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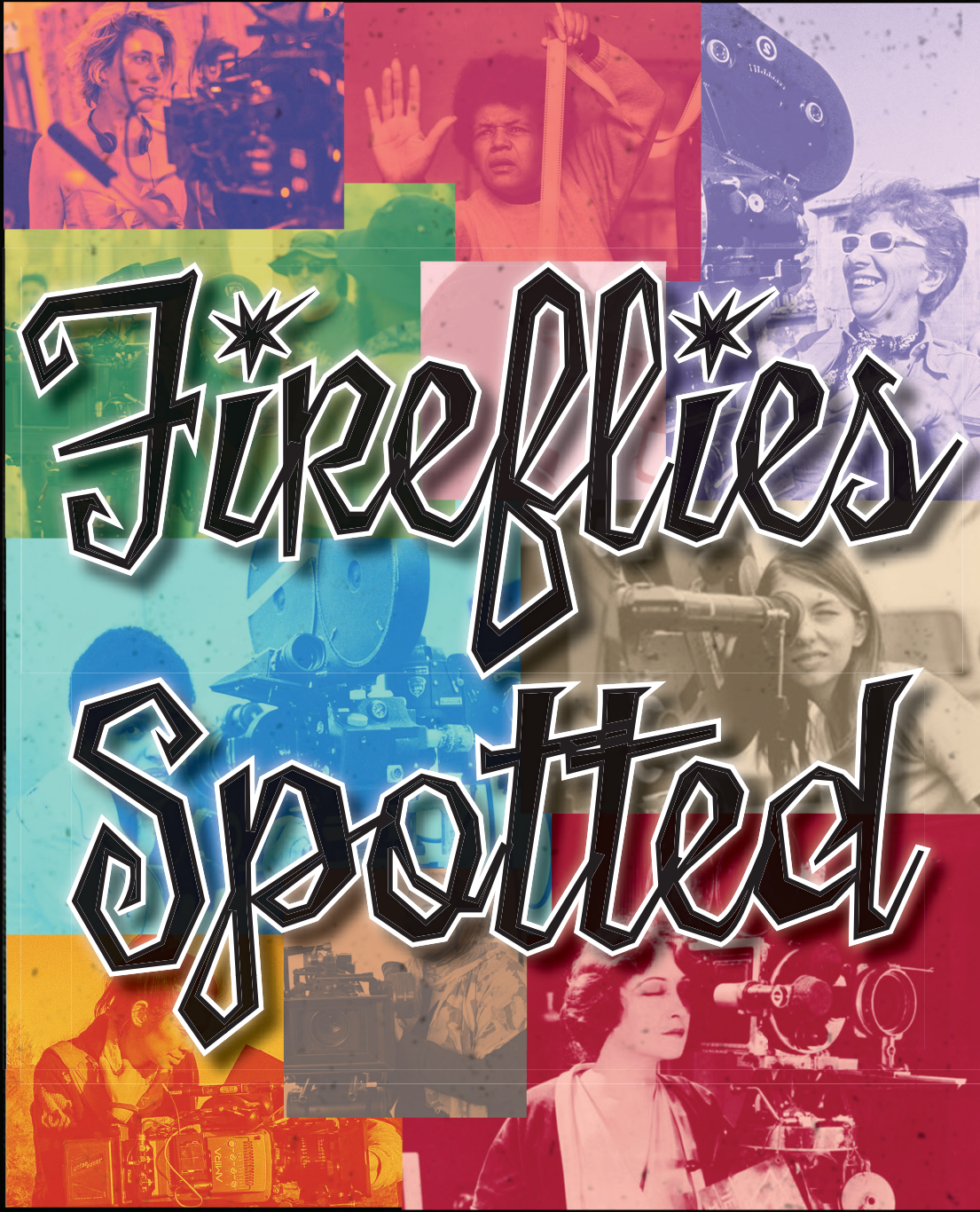
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Title IX Changes To Exclude Protections for LGBTQ+ Students, BC Policy Remains Zero Tolerance for Discrimination

By Emily Nixon
Staff Writer

On Jan. 20, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14168, which legally defined two sexes to be recognized by the federal government. Due to this redefinition of what the federal government will officially recognize as a valid sex/gender, the provisions granted to students by Title IX have changed.

“Title IX: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities at universities receiving federal funds,” as stated on the Brooklyn College Title IX Webpage.

Regulations from 2024 expanded the law to provide protections for students and staff against “discrimination based on sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity,” according to the Federal Register. These distinct protections have since been revoked as the executive order refused to acknowledge “gender” as a valid term to identify a person.

The executive order describes “gender identity” as “[...] a fully internal and subjective sense of self, disconnected from biological reality and sex and existing on an infinite continuum, that does not provide a meaningful basis for identification and cannot be recognized as a replacement for sex,” as stated in paragraph G of subsection two.

Along with the revocation of gender as an identifying feature, students who do not identify with the sex they were identified at birth will no longer be recognized by the federal government.

“Female’ means a person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the large reproductive cell,” states the executive order. The order repeats the same terminology for the male counterpart, replacing “female” with “male” and “large” with “small”.

Title IX is bound by the recognition and definitions given by the federal government. Eliminating the recognition of chosen



Brooklyn College Office of Diversity and Equity is the office responsible for enforcing and implementing anti-discriminatory policies at BC./Courtesy of BC Office of Diversity and Equity webpage

gender and non-cisgender identities removes the explicit protections of Title IX for students who identify as transgender, nonbinary, gender-fluid, or anything besides cisgender.

Another challenge transgender and non-cisgender students might face is having their ability to use the restroom and locker rooms of their preferred gender taken away.

“Agencies shall effectuate this policy by taking appropriate action to ensure that intimate spaces designated for women, girls, or females (or for men, boys, or males) are designated by sex and not identity,” states paragraph D of subsection four.

Despite this, many colleges have their own policies to help protect their LGBTQIA+ students.

BC, along with other CUNY schools, has an “Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination” policy.

“[BC] prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, creed, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, religion (including antisemitism and Islamophobic discrimination), age, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity,” states the BC Office of Diversity and Equity webpage. “[Along with] marital status, partnership status, disability, genetic information, alienage, citizenship, military or veteran status, status as a victim of domestic violence/

stalking/sex offenses, unemployment status, or any other legally prohibited basis in accordance with federal, state, and city laws.”

BC also sent out an email to its students on Feb. 4, announcing the switch from the 2024 regulations to the 2020 regulations. The email provides context to changes from the policy regression and lists centers for students to go to for support.

The email states, “CUNY’s 2020 Policy on Sexual Misconduct (attached here) replaces the fully rescinded 2024 Policy on Sex-Based Misconduct as the policy applicable to all open and future Title IX matters, including all ‘open Title IX investigations initiated under the 2024 Rule.’” The Women’s Center, the BC Health Clinic, as well as the Personal Counseling Center, are all listed as places of support for BC students.

Trump has been aiming to cut the Department of Education (DOE) according to NPR. The DOE is responsible for providing aid to students through programs such as the FAFSA and student loans, while also enforcing and administering new regulations as they are passed to federal laws pertaining to schools and education, including Title IX.

