


Zohran Mamdani and Bernie Sanders Speak at BC
Pg. 2

USG Welcomes Students Back with Bulldog Welcome Bash
Pg. 5

THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE **VANGUARD**

Fall 2025, Issue 1 vanguard.blog.brooklyn.edu  [@thebcvanguard](https://www.instagram.com/thebcvanguard) Wednesday, September 10th

New Semester, New Eats!



BC Renovates the Boylan Cafeteria Into a New Student Life Hotspot
Pg. 4

BLMI Shares New Mural
Pg. 6

Sabrina Carpenter's New Album Stirs Up Pop Culture
Pg. 11

BC Athletics Starts its Fall Season
Pg. 12

Cover by Bert Eugene

GENERAL INQUIRIES
THEBCVANGUARD@GMAIL.COM

CLUB HOURS
118 ROOSEVELT HALL
THURSDAY: 12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
RAMI MANSI
RAMI.MANSI66@BCMAIL.CUNY.EDU

MANAGING EDITOR
JAIDA DENT
JAIDA.DENT1@GMAIL.COM

BUSINESS MANAGER
JASON LIN
JLIN82752@GMAIL.COM

LAYOUT EDITOR
AMIRA TURNER
ARIMARENUT@GMAIL.COM

DIGITAL EDITOR
ADRIAN SKEANS
ADRIANJSKEANS@GMAIL.COM

PHOTO EDITOR
BERT EUGENE
BERTRANDEUGENE85@GMAIL.COM

VIDEOGRAPHER
LUIS-- ANGEL PEREZ MARTINEZ
LUISAPMARTINEZ26@GMAIL.COM

CONTENT CREATORS
KEY JONES-FORD
KIARATATSUJF@GMAIL.COM
MARS MARTE
VICTORIA0731M@GMAIL.COM

PODCAST MANAGER
YASSIR AZZAM
YASSIR.AZZAM07@BCMAIL.CUNY.EDU

SECTION EDITORS

NEWS: VICTORIA KERAJ
KVICTORIAK1@GMAIL.COM

FEATURES: T'NEIL GOODEN
TNEILGOODEN617@GMAIL.COM

ARTS: KHALAILAH BYNOE
KHALAILAH.BYNOE10@BCMAIL.CUNY.EDU

OPINIONS: SERENA EDWARDS
SERENAED103@GMAIL.COM

SPORTS: MANUEL POLANCO
MANNYPOLANCY764@GMAIL.COM

STAFF WRITERS
ALFONSO ABREU
EMILY NIXON
EMILY SUHR
GIOVANNI RAVALLI
MARGOT DRAGOS
RENAE VISICO

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
TERRANCE BOBB

FACULTY ADVISOR
MJ ROBINSON

Mamdani Addresses The Fired Four, PSC-CUNY, and More on Sanders’ “Fighting Oligarchy” Tour at BC

By Margot Dragos
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Sept. 6, Senator Bernie Sanders brought his nationwide “Fighting Oligarchy” tour to Brooklyn College’s (BC) Claire Tow Theater alongside Democratic nominee for New York City (NYC) mayor Zohran Mamdani.

An oligarchy is defined as a small group of people having control over a country, organization, or institution. Sanders’ tour encourages dialogue between Americans on how to take power from the corporate interests and put it back into the hands of the American people. BC served as the tour’s 35th stop.

Sanders is a BC alum and has held three other events on campus, the last one being in 2020 when he launched his second campaign for President of the United States. Students were hoping his connection with BC, as well as his fight against oligarchy, would cause him to bring up certain issues happening on campus.

“I wanted to see what they had to say in regards to fighting oligarchy,” began Ashley Torres, a graduate student at BC. “I know there is a lot of talk about the Fired Four, and I wanted to see if that’s going to be something that they address, considering that Bernie Sanders had went to Brooklyn College.”

The Fired Four are four BC adjunct faculty members who were fired after participating in protests in support of Palestine. Groups such as the Professional Staff Congress (PSC-CUNY), a union for CUNY staff and faculty, have been fighting to reinstate these individuals’ positions.

Members of PSC-CUNY, as well as other unions, were some of the people who packed into the Claire Tow Theater. These groups occupied the front orchestra section of the theater along with various other ticket holders who received blue wristbands upon arrival. The rear orchestra consisted largely of those with press passes and others with blue wristbands.

In the mezzanine and front balcony were seats set aside by the Sanders team for BC students, who received an email invitation to the event two days prior. This was upsetting to some BC students who believed they should have been given better seating.



Sanders and Mamdani first sitting down on stage./Margot Dragos

“I’m already kind of disappointed because we’re Brooklyn College students and we’re sitting in the back,” Jonathan Rakhimov, a BC graduate student, told The Vanguard. “I feel like there’s really no room for us to have a debate...or even engage with him,” continued Torres.

When Sanders and Mamdani took to the stage, they were greeted with a standing ovation as they waved to the crowd. The pair then sat down in their respective chairs. Shortly after, Mamdani exclaimed, “Is PSC-CUNY in the house?”

“I cannot begin my remarks this evening without first acknowledging PSC-CUNY,” Mamdani began. “And the fact that no faculty member should be disciplined for supporting Palestinian human rights.”

The crowd erupted with applause, with some chanting “Free, Free Palestine!”

Mamdani went on to express his appreciation for Sanders’ work and that NYC should not be led by oligarchs.

“New York City is not for sale to Donald Trump’s billionaire donors. It is not for sale to corporations like DoorDash. It is not for sale to corrupt politicians like Andrew Cuomo,” Mamdani declared.

“[...] And Bernie has continued to lead in this movement, going from ‘Burlington is not for sale’

to fighting back against oligarchy from coast to coast in this country.”

In Sanders’ remarks, he applauded Mamdani’s campaign and linked it to the overarching theme of fighting oligarchs in the United States.

“You know what [the oligarchs] are afraid of? They’re afraid of Mr. Mamdani becoming an example to what could happen all over this country,” Sanders proclaimed. “[...] If 50 to 70,000 people can get involved in the political process, that means that millions of people coast to coast can get involved and elect progressive leaders. That’s what this campaign is about.”

Sanders then opened up the room for questions.

One question was from Dionna, a mother and Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) member who spends over \$32,000 a year on childcare, who wanted to know what Mamdani needed people like her to do to fight for free universal childcare.

“We need to feel the depth of these statistics we often feel numb to,” Mamdani told the crowd. “Over \$32,000, that is more money than if Dionna sent that same kid 18 years from now to Brooklyn College.”

He went on to encourage her and others to continue organizing and joining organizations, such as DSA, that are committed to enacting change.

Afterwards, yelling could be heard from the mezzanine as students declared that they wanted to ask questions as well.

Phrases like “The students want to speak” rang throughout the theatre from the now-standing students.

After another question, a mic was finally brought to the BC student section, where students yielded the mic to Danya, a Jewish BC student and trans woman who brought up the Fired Four and the encampment on campus last May.

“We as the students have been targeted time and time again, not just by the administration but by

the faculty who are against us,” Danya proclaimed. “I refuse to let the fact that Mr. Mamdani’s team has put us, Brooklyn College, in the very back with black wristbands... when we should be up front.”

