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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD

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Wednesday, October 29th

Halloween Horror!



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Cover by Bert Eugene

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CLUB HOURS

118 ROOSEVELT HALL

THURSDAY: 12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

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USG Holds Town Hall Over Student Activity Fees

By Rami Mansi
Editor-in-Chief

On Oct. 21, Brooklyn College’s (BC) Undergraduate Student Government (USG) held a town hall meeting aimed at informing students and club leaders on where student activity fee funds are distributed, as well as discussing other pressing topics for students.

USG President Cyle Paul shared the purpose of this town hall.

“When I ran [for presidency], I wanted the idea of bringing forth town halls to make it a bit more casual, a lot more present. Then, bringing in administration over time, that way students can see, ‘Okay, this is the part that is involved with this part.’”

After an audience of about fifty people took their seats, Paul took to his PowerPoint presentation and shared some statistics about BC clubs on campus.

“\$118.55 is taken from your tuition, to then be allocated towards [student activities].” Paul continued, “Your money goes towards different services like the health clinic [...], the Immigrant Student Success Office, a lot of different things.”

USG has a total of \$178,000 allocated solely for student activities; split amongst the 150 clubs, about \$1,200 is given to each club. Any financial responsibility a club takes on, USG takes from this total of \$178K.

Paul began discussing information familiar to club leaders: the form all leaders must fill out when requesting to host any activity on campus — the Event Request Form (ERF). Filling out an ERF is mandatory for all activities to be hosted on campus, and it also allows students to request certain items to be purchased by USG.

Within USG, the Club Funding Council (CFC) is directly in charge of events and funding procedures for student clubs. Paul emphasized the importance of attending public CFC

meetings.

“If you attend CFC [meetings], the likelihood of you getting pushed to the top, being that you’re present [...] That will get you pushed up, and then you can vouch and speak up more vocally when it comes to your specific event itself.”

Paul moved forward and wrapped up his presentation by sharing USG’s end goal as student leaders.

“Our goal is to make sure every club has the support and resources they need to thrive. We understand that not every event funding decision feels ideal, but we always aim to be fair, transparent, and responsible. We want to hear your concerns and work together to make campus life events better for everyone.”

“Our goal is to make sure every club has the support and resources they need to thrive. We understand that not every event funding decision feels ideal, but we always aim to be fair, transparent, and responsible.”

After Paul’s presentation, the floor was open for all audience members to ask questions regarding student and campus life.

One of the first questions asked was regarding public safety at events, including what criteria need to be met for public safety to be present. To which Paul, with the help of the Assistant Director of Central Depository Jessica Bradley, answered that it depends on the type of event, how many people, and who is coming.

“If it’s a party, if there’s an announcer, if there’s a



The presentation and tables at the USG community meeting./*Rami Mansi*

speaker coming, if there’s gonna be any kind of impact to the daily operations of people’s life [...] that’s gonna make a big difference [in the number of school safety officers],” Bradley said.

On the topic of school safety, Paul was asked about USG’s involvement with bringing officers to politically-charged meetings, such as protests or teach-ins.

“USG does not select or does not get the ability to select if there’s public safety needed [...] How many students, if [the event] is open to the public, if [the event] is CUNY-wide, if it hits two out of three [...] So, it’s not exactly the event itself; it’s a matter of the amplification needed if it hits those three criteria.”

Bradley added on to Paul’s statement from an administrative point of view.

“When you look at every event, whether it’s a meeting with three people or an event with 200. Every event is kind of looked at to determine if it’s safe.”

After a question arose about buying specific soft drinks on campus outside of the reserve USG has, Paul and Bradley discussed the pouring rights BC has.

Pouring rights are defined by having an exclusive contract with a type of beverage company. After you sign this contract, you are not allowed to sell any other beverage outside of the agreed-upon brands. BC has a pouring rights contract with Pepsi; therefore, the drinks allowed on BC

campus are Gatorade, Mountain Dew, Aquafina, Lipton, among others.

USG has found a way to purchase other forms of drinks outside of these contracts to distribute to clubs.

“USG has decided to purchase bulk drinks for clubs, so clubs do not have to do individual orders,” Bradley stated. “We [purchase bulk drinks] through a distributor, and then the club just needs to let USG know what they need. So [club leaders] don’t have to actually pick up orders.”

After continuing to answer questions about the pouring rights, school safety officials, and student activity fees, Paul ended the Town Hall by speaking on budget cuts and a future project USG will be heading to protect students.

“Administration has spoken regarding this becoming a work in progress, [...] Something to kind of combat this in a sense where it gives more amplified opportunities for students to kind of voice this. It’s still under work, so as I get more information, I’ll be able to share with you guys.”

For more information about USG, visit their official Instagram, @bcstudentgov.

Brooklyn College’s PHAM Talks Substance Abuse Awareness with Brooklyn YAS

By T’Neil Gooden
Features Editor

October is substance abuse awareness month, and Brooklyn College’s Public Health and Medicine Club (PHAM) welcomed Brooklyn’s Youth Against Substance Abuse (YAS), as they shared how they are educating younger generations from initiating substance abuse and preventing its use. This coalition supports youth in the LGBTQIA space and the NYC community in preventing the misuse of substances within this age group.

“Brooklyn Yas is committed to creating community-level change to prevent substance misuse in LGBTQIA plus youth in Brooklyn, specifically in neighborhoods of Crown Heights, Flatbush, East Flatbush, Bed-Stuy, East New York, Bushwick, and Williamsburg,” said Nyrie Smith (they/



Brooklyn YAS and BC PHam Substance Abuse Awareness Event leaders./T’Neil Gooden

to get into schools, trying to get into organizations and institutions, trying to get into the community to stop substance initiation at the root before it can lead to substance misuse or substance disorder,” said Smith.

This event allowed students to understand why preventing substance misuse is an important task for those who see the effects of substances every day.

“Substance use is a disorder. It is a mental illness; it is not

people who self-identify as LGBTQIA+, are trying to find community or what is known as third spaces. Outside of your intimate family, outside of your school, and work is where you find community,” Smith said. “We want to make those spaces brave and safe spaces because that’s when people are trying to find their people. And for the LGBTQIA plus community, it’s hard to find your people when you are being dehumanized by your society and your environments, and that leads to what is known as minority stress.”

