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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD

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CCNY Palestine Encampment Shut Down, 170 Arrested in Ensuing Scuffle

By Shlomie Katash
News Editor

On April 30, CUNY administrative leaders requested assistance from the NYPD in shutting down pro-Palestine protests and encampments at City College of New York (CCNY) after receiving word of campus intrusions. The ensuing shuffle between protestors and NYPD resulted in the arrests of 170 people, 28 of which have been charged with misdemeanors.

The encampment began on the morning of April 25 during the school's spring break. Created by over 100 members of "CUNY For Palestine," a grassroots organization made up of students, alumni, and faculty, the encampment included banners, tents, art, and stations to distribute literature, food, water, and hygiene products; a Palestinian flag was hoisted on the central flagpole, per City College's newspaper, The Campus.

The CCNY organizers then formed "CUNY Gaza Solidarity Encampment" (CUNYGSE). The encampment had five demands of the college: "divest, boycott, solidarity, demilitarize, a people's CUNY," according to their mission statement. Discussions with school administrators began on April 26, with security on campus increasing and certain sections of the school becoming closed off, according to The Campus.

CUNY for Palestine claimed that CCNY president Vincent Boudreau sent a letter to the encampment on April 30 warning them that it must be torn down by the next day so that classes could occur, while subsequently announcing that classes on May 1 would be remote.

"The University notified organizers and demonstrators on Tuesday afternoon that the encampment needed to be dismantled on Wednesday in time for the start of classes," Rodríguez said in a statement on May 2. "We



The center of the CCNY encampment on April 30 hours before NYPD intervention /Kate Dempsey

further said that if that occurred, we would work with student leaders to identify an alternate location on the City College campus for protests to continue, in accordance with CUNY policies."

According to The New York Times, protests on April 30 were "mostly quiet" until around 7 p.m., when hundreds of protestors unaffiliated with CCNY arrived at the campus alongside dozens of police officers. Rodríguez claimed that these protestors came from a similar demonstration happening at Columbia University, which also called on the NYPD to arrest protestors after they seized a campus building, per FOX 5 NY.

Protestors at CCNY broke into a campus building, smashed computers in the financial aid office, and attempted to barricade themselves inside before public safety officers removed them, according to The New York Times. Campus security arrested 31 people, only two of whom were affiliated with the school, Boudreau said in a student town hall presentation on May 8.

In the hours following, scuffling continued between police and protestors as the NYPD blocked any movement into CCNY by 8 p.m., according to The Campus. TIME reported that officers in riot gear repeatedly told protestors to "move back" from the public sidewalk without providing specific instructions, later arresting individuals who did not comply, per The Campus.

Boudreau and Rodríguez decided to request NYPD assistance in removing the remaining demonstrators, prompting hundreds of police officers to flood into the campus and break through barricades by 11:30 p.m. CUNY for Palestine claimed this was done "without warning," though The Campus reported that those at the encampment were internally advised to leave or risk arrest as the NYPD repeatedly made similar announcements.

According to City & State, of the 170 arrested at CCNY, the majority were released with summonses and 28 were charged with burglary—a Class D felony—and obstructing governmental administration.

Members within the CUNY community expressed widespread condemnation of the actions of the CCNY administration and NYPD. The Professional Staff Congress (PSC)—the labor union that represents CUNY faculty—released a statement on May 1 stating that NYPD's actions were "escalatory and disproportionate to any threat that the encampment posed," arguing that it "violates the trust and community that make the shared quest for education possible." CUNY for Palestine in their May 1 press release claimed that the police "broke the ankle of an undergraduate student, broke the teeth of two protestors, attacked and burned many students, faculty and at least one journalist with pepper spray at close range, and beat many more with batons."

A petition to CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez has been circulated among CUNY faculty. The letter criticizes Rodríguez for asking the NYPD to dismantle the encampment and his rhetoric following the arrests, requesting him to press for the charges to be lowered. It has been signed by 472 members of the CUNY faculty as of May 12, including 110 of those from Brooklyn College. As of press time, the document is not available to the public as CUNY faculty are continuing to sign.

In response to the escalation at CCNY, Brooklyn College administrators announced in a campus-wide email on May 2 that outdoor events would be moved indoors for the rest of the semester, citing concerns of potential disruption on BC's campus.

"Given the extraordinary events unfolding at other colleges in New York City and across the country, we have reluctantly made the decision to move outdoor events on our campus indoors or online," the statement said. "This route is the best one to protect the safety and security of all Brooklyn College students, staff, and faculty, and to help ensure that the college's educational environment remains free from disruption at this critical time in the semester."

This is a developing story. The Vanguard will report on updates as they are made available.

Immigrant Student Success Office Hosts Graduation Ceremony for Immigrant Students

By T'Neil Gooden
Features Editor

As the spring semester comes to an end, graduating seniors of Brooklyn College's Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO) said farewell and thanked the staff who helped them during their time at Brooklyn College at a graduation ceremony on May 8. The event brought together students, families, and faculty members to celebrate those in the community as they stepped into the next chapter of their lives.

