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Wednesday, November 27th

TALENT EXTRAVAGANZA!



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Cover by Tony Lipka

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Brooklyn College Celebrates 100th Graduating Class at Brooklyn Nets Game



Photo courtesy of @bcstudentgov on Instagram

**By Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor
and
Khalailah Bynoe
Content Creator**

The Vanguard, along with the Brooklyn College community, was invited to witness the home game of the NBA Official Cup between the Brooklyn Nets and Charlotte Hornets. BC graduates have their graduation ceremony at Barclays Center, and in honor of this year being the 100th graduating class, Barclays Center welcomed all BC staff, students, faculty, and alumni to the game.

The game started with the Charlotte Hornets leading in the first quarter by 37-23. In the second quarter, the Charlotte Hornets continued to lead with 59-54. In the third quarter, the Charlotte Hornets were still in the lead with the Brooklyn Nets catching up with a score of 87-85. The game ended with the Brooklyn Nets winning 115-116 within the last seconds of the game.

The game was a close call, with the Nets winning over a singular point. The game was close throughout all four quarters—the coaches used the breaks to redirect players, establish new strategies, and sub out players who were objectively not on par with their teammates.

With the opening, intermission, and closing performances from numerous performers such as the official Brooklyn Nets cheerleaders, the Brooklynettes, the official hype team, Team Hype, and the DJ of the Brooklyn

Nets, Jason Jung. The game was filled with audience participation and a moment was never wasted to keep the crowd rooting for the home team. This included shirts being thrown in handheld cannons to the audience members, and various viewers given opportunities to play games for a variety of prizes.

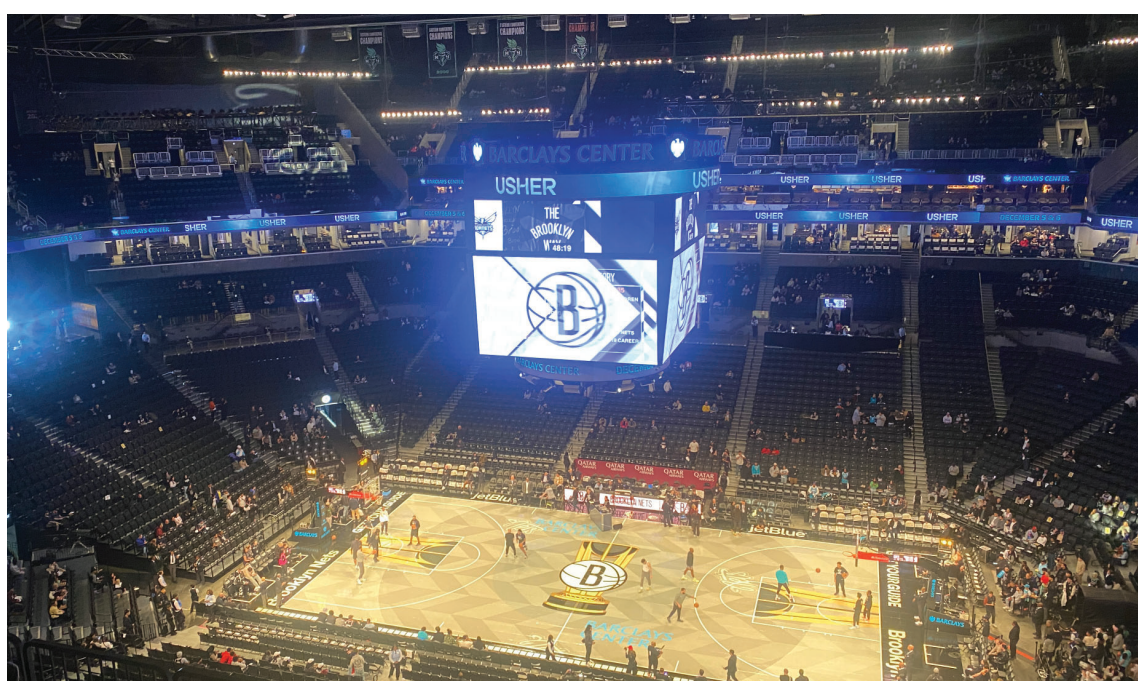
For BC students, the event was a great way for students to get together to celebrate their school as well as the Nets.

“It’s a very fun and interesting opportunity. It’s a great excuse to get

together with other students,” BC student Marcus Malivert told The Vanguard.

This event was also headed by the BC Undergraduate Student Government (USG). Appearances were made by the previous president, Carrie Ebbin, and the current president, Noam Abrahams. BC President Michelle Anderson also made her way to the game, appearing on the court for the official game ball delivery. Graduating seniors were given a special fan experience through the newly opened BC Key Club.

“My experience at the BC Barclays night was truly one to remember [...] The view of the court was very clear, and as someone who loves basketball, the energy from everyone in the lounge was nice to be around,” BC student-athlete Hailey Johnston told The Vanguard. “Overall, I had an amazing time, and hope BC hosts an event like this again!”



BC students, faculty, and alumni attend the Brooklyn Nets game at Barclays Center.
Khalailah Bynoe

NYC Officials Introduce New Policy Initiatives to Improve Living Conditions

By Paulina Gajewski
Managing Editor

Amidst Mayor Eric Adams, facing a criminal indictment, as previously reported by The Vanguard, his administration has continued to implement efforts to improve NYC's quality of life for its citizens.