Students were not the only ones who learned about the importance of substance prevention and abuse; Brooklyn College alumni also shared their satisfaction with the new information they learned at the event.

“I definitely want us [students] to be more informed about things like substances, especially because, not saying the school particularly, but with colleges in general, students are under a lot of stress. They tend to be subjected to use substances, whether it’s like alcohol, opioids, et cetera,” said Meli Holdipp (they/them), BC Alumni and Social Media Manager at YAS.

Brooklyn’s YAS also provided students with information about their Reducing Alcohol Access to Minors (RAAM) campaign, which supplies students with third spaces.

“Substance use is a disorder. It is a mental illness; it is not something that should be criminalized and has treatment.”

“RAAM works with local businesses to help them strengthen their policies, prohibiting alcohol sales to LGBTQIA plus and other minors. So you can join the RAM campaign now and take the pledge starting now on our block,” said April Martinez, data analyst at YAS. “We want to stop initiation at the door, but we also want to take places where initiation can happen and make sure that we’re reducing access or even the aesthetic appeal of it.”

After students learned about the importance of substance prevention and misuse, the YAS team provided a quick

training in Narcan and why it is important to have Narcan on your person.

“Narcan, also known as Naloxone, is a rescue kit for opioid overdoses. Opioids are like fentanyl. We are trained and have a drop site to distribute Narcan throughout New York City because it’s important, and Narcan should always be free,” said Smith.

Individuals who had firsthand experience with Narcan expressed their gratitude for learning more about how to administer it to anyone who may need it.

“The whole healthcare industry is new to me,” Holdipp told The Vanguard. “My background is in media, so just learning to do simple things, like distributing Narcan to me, is very important. Especially, being in New York City, being young, I’m in my 20s, so I believe that everybody should have one.”

Students also learned about the importance of understanding themselves and what their assigned Gender at Birth (Sex), Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, and other aspects mean to them.

“What we need is inclusivity...I always tell people, don’t try to fit in boxes when you know you’re a star. Find places that are open to you,” said Smith. “You are a star, find those spaces. Or make those spaces.”

Students who are interested in learning more about the Brooklyn YAS can visit the Brooklyn YAS website.



Flyers for upcoming BC PHAM events./T’Neil Gooden

them), the coordinator and manager at YAS. Brooklyn College students were introduced to understanding what primary prevention is and how primary prevention can be put into practice. “Primary prevention is to stop initiation, misuse, or substance use disorder from happening. Essentially, you are trying

something that should be criminalized and has treatment,” Smith told the audience. While understanding the importance of substance prevention, students were introduced to the significance of having a third space and how that could impact substance abuse, misuse, and prevention. “A lot of people, and

BC Town Hall Demands Climate Action From Next Mayor

By Emily Suhr
Staff Writer

As New York City prepares for a new mayoral administration, students, faculty, and community leaders gathered to call for stronger climate action from the next mayor during a town hall discussion at Brooklyn College (BC) on Oct. 22.

The event was co-facilitated by BC Professor and director of the Urban Sustainability Program, Michael Menser, and TREEage campus organizer Leila M. Tazi. It featured speakers from across the city’s environmental and civic organizations to discuss how New York’s next leader should address the climate crisis through community-driven policy and public investment.

“Of course, many people are very excited about the way it’s looking in terms of this moment and our possibilities of this next mayor,” said Menser. “But whoever the next mayor is, there’s got to be an agenda that connects to the communities, that’s got some vision to it, and that’s our job to fuel all that.”

“Whoever the next mayor is, there’s got to be an agenda that connects to the communities, that’s got some vision to it, and that’s our job to fuel all that.”

The evening’s first speaker was two-time BC graduate and New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. Williams emphasized that the city’s ability to act on

climate change is heavily dependent on funding and public investment into green infrastructure and sustainable jobs. He urged the next mayor to have the “backbone” to push through these issues and prioritize long-term environmental goals.

“We do need these trees, we do need these infrastructures. We just need people investing, and it is very, very difficult,”

energy by 2030,” said Patterson. “Currently, we are not on track to hit that. We’re on track to hit that by maybe 2033. And part of the reason, as the Public Advocate mentioned, we don’t fund these things.”

Patterson also clarified that while NYPA is part of the government, they have their own budget, which makes it the best team to work on these projects. He called on the next mayor to

100-foot rule would curb skyrocketing utility bills, reduce gas demand, make it easier for utilities to transition to a clean energy future that’s better for our health, our wallets, and our planet,” said Diallo. “While some states are backing off their climate commitments, New York needs to power forward.”

