner
Arts Editor
 &
 Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor

On April 5, The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology (MFIT) hosted the MFIT 31st Symposium, “New Directions in Fashion Research” at the Katie Murphy Amphitheater. The symposium focused on new areas of research, which included creating more inclusive equity within fashion and exploring the histories of fashion ideals.

The event started with a welcoming address by FIT president Dr. Joyce Brown and the director of MFIT, Dr. Valerie Steele. In their opening remarks, they explained that fashion and research reflect one another in the current era.

“No longer our fashion study is just an extension of art or design history,” Dr. Steele said. “Instead, exhibits and research today approach fashion as a part and a reflection of the era’s cultures.”

The first showcase of

studies was by Colleen Hill, curator of costume and accessories at MFIT, who discussed her Ph.D. studies on “Cabinets of Curiosities.” These “cabinets” were defined as private collections, mainly by rich, white men, that withheld peculiar objects from animals’ skulls to everyday discoveries such as seashells. These items were accumulated over time, and became the precursors to museums. Such cabinets had great effects on fashion research, as many fashion houses began their archival research cognisant of similar practices and physicalities as Cabinets of Curiosities.

“My approach to this topic needed to demonstrate how curatorial practice can act as a form of research in its own right,” Hill said.

Next in the symposium was speaker Natalie Khan, the director of “Culture, Criticism, and Curation” at Central Saint Martins, who told *The Vanguard* her experience with the processes of runway walks and consumerism’s relationship with fast fashion. Khan spoke



Nathalie Khan presents “Bee okay.”/Amira Turner

about fashion designer Niko’s design of her runway look, where a logo shirt of “REEBOK” was dismantled to show the words “BEE OK,” a suggestive nod to consumerism’s hyperfocus on logos and materialism.

“[Niko] reassembles images and letters to dismantle the icons of corporate power and to subvert and block the ideology which underpins cultural imperialism,” Khan said. “A runway becomes a space for which such activities can be explored. And fashion is situated within these spaces. So, the model’s embodied experience is said within the set, special practices of the runway show.”

The symposium continued with a presentation from Parsons School of Design dean Ben Barry on the importance of equity, inclusion, and decolonization in fashion education.

Barry explored how fashion education institutions can act as sites of vast knowledge, but they often function as gatekeepers to that knowledge. He discussed educational institutions’ attempts to challenge their exclusionary histories through mission statements, particularly after the international protests sparked by the death of George Floyd in 2020.

“These [mission statements] were met with hurt and rightful skepticism. Students, alumni, and staff demands were awakened about harmful practices and the changes needed to correct them,” Barry said.

Barry provided a series of tools he had put in place as the dean to promote more equitable values. These tools included reworking hiring processes to provide more job opportunities for Indigenous educators.

“[Fashion educators] must enter Indigenous knowledge and practices in our teaching as part of this process. The student wouldn’t study in France without learning about French fashion history, culture, and practices,” he said. “Similarly, a fashion student must learn about the ongoing histories, cultures, and practices of indigenous fashion.”

Barry’s presentation was followed by dress and textile historian Hillary Davidson’s talk on fashion reconstruction and the role emerging technology had in its evolution. Davidson’s work in historical fashion reconstruction focuses on accurately recreating historical garments into fully functional pieces that can be worn. Davidson emphasized the importance of historical fashion reconstruction in understanding the people who wore historical

garments, and the people who made them.

“Reconstructing fabric and textile objects can help recognize the skills and cultural values they maintain a new, complex, and excitingly challenging ways in the past, who was civilized and who had a voice worth listening to,” Davidson said.

Davidson shared examples of garments she has worked to digitally restore using Computer Aided Design software, also known as CAD. CAD allowed Davidson to create fully three-dimensional, moveable models of 19th-century garment patterns that had previously only been seen one-dimensionally.

“New Directions in Fashion Research” is one of many symposiums at FIT, and the university will continue to lead research in order to pioneer the fashion industry.

“We know that fashion can capture a moment,” said Dr. Steele. “But through various and vigorous research and careful study, it can also help to tell our history as well.”



