LIRR Union Strike Postponed Pg. 2 USG discusses Fired Four at Senate Meeting Pg. 3

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Thursday, September 25th



BC Women's Center Hosts Open House & Women and Gender Studies Department
Discusses Recognition In Their Field

Pgs. 6-7

Student Affairs Hosts Resource Fair Pg. 5 The Summer 2025 Recap Pg. 10 NY Liberty's Season Comes to an End Pg. 11

Cover by Bent Bugene

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# Long Island Rail Road Strike Delayed: President Called in to Mediate

By Key Jones-Ford Content Creator

On Sept. 15, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) announced the postponement the of strike proposed by unions representing the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) with service running uninterrupted.

The MTA has been negotiating contracts with the unions that represent the laborers and employees of New York City's extensive transit system. These include engineers, bus drivers, conductors, and other workers who keep the system running and perform maintenance.

According to AP news, the MTA recently offered a 9.5% wage increase over three years, which all but five transit unions have agreed to. The five unions holding out are asking for another yearly increase of 6.5% bringing a total 16% raise over the course of four years.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET),the leading union calling for a strike is joined the Transportation Union Communications (TCU), the Brotherhood Railroad Signalmen

(BRS), the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMA), and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

"What we're asking for is exceedingly reasonable, essentially the status quo when it comes to the cost of living," said Kevin Sexton, BLET's vice president, in a news conference. The current offer given by the MTA does not meet the rise in the cost of living, according to him and the other union reps.

John McCarthy, MTA chief of policy and external relations, criticized the unions for their decision to continue the dispute, claiming that they have never had intentions of coming to the table for "If these negotiations. unions wanted to put riders first, they would either settle or agree to binding arbitration. And if they don't want to strike, they should say so - and finally show up to the negotiating table. This cynical delay serves no one."

Similarly, New York Governor Kathy Hochul has criticized the unions' request as "unrealistic" in a statement published by her press office. She insists that "both sides must return to negotiations and keep working around the clock until this is resolved."

She also calls out the current presidential administration for encouraging this strike. "Make no mistake, this is a strike encouraged by Donald Trump and enabled by his allies in Washington. I remain incredibly frustrated with the continued inaction and silence of Long Island's two Republican members of Congress."

The LIRR's labor negotiations are covered by a 1926 federal law called the Railway Labor Act. The act dictates that unions cannot strike unless they have exhausted all other mediation procedures, and can only strike over "major disputes."

The strike was delayed by a request from BLET to President Donald Trump to establish an emergency board to mediate over the negotiation process, an action that the Railway Labor Act supports. The White House released a statement detailing the duties and orders of the The board will report its findings to President Trump within 30 days of its creation. The action delays this strike for at least another six months.

The LIRR serves just under 270,000 daily riders, according to a report published by the MTA in June 2025. A strike would prevent many of these riders from traveling to work or school without the use of a bus or car.

In the event of a strike, the MTA's contingency plan was revealed in a press release on Sept. 11. The MTA "strongly [encouraged] Long Islanders to work from home or stay with friends or family living in or near New York City to take advantage of subway and bus service." Further plans also included an extension of the Long Island bus service and a temporary shuttle bus, as well as recommendations for drop-off points if choosing to use carfare services to get into the city. These dropoff points were in Queens, save for the Sheepshead Bay subway station, which is serviced by the Q and B trains in Brooklyn.

The last strike for the LIRR occurred in 1987, lasting 11 days. Union workers of 11 unions walked off the job on Jan. 18 after they failed to negotiate a new contract. Among the unions, BLET was one of those that walked off. The strike only ended after then-President Ronald Reagan signed a resolution to call the strikers back to work, according to UPI archives.

"We remain committed to resolving this issue and ensuring that Long Island Rail Road service is not shut down in the future," said the MTA in their announcement.

With the president's intervention, negotiations will continue for the board's duration and extend the deadline for contract agreements. This delays a potential strike until early to mid-2026, though it does not guarantee a strike will not happen at all.



Commuters walk on the platform during the launch of the Long Island Rail Road terminal.

/Courtesy of Jeeah Moon for Bloomberg

### **USG Holds Discussion About "BC Fired** Four" During Senate Meeting

By Elianna Tsigler Staff Writer

On Sept. 16, 2025, Undergraduate the Student Government (USG) Student Senate convened its third meeting, general chaired by Vice President Fia Sanchez, where amends were made to the USG Constitution, multiple pieces of legislation passed, and were Professional (PSC) Congress **CUNY** members spoke on the issue of the "Fired Four," as well as the recent investigation into six more professors which passing ago.

One of the key discussed points during the meeting executive orders and Four." propositions.

Executive Orders 001 and 002 appointed new members to the cabinet of staff, treasurer, club director, press director, events director, and student advocate.

Brooklyn College. According to USG Bylaws, Article 2, Section 3.5, "The President of USG shall send to the President of Brooklyn College a list of all Collegecommittee wide appointments by the end of July and shall notify the Senate."



USG Senators engaging in discussion about the "Fired Four"./Elianna Tsigler

Staff officially confirmed cabinet.

Following the conducted of occurred two weeks orders, BC Professor Mobina and

The Vanguard, pro-Palestine behind it. demonstration took to the positions: chief place on the Brooklyn Meeting, College (BC) campus and on May 8.

four adjunct professors matter of the "Fired reappointments, with the Similarly, Executive received letters of non- Four," with Hashmi an alleged connection but regardless, governing bodies of by their departments recently investigated. and scheduled to teach the in the summer and fall were questioned about semesters.

"President Anderson didn't give any reason for this, until a certain point where she said they were fired for conduct, but we don't know what conduct," said Hashmi, who is also a Co-Chair of the Proposition 002 BC Chapter of PSC investigation, and that or write letters to CUNY.

Approximately it would President Cyle Paul's two weeks ago, BC without their presence There are plans to start Executive Order 001 administration began or participation. appointed six an investigation into new members to the sixfull-time professors. is I don't know what Provost to find out these investigations.

Hashmi PSC, these faculty what you might be dismissed. department members were being doing that can get you As previously reported there were no concrete Hashmi.

At the USG Senate speculation

their whereabouts on to the day of the protest that whether and planning it, yet they students, and in order Bedford." were never informed to combat the issue, of which had they were They told to come in for an of the "Fired Four" even if they didn't, the

"What that means Anderson Provost April Bedford I might be doing that more the will get me fired, which about the issue and means that none of the reason why the According to the [the students] know professors BC event protocols, but this conduct is," said Vanguard.

These professors popular explanation.