The Student Center's Gold Room was decorated in shades of gold and black and adorned with round centerpieces reading, "Way to Go Grad!" Members of the BC community filled the room in their formal attire, with tuxedos, dresses, and pantsuits to mark the occasion. Family members were given pins and cards to fill out if they wanted to write a special note to their graduating students. A playlist filled with music of different cultures and genres, such as Afrobeat, Pop, and Reggaeton brought liveliness to the room.

The ISSO graduation ceremony is an annual event that shines a light on the students who have surpassed their time with the program. ISSO members who are watching their fellows leave reminisced on the time spent together and expressed how ISSO has helped them in their time within BC.

"This community

has benefited me in unmeasurable ways. The love, support, and motivation the space has given me have contributed to my success as a student. The people I've met through the space have become important friends and representations of the things we can all accomplish regardless of status," Brenda Bravo, the program and community building Federman Fellow at ISSO, told The Vanguard.

ISSO's mission is to enroll, recruit, and retain students who are new immigrants, providing the necessary academic and non-academic support to ensure graduation from BC, according to its mission statement. This includes students who are included in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAMERS), as well as first-generation students.

"The ceremony allowed graduates to share their stories and experiences. While awarding them for their contribution to ISSO and the Brooklyn College as a whole," Darla Moise, a graduating senior and a USG senator, told The Vanguard. "It was also a chance for a more intimate setting for families to bask in their children's success while having it as a safe place, a space dedicated to protecting those of vulnerable immigration status."

The ceremony started



↑ Courtesy of T'Neil Gooden

with Jesus Perez, director of ISSO, who expressed his pride and gratitude to the students who had joined the ISSO community and had stayed within the institution until it was their time to graduate.

"This is an environment where those who felt alone were able to find a community," Perez said. "Congratulations to all the graduates and we know you will thrive in your upcoming journeys."

Ronald Jackson, the vice president of Student Affairs at BC, followed Perez on the stage to say a few words of encouragement and motivation to the ISSO student graduates.

"Your achievements are testaments to your resilience," Jackson said. "Continue to spread your wings and show your commitment to wherever life takes you."

Next, students gave their speeches, received

their awards, and said their farewell speeches to their fellow ISSO peers and to their family members who sat among the crowd. Students expressed their gratitude to director Jesus Perez, ISSO members, and their family members for supporting them on their journey. Emily Villavicencio, a graduating senior studying anthropology, gave a speech in English and Spanish to the crowd.

"Being proud of who you are, that is what matters [...] being unique," Villavicencio told the audience.

Guest speaker Anayeli Gomez-Brittain, an immigrants' rights advocate and alumni of the ISSO program, spoke about her experiences while in college and shared advice she wants ISSO graduates to follow as they go on their

journeys.

"Reenergize, refuel, and do whatever you decide to do with great passion," Brittain told the ISSO community.

For the graduates moving on to the next chapter in their lives, they are excited to continue to see ISSO grow after they are gone.

"The graduation ceremony is a meaningful event for the ISSO community, we have grown so much within the last few years," Bravo said. "Seeing the growth of our community and being able to celebrate each other in this space is one of our biggest accomplishments yet."

Students who want to get involved in the ISSO community can go to the ISSO office in room 117 of Roosevelt Hall or follow them on their Instagram, @issobc.

Black and Latino Male Initiative and Nu Omega Chi Fraternity Hold Blood Drive, Raise Awareness

By Giovanni Ravalli
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College’s Health Programs Office, in collaboration with the Black and Latino Male Initiative and Nu Omega Chi Fraternity, hosted a blood drive at BC on Wednesday, May 8, with the help of the Maimonides Medical Center.

The Maimonides Blood Bank came on campus to collect donations from students and faculty through the five hour long drive on the second floor of the Student Center. According to organizers at BC’s Student Affairs I m m u n i z a t i o n Department, the crucial goal was to see if the BC community could give back through blood donations.

“I’ve been seeing a lot of commercials and notifications from the blood center saying there’s an emergency crisis,” Latoya Bowen, Health and Wellness Coordinator of the Department, said. “I look at blood like liquid gold. It saves lives. I wanted to see if the Brooklyn College community could give back by donating blood and saving lives.”

A healthy adult has about six quarts of blood and cannot survive a loss of more than two or three. Blood is essential because of the many vital functions it

serves. Many reasons could necessitate the need for a blood transfusion: traumatic injury resulting from car crashes, surgical issues, and birth complications. Some medical issues impede the ability to make enough blood cells the body needs to function, and could be fatal without regularly receiving blood through exogenous means. The most common affliction is anemia.

“These are people that look like you and I, who are working every day, they need blood to survive,” said Clotaire Jean-Louis, Supervisor of Maimonides Blood Bank. “They need to go for blood transfusions because they have anemia.”

With a shelf life of 30 days, it’s just as much about the amount of blood stocked for today as well as securing stock for future needs, making consistent blood donation crucial.

“I know firsthand how blood saves lives. I see it every day, and it’s quite remarkable,” Dr. Martin Bluth, Chief of Blood Transfusion and Donor Services at Maimonides Medical Center, told The Vanguard.

Blood has yet to have been replicated in a lab, making it not a viable option to source it from. It’s critical that the blood comes from humans in a timely manner in order to save lives.