The most recent of the proposals, the Congestion Pricing Program, plans to fund the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and reduce air pollution by charging drivers a toll who are entering Manhattan south of Central Park. The program, which had been decades long in the making and was stalled on June 30, will be revived on Jan. 5, as previously reported by The Vanguard. The initial \$15 fee for vehicles was decreased to \$9 by Governor Kathy Hochul amid the high cost of living following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program's first purpose is to reduce traffic and air pollution on NYC streets. The amassed funds will then be used to fund the struggling transit system, which lends itself to the second purpose of the program. This includes funding the Interborough Express, a project that intends to provide greater transit access between Brooklyn and Queens, as previously reported by The Vanguard.

The program is still in need of federal approval, which Governor

Kathy Hochul hopes to receive before the Biden administration leaves office, as the President-elect Donald Trump vehemently opposes the proposal.

"It has never worked, but especially so with a city, town, or village that is trying to come back from very rough times, which can certainly be said of New York City. It will put New York City at a disadvantage over

move into a rental was \$10,454 in 2023, up 29% from 2019 before the pandemic disrupted the market."

As of Nov. 13, NYC Council passed Introduction 360-A, also known as Fairness in Apartment Rental Expenses (FARE) Act, which would prevent landlords from passing the brokerage fees onto their tenants. This act is part of the effort to

Dec. 8, 2022, according to the Office of Mayor Adams. On Nov. 21, the plan was approved by the City Council, along with a \$5 billion boost for affordable housing and infrastructure projects across NYC.

"This housing crisis has been going on for so long that some take it as a fact of life that New York City is a place where rents always go up and where

Council vote on Dec. 5.

Dense housing areas often accumulate trash bags along sidewalks leading up to trash pickup day. As a solution, new rules regarding sanitation have been proposed and are beginning to come into effect.

Starting Nov. 12, "all properties with 1-9 residential units must use bins, 55 gallons or less, with secure lids for trash set out," as stated on the NYC Sanitation page. A warning period will be in effect until Jan. 2, 2025, and residents who do not comply with proper usage of trash bins will be fined. In June 2026, properties with 1-9 residential units must use the official NYC Bin for trash, which will be purchased via online order and also available in every Home Depot in NYC.

These recent policy proposals represent a shift in consensus amongst city officials, and the view that the current economic situation in the city is unsustainable and proactive measures had to be taken to improve the lives of those that reside in the city.

"As we make these common-sense reforms, the real winners are everyday New Yorkers," said Deputy Mayor for Operations Meera Joshi according to nyc.gov. "The old system of announcing a project — and then waiting years upon years — is finally a thing of the past."



Mayor Eric Adams presenting the "City of Yes" proposal at a rally./THE CITY

competing cities and states, and businesses will flee," Trump told the New York Post on Nov. 13.

Renters in NYC are often burdened by heaping costs in addition to rent, including a security deposit, credit reports fee, and the brokerage fee. Landlords hire brokers to list and show their available apartments for rent, and tenants are often left to pay the brokerage fee, which could amount to \$1000 at least. According to rental listing data gathered by StreetEasy, "the average upfront cost to

alleviate the financial burdens of living in NYC.

Along with rising costs of living, the demand for and the supply of housing has become disproportionately mismatched. NYC has attracted and retained its residents at a higher rate, but the private marketplace has not produced enough housing to match this increase in demand, as per NYC Housing.

In order to address this housing crisis, Mayor Eric Adams addressed the city's zoning rules in the third part of his plan known as the "City of Yes," first proposed on

housing is always hard to find, but that is a policy choice," Daniel Garodnick, the director of the Department of City Planning, said at a rally in April. "We don't have to live this way."

The plan has several proposals, including, "ending parking mandates for new housing in some neighborhoods; allowing units such as backyard cottages and basement apartments; and adding housing above businesses on commercial streets in low-density areas," according to The New York Times. The plan will move on to a full

TREEage, CUNY Students Testify at NYPA Hearing for Greater Climate Initiatives

By Daniel Afanasyev
News Editor

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, the Brooklyn College chapter of TREEage, alongside other CUNY students and members from the Professional Staff Congress (PSC), took part in a New York Power Authority (NYPA) hearing at John Jay College to demand greater state-led initiatives aimed at climate change and decarbonization.

TREEage, according to its mission statement, is a climate advocacy organization led by high school and college students across New York City pushing for a more climate-conscious public policy for the city. The NYPA is New York's power utility and operator of several power generating plants and facilities across New York state, and according to its mission statement is "leading the transition to a carbon-free, economically vibrant New York." The goal for testifying at the hearing was to hold city leaders

accountable for the initiatives that have not met NYC's goals for 2030.

"Each year, the NYPA reviews if we're on track for

effects that the measures have on the CUNY community.

"I spoke about why decarbonizing CUNY is personal for me. I'm the

Markey in 2019, plays a central role in TREEage's climate campaign, which calls for drastic decarbonization, reduction in

state, and with an incoming Trump presidency putting federal support for climate projects in jeopardy, set an example for other states to follow," Ilahi said.

At Wednesday's hearing, TREEage members spoke about the vital work that energy providers, including the NYPA, are yet to perform to meet the required levels of renewable energy production, and the impact that it continues to have on communities and places of higher education across the city.