The USG's goal is legislation pass can policies they plan to either violated. work on a joint call simply for the reinstatement administration

continue at Brooklyn College. contacting President and information were

Robert Echevarria, representative David investigated for alleged expelled or disciplined a USG Senator and Arnow spoke on the misconduct under the as a student. Because junior at BC, shared was the issuance of matter of the "Fired Henderson Laws and we have no idea what USG's plan with the

"We're going to be allegations or reasons The confidentiality of workingon[...] whether both cases led to mass it be writing a joint about resolution at calling Hashmi the issue. It is still for the reinstatement department unclear what reason of the 'Fired Four,' representative David the "Fired Four" were or we're going to be The following month, Arnow spoke on the given for their non- writing a letter to administration, Order 003 approved reappointment, despite herself being one of the between the professors are going to start new members to the having been approved six professors who were and the demonstration having conversations on May 8 being a with key players in Brooklyn College administration, whether that be with improve President Michelle J. they the quality of life on Anderson or that be had participated in campus and to protect with the Provost, April

### Governor Hochul's Endorsement of Zohran Mamdani Further Divides Democratic Leaders

By Renae Visico Staff Writer

On Sept. 15, Governor Kathy Hochul released an op-ed in the New York Times titled "Opinion: Why I Am Endorsing Zohran Mamdani." Despite this being a key endorsement for Mamdani, it has only emphasized divisions among Democratic leaders rather than unifying them

As the title suggests, Hochul described the various reasons for her endorsement of Mamdani, such as his commitment to "making New York City affordable" and creating a city where "children can grow up safe in their neighborhoods and where opportunity is within reach for every family."

Hochul cited the issue of affordability as the most important concern she shared with Mamdani. She wrote, "When I walk the streets, attend religious services or ride the subway, I meet New Yorkers who love their city but, despite hard work, feel they can't afford to live and thrive here."

Because of this, she expressed support for Mamdani's resistance against Trump's "abhorrent and destructive" economic policies, including the Big Beautiful Bill passed this July. The bill, which put 1.5 million New Yorkers at risk of losing health insurance and 300,000 more at risk of losing SNAP benefits, was criticized by Mamdani, who called it "one of the biggest heists in US history."

"[Trump] gutted Medicaid and food assistance, slashed federal funding New York City relies on and threatened a federal takeover of New York," Hochul wrote. "New York needs leaders who will put aside differences, stand up and fight back against Mr. Trump."

Hochul also cited Mamdani's dedication to combating antisemitism as a reason for her endorsement. While he has been accused by critics of being antisemitic due to his anti-Israel stance, Hochul challenges such criticisms by stating that she has "[seen] him meet with Jewish leaders across the city, listening and addressing their concerns directly."

While Hochul herself was initially hesitant to endorse



Mamdani and Hochul march together at the 2025 New York City Labor Day Parade and March./*Courtesy of Victor J. Blue for the NYT* 

Mamdani, especially since his opponent, Andrew Cuomo, was her former coworker who helped her become governor, she cited her working-class background as another reason for her endorsement. In her op-ed, she described how her parents raised "six children on a tight budget" in a "trailer park outside Buffalo" where her clothes were bought "at layaway or at secondhand stores" and dinner was made "with Spam sandwiches on day-old bread pulled from the freezer." These personal experiences have shaped her resonance with Mamdani's commitment to affordability in New York City.

Earlier this year, in June, Mamdani shocked America by winning the primary mayoral election, securing 43.5% of the votes in contrast to Cuomo's 36.4%. Starting as a virtually unknown candidate, Mamdani built his campaign on populist proposals such as free bus rides, rent freezing, universal childcare, and enacting higher taxes on millionaires. He also promised the formation of the civilian-led Department of Community Safety, which aims to improve public safety implementing mental health programs for the

NYPD.

Mamdani has also managed to garner support from young New Yorkers through his use of social media trends to advocate for causes popular among youth, such as stronger gun control and LGBTQ+rights.

Despite Mamdani's strong victory, many prominent Democrats were hesitant to fully support him. His self-referral as a socialist and his description of the situation in Gaza as a genocide have many influential Democratic leaders, including New York Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, wary of endorsing him as Hochul did.

Both Schumer and House Representative Hakeem Jeffries have met with him and had seemingly productive discussions with the mayoral candidate, but neither have given endorsements.

"I do think some of the hesitation is because on some of the national Democrat level and some of the donor level, there is some type of fear that an association with a socialist mayor will hurt Democrats nationally," remarked Democratic strategist Trip Yang, though he later added his disagreement with such a "traditional" view.

However, not all Democratic leaders have reflected such hesitancy to endorse Mamdani.

Most notably, progressive Senator Bernie Sanders has been a vocal supporter of his even before his victory in the mayoral primary. Recently, Sanders campaigned alongside Mamdani as they hosted their "Fighting Oligarchy" tour at the Claire Tow Theater at Brooklyn College.

"He brings out people, registers all kinds of new people, brings out non-traditional voters. Now, if you were a Democratic leader in a party which is now in the doldrums, you would be jumping for joy," Sanders said in an interview with CNN. "But the five major Democratic leaders have failed to endorse him. That is, to me, absurd."

Similarly, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has also campaigned alongside Mamdani, criticized Senator Schumer and Rep. Jeffries for their refusal to endorse him: "We have a Democratic nominee. Are we a party who rallies behind our nominee or not?"

The noticeable lack of endorsements from top

Democratic leaders, even after Hochul's endorsement, further signifies a divide within the Democratic Party during this election season. After her endorsement, New York Democratic Party Chair Jay Jacobs announced his refusal to do the same.

"I strongly disagree with his views on the State of Israel, along with certain key policy positions," Jacobs stated. "I reject the platform of the so-called 'Democratic Socialists of America' and do not believe that it represents the principles, values, or policies of the Democratic Party."

Similarly, New York Rep. Tom Suozzi tweeted that he would not be endorsing Mamdani following Hochul's endorsement: "While I share his concern about the issue of affordability, I fundamentally disagree with his proposed solutions."

It's clear that Hochul's endorsement has not changed the minds of Democratic leaders who have never supported Mamdani. Those who have previously not endorsed him have either continued to stay silent on the subject matter or, like Jacobs and Suozzi, have publicly declared their disagreement with Hochul's endorsement.

Mamdani's extremely progressive and socialist platform has alienated centrist-leaning Democrat leaders and voters. They worry that his radical views will be used by Republicans to attach Mamdani's far-left policies to the Democratic Party, legitimizing themselves by painting the entire party as too radical; and potentially hinder Democratic efforts to flip House seats to a blue majority, as Republicans hold a slight majority over the House by a mere six seats.