Student Javon Garnett donating blood at the drive on May 8
./Giovanni Ravalli

“There’s lots of people who need blood every day and right now we don’t have a way to make it artificially, so we only get it when people donate,” Keturah Mapp, Phlebotomist at Maimonides Blood Bank said. “It’s really important that we get a lot of donors coming in, it could help save a lot of lives.”

To students who participated in the drive, it was an opportunity to give back even if it can be a daunting experience.

“Everyone knows someone that has needed blood, and I think if you have it, you might as well give it up,” first-time donor Summer Campbell, a Television, Radio, and Emerging Media major at BC, told The Vanguard. “It really wasn’t that bad, it was nice and smooth.”

The entire process takes about 15 minutes and collects 450 milliliters of blood in total. This equates to less than half of one quart of blood, posing no risk to the donor, and could save up to

three lives. According to Bluth, the United States conducts an estimated 21 million transfusions per year, up from 14 million about 10 years ago, and has seven to eight million blood donors.

Since COVID, changes were made regarding the eligibility of those who may donate blood, giving many the ability to donate. Restrictions on the LGBTQ+ community were also lifted, allowing many in the community to donate for the first time.

“When the AIDS epidemic came out, the eligibility of those able to give blood in terms of [the LGBTQ community] was no longer eligible [...] About a year ago that entire overtone was completely removed,” Bluth said. “They have lifted it to only new sexual partners within three months, whomever you are, which makes the most sense because that is when the risk of transmission of something that might be percolating in

someone’s body is the most realistic. That has actually opened up eligibility to the LGBTQ community.”

Having enough viable blood on hand at all times could be the difference between life or death for those who need it and makes doctors’ jobs easier by lifting the burden of having to make difficult decisions with the current limited supply.

“It’s one of the best ways to contribute to society because you’re giving somebody the gift of life,” said Shafi Ahmed, Phlebotomist at Maimonides Blood Bank. “That’s one of the most important things anybody can receive.”

Students or faculty interested in donating or learning more can visit the fixed donation center at Maimonides Medical Center located at 4802 10th Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11219.

Women of Color Club and The Curly Code Help BC Students Spring into a New Beauty Routine



By Amira Turner
Arts Editor

Despite being part of a daily routine, hair in the Black community has historically been a source of conflict, misinformation, and discrimination. On May 9, Brooklyn College’s Women of Color club (WOC), in partnership with the organization The Curly Code, hosted their “Spring into a New Beauty Routine” event in an attempt to combat these issues. The event focused on educating Black students on how to take care of, and love, their hair.

Within academia, Black students experience higher levels of scrutiny based on their hair. In a 2020 survey presented at the National Association for Multicultural Education Conference, 70% of school dress codes audited included mentions of hair, a majority of which forbid Black hairstyles including afros and braids. WOC president Widom Obadofin shared with The Vanguard the impact she hoped

the event would have on the BC Black community in helping to increase awareness and acceptance of Black hair care.

“We felt that it was very important that our final events leave an impact on the students community. We wanted to enjoy the fun and curious side of a beauty routine in a safe space, a space where all products we recommend are actually useful for our members and also are specifically created for them,” Obadofin said.

The Curly Code founder Emmanuelle Duroska presented about “wash day,” a Black hair-care ritual that is crucial to the self-care process. The presentation walked guests through the most important steps of wash day, from shampooing and conditioning to moisturizing and drying. She emphasized the importance of wash day, even for people who struggle with dry hair. “You can’t say, ‘I’m gonna drink a gallon of water on Sunday and I’m gonna be good,’ that’s not how that works, so you want to

give your hair a lot of contact with water on a regular basis,” she said.

In a survey conducted by The Perception Institute, 29% of Black women surveyed reported that they worried “a lot” about their hair, compared to only 16% of their white counterparts. This disparity comes from a long history of shame associated with Black hair, especially in the workplace. This is a disparity The Curly Code is working hard to fight against.

“We live in a society that has repeatedly told us that we’re not good enough and or we’re not pretty enough etc. and that is a bold-faced lie,” Duroska told The Vanguard, “I think the internalized hate for your hair, is that you just don’t know it.”

Leaders of WOC expressed that care is a crucial first step to finding security within oneself and in the larger beauty community.

“All hair is great hair, and all skin is great skin once you know how to take care of yours,” said Obadofin.

Dispelling misinformation about Black hair care

products is another key component of educating about how to care for and love hair, according to organizers. Market data from Gitnux reports that the Black hair care industry is valued at around \$2.5 billion, but more often than not Black consumers are unaware of the products meant for their hair types.

“[The event] was an opportunity to try new products from brands I wasn’t familiar with, and products I wouldn’t normally reach for,” Darla Moise, a Undergraduate Student Government (USG) senator and senior at BC, told The Vanguard.

Along with the chance to try treatments and learn about different products, participants were able to try out and take home products from brands such as Odele, Olaplex, Rare Beauty, Not Your Mothers, and more.

Duroska hopes that every woman can feel confident in their own hair, fostering a hair care community that is inclusive to all.

“We’re making sure that girls are leaving

feeling empowered and ready for their next wash day,” she said. “I also want them to leave with a sense of community.”

WOC hopes it will continue to be a beacon of support for the women of color on campus as they go about their academic careers and beyond. Even as the semester comes to an end, WOC will make sure this population of students will continue to be heard.

