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**THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE**

# **WANGUARD**

Fall 2024, Issue 1

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Wednesday, September 11th

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**Cover by Tony Lipka**



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# BC Library Under Renovation Following Summer Storms

By Daniel Afanasyev  
News Editor

At the start of the new academic year on Aug. 28, new and returning students were greeted with scaffolding at the main entrance to the Brooklyn College Library, a result of several summer storms damaging its facade.

As with most of the New York City area, the BC campus was no exception to facing the brunt of the recent summer storms. In the past few summer months, the area saw a fair amount of severe weather: from first experiencing damaging winds and tornado warnings in late June, per FOX5NY, to suffering heavy flooding and strong winds brought on by the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby.

While the storm damage left a noticeable mark on the facade of the library, it went almost unnoticed for many who were on campus

when it happened. “I was working throughout the entire summer term and had little knowledge of what was happening to the outside of the front entrance of the library,” said Lucy Rolander, a college assistant at the library.

When reached out to for comment, administrators told The Vanguard that the library closure was due to eyewitness accounts of damage.

“The college’s facilities team noticed parts of the library’s front facade crumbling. We immediately closed access to the main entrance and contacted the University’s Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management (FPCM) for emergency project funding,” the Office of Finance and Administration told The Vanguard.

In a schoolwide email sent by Director of Facilities Planning Barry Fong on Aug. 5, it was announced that the main library

entrance was reopened with the installation of a temporary sidewalk bridge. “This sidewalk bridge will remain until an engineering consultant performs surveying work and an existing conditions report is completed at the Library’s exterior facade.”

On Sept. 9, a schoolwide email was sent by senior vice president for Finance and Administration Alan Gilbert addressing the state of the financial and infrastructure projects on campus. Outlining the current projects well underway, such as the Ingersoll and Roosevelt upgrades and cafeteria renovations, Gilbert also discussed the addition of the library facade renovation to another existing emergency project that is currently being performed.

“CUNY has an emergency response process for matters that need to be addressed quickly for

safety reasons. We have a few of these emergency capital projects in process. For example, both the large Claire Tow Theater in Whitman Hall and the Library façade are undergoing emergency work,” said Gilbert in the email. “The theater in Whitman experienced condensation above the ceiling from steam leaks and roof leaks, which undermined its structural integrity and led to plaster falling from the ceiling. After one of the many storms, we also noticed parts of the library façade falling in front of the building. Luckily no one was hurt in either location.”

As a timeline for the renovation of the library has yet to be provided, pending the vendors’ findings, the BC community will have to get accustomed to the construction in front of the iconic building.



Scaffolding outside of the library./Daniel Afanasyev



# Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander Serving Institute Opens its Doors at BC

By Khalailah Bynoe  
Content Creator

On Aug. 28, the Brooklyn College AANAPISI Project (BCAP) held its soft opening to introduce the BC community to its newest space. The Center, located at Boylan Hall 2149/2153, consists of spaces for students from the Asian diaspora to study and relax, a library space with resources, and a kitchen space to prepare meals. Adorned with cultural pieces, the Center welcomes all to discover more about the diaspora in this new space.

The Center joins the list of spaces on campus made for certain demographics of the school population, such as the Women’s Center, the Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO), and the Black and Latino Male Initiative (BLMI).

The goal of BCAP is to provide a safe space for the community, creating solidarity among the diaspora.

“Brooklyn College is a proud Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander Serving Institute (AANAPISI). The Brooklyn College AANAPISI Project (BCAP) supports our 25% Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students, including Central Asian & Nomadic, East Asian, South Asian & ‘MENA [Middle Eastern and North African,’ and mixed heritage and intersecting communities,” as stated by BCAP’s mission statement.

To leaders at the newly-opened Center, having this space on campus is critical for students to feel welcome and have a safe space to go on campus.

“It’s super important

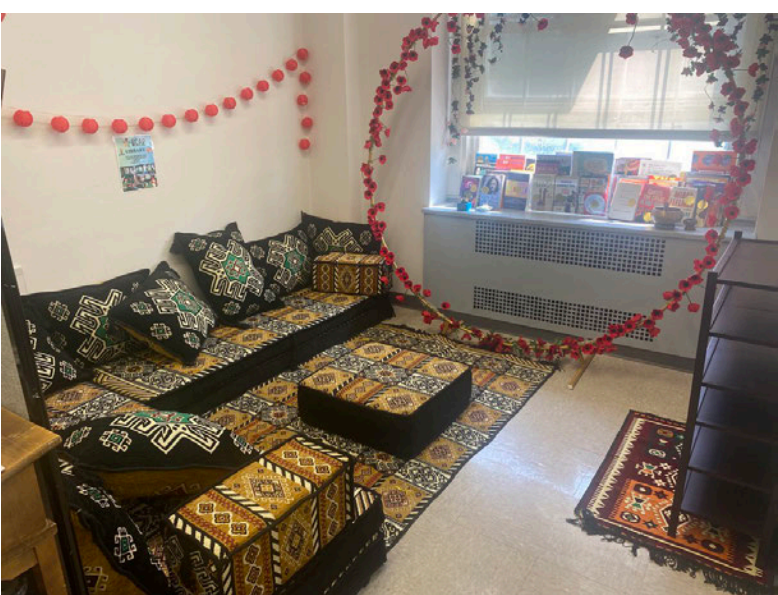
for people to find a place of belonging. We’re hoping to be a safe space for people,” Chahat Longia, program assistant at BCAP, told The Vanguard.

