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# THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

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

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## **B41** Route Redesign Aims for **Increased Speed and Safety**

By Victoria Keraj **News Editor** 

Department Transportation announced the start of the Flatbush Bus Priority Project on Sept. 25. The goal of the project is to increase the speed and reliability of the B41, which follows Flatbush Ave and services many Brooklyn College (BC) and local high school students.

Center-bus-only lanes will be added to decrease traffic along the Flatbush corridor, according to the Flatbush Bus project presentation.

The center running lanes will first be added between Livingston and State Street. Work on the route will continue along the bus's route to Grand Army Plaza and will be completed in late fall 2026.

The bus lanes are expected to speed up the B41 and reduce traffic along Flatbush Avenue. The project presentation reports increases traffic speeds for past projects where center bus lanes were implemented. The presentation cites a

volume along Northern Queens, The New York adding center-running bus lanes.

> Currently, according to the DOT's project announcement, "bus riders across all of Flatbush Avenue currently experience bus speeds slower than four miles per hour at rush hours—about the same speed as a pedestrian walking the corridor."

> The center lane bus design includes also adding concrete boarding islands for increased safety of riders awaiting the bus.

> According to the DOT, "Flatbush Avenue is a Zero Priority Vision Corridor, meaning it is one of the most dangerous streets in Brooklyn, with 140 people killed or severely injured within the past five years." The announcement for the subsequently cites the MTA's data on ridership, which puts the B41 as the 10th busiest bus route in New York City and the 5th busiest in Brooklyn.

To decrease congestion, the proposal includes potential reroutes

49% decrease in vehicle for the B41 as well as removing several stops by consolidating them onto the new boarding islands. The presentation specifies a 20% speed improvement and minutes saved for each passenger.

> The B41 redesign is the latest in a series of bus priority projects, which are part of the Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign project. The project's draft plan, among Flatbush, lists other Brooklyn bus priority corridors. This includes plans for improving the B82 select bus service route along the South Brooklyn corridor.

> In Queens, the entirety of the MTA's plans for rerouting and bus priority projects concluded over the summer as part of the Queens Bus network redesign. However, feedback on the changes was not entirely positive, as reported. Charlton D'Souza, president of the rider advocacy group Passengers United, told CBShownewservicegaps were affecting residents. "This is happening all throughout Oueens. But when it happens in Far Rockaway, it takes

special meaning because people train connections, they could miss the railroad connection or the ferry connection. So, that's infuriating riders," D'Souza told CBS.

"By implementing center-running bus lanes on Flatbush Avenue, DOT is [...] also laying the groundwork for the implementation of a true bus rapid transit system throughout Brooklyn," said Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso. "I commend **DOT** and Commissioner Rodriguez for investing in one of our most vital transit corridors, and I look forward to continued progress towards a bus rapid transit system that reaches every corner of our borough."

For regular updates from the DOT, please refer to their office website to view press releases.



Downtown Brooklyn bound B41 leaving 31st station behind Brooklyn College./Victoria Keraj

## New York City Mayor Eric Adams Drops Out of 2025 Mayoral Race

By Serena Edwards **Opinions Editor Emily Nixon** Staff Writer

City (NYC) Mayor Eric Adams announced withdrawal his from candidacy for reelection to his position with a month to go before the New York mayoral election. Adams' leaves departure the upcoming election in the hands of the remaining three candidates: Zohran Andrew Mamdani, Cuomo, and Curtis Sliwa.

On Sept. 28, Adams announced resignation from the race in a video message on social media, in which he mentioned the obstacles he faced during his time in office, including the campaign financing, public opinion, and the federal court case.

"I cannot continue my reelection campaign. constant media speculation about my future and the Campaign Finance Board's (CFB) decision to withhold millions of dollars have undermined my ability to raise the funds needed for a serious campaign," said

In the video, Adams refers to the CFB's campaign admission into a program that helps fund political campaigns by matching donations made by individuals.

"The Program matches small-dollar contributions from individual New York City residents with public funds to help amplify their voices and to reduce the possibility and perception of corruption from large contributions in city elections," says CFB's website.

The Adams Campaign

decided to challenge this decision in court, but ultimately got denied again with a summary judgment granted CFB on Oct. 1, according Current New York to a PDF of the court documents available on govinfo.gov. A summary judgment is a tactic used in court to promptly resolve legal disputes without the need for a full trial, mostly used when the evidence is not in question for either party.

> "The court denies Plaintiffs' [Adams] motion for summary judgment and the CFB's motion for summary judgment on all claims," states the PDF. "The court further dismisses Plaintiffs' claim for declaratory judgment and dismisses Plaintiffs' requests for money damages, attorneys' fees, and litigation expenses."

> As previously covered by The Vanguard, Adams' recent legal battle left him on shaky ground with his constituents, despite his steadfast pleas of innocence.

> "I also know some remain unsure of me after the unfortunate events surrounding my federal case. I was wrongfully charged because I fought for this city," said Adams in the video.

new person will take over his office, but warns of lurking dangers in the political scene.

"I must also sound a warning. Extremism is growing in our politics," said Adams. "Our children are being radicalized to hate our city and our country. Political anger is turning into political violence."

Adams continues to warn New Yorkers against dangerous political schemes, but focuses the caution on politicians



Mayor Eric Adams attends a plaque unveiling on April, 28, 2022./Courtesy of Marc A. Hermann / MTA, via Flickr

the political game.

and necessary, but beware of those who claim the COVID, a surge in crime, answer to destroy the very an unprecedented migrant system we built together crisis, and economic over generations," said Adams in the video. " That is not change. That is chaos. Instead, I urge New Yorkers to choose leaders not by what they promise, instead of speeches." but by what they have to live in."

Near the end of the video, the political field, even for title of Mayor.

fight for this city, as I have lead in the race." for forty years since the day I joined the NYPD to comments that make our streets safer and the polls have not been our systems fairer."

the struggles New Yorkers from the race, Caroline face while vowing to continue his fight for researcher, equality and how he plans doubt that it would affect to do that, according to Mamdani's lead. the video.

suffer.

themselves rather than day, and until the end of my term, I will fight for "Major change is welcome just that," said Adams. "We face the fallout of devastation all at once, and together we turn things around by listening to everyday people and providing

With Adams dropping from the race, the three candidates left in the Adams vows to remain in mayoral race are battling supporters. his if he no longer holds the The New York Times' interactive poll tracker on "Although this is the the candidates' numbers end of my reelection compiled from various Later in the video, campaign, it is not the end polling sources shows Adams. "I will continue to "consistently held a large

The same article while updated in the wake of Adams goes on to list Adams' decision to drop polling Soler, their expressed

"The move is unlikely "The course for justice is to significantly affect the far from over. Inequality race. The Times/Siena persists. Innocents still poll from early September Yorkers showed that his supporters deserve better every single preferred Andrew Cuomo

when forced to choose between Cuomo Zohran Mamdani," said Soler. "But Adams was consistently polling below 10 percent before he ended his bid, and even if all of his supporters backed Cuomo, it would do little to close the gap with Mamdani."