"The reason TREEage wanted to get students involved in testifying is so they can directly discuss the issues they are facing as students and NYC residents," Leila M. Tazi, TREEage campus organizer and club president of BC's chapter, told The Vanguard. "It is really important to mobilize youth in politics to amplify their voice and the voices of those around them."

Students interested in learning more about TREEage can visit their Instagram, @bc_treeage_club



NYPA hearing./Courtesy of @psc_cuny Instagram

70% renewable energy by 2030, and 100% by 2040, yet NYPA's CEO Justin Driscoll—a p p o i n t e d by Governor Hochul—only plans to build 3.5 gigawatts of new renewable, for below the needed 15 gigawatts," TREEage said in a statement on its Instagram account.

For those that testified at the hearing, it was of the utmost importance to advocate for the meeting the decarbonization goals, highlighting the personal

product of a first-generation CUNY graduate. All my siblings graduated from CUNY, as did I," Idrees Ilahi, CUNY director for TREEage and a Brooklyn College alum, told The Vanguard. "I want to fight for a future where hundreds of thousands of students, faculty, and staff across 20 campuses and 300 buildings can learn and work in environments that are cleaner and healthier."

The Green New Deal, put forth by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Ed

pollution, high-quality healthcare for all, and a transportation systems overhaul, among other things. Like the Green New Deal, TREEage pairs climate change with economy-related ideas in their advocacy efforts, seeing that the two have been increasingly interrelated, as discussed by NPR.

"By investing in public renewables at CUNY, we can move closer to NY State's mandated climate goals, pave the way for renewable projects across the

City Council Holds Oversight Hearing on CUNY's Response to Lippman Report

By Angelina Banek
Staff Writer

In a statement released on Thursday, Nov. 21, Councilwoman Inna Vernikov announced a follow-up city council hearing on antisemitism within the City University of New York (CUNY). The hearing was held in response to the findings of the Lippman Report: an independent third-party review of CUNY's policies and procedures as they relate to antisemitism and discrimination.

Last year, Vernikov made headlines after photos surfaced of her brandishing a handgun at a Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) protest at Brooklyn College, as previously reported by The Vanguard, for which she was subsequently charged with criminal possession of a firearm after turning herself in to the police.

Council members Vernikov and Kalman Yeger have sent letters requesting the presence of six CUNY college presidents to testify at a hearing on Monday, Nov. 25, including BC President Michelle Anderson.

"Two years ago, we held an unprecedented hearing in the City Council that exposed rampant, unchecked antisemitism in the CUNY system. Due to our efforts exposing these systematic failures, @govKathyHochul appointed the Hon. Judge Jonathan Lippman to investigate and produce a report with binding recommendations—and the results were DAMNING. Now, once again, we have the chance to hold CUNY accountable," Vernikov said in an Instagram statement.

The oversight hearing on CUNY's response to the Lippman Report took

place Nov. 25 and included testimony from both CUNY officials and students. The recording can be watched on the City Council website. City Council members expressed their frustration with vague responses from the Chancellor and their commitment to continuing to implement The Lippman Report.

In the 139-page report, Former Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals and Chief Judge of New York, Johnathan Lippman, examined CUNY's existing antisemitism and discrimination policies and detailed his recommendations for improving the procedures currently in place adding that where they stand now are insufficient.

"As set forth in my report, I believe that CUNY's current policies and procedures for preventing and addressing antisemitism and discrimination need to be significantly overhauled and updated in order to handle the levels of antisemitism and discrimination that exist on CUNY's campuses today," Lippman said.

City leaders commended the report, stressing that the report was critical to understanding new measures that need to be undertaken to prevent antisemitism.

"I want to thank Judge Jonathan Lippman for his work to produce a comprehensive report on antisemitism and anti-discrimination policies at CUNY. Hate on campus has surged nationwide over the past year, and we needed a candid review of how best to protect our students," Governor Kathy Hochul said in a statement on Sept. 24.

Judge Lippman includes key observations within

the executive summary of the report. He cites confusion surrounding outdated procedures, and "a lack of uniformity in addressing antisemitism and discrimination." He also found that CUNY students do not feel safe or heard when it comes to their experiences with discrimination incidents, largely due to the online discrimination report portal, which operated as a "black box"; When students submitted a complaint, they did not receive any confirmation that it had been received, or any status updates on the progress of the investigation.

In September, Governor Hochul directed CUNY to implement a 13-point plan outlined in the report. Part of this plan urges CUNY to create a centralized center for addressing anti-semitism and other forms of discrimination, to work with law enforcement experts to establish standard safety protocols, and to recognize the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism as a tool for determining what constitutes antisemitism. It also suggested CUNY "revamp" their online portal for reporting discrimination.

"Amid a rising tide of antisemitism nationwide, CUNY has already taken critical steps to combat hate and discrimination. Recognizing there is always more to do, we look forward to working on implementing Judge Lippman's recommendations to redouble our efforts and build on our progress to create a more inclusive campus environment for students, faculty and staff," CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez said in a statement.

While the document brings



Yeger (right) and Vernikov (center right) at the hearing./Gerardo Romo for NYC Council Media Unit

up past investigations, the physically removing purpose of the Lippman "signs from the hands of Report was not to a demonstrator," can be determine whether past or punished.

None of the five CUNY school presidents invited to testify at the hearing showed up. Instead, Chancellor Rodriguez testified on behalf of the institution. Although President Anderson did not attend Monday's hearing, she has both condemned discriminatory behavior through a statement on Instagram, and has previously been vocal about preserving a safe learning environment on campus through other public statements.