In addition, BC is a public institution that receives federal funding, which means that the federal government could threaten to pull funds if they find any funds allocated within BC that promote gender ideology.

“Federal funds shall not

be used to promote gender ideology. Each agency shall assess grant conditions and grantee preferences and ensure grant funds do not promote gender ideology,” states the executive order paragraph G of subsection three.

Title IX is not the only document affected by Executive Order 14168. Multiple federal documents have been rescinded by the order which directly deal with and affect LGBTQIA+ students.

“Each agency head shall promptly rescind all guidance documents inconsistent with the requirements of this order or the Attorney General’s guidance issued under this order, or rescind such parts of such documents that are inconsistent in such manner,” states paragraph C of subsection seven. “Such documents include [...] the Department of Education’s guidance documents including: 2024 Title IX regulations: Pointers for implementation, U.S. Department of Education Toolkit: Creating Inclusive and Nondiscriminatory School Environments for LGBTQI+ Youth and Families in School [and its Spanish version], Supporting Transgender Youth in School, Letter to educators on Title IX 49th Anniversary.”

As more legislation comes out that will affect LGBTQIA+ students, the more vigilant students need to remain to fully understand their rights and protections.

Eric Adams Indictment Case To Be Dismissed by Department of Justice

By Victoria Keraj
News Editor

The Department of Justice (DOJ) ordered prosecutors to dismiss the case against mayor of New York City, Eric Adams.

As previously covered by The Vanguard, Adams was indicted on 5 counts, including bribery and campaign finance offenses. “Adams’ attorney, Alex Spiro, ha[d] requested the Department of Justice to drop his charges.”

A memo sent on Feb. 10 by acting deputy attorney general Emil Bove cites the case’s interference with the 2025 mayoral election and with Adams’ ability to uphold new immigration policies as reasoning to dismiss the

case. Bove also brings up that Adams opposed the Biden Administration’s immigration policies and accuses the prosecutors of unfairly going after Adams.

“Federal prosecutors were instructed to dismiss the case without prejudice, meaning it could come up again. However, according to the sources, Bove said nothing could happen until after this year’s mayoral election,” reported ABC.

On Feb. 12, attorney general for the Southern District of New York, Danielle Sassoon, sent a letter to U.S. attorney general Pam Bondi, stating her refusal to dismiss the case.

In the letter, she states, “Adams’s advocacy should be called out for what it

is: an improper offer of immigration enforcement assistance in exchange for a dismissal of his case. Although Mr. Bove disclaimed any intention to exchange leniency in this case for Adams’s assistance in enforcing federal law, that is the nature of the bargain laid bare in Mr. Bove’s memo.”

Rather than dismiss the case, Sassoon resigned on Thursday, Feb. 13 along with the officials who oversaw the Justice Department’s Public Integrity Section, Kevin O. Driscoll and John Keller, according to the New York Times. NYT also reported that “Several hours later, three other lawyers in the unit also resigned, according to people familiar with the developments.”



Eric Adams appears on ‘Fox & Friends’ with Tom Homan and discusses his indictment and immigration./Courtesy of Fox

On Thursday, Adams also met with Border czar Tom Homan. “We are now working on implementing an executive order that will reestablish the ability for ICE agents to operate on Rikers Island — as was the case for 20 years,” he said in a statement.

When asked by WNBC if he would change his party affiliation, Adams

reportedly expressed that, “[...] he is remaining as a Democrat and will run in the Democratic primary for mayor.”

An official court document was filed for the dismissal of the case and it remains to be seen how District Judge Hon. Dale E. Ho will respond.

CUNY Launches “CUNY Accommodate”: New Disability Accommodation Management System



Disability Accommodations Staff displayed on CUNY Accommodate page along with login instructions./Courtesy of CUNY Accommodate webpage

By Victoria Keraj
News Editor

“CUNY Accommodate”, which launched on Jan. 2 for intended use in the spring 2025 semester, is a new platform with the purpose of managing student disability accommodations.

An announcement for the application from Sept. 4 mentions that CUNY Accommodate aligns with the goal to, “actively recruit and retain new cohorts of diverse students at every level of

instruction and remove operational and societal barriers for entry and retention,” from CUNY’s strategic roadmap.

This roadmap includes a series of goals that CUNY set following the COVID-19 pandemic, and aims to, “create a strategic plan for CUNY that expands the frontiers of knowledge, accelerates our role as the nation’s greatest educational vehicle for equity and upward mobility, and amplifies the well-being of the citizens of the City and State of

New York” as per their website.

The announcement also states, “The introduction of a centralized disability management system marks another step towards removing barriers and enhancing the experience for students with disabilities, bringing together faculty, DSO staff and students to ensure that all students can succeed.”

Prior to the new system, disability accommodations required students to provide detailed documentation regarding their needs. These documents were then reviewed by each individual campus’ disability office. The new system is a centralized platform, remaining the same across CUNY.

The program is also described in the user-guide as, “an accessible mobile-friendly platform.” Detailed in the user-guide

is how students may use CUNY Accommodate to upload documentation and view their accommodations. More instruction is featured in the guide as well as how to log on and create an account.

“We encourage you to familiarize yourself with CUNY Accommodate by exploring our self-directed instructional videos and comprehensive guides that walk you through what you need to know to use the system (Access SharePoint then enter your CUNYfirst username and password to get started),” Alicia M. Alvero, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost, said in a statement. “You can access these resources and the CUNY Accommodate system using the links below.”

The application will be used by BC’s Center of Student Disability

Services (CSDS) to “streamline [...] the management of requests for accommodations and services that DSOs provide,” as is stated in the user-guide. For example, the app will allow students to schedule appointments and submit semester requests which will be reviewed by the CSDS.

It remains to be seen how this new system will impact students in the upcoming semester. “This marks another step toward removing barriers and enhancing the experience for students with disabilities,” CUNY states, “bringing together faculty, DSO staff and students to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.”

Students can access CUNY Accommodate at: <https://cuny-accommodate.symplicity.com/>

ISSO Holds Workshop on Immigration Rights for BC Community

By **Serena Edwards**
Content Creator

Brooklyn College's International Student Success Office (ISSO), in collaboration with the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership (S.A.I.L.), hosted an "Empowering Brooklyn College Campus Community" workshop on Feb 13. The goal of this event was to aid students who are immigrants and those who may be undocumented, as well as students and faculty who want to know how to support their community.

President Donald Trump has signed over 50 executive orders since his inauguration. According to the Center for Migration Studies, one of these executive orders follows the mass deportation of all undocumented immigrants. Since the announcement that ICE will gain access to churches and schools, CUNY has taken the initiative to ensure all students feel secure.

In an email sent on Jan. 27 by BC President Michelle J. Anderson, she stated the procedures BC will take moving forward. "This semester we are quadrupling the number of hours of free immigrant legal services we offer," said Anderson.

According to ISSO's website, they offer five pillars of support: CUNY & NYS Financial Aid Application Support, Faculty Mentorship and Career Planning, Community Building and Allyship Support, Wellness and Mental Health Support, and Free legal screening and support in partnership with CUNY Citizenship Now.