In an unexpected move, Adams had previously decided to run for Mayor independent an candidate as a way to buy himself more time to regain support after his legal battles, according to Politico in their article on an exclusive interview with Adams.

"He also believes this decision to deny his Adams accepts that a of my public service," said Mamdani as having liberates him to sell himself to voters as he has long wished: a former police captain dialed into public safety; a political enigma who doesn't neatly fit into either major party," stated Politico.

> Although Adams announced his resignation from the race, his name will still be featured on the Nov. 4 ballot due to withdrawing after the deadline.

## Finding Family: BLMI Holds "Frijoles and Familia" Event

By Emily Nixon Staff Writer

Contented chatter echoed from room 3305 in James Hall as students and organizers gathered around a table to share a homemade meal. The Black and Latino Male Initiative (BLMI) hosted "Frijoles and Familia" on Sept. 25, in collaboration with **Immigrant Student Success** Office (ISSO), and brought in homemade Latino food, such as taquitos and the ingredients to make elotes -Mexican street corn- and guacamole or pico de gallo.

The event aimed to provide a space for Black and Latino students to come together and share stories of their cultures guided by preplanned questions while surrounded by members of their community, according to Christopher Rodriguez, the director of BLMI.

"I think [the event] did what it was meant to do, which was to create community and bring students from across the diaspora together to share stories about their culture, their heritage, and traditions from home," said Rodriguez. "We wanted to bring a piece of home to the campus."



Organizers prep vegetables and fruit for the event./Emily Nixon

This event was especially important to Rodriguez, who feels the current political climate is trying to erase Latino cultures.

"A lot of our traditions are being lost. We're also living through a time where the narrative is that it's not okay to have our culture, to speak our language, to do the things that we love to do, and so, almost like we need permission," said Rodriguez. "So, just being able to create a space where we're telling students, 'No, you can do it here, too. You can be yourself, and we can share in on these moments together."

During the event, Rodriguez recounted how close he was with his cousins in his youth, calling them "primos hermanos [cousin - siblings]", especially during the holidays when they would gather at his grandmother's house in Puerto Rico.

"When she [his grandmother] passed away, that kind of [tradition] went away," said Rodriguez. "And so, we are trying to keep the traditions. My sister and I inherited all the recipes, so we cook everything she used to, and we try to bring our families together as

much as possible to teach the next generation."

Another organizer, Andrea Diaz, a staff member in the Puerto Rican Latinx Studies department (PRLS) at BC, said the community was also severely impacted by the pandemic.

"I think it's also coming off the pandemic. We need to build that community back again," said Diaz. "It's a commuter school, so it's kind of our role with everything is to get students involved, get more students on campus because we're stronger together, no matter what, even in the hard times and in the good times."

Uniting for visibility and space has been a part of Brooklyn College's (BC) history with PRLS for decades, according to Diaz.

"Our founders protested for the department – took over the President's office, took over the Bursars' office. We talk a lot about our history because it's so important [...] it's super important like staying connected to our roots," said Diaz.

One of Diaz's favorite moments in planning events like "Frijoles and Familia" is when the event reaches its peak and takes off after the struggle of piecing the event together. "It's a lot of work, but it's so rewarding," said Diaz. "My favorite moment in planning events is this, just getting to sit back and just see what I've been stressing over for three months come into existence [...] Everything is for the students."

This meticulous planning gives students an experience and community that accepts them for who they are, according to Fia Sanchez, USG Vice President and a BC senior.

"These are all just really great people that I have gotten to know since I was a freshman," said Sanchez. "I've gotten really involved in this community, and I feel like I've been able to find somewhere where I can really be expressive of who I am and my culture and feel comfortable to do

The organizers' efforts do not go unnoticed to students like Sanchez.

"These people put so much heart and care into everything that they do. It shows in the way that people actually show up for the community, and you can feel the energy. There's good vibes here," said Sanchez.

One of the only things participants would have changed about the event was the narrow scope of the questions, according to Myasia Brown, a sophomore majoring in Biology.

"[I would add] probably more questions to talk more with each other," said Brown. "Be more diverse to talk about broader topics."

For students interested in future events by BLMI, ISSO, or PRIS, they can check out their Instagrams respectively, @bcblmi, @ issobc, and @bc\_prls.



Christopher Rodriguez shows guests how he prepares his elote, or Mexican street corn./ *Emily Nixon* 

## **BC** Holds First Tree Inventory in **Almost 40 Years**

#### By Emily Suhr Staff Writer

For the first time in nearly four decades, the Brooklyn College (BC) community gathered to update the campus tree inventory, promoting sustainability and collecting data that inform future could environmental justice efforts.

The event took place on Oct. 4 and was hosted by the Urban Sustainability Program in collaboration the BC with Eats Garden and the campus sustainability coordinator, Stalin Espinal. It invited students, faculty, and community volunteers to help identify and map the trees on campus. But this inventory is about more than just counting trees; it's about shifting how the campus understands and engages with its environment.

"It sounds like this abstract, boring thing, but it's a very profound way of relating to the environment and building a relationship with this environment through trees, which are such keystone species in how our environment functions," said Michael Menser, director of the Sustainability Program. "We have maps of the original list of

trees on the campus. The last time there was a full counting was 1987. So we need to do this."

The three-hour event was broken into three parts: a short introduction, the field inventory work itself, and a closing gathering at the BC Eats Garden. Participants were grouped and taught how to record data on species, size, and health. Each group had a team lead, who was either a tree expert or an urban sustainability student. Some used digital tools like apps to help identify the trees, while others used books or infographics. The information gathered will be used to create a public digital map that can track the health of the campus canopy over time.

A tree canopy refers to the upper layer of leaves and branches on a tree, and it plays a critical role in regulating temperature, improving air quality, and mitigating floods.

The effort responds to both local needs and global conditions: intensifying climate change, air pollution, and invasive insect species all impact tree health and the broader campus ecosystem.