Recent events only highlight the myriad of complex problems that CUNY faces in dealing with antisemitism and discrimination. While I recognize that this report will not solve all those issues, it is my sincere hope that this report and the recommendations contained therein will assist CUNY's leadership in fostering a safe and inclusive environment, free from hate of any kind," Lippman said.

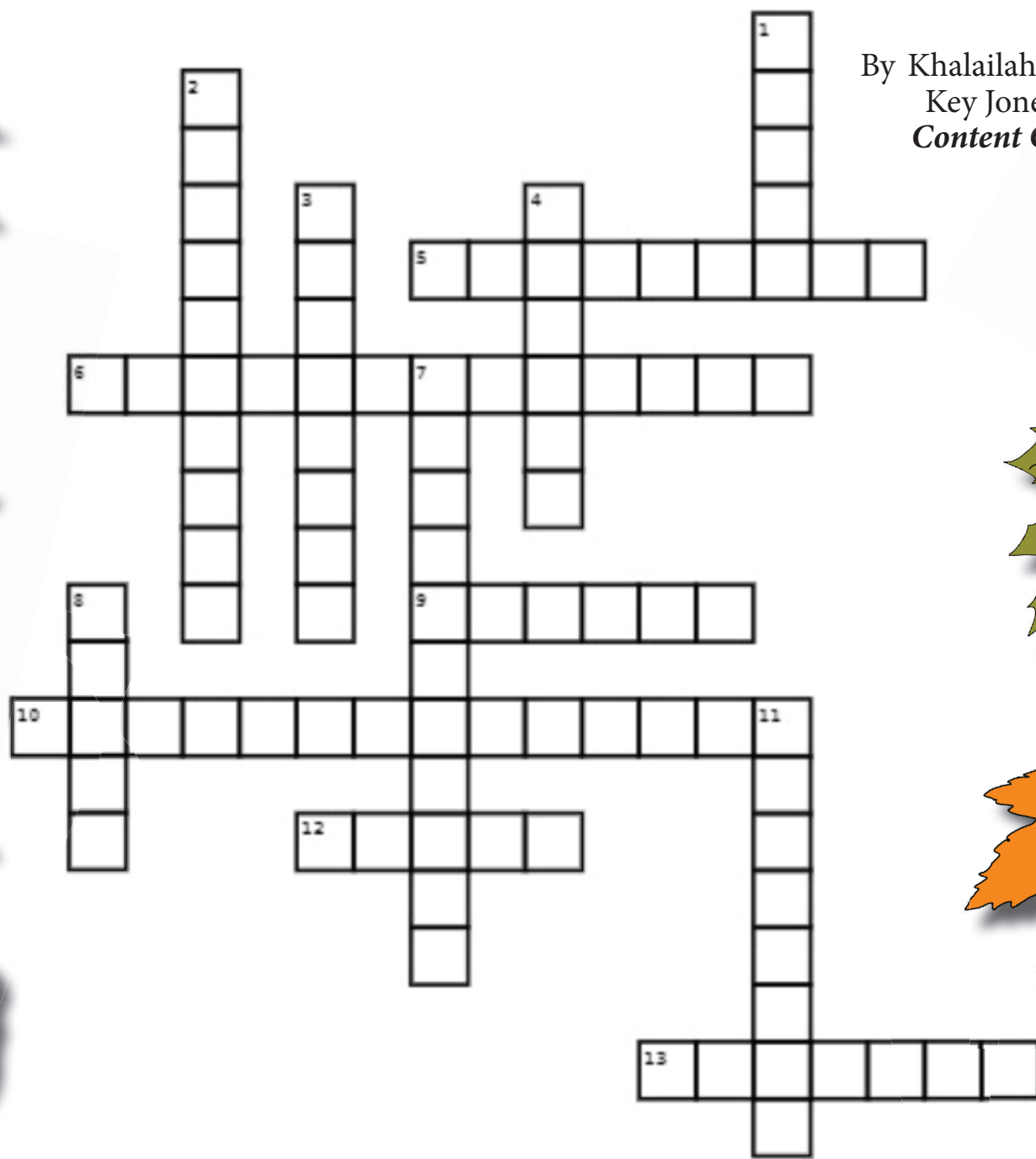
Also included in the report is the 2016 independent review by Judge Barbara Jones and Paul Schechtman of Bracewell LLP, which looked into alleged incidents of antisemitism at four CUNY schools, including Brooklyn College. The report found that while there were several antisemitic incidents at CUNY, "much of the conduct in question was protected under the U.S. Constitution."

Because CUNY is a public institution, it is limited in how it can respond to hate speech. Lippman notes that the report did find "what CUNY cannot punish, it can still condemn," and CUNY can respond to threatening conduct. Actions like

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

Thanksgiving Crossword!