“We aim for our office to have a homey vibe; that’s why we have spaces like a kitchen spot, a little library living room situation, and an area for homework. It’s really important for students to have that feeling of comfort here at Brooklyn College,” Megan Go, program coordinator at BCAP, told The Vanguard.

Leaders at the Center expressed how grateful they are to have this space, and wish that it could have been available to students earlier.

“It was really rewarding on that first day when people came in. We would see from freshmen to seniors; they would all say we are so happy for this space. Those who have been at Brooklyn College already were like, when we first got to Brooklyn College, there were a lot of Asians here, but there were no physical spaces for us,” Go told The Vanguard. “We were hoping to find some center, some resource of some sort specifically geared towards our racial and ethnic identity.”

In order to fund the Center, the project receives funding from the Department of Education as part of a five-year grant eligible for universities with



BCAP's library space./Courtesy of @bcap.brooklyn on Instagram

10% or more AAPI-identifying students.

“[The project] is a grant-funded initiative from the Department of Education. We support all Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian students, and we really want to emphasize that because they are politicized and racialized terms, that even if you don’t identify as such we are going to be as inclusive as possible. We really want to make sure that folks are seeing themselves as part of Brooklyn College through BCAP,” Chris Won, director at BCAP, told The Vanguard.

Among the resources that can be found at BCAP are academic and professional development tools as well as mental health resources.

“Three major initiatives that we do are academic affairs and curriculum development. We also do a lot of culturally responsive practices as well as mental health referrals and events, and the last one we do is leadership and mentorship,” Won told The Vanguard.

Regardless of your

identity, everyone is welcome at BCAP.

“Anyone of any identity can stop by; our doors are always open Monday through Friday 10-5,” Go told The Vanguard.

An upcoming event that BCAP will be hosting is for Filipinx American Month (FAHM) and Native American and Indigenous Heritage Month (NAIHM) on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Tow Center. BCAP plans on hosting many more events, like last semester’s tea ceremony, which they hope to turn into an annual event.

*BCAP is currently looking for volunteers as well as offering a work-study job opportunity. For more information about BCAP and future events, follow BCAP on Instagram at @bcap.brooklyn.*



The Center, located at Boylan Hall 2149/2153, will provide a variety of resources for AAPI students./Courtesy of @bcap.brooklyn on Instagram



# If You See Something, Say Something: The MTA’s Recent Efforts To Make the Subway

By Michelle Castillo  
Staff Writer

For the past few months, the MTA has been finding new ways to combat the violent crimes happening in the subways, testing new ways to improve its transit systems and bringing in changes to New York’s infamous subways to improve riders’ experience.

There has been an increase in the number of people involved in tragic accidents on the tracks, leading the MTA to pilot a program to install platform barriers to prevent people from falling onto the train tracks, according to the New York Times.

A report from the MTA’s “Actions for Rider Safety & System Reliability,” had planned to install platform screen doors, but after analyzing stations in a study, only 128 out of 472 stations met the standard to support a platform screen door. Another concern they face is the high cost of seven billion with an annual maintenance of approximately over \$119 million. The task force recommended they install platform screen doors in only three stations.

Recently, MTA had been installing small metal barriers as an alternative to the platform screen doors. So far they have been installed in stations in Bedford Avenue on the L line, Clark Street on the 2 and 3 lines, Crescent Street on the J and Z lines, DeKalb Avenue on the L line, Grand Street on the L line, First Avenue on the L line, Fifth Avenue

on the 7 line, Morgan Avenue on the L line, 57th Avenue on the F line, and 191st Street on the 1 line.

More metal barriers are to be installed in more stations by the end of the year. “The goal is to install one to two stations a month, depending on timing for the delivery of materials,” said MTA spokeswoman Kayla Shultz via the New York Post. Shultz also told reporters that the barriers were being tested in the L and 7 lines, but there was no explanation given as to why.

MTA has also plans to address the issue of gun violence as city officials raise concerns over weapons entering the station, as many of subway crimes have involved a weapon such as a firearm, according to abc7NY.

There have been efforts by Governor Kathy

Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams to reduce subway crimes. In March, Hochul brought in hundreds of National Guard soldiers, as well as police officers, to patrol certain stations and perform bag checks, according to Reuters. Hochul said the checks were intended to deter crime based on the high amount of assaults.

Mayor Eric’s Adam also announced a gun-detecting scanner to be put on subway stations, with the first installed at the Fulton Center subway station on July 26, according to CBS News. Officials also noted that the technology will also be able to detect other weapons, such as razors. Adams said the plan is to have one on select stations and will be moved at different stations at different times, and any rider who refuses

to comply will not be allowed in the station.

“Our transit system is the lifeblood of our city,” said Adam during a press conference with the MTA on July 17. “All of these various train lines are arteries that makes sure that blood continues to flow, and it must flow without any form of impediments to prevent us from moving forward.”