Any long-term impact that Hochul's endorsement would have on the outcome of this year's mayoral election is still unclear. However, what the endorsement has made clear is the Democratic Party's persistent internal conflict as they grapple with supporting a candidate who challenges their beliefs, while dominating voting polls.

While Republicans are uniting over criticizing Mamdani, Democrats remain divided on whether or not to do the same.

## Supported Students: BC Student Affairs Holds Resource Fair

By Emily Nixon Staff Writer

The West Quad of Brooklyn College (BC) vibrated with the bass line of party music, and the air buzzed with excited chatter and frantic final touches from organizers as they set up everything needed for the event to come.

On Sept. 16, BC Student Affairs held a Resource Fair to showcase the resources available to students on and off campus.

"It's an opportunity for students — three to four weeks into the semester— to connect with resources, to take care of any outstanding business," said Moraima Smith, Assistant Dean for Student Life. "And to also have a little fun."

Tables lined the quad's walkways, filled with pamphlets, papers, and small merchandise such as pins, stickers, pens, or other small trinkets with the resource's logos on them, showcasing organizations from campus or the surrounding area.

"Pretty much every semester, [Student Affairs] try to do a check-in/involvement/ resource fair for students that's on campus. Sometimes, [students] feel lost," said Latoya Bowen, the Health Programs Coordinator at BC. "So, we invite different offices throughout the campus, just to help the students with the offices and

the services that they offer."

Bowen remarked that about twenty organizations would attend the fair; however, they were not all BC-related administrations.

"Off-campus organizations usually go through me with the health and wellness," said Bowen. "So, we have New York State of Health. We have New York City Public Clinics— since I deal with immunizations [...] I invite them to come on campus."

One of the off-campus organizations in attendance was Diaspora Community Services (DCS), which focused on sexual health and education during the event.

"I'm here with two programs from organization [...] those two grants are focused on running youth programs and teaching sex-ed in high schools. So, while maybe the sex-ed teaching part isn't so relevant the college students here, the youth programs are," said Sofie Lasko, one of the representatives from DCS. "We're able to supply youth mentorship, school support, tutoring, but also pay, and an opportunity to learn about public health, health education, and the like."

One of the many oncampus resources was The Learning Center, located in 1300 Boylan Hall.

"[We] provide students on campus with services in regards to tutoring in specific subjects and writing," said Joseph Frias, a college assistant and adjunct professor working in The Learning Center. "I want to provide whatever I can for them [students] in regard to what we do and what we offer."

Frias explained why events like the resource fair are important for students and the center alike.

"Some people, you know, at the end of the school year, they come in, and they didn't realize that we were here this whole time, and they were struggling," said Frias. "By that



point, i t can be a little too late, so we want people to know that we are here throughout the entirety of the semester so that we can provide any sort of help."

The fair opened opportunities for students to explore the resources available and enjoy the kind atmosphere.

"The event was very cool. It was fun. It was a lot to do," said Jeniah Mitchell, a freshman majoring in business administration. "There was food and apparel."

Mitchell shared their favorite part of the event with the Vanguard.

"I would say the mini games that were in the middle, like playing Connect 4 with my



SAIL employees hand out sweatshirts to winning students./Emily Nixon

friends," said Mitchell.

As a way to prompt students to visit as many tables as possible, the event's organizers created a Bingo card system, which, when completed, allowed students to claim a free BC sweatshirt. Mitchell enjoyed the game but felt a little overwhelmed in the swarm of students scrambling to get their win before supplies ran out.

"It was fun. It was kind of hectic, cause, you know, everyone's trying to get [a sweatshirt]," said Mitchell. "I actually did like the Bingo aspect because then I got to learn different things about each table and stuff of that sort."

like Radi Farraj,
a transfer
chemistry major, felt
a little variety in the cards
would have tamed the rush
of students hunting their
winning streak; however, he
was generally pleased with
the event regardless.

Other students

"Everyone has the same bingo card. I thought I got lucky cause I finished my bingo card after seven booths, but there's a lot of free stuff besides," said Farrai.

Some students, such as Uniqua Peoples, a graduate student majoring in school psychology, felt that the event was a little disorganized and hard to understand once the crowd had gathered.

"When we arrived to line up, there was like one person for a split second, and then you turn around and they were gone. You didn't know that you had to scan this QR code," said Peoples. "You see a clipboard, so you're trying to follow the clipboard, which felt like following the yellow brick road."

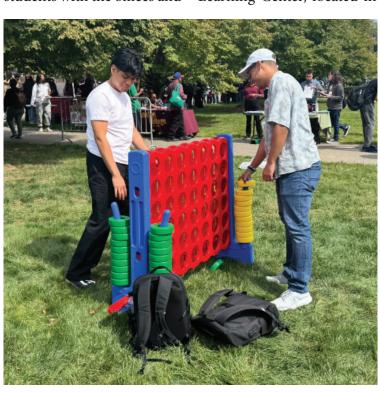
Some tables were set up very close to the DJ and speaker set up, which made it difficult for them to engage with students during the event, according to Jaclyn Hodge, the program advisor for CUNY Educate, Develop, Graduate, Empower (EDGE).

"So far, it's been hard to compete with the music [...] but it's a good music selection," said Hodge. "Maybe [they just need] to turn their music down a bit."

Despite some minor organizational and executional issues, the event appeared to be a success among students, fostering a sense of community, according to Kasey Mercedes, another graduate student majoring in school psychology.

"It's [the event] like really fun, and I like the sense of community here that they establish," said Mercedes. "I'm having a good time."

Students interested in future events by BC Student Affairs can check out their Instagram: @bcstudentaffairs.



Students play Connect 4 on the quad during the event. /*Emily Nixon* 

### Resources & Relaxation: BC Women's Center Holds Its Annual Open House

**By Margot Dragos** Staff Writer

On Thursday, Sept. presentation College Women's Center in showcased inclusive space and a various resources to environment students at its open fosters house.

The main room of agency." the Women's Center for students to sit and they provide students.

with began staff mission.

comprehensive snacks."

support and resources," read a slide from the about 18, the Brooklyn the Women's Center's (BC) mission. "Grounded intersectional its feminism, we provide safe, inclusive that autonomy, equity, and personal

It also discussed was filled with chairs the various resources watch the opening students, such as presentation. Many menstrual products, people stood as the condoms, and even room filled with Plan-B, as well as how students can use their The presentation space. They offer a an computer lounge, introduction about coffee & tea, as well the Women's Center's as tables and couches and their for students to hang out.