MFIT’s denim exhibit in the entrance of the school./ Amira Turner



New Nonbinary Characters Expand Queer Representation in Gaming

By Eden Lawrence
Staff Writer

First-person-shooter video games “Valorant” and “Overwatch 2,” have achieved a “first” in their respective games: both have introduced a non-binary character in their roster. Valorant has introduced Clove, and Overwatch 2 has given us Venture. Both characters canonically use they/them pronouns, and this is a big step for representation in video games. There’s been an increase of Queer characters in video games, and I hope to see this trend continue.

As a Queer gamer myself, I love seeing more companies introduce characters that are part of the LGBTQ+ community. One of my favorite games to play is “Apex Legends,” as Queer representation has been present within the game since its debut in early 2019. One of its characters, Bloodhound, identifies as nonbinary. Another character named Gibraltar is a gay man. Both of these characters’ identities play a massive role in their lore.

Bloodhound was raised by their uncle who taught them to embrace and learn from nature. They were separated from the public and didn’t live a life framed by societal norms, so Bloodhound going by they/them is natural. On the



←
Venture from Overwatch
/Blizzard Entertainment

other hand, Gibraltar was stuck in a mudslide with his then-boyfriend, Nick, when his father saved them both from peril. This event led to Gibraltar valuing life more and wanting to dedicate himself to helping others. It also showed that Gibraltar’s father was accepting of his son being gay, risking his life for them both.

Not only are these characters’ Queerness brought up in a natural light, but they also evolve. Bloodhound forms a romantic relationship with a pansexual character, Fuse, which was made official in Oct. 2022. Gibraltar and Nick are later seen having more conversations, patching up the relationship. This, however, isn’t all.

In Oct. 2022, Respawn Entertainment, the video game company in charge of “Apex Legends,” released a new character, Catalyst, which was Apex’s first-ever transgender character. Catalyst, a male-to-female transgender woman, was

another character that broke the boundaries of gaming. Respawn even hired a transgender woman, Meli Grant, as the voice actress. There wasn’t a lot of transgender representation in gaming, so it was nice to see developers make an effort to connect with these communities. Seeing how well they made a transgender character in terms of design and story leaves me wondering how more Queer characters will be presented in the future.

While this is the first time Valorant and Overwatch 2 have given us nonbinary characters, this isn’t their first instance of acknowledging the Queer community.

In Dec. 2022, the Valorant Twitter page posted a photo confirming the lesbian relationship of their two characters, Raze and Killjoy. However, this remains Valorant’s only Queer couple. With the introduction of Clove, I hope to see Riot Games, Valorant’s game developer, find more ways to

represent the community. With Raze and Killjoy in a lesbian relationship and Clove as a more feminine representation, I hope to see the inclusion of a Queer man in the future.

Queer representation in Overwatch 2 can date back to 2016 with the character Tracer. Tracer has been an iconic character in Overwatch with many considering her the poster child of the game, which makes her confirmation of being a lesbian even more important for the Queer community.

Soldier 76, another iconic character, was confirmed to be gay in early 2019 in a short story titled “Bastet.” This story saw Soldier 76 talking about a former lover, Vincent, who was now married with children. Soldier 76 is another contender for Overwatch’s poster child, shedding light on a community that has been overlooked for years.

Additionally, two other characters were confirmed to be Queer in 2023. In late May of last year, Blizzard Entertainment, developers of Overwatch 2, released another short story titled, “As You Are,” featuring characters Pharah and Baptiste. In this narrative, Pharah comes out to Baptiste as a lesbian. What I love about this moment is how Pharah didn’t dance around the subject. She casually brought it up in the conversation, which sticks out to Baptiste. This leads to him nonverbally coming out as bisexual. The story is even bordered with pink, purple, and blue: the