Rona Taylor, Executive Director of the Central and South East Brooklyn

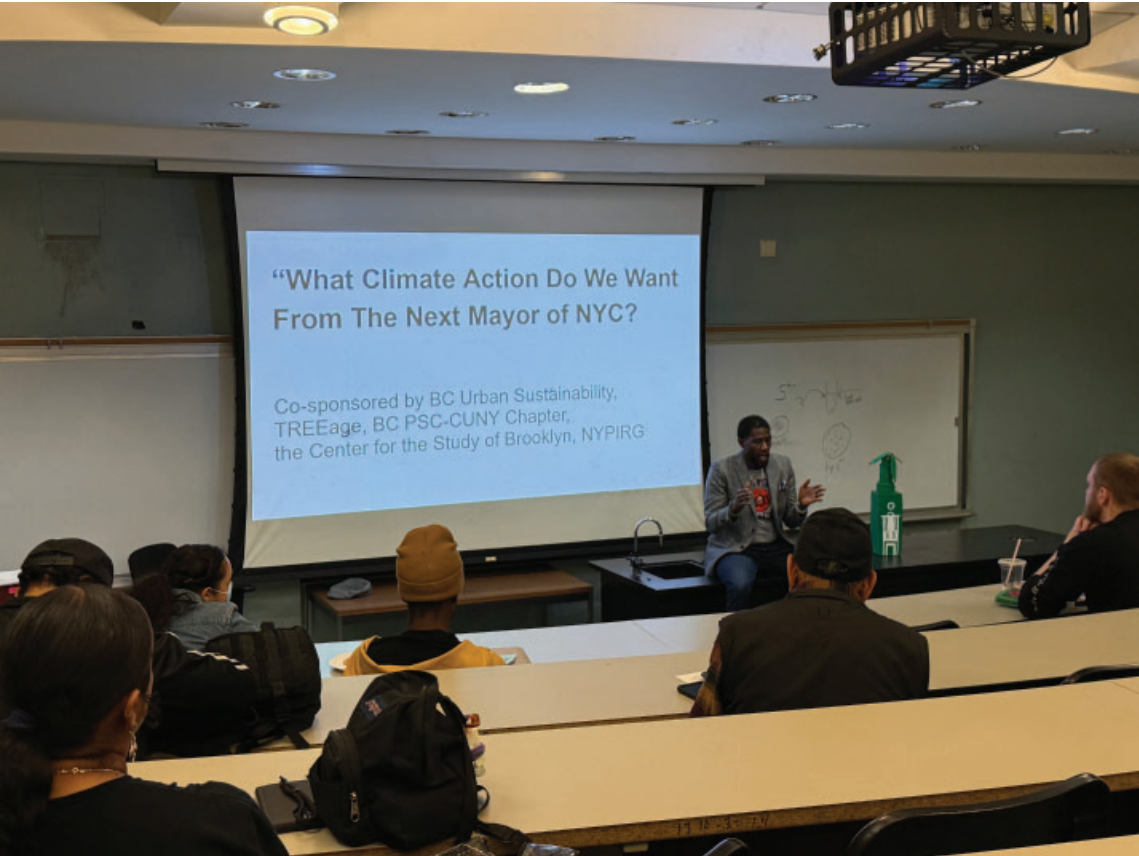
“While some states are backing off their climate commitments, New York needs to power forward.”

Professor Mobina Hashmi from PSC-CUNY, Professor Alan Aja from the Puerto Rican and Latinx Studies (PRLS) department, and a representative from BC’s Undergraduate Student Government (USG), who added that upcoming career fairs would include more resources for students interested in pursuing careers in sustainability and environmental advocacy.

The town hall concluded with remarks from Nancy Romer, co-chair of the PSC-CUNY Environmental Justice Working Group and a Professor Emerita of Psychology at BC. Romer urged attendees, especially students, to remain engaged and stay hopeful amid political and environmental challenges.

“We can do these things,” said Romer. “We can have good things in our lives. All of you young people can have good jobs, have good standards of living. We have to organize for it. It’s not gonna be given to us.”

She continued, “What’s your goal? What are the activities that will bring you to that goal so that we can actually make progress? Don’t give up on your future. You have to fight for it. The only way we’ve ever gotten anything done anywhere is to fight for it.”



NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams speaking at the town hall./Emily Suhr

said Williams. “Climate change and this discussion oftentimes is not the priority that it should be. We’re trying to just get folks to see that climate change is happening now.”

The conversation continued with Alex Patterson, the Campaign Coordinator for Public Power New York, an organization that played a crucial role in passing the 2023 Build Public Renewables Act. The law authorizes the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to construct and own renewable energy projects, shifting away from private ownership, and to help meet New York State’s Climate Act goals.

“The most immediate goal is that we as a state need to be at 70% renewable

work with NYPA to propel renewable energy projects, create more green jobs, and bring clean power to institutions like CUNY.

Representatives from the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) were also present, providing attendees with the opportunity to register to vote and reinforcing the importance of civic engagement in advancing climate policy. Mamadou Diallo, a recent BC graduate, spoke about how one of their current focuses is to end the 100-foot rule. The rule forces utilities to pay for new gas connections within 100 feet of an existing main instead of the property owner.

“Basically, reviewing the

Community Development Corporation (CXSE BK), highlighted a recently passed bill to implement permeable pavement across Brooklyn neighborhoods.

“It’s a type of pavement where when it floods, the water can go into this material and then it absorbs the water, and then when it’s hot, the water evaporates and it cools the air,” said Taylor.

Taylor also spoke about her work with the WeAct Extreme Heat Coalition and their recent policy wins advocating for more cooling centers in central Brooklyn, which experiences some of the borough’s highest heat indexes with the lowest number of cooling centers.

Other speakers included

ISSO's Spirits and Stories: Spooky Tales from Around the World

By Khalailah Bynoe
Arts Editor

Smoke filled the air, and the room was dimly lit with ominous music playing in the background. The Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO) held its “Spirits & Stories” event on Oct. 23 at 117 Roosevelt Hall. Everyone gathered around the table to share tales, legends, and folklore from their part of the world.

“This event came about from two students over the summer, they’re part of our fellowship, and they started over lunch, bonding over spooky stories, and then it prompted more people into the conversation. They were like, ‘Why don’t we have an event in October to celebrate the cultures that we have, but also the folklore around it?’ So we decided to host, especially because maybe not a lot of people celebrate Halloween or partake,” Leslie Ramirez, Program Coordinator at ISSO, told The Vanguard. “Hopefully, we aim to create that cozy

conversation in a space where we can talk and compare stories throughout different cultures.”

Maria de la Cruz, Social Media and Communications at ISSO and Federman

Fellow, told The Vanguard, “I was one of the students who came up with the event. I thought it would be really cool to think about for a Halloween event [...] I thought it would be a really nice way to get people to the office and talk about where they’re from, because ISSO as an office is based on many, many cultures.”

The first spooky story was from Guatemala and was told by Celso Gonzalez. Imagine a man dressed in all black on a horse, both with red glowing eyes, searching for their next victim. This figure is known as El Sombrerón, translated as “The Man with the Big Hat.” Gonzalez stated that he targets girls with long black hair.

Children and their imaginary friends, or are they? As a little boy, Mohammed



Participants listening to a scary story told by Celso Gonzalez./Khalailah Bynoe

his parents about a figure nearby. He explained that what he saw was his Jinn, a supernatural being from Arabian mythology. Abdulkareem said that when someone is born, they have a Jinn. It is said that Jinn live alongside humans and possess the ability to shape-shift and be invisible.