“There’s not a lot of space for us to be ourselves and get the resources we need outside of academia,” Obadofin told The Vanguard. “BC students should know that WOC is here to continue pouring into them. Our community is our number one focus, and we prioritize them sincerely.”



BC Clubs Host Tea Ceremony to Celebrate Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By Kate Dempsey
Editor-in-Chief

A fiery red lion wove in and out of the crowd of Brooklyn College students as they made their way through campus, the sound of gongs and drums drawing the beast out. This performance, among others, was part of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Tea Ceremony held on April 7. The tea ceremony is just one of many celebrations scheduled for the month, which include events from the wide range of Asian America and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Clubs at BC.

The clubs that helped to organize the tea ceremony are as follows: Korean Culture Club (KCC), the Pakistani Student Association (PSA), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Desi Culture Club (DCC), CUNY Uzbek Society, Bangladeshi Student Association (BSA), American Central Asian Association (ACAA), the Dream Team, Bridges for Yemen, The Exchange, Asian Student Alliance (ASA), The Women’s Center, and the BC AANAPISI [Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Serving Institute] Project (BCAP).

The goal, according to organizers, was to have a plethora of clubs sign on to organize the tea ceremony to highlight the diverse range of people from the AAPI diaspora. This entailed the representation of all areas of Asia: East Asia, Central Asia, Desi, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and West Asia. This was the first time all AAPI clubs on campus

came together in a shared celebration of heritage.

“The term ‘Asian’ is extremely broad. Asians share common traditions. However, as individuals we are all different and unique,” said Lexi Bakyt, president of ACAA. “Our goal was to be respectful, inclusive and entertaining. Asia is a very broad region that is filled with diversity, customs, and traditions that many are unaware of. The event was created to celebrate all of us, through music, food, and tea.”

As BC students made their way into the ceremony, they were first greeted with a teacup as a gesture of hospitality, respect, and friendship. The Tow Atrium was adorned with lotus flowers, while tables representing different AAPI diasporas handed out tea and food from their respective cultures.

“A tea ceremony holds a huge significance as tea is heavily shared all over Asia. Tea helps with a lot of factors such as maintaining concentration over a long period, symbolizes hospitality, helps with a lot of other aspects of health as well as bringing one together in terms of socialization,” said Paula Chewy, vice president of KCC. “A tea ceremony was decided as it teaches good characteristics such as promoting wellbeing, mindfulness, and harmony.”

Tea holds special significance to those in the diaspora: each is made in the same way, but features a unique twist that enhances the beverage enjoyed by countless people around the world.

“Tea originated in Asia, and different regions have

their own variety of tea,” said Joan Joseph, vice president of DCC. “It’s a great way to highlight the uniqueness of each culture from the way they use the same ingredient.”

Ceremony performances included the lion from the NYC Chinese Freemasons Athletics Club, the Zerd Buryat Mongol Ensemble—which included artists using the traditional morin khuur bowed string instrument—and the Freedom Dabka Group, who towards the end of the ceremony led the crowd in a group lesson and performance. Dancers from the BSA also led a Bengali Dance to songs used in Bengali New Year celebrations while adorned in traditional dresses. To the Bengali performers, it was a moment to shine a spotlight on one of the many dance forms in the Asian diaspora.

“Showcasing as a visual is very important. Especially like we’re all wearing colorful clothes, that’s part of our culture,” Tunazzina Sakal, a Bengali dance performer and president of BSA, told The Vanguard. “[It] is a great opportunity to just come together, finally show our culture rather than just like a broad South Asian culture.”

Emphasizing the individual cultures that make up the AAPI groups is an important first step for the organizers of the event. Advocating for the recognition of their culture ensures that the individual community’s history and needs are heard.

“I think it’s very important to understand the history, and when we talk about the Asian diaspora we don’t just mean the big well-known countries like China, Japan,

India, etc. We are talking about including all of Asia, especially the commonly forgotten Pacific Islanders,” said Chewy.

To other organizers of the ceremony, the category of AAPI also stands as a testament to acknowledge their contributions to society, and to be a uniting force for the larger diaspora at a time when communities within it are facing oppression.

“BC students should know and understand the diversity within the Asian and Pacific Islander diaspora encompassing a vast array of cultures, languages, histories, and experiences,” Rabia Asif, director of events for PSA, told The Vanguard. “They should recognize the significant contributions of AAPI communities to society across all fields while also being aware of the challenges and discrimination faced by those within these communities.”

Among the initiatives at BC working to provide more inclusive education about the Asian diaspora is the newly-formed BC AANAPISI Project (BCAP). The project is a five-year grant funded by the Department of Education eligible for universities with 10% or more AAPI-identifying students. According to Christopher Won, program director of BCAP, BC’s AAPI population makes up 25% of the total student body making BC eligible to develop the project.

“BCAP has three main objectives. Academic affairs and curriculum, with the hopes

of establishing an Asian American Studies program. Culturally responsive services via our office, with peer mentoring, multilingual writing tutoring, and socio-emotional resources. Leadership and community engagement, with research internships and opportunities both internally and with local agencies and organizations,” Won told The Vanguard.