“Thank you for bringing this up,” Mamdani responded. He then invited those in the crowd who were PSC-CUNY members or BC students to stand up.

He also asked James Davis, the head of PSC-CUNY, if he could wear his hat for a moment. Davis brought his hat up to the stage, and Mamdani put it on as the crowd cheered.

“I wear this hat...because the point that is being raised is that we are seeing faculty members who are facing...termination for the crime of expressing solidarity with the fight for Palestinian human rights,” Mamdani explained. “The incident around encampments here at Brooklyn College, the decision to surge officers into that site is one that leaves students less safe than they were before.”

“I will be committed to delivering actual safety, not to the use of the term as a means of repression,” Mamdani declared. “And so this commitment is one that I do not just make as a candidate. It is one I will fulfill as the mayor of this city.”

The event ended with a message of hope from Sanders.

“I think what we have heard tonight from the questions, from Zohran, from me [is that] these are unprecedented and difficult moments in our history,” Sanders began.

“But you know what? This country has gone through difficult moments in the past...Let us stand together, let us defeat oligarchy and make New York and America the places we know they can become.”

For more information about Sanders’ Tour, visit his official tour website.

For more information about Mamdani’s Mayoral campaign, visit his official Instagram.



The crowd in Claire Tow Theater for the “Fighting Oligarchy” Town Hall./Margot Dragos

NYC’s Broken Promises: How The City’s Failure To Enforce Health Rules Put Harlem at Risk

By Mars Marte
Content Creator

On July 25, New Yorkers awoke to an emergency announcement from the city’s Health Department declaring an investigation into an outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease detected in Central Harlem and infecting five people.

Legionnaires’ disease is a severe strain of pneumonia that originates from the bacterium Legionella, which can grow in warm water systems. This outbreak started from Legionella residing in cooling towers often found sitting atop the city’s infrastructure, such as apartments and hospitals. The effects of Legionnaires’ disease can range from a fever and cough to, in some cases, death, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The severity of the outbreak is evident and harkens back to a decade, when the city was battling Legionnaires’ disease for the first time in the South Bronx. The results were disastrous, leaving 138 people sick, 16 of whom succumbed to the sickness.

According to Dr. Jay K. Varma, who served as an incident manager during this outbreak, “Experts had warned that cooling towers were a likely source of recurrent Legionnaires’ outbreaks”.

Despite the warnings, the city had made no attempt to protect the most vulnerable group, low-income families. The systematic separation of the South Bronx only



People celebrating in Central Harlem./*Courtesy of Book Club Chicago*

fueled the flames of the Legionnaires’ frenzy of 2015.

A study conducted in 2023 by the NYU Furman Center revealed that the poverty rate in The Bronx was 27.9% in 2023, compared to 18.2% citywide. While this comparison is based on recent statistics, a similar graph found within the same study analyzing the change in median gross rent and renters’ income shows that the disparity highlighted in 2023 was pre-existing.

Only after the loss of many lives, the city responded by enforcing regulations such as requiring that buildings register cooling towers with the Health Department, which will then test them quarterly (every 90 days).

Yet the regulation proved futile when its enforcement became inconsistent in impoverished neighborhoods.

At the beginning of the year, inspections of the city’s cooling towers fell

dramatically, according to the Gothamist. While inspections were falling, the department had received a 30% boost in funding, according to the Independent Budget Office.

With inspections reaching low rates, communities such as Central Harlem find themselves at greater risk.

The study previously conducted in the South Bronx by NYU was now carried out in Central Harlem. The results showed that “the poverty rate in Central Harlem was 28.6% in 2023 compared to 18.2% citywide.”

It is apparent in the response to the outbreak that poverty-stricken communities are greatly susceptible to city neglect.

The city announced the breach on July 25 and had only specified that five zip codes should be on the lookout. Over two weeks after the initial announcement, the city

confirmed where the impacted cooling towers were located.

On Aug. 14, the NYC Health Department reported that “12 cooling towers have tested culture positive on 10 buildings for live Legionella bacteria”.

Of the 10 buildings that were confirmed to be the source, four were city-owned buildings. Another building associated with the cluster was the Public Health Laboratory construction site that had not yet registered the cooling tower, which is required before initial operation, as reported by Maya Kaufman from Politico.

Other buildings impacted by the bacteria had received a notice sent July 1 by NYC Health and Hospitals, informing the construction companies about the possibility of Legionella developing in the cooling tower.

On Aug. 29, the city declared the disease’s

reign over, which resulted in 114 cases, 7 of which were preventable deaths, and 90 people were left hospitalized, according to The Guardian.

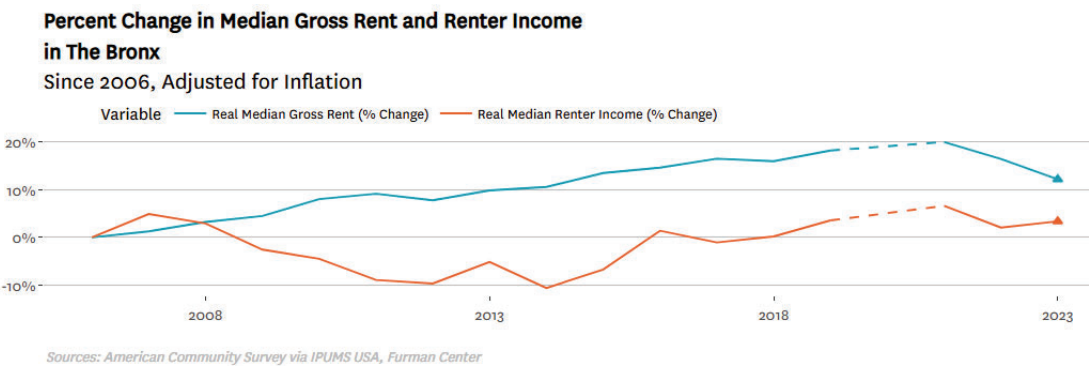
It’s no coincidence that the areas that suffered highly from legionnaires are communities of color.

A graph made by The PMC, compiled of information available on the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, reveals that people who identify as African American and/or Black are at higher risk of infection with Legionnaires’ disease. Those impacted by the diseases are rallying behind Ben Crump, a prominent civil rights attorney, who announced a lawsuit against contractors, claiming they had failed the people of Central Harlem.

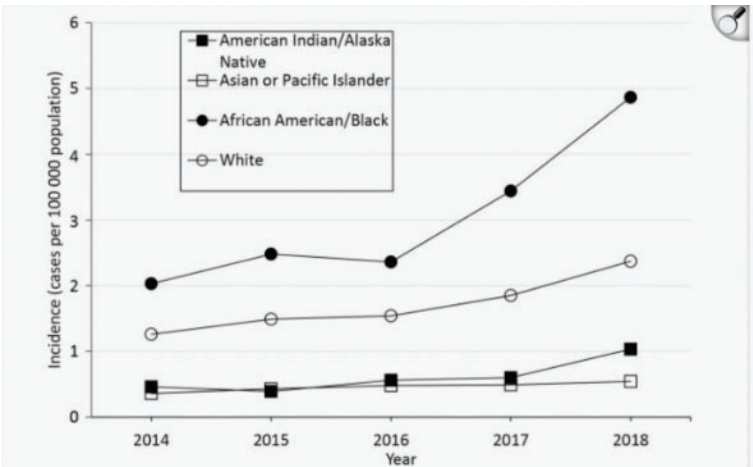
When questioned about the infection, Mayor Eric Adams responded that there had been “clear procedures on inspection.”