"The Women's "It's always a pleasure Center at Brooklyn to come here," said College is dedicated Muqadas Boota, a to minimizing the senior at BC. "I could obstacles women face run to charge my while pursuing their phone here, use my education by offering computers, and [for]



Students holding up their free goodie bags./Margot Dragos

Afterthepresentation The Vanguard. "[The "[The concluded, attendees Women's a plate of food from cool place to hang just a space to chill." sesame chicken, and bags dumplings.

"The fact that they pimple provided us with hand lotion, Carter Marks, BC freshman and pen. theater major, told

as chicken-fried rice, given free goodie attendees were able free, full lunch [...] balm, and Women's found out about. is really special," Center merchandise, a including a cup and Center is a free

know about what our it's Amber Prophete, the environment of the Center.

"I feel like a lot of people don't take For those interested in said Em Katz, a BC Hall Extension. sophomore majoring in computer science and psychology.

Women's Center] Center has] snacks, were invited to get seems like a really computers [...] it's a free buffet. They out, and it feels safe." Throughthe Women's offered options such Students were also Center's open house, filled with to discover a new products such as spot on campus and patches, resources they may lip not have otherwise

> "The Women's resource center that "Because we're they can go to at having a lot of new any time throughout students [...] we their days," Prophete wanted to open up our continued. "Because space so they could we understand that a commuter center is and what we school and you just have to offer," said want a place for and program coordinator community, and we Women's have that space for you."

> advantage of the the Women's Center, resources they have," visit 227 Ingersoll



Students eating after the presentation./Margot Dragos

### "Gender is about power": Research and Resistance Within Women and Gender Studies

### By T'Neil Gooden Features Editor

Brooklyn College (BC) professors, Naomi Braine and Janet Elise Johnson, took to the stage of the Woody Tanger Auditorium in the BC Library to share their thoughts on Research and Resistance within the study of Women and Gender. This talk was filled with knowledge, passion, and wisdom for those interested in why Women and Gender Studies is important for all communities to be educated on.

"Gender is about power," said Johnson, science political professor at BC. "This led me to focus on, in terms of my career, how states regulate our bodies in this really expansive way. They regulate our intimate relationships, our reproduction, our gender, our sexuality, how safe we can be to share our human experiences to ourselves, and to really think as a scholar about how government intersects us at this really intimate level."

The BC faculty members want students understand that the study of Women and Gender is not linear; it is a multifaceted major that leads to many different roles with various focuses.

Naomi Braine, the Endowed Chair in the Women and Gender Studies Department, explained that they have not had a straightforward path into their career; however, their curiosity and continuous interest in public health and

queer theory have led them to the career they have today.

"Most of my work these days is qualitative rather than quantitative. But some of the most wonderful movementconnected work that I have been part of has come out of it," said Braine. "So there is absolutely a pathway asking feminist questions and queer theory-informed questions within public health, within the natural sciences."

Johnson and Braine shared their respective stories of mistreatment within their specific practices of Women's and Gender studies, leaving extensive with ideals for the future of the practice.

"I want to make sure that gender issues are understood as political issues, about power, and as fundamental to every single question political scientists are asking," said Johnson.

Braine and Johnson followed Johnson's previous message of gender being a political issue with their comprehension of how



evolving understanding of the connection between political gender and status.

"I've done the best I can



Naomi Braine and Janet E. Johnson speak about their knowledge of Women's and Gender Studies Research and Resistance./T'Neil Gooden

to support the activists that I've worked with, which included telling their stories, translating work, writing grants, building their reputations as much as possible," Johnson told the audience. "Now it's more like providing activists asylum cases. That's what it's been like for the last 10 years, and I have another one this month, and it's really sad and scary what's going on and how we have to do that."

Johnson explained that women need protection for all the forms of information they want to spread about gender, women, power, and the political power they hold.

"What I'm working on this summer has been to provide some guidance for US women and women in local politics in the United States," said Johnson. "What can I teach them from studying authoritarianism about how to react in response?"

practice of making sure successful

"I want to sort of re- very easily." emphasize that so much of what I do in my way message into women's and gender defined by that," said music, Braine.

that they are teaching together them what can happen history, communication, and diversity that is the study of Women and Gender Studies.

"I like to talk to my students about what things have happened, what kinds of resistance has happened. Powerful movementshavechanged world," Johnson told the audience. "The suffrage movement that got women the right to

Braine continued the vote was the first major that voices are heard by to expand the rights of emphasizing that they people. It was huge. You provide resources to don't usually persuade those who do not get people to give you rights. It just doesn't happen

Johnson followed this by stating, "What I would say studies and LGBTQ is about what I've learned asking questions that are from studying Eastern driven by gender and Europe is that in the attention to sexuality face of authoritarianism, in places that are not we need art, literature, theater, these kinds of cultural These educators want things, and the more students to understand we can bring ourselves and communities, now to preserve the these relationships the more we can resist the authoritarianism."

> Students interested in the Women's and Gender Studies Department at BC can visit their website at https://www.brooklyn. edu/wgst/.

## Humanity Through The Lens of John Wilson

Arts Editor

walk The Metropolitan John Wilson wanted King-Hammond, to evoke. Wilson Founding Director, created art for more Center for Race experiencing many Professor pivotal media, including positively. drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture.

I am a Black person. holding his given me a special charcoal not because I sat down future

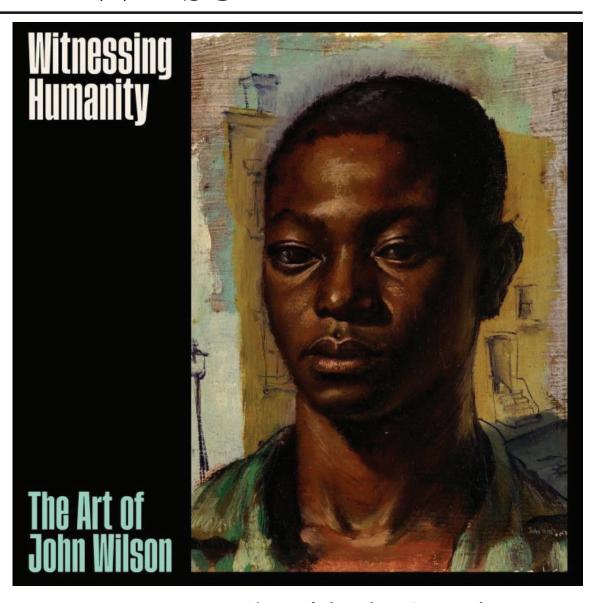
into for displaying artworks by Wilson. War." The eight themes are as follows: Martin lithograph Fatherhood Family, Paris, Humanity, different uses of color whole and compositions, about

By Khalailah Bynoe the message Wilson wanted to tell was the same. He wanted When you to empower African through Americans.