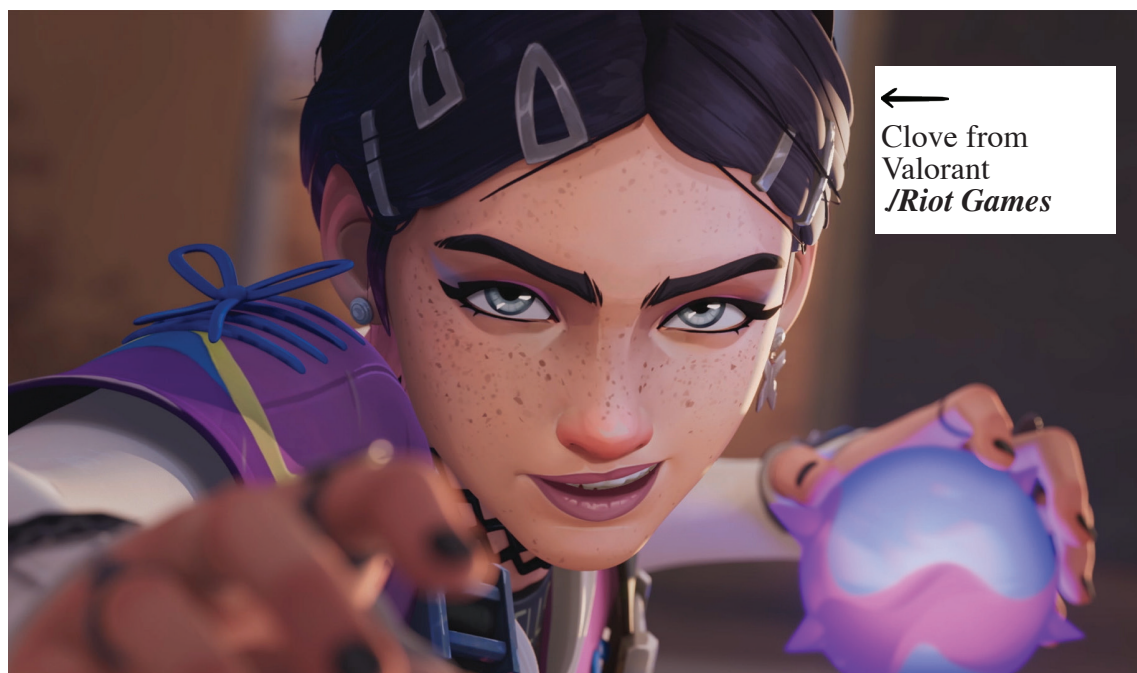
colors of the bisexual flag.

With the inclusion of all these queer characters, hate and homophobia is bound to follow, and this sadly comes in many forms. Many people try to boycott the game, saying developers are making it “too woke.” They claim that developers are only including Queer characters to appease liberal gamers, while others purposely use incorrect pronouns for certain characters. They will use she/her for Clove, and even refer to Catalyst as a man. Their hate extends further, as some will go out of their way to harass other gamers for simply choosing to play as Queer characters.

I believe the best way to drive out this hate is for the developers to make it known that homophobia isn’t something they want to harbor in their community. Respawn Entertainment, Riot Games, and Blizzard Entertainment have made their stance known.

Apex Legends, Valorant, and Overwatch 2 gave their communities LGBTQ+ banners and badges to use on their profiles. These cosmetic items were free of charge, allowing Queer gamers to show their pride.

The environment of gaming is usually seen as toxic and unwelcoming to people who aren’t cis-gender, white males. Developers aim to change this by implementing more diversity within their games. Gaming should be for everyone, and I can’t wait to see who they introduce next.



←
Clove from
Valorant
/Riot Games

WrestleMania 40 Recap:

WWE's Biggest Event of the Year



Promotional poster for WrestleMania 40/
Oddschecker

By Sean Markisic
Sports Editor

WrestleMania 40 is the 40th annual WrestleMania and took place this year on April 6 and 7. The biggest storyline following the show was whether or not the most popular character in WWE, Cody Rhodes, can dethrone Roman Reigns, who has been world champion since Aug. 2020.