The Guardian discussed the Adams administration’s new proposal in response to the outbreak, which included increasing the testing period from every 90 days to 30 days.

No matter how clear a procedure may appear, if there is no enforcement, the policy sinks. The people of Harlem, and all communities of color and in need, deserve a city that promotes health, not illness.



Graph representing the total rent and renter income in The Bronx./
Courtesy of NYU Furman Center



Graph highlighting which groups are impacted by legionella./*Courtesy of PMC*

BC Reopens Boylan Hall Cafeteria



A view from inside the cafeteria, self-serve coffee and fruit slushes pictured./Bert Eugene

By Emily Suhr
Staff Writer

On Aug. 26, Brooklyn College (BC) reopened the Boylan Hall cafeteria under new management, offering expanded food options and a fully renovated space for students to eat, study, and socialize.

The grand opening, held on Aug. 25, gave the campus community its first look at the redesigned cafeteria. Closed since the start of the pandemic, the facility's return marks a significant investment in student life at BC.

Regular service began the following day, in time for the first day of classes, under the new vendor, BK Campus Eats, a food service provider

for multiple CUNY campuses. Their mission statement, "Let's Create Spectacular Together," emphasizes creating a place for students to connect and relax in between classes.

"Colorful murals now adorn the space, and several additional renovations make it more comfortable and inviting," said BC President Michelle Anderson in an email to the campus community. "The cafeteria is under new management, and I hope you will take advantage of its many food options to help the new establishment thrive."

In the years following the cafeteria's closure, BC arranged to have food trucks available on campus to meet students' dining needs.

The new facility offers a permanent solution with a broader range of options, including global cuisines that reflect the needs of BC's diverse community.

"The cafeteria is now more than just a dining space—it's a place to 'Study, Snack, and Repeat,'" said Alan Gilbert, the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration. "We made it a priority to provide halal, glatt kosher, vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options."

Open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the cafeteria already has students responding to the changes.

Luis Batista, a senior in his final semester, recalled how limited

the previous cafeteria was.

"The last cafeteria wasn't a real cafeteria," said Batista. "Before, it was just Saran-wrapped bagels, which

was not really worth going in there. This cafeteria is much more detailed, and now they've got certified food options. The vibe is right in terms of a chill place to eat."

Beyond the food, Batista sees potential for the cafeteria to play a larger role in campus life.

"Students have their routines," added Batista. "They go to their classes, and they leave, so a table where opportunities and events are given, that's the one thing they could add here. Students would dive into campus life."

With updated facilities, a wider variety of food options, and regular services, the cafeteria is expected to become a central space for campus life at BC.



A student orders food in the cafeteria./Bert Eugene



One of the many artworks decorating the cafeteria./ Bert Eugene

Build-a-Bulldog: BC S.A.I.L. Center and BC USG Host Their Annual Welcome Bash

By Margot Dragos
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Sept. 2, new and returning Brooklyn College (BC) students flooded the West Quad for BC Student Activities Involvement and Leadership Center’s (S.A.I.L.) and BC Undergraduate Student Government’s (USG) annual Welcome Bash.

Students were lined up from the West Quad Building all the way to the Bedford Avenue entrance as they waited for freebies, including pizza and a bulldog plushie.

“Usually the line is long, but this is the longest I’ve seen the line,” Aaron Jean Francois, a BC student and math major who has attended the two previous welcome bashes, told The Vanguard.

“What I enjoy most are the games as well as the free food,” Francois responded when asked about his favorite parts of the Welcome Bash. “I always love those.”

After checking in,

promised free items.

“I saw free food, free slushie, and a free bulldog, so I said, ‘Why not?’” explained Angie Euceda, a freshman majoring in business administration, when asked what made her want to come to the Welcome Bash. “I’m feeling excited to get a bulldog and free food.”

Outside of the West Quad Building was a table with materials for students to stuff their own bulldog plushie. Students would receive an unstuffed bulldog, a package of stuffing, and a shirt for their bulldog that said “Welcome to the Pack” with a graphic of the Brooklyn College Library above it.

“The students seem really excited to get a little free Brooklyn College merchandise,” said Khematie Rembharen, a senior pre-med student and USG senator volunteering at the build-a-bulldog table. “Overall, people are excited. People are happy to be here. It’s the nice weather outside, it’s just amazing.”

to socialize with one another. There was also a bingo card handed out to students that required them to find other students who matched different prompts on the card, such as someone pursuing a minor or someone who lives in Brooklyn.

“I think as a new student you want to meet more people who are like you,” Ariel Makovoz, sophomore and volunteer coordinator for the event, told The Vanguard. “So I think [the Welcome Bash] is good for that reason.”

“The whole purpose of this event is to bring the students together, and [show that] there are things happening on campus for you to be involved in,” said Rembharen when asked what she hopes students take away from the Welcome Bash.

When asked what went into making this event, Cyle Paul, senior and president of USG, said that it took “a lot of stress, a lot of coordination, and just making sure that there’s a need and a want for the items that we’ve provided.”

“We kind of wanted to create the idea of getting merch ‘cause we do know students have this need and this want to do merch,” Paul explained. “And we were like, hey, might as well just do this again, and the



Freshmen Acelynn Li and Angie Euceda stuffing their bulldog plushies./Margot Dragos



Students playing Red Light Green Light with Buster./Margot Dragos



Mayar, BC sophomore, after receiving unstuffed bulldog plushie./Margot Dragos

students loved it. They have the excitement of wanting to have this memorabilia in a sense.”

The Welcome Bash proved to be a perfect opportunity for students to socialize with one another and bond as classes began, while allowing them to get a unique BC mascot plushie in the process.

“Take this as a vibe to get friends, make friends, and just

continuously want to be a part of the Brooklyn College family,” said Paul. “We are just so excited to be able to have this opportunity to give to you.”

To stay updated on USG events, visit their official Instagram, @bcstudentgov.