"Wilson believed Museum of Art's his imagery validated (MET) "Witnessing the humanness of Humanity: The Art of African Americans, John Wilson" exhibit, not thought to be you can feel the worthy of beautifully emotions that Black dignified, poignant Artist portrayals," said Leslie than six decades, and Culture, and moments Maryland Institute history, College of Art. including the civil Black fatherhood rights movement and is often spoken of the Vietnam War. in a negative light, captured but Wilson created these moments in many artworks that time through various portrayed fatherhood

An example is and "Father and Son," a charcoal drawing "I am a Black artist. showing a father To me, my experience in a loving, warm as a Black person has embrace. A secondary drawing, way of looking at the "Study for Child with world and a special Father," was created identity with others during the time of who experience some MLK's assassination. injustices [...] Themes Wilson wanted to I have dealt with are instill hope for the generation and said I wanted of black children to make a political despite the troubling but times. This drawing because of emotional was also related to a experiences." Stated lithograph, a special by Wilson. form of printmaking, The exhibit was that Wilson made time in New York, he defend himself. the eight themes, each based group "Artists various Against Racism and in New York City to keep Black people Feb. 8, 2026 and is

Wilson King Ir., created based on and a drawing he had Violence, made in Mexico a Mexico, decade prior, was Envisioning inspired by writer Wright's Home Richard and Hardship, and 1945 memoir. "A man War. Although each of truth [...]. Wright's theme brought along words gave me a conception what was



Witnessing Humanity: The Art of John Wilson./Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art

happening to Black for me. I wanted to Black create images that faced in the South. from Wilson. would be as powerful Tusche, written; to do with lithography and oil messages. to do it visually," expression on one stated Wilson.

Boston- taught art in middle "This business of the "Bronx Landscape," captures NYC building's exterior. lynching and murder *exhibitions* The piece is vertical, in the South, there *MET*, the fire escapes that [...] I heard someone org/. many New Yorkers make a speech once have as an alternative in which he said, to a balcony.

One particular and the threat of a greasy, what he had blank ink used in many of the black figures'

born in the South, the MET. the but the South was a apartment there's actual physical regarding 'Well, this lynching

Americans. And it painting, "Incident," lynching is what was a confirmation displayed the violence keeps Black people in Americans their place." a quote

The exhibit shared powerful Wilson a line what words painting, was used to wanted to be a part about a man I wanted create this piece. The of art history and to show the world what being black meant to Wilson lived in the faces struck me the him. "I drew scenes of Bronx and Queens most with the way his the world around me for seven years with eyes widened in fear, which reflected the his family in the mid- with the juxtaposition sense of alienation I 1960s. During his of raising his fist to felt as a Black artist in a segregated world."

This exhibit will and high schools terror that was used be on display until public schools. In the in their place really currently held in "Black Boy," a watercolor painting, worked. I wasn't Galleries 691-693 of

> essence of a typical microcosm. I mean, For more information at the their visit including the details was psychological website at https:// of bricks and even lynching in the North www.metmuseum.

### "Am I The Drama?" is Cardi B in her Latest Evolution

determination



Album cover for "Am I The Drama?". /Courtesy of Atlantic Records

### By Jaida Dent **Managing Editor**

After seven years, rapper and recording artist Cardi B dropped a follow-up to her award-winning Grammy debut album, "Invasion of Privacy" (IOP). Her sophomore album, "Am I The Drama?" is fiery, vulnerable, and a reflection of the last few years of her life. With a title referencing her own personal drama (and Drag Queen Scarlet Envy from Season 11 of RuPaul's Drag Race), this album mirrors her first, but takes the drama to an elevated form.

Through 23 tracks, Cardi cements her official return, and it feels like she never really left. The album holds a gritty, nostalgic sound while 2025 couture show. bringing new elements of cultivate a fully realized Cardi.

In the gap between her two albums, much of Cardi's life has changed. She would face motherhood and have three children with her exhusband and rapper, Offset. She would be embraced by the fashion world and make appearances at several fashion shows. She would release chart-topping singles and go on iconic feature runs.

But amongst the success, she had her fair share of drama.

She would face several court cases, engage in rap beefs, and divorce her her and emphasizes her

husband. Twice. Now, Cardi is in a new relationship with New England Patriots wide receiver Stefon Diggs, and is expecting her fourth child/ first with Diggs.

The promotion for the album combined skits and videos of her selling her CDs throughout New York City (NYC) and sit-down interviews on the Jennifer Hudson Show, Jenna and Friends, and CBS Mornings with Gayle King.

The album features striking visuals with several crows and Cardi in a red bodysuit, and striking fashion choices she is known for. The crow has been a motif of Cardi's recent evolution, as she was also seen with a crow at the Schiaparelli Fall/Winter

It's safe to say that Cardi vulnerability and love to is two-for-two when it comes to album openers. Track one, "Dead," serves as a great introduction for an album that is dripping in drama. The song opens with soundbites of news reporters talking about Cardi B as if she's a high-level supervillain, followed by the screeching alarm noise from the horror movie franchise, "The Purge". R&B singer Summer Walker provided vocals for the track; her voice brings a soft chorus before Cardi's aggressive The energy is verses. reminiscent of IOP's "Get Up 10", where Cardi addresses criticism directed at the

always rise above. She says, "You done seen me knocked d o w n n i n e t i m e s mean it?" // still get up

> reference to her first album.

After three

songs of sharp

ten," a direct

bars and hardhitting, ominous beats, track four, "Pick it Up," is a fun break in the album. When singer, businesswoman, and pop icon Selena Gomez was first presented as a feature, I wasn't sure of what she would bring to the album. However, Gomez's inclusion in this album has a fun, popesque chorus and allows Cardi to flex her own vocals. While the song is about longing for someone you don't have anymore, the beat makes it all the more

After a snippet circulated on TikTok, track six, "Bodega Baddie," was a highly anticipated song for me. It quite literally bleeds NYC, as Cardi highlights Dominican roots transports you to the vibe of your friendly, neighborhood bodega. It's a shame that the album was released closer to the Fall, because this track was destined to be our song of the summer. The track has a reggaeton beat with a memorable hook as Cardi has everyone feeling like a "Bodega Baddie".

lighthearted.

