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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

VANGUARD

Spring 2024, Issue 10

vanguard.blog.brooklyn.edu

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Monday, May 6th

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BC Student Enrollment at a New Low



By T'Neil Gooden
Features Editor

As the spring semester comes to an end, Brooklyn College's enrollment numbers have reached a new low as the number of undergraduate students continues to decrease.

According to official reports released by BC, the enrollment number at BC has continued to decline annually, leading to the target enrollment for spring 2024 to have a decrease of around 950 students. Compared to spring 2023 data, the number of students who did not enroll increased by over 800.

After the spike in enrollment of students in the fall of 2021, the number of undergraduate students enrolled has constantly declined at BC. The number has decreased by over 200 students annually after that growth in 2021.

In contrast, the graduate student enrollment at BC has

increased by over 50 students. The numbers went from 2,273 in the spring of 2023, to 2,362 students in the spring of 2024. This has been the area with the most increase within the BC enrollment numbers of 2024.

The school has not been able to hit its target since 2021, even as student life returned in-person after COVID-19 as public, private, and community schools began to open their doors.

In the spring of 2021, around 15,902 students were enrolled at BC, and though this had decreased from the numbers in the fall of 2021, it was still a high number. Since then, the total enrollment number has been 12,002 BC students for the spring of 2024.

At the beginning of this year, CUNY announced that they would be extending the deadline for students to commit to college to June 1. In a statement released by CUNY

Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, he emphasized that CUNY will continue its efforts to make college education accessible for all through financial aid.

“For millions of youngadultswrestling over where to attend college, access to financial aid is often the deciding factor. This is particularly true for CUNY: an institution founded on the promise of providing a public first-rate education to all students, regardless of means,” said Chancellor Rodríguez. “By pushing back Commitment Day, we’re able to provide students and families the flexibility to make an informed decision and enable more New Yorkers to seize the benefits of public higher education.”

According to the New York City Comptroller, CUNY numbers overall have increased in the past year after a drastic decline in enrollment.

“In the wake of the COVID-19

pandemic, CUNY has faced notable budget and operational constraints. Enrollment has declined nearly 15 percent since the fall of 2019—though it increased slightly from 2023 to 2024 academic years—impacting tuition revenue and funding,” reported the Comptroller.

Chancellor Felix Matos Rodriguez spoke on CUNY enrollment in his “State of CUNY” address conference back in October of 2023, and advocated for the importance of increasing the numbers, according to Chalkbeat.

“Enrollment might just sound like a lot of numbers, but it’s fundamental,” said Rodríguez. “It’s a tangible measure of how well we’re delivering on our core mission of providing access to a first-rate education to everyone in our city.”

“Hanbok and Handicrafts”: Korean Culture Club Hosts Art Workshop

By Kate Dempsey
Editor-in-Chief

The Gold Lounge in the Student Center was transformed into a calm, artistic scene transporting Brooklyn College students to South Korea as they made their artwork. “TWICE” and “New Jeans” K-Pop songs merged with attendees’ laughter as they created a cacophony of Korean cultural immersion.

The Korean Culture Club (KCC) hosted the arts workshop to further immerse BC students in Korean culture, especially those who may just be beginning to learn more about the culture. For students who have just completed finals and others who are heading into finals, the event was an opportunity for students to relax during this stressful time of the semester.

“Our main goal was to definitely introduce Korean art and build upon a stronger community bond amongst members and individuals,” said Paula Chewy, vice president of KCC. “We would like our members to relax, as in Korea they deeply care a lot about health and are continuously working on ways to help improve mental health.”

Among the crafts chosen was creating origami versions of “hanboks”: traditional Korean clothing decorated in vibrant colors and patterns, which visually represent what the wearer wishes for in the future. For the KCC board, it was a moment to appreciate the newly-arrived spring season.