Student leaders from the diaspora stressed that the goals of AAPI Heritage Month do not end once May ends, and that there needs to be continuous education and celebration of the diverse diaspora. BC students are welcome to continue learning more about the culture by visiting the clubs or attending the many events that they offer.

“This is truly the time to dive deep and understand the Asian diaspora as a whole, but it is not just restricted to just this month,” said Chewy. “There is always time to learn about Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.”





Photos by Kate Dempsey
Collage by Kaylin Guzman

Wolfe Institute Hosts “Advocacy and Archaeology: Present Thoughts”

By Daniel Afanasyev
Staff Writer

The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities and the Department of Anthropology at Brooklyn College hosted “Advocacy and Archaeology: Present Thoughts” on Wednesday, May 8. This was the final installment in the 12-part “New Books by BC Faculty Event Series.” This discussion was centered around “Advocacy and Archaeology: Urban Intersections,” co-edited by BC professor of anthropology Kelly Britt, and the role of activism in the protection and preservation of historical artifacts, especially in urban settings.

Speakers of the event included co-editors Britt and Fordham University adjunct professor Diane George, along with collaborators Margaret Purser, Sonoma State University Professor Emerita, and Elizabeth Meade, a NYC-based Archaeologist.

The authors defined advocacy as “an effort to make the world a more just place through direct and indirect actions concerning archaeological resources.” To learn of the different experiences the speakers had with advocacy, Britt proceeded by asking each of the speakers how they view advocacy and activism within the field of archaeology.

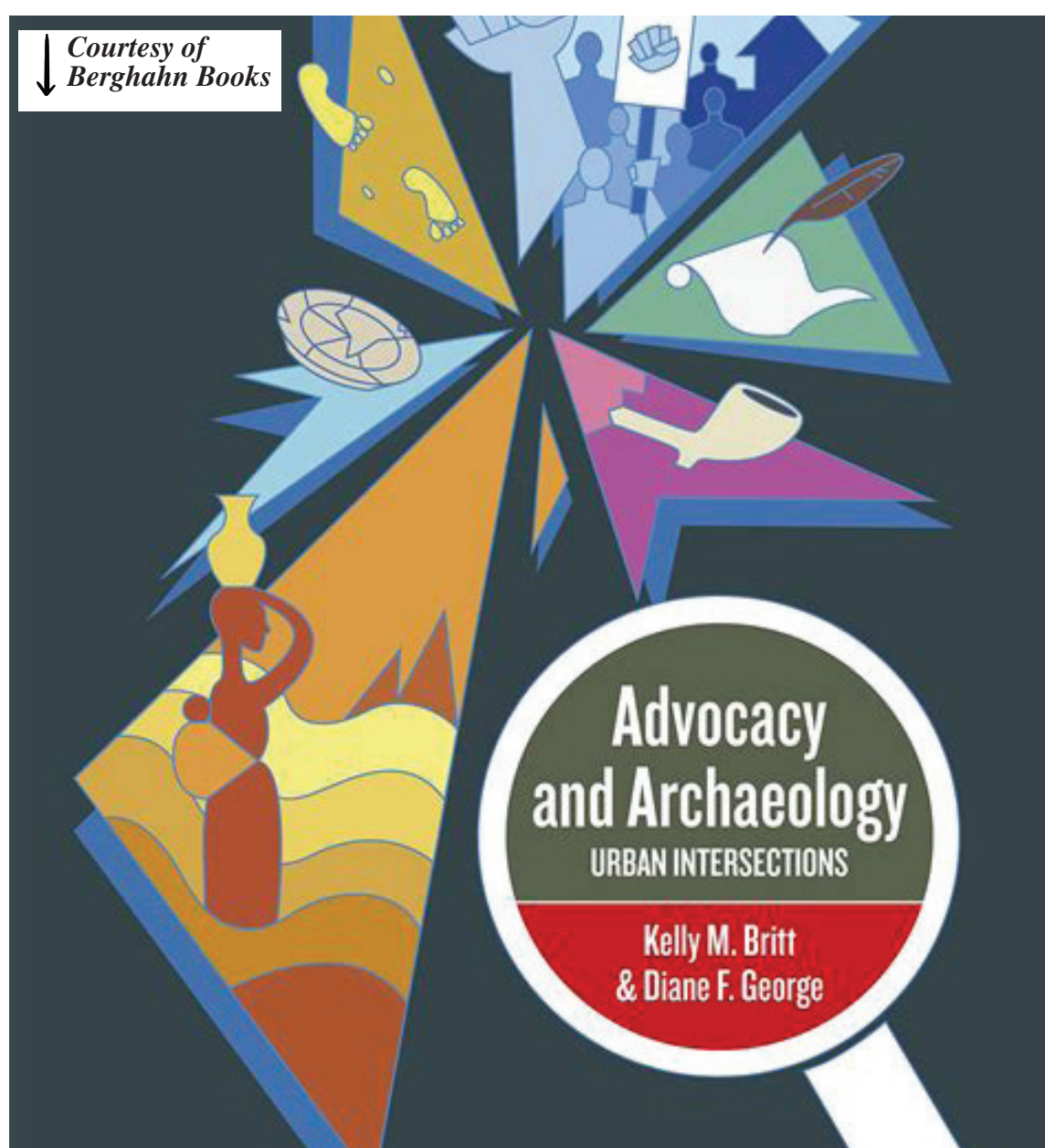
Purser began by tracing the advocacy element to the

beginning of the field when archaeologists began as advocates for resources in the late 1950s and early 1960s. In the 1970s, this advocacy expanded to include people and histories that were either missing or misrepresented in the historical narrative.