Ticket students received after check-in./Margot Dragos

students received a ticket that allowed them to collect their

There were also games such as cornhole and Connect 4 that encouraged students

A Time to Remember: Brooklyn College’s History Department Holds Open House

By T’Neil Gooden
Features Editor

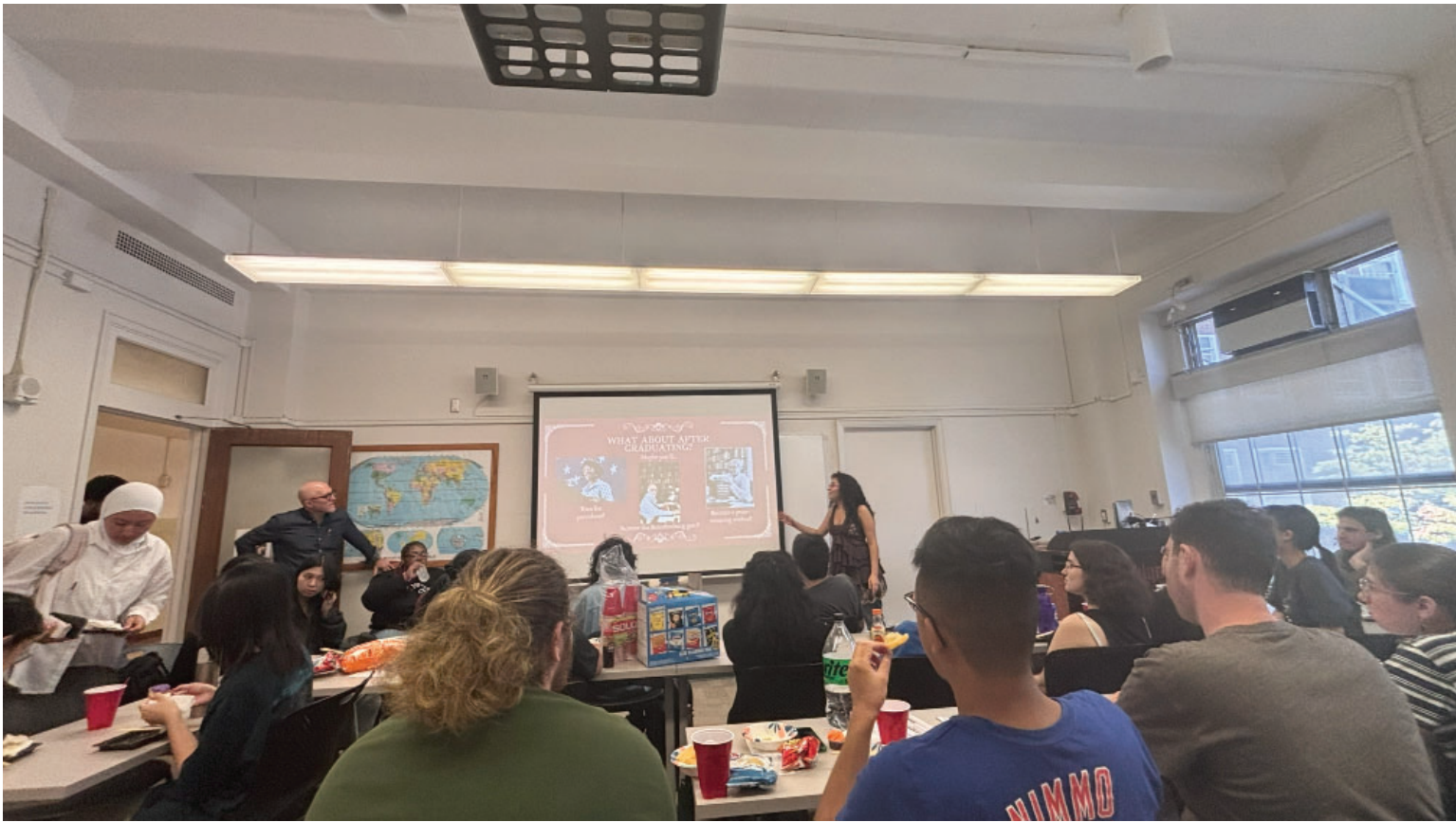
Brooklyn College’s (BC) History Department welcomed first-year and veteran students on Sept. 4 to celebrate the start of the Fall semester. Boylan Hall 1112 was filled with sushi, trivia, and prizes, and flooded with chatter as students loaded in to learn more about the BC History Department.

“I really just wanted to welcome students back, even if they’re already history majors or they’re familiar with the department. I know coming back into the fall semester can be kind of scary,” Lina Mazioui, President of the BC History Society, told *The Vanguard*. “It’s like a change in routine. I just wanted to let them know we’re here for you guys, and I wanted everyone to really have fun.”

Students and faculty members greeted and interacted with students, explaining that being a history major or minor is more than what meets the eye.

“Students who have history majors at Brooklyn College and other colleges and universities go on to work in all different kinds of fields. We have our [students] work in business, finance, accounting, medicine, law, media, education,” History professor, Stephen P. Remy, told the *Vanguard*. “They do all kinds of things. A history major is a marketable major.”

Students participated in history trivia, with prizes such as Funko Pops and figurines at the forefront. The winners of the game have as much passion for the history department as they do for their winning prizes.



Brooklyn College students learning about the Historical Department./T’Neil Gooden

“You should look into the history department because there are so many facets in it. There’s not just classes and lectures, there’s also personal outreach opportunities,” Winner of history trivia and junior at BC, Emma Bodzin, told *The Vanguard*. “There’s also the lounge where you can meet people and hang out, and study.”

Faculty staff emphasized to students that to reap results, they would have to do more within their college careers.

“One of the most important pieces of advice I have for our majors and really all majors, but particularly in the humanities and social sciences, is you have to do things while you’re here as a student to develop your professional profile. And fortunately, we have the Magner Center,” Remy said.

Upperclassmen shared the same message when speaking about the History Department.

“The History Department is the intellectual center of Brooklyn College, especially in the School of Humanities and

Social Sciences, and on the campus in general,” Mazioui told *The Vanguard*. “The kind of conversations we have here, what we learn in class, we’re mixing economics, language, politics, math, and we’re just doing all of these things, and that’s why students should look into the historical department. It’s so interdisciplinary.”

Students are encouraged to work on building their connections by those who guide them within their undergraduate studies. Students are guided to take the opportunities provided by BC to enhance their college careers.

“We try to use our networks and connections to help students find internships and then make the most of them when they get them. But you have to do that while you’re a student. That’s really crucial. So one of the things we’ve done is over the summer we developed a combined four-year degree map and career development map,” Remy said.

Seasoned students want

first-year students to understand that support is available within the history facility.

“A professor will come and give an interesting talk about a special aspect of history. Even a professor might be teaching in general some part of history, they might have an extra specialty in a specific facet of that,” Bodzin told *The Vanguard*.

BC educators want students to know that the community may be small, but there is a lot of substance for history majors to participate in.

“We have a relatively small department in terms of faculty, but we’re able to cover a lot of different parts of the world. We have a number of different approaches to studying the past,” Remy told *The Vanguard*. “We don’t all go about it the same way. That’s a strength, I think. So if you’re a history major, you get exposed to a lot of different ways of thinking about a lot of different ways of interpreting the past.”

Returning students

encourage incoming students to take advantage of the faculty that BC has for them.

“My favorite part is [...] probably how tight-knit we [History Department] are. All the students know each other, and all the professors know each other. It’s so close. Of course, we still have that professionalism with the professors, but really, they’re like our mentors,” Mazioui said.

The History Department has more to offer when it comes to conveying to students what their future holds for them, as undergraduates in history.