“Korea’s art culture can be described as vibrant and unique, as it offers a gratifying combination of tradition and modernity,” said Chewy. “We chose cherry blossoms to help convey how we wish that

spring will bring joy to everyone, and we also had other patterns like waves, forest, and other flowers to display the beauty of appreciating our surroundings and for smooth transitioning to the next season.”

Among other art creations for attendees was a “Ddakji” station, a traditional game in Korea (and most famously seen in the Korean-produced Netflix series “Squid Game”) which involves players using folded paper tiles to flip their opponent’s tile over. The game, popular amongst Korean youth, teaches players to be resilient to win the game of flipping the opponent’s tile.

The event allowed attendees to fulfill their desires of learning more about Korea, some having learned about Korea firsthand during previous visits. Knowing that there is a dedicated club towards Korean culture on campus helps to foster the appreciation of the culture.

“I just came back from Korea when I joined, and I wanted to see what [the club] was about,” said Alexius Petitfrere, an arts major at BC. “Everyone is just so welcoming and willing to help out and I love arts and crafts too, being an arts major, and I also just love being able to bond with people over a common interest.”

Other attendees expressed their appreciation of KCC for bringing people together through creative means..

“I love arts and crafts [...] just [to] be here at this event and let my creativity flow, it’s a really nice thing,” said Kat Rodriguez, a sophomore at BC. “They always come up with great, creative events. I’m always down to like be there and participate and make some new friends, it’s a great time.”

Another art station



↑ Courtesy of Kate Dempsey

included a create-your-own “Hahoetal” mask. While at first the masks may seem like that of being part of a Halloween costume, these traditional Korean masks are believed to have magical powers to protect those who wear them, and can often be found hanging outside of homes. “We wanted to scare away any bad and negative feelings the members were feeling, and to express themselves with their mask and to have the powers to protect their grades and good energy,” said Chewy.

One of the last stations for participants to make artwork at was dedicated to making bookmarks. While just used here in the United States to remember one’s spot in their book, bookmarks in Korea have added significance to the culture.

“Korean bookmarks have a huge cultural significance, such as

representing traditional Korean doors, cultural properties, or traditional Korean designs,” said Chewy. “But for the activity, we put a modern twist as in Myeongdong—a neighborhood in Seoul, South Korea—is popular for its shopping, parade route, and tourism, [and] there are multiple stationary locations such as decorating and customizing bags, hats, sneakers, hoodies, keychains, and even bookmarks.”

With a global phenomenon and craze over K-Pop and K-Drama, the event allowed participants to have their creative say in Korean-inspired art.

“It was really fun to get to create art pieces we’d usually see in dramas or other types of media,” Anastasia Johnson, president of KCC, said. “It was also fun seeing how people interpreted

their own art styles to the Korean ones.”

The event, according to its members, was a testament to the growing appreciation of Korean culture. Through this shared appreciation, more people can bond with one another and raise awareness about the beauty within Korean culture.

“It was a great way to be expressive, and the creativity of everyone around me was inspiring towards my own piece,” said Johnson. “As for the Hanboks, I’m glad we were able to showcase such traditional clothing pieces, people got to really see some of the beauty of the culture.”

Students interested in learning more about Korean culture or joining KCC can check out their Instagram at @kcc.bc

Campus to Catwalk: BC's Professor Pham Brings Fashion Show to Campus with "-Cide"

By Amira Turner
Arts Editor

The models strutting between the East and West Quad decked out in designer streetwear on April 16, didn't think they'd be making their runway debut on Bedford Ave that day. Students became models, adorned in runway looks that looked straight out of New York Fashion Week, bringing the fashion world to Brooklyn College that day.

The fashion show was a collaboration between Professor Ngoc Pham's "Consumer Behavior" course and designer Deshawn McKenzie, founder of Brooklyn-based streetwear brand "-Cide." Pham invited McKenzie to guest lecture at BC, which was open to all students and friends interested

in fashion marketing.

McKenzie founded -Cide independently in 2017, after designing a pair of pants and received an enormous amount of positive feedback for only one item he designed.