Following their website,

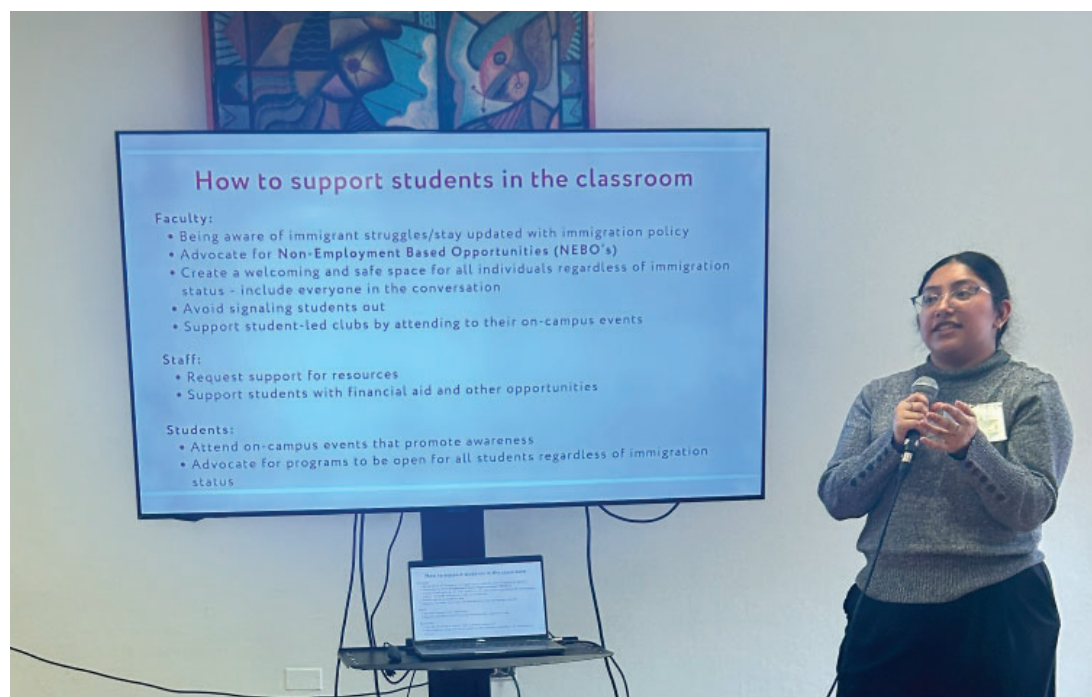
ISSO's mission statement states, "[...] every student deserves a safe, inclusive, empowering, and supportive space to thrive academically, personally, and professionally."

Jesus Perez, director of ISSO, emphasized the importance of each pillar of support. "The first thing a student wants to know is that they're connected to the campus somehow and that they matter in the bigger picture, that their role on this campus will make a difference," Perez stated.

ISSO created a program called "Undocu-Ally" that pairs students up with a faculty member to provide not only insight about the student's major and internship opportunities, but also a safe environment for them during their matriculation in college, as previously reported by

their experiences in internships, resources, and pathways to grad school happen on the outside."

The third pillar, Wellness, and Mental Health Support, is extremely important to the student body, and ISSO has implemented many efforts for students. "Students have experienced high levels of depression, and anxiety, but in the immigrant community, it's a lot more because our students face uncertainty of what's going to happen next," Perez stated. "We are connected with the Personal Counseling Office. We're doing 'Monday Lunch Hours' where [students] come over and we do group discussions. We also have a dedicated person who sees students one-on-one after the activities," stated Perez.



ISSO program coordinator Leslie Ramirez presenting during workshop./Serena Edwards

The Vanguard.

"Students want to participate in the life of the community, the life of Brooklyn College [...] outside of the classroom is so important as well," Perez stated regarding the second pillar, Community Building and Allyship Support. He discussed the opportunities students deserve to have, "[...]

ISSO also touched upon their available partnerships, such as UndocuBlack Network, which assists both Black and queer undocumented students. They also referenced the financial services that are available to students. Some of these services include The NYS Dream Act and Dream US Private Scholarship.



Flyer for the event./Courtesy of @issobc on Instagram

After displaying all of these crucial resources, ISSO turned the mic to legal attorney Luz Medrano, who serves as an immigration attorney. She introduced what is CUNY Citizenship Now and her role within the program. CUNY

Medrano mentioned that "ICE needs a warrant signed by a federal judge or your permission." Individuals also "[...] have the right to remain silent, you have the right to ask if you're free to go, you don't have to give police your information." Medrano mentioned a resource called a "Red Card", which includes all these written rights.

Another crucial resource mentioned by Medrano is the "Know Your Rights 4 Immigrants," available on app stores. This app allows immigrants to read their rights in their native language and then translate them into English for the officers.

ISSO plans to continue their support for BC students, informing them of their rights, and providing a safe environment for immigrant students.

For those interested in learning more about ISSO, visit their Instagram @ issobc or visit their website <https://www.brooklyn.edu/dosa/student-support-services/isso/administration's-priorities>.

Citizenship Now! is a CUNY-based program that provides legal immigration assistance to any immigrants living within New York City. The program is not income-limited, meaning your income does not play a factor in the service you're able to obtain.

The workshop delved into individual rights.

‘Black Girl Magic’: LGBTQ+ Center Holds Makeup Workshop

By Shannon Dyett
Staff Writer

The Brooklyn College LGBTQ+ Resource Center and the LGBT Alliance (LBGTA) hosted a gender euphoria makeup workshop, entitled “Black Girl Magic,” on Feb. 11 in the Student Center in celebration of Black History Month. This event was held so that students of all gender expressions and sexualities could learn tips from beauty experts on how to apply makeup regardless of their identity.

This event was one of many makeup workshops that the LGBTQ+ Center has hosted over the years. “Makeup workshops are something that’s very important to the center and the work we do,” Akachukwu Chinweze, senior assistant to Kelly Spivey, director of the Center, stated. “It has been something that we’ve been doing for a very long time and involving a lot of students taking part in exploring what gender means and how gender looks.

The LBGTA and the LGBTQ+ Center have put on this makeup event for the past three years. This year, they invited two makeup artists, Yamani Oakley, also known as Starr, and Fianna Ri, to lead the workshop.

“We have a pretty good turnout every year, so I’m happy about that. When I first started doing makeup, it was on a non-binary person, so this event was just to highlight that anybody can do makeup,” Starr told *The Vanguard*. “[...] So, whatever you identify with, you can get your

makeup done, you can do your own makeup. It’s just about having fun and expressing creativity at the end of the day.”

This semester, Fia Sanchez, a junior sociology major and president of the LBGTA, decided to take the initiative for the event in collaboration with the Resource Center and two makeup artists. The artists were able to give makeup tutorials to all the members who

their Instagram announcement.

Ri and Starr aimed to show everyone how to apply all varieties of makeup utilizing the makeup brand Juvia, a Black-owned cosmetics company founded by Chichi Eburu in 2016.