Tracks nine and 10, "Man of Your Word" and "What's Goin On?" are a standout two-track run on the album. Much of this album presents Cardi as a strong artist and a powerful woman as she claps back at those she's had conflict with, but these two songs allow her to be raw about her marriage.

"Man of Your Word" tackles several feelings for Cardi, including regret for staying in the relationship, confronting her shortcomings as a wife, and missing the friendship

that she once had with her ex-husband. The chorus has a male vocalist who pushes this message of no longer being a man of their word. "Now all I do is apologize for everything//How many times can I say sorry and not

"What's Goin On" made me laugh at first when I realized it was sampling American Rock band 4 Non Blondes' 1993 song, "What's Up?" But on a second listen, the song manages to communicate Cardi's disappointment in her relationship, despite Lizzo's playful chorus. Cardi makes the ultimate callback saying "I told his a\*\* be careful with me//I guess he thought I wouldn't practice what I preach".

This line references Cardi's very first warning when faced with infidelity in her relationship in the song "Be Careful," where she says, "You gon' gain the whole world//But is it worth the girl that you losin'?" The song details a decline in the relationship, and after staying for so long, she actually followed through with leaving.

While Cardi had many lines directed towards other female rappers, nothing was more direct than track 13, "Pretty & Petty".

The song returns to the pointed energy seen throughout the album with the line, "Name 5 BIA songs gun pointed to your head// Bow, I'm dead". BIA, a rapper with a long-standing feud with Cardi, has been going back and forth through subtweets and diss lines. The last instance of these two beefing was last June when Cardi took to Instagram live to address BIA's diss track "Sue Meee?". On the album's release day, Cardi would be on Power 105.1 FM's "The Breakfast Club", where she would state her reason for responding to BIA would be because her children were mentioned in their disputes. She also said that BIA played a role in her breakup by pushing rumors of Cardi cheating.

Heartbreak is a major theme of the album, but track eight, "Safe," is a love song that feels like sunshine breaking a cloudy sky. The duo of Cardi and Kehlani is a match made in heaven, especially after the success of IOP's "Ring". "Safe" is about being secure with your partner and being wellsupported. The inclusion of this song can be seen as a reflection of Cardi's personal life, as she navigates a new relationship after a long, tumultuous one.

This album also has fun, sexy moments where Cardi gets to rave about herself.

Track 14 "Better Than You" features fellow NYC artist Cash Cobain, a pioneer of "sexy drill," which combines R&B melodies with NYC drill beats. Cardi flexes her looks, lifestyle, and the fact that, despite taking time off, her music is still timeless. "Seven years off and it's still a classic//Seven years off, and you still ain't passin".

The album closes with tracks 22 and 23, "Up" and "WAP" featuring rapper Megan Thee Stallion. The two songs were released about four years ago, and both earned number spots on the Billboard Hot 100. While many were confused by their inclusion on the album, Cardi responded on X by saying, "WAP and Up are two of my biggest songs, my fans have been asking me to put them on an album, and people search for them on IOP all the time [...] they deserve a home."

Overall, this album is relatable and heartfelt, with lyrics that won't leave your head and beats that keep you wanting to dance. With every listen, a greater appreciation was gained as the wait was truly worth it. From humble beginnings on "Love and Hip Hop New York" to Grammy awards and platinum albums, "Am I The Drama?" picks up where "Invasion of Privacy" left off and proves that over ten years in the game, Cardi will never stop evolving.

### The Summer I Turned into a 24k Labubu Dubai Chocolate: Summer '25 Recap

By Serena Edwards Staff Writer Rami Mansi Editor-in-Chief

With summer officially over and autumn in full seasonal effect, it's time to reflect on the past few months. scavenger hunting for Labubu's to going to festivals and binge-watching hit TV shows, this truly was a summer to never forget.

"The Summer I TurnedPretty"(TSITP) became more notable this summer. The show is an adaptation of the book series written by Jenny Han, also known for writing the famous "To All the Boys I Love" series, a movie adaptation.

TSITP follows the life of Belly, a teenager who struggles with insecurities and attention during the summer. In the first focused accepting the attention He she was getting from between called triangle childhood friends Jeremiah and Conrad. The following seasons repeating have theme of navigating self-identity and teenage love. Gaining popularity through TikTok, the third and final season premiered on July 16 and kept entertained viewers until its finale on Sept. social Popular and Twitter also fell in

love with TSITP and



The Summer I Turned Pretty logo remake./Courtesy of Instagram

With such demand

for the furry 'friend',

for

typically vary from

20 - 50 dollars a box,

people started reselling

Labubu's for prices

nearing \$11,000. This

the

sold

when

store

out

selling

trendy.

to NPR,

Labubu's

Popmart,

Labubus,

instantly

became

According

"Though

known

remixed their logo in Labubus even more. a popular social media trend.

Trinkets were also which also turned into on the rise over the summer. Labubu's became a national phenomenon for being furry "monsters" that you can take with you.

The history of Labubus started with a Hong Kong artist on the aspect of her named Kasing Lung. them created based on the book her new look, mainly series "The Monsters," focusing on her love where the female elves themselves Labubus. Enrapturing social media by storm for their wide smile controversial and popularity, Labubus added to the wave of trinkets and accessories taking Gen-Z by storm. Another famous trinket called Sonny Angels got pushed to the back burner this summer.

The constant debate media apps Instagram against Sonny Angels Labubus only and fueled the hype for

with the revival of an particular reality show. With hits like "Never Forget You," "Lush Life," Larsson is no stranger to

discovery. The summer

also healed the masses

and "Symphony," Zara underperforming albums, Larsson has found her stride with her soon-to-bereleased fifth studio album, Sun." The album is named after the natural phenomenon of a sun never setting in specific parts of the world, including a land in Sweden, Larsson's home country.

After successfully wowing audiences both online and in-person as the opener for Canadian pop singer Tate McRae, Larsson her role solidified as a singer to watch.

Pristine

vocals while singing the title track of her album, new exciting pop star and a choreography on point in performances like "Ammunition," and a visual aesthetic that makes you applaud her dedication stardom. her artistry, Larsson But after a series of became social media's it-girl over the summer. With her album's release date fast approaching and her world tour occurring in "Midnight 2026, Larsson is ready to change pop music with each passing midnight sun.

> Another piece of media encapsulated that viewers around the world was the reality television show "Love Island USA."

> Attractive individuals are paired up and tasked with finding love on the show. It's steamy, it's dramafilled, it's a perfect show to watch while yelling at the TV in a crowded watch party. Previous coverage on the show from the Vanguard can be read here.