"When I would wear these pants, I'd get a lot of compliments... one day someone asked 'how much for them?' and I was shell-shocked," he told students at the lecture. McKenzie ended up selling the pants for \$150.

He then started designing clothes for his wife, Shanice McKenzie, which then led to him starting -Cide. His designs have now been worn by celebrities like Halle Bailey, and featured with brands like Shein.

McKenzie's lecture included advice on blending marketing skills with creative endeavors. "As you go



↓ Students of Professor Pham's class had the opportunity to become fashion models themselves /Amira Turner

with designing, you have to as well think, what audience you know, you want to resonate with who you're going to sell this to, and then how you're going to sell this too as well," he told the class.

McKenzie also emphasized the importance of family, as he brought his wife and grandparents to the event.

"I told him 'I'm going,' because you have to support the younger ones, and I'm so proud of him," McKenzie's grandmother, Sheila McKenzie, told The Vanguard.

The lecture concluded with a student-moderated Q&A, as well as an opportunity for students to pitch marketing ideas for the brand directly to McKenzie.

This integration of real-world fashion experience has helped bring out new sides of Dr. Pham's students, providing them with an opportunity into the fashion world that they

may not have otherwise gotten exposure to.

"I think so far it's been a really great exposure because I tend to be more on the introverted side [...] So seeing people who are very comfortable in their skin when it comes to fashion and design is a new side for me to explore," student Somaiya Ahmed told The Vanguard

McKenzie shared the significant impact outreach events like this can have on students, showing them that anyone can make it in the fashion industry if they are passionate about it. "I can come in there, you know, and give that student the exposure or give them the spark that they need to thrive in life," he told The Vanguard.

McKenzie provided a myriad of runway-worn sample pieces for students to try on and model. The pieces ranged from red leather snakeskin pants to floral quilted blazers and his staple white t-shirts. Dr.

Pham enthusiastically encouraged all in attendance to try something on, transforming a classroom of students into a diverse range of runway-ready models. Once everyone in attendance was decked out in -Cide, Dr. Pham led a cross-campus catwalk, turning the heads of students and faculty alike.

The line of 18 models began their strut at Whitehead Hall, through the East Quad, across Bedford Ave, and to the West End building, where they posed for photos, and continued back to the East Quad. The line of models was trailed by McKenzie, who proudly watched on with pride.

For McKenzie, the event was a success, as his ultimate goal for the brand was for everyone to have a positive experience.

"Feel good in -Cide," he told The Vanguard. "That was my motivating factor."



↑ Students wearing clothes from the -Cide brand /Amira Turner

TEDxCUNY 2024: “UNRAVEL” Conference Held at John Jay College

By Daniel Afanasyev
Staff Writer

Dean of Macaulay Honors College, Dara N. Byrne, addressing the attendees, spoke on the theme of the conference, stating that, “It’s in the act of unraveling that we actually find the greatest moments of discovery. It’s only by unraveling that we can truly hope to understand, to grow, to question, and to thrive in an ever-changing world.”

On April 12, the much anticipated 2024 TEDxCUNY conference returned to John Jay College’s Gerald W. Lynch Theater for a full day of talks, workshops, and events.

Launched in 2013, TEDxCUNY is an independently-organized and student-run production officially associated with the TEDxTalks organization. The event serves as an arena for the exchange of ideas and innovations within the CUNY community.

As previously reported by The Vanguard, TEDxCUNY has kept to a distinct theme for each of its conferences. In keeping with that tradition, the theme of this year’s conference was “UNRAVEL,” which sought to “confront the knots in our everyday existence and detangle our perception of reality,” according to its mission statement.

Many of the speakers included some of Brooklyn College’s own faculty, including program director Shemeka Brathwait, a spoken word artist who focuses on balancing work, life, and activism. After landing her dream job in fashion design, Shemeka’s vision for the future quickly turned sour after experiencing long work hours and lack of satisfaction in her work, which threatened to “unravel” her under its conditions.