Mazioui told *The Vanguard*, “We’re gonna have a lot of events and we’re gonna be doing so many amazing things, going on trips, creating art, doing lectures. I mean anything you can think of.”

Students interested in the History Department can visit their office at Boylan Hall, Room 1115, or follow them on their official Instagram @bchistorydept.

“Unified by Rhythm”: BLMI Discusses New Mural

By Yassir Azzam
Podcast Manager

What initially appears to be organized chaos soon reveals itself as something more: threads of curiosity, passion, and creativity woven seamlessly together.

Walking into the Black & Latino Male Initiative (BLMI) lounge, it’s impossible to miss the mural that stretches across the wall. At first glance, the piece feels overwhelming, its bold colors, intricate layers, and circular patterns almost flashing with energy. At the center, a vivid red bird commands attention, framed by interwoven blues, blacks, and busts of green that resemble leaves.

The mural is more than paint on a wall; it is the product of four months of collaboration between BLMI members and faculty, who met once a week during the spring semester, from January through April, to complete it.

“Not a single one of us actually knew the other person when we started,” Johanna Ramos reflected. “And now, looking at it, you see all of us in there.”

The Sankofa bird placed at the mural’s heart carries deep meaning. Its body moves forward while its head looks back, a West African symbol urging reflection on the past in order to move toward the future.

“It translates to ‘go back and get it,’ symbolizing that to move forward, you need to look back into your past,” said Shadiq Williams, Program Coordinator for BLMI.

For the group, the bird represents Black and Latino students whose histories and futures intertwine on campus.

Around the bird, other details take shape. BC student Oji Miller-Fernandes drew inspiration from African Kente cloth patterns and a Japanese art technique called “notan”, which is the layering of geometric designs that became the mural’s background.

Rosashia Shortte, another BC student, contributed patchwork elements that reflect her belief that, “even if you don’t know where you’re going, it can still end up with something



Muralists (left to right) Jaylen Brissett, Oji Miller-Fernandes, Rosashia (“Rosa”) Shortte, Johanna Santini Ramos, Julia Cocuzza and Steev Previlon sitting in-front of the mural at the BLMI office./*Courtesy of Christopher Rodriguez Hernandez*

beautiful.”

The circles that catch the eye aren’t just abstract; they’re also a steel pan drum, which Julia Cocuzza, Adjunct Mural Professor, described as “something shared across cultures.”

Roots, both literal and symbolic, hold the mural together.

“The tree signifies your roots, where you are, where you stand, how you started,” explained Ramos. “On

our campus, we all start somewhere, and you grow into this huge collective of things that a tree signifies.”

From initial sketches to heated debates to final brushstrokes, the mural reflects not just individual creativity but the power of collaboration. What began as strangers working side by side has become a living symbol of community. The mural, like the people who made it, holds space

for difference and unity, reminding students who walk into Brooklyn College that growth is always collective.

For more information regarding BLMI, please visit their official Instagram account, @bcblmi.

Welcome to the Family

By Nicole Ruiz



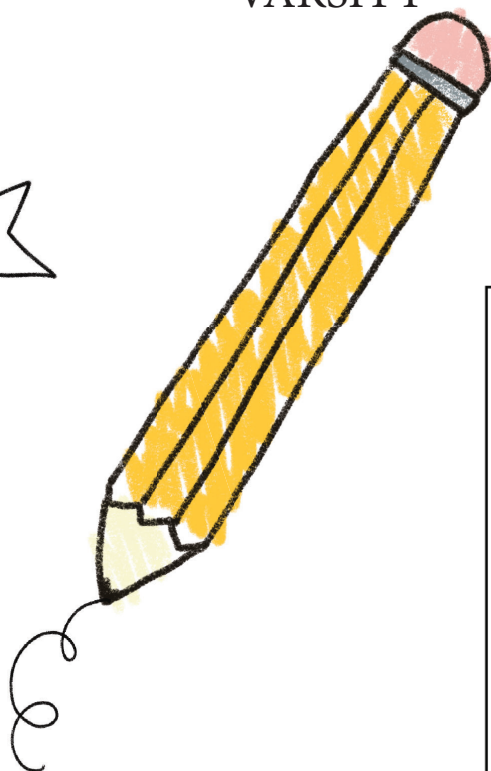
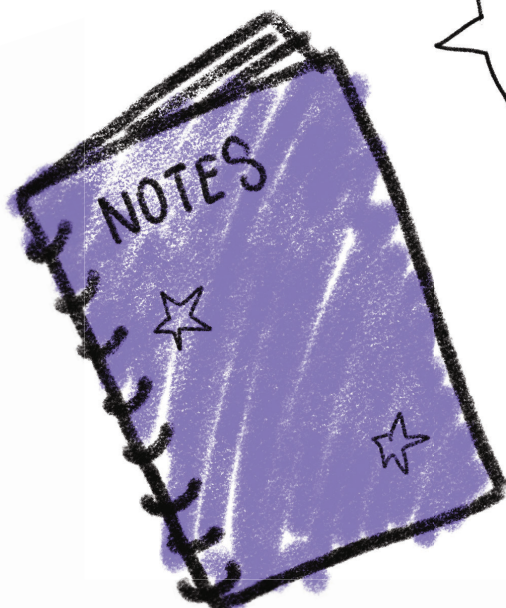
By Key Jones-Ford
Content Creator

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Words are hidden forward, backward, up, down and diagonal.

PROFESSOR
TEXTBOOK
SYLLABUS
HOMEWORK
FRESHMAN
VARSITY

SENIOR
JUNIOR
MAJOR
MINOR
STUDY



SOLUTION

[illegible]

Battle of the Parasocials: Love Island USA’s “Out-of-Touch” Fanbase

By **Serena Edwards**
Opinions Editor

A new bombshell has entered the villa for season 7 of Love Island US (LI USA): parasocial fans. This season had more fan interactions than any other LI USA season ever, with more voting sessions that impacted the islanders. With new fan interactions came divisiveness, making the season overall unenjoyable.

Love Island is a reality TV show that focuses on people in their 20s building romantic relationships. The show premieres in real time over the summer, with episodes coming out almost every day except Wednesday.

Although the end goal for any contestant is to find love, there are challenges that test relationships as well as new people, also known as “bombshells”, that come into the villa to stir up the current couples. Many would categorize this show as a game show, not only from the challenges presented, but also due to the winning prize of \$100,000 for the winner to keep for themselves or split with their partner.

Season 7’s predecessor set the standard of what was expected this season.

With the expectations set high for a whole new cast, disappointment became prominent as the episodes aired. Fans began to build a parasocial relationship with the cast members, as they felt connected to their stories. However, the feelings developed were expressed in extreme measures.

Within the villa, contestant Huda Mustafa dealt with the results of a fan-held vote that separated her and her partner at the time, Jeremiah Brown, causing her to spiral. She lashed out on anyone who threatened her connection

with Jeremiah, which many viewers did not agree with.