By Khalailah Bynoe and
Key Jones-Ford
Content Creators



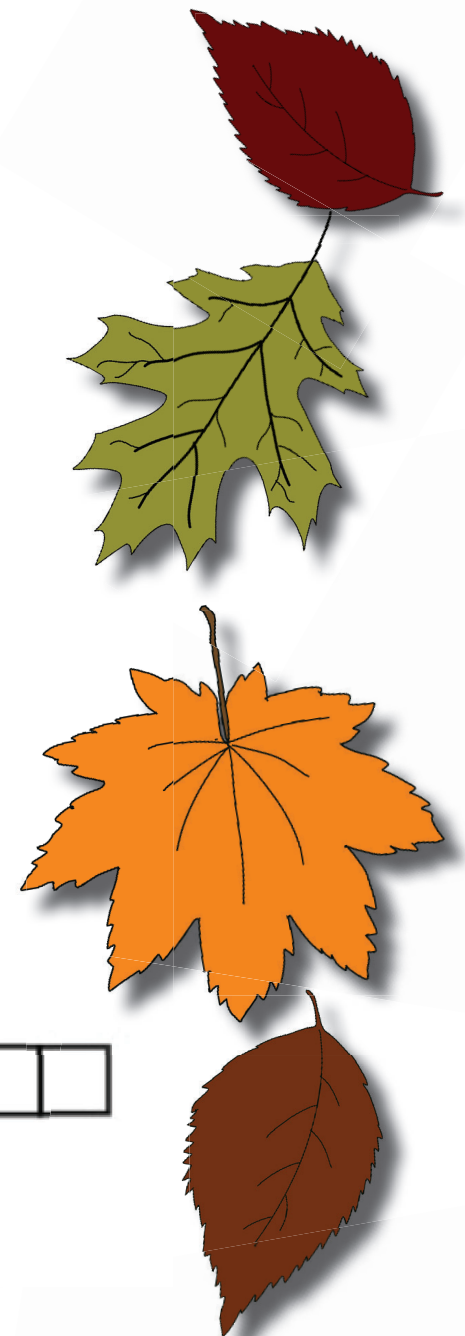
Across

- 5. The red fruit that comes as a jelly or sauce
- 6. If not with your parents, then you're with these close associates
- 9. The centerpiece of most tables
- 10. A common side dish
- 12. Pour it all over your food to make it yummy
- 13. Always remember to say please and thank you!

Down

- 1. A good fall drink of choice and a staple of the Fall
- 2. Time for dessert!
- 3. The reason for the day!
- 4. Surrounded by your aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins
- 7. Baked as a dish or pie
- 8. What you hope won't start at the table each year
- 11. For a last minute ingredient or preparing for the day after

Across: CRANBERRY; FRIENDSGIVING; TURKEY; MASHEDPOTATOES; GRAVY; MANNERS
Down: CIDER; PUMPKINPIE; THANKFUL; FAMILY; SWEETPOTATO; DRAMA; SHOPPING



BC Brings Talent to the Stage: HASA x ASU Present Talent Showcase

By Jaida Dent
Arts Editor

Students filled the basement of the Student Center in anticipation of the night's coming performances as the Haitian American Student Association (HASA) combined forces with the African Student Union (ASU) to present "Talent Showcase" on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The night featured an array of performances from the BC student body, including singing, dancing, beatboxing, opera, and even live jazz music.

"Each and every single performance shocked me and opened my eyes [to the fact] that we have future superstars in our proximity," said Yerema Keita, president of ASU.

The talent amongst the performers illustrated the creativity that exists on campus. The night featured singing from Michelle Sowa, Matthew Romulus, Helena Nogveira, and Johee Park, who performed an opera piece. The Blaze Dance Team took the audience around the world with a performance across several dance styles such as hip hop, majorette, and bachata. The night ended with a slam poetry performance from special guest Mandy Wagnac, a graduate of Columbia University.

Paolo Lembo, a senior at Brooklyn College, gathered the crowd's attention through beatboxing. Lembo

has been beatboxing since high school and now participates in competitions in and out of New York State.

"I was super excited to see all these people. Not many people know what modern beatboxing sounds like today, so there's that shock factor that I'm super into [...]. So it's always great to have any opportunity to perform," said Lembo.

Another performance was a live jazz piece from students Kayla McCoy, playing the double bass, and Tyler Cohen, on the African drums and steel pans.

McCoy commented on her performance



Blaze Dance Team performing./Jaida Dent

so that's how I ended up here."

The idea for the event was conceived through the two clubs looking to expand their efforts into a collaboration.

"This event was inspired by its attempt in having

amazing show," said Keita.

While the event brought about entertainment and community for the students of BC as the end of the semester approaches, it also produced a space for

highlight the skill and creative vision these students brought and unapologetically give their all on stage and share with everyone present. It was truly a special and captivating experience," said Fabiola Saintelien, the president of HASA.

The goal of the event, according to organizers, was to allow the talent of Brooklyn College to be placed on center stage. For the performers and the supportive audience members, it was an opportunity to come together to create a vibrant and welcoming space for everyone.

"Brooklyn College is a multicultural and diverse institute encapsulating artistic and expressive individuals," said Saintelien. "I was grateful and honored for this one night of showcasing what has been hidden that we all got to discover."

For information about HASA and ASU, as well as upcoming events, follow them on Instagram @bc.hasa and @brooklyncollege_asu



Kayla Mccoy (left) and Tyler Cohen (right) performing a jazz piece./ Jaida Dent

saying, "I'm an advanced beginner but that didn't stop me from performing and wanting to show my abilities [...]. Music has always been a part of me and I've always felt like a connection to the bass,

one last semester, and in the spirit of HASA and ASU now sharing a club room, it's only right that we collaborate. You will definitely be seeing more collaborations between us and I know we will put on another

creative expression. The showcase addressed a need for students to be able to be open and bold, while also having fun in sharing their love for music and dancing.

"It was important and necessary to

The Wolfe Institute Hosts “Election 2024: What Now?”