“In that era of trying to be superwoman I became burnt out, and this isn’t a fleeting fatigue, but more like a lingering that



↓ Shemeka Brathwait advocating for a balanced life during her TEDxCUNY talk /*Kate Dempsey*

becomes a catalyst for a major transformation,” she said. “I needed to learn how to prioritize myself and to find work that was fulfilling to do on a daily basis.”

Shemeka shared her advice to the crowd by sharing her story of giving back to her local community, and thinking of how best to live and work while simultaneously serving it. During her talk, Shemeka introduced a roadmap for impactful community service called “PLAN,” an acronym that stands for “productivity, leverage, accommodate, and navigate.” Community service is an activity that every person can incorporate into their daily life if one strategically goes about it, which can positively reflect one’s life and work.

“If you take small steps towards taking action, it will lead to a major impact that you’re able to do, and as you sow together pockets of the little free time that you have, you can weave together a creation of wonderful opportunities,” she told the crowd.

BC’s Carolina Rosa Martinez, program coordinator for the Peer Mentoring Program, was another speaker at the conference. In her

talk, she discussed the rediscovery of her identity and heritage through her college education while researching Caribbean folklore. The first examples of mythology that are often thought of are the Greek, Roman, or Norse, but mythology’s existence in the Caribbean is rarely ever considered, and its folklore continues to remain largely foreign to many.

It was through a literature of African diaspora class Carolina took at BC that she first learned of Caribbean mythology, which prompted her to learn about her own people and culture. Carolina, witnessing Caribbean mythology’s obscurity and lack of comparison with the world’s other mythologies, undertook a thesis during her last year at BC researching the history of the Dominican oral tradition.

“In the process of this research I learned so much about Dominican oral tradition, also about Caribbean mythology, and I felt more acquainted with a culture that I come from. This research helped me understand that I can go from an idea to an actual project that holds cultural significance, and the power behind that knowledge allowed me to

find my voice and use it,” she said.

Reflecting on the experience of researching her cultural identity helped Carolina find belonging in her identity, sharing with the crowd that taking initiative to discover something new can be a continually rewarding experience.

Even as college students face a chaotic world full of “knots,” TEDxCUNY hoped to inspire students through educators so that they too can make a difference. To speakers of the event, the goal of education is not just to work towards getting a good grade, it’s about better understanding the world even through all of its complexities.

“Education is not just about earning passing grades and eventually a degree,” said Martinez in her concluding remarks. “It is an opportunity to learn things we did not get to learn before and understand more about ourselves, and unravel the many prejudices that are attached to the things that we are interested in learning.”

More information on 2024’s TEDxCUNY and their past conferences can be found at: <https://www.tedxuncny.com/>



↓ Attendees could write down what made them “unravel.” /*Kate Dempsey*

Rage! Rico Nasty Puts on an Electric Show for CUNY Students

By Amira Turner
Arts Editor
 &
 Kiara Jones-Ford
Staff Writer

For most CUNY students, attending private concerts on a Friday night is not a common occurrence, but Hunter College's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is working to make it one. On April 12, Hunter College's USG hosted a high-energy night of music for CUNY students at the Terminal 5 concert hall, headlined by alternative rapper Rico Nasty. Hundreds of CUNY students stood in line, clad in their best concert looks, excitedly awaiting the chance to see Rico Nasty up close and personal with their peers.

The D.C.-based rapper's performance was wholly representative of her unique musical aesthetic that she has dubbed "Sugar Trap." In an interview with Vlad TV, she described the genre as a blend of her love for the grimy elements emblematic of traditional Trap

music and her bubbly personality. Her music combines booming Trap beats with playful feminine aesthetics and alternative rock influences, and her lyrical content is energetic, provocative, and explicit. All of these characteristics combined to create a performance that kept crowds jumping and screaming from start to finish.

