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# THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD

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# NYU Langone Ceases Gender-Affirming Care for Minors For A Second Time

By Emily Nixon  
News Editor

On Feb. 17, New York University Langone Health (NYU Langone) closed its Transgender Youth Health Program and will stop providing gender-affirming care to current and new pediatric patients.

“One question I have, one anxiety, is ‘well, minors now, adults soon?’” said Finn Oliensis, a Brooklyn College (BC) senior majoring in music composition and a NYU Langone patient. “Having transitioned as a minor, it makes a huge difference, especially when you’re going through puberty.”

This time last year, NYU Langone refused to take on new patients under 19 for gender-affirming care in response to an Executive Order by US President Donald Trump, according to The Gothamist.

“For me, it’s been eye-opening how [...] there is no real separation between federal and state and city, and I think it really shows,” said Daniel-Jose Cyan, a social work intern at the BC LGBTQ+ Resource Center and a NYU Langone patient.

“Considering [NYU Langone] is one of the biggest hospitals in New York City, it’s just upsetting.”

The decision to cut this program has been met with swift and sharp criticism from the LGBTQ+ community and politicians alike.

“Discontinuing this service for transgender and gender expansive youth is dangerous and cruel,” said New York Senator Kristen Gonzales in a statement.

“NYU Langone’s decision to capitulate to the Trump Administration puts young people in need of life-saving care at risk. It’s not only irresponsible, it helps the Trump Administration’s anti-trans agenda at the expense of NYU Langone’s own patients.”

Contrary to anti-trans rhetoric, obtaining a gender-affirming surgery entails years of waiting and “hours on hold on the phone,” among other obstacles, according to Oliensis.

“In general, gender affirming surgeries are really, really hard to get. People are acting like they’re giving surgeries out



An NYU Langone Health Ambulance parked on a street./Courtesy of D. Benjamin Miller via Wikimedia Commons

left and right,” said Oliensis.

“The wait lists are at least a year long for almost every surgeon, unless it’s someone who doesn’t take any insurance, and even then, when they do take insurance, there’s always a huge out-of-pocket cost.”

The pressure from “the current regulatory environment” was among the reasons for the program’s closure, a NYU Langone spokesman told The New York Times.

“I think my fear is not only protecting trans youth, but also, how are we, me specifically as a trans adult, being offered protection in the longer future?” said Cyan.

“Because regardless of who we elect, we are still in a country that works in different levels of government, and so this is only a symptom of a larger illness.”

The program provided a way for transgender youth to receive healthcare for their physical and mental well-being.

“With NYU [Langone], I decided to go with them because they had a special wait list for minors that was shorter than the adult waitlist,” said Oliensis.

“Just in general, having access to that shorter waitlist meant that I could start enjoying my body a little earlier than I would have, and by enjoy, I specifically mean not hate.”

The timing can mean everything for transgender youth, according to Oliensis.

“There’s a level of dysphoria – discomfort with your body

or social perception based on your gender or other things, but in this case, gender. Specifically transitioning during puberty [...] makes a huge difference, like every year. [...] If I had transitioned a year earlier, [there’s] one thing I am dysphoric about that I wouldn’t have been,” said Oliensis.

When gender-affirming care is withheld, it can lead to tragic results, according to Cyan.

“I had started hormones because I was suicidal because I kept getting misgendered all the time,” said Cyan, “I wouldn’t be here if I didn’t have gender-affirming care. I really wouldn’t, and I know that for a fact.”

NYU Langone’s program closure, while distressing, has empowered Cyan in his role as a social worker.

“[I feel] some fear and also just a lot of frustration and sadness, especially as somebody who transitioned as a youth, so that’s what’s coming up for me,” said Cyan. “A lot of needing – of wanting to do more, and I can only do so much as a social worker, but that’s where my heart has always been with trans folks, and it will continue to be. I think this just enlightens me even more – lights my fire a little more, I should say.”

Gender-Affirming care leaves much to be desired and puts a lot of pressure on transgender people of all ages to be masters of their own care.

“My partner recently started on hormone replacement

therapy [HRT], and his general PCP [Primary Care Provider] had one training on trans healthcare, and that’s it. So, she was so lost, and I did a lot of having to explain while I went to his appointment,” said Cyan. “Trans folks are forced to be experts on our own bodies and our own lives, and that goes by any age.”

Some, like Oliensis, feel this is the latest move in a manipulation scheme the Trump administration has been enacting.