"In the short term, we want the data points of the trees first and foremost so that any further data could



Participants touring the BC Eats Garden./Emily Suhr

be found and monitored in the future, such as tree care, changes in health, and so on," said Carina Alessandro, liaison for the Sustainability Club and senior Urban Sustainability student. "This being in a public online map could be utilized for environmental justice efforts. For example, the prevalence of trees and resilience to climate change are connected."

BC is home to nearly 1000 trees, including pin oaks that intercept thousands of gallons of stormwater per year by absorbing it through their roots, and help lower building temperatures, services that would cost millions to replace with technology.

"We take care of the trees, the trees take care of us," said Alessandro. "They are an investment, and we should be thinking of them as such. They're also our assets."

The BC Eats Garden, located between Performing Arts Center and Whitman Hall, served as the closing site for the event, where volunteers enjoyed pizza and apple cider. The space, which was revived during the pandemic by students, now plays a central role in BC's sustainability efforts.

"We've been working on it for a few years and the vision is for it to be non-hierarchical, for it to we want community on be a place where people this campus," said Menser. can learn about food and "This is the people's agriculture," said Pieranna campus. So we're very adjunct an professor in Sustainability and founding member of the garden. "Where people experimental do things, not just gardening, but filming things and sculptures. We want it to be a hub of community life on campus around sustainability."

"I think it turned out great," said Pieroni of the event. "I'm so excited. This is the most people we've had at the garden at one time."

Among the participants was Natasha Herman, a junior majoring in environmental science.

"There's not many tree or arbory-related classes, so I just wanted to broaden my horizons and learn a different field," said Herman. "It was a great event. I actually hope they host another one because I know we didn't get to finish the count."

While the full inventory will take more time to complete, the event marked a milestone in both data collection and community engagement. And for Menser, the meaning of the work goes far beyond the numbers.

"In this political moment, excited to have an event today where it's this mutual learning thing."

For more information about the BC Urban Sustainability Program, please visit the BC official website.



Participants measuring the circumference of a tree./Emily Suhr

## "The Revolutionists": Politically **Charged Play Premieres**

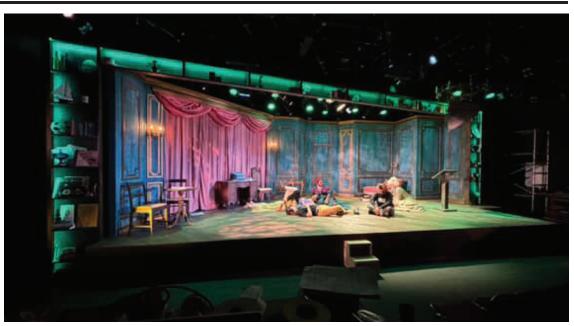
#### By Giselle Rodriguez **Staff Writer**

The beginning of a new school year has Brooklyn College (BC) students excited, not only about the improved cafeteria, but also about the new plays emerging from the 1793. Theater Department.

a new play directed by graduate student Colleen Morgen, about women living during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror, which explores themes such as feminism, equality, sexism, racism. The tone shifted dramatic from expressive humor very quickly and effectively to keep the audience engaged. With such a relevant topic, it brings discourse to the current political climate and what further steps should be taken as a leader. To take action against authority suggests doing so by all means necessary. Played by a mix of BFA and MFA students,

performance that brought laughter and gasps from the crowd. The main characters are all based on real figures who made an impact that is remembered, with the play's ensemble walking audience through

The 2-hour play begins "The Revolutionists" is with Olympe de Gouges, a playwright documenting revolution, Marianne, a mother who left her family to be a Charlotte revolutionist. Corday is fueled by anger to kill Jean-Paul Marat, a journalist who advocated for dictatorship. Lastly, Marie Antoinette enters in a large, tall wig and a sparkly gown that draws eyes to her. All with the intention to have Olympe write them in her play in a memorable way. Charlotte is described as a beautiful woman who can get her way. She uses this to her advantage, catching the attention of Marat and luring him into her deceit. An unexpected bond between Marianne's and Marie Antoinette's



Rehearsal of "The Revolutionists"./Courtesy of Colleen Morgan

become vulnerable when they speak about their families and partners, the love and loss they share because they are more alike than different. When they first met, Marie actually mistook Marianne for a slave/servant.

Though the central message of the play activism, it interwoven with themes womanhood femininity. These women take matters into their own hands when themes of violence and vigilantism are brought up, when conducting a successful protests aren't enough to get their message across.

The period piece sheds light on contemporary issues as it was written by Lauren Gunderson, initially commissioned in 2015, and the final play was completed in 2016. This was a response to President Donald Trump's first political campaign, which ran on a platform of mass deportations, repealing and replacing Former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act (ACA), and giving tax cuts to businesses, mostly corporations, which added to the national debt.

Gundersonisaplaywright who has built a niche with historical activism plays prioritize female leads, such as "Ada and the Engine," "Artemisia," and "Silent Sky."

"What was a hopeful revolution for the people is now sinking into hyper violent hypocritical male rhetoric. However will modern audiences relate." Gunderson wrote in the synopsis.

Morgen was quickly direct persuaded to this piece as her thesis because of its political relevance. She wanted to create a body of art that would evoke feelings and discourse the current administration.

"It would feel so

College alumna who graduated in 2021 with her B.A. in Theater and returned to complete her master's last fall. She has been directing ever since, as well as dabbling in other areas such as house managing, ushering, and everything in between.

disingenuous to be doing

a piece right now that isn't

politically motivated," said

Morgen is a Brooklyn

Morgen.

Morgen explained that the cast has been unpredictable, presenting the comedic material in ways that stunned the director herself at each rehearsal.

The crew keeps a cheerful environment with body check-ins, body scans, and warm-up games to keep spirits high. With the help of many undergraduate students, a part of the crew, Morgen called them her "dream team across the contact sheet."

When reflecting on the show, Morgen shared the following sentiments about her work.

"Working on the show during everything that's been happening in the past few months, the show has only gotten more and more relevant to what today's society is looking like. It's a good place to come together."