“We sort of claimed that as our birthright as a field, and then we evolved from that to where many of the papers and chapters in this volume are, which is we’ve gone from being archaeologists who were advocates for people in the past, to advocates working with communities in the present using archaeology as a means to restoring erased history,” Purser said. “And we’re not doing it as the greater authority in the white lab coat, but we’re doing it with communities.”

Purser’s second point was that archaeologists should not be so much concerned exclusively with the act of uncovering artifacts, as being in the “archaeological habit of mind” when working directly with communities.

“It’s the doing of archaeology in the service of the community, that’s how archaeology and advocacy are increasingly linked, because though we may be directing and advising that process, it is not our process alone,” Purser said. “That is a revolutionary shift in our field that ties advocacy and archaeology together, not just in terms of what happens to the data and how it’s interpreted, but in the act of recovering the



past in the present for a different future.”

Meade spoke about completing her dissertation project on documenting and mapping historic period cemeteries in NYC. In the process, she became acquainted with the nature of urban areas and the frequency with which human remains get disturbed through constant development and redevelopment.

“My project was really intended to reclaim these sites, bring them back to the fore so that if they are accidentally disturbed, we can at least help bring descendant communities in faster,” she said. “Through these efforts of trying to generate more public recognition, it is a way of being both an advocate for the deceased population by protecting their actual remains, and serving as an advocate

for their descendants living in the present and trying to relink them.”

Additionally, when archaeologists work as advocates, they are able to shed a light on the underlying problems affecting both living people and deceased populations. In Meade’s work, because the existing laws that protect human remains do not always help the archaeologist do their work, part of the job becomes figuring out where advocacy fits within with the current project.

“It’s essentially learning and building your own skillset to look and see what might need to be revealed [...] and sometimes there are people that don’t want you to report something, so it’s a matter of knowing when and where to speak up and how to

sneak in advocacy and really just be willing to stick up for anything you feel strongly about,” Meade said.

Purser highlighted the unique position that the advocacy element of archaeology finds itself in, and the opportunity to make substantial change outside of its field.

“It’s evolving, this perspective and this idea that you can’t separate archaeology and advocacy anymore,” Purser said. “All that is going to push us in the direction of being more articulate and more sophisticated with this kind of advocacy.”

Current CUNY students can digitally access the volume at <https://libguides.brooklyn.cuny.edu/wolfe2023/newbooksbyfaculty/spring24>

NBA Playoff Recaps: Teams Hope for Great Start to Season



By Sean Markisic
Sports Editor

The second round of the NBA playoffs is officially underway, and there are plenty of teams going head-to-head to win the NBA Championship. The second round started on Saturday, May 5. The playoffs started with sixteen teams and are now down to eight: four from the Eastern Conference and four from the Western Conference. When the NBA finals start in June, it will be an Eastern team against a Western team. All NBA playoff matchups are played in a best of seven series.

To recap the first-round action in the Eastern Conference: the Knicks defeated the Sixers in six games, the Pacers defeated the Bucks in six games, the Celtics defeated the Heat in five games, and the Cavaliers defeated the Magic in seven games.

In the Western Conference, the Nuggets defeated the Lakers in five games, Timberwolves defeated the Suns in four games, the Mavericks defeated the Clippers in six games, and the Thunder had an impressive series against the Pelicans, winning in only four games. Lots of star players from the remaining teams are still relatively young, and each believes their team can go on to win the championship.

In round two, the Denver Nuggets played the Minnesota Timberwolves. The Timberwolves started the series by completely dominating the Nuggets on both sides of the court. The advantage for the Timberwolves was set by their young star Anthony Edwards, who scored a total of 70 points in the first two games. Other Timberwolves stars like Jaden McDaniels and Rudy Gobert led on the defense, completely taking Denver out of their element.

The Nuggets are well known for their ability to make in-game adjustments on the fly, but in the first two games, all of Denver's attempts were immediately shut down by Minnesota. The Nuggets won the championship last season, and Minnesota is throwing everything their way to ensure Denver will not win the championship back-to-back.

In the second-round of the Western Conference series, the Oklahoma City Thunder played three games against the Dallas Mavericks, and Dallas held a 2-1 series lead. Both of these teams score at a high level; however, both teams play at different paces. In the first game, the Thunder moved up and down the court quickly, aiming for open shots.

Dallas wasn't prepared for that style of play, as their star player Luka Dončić slowed the game down for himself and played in the half-court. Dončić was able to play in the half-court in the second game, getting others involved, such as players Tim Hardaway Jr and Daniel Gafford. Dončić's co-star Kyrie Irving was effective in the second game as well, which led to a winning formula for Dallas. They were able to tie the series at one apiece, heading into the third game in Dallas.

Over in the Eastern Conference, the Boston Celtics sought for a win in game one as they played in their comfort zone, characterized by constant movement on the offense. This generated three-pointers all game, which subsisted them throughout the season.