Leslie told the story of Cantinflas and his mansion. There was a very famous actor who made so much money that even his grandchildren inherited his wealth. It is said that he kept mermaids captive. He even had a pool with a mermaid statue that, when the ocean got higher, would spill into the pool. She stated that many attribute his success to a pact he made with the mermaids.

Uthman Okunola shared about Shango, a major deity of the Yoruba religion in southwestern Nigeria. He stated that, in African mythology,

Shango and the Orishas were believed, through time, to have ruled the earth. Shango, described by oral tradition, “describes him as powerful, with a voice like thunder and a mouth that spewed fire when he spoke,” according to Britannica.

“I thought it would be a really nice way to get people to the office and talk about where they’re from, because ISSO as an office is based on many, many cultures.”

Next, Bhane Kyaw took us to South Asia, Burma, and talked about Nat, deities in Burmese Folk religion. During the Burmese New Year water festival, they come out at night. He says that the Nat will punish wrongdoers such as thieves, adulterers, and those who

disrespect their elders. Roma Yermakova spoke about Ukrainian and Slavic mythology Leshy, which they described as “a chaotic neutral Lorax.” Leshy resides in the forested areas and is known to play tricks on people. Each tale had everyone hiding behind their hands or laughing.

When ISSO is not holding events, they are helping students. Ramirez stated, “ISSO, also known as the Immigrant Student Success Office, we are a department on campus. We’re actually the second one within CUNY. So we support undocumented immigrant students. Honestly, our services range from academic guidance to financial aid application support to legal services.”

For more information about ISSO, visit their Instagram @issobc. For more information about ISSO, visit their Instagram @issobc.



Graphic by Amira Turner

Abdulkareem recalled pointing and telling

BCSU and BCSJP Hold Counter-Protest to United4Israel Vigil

By Emily Suhr
Staff Writer
&
Emily Nixon
Staff Writer

On Oct. 23, United4Israel, a Brooklyn College (BC) club, held a vigil during common hours on the West Quad for the Israeli victims of Oct. 7, 2023, which prompted a heavy police presence and a counter-protest by Brooklyn College Students for Justice in Palestine (BCSJP) and Brooklyn College Student Union (BCSU).

Attendees for the vigil signed in at a registration table hosted by the Tanger Hillel Place and were given wristbands to show they were part of the event. Israel flags lined a segment of the lawn, as well as signs showing

faces of those lost on Oct. 7. Kosher food was provided to attendees as they mingled amongst one another.

President of United4Israel, Shelly Zebak, discussed the objective of the memorial. “The goal of the event was to provide a space for the campus community to remember innocent people who were murdered on October 7th, honor the living hostages who have been returned, and remind one another that even in grief, we are not alone.”

A counter-protest by SJP was scheduled to start at noon outside the West Quad gate on Bedford Avenue. Protestors brought drums, signs, and chanted as the memorial proceeded.

BCSU members felt

that while the counter-protest was brief, it had successfully managed to do what it sought to do: gather attention.

In a joint statement from SJP and BCSU, they shared their end goal of this protest.

“The night before this event, Students for Justice in Palestine shared a flyer promoting an emergency counterdemonstration, intended to recognize the true cost of the genocide that Zionist clubs failed to acknowledge.”

“Zionist events can not go undisrupted!” said the announcement by BCSJP. “Show up in numbers! Bring posters! Bring flags!”

School safety, public officers, and additional security were stationed at the main entrances, as well as on campus. Students without a photo attached to their digital ID were not allowed to enter campus, leaving some waiting outside the gates until the memorial was scheduled to end at 2 p.m.

“I was leaving James after my class at 12:15. They wouldn’t let me directly on the Quad,” said Magali Ramos, a BC student and member of BCSU. “I was trying to question the officer why we can’t go out that way, and he just wasn’t engaging with me. He was kind of just like, ‘Go.’”

Security personnel were in place and restricting access to the West Quad before the counter-protest had begun, according to Ramos.

“West Quad [...] was shut down even before [BCSU] started protesting,” said Ramos.

While both events were still happening, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) announced through an Instagram story that

a picture on students’ digital IDs would be mandatory for all future events on West Quad.

Students, such as Ramos, pointed out that the security measures for the vigil broke the Henderson Rules, specifically the first rule, which states that “any member of the academic community” cannot “interfere with the institution’s educational processes or facilities [...]”

“West Quad [...] was shut down even before we [BCSU] started protesting.”

said Clarke. “There were other students concerned about them having to go into class at the time, and I just told them, like, ‘As a student, you can report that. They [security] are obstructing or stopping you from pursuing your education or class.’”

The amount of protection afforded to the United4Israel event was a point of suspicion to students like Clarke.