(L to R): Charlotte Corday, Olyme De Gouges, Marie Antoinette in "The Revolutionists"./*Courtesy of Craig Stokle* 

## Brooklyn College Presents: "Apocalypse" by Keith Haring and William S. Burroughs



'Apocalypse" was created to embody the chaos in Harings twilight years./Eddy Prince

#### By Eddy Prince Staff Writer

A new exhibit has recently been unveiled at BC, inside Boylan Hall's art gallery. Students, organizers, supporters gathered and "Apocalypse", a 1988 collaboration between famed pop artist Keith Haring and author William S. Burroughs, showcasing some of Haring's final works. "Apocalypse" is curated by Seung Hee Kim and made possible by the donation of the Leonard-Litz LGBTQ+ Foundation.

"This series is a marriage of art and the written word," said Elliot Leonard, the founder of the Leonard-Litz Foundation. "It was the context of this art that was very different from his prior work. This was a departure, and it was his [Haring's] apocalypse."

"Apocalypse" was created during the height of the AIDS pandemic in the 1980s, and Haring himself was also diagnosed with this illness, which was viewed as fatal at the time. The series of paintings was Haring's reflection on his own diagnosis, and on death and destruction.

Each painting by Haring was accompanied by a short poem by William S. Burroughs, an influential postmodern author and one of the key figures of the Beat Generation. The Beat Generation comes from the term "Beatniks," which rejected the mainstream culture of post-World War II, paving the way for the

"counterculture" movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

This combination of both Haring's and Burroughs' works adds tension and unease to the exhibition, which was felt by the attendees. Much of Burroughs's poems throughout the exhibit talked about chaos and destruction, alluding to Greek mythology as well as an ancient Islamic secret society of assassins.

"The painter wills his pictures to move off the canvas with a separate life, movement outside of the picture, and one rent in the fabric is all it takes for pandemonium to sluice through," one of the poems, written by Burroughs, furthers this idea of chaos.

"I think it's a really accurate representation of calamity," said Alexandra

Ries, a graduate student at BC. "I think that there's something interesting about the repetition of words and phrases that are in the writing [...] It is cool to see text and images together in a collaborative display. I'm a painting major, so it's interesting to think about writing and making visual art in similar paths and parallel forms. This [exhibit] is a great representation of that."

"Apocalypse" continues to cycle through university art galleries, nearly 40 years since its creation. Before being displayed at Brooklyn College, the exhibit was showcased at City College in March of this year. BC being the next stop for "Apocalypse" makes a lot of sense, being that Leonard is an alumnus of the school.

"I think it's always relevant," said Ries."There's all kinds of shows about the AIDS epidemic that are always up, all the time. Anytime you're talking about the ostracization of a group of people, or grief in the form of community, it's pretty impactful. It's acknowledging the unseen death of millions of people. Especially now."

While AIDS isn't as controversial as it was in the 80s, the exhibit still holds importance in the current political and social climate. "The artists who are creating work about that are pretty groundbreaking," continued. "But now we're in this [age] of censure, and

we're regressing. So I wouldn't say it's groundbreaking in the same way now as it was back then, but it's still relevant to show the work that was impactful."

This same sentiment was shared by the Chairperson of Brooklyn College's Art Department, Mona Hadler.

"There really couldn't be a better time. This is a gay community, for our trans community, for AIDS activism," said Hadler. "It breaks my heart [...] I'm really happy to show it."

With ten paintings followed by ten poems, the collection captures Haring 'coming to terms' with his diagnosis. Haring had already seen the public's fear and stigma surrounding the AIDS crisis, as well as a lack of action politically. Haring set out to express the chaos that had already taken the lives of many people from his community.

"They are free expressions," said Leonard, who, alongside his husband Roger Litz, also happened to be a personal friend of Haring. "Someone who is dying [two years later] got the energy to create this exhibit."

Haring continues to be an inspiration to artists everywhere and even inspires the local artists of the BC community.

"Keith Haring is definitely an artist who has inspired me in many ways. Not just through art, but also

through entrepreneurship," said Derrick Adams, an advisory committee member for Brooklyn College's Art Department. "He understood his cultural production as a 'commerce' in a way that is different than most artists [...] having a gallery show or a museum show. He looked way beyond that."

Adams continued, "For really difficult time for our us [at Brooklyn College], this exhibition is really important, because have such a broad range of students from many different cultural backgrounds. We're interested everything from street art to museum presentations. So this exhibition serves to complement what our mission is here at the gallery."

> The gallery's opening reception served as a night of community. Haring had a unique opportunity to give one last piece of himself back to his community through his art. Visitors came together not just to experience "Apocalypse" but to celebrate Haring's life and

> "He was a true artist in every sense of the word," said Leonard. "He's a truly great artist of the second half of the 20th century [...] Keith will go down in history."

> "Apocalypse" will be on display in the Art Gallery in Boylan Hall from Sept. 30 until Dec.



Attendees read Burroughs' prose as they take in the artwork./Eddy Prince

## J-Fashion Club Brings Decoden Crafts to BC Students

#### By T'Neil Gooden **Features Editor**

their on Sept. 25. Students or for yourself," Lac told were able to decorate The Vanguard. various items, including phone cases designs that would last a design and creativity. lifetime.

oshikatsu\* culture," Elias told The Vanguard. Lac, treasurer for the IFashion club, said.

Students were able to meaning choose the items they and the Japanese word wanted to decorate their denwa, meaning phone. products with free will, Students were able to allowing them to make use the meaning of designs that are unique decoden to provide a to them.

"I would say my favorite part o f the event would

> Hair clip design made by an attendee. Tiffany Edwards

sophomore at BC, told The Vanguard. The Vanguard.

something that is not charms, have years.

I was 8, I've always as they do.

loved dedicating my time to creating for the characters I really like, The Brooklyn College and it brings me at ease Japanese Fashion Club to create. Making crafts is introduced BC students a way of expressing love first-ever and dedication, whether Decoden DIY event as a gift for other people

The event had over 60 and individuals attending, compact mirrors, with with all of them being rhinestones, cabochons, able to leave with a and beads to create craft made by their own

"I wanted to take part "Decoden has always in this event because I been a very important have heard of decoden J-Fashion before. I always wanted communities. From my to do this activity, but knowledge, maximalism didn't have the supplies. is especially prominent Therefore, I was really in Gyaru and Decora excited to see that there communities. However, was an event like this as a landmine, decoden on campus," Anuskha is a vital part of Aktar, sophomore at BC,

Decoden comes from two words: Deco, decorations,

new meaning to their arts and crafts.