“So we had this event in celebration of Black History Month, and a lot of people don’t have access to makeup or they don’t know how to choose makeup or buy makeup,” Massi

are transitioning and they don’t know how to feminize themselves, or they want to learn how to feminize themselves so we do this.”

The club leaders understood the significance of organizing the event, especially in celebration of Black History Month.

“I think this is really important to highlight trans people and celebrate trans people, [including] Black and Brown trans women

powerful modes of expression.

“Given the times we’re in, it is very important to show that we can present ourselves the way we best feel comfortable and not the way society dictates the way we should or should not,” Chinweze stated. “So it’s a very powerful thing, this workshop and seeing students just embrace whatever look, whatever creative ability they possess is just an immensely



Yamani Oakley (Starr) and Fianna Ri prepare to look dazzling during the makeup tutorial./Shannon Dyett

attended this event so that they could all see how to apply makeup. The looks ranged from feminine to masculine, all embracing the utmost creativity.

The goal of the event was to, “[Include] a focus on darker skin complexions and achieving different gender expressions through makeup. Our goal is to celebrate and uplift the Black and Brown trans members of our community!” according to

told *The Vanguard*. “So, naturally, having someone who’s an expert and passionate about makeup teaching you is really helpful, and then we all need a mentor to teach you how to do it without shame, so we create a safe space as well.”

Massi, the vice president of the LBGTA club, echoed this sentiment. “We also want to teach people who are trans [...] how to do makeup because a lot of them

today because they’re so under attack from the government and from people,” Sanchez told *The Vanguard*. “We have to lift them up and celebrate them, so I think it was a really good idea for us to continue doing this, especially as a Black History Month event.”

Chinweze expanded on the ideals of this event, focusing on how today’s environment has transformed even the smallest things, such as makeup, into

powerful thing in the times we’re in. So we’re all about the queer joy here and we look forward to seeing more of it as the year goes by.”

Students interested in future events from the LGBTQ+ Resource Center can check their Instagram: @lgbtqcenter_bc

Students interested in LBGTA can check their Instagram: @brooklyn.lgbta

BC Classical Society Presents “Ides of Valentine’s” Celebration

By T’Neil Gooden
Features Editor

The BC Classical Society held a Valentine’s Day event on Thursday, Feb. 13 in the Costas Library. Students were tested on their knowledge of the love that existed throughout history, including mythological gods whose names are littered across the classical world. The gathering allowed attendees across disciplines to share their wisdom about the importance of knowledge of the classics.

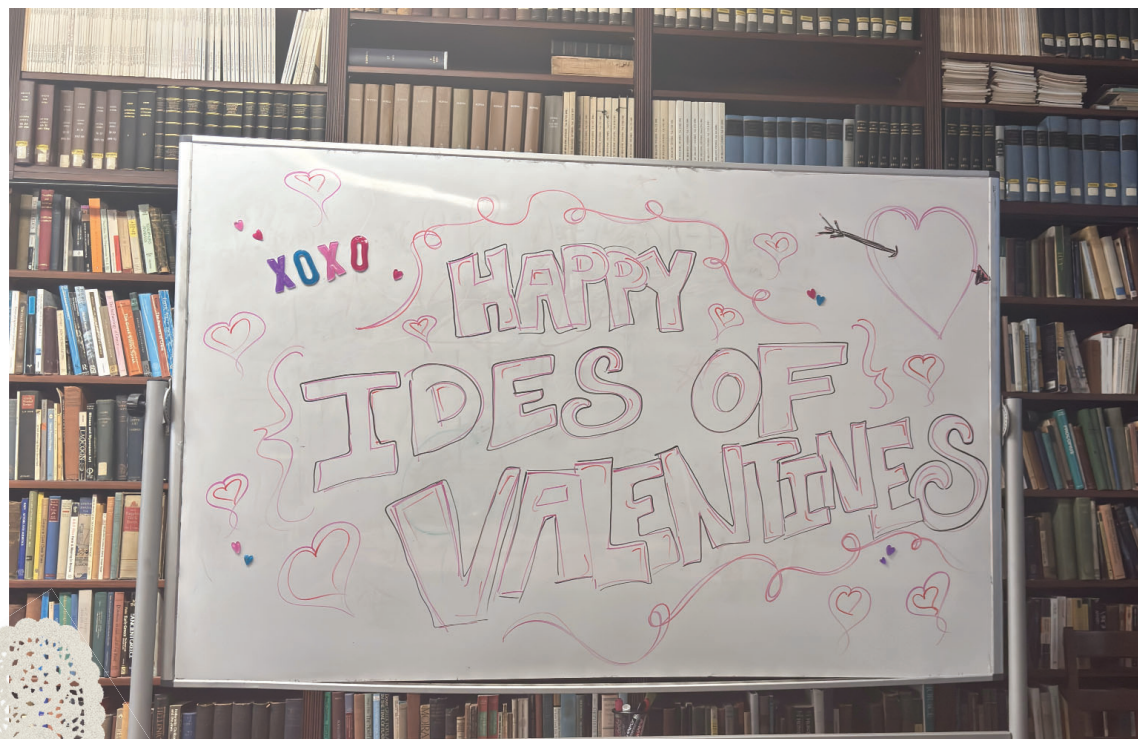
“The classics are a great way to know about the traditions of the ancient world and how it has been transcribed over time,” Shania Clarke, a junior at BC, told *The Vanguard*. “For instance, I’m currently learning about the most known and mass-produced technology from the ancient world: coins. It is considered to be the first-ever tool to be produced with such a high demand. Coins were a form of art, games, jewelry, politics, etc. There’s so

the people they had just interacted with. Three games of cards followed, and students mingled and laughed as though they had known each other before the event.

“My favorite part of the event would definitely have to be the fellowship. It’s amazing to see people from different academic fields come together in Boylan 2405 and join us to celebrate everything that is classic,” Caren Ghali, president of the Classical Society and senior at BC, told *The Vanguard*.

The event brought students together to share their knowledge about the love that exists in the classical world, as many do not know the origins of love and admiration.

“The classical world is full of love stories; from Eros and Psyche to Odysseus and Penelope, their tales still ring strongly in our hearts today,” Nico Vila, a freshman at BC and classics lover, told *The Vanguard*. “It’s also



The BC Classical Society’s ‘Ides of Valentine’s’ note for BC Students./T’Neil Gooden

love to familial love.”

According to NPR, ancient festivities played a significant role in Valentine’s Day. Between Feb. 13 and Feb. 15., the Romans would celebrate the feast of Lupercalia, which promoted fertility. Over time, these rituals were combined with St. Valentine’s Day.

“Classics holds a lot of unique treasures. As a classics

to mind is Cupid, aka, Eros, aka, the God of Love. His very imagery is replicated on Valentine’s Day, with the bow and arrow and angelic wings. Historically, classical holidays have been heavily linked to influence holidays, Valentine’s Day being one of them.”

This event not only brought students together but created a community for students who are familiar with and want to learn more about the genre of classics.