In a summer as jampacked as the summer of '25, with shows, music, and art galore taking the forefront, you can't help but wonder the impact the art we create has on each other. Visual art, sonic landscapes, encapsulating actors and personalities; art brings us together humans, how as beautifully chaotic, and gnarly.



The monsters fall in wild Labubu./Courtesy of Popmart **UK Instagram** 

### The End of a Season: The Liberty's Title Defense Comes to an End

#### By Reagan McLean Staff Writer

As the longest season in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) history comes to a close, the playoffs have arrived with the New York Liberty as the defending champions. The playoff ranking this year is based on the top eight teams with the best records this season. The top seed is the Minnesota Lynx, and the last team is new, the Golden State Valkaryies. With Liberty being the 2024 WNBA champions, and as a fifth seed, the team needs to prove that not only can they win a back-to-back championship, but also overcome the challenges and inconsistencies during the regular season.

At the beginning of the season, Liberty were 9-0, showcasing their dominance early before ending the regular season second in the Eastern Conference. They also led in the most three-pointers made per game with 10. One threepointer made.

The team averaged 22.8 assists per game, trailing the Minnesota Lynx, and averaged 85.6 points per game, making them the third in points at this time. Once the mid-season approached, the Liberty hit a slump. The record was 12-11 because key players Breanna Stewart, Jonquel Jones, and Sabrina Ionescu were injured, which contributed to the loss of consistency and momentum.

The nickname "superteam" originated from the acquisition of Stewart (a three-time WNBA champion), Jones (2021 MVP, WNBA champion, and finals MVP), and Courtney Vandersloot from the Chicago Skys, who

is a two-time WNBA

champion and one of

the league's top point

guards and assist

leaders. In 2023, helped with they joined a orchestrating the strong team that included All-Star Ionescu and Benijah-Laney Hamilton, and made a run to the finals. In 2024, won their board, drive for a repeat.

Former Mercury player Natasha Cloud's reaction to three with pointer in OT at PHX arena./Courtesy of Cronkite News

first-ever championship.

For the 2025 season, significant changes were made to the Liberty roster. Vandersloot returned to the Chicago Sky in free agency, Betnijah Laney-Hamilton was sidelined this season due to a knee injury. However, Liberty made key acquisitions with All-Star guard Natasha Cloud and veteran Rebekah Gardner, who returned from injury. The Liberty also added Isabelle Harrison, who provides additional frontcourt depth behind Jones and Stewart. Emma Messeman, who returned to the WNBA after playing overseas, was acquired and became a crucial x-factor. Now, with a fully healthy team (outside of Laney-Hamilton), the fan favorite Marine Johannès returning, and all the necessary pieces acquired, can the talent be executed when it matters most?

On Sept. 14, after a back-andforth game, the New York Liberty defeated the Phoenix Mercury in overtime, 76-69, to take a 1-0 series lead. The Mercury, led by All-Star guards Kahleah Copper and Alyssa Thomas, put up a tough battle; however, they struggled with their shooting all night, finishing with 33% shooting from the field and 23% from the threepoint range. Even though the win was hard-fought, the Liberty had an unusually high number of

They had a total of 20 turnovers in the game, which is strange since, on average, the Liberty have 14.9 turnovers per game. In the second half of the game, 14 of those turnovers were accumulated. There was some sloppiness, but the team's stars found other ways to

impact the game. Ionescu's

seven

all-around game with

16 points, six

rebounds, and

assists

offense. Iones dominant in the paint and on the securing game-high of 12 rebounds. Thus, going along with seven points and three blocks in the paint. This forced Mercury players to drive into the paint instead of shooting long-range shots. The game wasn't perfect; however, this is a testament to their grit and

In the fourth quarter, former Mercury player Cloud made back-to-back layups, which gave the Liberty a two-point

lead

4:17

left



New York Liberty versus the Phoenix Mercury in Game 1 of the WNBA Playoffs.

#### /Courtesy of Justwomenssports.com

in regulation. Cloud finished the game as the leading scorer for Liberty with 23 points. Her teammate, Ionescu, praised her performance, saying, "She was everything for us tonight...Her ability to get downhill, pass, her ability to hit big shots... she's someone that anchors us, so really proud of her effort".

Stewart made a crucial basket in the lane with a few seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. This tied the game to 65-65 and forced overtime. This play prevented an early Mercury win. Once overtime came, things started to turn up a notch. To open up overtime, Cloud made a three-pointer. This momentum continued an 8-0 run, which gave the Liberty a 73-65 lead with under two minutes remaining.

Midway through overtime, Stewart injured her left knee after making a layup. At the press conference, Coach Sandy Brondello did not make an update about Stewie's injury, but stated, "She asked me to sub her out there, and she looked uncomfortable, so that was the reason we took her out there. And then we're just...you know, we'll just be hoping that she'll be okay."

Coach Brondello continued, ng, "She's tough, I think one of her superpowers is her toughness, so if she's able to go, she'll go." Stewart

After the lead was cut to four by Phoenix, Leonie Fiebich made a critical three-pointer, which extended the lead and sealed the win for Liberty. Fiebich finished the game with 10 points.

In a best-of-3 series, it is important to win the first game. Especially, in Liberty's case, being the lower seed and having to start on the road. By winning Game one, it isn't guaranteed that you will win the series; however, the chance of winning is improved. The Liberty had just one more game at Barclays Center on Sept. 17. By winning this game, they advance to the semifinals. The first win was imperfect, but with clutch shots from Cloud and strong performances by Ionescu and Jones, it showed that when the Liberty isn't playing at its best level, it still has all the pieces needed to win when it matters most on Sept 17. Phoenix fought back and had a blowout lead of 86-60, which led the series 1-1 at the Barclays Center. Stewart had a sprained MCL; however, she still played. Her presence on the court was an emotional lift, but she had physical limitations and was ineffective on the court.

Phoenix had a shooting problem in Game one, but found its rhythm in Game two. Satou Sabally, their major catalyst, finished the game with 15 points, seven rebounds, four assists, and four steals, with 5-for-11 shooting from the field. Her performance helped set the tone offensively and helped the Mercury get their offense back on track. Thomas also scored 15 points, seven assists, and six rebounds. With Thomas distributing the ball and her presence in the paint, she disrupted Liberty's defense and created scoring opportunities for Mercury. Kahleah Copper, with 14 points, helped Sabally with setting the offensive threat, which helped Mercury establish their dominance early. With Mercury's "big three" being an offensive threat and distributing the ball, this impacted the Liberty's defense.