"I know personally that classes a n d

exams can be so have stressful, so taking partin t o be picking out the activities and events can charms that they were be a form of recharging. able to present us with. The diversity of clubs I thought they were in Brooklyn colleges is very cute and just what one of the reasons why I wanted to put on my I enjoy attending the mini mirror and hair college," Diana Ese, a clip," Tiffany Samaroo, sophomore at BC, told

Students filled baskets Creating art is with colored adhesive, pompoms, new to Brooklyn College; gems, beads, compact been mirrors, and hairpins to expressing themselves decorate. Students not through art for many only decorated but also met other students who "Being a nerd since enjoy crafting as much



Team members kicking off Decoden party./Tiffany Edwards

things and get crafty. Also, you never know who you will meet at these events, so it is fun to just go to these club events and try to make friends or just socialize," Samaroo said.

Students learned about new designs and styles of art that they had not been introduced to previously, allowing them to create individualized crafts and get introduced to what the J-fashion club has to offer BC students.

"I organized it [the BC. event] because it seemed like a great way to students would reintroduce our club since it's a very fun, popular, and cute craft this because it's that gave us a chance to make people aware to make a very of our club and educate them a little bit about J-fashion," Em Katz, Founding President of the J-Fashion Club, told The Vanguard.

This event caused many students to participate. Students continued to express their interest in the activity by creating more than one design for different items.

"I was really nervous because I was concerned that it wouldn't go well,

"It's a fun way to try new sheer size of the people attending," Lac said. "This is our second event after all, and I believe it's important to create good impression, especially for the first few events! Now, I've figured out how to let it flow naturally. It's much less intimidating than I thought it would be."

This event brought students to explore new fashion styles, express these styles in their crafts, and build a community

"I think BC interested events like opportunity customizable and cute craft that is often somewhat pricey to make and not super accessible! Events like this do not happen often," Katz said.

Students left this event with a new understanding of arts and crafts, along with products that they call their own.

"My favorite part of for this event, not the event was honestly being able to hang out with my friends, since but because of the we don't get too many

opportunities to do so. I also liked being able to decorate the portable mirror that was given to us. I plan on using it every day," Ese told The Vanguard.

Students interested in the J-Fashion Club at BC can visit their Instagram @bcjfashionclub.



Phone case design made by an attendee./Tiffany Edwards

## Fonso's Interlude: A Review of Young Thug's Latest Album "UY Scuti"

By Alfonso Abreu Staff Writer

There's something special about a rapper's "first day out" of jail release. The vivid details of the time incarcerated, the lyrics that teeter the line between vulnerability and exhilaration, and just the overall "I'm back" moment that brings all eyes on them.

For two to four minutes, a rapper is able to flawlessly walk the tightrope between controversy and honesty, letting the music speak for them. It is the firm balance between the two in which rappers are able to still pursue a successful career or at least preserve their dignity. The Atlanta superstar Young Thug forgoes embracing the controversy, letting it both influence and take over the music for the purpose of maintaining relevancy.

In 2022, Thug and fellow members of the YSL Records (Young Stoner Life Records) were charged in a 56-count Georgia RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) act. Whilst spending over 900 days in confinement, Thug was in and out of courtrooms wondering if he'll once again see outside of the four walls, while the internet was focused on both his legal and musical drama.

On his fourth studio albu,m "UY Scuti," named after one of the biggestknown stars in the universe (literally), Thug is aware of the status he had built before Lil Baby, and Mariah The getting locked up and what he has to address coming back. That's why the rollout of what was supposed to be his long-awaited return was overshadowed by the internet forcing a response; leaked jail calls of him gossiping about his musical peers, random rants on X, and a long emotional interview about the fraught relationship with rapper and former close friend, Gunna, all led to the rapper spiraling out of control.

It's why the album's opener, "Ninja," has a sample of a state prosecutor from the YSL RICO case dubbing the

rapper as "King Slime," and the prosecutor speaks on the danger Thug brings to his communities. The sample is paired with dramatic production elements such as gospel singing and swelling orchestration. It's in this opening track where he musically decides to dedicate the album to salvaging his reputation and maintain some of that stardom he had before getting locked up.

You can see the theme of reclamation come back in the outro and second lead single "Miss My Dogs"

attempts to appease to his musical colleagues ("Drizzy, you my brother/You know I ain't goin' against you, I got manners/Everything you did for the rap community, can't ban you."), a series of lines that come off as odd, considering we're a year removed from Kendrick Lamar calling out Drake for exploiting Atlanta's music scene. On what should be the album's most vulnerable moment,it instead comes off as a PR move hoping to keep his connections still

Throughout the record,



Album cover for "UY SCUTI"./Courtesy of Young Stoner Life/300 Entertainment

as Thug tries to balance sincerity and reputation. The song contains "heartfelt" apologies to everyone who was a victim of Thug's leaked gossiping; Apologizing directly to Drake, Future, Scientist, to name a few.

Over a cliche sappy sample of an AI soul band, Thug stretches his voice around, like a kid going through puberty, to at least add some emotion to what is already a manufactured apology. Lines which addresses his romantic partner and singer Mariah the Scientist (who appears twice on the album) "You was encouragin' me on my bad days/You pick the kids up, despite me being away/That's why every day you wake up, I'm tryna make you happy" carry such strong weight that is immediately undercut by

there are glimmers of authentic vulnerability.

"Catch Me I'm Falling" is a track where he details his increasing hopelessness after every meeting with his lawyer ("Broke down in a cell, I heard my brother was gon' turn/Lawyer asked me was I next, it'll never be my turn.") with subtle synths and soothing grooves from producers Wheezy and Southside.

"On The News" features an oddly hypnotic synth courtesy of the producer London on da track, allowing for the catchy yet upsetting hook loop around in your head ("Do you know how it feel to see your face hit the news, mate?/Mama call your phone, she boohoo-hoo").

"Blaming Jesus" has a shaky falsetto from Thug over a delicate set of piano keys and somber vocal chops, which all come together to deliver what can be an encore to his intimate, tiny desk performance. The other emotional cut "Sad Spider" fail at hitting any emotional stride due to the stale whimpering singing coming off as an effort to gain sympathy from listeners; "I been cryin' all day/I seen my brother turn rat in my face", a shot at Gunna which holds no importance because it feels as if it is feeding the streetpolitics obsessed fans.

On the lead single, "Money Money," longtime duo Thug and



lazy attempt at recapturing the magic of their past collabs with uninspired production. Thug tries to recapture the explosive silliness from his 2019 studio album "So Much Fun" but fails cause what made that album work was the amount of vocal inflections Thug pulled from his bag of tricks, which barely come to play on "UY SCUTI" as Thug favored a more monotone delivery.