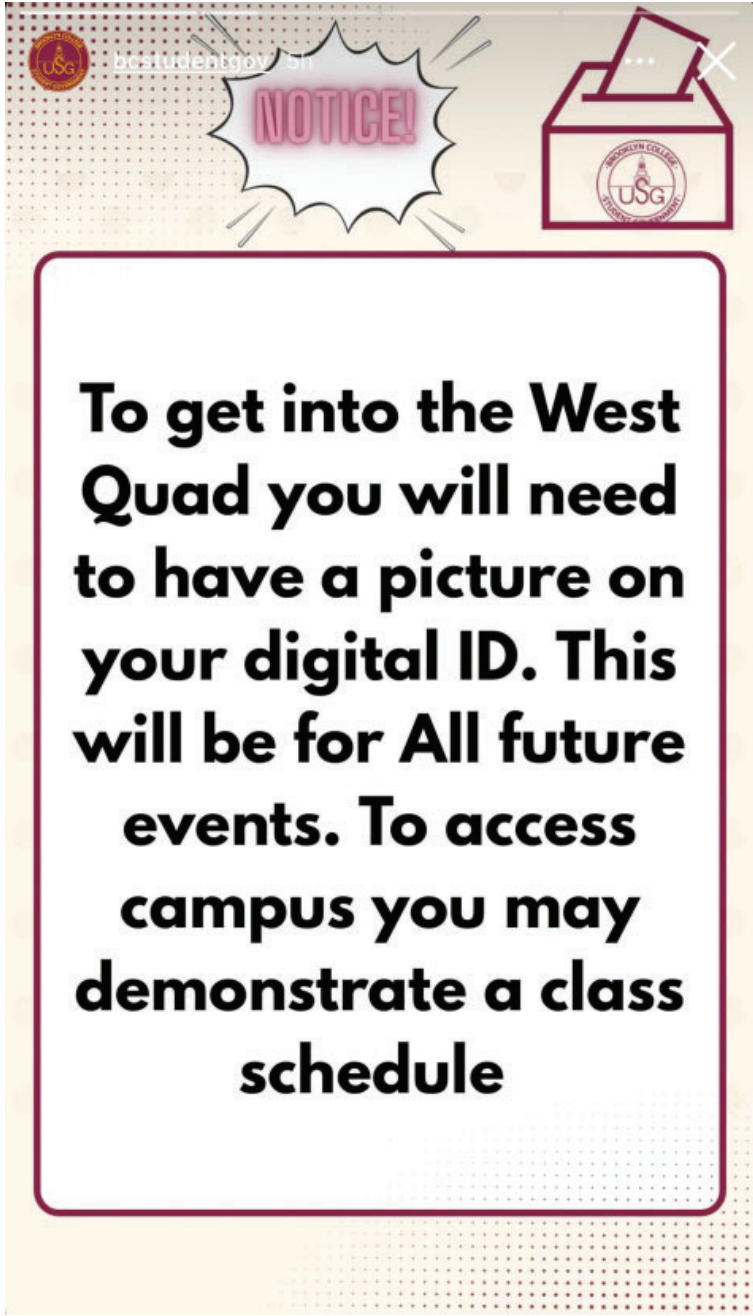
“There is a power dynamic in play here that I think should be heavily followed and looked into,” said Clarke. “If they had that much influence to close down an entire section of campus while also having your own security and campus security, there needs to be a question of, ‘How far does this influence go?’”

“For something that short of an amount of time, it was good,” said Clarke. “I think that, like, a lot of people are interested, and they just want to know more.”

As the protest dispersed, memorial attendees and protestors began to shout at one another outside the gate.

“Who are you protecting?” a counter-protester yelled. “It’s disgusting. The people who are adults, who are not students here, look at what side you’re on.”

Following the dispersion of the counter-protest and the end of the memorial, majority of security operations on campus readjusted to the appropriate safety level.



USG posted a notice to their story during the protest addressing the ID policy. /*Courtesy of @bcstudentgov on Instagram*

The Henderson Rules are the “code of conduct” for students and staff at BC.

“What they were doing, in terms of redirecting students and shutting down the gates, [...] they were disrupting student activity and student life, and that’s violation of everything Henderson Rules,” said Ramos. “The Henderson Rule Violation should be given to the [United4Israel] event because they effectively shut down an entire section of campus for one event, disrupting student life before [the] protest was even happening.”

Students like Shania Clarke, a member of the BCSU, felt like the increased security presence was “aggressive” and shared avenues to report the violation of the Henderson Rules with other students.

“The approach was definitely aggressive from Public Safety and NYPD,”

For more information about BCSU, BCSJP, and United4Israel, please follow their respective Instagrams: @brooklyncollegesu, @bc_sjp, and @united4isreal.



Photos by Emily Nixon, Emily Suhr, Bert Eugene, Max Ranieri, Luis Angel Martinez Perez, and Terrance Bobb. Graphic by Amira Turner

Black People are Tired: Why the “No Kings” Protest Didn’t Work

By Serena Edwards
Opinions Editor

Protests have occurred for decades, but the impact has differed depending on tactics. Since Trump’s second presidency, there has been an increase in the amount of protesting. In November 2024, Trump won the presidential election via both the Electoral College and the popular vote. With the white vote being predominantly for Trump and the majority of Black votes going towards Harris, Black people have taken a backseat in trying to help and are letting white people do the work since they “know best”. Black people are no longer fixing a system they didn’t build or break.

Activism is not limited to protesting; you can make an impact at the polls and in other ways.

This is the second No Kings Protest, and what was the impact without Black voices there?

Black people have protested for years and have made an impact through activism. From the Montgomery Bus boycott and the Selma to Montgomery march, Black people have been showing up and using their power to make change in the world, no matter what it takes. When Black people got the right to vote, they used that as a form of activism when protesting wasn’t enough.

In the 2020 election, the republican led state, Georgia, turned blue. This was due to a higher turnout among Black voters.

In the recent presidential election between Harris and Trump, 86 percent of Black people voted for Harris, whereas only 42 percent of white people voted for Harris, according to NBC. When it really matters, white people rarely show up. If white people matched the black communities’ energies at the pool, we would be in a different political situation.

“Black women are still the backbone of the Democratic Party. Harris won them by 85 points – a bigger lead than any other gendered

and racial group measured by CNN,” according to the Guardian.

Truth is, Black people knew the damage President Trump would cause once in office because we felt the damage before he was in office. But now that there is universal damage, there is more of a concern about the damage affecting white people. The White population only cares two times: when it’s convenient and when they are the ones being affected.

During the lockdown in 2020, we witnessed police brutality at an all-time high. Not because people weren’t brutalized by the police before, but because of the pandemic’s isolation, people have never been more attached to their screens; We had no other option but to face what we’ve been suppressing. Thousands of people across the United States (U.S.) took to the streets to protest the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Though it was an impactful and monumental movement, the media found a way to portray the protest as violent and destructive. BLM protests were one of the most impactful and influential movements of this generation’s lifetime.

The No Kings Protest press coverage differed from the coverage we saw for BLM in 2020. The media portrayed the No Kings protest as unity, whereas the BLM protest was portrayed negatively by the media. The New York Times (NYT) published an article entitled, “No More Trump!’: Protesters Denouncing the President Unite Across the Country,” whereas Fox News published a piece entitled, “BLM has left Black Americans worse off since the movement began, experts say”. The movement that made a change by having charges against those in power received negative press, whereas No Kings had no productivity after two attempts and still received praise for bringing “unity” across the nation.