In game two, the Celtics played against the Cleveland Cavaliers. Boston's method proved to be inefficient during this game, and Cleveland's best player Donovan Mitchell took advantage of Boston's poor defensive effort by scoring 26 points in the second half. The series was tied at one game apiece as they headed into game three in Cleveland.

The New York Knicks led 2-1 over the Indiana Pacers and were led by their star point guard Jalen Brunson, who put up five 40-point games in this postseason alone. The Knicks have other good players, such as Donte DiVincenzo, who is a lethal three-point shooter, and Josh Hart, who is crucial to the game.

The Indiana Pacers are a team that plays fast and shoots a lot of three-pointers, a strategy that has been highly effective for them thus far. All three games have gone down to the wire, and have seen great offense played by both teams.

The NBA playoffs are going by quickly, and before fans know it, the NBA finals will begin on Thursday, June 6.

Rami's Reviews: The Gold and Bronze of The Met Gala

By Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor

The most exclusive invitation in the world, the one chance to make or break your fashion career, and Zendaya's first Met Gala appearance in five years. Welcome to Rami's Reviews, a series where I, Rami Mansi, Opinions Editor of The Vanguard, review various Lady Gaga VMA 2009 highs, and Stan Twitter fight lows of pop culture. In this piece, we will be diving into the do's and don'ts, mishaps, golden hours, and powerful moments of the 2024 Met Gala.

The category for the red carpet was "Garden of Time," which played on the classic short story by J.G Ballard. Its thematics can be interpreted through a variety of means. However, with "garden" in the title, flowers, botanicals, and other natural elements were expected within the couture. The main theme was inspired by the Met Museum's new exhibition, "Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion." Sleeping beauties in fashion are those that are so fragile and delicate that they

have to be frozen in time for protection.

Now let's deep dive into the looks, starting with YouTuber-turned-fashion's favorite it-girl Emma Chamberlain, who was dressed in an original Jean Paul Gaultier dress. A darker interpretation of the theme, the brown piece was fitted with intricate floral lace details that took over 640 hours of work. This look was everything the public wanted from Chamberlain and became one of the top looks of the night (mine included).

Co-host Bad Bunny surprised viewers with hisMaisonMargielasuit. A theatrical ensemble combined with round opticals, a padded jacket, an oversized bonnet, and stitches were seen throughout the piece; the cherry on top was a bouquet of black florals. Although unexpected, this look worked perfectly with the theme.

Jennifer Lopez, another co-host, wore a nude illusion, crystal-dominated, and figure-hugging Schiaparelli gown. Although stunning, Lopez has worn this type of look several times before.

contrary, Zendaya wowed social media audiences and fashion lovers alike with both of her red carpet-looks. The first look took inspiration from a 90's Dior gown, mainly in its color scheme and aesthetic. It featured shades of blue and green, adorned with embellishments and a feather headpiece.

Coming back for a second appearance, Zendaya donned an archival '96 John Galliano couture gown, complete with a 2007 Alexander McQueen headpiece. Both looks were show-stopping and the very highlight of this year's gala. Understanding the motif with the help of personal stylist and legend Law Roach, the duo came out on top and demonstrated what it truly meant to serve a Met Gala-worthy look.

Fromthispointon,looks became breathtakingly stunning or simply a gown with flowers put onto it. Florals? For spring? How not very groundbreaking. This strong divide caused a rift between highly stunning looks and disappointments.

South African singer Tyla made her Met Gala debut in a form-fitting Balmain dress designed with actual sand to represent an hourglass. The look deteriorated over time to demonstrate the ephemerality of fashion, securing Tyla's spot as a person to look out for in next year's Met Gala and as an upcoming fashion icon.

A woman adorned in an original Iris Van Herpen piece went viral on social media as the

public eye tried to figure out who this largely unknown mystery woman was. This mystery person turned out to be tech tycoon, three-time Ivy graduate, and billionaire Mona Patel, whose moving sleeves of butterfly wings shocked viewers and solidified her spot as one of the best dressed of the night.

When discussing transgression beyond the theme, a trend in this year's Met was intricacy in accessories. Taking enough liberty to have limitless creativity while also having silhouettes stay to the syllabus was a risky move to pull off, yet many designers accomplished just that. Such ideas can be seen with Elle Fanning (who played Sleeping Beauty in "Maleficent"), as her shoulders held two bird sculptures that completed the crystal princess fantasy. Taylor Russel wore an authentic wooden corset designed by Loewe that took wood in the garden of time as a brave idea.

One celebrity that caused the strongest divide among fashion lovers was Doja Cat's Vetements wet shirt-dresslook. It consisted of a long dress resembling a white shirt, copious amounts of hair gel to create a wet look, and a glittery "crying" makeup look, finished off with nothing underneath the shirt to create an authentic nude appearance. This look was originally seen as a failed stylistic attempt, even though it pulled off the look of sculptures seen in upper-class and elegant gardens. I feel as though it could have been

elevated to appear more formal by referencing another fashion ideal of the wet cotton look with Drag Race winner Symone's step-down look, which invoked something similar.