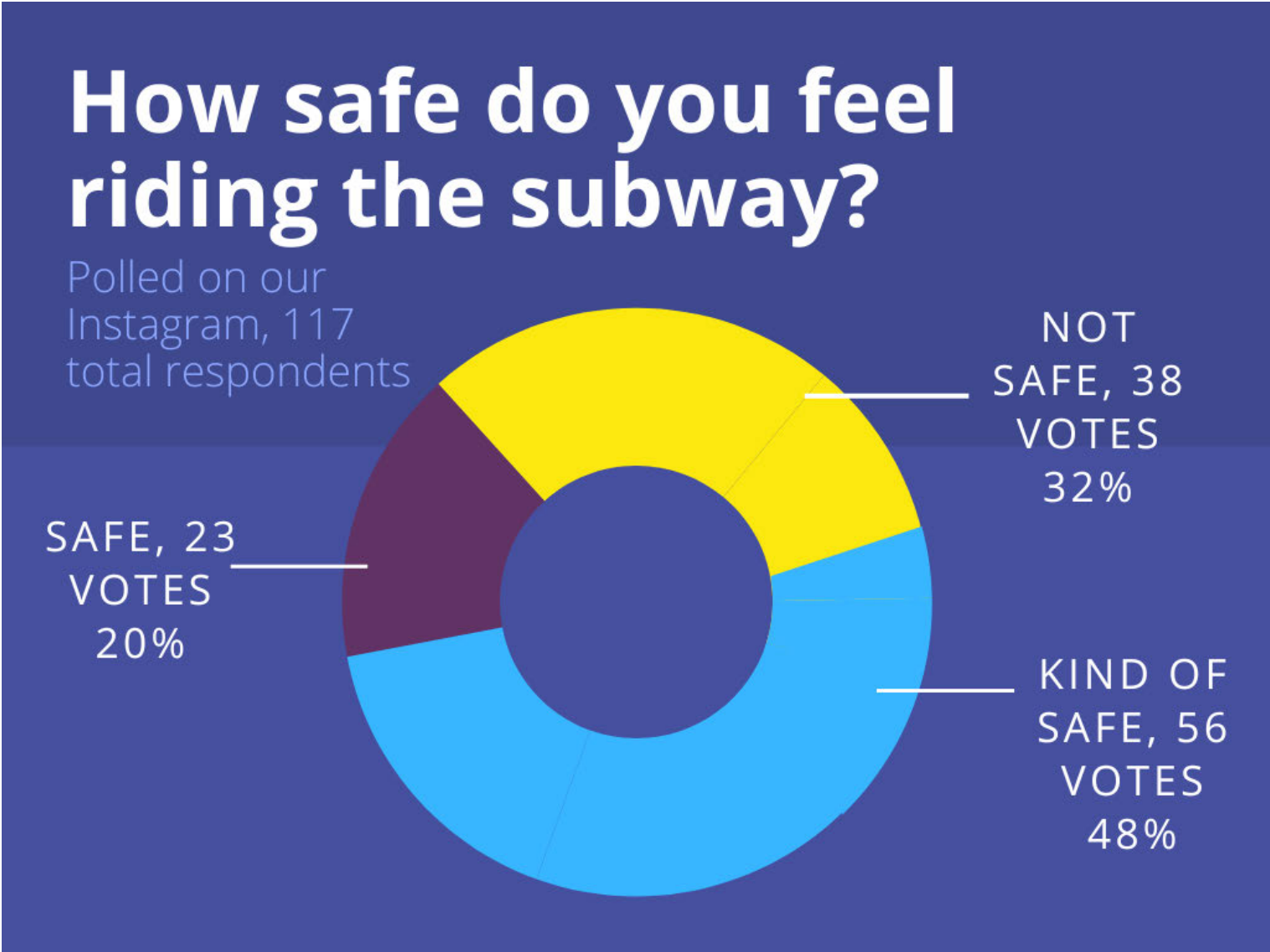
As of Sept. 4, the New York Police Department has announced a decrease in subway crimes, making 2024 the third safest year on record for subway crimes. However, violence still occurs, most recently on Sept. 5, a 47-year-old was fatally shot inside the Rockaway Avenue station in Ocean Hill, leading to a search for the murderer.

When asked by Brooklyn College’s own student body how they felt while riding the subway via

an Instagram story poll, 23 (20%) said they feel safe, 56 (48%) said they feel kind of safe, and 38 (32%) said they don’t feel safe. Out of these 117 respondents, 94 felt some degree of being unsafe while riding the subway.

More has yet to come as MTA still has plans to improve the safety of its riders. To leaders working safety improvements, it is of their utmost importance to make sure every rider has a safe ride.

“I am focused on traditional safety and security, but also on investing in the system in all the ways I’m talking about to make it safer,” said MTA Chair and CEO, Janno Lieber. “We need to look forward to the investments that we can and must make.”