Outside the villa, haters rose and ultimately started calling her “Hurricane Huda” and her fans “Hudrats” because of their behavior. The fans and haters clashed for weeks on why they liked/disliked her, but the hate got out of hand once they began commenting under Huda’s personal social media posts, saying her family should be bombed.

For context, Huda is a Palestinian woman, and with the genocide going

coming their way and blatant racist tweets directed towards them, there was no escaping the LI critics. Some argued that the name-calling was valid due to Olandria and Chelley’s actions towards Huda. Chelley, Olandria, and Huda were friends throughout the season until the end during a popular LI challenge, “The Heartbeat Challenge”. Huda pulled Chelley’s partner Ace and started dancing on him, which caused Chelley to feel unsettled. Many think the way Chelley handled

fans calling each other outlandish names. Judging appearances and belittling each other over a show for people no one knows personally. The fans were critiquing and trying to find anything to get the islander they didn’t like kicked off. LI USA had to issue a statement on television and social media due to the cyberbullying the islanders were facing and would face once leaving the villa.

The difference between last season (S6) and this season is that the fans had less of a say about

close cast.

Olandria had been single for five years before entering the villa and had more reserved perspectives on relationships. She wasn’t as expressive, which most Black women relate to. Huda, on the other hand, wore her feelings on her chest regardless of what the narrative would be. Chelley is a bisexual Haitian-American woman, which is a niche community in itself.

Each islander resonated with a demographic of people, which caused those fans to defend them



Love Island USA promotional photo./*Courtesy of Peacock*

on in Gaza, haters used her culture as a leverage to spew malicious comments her way in an attempt to purposefully cause pain and ostracize Huda from the rest of the cast.

Since the show has ended, Huda has gone on the podcast “Call Her Daddy,” where she mentioned she felt like an outcast among the other islanders.

The hate didn’t just get directed towards Huda; fellow contestants Olandria Carthen and Chelley Bissainthe, two dark skin Black women, faced an immense amount of backlash near the end of the season.

With mean girl allegations

the situation made her a mean girl. Olandria faced backlash for her handling of her previous partner, Taylor, and airing Huda’s personal business out. Olandria was this season’s fan favorite due to her beautiful appearance and witty personality. She brought a new flair to Fiji this summer; however, with all the positivity also came negativity. Memes of Olandria’s face being attached to George Floyd’s face flooded the internet, showing Huda and Olandria fans were clearly on two sides of the fence.

The Twitter discourse was nonstop during and after the show, with

the islanders’ actions and relationships.

There was less concern for friendships and more focus on the original focus of the show, love. Last season’s famous PPG (Power Puff Gang) friendship between Serena, Jana, and Leah happened organically through interactions and challenges. This season emphasized being a “girls girl” and not stepping on people’s toes, which, in comparison to the previous season, made the romance feel inauthentic. This season felt more relatable within the islanders; they had stories that made the fans feel

because they ultimately saw themselves in the islanders. The fans seemed to forget that it was a show and instead acted as if they were in the villa defending themselves.

LI USA ranked number 1 this summer for best reality television show because of the interactive fans staying plastered to their screens. But in the end, it felt more like an addiction than enjoyment. fans staying plastered to their phones and TV tv screens. But but in the end, it felt more like an addiction than enjoyment.

Fonso’s Interlude: Atlanta Futuristic Revival Brings Back that Careless Fun from the City’s Past

By Alfonso Abreu
Staff Writer

As the scorching heat of the summer starts to turn into the chilly winds of fall, it seems there is still confusion as to what exactly was the rap song of the summer. To me, the answer couldn’t be more obvious.

The high-octane eccentric duo of Atlanta rappers Pluto and YK Niece’s viral hit “Whim Whamiee”, the enigmatic superstar Playboi Carti’s enthralling anthem “Like Weezy”, and the humorous and jovial BunnaB’s feel-good summer bang “Bunna Summa”, to name a few, are some of my considerations. On first listen, one can write off the songs as simple mood setters about constant partying and mindless flexing, yet at its core, it’s a love letter to the tunes from Atlanta’s short-lived futuristic era that united the city.

Atlanta’s futuristic era lasted from the late 2000s to the early 2010s, best characterized as songs about partying, cars, money, and girls over bubbly digitalized beats that sound like they were made on a pimped-out BlackBerry (remember those?), delivered with autotuned drowned vocals and high intensity, whilst DJ tags and ear-ripping sound effects are sprinkled throughout.

The teen comedies shenanigans repackaged as bright autotuned melodies from Rich Kidz, Travis Porter’s crowd commanding club anthems, and the laidback colorful descriptive bars of Young Dro: “My drop top Chevy so apple green”, “Benz coupe same color Ric Flair hair”, assisted in making the era be

remembered for the low-stakes communal energy it brought to Atlanta rather than just the flashy Ralph Lauren and True Religion pairings.

The aforementioned “Whim Whamiee” may contain traces of Atlanta’s gritty musical past before leaning more to the future, as the beat is a flip of Gutta and OJ Da Juiceman’s track

two, in which makes you believe the pair share a friendship so strong they can finish each other sentences: unfortunately months removed from the track’s release the duo separated, seemingly dubbing each other as “business partners”, with future listens of the song prompting you to wonder what could’ve been.

Despite two of the

energy through the use of a cheap sample, yet avoids this because of her cheerful personality, which sprinkles in a playful nature that solidifies the track as a catchy rendition.

My personal favorite is her single “A.T.L.A.N.T.A.” A breezy, infectious love letter to the city that sees her shouting out neighborhoods over a

The tape acts as an homage to the era’s pioneers, such as J Money, Roscoe Dash, and Waka Flocka Flame, to name a few. It’s very reminiscent of DJ Spinz and DJ Pretty Boy Tank’s expansive “Space Invaders” series, which focused on highlighting a revolving cast of artists who were paving their way in Atlanta at the time.

There is a lot of fun to be had across the tape’s double-disc format; veterans fall back comfortably into the irreverent festivity they spent their younger years making music of.

“U Deserve” sees T.I., Young Dro, Roscoe Dash, and Travis Porter dropping smooth, flirtatious odes to the ladies in the clubs, who have captured their eyes over a vibrant dance groove with gorgeous keys that shine as bright as the disco ball above this scene. It’s heartwarming seeing these same artists make their way on a project that celebrates the impact they had on the city. The previously mentioned BunnaB and YK Niece appear on the tape to share the stage with the greats for a quick yet memorable performance that adds another layer of sweetness to this futuristic revival.

For an era where the majority of the mixtapes that soundtracked the era only exist on YouTube archive pages and mixtape websites, it brings joy to see the era’s legacy live on, especially after the passings of the city’s very own legends.

While it wouldn’t be in the same True Religion jeans or Polos of the past, fun will still be had.



Pluto (left) and YKNiece (right) in the Whim Whamiee music video./*Courtesy of Don Wong Films*

“Wham Bam” produced by Zaytoven. Yet, the energy and inseparable chemistry between Pluto and YK Niece harken back to what made some of the best from the futuristic era stand out. Over Zaytoven’s dazzling yet urgent synths, Pluto’s screechy voice boasts so much energy, which pairs well with the commanding voice of YK Niece, who draws attention with one-liners that will burrow deep into your brain: “I’m talkin’ ‘bout innit!”. The energy is at its highest throughout the track, due in part to the unmixed ad-libs, “LULULEMON!”, blaring through the mix as if they were in the studio recording with a megaphone.