The March on Washington./Courtesy of the Library of Congress



No Kings Protest./Courtesy of Reuters

During the No Kings Protest, there were few to no Black people in the crowd. The main demographic in attendance was white women. The reason for the lack of Black voices at the marches is that Black people are tired of being the only ones doing the work. We are tired of doing all the work and being vilified by mainstream media for using our First Amendment rights. When Trump won, it wasn’t our demographics’ fault. There are Black Trump supporters; 13 percent of the Black population voted for Trump in the last election. However, they are outnumbered by the number of people who voted for Harris. If we even look back in history, the

Women’s Suffrage Act was led on the backs of Black women, even though Black people didn’t receive voting equality until 1965. Doing the work for hundreds of years only to finish last every time gets tiring. We are constantly cleaning up messes we did not make and receiving consequences for actions we did not commit.

Like the Presidential Democratic Nominee Kamala Harris. After losing the election, Harris coped in a different way; she put her frustrations all in a book. In the book titled “107 Days,” from there she went on a book tour to discuss some of the topics within the book. During these talks, “protestors” would disturb her and start calling her

names. Though she is not in office and has no power to fix the situations going on in the world, she is still receiving the anger that should be placed on Trump. Once again, people are placing the blame on Black people for white people’s mistakes.

There is no denying that there is a division in this country, but the division didn’t start with Black people. When white people asked for help, the Black community came ready to fight for them; however, when the Black community asked for the same in return, they left them to fend for themselves.

Where Halloween Began: History of the Spooky Holiday

By Elianna Tsigler
Staff Writer

The tradition of Halloween has evolved greatly over the years, its meaning completely shifting from a sacred ritual to a commercialized celebration based on nightmares and fear, which have long haunted Halloween. But, where did it all begin?

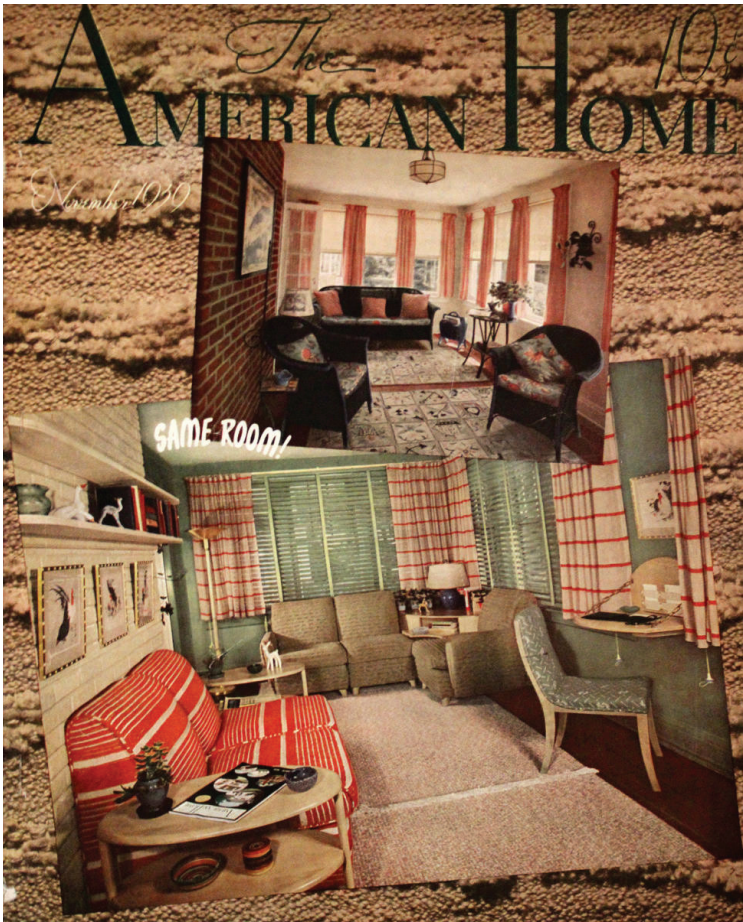
It began with Samhain, a Celtic ceremony practiced by one of Europe’s early tribes. Held on the night of Oct. 31, the harvest festival marked the end of the harvest and a



Celebration of “All Hallow’s Eve”./

Courtesy of Museum of Arts & Sciences

liminal moment between seasons, there was also one between light and space;



The American Home Dream Magazine Cover 1939./

Courtesy of The American Home

transition to the new year, as well as the beginning of the cold season. However, this harvest was a matter of life or death; the days became shorter as the nights became longer, and scarce amounts of food were left as winter rations.

In this

it was thought to become permeable. This means that on that day, spirits, both dead and of other realities, can make their way into our world, while humans can accidentally make their way out and get lost. During this celebration, the veil of life and death is at its thinnest.

Many things that are associated with Halloween today came from the Samhain festivals. The firelight drew a thing familiar to today’s Halloween—the bat. Before there was electricity, this was the only way you could see a bat.

Other ancient cultures also

Lemuria day was, in turn, what gave rise to Halloween. The day was moved from May 13 to Nov. 1. Since Samhain fell on Oct. 31 before All Hallows’ Day, people started calling Samhain “All Hallows’ Evening.” It was then shortened to All Hallows’ Eve, and finally to Halloween.

To ensure the complete erasure of Samhain, the church created another holiday on Nov. 2, “All Souls Day,” which honored not just saints, but all those who have passed. This is important because this is where Halloween gets its association with death, souls, and the supernatural.

The church also helped establish the tradition of trick-or-treating, but not in the way expected. During the Middle Ages, on All Souls Day, priests told the people to pray for souls trapped between heaven and hell in another world they called “purgatory.” The only way to help the suffering souls was to offer prayers, but they would only be freed if enough prayers were offered.

This led to a medieval custom where children would go “souling,” begging for things called soul cakes that were filled with raisins. In return, they would help others pray for the trapped souls in purgatory. Even though the concept goes back centuries, the phrase “trick-or-treating” itself is less than

100
years
old.