“If you currently have fears, entirely valid, understand where they come from, [and] who is benefiting from you having these fears,” said Oliensis. “In my opinion, at least, the main purpose of [the Trump Administration’s Anti-Trans Agenda] is to get everyone hating a specific group because then they can expand that circle of people who are hated until it encompasses everyone.”

Oliensis believes the way the community responds to this provocation is what matters.

“This is more importantly about how are we going to respond to hatred as a whole, and how are we going to respond to people using people as a means to an end,” said Oliensis. “The answer is not going to be given to us. The solutions to whatever our problems are not going to be given to us. We have to get them. We have to make them. We have to find a way to achieve them.”

# Remembering the Legacy of Civil Rights Activist Reverend Jesse Jackson



Jesse Jackson head shot./*Courtesy of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition*

By **Serena Edwards**  
*Opinions Editor*

Rev. Jesse Jackson, civil rights activist, has passed away at the age of 84 after a long fight with Parkinson's disease. He worked heavily with civil rights leaders, such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rev. Al Sharpton.

Jackson was born in Greenville, South Carolina, on Oct. 8, 1941. Helen Burns, his mother, was a singer and high school majorette dancer. His father, Noah Luis Robinson, was not an active participant in Jackson's life.

Despite having a tumultuous childhood, he was extremely active in school and excelled academically.

"Jackson was both an honor student and class president in high school, and he received an athletic scholarship to the University of Illinois in 1959," according to the King Institute.

Jackson was an alumnus of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCAT), a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), having graduated in 1964.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in sociology, Jackson was a part of the Selma to Montgomery March alongside King,

Jackson and King had a strained relationship, having different approaches to activism. According to the King Institute, Jackson sent King a letter before working together stating, "Dear Sir, I don't think you'll ever bring God to Albany, Georgia. For He's wise enough to wait till  $E=MC^2$  brings change there. Best of luck, though". Despite their conflicts, their friendship expanded with Jackson becoming a "right-hand man" to King.

Jackson was a part of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) program in Chicago, where he met Dr. King. Multiple leaders within the program disliked Jackson's approach and found him to be overly independent.

Jackson notably wrote the "I am

Somebody" speech, which preached across multiple platforms, from the Democratic National Convention (DNC) to the long-running children's television show Sesame Street, and many more.

The speech's overall message said that you are somebody, no matter the circumstances that you are going through.

"I may be poor, but I am somebody. I may be young, but I am somebody. I may be on welfare, but I am somebody," said Jackson.

Jackson formed a program called Operation People United to Save Humanity (PUSH), which advocated for Black self-care. Jackson also helped found the National Rainbow Coalition, a group formed by multiple civil rights leaders from diverse backgrounds, and pushed for unity. Jackson used this coalition to bring all communities together and support his political campaign.

Jackson's advocacy and political reign did not stop there; in 1984, Jackson ran for president.

"In 1984, Jackson became the second African American, after Shirley

Chisholm, to make a national run for the U.S. presidency," according to Biography.

During his first run, he hit record numbers, placing third as a democratic nominee; however, his campaign was cut short after using a derogatory term in an interview with the Washington Post. He eventually ran again in 1988, placing second in the democratic presidential run.

In the 1990s, Jackson's work expanded into weekly commentary on the Chicago Sun-Times, as well as writing a book called *Keeping Hope Alive*.

In 2000, former President Bill Clinton presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for all of his work in activism.

Jackson received a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, a brain disorder that impacts body movement, in 2017, but that did not stop his work in activism.

He was active within the 2021 Black Lives Matter protests and made an appearance at the 2024 DNC, according to CNN.

He was later diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), which affected his mobility, according to The New York Times.

Many activists and political figures released statements after his passing.

"We will always be grateful for Jesse's lifetime of service, and the friendship our families share," former President Barack Obama posted on X. "We send our deepest condolences to the Jackson family."

Mentee to Jackson, Sharpton, reflected on his time with Jackson in multiple social media posts.

"Today, I lost the man who first called me on purpose when I was just twelve years old," stated Sharpton on X.

"And our nation lost one of its greatest moral voices."



Jesse Jackson in a rally for the Hawkins Humphrey Act for Full Employment./  
*Courtesy of The Library of Congress*

# The U.S's Polarizing Pursuit of Greenland

By Gabrielle Oudkerk  
Staff Writer

There has been a recent interest in the sovereign country of Greenland, specifically by current U.S. President Donald J. Trump, that has sparked controversy pertaining to the Trump administration's ideals and motives with the rest of the world.