“An event like this and the Classical Society as a whole is incredibly important to me because, for the first two years of my undergraduate experience, I thought that there was no community at a commuter school like Brooklyn College,” Ghali told *The Vanguard*. “Joining the classical society and later being a part of the e-board proved me wrong. It’s really something beautiful when you can look forward to spending time with an amazing and diverse community of people who have the same interest as you, be it ancient history, mythology, or even Lego building.”

Students are constantly associating day-to-day scenarios with events that have occurred in the world

of classics. The relevance of topics is never-ending, with Valentine’s Day being a prime example.

“Classics are called classics for a reason; it’s an eternal field, and has so much content to delve into! It isn’t just all long boring stories; if you let yourself get fully immersed into this world of gods and monsters and heroes, you will come out a completely different person!” Vila told *The Vanguard*.

The Classical Society has many more events coming up this semester and students from all departments are welcome at any time.

“As for our next big events, we’ll be having a MET museum visit with the Historical and Pre-Law Societies on March 1. We’ll also have our notorious ‘Ides of March’ party on March 13 [...]” Ghali told *The Vanguard*. “Concerning Women’s History Month, we’ll be hosting a lecture by Professor Yarrow about ancient Roman women on March 20.”

Students who are interested in joining the Classical Society can visit their Instagram: @bc_classicalsociety



The winners of BC Classical Society’s ‘Ides of Valentine’s’ Kahoot./T’Neil Gooden

much to discover within the classics. It’s like solving a puzzle.”

The event started with an icebreaker to help students build a community with

especially interesting to see the many different forms of love in the ancient Greek world, and how they differentiate between types like divine love to platonic

major, I’ve found a new love for learning about the past and how it resonates with our future,” Clarke told *The Vanguard*. “The first connection that comes

‘The Fireflies’: New Film Club Lights the Way for Creativity on Campus

By Jaida Dent
Arts Editor

Brooklyn College hosts a rich student body with over 100 clubs on its campus. This semester, a new club hopes to bring a light of creativity to students. ‘The Fireflies’ presents itself as the “first ‘Women in Film’ club” on campus and seeks to provide a space for creatives to discuss and learn from one another.

“I wanted to participate more largely in the student campus. I had an interest in filmmaking and [thought] how can I integrate that in the school, and the school doesn’t really have anything for women and film, so why not create a club that represents that for girls?” said Somaiya Ahmed, the president of The Fireflies.

The club’s primary agenda is to host film screenings and hold spaces for students to discuss similar interests. In the future, they also look to expand by having guest speakers on campus, informational filmmaking, and creative workshops, and be a resource to its members. As a community, the club leaders see an opportunity for students to network with each other for their projects and even collaborate on films as a club.

“We would want our students to have an opportunity to showcase their creativity and come and talk about films. Moving forward [we can] hold sessions where we invite guest speakers, who are filmmakers, to talk about how to create films, how to do editing,

one-on-one lessons so that there is a learning aspect to our club, and not just social and gathering,” Ahmed told the Vanguard.

The core purpose of the club is to support and uplift women in film. The film industry is a male dominated space, and only 23% of directors, producers, writers, and editors in the top 250 films last year were women, according to The Celluloid Ceiling Report. The Fireflies hope to shine upon a solution for being a space that brings together diverse voices



Logo for The Fireflies./Courtesy of Adia Brathwaite

only create films but to learn from each other” said Adia Brathwaite, the club’s social media coordinator.

In addition to creating space for women, there is an equal need to celebrate and uplift women in all facets

because, at the Oscars awards and everything, we don’t really see women of color getting that recognition. I hope that this club does that. We celebrate mostly women of color because that’s what’s lacking in the industry,” said Sabiha

students looking to step into an often segregated industry.

“The idea of light coming together at nighttime, just congregating and amassing, really inspired me to create this name. Just like fireflies unite and light up the night, I thought of us coming together as creatives, supporting and uplifting each other as a team,” said Ahmed.

The future remains bright for The Fireflies, as the club has the semester ahead to gain its footing and introduce itself to the students of BC. The growing organization hopes to provide the space and opportunity needed for students to thrive.

“My vision of this club is that it’s a safe space for people of diverse backgrounds, and it’s also an inclusive space,” said Marisha Sampson, the vice president. “Everyone is welcome, and we just love the opportunity to uplift the voices of women in film and other creative spaces as well.”

Students interested in joining The Fireflies can follow their Instagram: @firefliesbc



(L to R): Sabiha Yeasmin, Somaiya Ahmed, Marisha Sampson, Adia Brathwaite./ Courtesy of Adia Brathwaite

with a common interest.

“I was talking to a lot of people in the film department about this club, and something that they really liked was the fact that we centered women in film. There’s not a lot of places that really lift up women, especially in film. I think it’s nice that this club will bring a lot of different types of marginalized groups together to not

of the film industry. Since the inception of the Academy Awards in 1929, 17% of all nominees were women, according to The Inclusion List from USC Annenberg. The Fireflies looks to be a place that highlights the work of students and recognizes their creativity and hard work.

“I hope that we get to celebrate women of color

Yeasmin, the treasurer for The Fireflies.

Collaboration and community are values that this club stands upon. The club welcomes members of all backgrounds and majors and hopes to provide a safe space to foster creativity. Even the club’s name, The Fireflies, was inspired by the idea of unity that the club can create for

Black History Month: The Unsung Pioneers of Hip-Hop's Greatest

By Alfonso Abreu
Staff Writer

Hip-hop is a vast genre with a history spanning over 50 years, including multiple subgenres such as trap, drill, plug, and boom bap. All these subgenres are connected through its shared sonic roots. Despite these varied selections, most fans can list the prominent figures of their respective subgenre, and with the sheer amount of music made available due to streaming and hip-hop's growing history, many of the genre's most prominent figures are often overlooked. As a celebration of Black History Month, here are three hip-hop figures that I believe are not given the credit they deserve.

Despite not wanting to be pigeonholed as a "sample drill producer," Evilgiane, creator of the New York City label Surf Gang, paved the way for how far sample drill can go. For those who are unfamiliar with the genre, it is best explained as the sampling of classic pop, rap, and R&B records coupled with drill production elements of constant snares and heavy bass. It was a sound that took over New York City in the early 2020s, with other producers using iconic yet frequently sampled artists such as Mary J. Blige and Sade, while Evilgiane focused on using songs out of the norm.

The mixtape "PUNK

GOES DRILL+***" by former Surf Gang member Polo Perks, with some production handled by Evilgiane, offers the finest sample drill. The tape showcases the untapped creativity of the genre as flips of familiar alternative rock and punk bands like Foo Fighters and Yeah Yeah Yeah establish this. Polo's deadpan voice carries smoothly over the unpolished flips of punk songs, where he wistfully longs for the simpler days before fame over Evilgiane's heavy, scattered 808 drums and laid-back snares. It's a tape that faithfully repackages nostalgia as an expression of Polo and Surf Gang's youthful projection.

Another essential sample drill project, titled "THISNOTADRILLX2" by former Surf Gang member Moh Baretta, provided a moody atmosphere that can soundtrack the darkest of nights. Giane makes use of faint hi-hat and snares that give the murky 808s breathing room, allowing Moh to fill up the space with unfazed lyrics regarding his ever-changing life.