The two-parter "Whoopty Doo" comes as a cheap bid to cash in on a viral quote from his very lengthy "Perspektives With Bank" interview, which has been making its way on TikTok prior to the album's release. The track falls apart as the fuzzy 808s and robotic synths, which sound like if the Millennium Falcon had built-in subwoofers, demand a vocal performance full of the regular Thug yelps and screechings instead of the phoned-in delivery we've been given the past few years, even constant ad-libs throughout sound lifeless, it's as if he was being forced to have fun.

That isn't to say the album lacks any explosiveness from Thug.

On "Pardon My Back," he raps with an inspired intensity, delivering humorous lines (I rock Saint Laurent, they think it's gang clothes) and is bookended with a loud boasting Lil Baby verse that makes you believe he has another "My Turn" in him. The cinematic hushed choir vocal chops and dramatic chords provide this duo the perfect backdrop, coming straight out of the Dark Souls series. Unfortunately, that is all the energy you'll get from Thug, as it seems he is more enthralled by internet fame and virality.

Case in point is the aforementioned opener "Ninja", what comes tacked on to a verse full of dull flexing and absurd threats, is 30 seconds (yes 30 seconds) where he squeals the hard R. What is a "look guys I'm saying something I'm not supposed to say" moment instead comes across as a corny and pathetic punchline you'll expect from an edgelord. Days later, following the album's release, Thug hops on stream with famed rightwinged streamer Adin Ross, with the same glee of a kid taunting his opponents after a game of pick-up basketball (fingerpoints and all). He raps along to his song, backed by thousands of white teenagers flooding the chat with "lmaos" and laughing emojis.

It's saddening to see an artist who once delivered a magnum opus like "Slime Season 2" is now resorting to making a fool out of himself for precious internet points. It seems as if the music is the least of his concerns in the hopes of securing relevance.

## A Swaggy Comeback: How Justin Bieber Rebranded His Image

relationship was with

another artist, Selena

Gomez. In 2010, Bieber

dating, going on and

off with her until 2018.

During one of those

breakups, we would

get one of his greatest

albums: "Purpose." Some

songs like "What Do

You Mean", "Where Are

U Now?", and "Sorry"

address the issues in

their relationship and

what ultimately led them

to break up at that time.

During his Purpose era,

started

Gomez

and

#### By Serena Edwards **Opinons Editor**

In 2008, the world changed forever. 13year-old Canadian Justin Bieber was discovered, and would soon become a pop icon and teen heartthrob. While growing up in the limelight, he faced scrutiny from the public for mistakes he made as a teenager and young adult. This led him to step away from music for a few years. But through all of the obstacles, Bieber has overcome and evolved into a nuanced artist.

Bieber was first put on our screens through YouTube. His mother, Patti Mallette, posted videos of him singing on the website. Through that, producer Scooter Braun discovered him and managed him. Music icon Usher would later become a mentor to Bieber through Braun. The teenager's first "My World," album, brought us into his life as a 15-year-old upcoming artist; little did he know his debut single 'One Time' would take him to new heights.

In 2011, Bieber The Canadian artist faced his first real was always on watch when it came to his scandal with a woman named relationships. Though Graphic by Amira Turner now

he Mariah Yeater. Yeater, married model to who was 20 at the time, and businesswoman claimed that Bieber, Hailey Bieber, he has 17, was the father of had many tumultuous

her child. She ended up filing a paternity lawsuit, which would later be dropped. Bieber denied the allegations and fully closed this conflict in a song called "Maria" on his third studio album, "Believe." In the song, Bieber took the Michael Jackson "Billie Jean' approach to addressing it. Some lyrics stated, "That ain't my baby, that ain't my girl", "she's all over the news, saying everything but the truth. She's faking, faking it all." At 17, Bieber was able to navigate through conflicts with his talent, music. But this wouldn't be the last time he had to use music to silence the noise from society

Bieber faced more serious consequences in 2014, arrested for driving under the influence. Like many celebrity mugshots, Bieber's mugshot had been put on t-shirts and all over the internet. As a Belieber, I faced scrutiny for still supporting him; however, people make mistakes, and he was only 20 at the time. This was the start of the immense scrutiny Justin would face as he started to enter his 20s.

Bieber dived deeper into his faith as a Christian, and it influenced the way he did music. In the album, the title track stated how God gave him a purpose. With us that he is still here, social media like the lyrics like, "That's what human and standing fuckin' rest of us. happening with me, it's like God // I'm giving it all I've got, sometimes I'm weak and I'm going to do it. // And it's like I'm not giving myself grace, // I'm just like understanding that's how it is". Still to this day, Bieber talks about faith in little aspects of his music and uses social media as a way to speak further

After dealing with public opinions for years,

on his relationship with

relationships. A notable Bieber decided to take a break and disconnect from society. In 2018, he got married to his wife and focused on his family. Then COVID hit, and like many people, spent that time discovering more about himself. This made the media view him a little more lightly and softly. It was clear that he had made significant changes in his life when he dropped his album "Justice".

There was a complete rebrand from the "bad boy" era he once had.

This year, Bieber has faced more allegations of not liking his wife and being on drugs. With his latest album release, SWAG, he reminds on business. In this album, he shows us his versatility within music while also addressing the rumors that have been circulating on social media. "Go Baby" was one of the many songs he dedicated to his wife. In the song, he talks about the model, saying she's "iconic" and giving a shout-out to her brand Rhode Beauty. "That's my baby. She's iconic. iPhone case. Lip gloss on it."

In his interlude,



"Therapy Session", he addresses how living life in the public eye is weighing on him.

"And that's been a tough thing for me recently. // It's feelin' like, you know, I have had to go through a lot of my struggles as a human. // As all of us do really publicly. And so people are always askin' if I'm okay. // And that starts to really weigh on me." He also addresses people, saying that he is losing his mind, and responds by saying that he is human.

"Even sometimes where I know you're trollin'. // And they don't even understand it, like, "Oh my God, he's losin' his mind" [...] He's enjoyin'

As any person who was put into the public eye as a child, Bieber faced obstacles and judgment. But, it is evident to notice that Bieber never strayed fully away from his talents; instead, he used them as a coping mechanism to silence the judgment.

## Sports Recaps (09/22 - 10/04)

By Manuel Polanco Sports Editor Reagan McLean Staff Writer

Brooklyn College (BC) may have been on break the past week, but that didn't stop BC sports from rolling. The women's Volleyball team ended their week on a two-game winning streak, as did the men's soccer! First up, women's volleyball.