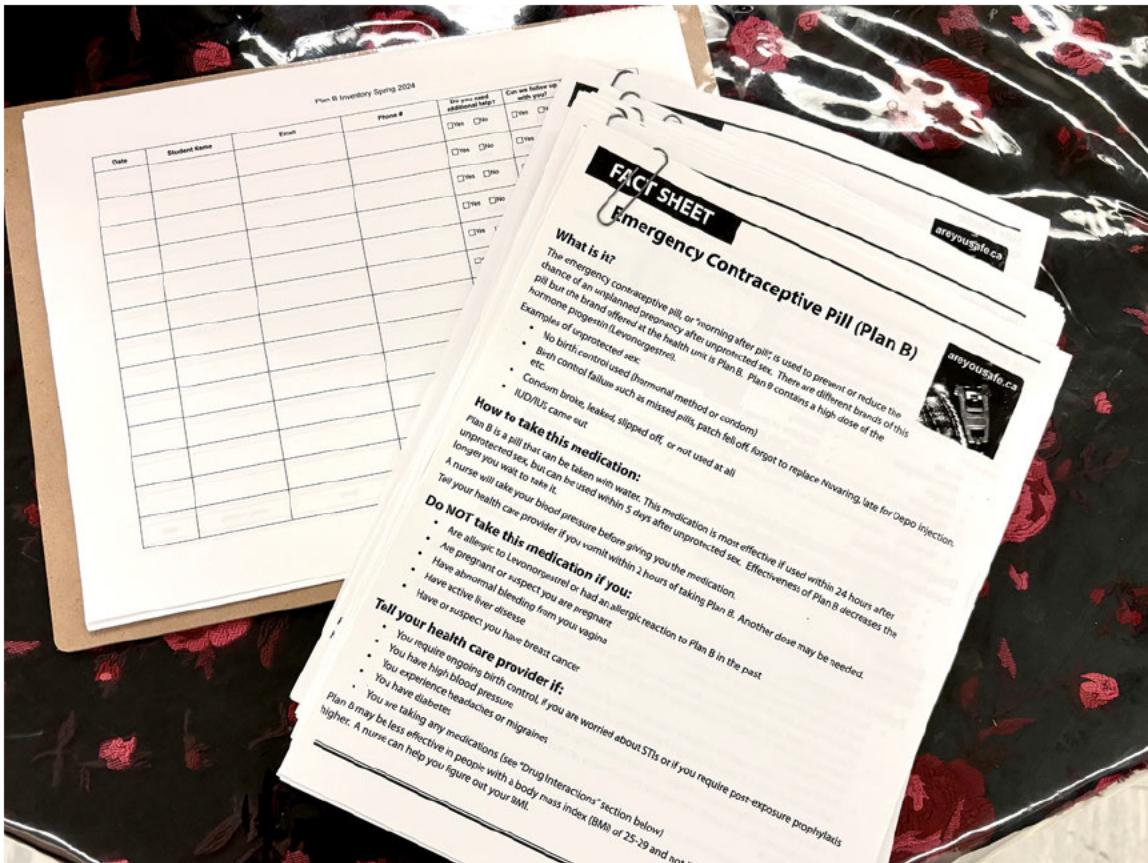


Graphic by Kate Dempsey



# BC's Women's Center Now Distributing Plan B

## Emergency Contraceptive



Forms used when distributing Plan B at the Women's Center./T'Neil Gooden

By T'Neil Gooden  
Features Editor

With the beginning of the school semester, Brooklyn College's Women's Center opens with new and familiar resources to provide to students daily. In an extension of the resources the Center provides, Plan B will now be offered to any student in need of an emergency contraceptive.

Plan B acts before ovulation takes place delaying the process, according to Healthline. During ovulation, the egg is released, and Plan B stops the egg from releasing, meaning that this product should be taken as soon as possible after having sexual intercourse. Plan B is taken as a pill, and while the pill is fast-acting, there are still potential side effects such as nausea and vomiting.

The resource was added to the Women's Center through the new project coordinator, Amber Prophete, in coordination with the Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, which provides colleges with resources for students and campuses that need them.

Over 39 colleges have installed Plan B vending machines within their school campuses since 2023 with prices of \$12.60 and up. However, with the help of the Women's Center, BC students get the resource free of charge.

"The Women's Center wanted to give the students an opportunity to be able to obtain Planned Parenthood for free because we know that the health center does provide the resource for ten dollars. However, we wanted to find

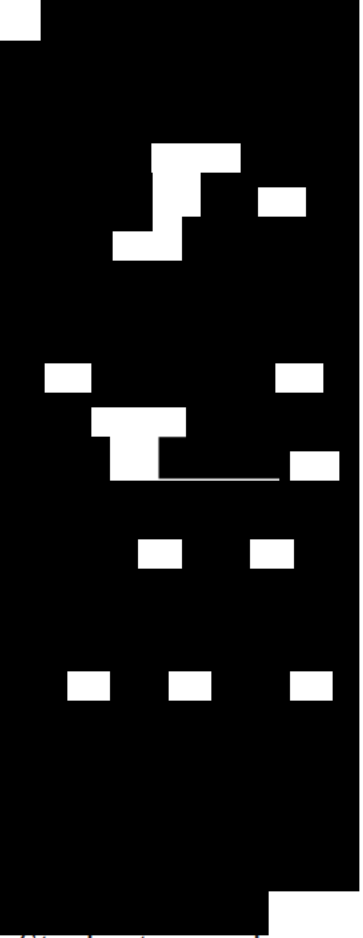
another alternative for [students], and this was that alternative," Prophete told The Vanguard.

Reproductive rights have been a recent topic of discussion in the current political climate, with division over funding reproductive health centers such as Planned Parenthood. Some argue that in the Equal Rights Amendment, an amendment that provides equal rights regardless of the sex of an individual, has been interpreted to mean accessibility to centers such as Planned Parenthood.

"We are going into our election season, and [students] know that a lot of reproductive health and our issues of that sort are on the line, not just in New York, but across the fifty states," Prophete told The Vanguard. "Being able to have Plan B available right now is really great

for our students, as it helps bring awareness to the Equal Rights Movement that will be on our ballots in November."

When receiving the Plan B package, students will have to sign a form allowing the item to be given out. The form asks students if they would need any additional help or follow-ups after they have received the resources. Students will also be given a separate form that lists facts about Plan B and how to use it. Students who sign up for Plan B will retain their anonymity and will receive one box.



Students can also use the Center to learn more about Planned Parenthood, mental health benefits, and contraceptive options as a student. To leaders of the Center, this is especially important for students who already face many struggles as they go about their college

lives.

"Plan B is a resource, many of our audience are students just like us, we live in New York and we struggle with life and financial choices," Rabia Khalid, project coordinator of the Muslim Women's Leadership Development Project (MWLDP) at the Women's Center, told The Vanguard. "The Women's Center is a place where students feel safe to speak with us, and their business stays with us."