The term derives from pranking, which was very widespread across America in the 20th century. Since it was so destructive, people decided to buy off the pranksters for a truce. Homemade treats were offered to troublesome children to avoid getting tricked.

In 1939, Doris Hudson Moss published an article in American Home magazine, “A Victim of the Window Soaping Brigade?,” about her success with having a Halloween open house, providing sweets for children, and, in turn, not getting tricked. With this new custom came new treats. Instead of homemade treats like candied apples and popcorn balls, children were given packaged store-bought candy. Reese’s cups, Mars bars, and the reliable Hershey’s chocolate.

Candy had finally killed the rowdy Halloween.

It was then brought into the main media, such as cartoons, festivals, and became heavily incorporated into pop culture.

Instead of being full of prayers and religion, it became centered around more joyful celebrations: parties, dressing up in fun costumes, watching scary movies, and celebrated by all, not just Christians. People spend this day with friends, going door to door, scurrying around, and collecting candy.

Even the symbols that once had a deeper meaning—bats, gravestones, ghosts, and so on—are now merely meant to frighten people. The main purpose of the day is to be scared, completely straying away from its original meaning.



Illustration of the Harvest Festival./*Courtesy of Yuri Sergeev*

In Defense of “Elevated Horror”: Why Are So Many Fans Against It?

By Samuel Mortel
Staff Writer

Over the past decade, we’ve seen a cultural revolution; some of the most critically acclaimed, culturally relevant films are in the horror genre. Throughout the history of film, horror has always been seen as a lesser version of the art form, warranting little-to-no recognition from the wider community. Now, filmmakers are utilizing the genre as a tool to communicate thought-provoking themes and reflect a mirror back at society, and the same critics who used to lambast horror as a whole have come to respect it. This change is, in large part, due to the relatively recent emergence of “elevated horror”, a term used to describe horror films that stray from the typical conventions of the genre, often with a level of artistic direction and thematic meaning that you don’t normally find in a generic slasher flick. The term has ushered horror (and cinema, in general) into a new era and added credibility and prestige to films that wouldn’t have been given a chance thirty years ago.

Despite this, there’s a growing faction that has become tired of the subgenre. About a decade removed from the “elevated horror” explosion, it has admittedly become a bit of a buzzword, but that’s no reason to throw out the phrase or act like there’s no distinction between most horror films and what can be deemed as “elevated horror”.

It seems there’s no real consensus on where the phrase “elevated horror” comes from, but films like Robert Eggers’ “The Witch” (2015) are often cited as being at ground zero of what we now think of as the phenomenon. Though “The Witch” is one of many films that laid the foundation for our current cinematic era, by far the most notable figure in “elevated horror” would be Jordan Peele.

Peele’s 2017 classic “Get Out” is one of the seven horror films in the history of the Academy Awards to ever be nominated for Best Picture. Although Peele wasn’t able to secure the award, “Get Out” is regarded as one of the most revered films of any genre this century, with Peele being cemented as one of the signature filmmakers of our time. It’s also a prime example of elevated horror. It, for the most part, can be described more as unsettling and nerve-racking than scary, having you more likely to crawl into your seat than jump out of it. From early on, it’s clear

that the main character, Chris Washington, is in some sort of danger, even if it’s not entirely clear what the danger is until about the end of the second act. Most importantly, the conflict of the film is purposefully thought-provoking, using clever storytelling and tactful filmmaking as a tool to interrogate race relations between white and Black people. Using the villain or

every year, including two instant entries to the pantheon just this year: “Weapons” and, most notably, Ryan Coogler’s original vampire flick “Sinners”.

“Sinners” is one of the most successful movies of the year, both at the box office and in the minds of critics. It was such a success that, according to the Hollywood Reporter, Warner Bros. is planning an Oscar campaign for the film, which

appearances, like on The Last Podcast On The Left. Still, it doesn’t eliminate “Weapons” from the “elevated horror” discussion or necessarily speak to the sentiments of Carpenter or Peele. “Weapons” is far from a typical horror film, featuring abstract dream sequences and an unconventional structure. Also, while the film doesn’t have a “message”, per se, it certainly has themes.

Horror is a genre that, in particular, has historically been plagued by the latter. There are a few other art forms that would allow something as egregious as 12 “Friday the 13th” movies (that’s not an exaggeration), and this is a common problem in the genre. What about the 13 “Halloween” films or all eight movies in the “Leprechaun” franchise? When horror has all these things going against it,



Collage by Samuel Mortel

evil forces at the heart of the film as a metaphor for a deeper societal issue is a staple of elevated horror. In fact, all aforementioned qualities of “Get Out” can be used as a sort of checklist for what makes a film fall into the subgenre. A movie with even one of these qualities will probably be given the “elevated horror” label, which has grown to be quite powerful.

By giving horror films an “elevated” sheen, it adds prestige to movies many people would otherwise have no interest in, and presents a new branding opportunity. There’s no doubt that a countless number of directors have been able to pitch their movies to studios and audiences by promising an “elevated horror” experience, for better or worse. For every genuinely meaningful and artistic horror film made in the past decade, there’s probably been 10 shameless attempts at cashing in on the trend with far less tact and consideration than actual elevated horror movies. If “The Witch” was the birth of elevated horror, “Get Out” was the moment it grew wings and soared. From then on, it seems as if there’s been at least one new horror classic released

will undoubtedly include a “for your consideration” bid for Best Picture.

Even though the success of these films and the reinvigoration of the horror genre can be easily attributed to the “elevated horror” trend, a considerable number of horror fans see the label as an unnecessary, snobby distinction, with some horror directors like Peele and John Carpenter chiming in. In an interview with The Verge, Peele specified he doesn’t consider himself an “elevated” filmmaker. Carpenter echoed a similar sentiment in an interview with IndieWire, stating, “There’s metaphorical horror. But all movies [...] they don’t have messages. They have themes. Thematic material, and some horror films have thematic material.” Peele and Carpenter’s statements are parts of a larger debate that seems to reemerge every year, with the most recent topic of discussion being this year’s “Weapons”.