Surf Gang's smooth and cloudy take on drill on the aforementioned projects assisted in further pushing the limits of the genre. Now sample drill is bigger than just the typical violent subject and punchy bass. Currently, the genre is sampling everything from ambient nature sounds to emo punk packing them into exuberant dance

anthems or sexy odes to their one-night stands. As for Evilgiane, he focuses on opportunities outside of drill production but occasionally steps back into the world that he helped shape.

In the mid '90s, when southern hip-hop ranged from the syrupy, dirty south gangster talk of the duo U.G.K. to the eccentric, flamboyant, and baller pairing of OutKast, Three 6 Mafia ushered in a cloud of eeriness to the south that would make the Grim Reaper proud. The group's raw, smoky, and gloomy sound carried through the solo acts of the departing members who pursued their own influential careers, one such artist being the late great Gangsta Boo, dubbed as the "Queen of Memphis", who passed away in 2023.

Despite the fact that she was the only woman in the group, Gangsta Boo managed to stick out due to her bold and assertive delivery. Following her departure from the pack in the early 2000s, the female prodigy went on to drop many successful projects.

During an era when the number of famed women rappers could be counted on one hand, Gangsta Boo cut through with her distinctive voice and loud untouchable delivery that turned her songs into a declaration of power. Gangsta Boo never had to publicly state she was in such a position of power,

you could feel it in her rapping. Gangsta Boo often sounded offended by the fact that she had to remind people who the boss is, like in my personal favorite, "Same Block". It was the commanding allure in her music that never made listeners question her ability to keep up in such a male-orientated field, instead inspiring hope for other women in the field to do the same.

Gangsta Boo, among other women rappers, helped open a door for like-minded women like Glorilla and Megan Thee Stallion to dominate now. They credit the late rapper as one of their influences; Gangsta Boo may be gone, but the female captains of the rap industry will always take after her.

The rap game in the early '90s New York City consisted of constant drum samples and a simple percussion combo of drums and snares often lacking any instrumentation, 'boom bap'. It was a sound in which Wu-Tang and JAY-Z provided a personal look into their upbringings. The sound phased out as hip-hop evolved, but made a notable resurgence in the 2010s with fellow New York rapper and producer Roc Marciano leading the movement.

Marciano is often credited as a pioneer for the modern underground boom-bap scene and their use of "drumless" beats. His production incorporated

sampling and chopping up vintage records, which feature little to no drums. This particular approach to music production was unheard of at the time and helped in further cementing his legacy.

Marciano's lyrics feature detailed rhymes that aim to coat listeners in the life of hood riches and dusty grandeur. With Marciano taking the helm of production in most of his career, his discography sounds as if it was stored away in vintage Louis Vuitton luggage in a dimly lit basement.

This style of rapping and production has become synonymous with the resurgence of boom-bap. The scene now features street-fueled luxurious lyrics over heavily sampled, minimal drum beats. Main examples would be the rap collective Griselda and superstar artist, Drake. The latter mention hopping on more "drumless" production, and as of late, that was instantly pointed out as a Roc Marciano influence.

With the abundance of content being put out in our current day-and-age, it is easy to overlook those who have revolutionized the sound of music. It is often best to stay knowledgeable about whatever subgenre you're listening to. To be oblivious to the legacy of hip-hop is to be oblivious to Black history itself.



Evilgiane for Vulture./Courtesy of Vulture



Gangsta Boo performing in Atlanta in 2015./Courtesy of Live Nation



Roc Marciano for his 2024 Sterogum profile./Courtesy of Sterogum

Black Icons in Baseball: Pioneers of Tomorrow

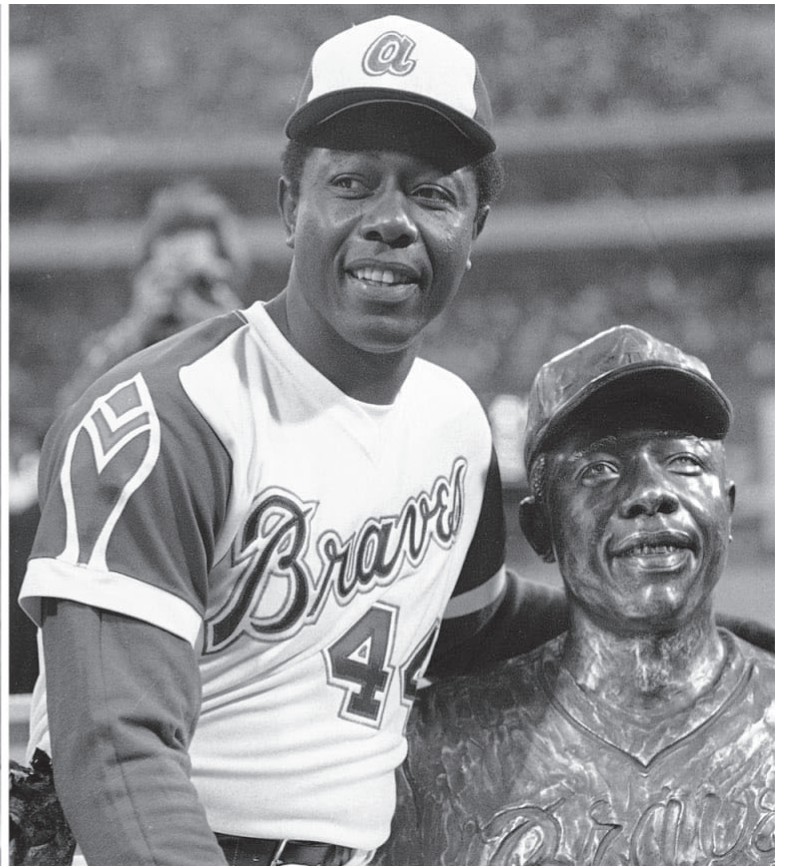
By Manuel Polanco
Sports Editor

Baseball has had a myriad of iconic Black players that paved the way, not only through their contributions to the sport, but through their activism as well, shaping the future of Black baseball players to come.

On April 15, baseball fans everywhere will celebrate Jackie Robinson Day. Ever since 2009, this day has been cemented in baseball history. All teams will don the iconic “42” on their jersey to honor and remember the life and legacy of baseball icon and Hall of Fame player Jackie Robinson.

Robinson was not just a Hall of Fame athlete, but also a civil rights advocate who sought to create change and empower the Black community. By the 1940s, baseball had already been segregated for many years, according to the Library of Congress. On April 15, 1947, Robinson made his MLB debut when he played for the Dodgers. His action broke the infamous color barrier, which had barred many Black and Afro-Latino players from playing in major leagues.

Prior to this, many Black players had to play in a Black-only baseball league, dubbed the “Negro League.” Robinson played here before making his debut, and many of his teammates



(L to R) Baseball icons Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron./Courtesy of MLB

would become future MLB Hall of Famers, including Satchel Paige, Ernie Banks, Willie Mays, and Hank Aaron.