By Rami Mansi
Opinions Editor

The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute hosted the virtual discussion “Election 2024: What Now?” on Monday, Nov. 18 with over 150 viewers in attendance. The discussion featured panelists who discussed a variety of topics regarding the results of the Nov. 5 election, in which 45th US President Donald Trump was reelected over the Democratic nominee and current U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.

The three panelists are all Hess Scholars of Brooklyn College through the Robert L. Hess Scholarship in Residence program, which invites a distinguished academic to BC each year. Barbara Smith was the Hess scholar from 2022-23, an established and groundbreaking activist who connected the lines of race, sexuality, gender, and class. Smith was among the first to define an African American women’s literary tradition, being a co-founder and publisher of the first U.S. publishing press for women of color.

The other speakers were Paul Ortiz, Hess Scholar



Courtesy of the Wolfe Institute

from 2023-24, is a professor of labor history at Cornell University; Ortiz is the author of numerous books and essays. Melissa Murray, the Frederick I. and Grace Stokes Professor of Law at NYU School of Law, teaches constitutional law, family law, criminal law, and reproductive rights and justice. She is also the upcoming visiting 2024-25 Hess Scholar.

All three panelists took turns answering questions from the audience and the moderator. When asked to reflect on her own experience in terms of the increase in censorship, Smith declared that she feels emotional when answering the question, as she relates current events to her aspects.

“I’m really concerned about

the scapegoating in the trans community, and also the L G B T Q I A + community. I’ve been a part of the latter since the mid-1970s and it is frightening when you have multiple identities that they see as dispensable,” Smith said.

Smith continued to discuss how compassion and community are the keys to helping support each other during the demanding times for many marginalized communities that feel uneasy in these times.

“I’ve been so appreciative of the big community I’m a part of [...] however you can do it, I think it’s so important to have compassion,” she said. “There’s nothing wrong with fear, as long as we don’t feel isolated [...] the system wants us to feel a sense of isolation.” Ortiz

mentioned as a nod to the ever-changing political climate where the dominating political parties create decisions that divide voters.

Murray stated that social media amplified the election to a broader audience, establishing larger communities that intend to expand their reach to any social media user.

“Social media kind of vacuum, the ways that social media amplifies grievance [...] The thing with social media is that you’re not insular anymore,” Murray said.

Answering the question of what we, as a society, can do moving forward, Ortiz quickly answered with, “Read books.” This sentiment was echoed by Murray, who stated, “We need to teach civics education in our K-12 schools. One thing that stood

out in [election votes] is people don’t know how the government works. It’s not because they’re dumb, it’s not because they’re disengaged. It’s because we haven’t taught them.”

The speakers emphasized the importance of the college environment in light of changes that may be brought about by the election. “We need to keep building bridges, not only on our campuses between students, faculty, and staff,” Ortiz said. “[College students] are a small, but powerful minority.”

Students interested in upcoming talks can visit the BC Wolfe Institute on their Instagram, @bc_wolfeinstitute

BC Central Asians Association Merges Mental Health and Creativity in Tote Bag Decorating Event

By T'Neil Gooden
Features Editor

The Brooklyn College Central Asians Association (BCCA) welcomed students to destress and decorate tote bags on Nov. 19 in the Student Center.

Students who attended were met with crayons, markers, pencils, tote bags, and licensed psychologist, Annabel Amir, who shared the benefits of decompressing through relaxation and innovation.

"I shared the importance of breathing as a simple yet powerful technique for managing stress," Amir told *The Vanguard*. "Although breathing comes naturally, it's crucial to take intentional pauses to inhale deeply and exhale slowly. These small moments of mindfulness can make a big difference in managing the pressures of daily life."

Amir explained that being available to students is something that should be available on all college campuses, and being there for students is something that all psychotherapists should try to do.

"There are very few multilingual psychotherapists in New York who speak Central Asian languages. As someone who can connect with such a diverse population, I felt it was crucial to be there to support students, particularly youth, who are often vulnerable," Amir told *The Vanguard*.

Students were not only

able to hear about the benefits of mindfulness, but they could also meet peers and share their college experiences.

"My favorite part of the event was meeting new students. It was enjoyable to make new friends and see new faces," Adam Bakyt, a BC student, told *The Vanguard*. "I was proud to go and get out of my

how to manage intense emotions is an invaluable skill."

Individuals at the event internalized the words that Amir had said and shared how the messages have made an impact on their views on college and their livelihoods.

"[Amir] mentioned that this event was made for relaxation and that

Vanguard. "These decorations were truly inspiring, showcasing the diverse and heartfelt expressions of everyone involved."

The BCCA wants BC students to understand the significance of their club through their culture, traditions, and experiences when it comes to mental health.

"The club is so much

demand, and we even reached capacity and had to turn students away," Bakyt told *The Vanguard*. "I want everyone to have the opportunity to see a therapist and enjoy the experience of drawing. We are active on Instagram and have a room in the Club Center where students can connect with us."



Photo courtesy of Alexia Bakyt

comfort zone. I was also glad to have made some new friends."

Attendees listened attentively to Amir's advice on enjoying and appreciating collegehood.

"One of the key messages I wanted BC students to take away is that everything will be okay. While this might sound cliché, I believe it's important for students to find joy in attending classes and even taking tests," Amir shared with *The Vanguard*. "Furthermore, I wanted them to know that they matter and that there are resources available to support them if they're struggling. Although life often presents uncontrollable challenges, learning

she strove to not make it a long stressful lecture but a fun and rewarding experience," Bakyt told *The Vanguard*.