The Women's Center is filled with free samples for students to pick up in addition to Plan B. Students have access to menstrual products, deodorant, pimple patches, pregnancy tests, snacks, and men's and female contraceptives.

For more information on the resources the Center provides, visit their website <https://www.brooklyn.edu/womens-center/> or follow their Instagram @womenscenterbc





# A Peculiar Night at Gallery Particulier: A Celebration of Chant at the Moon Day

By Nathan C. Zierlein  
Culture Reporter  
for Hunter College's  
Newspaper, The Envoy

On a balmy Thursday evening in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, spiritual Gothamites from across the tri-state area gathered to celebrate Chant at the Moon Day held on Aug. 15. Chant at the Moon Day, a holiday originating from the cherry farmer's of Wenatchee, W.A. is a gleeful commemoration of the cherry harvesting season wherein participants sometimes sing, or even howl, at the moon in celebration of a bountiful harvest.

Located at Gallery Particulier, a non-profit studio space dedicated to opening the doors of visual arts to the greater New York community, saw an array of people looking to celebrate. Hosted by founder Arabella Von Arx, Particulier invited holistic vocalist and multi-media artist Mei-Jen—better known as “Buddha Mei”—for a spiritual self-expression workshop titled “Sing to the Moon.” Attendees partook in a guided meditation, a sound bath, and were encouraged to experiment with face paint and lunar-

inspired body art. At 7:00 p.m., a skew of eager guests funneled into the oval-shaped gallery, seeking escape from the blistering temperatures of the outdoors. Dangling from the ceiling of the gallery were ceramic human hearts in earthy shades of red, black, and brown. The walls of the studio were adorned with some paintings from previous exhibitions as attendees began floating around to view the work.

“This is my first time celebrating Chant at The Moon Day, I was given a few days out of the month to choose from to host the event and I picked this day. I was like, chant at the moon? That’s interesting,” said Mei.

After singing a deep cut of her first single “With Ha Bowls” at an open mic in Nov. 2023, Von Arx approached Mei with an opportunity for collaboration.

“I met Mei at the community event called “77.” I loved her persona, her performance. I find her styling skills and talent really amazing,” said Arx.

In early Jan. 2024, Mei then released her single and performed it on the same day as Von Arx’s open mic night as a symbolic release party.

A few months later, she launched her debut album “Alignment” with her partner and music producer Victor Andre. Von Arx reached out again and asked her to perform at Gallery Particulier.

“She has an extraordinary talent for creating body and face images, she’s so creative with a nice spiritual dimension to it,” said Von Arx.

Despite it being Mei’s first time celebrating Chant at the Moon Day, it was an opportunity for her to learn about the historical context of the unconventional holiday.

“It’s a learning experience for me as I’m here as a teacher and I’m also here as a student,” Mei said.

After excitedly greeting her guests, Mei directed her audience to sit in a meditative circle. In the middle of the sphere was a formation of crystals along with a selenite pillar surrounded by other special minerals, lavender, and sea shells from the beach. With harmonious intentions set, participants went around and shared their names, pronouns, and reasons for coming.

Friends of Mei, like Emily Reyes, 25, from New Jersey came to show support in her

endeavors as a sound healer. Since first meeting in Jan. 2024, Reyes has been the stylist for a photo shoot and two of Mei’s short films “MEIDULOOK” and “CHURNG GOH,” while Mei has also styled Reyes’s makeup for a Puerto Rican Pride photoshoot.

“I work with sound healing a lot since Mei & I are close, I’m super happy to be here,” said Reyes.

Only the soft lull of an AC unit could be heard as a hush of silence fell upon the zen party of meditators. She began gently prompting her audience, lightly jingling her set of dried chandelier-shaped kluwak seeds.

With the hypnotic swoosh of her singing bowl, Mei enthralled meditators into an hour-long trance. Darkness fell upon the studio as fresh cherries were distributed by Mei, and guests were prompted to fill their fruit with their manifestations—such as their dreams and desires—for the new moon.

Leia, 25, and K., 30, from Flatbush, stumbled upon “Chant at the Moon” by chance while strolling down the street. For those who are already spiritual, the event promised a

broader understanding of the spiritual community.

“I consider myself spiritual, I’m interested in spiritual questions and connecting with nature’s changes of phases and what that can teach us,” said K.

While most participants came to “Chant at the Moon” out of their interest for spirituality and the arts, Bee, 23, from Prospect Lefferts Gardens who catered the event, decided to learn more about different types of meditation including the unique manifestation-filled cherries.

“I didn’t really come with any expectations of what the event would be, but I’m pleasantly surprised,” said Bee. “The guided meditation that Mei did was a little different than ones I’ve done before, I have more of an appreciation for cherries as a vessel that holds energy and intention, it sort of fits.”

Mei’s interpretation of Chant at the Moon Day offered guests an enlightened perspective on spirituality and the lunar holiday as a whole. While there may not have been actual howling, attendees nonetheless let it out spiritually at the new moon, making their manifestations heard.

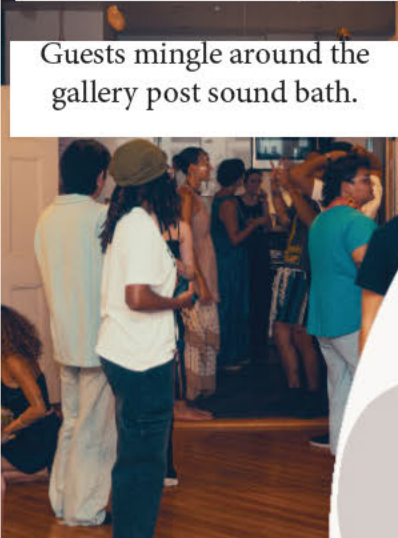




Buddha Mei (far right), her partner & Emily Reyes (front left) apply celestial-inspired body art.