#### Women's Volleyball

The last time BC beat the Hunter College Hawks was in the CUNYAC title match in 2023, but this losing streak was broken at a home game on Sept. 23. BC beat the Hawks 3-2 in a close game that went into five sets. BC won the first two sets 25-22 and 25-17, but Hunter would go on to win the next two sets 25-8 and 25-7, to push this into the fifth set. In the fifth set, BC tightened up and took home the win by winning this set, 15-10.

An all-around good game by the team, showcasing their tenacity and grit, freshman Ella Snobar left her mark on this game, ending her night with eight kills, one assist, one ace, and seven blocks. The team worked together to secure their win tonight: sophomore Danielle Fuxman had four kills and one block, junior Olivia Fan had three kills and six blocks, lastly, sophomore Meadow Andrews ended her night with three kills and six blocks.

BC went on to play against St Joseph's on Sept. 25, and they won again 3-1. BC was dominant in this game, and even though it went to four sets, they won the first two sets 25-22, 25-19, but lost the third one. They would win the fourth set 25-22. Capped off by another great game by Snobar, with 12 kills, five blocks, and two aces.

Fan had seven kills and eight blocks, Fuxman had four kills and 2 blocks, and freshman Olivia Carroll had four kills, five aces, and one block.

The winning streak for the BC continues Bulldogs volleyball season at home with a score of 3-0 against the Pratt Institute Cannoneers. The Bulldogs



BC Womens volleyball celebrating a win./*Courtesy of BC Athletics* 

haven't won a game against the Cannoneers since 2022, but the Bulldogs swept with [25-16, 25-21, 25-14]. With the Bulldogs winning games against Hunter, St. Joseph's University, Long Island, and now the Cannoneers, the Bulldogs got their first winning streak since the beginning of the season, with a current record of 7 wins and 8 losses.

The Cannoneers struck first; however, the Bulldogs were able to respond quickly and make the score of the early first set 5-1. The Cannoneers came back and tied the score to 10. The Bulldogs outscored the Cannoneers 8-1, with senior setter Amra Mulic, hitting three aces to finish the set 25-16.

The Cannoneers struck first in the second set, but once again, the Bulldogs were able to give a quick response, taking a 12-5 lead in the middle of the second set. Coming towards the end of the set, the Cannoneers almost tied and even took the lead by cutting the deficit to 22-21. The Bulldogs were able to close out with senior middle blocker Ayatallah Elkotby serving for the first time in the game, thus allowing the Bulldogs to score three straight to end the set 25-21.

After a back-and-forth game of tied scores in the third set, the Cannoneers got near 16-14; however, the Bulldogs went on their longest run of the night to win 25-14, scoring a gamehigh total of nine straight points, which was led by three aces from junior libero Malia Reyes.

With game-high efforts from Saule Okeke-Ziburkus with 6 kills, 1 solo block, 3 block assists, and four digs to lead the offense, Mulic provided her overall game of 9 assists, 7 digs, and 5 aces, and senior libero/outside hitter, Ruti Joshi, being an all-around player with 14 digs, 4 assists and 2 aces, the Bulldogs secured their third game at home.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, the Bulldogs will have a doubleheader. They will be participating in the Rowan University Tri-Match. The first game is against the DeSales University Bulldogs at 1:00 pm, followed by the Rowan University Profs at 3:00 pm.

#### Men's Soccer

It seems like the men's soccer team loves to play at home as they are undefeated at home and picked up a win against the Pratt Institute Cannoneers.

BC won 2-0 and continued their dominance at home. Sophomore forward Emir Imamberdiev was the hero of the game as he scored both goals for BC. His first goal came 24 minutes in as teammate Yassin Hairane would get the assist on the goal. Hairane would end the day with two assists and one

The next goal came 37 minutes in as sophomore defender Navruz Asatullaev found and passed the ball to teammate Imamberdiev again, helping score the second goal. This would be Asatullaev's first assist of the

Imamberdiev had five shots, three shots on goal (SOG), and two goals this game. Next up is their game against the Elms College Blazers on Sept. 27.

Coming off their undefeated streak at home, BC was on the road facing off against the Blazers of Elms College and won dominantly. BC struck that's all they would need as they won 2-0.

Eight minutes into the match, senior Nikala Metreveli would net the first goal of the game with an assist from Gavrilov. Metreveli's stat line for this game was seven shots, two goals, and four SOG. Gavrilov ended his day with two shots, two SOGs, and one assist. Metreveli scored again in the second half, and that sealed the win for the team.

BC played again on Oct. 1 against Baruch at Met Oval, starting their conference

Baruch versus BC ended in a stalemate as both teams would leave this game tied 1-1. The scoring started early as Gavrilov scored the first goal of the game 16 minutes

BC was playing good defense all game, but in minute 76, Baruch broke through to tie the game with a goal of their own by their player Ryan Vukovic.

The Bulldogs returned home on Saturday, Oct. 4, to play Hunter College.

BC has played well at home throughout this season, and Oct. 4 marks another win at home for the Bulldogs. BC won their match against Hunter in a hard-fought 1-0 game. This was a close game, and the scoring finally happened at minute 79.

Junior defender Clermens Devariste broke the tie with a goal, and his teammate

defender Adam junior Moharam was credited with the assist. This marks their 5th win at home, an impressive feat.

BC will be on the road to face off against the John Jay Bloodhounds on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 4 pm.

#### Women's Soccer

The losing streak for the Bulldogs continued on Monday, Sept. 22, against Western Connecticut, with a score of 0-5 in a nonconference road game. Sophomore goalkeeper April Hartje made two early saves, but Connecticut took a 2-0 lead quickly by scoring an assisted goal at 13 minutes and an unassisted goal a minute later.

With the game clock at first in the first quarter, and 15 minutes, sophomore midfielder Chelsea Gonzalez made the first shot attempt against the Wolves. However, the shot was saved by the Wolves' goalkeeper, keeping the score at zero for the Bulldogs. Hartje made 5 more saves; however, Western Connecticut made a breakthrough, increasing the score to 3-0 in a total of 27 minutes.

> Hartje had an immense workload ahead of her. Despite making 10 saves in the first half, Hartje conceded Connecticut's third goal at the 27-minute mark. With the game clock at 65 minutes, the Wolves made another assisted goal, thus making the score 4-0 before scoring again in 83 minutes. At the end of the match, Hartje had a total of 16 saves, a strong effort, knowing that the Bulldogs faced a total of 43 shots throughout the game. The next game for the Bulldogs at The College at Old Westbury was postponed; however, the next game they played against Albertus Magnus College and a game at home against New Jersey University, where both games were losses. The next game against Kean University will be held at home on Oct. 8.