After Amir explained the benefits of ingenuity and expressiveness, students began to use the available materials to decorate their tote bags. Students were able to take her words and create designs that were very significant to their personal experiences.

"Each bag was a beautiful reflection of personal perspectives and creativity. For instance, I saw trees symbolizing participants' home countries, intricate depictions of Central Asian culture, and simple yet cheerful flowers and smiley faces," Amir told *The*

more than a hobby—it's my culture. It provides a direct way for me and other Central Asian students to feel at home, even if we are thousands of miles away," Alexia Bakyt, founder of BCCA, told *The Vanguard*. "The club also allows me to host events on important topics, such as mental health."

Students were greeted with the knowledge that these events were not going to leave as Bakyt explained the need for these events to be continued on our BC campus.

"I am in the process of making 'Tote-ally Stress-Free' group therapy events a monthly occurrence. There was a great

Amir then explained that this event and other events that BCCA holds are an extension of their culture and should be celebrated in any way, shape, or form.

"Since [BCCA] is the first to focus on bringing together Central Asian students, I found it deeply fulfilling to support their mission," Amir told *The Vanguard*. "Sometimes, even a brief conversation with a trusted adult can have a significant impact on a student struggling at school or home. I wanted students to feel safe and heard."

Students interested in upcoming BCCCA events can visit their Instagram, @bccentralasians

Shaking the Foundations: The Progress and Challenges of Decolonizing Academia

By Darlene Arvelo
Staff Writer

In recent years, there has been a much-needed effort in institutions to embrace and ignite decolonization, mainly in the context of academia. Decolonization in academia refers to the process of dismantling deeply ingrained colonial philosophies, ideologies, and structures that came over on ships even before the Mayflower. The push for decolonization in academia is not only necessary, but urgent to create more inclusive, diverse, and equitable educational spaces.

The ideas taught and learned within these institutions are an attempt to understand the present, predict the future, and are defined by the ideas of the past. When we think about it, we realize that much of the education we receive is focused on the world after Christopher Columbus' colonization of the Americas. From the 15th century onward, European countries imposed their worldviews on countries they invaded. Since then, these worldviews have seeped into nearly all aspects of life. Recent decolonization efforts aim to shed these layers of outdated and hierarchical living.

It is an effort to recognize the damage done and make repairs to damaged structures. The damage is acknowledged by critiquing and revising academic practices, curricula focusing on Western ideologies, and methodologies that have been shaped by colonial perspectives. The damage is repaired by centering the voices of those historically marginalized and further promoting approaches to education

that recognize the value of indigenous, local, and non-Western ways of learning and teaching.

Western countries have shaped the educational system, primarily through the spread of Western ideologies, unfair hierarchies, and skewed Eurocentric recounts of history which often present the West as central to the development of the modern world. This centralization, in turn, has marginalized knowledge from indigenous, African, Asian, and Latin American cultures, to name a few. Non-Western knowledge has often been either completely ignored, criminally undervalued, or maliciously misrepresented within academic spaces.

For scholars and academics, the movement encourages scholars to integrate non-Western knowledge into academic

discourse, promote the diversification of academic voices, question established hierarchies, broaden the scope of curiosity, and engage in research that is more equitable and inclusive. The impact lies



Students at San Francisco State University protesting against underfunded ethnic studies./
Courtesy of Melissa Minton

in a more diverse and holistic understanding of the world.

For students, the power of decolonial efforts lies in empowering students from marginalized backgrounds by validating their histories and cultures. More generally, it encourages students

worldwide are actively engaging in efforts to decolonize education, whether through colonial symbol removal, curriculum reforms, structural changes, or research initiatives. Among many others are the University of Delhi in India, the University of

2015. Fueled by student and staff protests and global attention garnered by the #RhodesMustFall movement, UCT removed from their campus a statue of Cecil Rhodes—former prime minister of Britain's occupation at Cape Town and a symbol of white supremacy.

While the specific approaches may vary from institution to institution, there is a common theme: growing recognition that academic institutions must challenge historical inequalities, restructure the power dynamics, and create more inclusive, diverse, and equitable academic environments. Much of the work is yet to be done, but these efforts reflect a collective movement toward academia that is more representative of, and responsive to, the cultures of the world in its entirety. The more we embrace this movement, the closer we move to an educational system that is genuinely inclusive, socially just, and capable of solving the complex, interconnecting challenges of the modern world.



Students celebrating after the Cecil Rhodes statue is removed from the University of Cape Town in 2015./Charlie Shoemaker for Getty Images

to engage with diverse intellectual traditions, develop interdisciplinary skills, and critical engagements with the assumed facts of history, and become advocates for social justice and equality.

Several institutions

the Andes (Universidad de los Andes) in Colombia, and Oxford University in the United Kingdom. The University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa made one of the most powerful strides toward decolonization in

Sports Recap (11/16 - 11/23)

By Manuel Polanco
Sports Editor

Women's Basketball

In a close game highlighted by the great defense on both sides, the BC women's basketball team faced off against Kean University on Tuesday, Nov. 19. They would lose this game 54-64, but Mary Doglin had a career high 23 points this game with 10 rebounds. Doglin would have a double-double in this game.