Buddha Mei takes a bite into one of many manifestation-filled cherries.



Guests mingle around the gallery post sound bath.



K. (left) & Leia (right) lounging before the meditation.



Meditators gather in a circle & introduce themselves.



# Club Preview: Involvement Fair Introduces All to New and Legacy Clubs

By Victoria Keraj  
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College held its annual Involvement Fair on Sept. 3, which showcased a plethora of brand new clubs and exciting events to look out for.

From 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. students perused the various clubs' table setups on the pathways of the East and West quads. Students flocked from table to table, speaking with the representatives about planned activities while also getting a feel for the vibe of each club.

Crowds formed around tables as students engaged with the club runners. One such crowd was around the Tabletop Roleplaying Games Club (TTRPG). Their setup included an assortment of colorful and multi-sided Dungeons and Dragons (DnD) dice, guidebooks detailing fantasy illustrations, "Magic: The Gathering" cards, board games like "Catan," all while Tolkien-esque music was played. The club plans to teach its members how to start their own DnD campaigns games as referees that create and set up the story for other players to experience. The club also hopes to get enough funding from the school for a 3D printer to create miniatures for new games they look to play.

Students were also drawn to the mini claw machine being used to

pick out winners for a raffle that was being held by the Design and Wine Club. Customized tote bags and pencil cases made by the club were on display. The club hosts creative activities for participants to express their artistic side.

the jerseys that team members can get customized with their names on the back. The Historical Society, another club tabling at the fair, hopes to do a book club this semester in which students can read "Max in the

door and introduced their club readings. In the fall semester, the club read "Circe" by Madeline Miller, and up next on the reading list is "Song of Achilles" by the same author. Another potential idea in the works for the

Sept. 18. The club plans on competing in dance tournaments and hosting various workshops during the semester where dance choreographers are brought in to teach a class. Students of any skill level are welcome to join. "Dance to express, not to impress," president of the club, Amy Montrose, told The Vanguard.

Another booth at the fair was the BC's Badminton Club which restarted in 2023. It shut down in 2020 due to being a physical activity club which was not allowed during the pandemic. Students are welcome to join and play recreationally. The Badminton Club hopes to be allotted more gym space so that members can play matches simultaneously. Their gym time was recently decreased from four days a week last semester to two days this semester, according to former club president Than Han.

With over 100 registered clubs on campus, the Involvement Fair showcased just some of the many clubs that BC students can take part in. With the semester underway, the many events scheduled will provide students with a semester full of fun as they continue their studies.

For more information on clubs and where to find upcoming events, visit [clubs.brooklyn.cuny.edu](https://clubs.brooklyn.cuny.edu)



Photos courtesy of SAIL, Graphic by Amira Turner

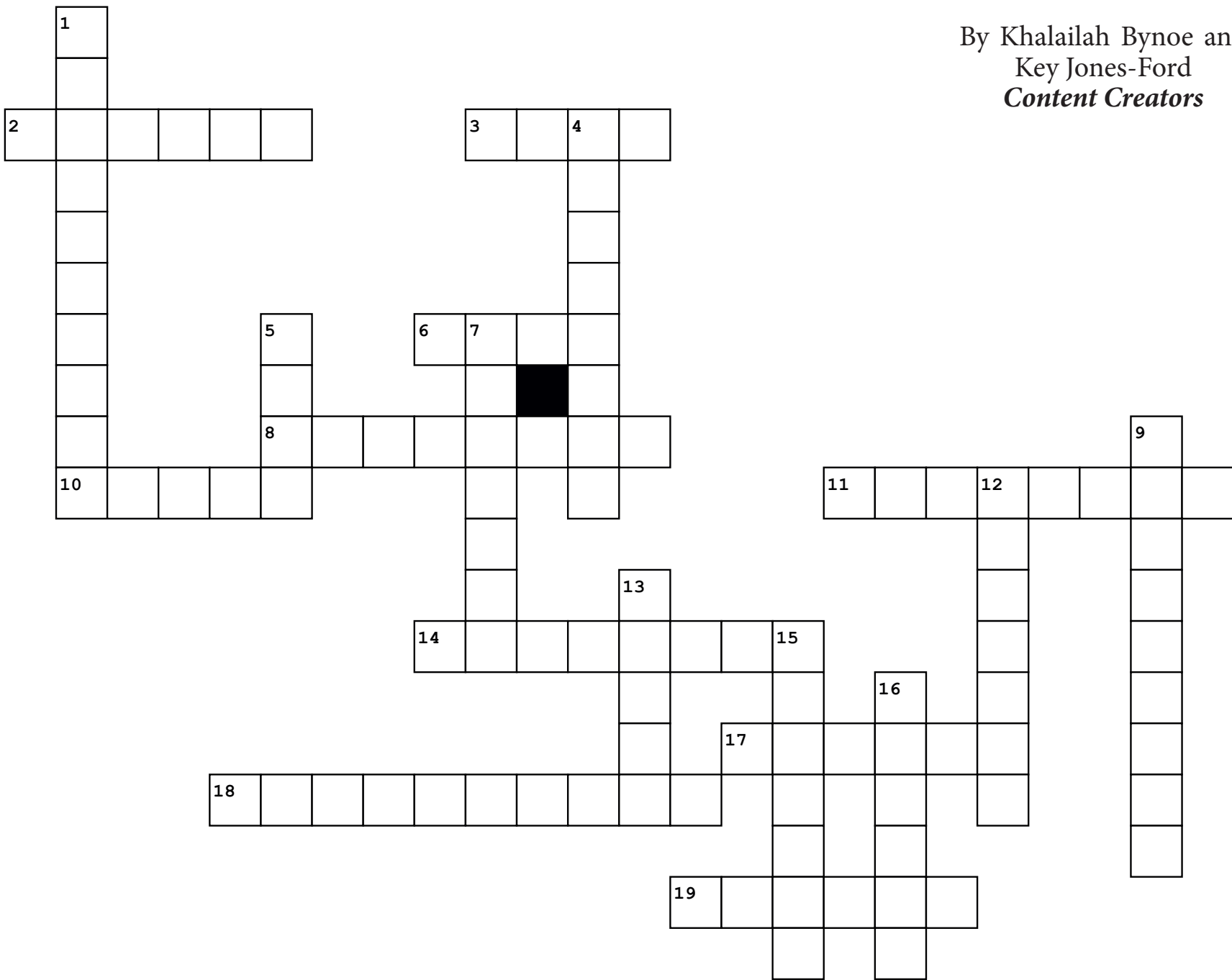
Another event coming up is the Esports Club "Super Smash Bros" tournament which it hosts every semester; it will be on Sept. 19 at 4 p.m. The club has also updated the number of teams available to join. There are now over 12. This club's setup displayed