For the best dressed, the golden crown goes to Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt, who demonstrated how South Asian fashion is truly ahead of the curve. Her pastel green sari with floral details and a stunning train captured the eyes of photographers and viewers alike, a show-stopping piece.

For the worst dressed, I give the bronze boot to the multiple men who showed up to fashion's most extravagant night wearing lackluster suits that provided little creativity or appreciation for the theme. Looks from Chris Hemsworth, Omar Apollo, Jack Harlow, Stray Kids, and sadly cinema's favorite newcomer Nicholas Galitzine, were all disappointing. Although regalness and elegance radiated off from all the gentlemen, certain risks to elevate the looks were not taken as stars passed for more plain fashion choices.

Thank you for recapping the Met Gala 2024 with Rami's Reviews! Signing off until next time.





Rami's Reviews

Looks featured at the MET Gala on May 6, 2024.
Collage by Kaylin Guzman

→
GOLD:
Alia Bhatt
./Jamie
McCarthy for
Getty Images

←
GOLD:
Mona Patel
./Dimitrios
Kambouris for
Getty Images

←
BRONZE:
Jennifer Lopez
./Amir Hamja for
The New York Times

←
GOLD:
Zendaya ./Eff
Kravitz for
FILMMAGIC

←
GOLD:
Emma Chamberlain
./Gilbert Flores

←
BRONZE:
Nicholas
Galitzine
./Lexie
Moreland

←
GOLD:
Bad Bunny./Jamie
McCarthy for Getty
Images

←
GOLD:
Elle Fanning
./Getty Images

←
GOLD:
Tyla
./Dimitrios
Kambouris
for Getty
Images

→
BRONZE:
Doja Cat
./Jamie
McCarthy
for Getty
Images

→
BRONZE:
Omar Apollo
./Getty Images

Bangladeshi Student Association Hosts Mock Gaye Holud Wedding Ceremony

By Emmad Kashmiri
Digital Editor

In a celebration of its cultural heritage, the Bangladesh Student Association (BSA) at Brooklyn College hosted a mock Gaye Holud, a traditional Bangladeshi pre-wedding ceremony, on May 7.

Attendees were greeted with various types of music, dance, and colors typical of a real Gaye Holud. A core aspect of the festivities was the application of turmeric paste, a cherished ritual symbolizing new and successful beginnings, alongside the sharing of traditional sweets, wearing lots of vibrant colors, and performances of Bangladeshi wedding music and dance. The theme, according to organizers, was to ensure that all attendees, both Bangladeshi and non-Bangladeshi, felt a part of the celebration.

“The theme centered around celebrating the vibrancy and joy of Bangladeshi wedding traditions. This theme allowed participants to experience the music, dance, and colors typical of a Gaye Holud,” said Tunazzina Sakal, president of BSA. “This specific focus aimed to provide an immersive cultural experience, promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation among attendees of a significant Bangladeshi celebration.”

Additionally, the intention



↑ Members of the performance./Triangle Solutions, Courtesy of Tunazzina Sakal

was to also create better understanding between different ethnic groups within the South Asian diaspora, who may know of the traditions but have not experienced them. This was done to be more inclusive and promote solidarity among the various Asian communities on campus.

“This year’s event builds on the success of previous years, but incorporates more interactive elements to engage attendees actively. Compared to past events, we’ve included more collaborative activities with other Asian cultural groups on campus to create a more inclusive and educational experience,” said Sakal. “By doing so, we not only celebrate our heritage but also encourage solidarity among different Asian communities. We aim to create a respectful celebration

of our culture among all students.”

Attendees from other Asian diaspora clubs on campus were there to both support the Bangladeshi community and to learn more about them, acknowledging the shared recognition of being in the South Asian diaspora.

“I decided to attend the event to learn about the culture of Bangladeshi weddings and their traditions,” said Saim Tahir, club connector of the Desi Culture Club. “I’ve heard a lot about Bangladeshi culture, so experiencing it firsthand like this [was] really nice.”

Building upon the success of previous years, this year’s event was built around a play, where attendees watched the equivalent of the bride and groom prepare for their wedding. In this play, written by Faria Prova, Fariha Eva, and Disha Prangon, the

bride is dating the groom in secret, but one day her sister tells her that she is going to get an arranged marriage by her dad. The parents of the groom do not like the bride either, which results in even more conflict. However, in the end love conquered all and the couple happily got married.

The decision by the BSA to host the event during Asian Heritage Month provided a unique opportunity to spotlight and educate about the diverse cultures within the umbrella of the Asian diaspora, allowing for greater visibility of the diverse Asian identities within BC.

“Hosting the event during Asian Heritage Month provides a timely opportunity to celebrate and educate about Asian cultures when campus-wide and national attention is already focused on these themes,” said Naheen Khan, vice president of BSA. “It allows for greater visibility and appreciation of the diverse Asian identities.”

BSA hopes to continue to break barriers between those in the community and those outside of it, forming bonds in a shared appreciation of the culture.

“We love when people join us, regardless of where you are from. We just love people,” Sakal said. “We’re also trying to break that barrier of people thinking that the BSA is just for Bengali students. It’s open for everyone.”



↓ Dance performance by the BSA./Triangle Solutions, Courtesy of Tunazzina Sakal