Dior Dorsey would also have a double-double this game, ending it with 13 points, seven rebounds, and a couple of steals. Anna Kitch had seven points with nine rebounds and four assists as well. Ameaa Daniel would have four points as well.

The team returned to their home field on Friday, Nov. 22 and played against Rowan University. The game was close in each quarter, and culminated in a win for the Bulldogs via a score of 73-71.

The Bulldogs remain on their home field as

they prepare for their next game against New Jersey University on Monday, Dec. 2.

Men's Basketball

The BC men's basketball team played against the University of Mount Saint Vincent on Thursday, Nov. 21. Multiple players had 10 or more points in this game, and leading the charge was senior Malik Dale, who had a season-high 27 points and four points, shooting 50% from the three-point line. David McFadden had 16 points, eight assists, and eight rebounds. Stephon McGill had 13 points and four rebounds.

Joe Charles had nine points and three assists. Serge Thraysbule had 12 rebounds this game. BC kept it even in each quarter as they scored 31 points in the first half and 37 points in the second, keeping it tied all the way through.

The game went into overtime, but Saint Vincent would win by just two points and take the game



David McFadden going for a layup./Courtesy of BC Athletics



Mary Doglin going for a lay up./Courtesy of BC Athletics



Senior guard Stephon McGill./Courtesy of BC Athletics

80-78. Capped off by a last-second three from Charles to tie the game, the game headed into overtime.

Despite a thriller of a game that ended in an overtime loss, the Bulldogs

hoped to rebound in their next game, which took place on Saturday, Nov. 23 against Rivier University.

Their efforts were ultimately unsuccessful, culminating in a

loss of 90-63.

The Bulldogs will play their next game against the United States Merchant Marine Academy on Tuesday, Nov. 26.

LGBTQ+ Resource Center Holds Vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance

By Giovanni M. Ravalli
LGBTQ+ Correspondent

In recognition of Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR), as part of Transgender Awareness Week, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center held a vigil at the Brooklyn College Koi pond on Nov. 19. GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) defines TDoR as an annual observance on Nov. 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

The yearly day was established in 1999 when Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a transgender advocate, held a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. To honor the over 400+ trans people globally who have lost their lives to violence or suicide since last year, people from all parts of campus came to pay their respects.

“It’s important that we pay our respects and keep their memory alive,” said Zeno Wood, a piano technician at BC. “I’ve always been supportive of trans rights, I’ve had trans friends for over 30 years, my son is trans. We’ve come such a long way in terms of trans acceptance and along with that is trans remembrance and paying respect to those who’ve passed.”

The vigil consisted of a booklet with all the names of trans victims who have lost their lives in the last year. As each name was read, a battery-powered LED candle for each of them was laid out next to

the Koi pond. This year the LGBTQ+ Resource Center added on a silent march across campus holding a large transgender flag. For some it’s personal and was a powerfully emotional experience for all.

“I knew I had to be there because I’m trans so I feel like it’s my obligation to go there and attend and if I don’t then I’d just feel pretty bad about not attending because I’d feel like I’m doing a disservice to my trans community,” said Emily Goldstein, a senior film major at BC. “Attending the vigils and reading the names, it feels very emotional and I feel very connected to the people who lost their lives and I would like to know more about them instead of just reading their names and stuff.”

The transgender community has some of the highest rates of violent hate crimes committed against the community, with those living at the intersections of marginalized identities being disproportionately victimized in relation to their non-minority counterparts. According to HRC, Black transgender women, who face multiple layers of violence due to their gender identity, gender, and race, comprise 61% of all victims of fatal violence against transgender and gender-expansive people. Since 2013, 84% of trans and



Students and faculty at vigil for Trans Remembrance Day./ Giovanni M. Ravalli



A candle for each trans life lost./Giovanni M. Ravalli

gender-expansive victims of fatal violence were people of color and 83% were transgender women.

“I think it’s a really heavy day,” said Andy Hale, a counselor in BC’s Personal Counseling services. “I think it’s a day where we stop and take inventory, and I think there’s always an awareness there of the violence against trans people because it happens so often and we feel the weight of it in the day-to-day life. But this is really a time where we really stop and many people in the community are doing that inventory and reflection.”

The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Hester’s death which began a tradition that has since become known as Transgender Day of Remembrance.

“At this crucial juncture in national politics, TDoR takes on new significance in the LGBTQ+ community,” said Kelly Spivey, director of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. “Each year we hold this vigil, and each year it’s both difficult and healing. TDoR vigils are held in many places around the globe to commemorate those we’ve lost to transphobia and trans violence. This includes suicide as transgender folks are more likely to consider and attempt suicide 41% of trans-Americans have attempted suicide.”

As the lives lost as well as the ongoing struggles of the transgender community continue, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center hopes to continue to be there to serve as hope and support for the community.

“It’s important for me to

be here as a staff member from personal counseling and as a trans mental health provider. I think it’s important for trans people to see me and have that visibility,” Hale told The Vanguard. “Our office is absolutely LGBTQ-affirming and that’s not dropping the T, we are a very trans-affirming office. We offer group therapy and individual therapy. Specifically to trans students, if you are trying to work through something and you don’t know what to make of it, come talk to us.”

Students interested in the LGBTQ+ Resource Center can visit their website, <https://www.brooklyn.edu/lgbtq-center/>, or their Instagram, @lgbtqcenter_bc



Photo by Giovanni M. Ravalli