House of Spies" by Adam Gidwitz. The Historical Society hosts trivia and Jeopardy nights, yearly holiday parties, and occasionally collaborates with its sister club, the Classical Society. The Classical Society was tabling right next

Classical Society is an ancient Greek pottery painting activity. Coming up, the Classical Society will also be hosting a Lego Colosseum building party on Sept. 24. Something else to look out for will be the Blaze Dance Team's tryouts on



# Back to School Crossword!



By Khalailah Bynoe and  
Key Jones-Ford  
*Content Creators*

**Across**

2. don't get lost walking around this
3. statistics, calculus, and geometry
6. you can join these and meet others who share similar interests
8. write it down here!
10. you should be doing this in order to succeed
11. your nightly responsibility
14. read this so you know what's expected of you and what to expect
17. Finish: "At the end of the semester, you have..."
18. this has all your course documents, assignments, and reminds you when it's due
19. another title for a teacher, or you can study to become this

**Down**

1. get to know them, because you never know if they can help
4. the study guide (and expensive!)
5. Brooklyn College is part of this
7. a quiet study space with a wealth of information to access
9. passes their knowledge to you
12. teaching you to read a text and write an essay
13. you have to decide this (but not right away)
15. Biology, physics, and chemistry
16. a more portable device to access the internet



# Setting Boundaries in the Pink Pony Club: Chappell

## Roan’s Right To Defending Her Privacy

By Rami Mansi  
*Opinions Editor*

No matter how famous a person is, celebrity or not, setting personal boundaries should not be seen as taboo. With Chappell Roan’s controversial discussion of boundaries as a celebrity, pop culture has shifted in a new direction during the summer of 2024.

Taking a closer look into breakout queer pop star Roan, her road to fame felt instantaneous and fast-paced in the eyes of the mainstream public. Rather, her overnight success took ten years to reach its peak. Throughout the trials and tribulations of finding her identity in pop music through an original debut under her birth name, being dropped by her original label due to low sales, going broke from the expensive lifestyle of California and the music industry, and returning home to only be broken up by her then long-term boyfriend, needless to say, Roan has truly been through a lot her journey of pop stardom.

After becoming

the opener for Olivia Rodrigo’s tour, a string of excellent festival performances and releasing a new single, she experienced a surge in popularity, according to Chartmetric. However, with this newfound mainstream success and fast-growing fanbase, many fans felt entitled to Roan and her attention. This led to Roan being stalked at airports, having her family members stalked online, and being approached by fans in public. Roan made a statement on her official Tiktok, debasing her stalkers and asking fans to respectfully but firmly let her be when she is “not working.”

The two-part TikTok created a divide between the fanbase

and led to a broader discussion on the Internet. On one hand, Roan discussed how scary it was to get famous this quickly, thrusting her into the spotlight within only days. Fans and internet users alike felt sorry that Roan was going through so much pressure and assured each other that her true fans would support her throughout her career with respect and dignity for her.

However, the other side of the Internet claimed that Roan had only been famous for “a few minutes,” claiming that she is not appreciative of the opportunities that her fame has presented her; many fans also felt as though Roan was not giving her fans enough credit for supporting her.

In response to this, Roan posted a note on her Instagram page, stating she should not be criticized for setting her boundaries. Starting another discussion on social media platforms, she then focused on the hyper-criticization of

Establishing the boundaries between Roan’s pop stardom and her personal life has been necessary with the ebbs and flows of obsessive fan culture. It could possibly be the difference between life and death— an example being

Christina Grimmie who was murdered by a fanatic fan after a performance. Grimmie herself was also “not famous enough,” yet her life was taken due to a lack of security and an open heart for her fans.

Women in positions of power and stardom have been attacked for decades, and only in recent times has the public been able to partake in such diminishing attacks. The list goes on: Britney Spears, Princess Diana, Amanda Bynes, and Courtney Love. They are all women who fanatics and the media have abused for years.

Roan has since been supported by her peers and true fans alike, creating a web of support that truly envelops her and respects her boundaries.