It’s the little details like this that highlight the chemistry between the

forerunners of Atlanta’s futuristic revival falling out, the spirit continues living on thanks to the self-proclaimed “Ice Cream Girl” BunnaB, whose music is so drenched with nostalgia that the influences are apparent, yet it’s excused because of how fun all of it is. The major hit “Bunna Summa” details her Don Julio-fueled summer plans of partying in True Religion jeans with her friends, with a hook so catchy you’ll wonder if she has room for one more.

She has other equally entertaining songs like “Ice Cream Girl,” where she plays around with ice cream-themed lyrics with a melody reminiscent of the ice cream truck jingle. On paper, the song should be a lazy attempt at instilling youthful

spacy arrangement of synths that have a groove you can’t help but get lost in. To seal the envelope of this letter, it features a riveting hook which contains a reference to the late great Atlanta rapper Rich Homie Quan, where she sings-raps “Ask me where I’m from, I told ‘em A-T-L-A-N-T-A / T-N-T-A, make you feel some type of way”, a nod to Quan’s classic hit “Type of way”. It reminds you that it’s more than just nostalgia for the city of Atlanta; it’s about appreciating the history.

Appreciating the city’s history is the intention of superstar producer Metro Boomin’s latest project, “A Futuristic Summa”, which catches the futuristic revival wave right during the peak of the summer season.

“Man’s Best Friend”: Summer Song Savior or “Short ‘N Sweet” Copycat?

By Renae Visico
Staff Writer

Barely a year after her breakout record “Short ‘N Sweet”, 26-year-old pop singer Sabrina Carpenter seemed to be striking the iron while it’s hot with the recent release of her seventh studio album “Man’s Best Friend.” Sonically and thematically, Man’s Best Friend is a worthy successor to her prior album, as it rides similar highs and lows.

While many aspects of Carpenter are short, such as the gap between her albums and her height, her rise to fame has been anything but so.

Her musical journey exemplifies the phrase “slow and steady wins the race”; she’s been releasing music since the days of Disney Channel, which now only lasts as memories of our childhoods.

Starting off as a child actor, most notably for her role as deuteragonist Maya Hart in Disney sitcom “Girl Meets World”, Carpenter signed a record deal with Disney’s music label, Hollywood Records, at 14 years old.

As part of a deal with Disney, Carpenter had released four studio albums with Hollywood Records between the years 2015 and 2019: “Eyes Wide Open”, “EVOlution,” and twin albums “Singular: Act I” and “Singular: Act II”.

All four of her albums detailed Carpenter’s life through the pop music machine, lyrical stories of anxiety in songs like “Exhale” and female empowerment anthems such as “Sue Me”.

Sabrina was growing out of her Disney Channel era, but it was clear she hadn’t yet found a sound that stuck for her.

That lack of an original sound changed when Carpenter switched to Island Records and released her fifth studio album, “Emails I Can’t Send”. She found her signature witty sound through her fifth record’s hit single, “Nonsense,” and carried that charm to the release of the summer-defining hit “Espresso” two years later.

The following album, “Short ‘N Sweet,” established Carpenter as the charming deadpan romantic we all know

and love, and instead of switching up her sound, she took its success as a sign to maintain the image she created for herself for “Man’s

Best Friend.”

However, the rollout for this new album did not go without controversy. The album’s standard cover featured Carpenter on all fours with a man pulling her hair; this seemingly degrading album cover divided casual listeners and longtime fans alike.

On one hand, people claimed that her willingness to submit to a man was misogynistic and, as Arwa Manhdawi of the Guardian claims, “pandering to the male gaze”. On the other hand, others such as Mamamia’s Jessica Clark argued that it was just Sabrina’s trademark satire and that if the album’s lead single, “Manchild,” was anything to go off of, the album wouldn’t center around unironically degrading herself.

Regardless of the controversy surrounding the rollout, pop listeners were eagerly awaiting “Man’s Best Friend” in the midst of a dreadfully stale summer pop scene. Many people were tired of the Alex Warrens and the Benson Boones dominating the pop charts, and fans were craving a return to the pop girl renaissance similar to last year’s summer.

“Man’s Best Friend” seemed like the light at the end of the tunnel that fans have been waiting for, but was Sabrina able to live up to their expectations?

The short ‘n sweet answer: yes. “Manchild” set the tone for this release perfectly with Carpenter’s humorous lyrics about her disappointment with the childish men she dates. The country and disco influences of this pop track were reminiscent of her previous album’s second hit single, “Please Please Please,” effectively sticking with listeners and generating hype for an album that promised to ride off that same sound.

Fast forward two months, “Man’s Best Friend” finally becomes ours with “Tears” as the second single.

“Tears” is a disco-pop track about how men doing the bare minimum is enough to make Carpenter want them, and the self-deprecating undertones are not lost on the listener.

While it accomplishes everything it set out to do with its funky production and creative music video storytelling, it lacks the punch that her previous album’s third single, “Taste,” had. The lyrics and

production don’t show her full potential as a performer or songwriter compared to other songs on “Man’s Best Friend”. A more captivating second single would have been track 08, titled “When Did You Get Hot?” or track 11, titled “House Tour.”

The rest of the album could be described through the yin and yang circle. In Carpenter’s case, the yin refers to her minimalist mid-tempo ballads while the yang refers to her fun pop diva bangers.

After “Tears,” tracks three to seven of “Man’s Best Friend” are the yin of the album.

Songs like “Sugar Talking,” “We Almost Broke Up Again Last Night,” and “Never Getting Laid” reek of pop music producer Jack Antonoff’s signature “almost, but not enough/close but no cigar” synthwave production that reads more like study music than artistic statements. Unlike her similar minimally-produced songs like Short ‘N Sweet’s “Slim Pickins” or even EVOLution’s “Run and Hide” from way back when, Carpenter’s songwriting in these tracks simply isn’t interesting enough to justify their uninteresting production. Her efforts to write more sincere lyrics aren’t unwelcome, but it’s clear that more time spent in the oven would have elevated the first half into playlist-worthy songs.

However, in every yin there is a yang, which is brought by tracks like “My Man on Willpower” and “Nobody’s Son.” Both tracks echo the country-inspired disco pop sound that “Manchild” promised, and the production is dynamic enough to engage the listener.

Lyrically, both tracks are similar laments on how her men have taken self-improvement more seriously at the cost of their desire for her. “My Man on Willpower” has lyrics that read, “he’s busy, he’s working, he doesn’t have time for me,” which are reminiscent of themes from “Short ‘N Sweet” tackled in Slim Pickins’ “If they’re winning, I’m just losing.”

As lovely as these two tracks are, they weren’t caffeinated enough to wake listeners up from the sleeper tracks in between.