DJ Sir Future kicked off the night strong with a set of hits, from Ice Spice's "Princess Diana," to Paramore's "Misery Business," drawing hype from the crowd as they eagerly awaited Rico Nasty. After much anticipation, Rico Nasty burst on the stage, playing into her edgy aesthetics with an all-black shirt and sweatshirt combination, topped off with an Adidas Y-3 UT cap. Rico opened her performance with "OHFR?" an anthemic hit single off of her debut album "Nightmare Vacation."

Rico Nasty's hour-long set included several of her popular songs such as "IPHONE," "Poppin," "Money," "Gotsta Get Paid," and "Arintintin," a single from her

latest EP, "HARDCORE DR3AMZ." Her performance was set off by her masterful flow and her larger-than-life stage presence that commanded every inch of the stage.

The show by Hunter College's USG members was to ensure CUNY students get the most out of their college experience. In an interview with The Vanguard, External Affairs Commissioner Daniel Cronin said that he felt many CUNY students "struggle with finding a sense of community," and wanted to remedy that sentiment with larger social events.

"Students aren't afforded the same social opportunities that other colleges may offer, but it doesn't have to be that way," Cronin told The Vanguard. "CUNY ought to be fun, there's no reason our events can't be as big as any other school."

To other organizers, hosting the event was a means of showing that public colleges can have the same great experiences as those at private universities.

"Going to college at a public school specifically, I was really

nervous I wasn't going to have the college experience everyone imagines," USG evening affairs commissioner Sofia Rothermel told The Vanguard. "Going into this school year my goal was to make people feel like they were getting the private school experience in a sense."

Rothermel expressed how "surreal" it was seeing her efforts come to fruition. "I was overwhelmed with all the people I had to contact and stay in touch with, but I had a great support system who encouraged me the entire time. Without their undying faith in me, this event would not have been possible."

USG President Bashir Juwara feels that planning events like this is important for classes of students whose high school experience was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Many students in the Class of 2024 missed out on traditional high school events like prom or attended their high school graduation via Zoom," Juwara told The Vanguard. "Many CUNY students anticipate gatherings like this concert, where they can socialize with friends,

make new acquaintances, enjoy themselves, and alleviate academic pressures."

Hunter's USG hopes to make this kind of event more regular. They're continuing to host events throughout the spring, the concert just the latest of their planned itinerary for the remainder of the semester. Cronin told The Vanguard that students will "be seeing more from [them] soon."



Courtesy of Kate Dempsey
↓
Collage by Kaylin Guzman



The Fall of A Nickelodeon Princess: Jojo Siwa and “Karma”

Courtesy of Amy Sussman for AP



By Jaida Dent
Staff Writer
&
Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor

From selling bows to attempts at becoming pop music’s favorite new innovator, Joelle Siwa, known professionally as “Jojo” Siwa, began as a reality television member and then a Nickelodeon starlet. Her indistinguishable bows, complete with the signature pull-back ponytail, became a symbol of her unstoppable rise in the world of childhood entertainment.

Siwa, who is now 20, grew tired of the smiley life of a child star, and she decided to develop a rebrand that takes inspiration from Miley Cyrus’s 2013 “Bangerz” era—an era that swiftly stripped away all connection to Cryus’s past life as a Disney star.

At the iHeartRadio music awards, Siwa debuted her

rebranding with a KISS-inspired makeup look, a fake mohawk, and a black glittery ensemble.

With her dance-pop and EDM-inspired debut single “Karma,” Siwa shows us how genuine she is about her intentions with music. The single, which details a protagonist who cheats on their girlfriend who now suffers from guilt and karma after seeing their ex with a new lover, has been universally acclaimed as a failure to stride within the music scene.

Siwa made claims regarding her future in music, claiming that she is now “the CEO of gay pop,” according to Billboard. The term “gay pop” is not necessarily defined by sonic themes, more so by which songs are generally accepted by the queer community.

To announce herself as the “CEO” of this beloved genre, many have taken up arms against Siwa due to

her insensitivity and ignorance on the subject. When Siwa dictates herself as “the CEO of gay pop,” she puts queer people into another box with labels nobody asked for. Many social media users corrected Siwa’s statement by referencing

singers who genuinely deserve their spots in “gay pop,” such as Kylie Minogue, Britney Spears, and Christina Aguilera, among many others.