In her letter to fans, she wrote “I feel more love than I ever have in my life. I feel the most unsafe have ever felt in my life.” At a time when female stars are in a constant state of being swarmed and attacked online, let us all make an effort to not only support them on the stage, but off stage as well.



Chappell Roan promoting her debut album “The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess.”/Ryan Clemens



# “The Internet Would Go Crazy”: The Influence of the “BRAT” Album



Charli XCX holding her BRAT album./@charli\_xcx on Instagram

By **Serena Edwards**  
Staff Writer

The cover of the album displays simplicity with boldness, a wash in neon green with stretched, arial font plastered in the center. British artist Charli XCX released her new album “BRAT” on June 7. Being a “Brat” gained a whole new meaning this summer. Charli has changed the perspective of life and its meaning, showing that the messiness of life is sometimes the best. We are conditioned to show the best parts of life, and portray a perfect image of ourselves. Charli has shown that living in the moment is a powerful way to live life, continuing to expand the narrative of society’s perspective on words.

“Brat” is often an adjective used to describe someone spoiled and ungrateful. This summer, however, the term has transformed into

describing an individual who embodies certain qualities, including putting yourself first, being the life of the party, and keeping up with trends. “Brats” are messy but hot, outside party girls, plastered in makeup from the previous night.

During the summer, it is easier to live the “Brat” life. With the summer weather dwindling, how will “Brats” live their once summer lifestyles? The cold weather brings seasonal depression, feeling like they can’t live out their inner “Brat.” But that doesn’t mean that the aura can’t live on. “Brat” is an aura; “Brat” is how you carry yourself. You can always live a “Brat” lifestyle no matter the circumstances by embracing the changes that are coming. You can still consider the positive and make the best of your circumstances.

Take part in activities like Halloween parties, haunted houses, and

pumpkin patches. “Brats” love autumn. It is filled with Halloween costumes, pumpkin patches, and hanging out with the people you love. It is also the start of the holiday season, and who says you can’t get cute during the autumn and winter? You can also get creative with what you do. Take the party inside, plan a movie night, host a paint and sip. Brats can make the most out of any circumstance.

A “Brat” is unapologetically themselves: they display confidence in all aspects of life no matter what comes their way. When you walk in the room, your presence is known. The “BRAT” album was truly a phenomenon with the rapidity that it took over social media. From profile pictures featuring the “Brat” aesthetic, to the music being added to Tik Tok videos and Instagram Reels, everyone featured “Brat” in their lifestyles. Tik Tok

creators created a dance to the song “Apple” with clear and accessible choreography. People began to ask what “BRAT” was and wanted to join the conversation. Many who didn’t know of Charli XCX aimed to expand their music taste.

People who didn’t primarily listen to pop were listening to “BRAT” and enjoying the experience. Touching upon different realms of life, no one ever expected it to touch the political realm. Vice president and current Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris used the popularity of the album for promotion of her campaign. Charli XCX has also endorsed Kamala in a tweet saying “Kamala is BRAT,” bringing more attention to the influence of music to politics.

The album features songs that cater a variety of tastes, spanning across genres including

club music, hyperpop, EDM, and Swedish pop that brings multiple personalities into one blend. Some will argue the pop industry has been falling and that we haven’t had an iconic album in a while until this one. There are a few pop princesses that have helped keep pop at a steady level, however, there hasn’t been an album that has created conversations quite like this one. Charli XCX has set the bar high for what music is supposed to do: create a conversation.

Everyone can live the “BRAT” life: a life where you celebrate the challenges as well as the triumphs. Living the “BRAT” life is embracing all experience. Remember, not only is everything romantic, but Brooklyn College students are forever living that “Von dutch” life.



Everyone can continue to be a “Brat” into fall./  
@noposhchoc23 on Twitter



# Sports Recap (Sept. 3 - Sept. 7)

By Manuel Polanco  
Sports Editor

School is back in session and Brooklyn College's athletics are ramping up again. A plethora of games took place this week, so let's recap them!

To kick off the week, the Men's soccer team won their first game on Friday, Aug. 30 with a score of 2-1 against St. Joseph's University. Midfielder George Koufos made both goals. Koufos only made 2 shot attempts in the

game and each were for goals. Their next game will be the season home opener on Sept. 3. The BC women's soccer team played their first game of the season on Aug. 30 against Maritime College. It was a close game that ended with BC losing via a score of 1-0. Good defense on both sides held this game scoreless until Maritime's Sara Williams broke the tie with 76 minutes into the quarter. Although the Bulldogs had a tough loss, they hoped to

rebound against Saint Elizabeth University on Sept. 3. Against Saint Elizabeth, the game ended in a 1-1 draw after BC tied it in the second quarter of the game. Freshman Chelsea Gonzalez shot the tying goal. In the second half of the game, BC took more shot attempts than their opponents, taking 10 more shots to Elizabeth's two. Their next game is on Friday, Sept. 6, against Purchase College. The women's volleyball team won their first game of

the season via a score of 3-0 against Maritime College on Sept. 3. During their first game, BC was aggressive right out of the gate. Senior Aleah Rafat had 10 kills, 10 blocks, and three aces. BC won each set by being the first to 25 points in each round. Senior Sydney Gdanski had seven kills, one ace, and one block during the game. Junior Ayatallah Elkotby made a solid contribution with six kills, and six blocks. Sophomore Kela Duncan ended the game with four

kills and two blocks. The Brooklyn College Women's Tennis held their home opener on Sept. 5. They faced off against Purchase College and lost via a score of 1-6. Their next game will be on Tuesday, Sept. 10 against Fairleigh Dickinson University.



Graphic by Paulina Gajewski