Roman Reigns coined himself “The Tribal Chief,” claiming that he was at the top of WWE and that no one can beat him in the battle for championship. In the build up to this match, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, who has starred in a variety of films, returned to WWE and joined forces with Reigns in order to ensure that Rhodes had no chance to dethrone

him. With Johnson as a wrestlingboard member for “Total Knockout”—the company that was created as branding for the merger between the UFC and WWE—Johnson has had influence in Rhodes versus Reigns. Johnson headed into this match by beating Rhodes down in the leadup with the hopes of weakening Rhodes.

Seth Rollins, who used to be partners with Reigns when he first started in WWE, was willing to stand with Rhodes. Rollins feels that Reign’s title run is starting to get to his head and that he’s full of himself.

As a result, Rollins and Rhodes challenged Johnson and Reigns to a tag team match on night one of Wrestlemania on April 6. The stipulation of the tag team match was if Johnson and

Reigns won, the Rhodes versus Reigns title match on the second night would be “Bloodline Rules,” which meant that anyone would be able to interfere in the match, likely resulting poorly for Rhodes. There was a social media movement started by fans that was called “We Want Cody.” The movement was about the fans expressing their desire to see Rhodes be the one to face Reigns at Wrestlemania.

Rhodes defeated Roman Reigns on night two of WrestleMania, and after three and a half years Roman Reigns is no longer world champion. The match went well over 30 minutes, and it took everything out of Rhodes to defeat Reigns.

Rollins aimed to defend his world championship on the second night on Sunday,

April 7, against Drew McIntyre. McIntyre has told Rollins in the past that he should not be focused on Rock and Roman because that is Rhodes’ battle to fight and not his. McIntyre believes that Rollins’ main priority should be to carry his title with honor and because he’s not doing that, McIntyre feels he needs to win the title in order to put significance back into the championship.

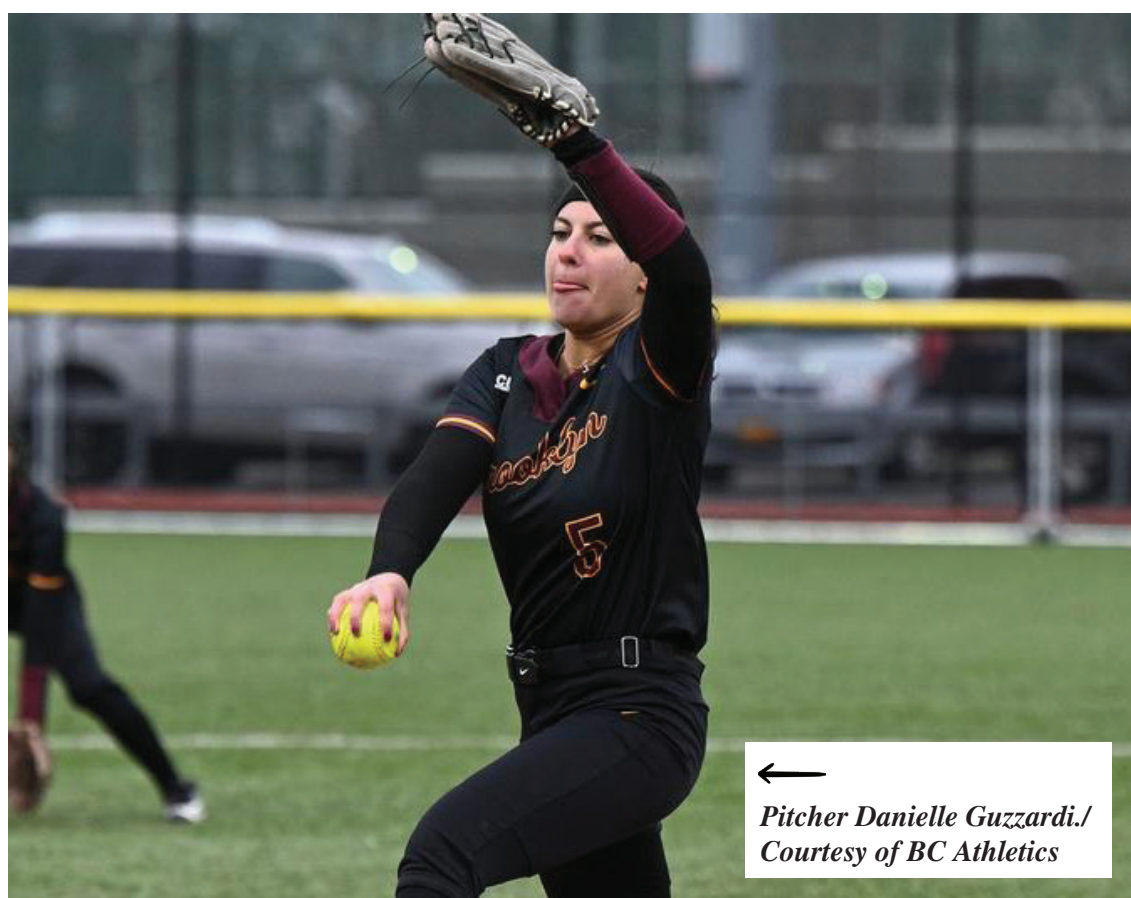
Another mainstage match for WrestleMania 40 included Rhea Ripley versus Becky Lynch for the Women’s World Championship. Ripley has been champ for over a year, and has defeated any challenger she’s faced. At Wrestlemania, Ripley aimed to defend the championship against Lynch, who is a seasoned veteran in the WWE.