The main hang-up with “Weapons” is the lack of a cohesive, easily digestible message. The film doesn’t really offer much in terms of some grand, overarching “point”, with the director, Zach Creggers, even saying so in

In the same podcast interview, Creggers clarifies that one of the film’s plot elements is inspired by his experience of dealing with an alcoholic parent. Additionally, “Weapons” is rife with plot elements and scenes that are certainly meant to cause a conversation. This, I feel, is really at the heart of the “elevated horror” discourse.

Carpenter is right in the fact that all films, to an extent, have themes, even typical horror movies. One of the biggest releases this year was “The Conjuring: Last Rites”, earning nearly half a billion dollars globally. The film, which was the fourth installment in the Conjuring series and the ninth movie in the Conjuring Universe, did not have a critical reception to match how much money it raked in, being one of the lowest-rated films in the series. I’m sure some themes can be found in “The Conjuring: Last Rites”, but let’s not act like they’re carried with the same level of tact or craft as films like “Get Out”, “Sinners”, or even “Weapons”.

In every single art form, you can find beautiful, wonderfully crafted masterpieces gleaming with intent. You can also find lazy, soulless cash-grabs.

how do we distinguish between “Leprechaun: Back 2 tha Hood” (which is a real movie) and a true work of art like “Sinners”? Well, that’s where the “elevated horror” label comes into play.

Even if these “elevated horror” films aren’t as financially successful, they no doubt are more culturally impactful. “The Conjuring: Last Rites” will inevitably be lost to time. In the same Hollywood Reporter article mentioned earlier, it’s also alleged that Creggers’ film will receive its own Oscar campaign from Warner Bros. It’s highly unlikely that the studio will do the same for the fourth Conjuring film. The reason why films like “Sinners” and “Weapons” even have a shot at enshrining themselves in history is because horror no longer has the burden or bad rap it’s had for decades. This is all due to the revolutionary branding of “elevated horror”, which can help a film stand out from the swathes of unserious, unintellectual, and immature films in the horror genre and tells critics and audiences that the film is worthy of standing beside true cinema.

BC Finishes Regular Season and Preps for the Playoffs: Recaps (10/22-10/25)

By Manuel Polanco
Sports Editor

As the regular season ended for the men's and women's soccer teams and they prepare for the CUNYAC playoffs,

their backs against the wall, BC still gave it their all. Danielle Fuxman had a great game with 11 kills and one block, freshman Olive Carroll had seven kills and two aces, freshman Saule

Elkotby finished her night with four kills and three blocks. Their game against RIT was their second-to-last tri-match of the year, and they dropped their third game in a row, losing

would be tied until the second quarter when Junior Alyssa Hardison broke the ice with a goal, but CCNY responded quickly with one of their own. With this win, BC secured the

the playoffs, and they will be hosting the CUNYAC Semifinals on Saturday, Nov. 1. Despite that, BC entered their last regular season game against the Lehman Lighting and lost 3-0. Sophomore goalkeeper Juan Carlos Solis Cazares ended his day with 10 saves.

Mens Cross Country

Continuing with playoff mentions, the BC men's cross country team earned third place in the CUNYAC Championships on Sunday, Oct. 26. This marks their third consecutive year ending in the top three standings in the championships. In first place was Hunter, then Baruch in 2nd. BC finished ahead of CCNY, Lehman, and Medgar Evers in the standings.

Freshman Anthony King finished in fourth place after finishing the course in 29:21.5. King and his two other teammates, junior Yasin Gordon and sophomore Dexter Weiner, finished in the top 10 in the competition. Gordon ended with a run time of 29:42. Weiner finished his run with a 31:34.5.

Mens Soccer

The men's soccer team ended their historic year with the most regular-season wins since 2012, had a record of 10-5-1, and went 5-1-1 in the CUNYAC. Not only that, but they clinched the number one seed for the playoffs and the CUNYAC regular season title as well. Their historic play earned them a bye in



Freshman Olive Carroll going for a spike./Courtesy of BC Athletics

the women's volleyball team played in a tri-match during the weekend, as they too gear up for their playoff push.

Women's Volleyball

On Thursday, Oct. 23, BC faced off against a familiar foe, John Jay College, in a game that would go four sets. While it seemed that John Jay would run away with this game after winning the first two sets 25-15 and 25-16, BC would win the third one 26-24 and take this to four sets. Despite a close game, BC would lose this game 4-1.

The last set ended 25-21, so even with

Okeke-Ziburkus had six kills, and Junior Olivia Fan had two kills and one block. After this loss, BC went to New Jersey to play Rutgers-Newark and Rochester Institute of Technology for a tri-match on Saturday, Oct. 25.

In game one against Rutgers, BC lost 3-0, but each set was within reach. BC lost each set via scores of (25-20, 25-20, 26-24). Another great game from Okeke-Ziburkus, who ended her night with 11 kills and one ace. Freshman Ella Snobar had 10 kills, Carroll had five kills, one ace, and one block; lastly, senior Ayatallah

3-1. The four sets went as follows: (25-19, 25-14, 25-15, 25-12). Carroll had seven kills and five kills, Snobar had seven kills and three blocks, Okeke-Ziburkus had three kills, and sophomore Meadow Andrews had two kills.

BC will still be on the road for their next game against the Lehman College Lightning on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 5 p.m.

Women's Soccer

In their season finale, BC played its last regular-season game against City College (CCNY) in a game that would end in a 1-1 tie. The game

Hallow-ZINE!



Arts: Painter

News: Black Cat

Features: Group Costume

Sports: Pro Athlete

Opinions: Pop Star

Content: A meme

* Create colorful Bonus points for D.I.Y'ing

* Always relevant Perfect for on-the-go * Like

* Squad goals loves to share the spotlight * Here for the vibes

* Squad goals loyal to your team * MVP

* Main Character Energy Pop culture fun Bonus points if you dress up as your favorite Pop Star

* Screaming over 10 hours Always on trend * The life of the party

How To Fold!

1) Fold on solid lines

2) Cut on dotted lines

3) unfold

4) Pop the middle

5) Fold in!

6) Enjoyee