Not only do her claims of ushering in a “new” genre cast a shadow of ingenuity upon her, but her “new” song isn’t so new after all.

Recently, users on TikTok discovered a version of Karma that is lyrically identical to Siwa’s version, but it was performed by a singer named Brit Smith in 2012. The song would have been Smith’s debut, but her label went with a different one. To make Siwa’s new era more ironic rather than iconic,

Karma was initially written for Miley Cyrus, who at that point was also creating a new chapter in her career.

Users began to ridicule Siwa for “stealing” the song and marketing it as if she wrote it herself. In reality, Siwa never stole the song, and it was pitched to her by her label, Columbia Records. In an episode of the “Call Her Daddy” podcast, she stated that she was pitched the song when she was 18 years old, but felt she couldn’t sing it as she had just stepped away from Nickelodeon and wasn’t a “bad girl” yet as the song says.

Yet two years later, the song still doesn’t fit Siwa’s persona. Those who recognize Siwa from her time on Nickelodeon, and even previously on Dance Moms, know her for her colorful personality that allowed her to gain an audience of young girls who idolized her. It is hard to grasp this identity she is creating before us as it feels

forced upon

viewers rather than a natural growth we are witnessing.

It is not unusual for an artist to make dramatic shifts in their persona throughout their career; however, some truth and reality remain in these shifts. Siwa is no longer marketing to “Jojo Siwa Fans” who were predominantly children, but now to a queer audience who might not be familiar with her previous work.

The song Karma is not conceptually revolutionary nor is it inherently “gay pop,” so this looming unoriginality doesn’t support Siwa in this new transition. Overall, there is a disconnect between the song and the visuals that Siwa is presenting to us. Viewers don’t understand how this somewhat heavy metal look will play out in this new era for Siwa.

Siwa has the potential to be a star in this realm of music accepted by queer listeners; however, until we see some form of cohesion in what we are given, this first step in Siwa’s new chapter is starting as a failure.



Courtesy of Jeff Kravitz for FilmMagic



Capitalism and Greenery: Why Is Earth Day Not A Major Holiday?

By Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor

Earth Day is a significant holiday that has been marked and exemplified by both powerful movements in history, Nickelodeon's unique "Day of Play," a repetition of the three R's of rescue, reuse, and recycle, as well as global protests for climate justice. This idea of significance raises the question of why Earth Day is not taken as seriously as other global days of action.

Earth Day originated through community efforts to establish legislation for conservation efforts. On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was celebrated by attending inaugural events in many public areas and services, such as schools, universities, and community sites, according to the Library of Congress.

The holiday has been marked by simple acknowledgments, community efforts for change, and ensured connection with nature. However, on a national level, action has yet to be taken to give Earth Day agency from other holidays. Capitalism's influence and internal mechanisms can explain the lack of corporate interest and the perceived insignificance of Earth Day compared to other

holidays.

Holidays such as Valentine's Day, Christmas, and other holidays are popularized with advertisements by major corporations in order to be used as a selling point. Earth Day has been seen to have little add-on value to the economic status of its surroundings due to volunteering, advertising away from material aspects, appreciating natural occurrences, and taking care of the only non-profitable thing on planet Earth: itself.

When it comes to celebrating Earth Day, something to take note of is to acknowledge the land that we are celebrating. New York City was indigenous land, with contemporary names like Manhattan stemming from its original name, Manahatta; this land was sacred to the Lenape tribe.

In textbooks, the original cultivators of our land, the indigenous tribes, are not celebrated as they should be. Instead, we see that caucasian people organized and fulfilled the land through its foundation, forgetting the tribes that helped the settlers make their land and cultivate it in the first place.

With such a whitewashed history pervasive throughout history textbooks and



verbal retellings of New York's history, acknowledging the people who founded and built the foundation for society is fundamental to celebrating our Earth.