Lynch is the biggest

threat to Ripley because she’s been to the top before. In addition to this, lots of the people that have challenged Ripley up until this point were not at her level, whereas Lynch will be at the same skill level as Ripley.

WrestleMania 40 saw a ton of top level stars battling one another. Rhea Ripley defeated Becky Lynch on April 6, solidifying herself at the top of the women’s division in the company. The Rock and Roman Reigns defeated Seth Rollins and Cody Rhodes on April 6, which meant that on April 7 the match between Rhodes and Roman was not gonna be a fair fight. Rhodes valiantly prevailed against all odds, and did what no one else was able to do for a long period of time: defeat Roman Reigns.

BC Softball Team Loses to Hunter



←
Pitcher Danielle Guzzardi./
Courtesy of BC Athletics

By Manuel Polanco
Staff Writer

Freshman Jelisa Palenque hit a two-run double in the bottom of the second inning helping the Bulldogs get an early 2-0 lead. These were the only runs Brooklyn would score in the game, as Hunter would come back in the third inning and score three runs of their own.

The softball team held another double header against the Hunter College Hawks, and lost both games.

After a scoreless first inning, the Hawks scored a run in the second inning via a sacrifice fly. The Bulldogs answered right back in the bottom of the second.

Bulldogs Lose Second Game Of The Double Header

By Manuel Polanco
Staff Writer

The Bulldogs came into the second game of the doubleheader swinging and got runs on the board early.

Freshman catcher Vida Rodriguez began with an RBI single in the first inning that got a run on board. The scoring didn't stop there, as third baseman Isabella Frank had an RBI single that scored Rodriguez and a runner on third. This helped propel the Bulldogs to a quick 3-0 start.

This lead would not hold however as the Hawks responded quickly and scored three runs of their own in the top of the third inning.

Frank helped lead them out of the 3-4, and in the bottom of the third inning she hit an RBI-single that would

reclaim the 4-3 lead for the Bulldogs. The Hawks answered with runs of their own, tying the game yet again, but Vida Rodriguez struck again with an RBI single that scored two runs and extended the lead to 6-4. Rodriguez had a good game as she netted herself 3 RBIs and went 2-4.

The Hawks were not going down without a fight, as they would not only tie the game but take the lead in the sixth inning making it 7-6. An error in the bottom of the sixth inning by the Hawks let a runner score for the Bulldogs, tying the game 7-7 until the top of the seventh inning.

The Hawks had an RBI single in the top of the seventh and scored the decisive run, winning 8-7.



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Courtesy of BC Athletics