When Robinson made his debut, he was met with overwhelmingly racist remarks from hecklers and other baseball players. Robinson’s career came to an end after 10 years, at 37 years old. He ended his career with several accolades, including an MVP title, Rookie of the Year, seven-time all-star, batting title winner, and World Series champion.

In Robinson’s final appearance, he threw the first pitch of the 1972 World Series. According to the Jackie Robinson Foundation, he ended by stating, “I’m going to be tremendously more pleased and more proud when I look at that third base coaching line one day, and see a Black face managing in baseball.” Robinson’s life and career have since been portrayed

in the media, notably in the 2013 film, “42”, a nod to the athlete’s jersey number.

Aaron was another notable baseball athlete who, like Robinson, played in the Negro League before his debut. His career spanned 23 years, and he was often dubbed “Hammerin’ Hank.” He played for the Braves for the majority of his career and became an icon and franchise legend in Atlanta.

A notable moment in his career occurred on April 8, 1974, during the fourth-inning, against the Dodgers. Launching a ball over the left field wall, Aaron had hit home run number 715 of his career and had passed Babe Ruth’s record of 714, according to the Baseball Hall of Fame. For the first time in baseball history, a Black man etched himself in baseball immortality with a home run record that was close

to untouchable for 33 years, before that too was broken by another Black baseball player, Barry Bonds.

The 25-time all-star was a pioneer on and off the field. Aaron was a chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for much of his career, and his civil rights activism helped create many opportunities for many Black athletes to work in front offices in the sport. He founded the “Chasing the Dream Foundation,” which helped fund programs catered to the underfunded youth of America, allowing them to pursue their dreams and develop their talents and efforts.

Baseball has seen its fair share of iconic Black baseball legends, but as of 2024, only 6% of all baseball players are Black, according to the official MLB statistics. Representation in

the MLB is slowly improving, but much work remains. The MLB has developed programs such as the DREAM Series, the MLB Tour, the Breakthrough Series, and the Hank Aaron Invitational in an effort to empower aspiring Black athletes, according to their website.

“Our hope and our plan is to get those players that are in those programs in front of the right people [...]” Tony Reagins, MLB’s Chief Baseball Development Officer, stated. “Because from what I’ve seen, some of these players that we are engaged with are as talented as a lot of the players in the country. It’s just that they don’t have the opportunities to be seen and to be scouted in certain situations. We’ve made an effort to make sure that happens.”

Showcasing those who paved the way is crucial to these developments.

Bulldogs Recap: Women's Basketball Sweeps in Senior Night

By Yuki Elkotby
Sports Editor

On Feb. 14, the Brooklyn College women's basketball team played against Medgar Evers College as a continuation of the CUNY Athletic Conference (CUNYAC). The game fell on Senior Night, which recognized the senior athletes graduating from BC. The Bulldogs swept the game with a final score of 96-34. A whopping

her initial years playing for the team.

"[I would advise my freshman self to] not get frustrated with myself, and to have confidence. I have grown to take more accountability with it and focus on it a lot more. But that was my goal at that time, just to keep playing the sport I loved," she told *The Vanguard*.

Gutierrez's journey with the Bulldogs was supplemented by those around her, whether in her athletic and

you lose confidence. Because you're playing college basketball, you have something to contribute. You aren't here for no reason; keep your confidence, keep your love for the game."

The interviews continued with Mary Golgin, a senior playing as a forward, who was a part of the top-three scorers of the night with 12 points within her 21-minute court time. Golgin's collegiate athletic career has

But, something she highlighted was the dedication to reach her goals.

"Aside from basketball, just know that not everything will be easy but the journey will be rewarding in the end. Everything we've achieved was so much, we worked so hard for everything and it was hard to get to where we were every single year, to finish off on top. Part of [playing basketball at BC] was going through all the hardship and the adversities with our team and then coming out in the end."

Continuing, "Don't let bad experiences turn into a snowball effect and turn it into something bigger than it was, and just always keep a positive mindset."

Aleah Rafat, a senior and the Bulldogs' #21 forward and center, has had nothing short of a great career with the Bulldogs. Her impressive statistics across her four years playing with the team are reflective of her supportive attitude towards herself and her team.

"Focus on what you can control. I am a big believer that you controlling your attitude and your team's attitude is everything. Attitude is super contagious, I've always tried to keep it at a point where like I'm an uplifter and I encourage and I'm a supporter even in times of toughness."

To Rafat, teamwork

has been an incredibly important contributor to the team's success. Even in times of strife, the foundational sportsmanship has allowed for the team to prevail.

"I think chemistry is super important. Every year there have been ups and downs, but I think by the end, winning [...] is proof that we got it together and put everything aside for the one specific goal."

Rafat looks to past BC athletes and current coaches as inspiration for her career.

"Chanel Jemmott, Sarah James. I think those two people who had a lot of [inspiration for] me in terms of on the court but also off the court. They took control of the team. All the coaches Rocco, Nicole, Stan, Meg, Alex; they love this game and they love every person that comes onto their court."

When reflecting at the end of the basketball season, a repeated theme throughout all of the players's memories was teamwork. Graduate student Alina Estrella elaborated on what it means to be a part of a team.

"I have learned to value the family I have created here and how much I love my teammates and also just the leadership. That was something I was working on in my last school. Certainly, I achieved progress in it, coming here as an older player."



Bulldogs pose for a group photo with seniors in the middle./Tim Slakas

12 players made their way onto the scoring board, and the team improved 9-4 in the championship.

The victory was a positive tip-off to the graduating seniors, many of which will be completing their last semester as a Bulldog.

Brianna Gutierrez, who spent four years playing for the women's basketball team, ended her career on a great note with a season-high of 16 points in this game, making her the top scorer in the game. Gutierrez, whose career statistics are indicative of constant growth, reflected on

academic careers or her personal life.

"I learned how helpful it could be to have a supportive team around you and supportive coaches. They helped a lot whether it was personal stuff or things with basketball. There is always someone to reach out to and always someone to get help from."

Gutierrez was excited for the incoming freshman and first-year athletes as she shared advice in her following sentiment.

"Don't allow [for] anything to make you lose love for the game, or make

been nothing short of confident prowess that shows both on and off the court. Golgin discusses that this exact ideal is what she could've told her past self.

"Stay confident, and put in the extra work even when you're tired. It'll work out and it will pay off in the end. The earlier and the more work you put in the earlier years the more, it'll pay off for you in the future. Stay confident and learn your role on the team."

Dolgin took away a lot of valuable lessons and memories from her time on the team.

One Dynasty Ends as Another Begins: The Eagles as Super Bowl Champions

By Manuel Polanco
Sports Editor

The Philadelphia Eagles are the 2025 Super Bowl champions for the second time ever in franchise history. The team won their first Super Bowl back in 2018 after defeating the New England Patriots 41-33. This win for them is not only their most dominant, as they beat the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22, but also marks an end to the reign of quarterback Patrick Mahomes in the Super Bowl.

Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs were looking for a three-peat, in which a team wins for the third time in a row, during this playoff run. After defeating the Buffalo Bills in the American

Football Conference (AFC), Mahomes was back in the Super Bowl. Unfortunately, for him and teammate Travis Kelce, a three-peat was not in store for them. Mahomes' performance was not up to par throughout the game. From getting tackled a total of six times by the Eagles' linebackers and defensive ends, to throwing 2 interceptions in crucial moments, Mahomes' performance cost the team in moments they needed him. Kelce, who is Mahomes' right-hand man and go-to receiver whenever he needs an easy pass, had a forgetful game.

Kelce had four catches in only 39 yards throughout the entire game, something that was not expected for a

player of his caliber, and goes to show how much pressure the Eagles' defense was putting on Mahomes and the rest of his receivers. During halftime, the score was 24-0, with the Eagles in the lead. For two full quarters, Mahomes failed to score a touchdown or get any yards.

The Eagles went up early 6-0 in the first quarter thanks to a rushing touchdown by quarterback Jalen Hurts. This would be one of three touchdowns by the Eagles quarterback. He would end this game with over 300 yards thrown, three touchdowns, and winning the Super Bowl MVP title. Hurts broke his own Super Bowl record by rushing for 72 yards as quarterback.

Mahomes, however,



Eagles rookie Cooper Dejean scoring a touchdown after an interception. / Courtesy of AP News

did not fare well in this game, and his record in the Super Bowl is now 3-2. Mahomes ended his night with 21/32 passes, two interceptions, three touchdowns, and one fumble. The two interceptions were from Eagles rookie cornerback Cooper DeJean and the second was from Eagles linebacker Zack Baun.

The Chiefs were left

scoreless for much of the game and could have possibly become the first team in history to lose without even scoring a point. It was in the last of the third quarter that Mahomes finally connected with receiver Xavier Worthy to get points on the board.

Sudoku!

By Shannon Dyett
Staff Writer

	8		3					6
2		9						
	3	7		8	6			
			6			2		7
	4	8						
3	2		8					9
			9				5	
	9					7		
	1	5	7	6				2

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down, and every 9 by 9 box contains numbers 1 through 9.

Solution

8	1	5	3	4	9	7	5	1
4	9	3	2	5	1	7	6	8
6	7	2	9	3	8	4	5	1
3	2	6	8	1	7	5	4	9
7	4	8	5	9	2	6	1	3
9	5	1	6	4	3	2	8	7
1	3	7	4	8	9	6	2	5
2	6	1	7	5	8	3	4	9
5	8	4	3	2	9	1	7	6

Kendrick's Super Bowl Halftime Show— A Historic, Culturally Awakening, and Revolutionary Performance

By Ezae Darby
Opinions Editor

Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl halftime show was arguably the greatest, and possibly most culturally impactful, performance of all time for the sport. Continuing the legacy of Michael Jackson's mission to send a cultural message in his Super Bowl performance, Lamar masterfully carried on the legacy. While some internet critics were not impressed by the showing, it was undeniably a staple in the history of the annual contest, and the symbolism in the performance was unmatched.

For starters, the layout of the show itself embodied a very unique design. The stadium's design was a nod to the popular gaming console Playstation, having different mini sets that resembled the arrangement of their trademark game controller. Being that video gaming is very popular in the modern-day, Lamar intended to catch the attention of his younger fans right from the jump.

Moreover, this demonstrated how Lamar's life has felt like a video game, and how he's experienced some questionable incidents whilst growing up that forced him to rethink some of his decisions as a young man.

Consequently, there were also several intentional messages displayed throughout the performance including statements like, "GAME OVER", "WARNING WRONG WAY", and "START HERE". Although these statements were taken straight from video games and resembled their instructions, they ultimately reflected the disapproval from

the mainstream media in having Lamar as a performer for this event. The bulk of Lamar's discography has been dedicated to speaking out and against social justice and racism, which has been absorbed by the media as too "ghetto" and "hood." These statements reinforced an old stereotype that painted Black Americans and hip-hop music as very loud and out-of-control, which applies to Kendrick's music as well.

Throughout the performance, Lamar moved around the entire

political divide that is currently plaguing America.

It was also obvious that his more hard-hitting songs were directly supported by the dancers wearing red; red is commonly associated with aggression, and in this case, demonstrated how these particular songs are seen as too "ghetto" for Americans to consume on a global scale. Lamar's discography talks about the harsh reality of growing up in poor, dangerous communities, which is something that the mainstream media

Here, Lamar referenced Gil Scott-Heron's 1971 poem, "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised". Heron was an American jazz poet, singer, musician, and author; this particular poem argued that Americans must take action to create change in this country and the media will not showcase the violence of racism.

Moreover, one particular part of the show paid homage to the music video for his song "HUMBLE". Much like the music video and song itself, this part of the show drew a connection

globally.

One of the most notable parts of the show was the inclusion of critically acclaimed actor, Samuel L. Jackson. He took part in the show as an announcer and embodied the character of "Uncle Sam", a character that is known as the national personification of the U.S. government and country as a whole.

Whilst the show transitioned into other songs, Uncle Sam would yell out statements including, "Too loud, too reckless, too ghetto" to convey the idea that this particular performance was very blunt and honest in how many Black-americans survive in this country.

One of the most surprising parts of the show was a dancer waving a Sudan/Gaza flag. It has been reported that Roc Nation, the entertainment company responsible for choosing the artist that will be performing at the Super Bowl, was not aware that this incident would occur, according to CBS News. The dancer, identified as Zul-Qarnajn Nantambu, was interviewed by multiple sources and stated that he felt obligated to bring the oppression in these countries into the public spotlight on a global scale, as reported by NBC News.

Lamar and his supporting team can only hope that fans and non-fans alike were able to capture the essence of his historic performance. This Super Bowl halftime performance possessed so much substance and depth that it's hard to deny its place amongst the best.



Kendrick Lamar with his dancers during the Superbowl halftime show./Courtesy of Teen Vogue.

stadium, from one set to another, showcasing not only the divided people of America but also bringing awareness to the issue of mass incarceration in the country. As his performance progressed, the set is revealed to not only look like a giant game controller, but it also revealed to actually be a giant prison yard.

In addition to this, the dancers in the show only wore red, white, and blue-colored outfits to resemble the colors on the American flag. There were different points during the show where the dancers would scramble, separate, and even put their backs toward each other, and this intentional choreography demonstrated the great

does not broadcast.

It is also worth noting that when SZA, one of this generation's most popular R&B singers, made a surprise appearance. All of her supporting dancers wore blue to demonstrate how this song was considered to be more "calm" and appropriate for the show.

As the show progressed, dancers stomped across the stadium and merged their different color groups, demonstrating how Lamar not only led this "revolution" of sorts but also brought America together as a whole through his music.

It is also worth noting that early in the performance, he spoke about the revolution being televised.

between Los Angeles gang rivalry and American culture. While both have caused a great divide in this country, Lamar's music has manifested something of an alliance between the gangs in L.A.. It is obvious that he aims to have the same impact on the country as a whole through the imagery he has created in this performance.

Lamar even included one of the greatest tennis players of all time, Serena Williams, in the performance by having her crip-walk (a popular cultural dance in L.A.) during the show to further praise his hometown's lifestyle. This dance was also done to embrace African-American culture