All these aspects explain why big corporations do not promote Earth Day as a significant holiday. However, although this day is not celebrated, activities still happen. Especially in areas like New York City, celebrating a day where we should reconnect with nature in one of the most urban central areas in the world is widely tricky.

Many students of Brooklyn College turn to the campus lawn as their sole source of greenery, a campus that BC prides itself on having with lush trees and foliage, and it also has a powerful

support system for its acts of sustainability.

For example, the BC Waste Audit and Sustainability Fair occurred on April 18. This event aimed to help the BC community flourish by spreading awareness on how to help our environment through sustainability and having a community discussion on various social aspects of the environment.

In the true spirit of Earth Day, we must make the day more impactful as a community. It's not just about Earth Day, but what it represents for the future of nature and supporting our environment. A symbol of nourishment, appreciation, and gardening, Earth Day could have more impact than any other holiday if we

push it towards the mainstream.

In an age of breaking down the past and rebuilding for a better and brighter future, take the time to celebrate your surroundings by strolling in your nearby park, sitting down on the lawn at BC and soaking in the sun, or even sitting by the pond. It is crucial to show personal appreciation for the nature surrounding us.

Though Earth Day is one singular day, let's not rush to end the walks through nature and traditions within 24 hours. Let's all stay focused on helping the Earth for more than for just one Earth Day or Earth month. Celebrate and help the Earth every chance you have, because Earth Day is truly every day.

All Elite Wrestling: A Confrontation in the Past Leads to Present-Day Controversies

By Sean Markisic

Sports Editor

&

Luis Angel Perez Martinez

Staff Writer

All Elite Wrestling is a wrestling promotion run by CEO and President Tony Khan, which was kickstarted in the fall of 2019. A controversy that has once again been the talking point all over the pro-wrestling scene, and not in a positive light. In a recent episode on April 10, during the broadcast of “AEW Dynamite” on TBS, the promotion showed a real backstage altercation between Jack Perry and their former employee Phillip Brooks (“CM Punk”). The altercation occurred in Aug. 2023. This entire controversy was a bad look for AEW, and its impact is still felt on the company to this day; it showed pettiness and an obvious attempt to sabotage Brook’s reputation.

The idea of AEW wanting to air the video of the altercation stemmed from April 1, when current WWE superstar CM Punk was interviewed by Ariel Helwani, a sports journalist for MMA Hour, and asked him about the situation with Jack Perry.

This was significant because this was the first time that Punk publicly spoke about the situation.

Punk explained that it all stemmed from a taping of one of the company’s shows, “AEW Collision,” where Perry wanted to do a segment in which he is thrown through a car window just so he can take time off. This led to Punk warning him against doing that because the other wrestlers use rental cars as a form of transportation, and by breaking the glass of a rental car he would be ruining it for the other wrestlers in the locker room. It started back on Aug. 27 at Wembley Stadium. During the pre-show of the event, Perry had a match against Hook, and there was a moment where Perry pointed out the hood of a limousine and proceeded to say: “You see that right here? Real Glass. Go cry me a river.” He then pointed it out to the cameraman, and Hook proceeded to slam him on the windshield of a car.

Based on the footage, CM Punk who was getting ready for his match backstage knew that Perry was taking a shot at him and decided to confront him about



↑ CM Punk and Jack Perry altercation taken on a CCTV camera from the stadium./All Elite Wrestling

it. Punk met Perry right after returning from the ring. Punk went up to Perry and asked “Why do you intend to do these pointless stunts that don’t add anything to the match,” to which Perry replied, “What are you gonna do about it?” This led Punk to punch Perry, and the fight got broken up.

Punk also tried taking a swing at AEW’s CEO Tony Khan, and Khan responded afterward, “I feared for my life.” Both wrestlers were upset, and Punk quickly went up to Khan and told him he officially quit the company.

For AEW, having a pay-per-view in Wembley was a big deal, and instead of looking at it as an accomplishment, it was quickly overshadowed by backstage drama.