## Wrestling with Wallets: How WWE Fans are Paying the Price

By Luis Angel Perez Martinez Videographer

In the current world of professional wrestling, it's quite difficult to afford to watch wrestling regularly, especially World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). The main issue is that you need a lot of money to continue watching wrestling, as it requires multiple streaming services to catch weekly shows, and ticket prices. This can discourage people from sticking with the current product long-term due to the costs, especially if fans are not interested.

The ratings show how many people are tuning out the product, as some of their weekly shows are experiencing a decline in viewership. According to PW Torch, the Sept. 29 episode of SmackDown averaged 1,238,000 viewers, over 100,000 fewer than the previous week. Compared to two years ago, it has dropped by 49%.

ESPN even gave WWE's first Pay-Per-View on ESPN a letter grade of C.

According to Andreas Hale from ESPN, he said, "The excellent Vaquer vs Sky match saved the show from being truly average. It was a phenomenal display inside the squared circle. Everything else was either underwhelming (the short Rhodes-McIntyre match) or a setup for a future match (Lesnar dominating Cena).

For a card that promised epic moments, it fell a bit short of expectations," Hale said.

This all comes at a cost, as many fans have to spend a significant amount just to watch WWE's weekly television show.

The best way to watch WWE now is through cable or streaming services that air live broadcasts of and "NXT" "SmackDown" (their developmental brand), which are on USA Network and The CW, respectively. Additionally, for their weekly Monday show, "Raw," a Netflix subscription is required, costing approximately \$7.99 per month with ads. This doesn't include their major live events, which are heavily promoted on TV. To watch these, you need an ESPN subscription, which can be obtained either through your cable provider or for \$29.99 per month. Plus, if there's a "TV" special or an NXT PLE, you'll need a Peacock subscription, which starts at \$7.99 a month with ads.

Overall, being a WWE fan in 2025 could cost between \$93 and \$123 or more each month, depending on your choice of services. This estimate is based on a Hulu+Live TV package that starts at \$76.99 per month.

This wasn't always the case. When WWE started hosting beginning pay-per-views, with their first major event, "WrestleMania III" in 1987, the cost ranged from \$19.95 to \$29.95, depending on your location or provider. Before

that, PPVs were shown via Closed Circuit TV, meaning you could attend the event in person or watch it at a movie theater or screening for a very low price.

This trend continued through the 80s and into the 90s until 1995. That's when WWE introduced the "In Your House" series, featuring smaller pay-per-views at a lower price-\$19.95. The four biggest shows-Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, SummerSlam, and Survivor Series—charged \$29.95, while "In Your House" events were \$19.95. This pricing structure stayed in place until

In 1997, all pay-per-views cost \$29.95; however, prices increased over the 2000s and 2010s, reaching \$45.99 and even \$59.95 for WrestleMania, starting with WrestleMania 26 in 2011.

In 2014, WWE launched the WWE Network, which changed the way fans watched wrestling. It was a game-changer because viewers could access pay-perviews, archives, and other WWE content for only \$9.99 a month. It was very popular, and for nearly a decade, it made all their archives and live events easily accessible via apps on phones and TVs.

Many fans felt excited about the new pricing..

"I can't wait for the launch of the WWE Network. I was surprised when I watched it live and found out that it is only \$9.99 a month with a 6-month



ESPN annouces partnership to host future WWE's Pay-Per View./Courtesy of ESPN Press Room

subscription. I'm ready," said by a commentator on YouTube.

Later, in 2021, WWE partnered with Peacock, an **NBCUniversal** streaming service, making its archives and pay-per-views exclusive to that platform.

Some fans appreciate the affordability of watching WWE on Peacock, while others prefer to stick with the WWE Network.

Fans have expressed their concerns with the change in networking.

"Per the 4-month tier-Wrestlemania for \$2.50!?!!? This is f'ing madness," said BadNewsBrown on Reddit.

Another commentator on YouTube states, "Oh yeah, I love everything WWE has. Dreams do come true. But sadly, WWE Network is on Peacock."

The WWE Network officially shut down in the US on April 4, 2021. To watch WWE content on Peacock, you need the Peacock Premium tier, which costs around \$4.99 a month with ads. This price increased to \$7.99 in July 2023 and 2024.

In January 2024, WWE announced that starting in January 2025, "Monday Night Raw" will be streamed exclusively live on Netflix. Many fans were okay with the change, mainly because Netflix is very popular in today's pop culture and media; what they're more interested in is how the product could change. Fans hope the product will evolve and become edgier, offering more flexibility compared to a traditional TV broadcast.

Later that year, in August 2025, WWE reached a deal with ESPN to broadcast future payper-views on the ESPN app. Although supposed to start at the beginning of 2026, WWE delayed it to late September, with "Wrestlepalooza" as their first pay-per-view under the new deal.

This news upset many fans because it's now harder to afford WWE. Fans have to subscribe to multiple services, and ticket prices for live shows

are skyrocketing—often over \$500 for seats in the 100s or 200s sections. It leaves fans feeling undervalued and gives the impression that WWE prioritizes money over their experience. Fans are saying:

"I speak for everyone when I say that we will NOT be paying \$30 to watch it on ESPN," said by an Instagram commentator.

Today, fans have many options for wrestling entertainment, including rival company All Elite Wrestling and the indie scene. These promotions can offer viewers something unique that is totally different from what WWE currently provides, which often features wellknown wrestlers. Wrestling generally doesn't cost much to watch or attend.

The problem is that WWE has set a high price standard for everything-TV and live events-making it easy for people to lose interest and switch to other options.

But there are alternatives for fans who aren't interested in the current product and want something new. I personally watch all kinds of wrestling perspectives. Sometimes I've felt like stepping away from mainstream wrestling, but I can always find something new that interests me and keeps me hooked. I mainly support the indie scene because it's cheaper to attend their events and allows direct interaction with the wrestlers, which provides a chance to connect with them personally.

The rise in prices worries me, but I'm not overly concerned about the future of pro wrestling; WWE will probably be most affected by these price hikes as fans start to turn away.

#### Stories from Students at Brooklyn College Issue #1: Newbie

**By Jocelyn Rios** Staff Comic Artist

