The yin unfortunately continues in the middle of the latter half with “Don’t Worry I’ll Make You Worry.” Carrying many of the half-baked songwriting problems as songs in the prior half, its subdued vocal and synthwave production provides a snooze break right in the middle of much more fun songs.

Thankfully, the eighth to twelfth tracks of “Man’s Best Friend” continue the yang of the album, providing Carpenter’s return to that me espresso that listeners have been thirsty for all summer.



Man’s Best Friend album cover./*Courtesy of Island Records*



Alternate album cover of Man’s Best Friend jokingly dubbed by Carpenter as “approved by God.”/*Courtesy of Island Records*

Songs like “Go Go Juice,” “House Tour,” “Goodbye” (Sabrina’s personal favorite track), and “When Did You Get Hot?” (My personal favorite) further demonstrate how much fun Sabrina can have with her songs, and the production has just as much fun. “When Did You Get Hot?” and “House Tour” are easily the funniest songs on the album, with lines like the former’s “Your light rod’s, like, bigger than Zeus’s” and the latter’s “and I promise none of this is a metaphor” (the irony!) drawing an audible laugh from me. “Go Go Juice” is a song that was practically meant to be tap danced to at a pub, especially during the bridge’s whimsical fiddle solo. “Goodbye,” a fitting title for the album’s closing, echoes the legendary Swedish disco group ABBA, which resembles the album’s opener more than its less interesting

filler songs. Like Manchild, Goodbye’s liberating tone makes it ideal for belting during a last-minute summer road trip with the sunroof open. Overall, the yin and the yang perfectly balance each other to create a solid record that’s worthy to stand along “Short ‘N Sweet.” “Man’s Best Friend” says that whether you’re tired of her or not, Carpenter loves what she’s doing, and she’s here to stay. As Carpenter only continues to gain more fame, it’ll be interesting to see what the future has in store for her. Will she continue in her current direction and give “Short ‘N Sweet” another sister, or will she swerve and show fans a new side of her? Only time will tell, but until then, get home safe.



Brooklyn College Sports Are Back!:

Recaps (09/02-09/07)

By Manuel Polanco
Sports Editor

As the fall semester begins and classes are back in session, so too are Brooklyn College’s (BC) fall sports.

With the Men’s soccer team gaining a new head coach, Nathan Bell, a fiery quote by the women’s volleyball coach, and the women’s soccer team’s dominant start, let’s kick off this week’s recaps with Women’s volleyball.

Women’s Volleyball

“The goal is always one, to win the conference and represent CUNYAC at the NCAA. Not an easy task, but we have a really talented group of young players and solid upperclassmen leadership,” replied longtime women’s volleyball coach Losif Agrest when asked what his goals are for his team this upcoming semester.

This fighting spirit and mentality culminated in the Women’s volleyball team winning their home opener 3-2 against SUNY Maritime on Sept. 2. In a game that went into five sets, the Women’s resilience helped them come away with a win.

Although they started their next game slow,

losing the first set 25-10, BC won the second set 25-18 and kept it close in the remaining sets. As the fifth set started, BC dug in and edged out Maritime, winning the fifth set 15-13.



Midfielder Audrey Jane Young (#2) celebrating with teammate./*Courtesy of BC Athletics*

The resilience BC showed is the energy Coach Agrest talked about, and helped them win their first game in a big way.

Key players of this game were Senior Amra Mulic, who had 12 assists, two aces, and 17 digs. Senior Ruti Joshi ended the night with 22 digs, three aces, seven assists, and a great defensive game. Freshman Ella Snobar had eight kills, one ace, and 12 digs. Sophomore Danielle

Fuxman had five kills, six digs, and two blocks.

BC also faced off against the United States Merchant Marine Academy Mariners (USMMA) on Thursday, Sept. 4.

BC vs USMMA didn’t go the Bulldogs’ way as they lost this game 3-0. BC lost each of their three sets via scores of 13-25, 20-25, and 19-25. Freshman and first-year player Olive Carroll had six kills in this game, Freshman Saule Okeke-Ziburkus had five kills and one block, Fuxman had three kills this game, and Snobar had two kills and two blocks. BC hopes to bounce back on Tuesday, Sept. 9, when they face off against Farmingdale State.

Women’s Soccer

After losing their first game of the season 4-2 against Maritime College, the BC Women’s soccer team looked to start their home opener with a bang against their opponent, the Saint Elizabeth University Eagles. BC would win their home opener in front of the Brooklyn College crowd and even their record at 1-1.

Sophomore Midfielder Audrey Jane Young would get the scoring started as she scored a goal with an assist from Sophomore teammate Chelsea Gonzalez. Young ended her night with one goal, four shots, two Shots on Goal (SOG), and one assist. Junior forward Imani

Dickens would join the party as she scored a goal of her own at 36 minutes. Dickens’ stats for the game were three shots, two SOG, and one goal.

BC continued their

winning ways, as they beat the University of Valley Forge Patriots on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Sophomore Midfielder Julissa Chino would score the only goal of this game as BC won 1-0 against Valley Forge. This close but defensive game was scoreless in the first half, and Chino would break the ice with a goal of her own in the second half.

Sophomore goalkeeper April Hartje played all 90 minutes and had two saves under her belt.

The women’s soccer team raised its record to 2-1 and will return home on Wednesday, Sept.10, to play Manhattanville.

Men’s soccer

The Men’s soccer team opened its season on the road against Maritime, hoping to start this new season with a win and help their new coach, Nathan Hall, earn his first coaching win as a Brooklyn College coach. However, the team would lose the first game 4-1 and were held scoreless until the second half, when Freshman player Andrew Gavrilov scored his first goal of the season.

Trying to bounce back

from their previous loss, BC was on the road again and faced off against Sarah Lawrence College. BC’s losing streak would stretch to two games as they lost their second game 4-1.

BC would get the scoring started in the first quarter as Gavrilov would score his second goal of the season with an assist by Senior Nikala Metreveli. Gavrilov was honored with the CUNYAC Rookie of the Week. This would be the only goal BC would make as Sarah Lawrence scored three goals in the first quarter.

Gavrilov would end his day with five shots, three SOG, and one goal. Metreveli had three shots, one SOG, and one assist. Junior Adan Khodorkovsky had four shots, and Junior Seif Mokhtar ended his day with three shots and two SOGs.

Back home, the Men’s soccer team was surrounded by their fans and could rejoice as they snapped their losing streak and beat Cobleskill 3-0.

This win was historic as it was the first for head Coach Hall.

In the first quarter of the game, BC would score three goals to take a dominant lead. BC’s rookie of the week, Gavrilov, yet again got the party started as teammate Metreveli found him for an assist, and Gavrilov scored his third goal of the year.

Metreveli himself would get a goal of his own and, with his second assist of the game, helped teammate Khodorkovsky score a goal of his own. Khodorkovsky had four shots, two SOGs, and one goal. Metreveli had one goal, four shots, two assists, and two SOGs, Gavrilov had four shots, one goal, and one SOG, and Junior Adam Moharam had one assist.

BC will stay at home for their next game on Wednesday, Sept. 10, as they face off against the St Joseph’s University Brooklyn Bears.

BREAKING NEWS

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