In Game one, Liberty had a stronger defensive front; however, in Game two, they lacked the physicality to keep Phoenix from dominating in the paint and scoring. As a team, the Mercury played more physically; thus, Liberty was slower in setting screens and getting into position. Therefore, Phoenix got easier shots. In Game one, the Liberty had 20 turnovers, which was unusual for them. However, in Game Two, they had 15 turnovers. Although the difference between Game One and Game Two is that Liberty won Game One, Phoenix was able to secure more easy transition points from live-ball turnovers. Lastly, in Game One, Jones's defensive effort forced the Mercury to take harder shots. In this game, the Mercury was able to get into the paint and get cleaner shots from the threepoint range.

Mercury most likely targeted Stewart on defense by running their offense through her side of the floor as a way to test her limited mobility due to her MCL sprain. With her inability to move quickly and contest shots as if she were 100% healthy, this was a defensive liability. With the Liberty's star player not performing at her full potential, other players are overcompensating, thus causing a chain reaction of late rotations and players playing out of compensation, which creates open shots for the opponent. Furthermore, if Liberty wants a chance to punch a ticket to the semi-finals, they need to learn from the mistakes that they made in this game.

After a back-and-forth game three, Liberty's dream of repeating a championship comes to a close with a 73-79 loss to the Phoenix Mercury at the PHX arena on Sept. 19. Stewart had a heroic performance of 30 points and orchestrated the offense in the fourth quarter. Ionescu was her leading assist, finishing with 22

Once again, the big three on the Phoenix Mercury rose to the occasion when needed. Thomas recorded a historic 20-point tripledouble with 20 points, 11 rebounds, and 11 assists. Sabally led the team with 23 points and 12 rebounds, and Kahleah Copper and Sami Whitcomb provided clutch points when needed.

Therefore, the combined effort of the Phoenix starters and bench was much stronger, and with a combination of injuries, lineup changes, and little to no practice time, Liberty's dream to repeat as the defending champions came to

### Recaps (09/16 - 09/20)

### By Manuel Polanco Sports Editor

The semester is in its third week, and that means it's time for another recap of this week in sports at Brooklyn College. First up is women's soccer.

#### Women's Soccer

On Sept. 17, the women's soccer team took on the Penn State Brandywine Nittany Lions for the first time at home in a subsequent 3-0 loss. The Bulldogs started the game hot and drove the ball to the Lions' goal five minutes in, but the Lions' goalie saved it.. The Nittany Lions scored first in the quarter, then twice in the second.

Sophomore Midfielder Julissa Chino had three shots this game with one SOG, Junior defender Abigail Joseph had two shots with one SOG, senior Midfielder Sage Bernstein had two shots and one SOG, and Junior Midfielder Alicia Mary Kosh had one shot. Sophomore Goalkeeper April Hartje had six saves in this game.

Their next game would be on Saturday, Sept. 20, against the Centenary University Cyclones, which would from be unfortunate for BC, as the women's soccer Centenary University Cyclones. The Cyclones were dominating the game from the start as they scored two goals in the first quarter, then five in the second.

BC's lone goal came in 80 minutes when senior Midfielder Imani Dickens got BC on the board for the first time this game. Dickens had two shots this game, one goal, and one SOG. Teammate Chelsea Gonzalez had one shot and one SOG this game.

Hoping to rinse this bad loss off, BC will be on the road still and face off against Western Connecticut State on Monday at 6pm.

### Women's Volleyball

Sept. 16 saw the volleyball women's team go up against York College in the CUNYAC opening and win 3-0 in a great bounce-back win.

by Fuxman as she ended her night with eight kills and one block. Freshman Olive Carroll had eight kills and three aces, and freshman Ella Snobar had six kills, one block, and one ace on her night. Lastly, freshman Saule Okeke-Ziburkus had five kills and three blocks.

With a two-game winning streak, the team looks to extend this on

#### Game 2

Game two kicked off with the Green Terrors taking the first set 25-16, and in another close game, BC lost 3-1. BC won the second set 25-21 but lost the next two sets 25-20 and 25-23.

Another great game from Snobar, where she had 10 kills and two aces. Fuxman had eight kills and one block, Okeke-

first 29 minutes in, but an assist from Nikala Metreveli would help Gavrilov score the tying goal 37 minutes in. Gavrilov would break this open at the 64-minute mark, for his second goal of the game, giving BC the lead.

Gavrilov would end his night with seven shots, two goals, and three SOGs. Teammate



Freshman defender Edison Zeqa./ Courtesy of BC Athletics

BC won each of their three sets via scores of 25-13, 25-9, 25-9, pure dominance on BC's part.

Stellar performance the squad, including Freshman Anna Friedman, who had team lost 7-1 against the six aces this game and four kills. Her teammate, Danielle Sophomore Fuxman, had seven kills and two blocks, and sophomore Dinora Gomez capped her night off with four aces and two kills. Lastly, sophomore Meadow Baker had two kills.

> Coming off their 3-0 win against York College, BC would win again against Old Westbury 3-0 on Sept. 18.; They won each of their sets via scores of 25-20, 25-22, 25-8.

> > Another great game

Saturday during their Tri-match against St Joseph's College and the McDaniel College Green Terrors at 2 pm.

### Game 1

Game one against St Joseph's College was a close game that went to five sets, but BC would lose this one 3-1. After winning the first set 25-21, they would keep the remaining sets close but would lose the remainder via scores of 25-18, 25-23, 25-22.

Snobar had 12 kills and six blocks, Fuxman had five kills and three blocks, Carroll had four kills, and Junior Olivia Fan had five kills and three blocks.

BC played McDaniels in game two later on.

Ziburkus had six kills and one block.

Senior Ruti Joshi had 15 digs with three aces and six assists, and junior Malia Reyes had eight assists and seven aces in this game. Lastly, senior Ayatallah Elkotby ended her night with four kills and one block.

BC will continue its conference play against Hunter College the Hawks on Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 6 pm.

### **Men's Soccer**

Reigning CUNY Rookie of the Week, Andrew Gavrilov, had another great game this week. BC would defeat Purchase College 2-1 and remain undefeated at home this season.

Purchase would score

Metreveli would end his night with one shot and one assist. BC went on the road again to face off against the William Paterson University Pioneers on Friday.

The Pioneers dominated this game from the jump and scored all three of their goals in the first quarter, and outshot BC 19-1. Senior midfielder Sadeek Brown would have the only highlight as he had one shot and one SOG.

The team's next game will be on Monday, Sept. 22, against borough foe Pratt at 5pm.