This altercation lives in infamy known as “Brawl In”—fans and wrestlers alike now only focus on the behind-the-scenes fight.

Punk still respected Khan, but Khan was distraught when Punk left and held a grudge against Punk. He held it for many months, while during that time Punk went back to the WWE and was having more success than his previous run in AEW. It may have seemed Khan wanted to possibly sabotage his reputation.

When the MMA Hour Episode with Punk was released, it seemed from fans that his former employer wasn’t happy with the comments Punk had made about AEW. This made Khan decide to promote the real-life footage of the altercation live on television, and many theorized it was meant for Khan’s retaliation. It was petty to even do this despite the show being on the decline in terms of ratings, as well as bringing something up in the past.

On the April 10 episode of “Dynamite,” they proceeded to show the footage to the public and the controversy blew up. Fans took to social media to point at AEW, stating that it is childish

behavior from a boss who is running the second biggest pro-wrestling company in North America. They also stated it was not worth bringing up since CM Punk left and signed with WWE.

As for the employers, Executive Vice Presidents Matthew and Nicholas Jackson reportedly didn’t want to take part in the segment in which they presented the footage. One of the commentators, Tony Schiavone, when the footage finished airing, looked very upset by putting his hand over his face and stayed silent.

The decision on the part of AEW to air the altercation has had a significant impact on the company’s reputation. Moving forward, AEW may want to focus on prioritizing integrity and professionalism. Most importantly, AEW needs to focus on growing their company, and not become distracted and reactionary to comments being made about them.



↑ CM Punk (left) and Jack Perry (right)./ Sportskeeda



Pitching Perfection: Softball Wins Big



↑ Courtesy of BC Athletics

By Manuel Polanco
Staff Writer

The softball team had one of their best games of the season, and added a little history to it as well. Winning both games of the doubleheader via scores of 0-12 and 0-11, they threw a perfect game in the match and a no-hitter in the second.

The Bulldogs scored five runs in the bottom of the first inning in game one and kept going from there. Junior Zoey Van Fleet started it off via a two-run triple in the bottom of the first inning, making the score 2-0.

Isabella Frank helped bring her home with an RBI single in the bottom of the second.

Freshman Cailyn Trusdale would hit an RBI single of her own, scoring Frank and making it 4-0. Junior Danielle Guzzardi tallied nine strikeouts and scored a run herself as a batter.

The Bulldogs wound up scoring more runs and beating the Yeshiva University Maccabees, and in the process, Guzzardi threw a perfect game in five innings. This ended the Bulldogs' seven-game losing streak, doing so with a perfect score.

No-Hitter Sweep: Softball Continues Winning Streak

By Manuel Polanco
Staff Writer

After an incredible first game where the Bulldogs mercy ruled the Yeshiva University Maccabees via a score of 12-0, pitcher Danielle Guzzardi threw a perfect game in five innings. The Bulldogs' mercy ruled them again with a score of 11-0, and Guzzardi threw another great game in the process.

Guzzardi would hit an RBI double in the first inning making it 3-0, making it her first hit of the season. Zoey Van Fleet would hit a triple in the bottom of the second inning and would wind up scoring due to an error in the outfield making the score 7-0. She ended the game with

a perfect 3-3 stateline.

In the third inning, freshman utility player Jelissa Palenque hit an inside-the-park homerun and scored two runs. Later in the fourth, she would come back again and hit a two-run double that sealed the deal for the Bulldogs. Palenque ended her day with a perfect 3-3 as well and 4 RBIs.

On top of that offensive, pitcher Guzzardi would throw a no-hitter in five innings and finish off a historic feat in the game. Guzzardi threw the no-hitter after previously throwing a perfect game in game one. The Bulldogs hope to keep this momentum going and continue their winning streak.



↑ Courtesy of BC Athletics

HAPPY HOLI!

BC's Desi Club celebrated Holi, the festival of colors, on April 16.
By Kate Dempsey



Collage by Kaylin Guzman