"The U.S. will go as far as we have to go to get control of Greenland," said Trump as reported by ABC News in earlier comments on March 27, 2025.

In a Truth Social post made by President Trump on Jan. 14, he goes into more detail.

"The United States needs Greenland for the purpose of national security. If we don't, Russia or China will, and that's not going to happen!"

Press Secretary Karoline Levit made comments with reporters on Jan. 12, saying, "Let's not forget it would not just be in the best interest of the United States, but perhaps it would be in the best interest of Greenland as well."

Trump also mentioned that not only is Greenland needed for national security reasons, but also for its "strategic location in mineral deposits," reported by Reuters.

It has been an ongoing threat, creating a diplomatic crisis with the NATO allies.

The Danish government has since denied Trump's pursuits and threats with the potential purchase of Greenland, including members making comments of their own, strongly expressing how they feel about the matter.

In January, Danish politician Anders Visitsen, a sitting member of the European parliament, told Trump to "F\*\*\* off" in response at a meeting with the parliament in Strasbourg, France, on Jan. 22.

Many Americans believe that the Trump administration's pursuits in foreign policy, especially regarding Greenland, have not been in the interest of the American people.

According to a poll statistic done by CNN, 75% of Americans oppose the U.S. attempting to take control of Greenland.

According to a study by the Pew Research Center between Jan. 20 and Jan. 26 this year, 82% of Democrats and democratic leaning independents oppose the U.S. taking over Greenland.

On the other hand, 41% of Republicans and Republican-led independents favor the takeover, their side being significantly more divided, 33% opposing, with the rest unbiased.

But it's not only the Americans who oppose the taking of Greenland.

The citizens of Greenland have shown their own disapproval of the Trump administration in various ways.

Greenland's Prime Minister, Múte Egede, said in an interview with Fox News that Greenland will maintain a "strong alliance" and partnership with Western countries, including the U.S. With that being said, he emphasizes the fact that Greenland still has the right to be a sovereign nation.

"We want to be Greenlanders. We don't want to be Americans. We don't want to be Danish." We only want to be Greenlandic people," said business owner Lila Sangreen in an interview with NPR co-host Juana Summers, who traveled to Greenland earlier this month to interview citizens.

"That notion was repeated over and over again in our conversations with local residents. A recent poll from Danish and Greenland news outlets found that 85% of Greenlanders don't want to be part of the United States," said Summers.

"We wanna be independent, so we're not for sale," said Karen Cortsen, a nail salon business owner in Greenland. "Something like European or American—we're not used to it because we are very calm, so we are not interested."

Summers also speaks with Jorgensen Boassan, a Greenlandic fan of President Trump, in which he says, "I think the U.S. is more than welcome to have more bases and have a military to protect the U.S. and Greenland from Russia and China, so I have no trouble with that."

However, that view is not completely uncommon among both American Trump supporters and the other percentage of people in Greenland, who support the taking of Greenland, since the Trump administration's claims were focused on the alleged protection of Greenland from Russia and China. But there are still people who find a common ground between both sides, making arguments for both the connection with the United States and the sovereignty of Greenland.

"We met Mala Johnson at the streetwear company he owns in Nuuk. And hear the welcoming of international influences is again clear, his company is called Bolt Lamar, named for the famous American sprinter Usain Bolt, and the American musician Kendrick Lamar. What do you hope for in the future of your country?" Summer asks.

"To meet the optimal solution would be if we become an independent country, but with partnerships. If we should do this the right way, we should always have a relationship with Denmark, as we share a history. It's like—almost like family."

And when Summers asks about a potential future

relationship with the U.S., Johnsen responds by saying, "I think the most important thing here is to respect every different culture and the people in



"Make America Go Away" Hat Graphic.  
Courtesy of VitoxxMass via Wikimedia Commons.

that culture and not to colonize the place all over again."

There have been more satirical forms of protests from the people in Greenland, showing their opposition to the Trump administration.

Popular Danish radio station "DR P3" posted a satirical advertisement of Greenland on their Instagram page targeted towards President Trump.

Throughout the video features content creator and influencer Adnan Al-Adhani and other Greenlanders. They ended the video by saying "Trump deserved the Nobel Peace Prize," sarcastically referring to the fact that Trump and his administration pushed for him to receive the award, and it was given to someone else.

"Yes, Mr. President, you are a true peace maker. Because your threats have actually brought Denmark and Greenland

closer together," Al-Adhani continues.

In the video, they point out how the Danes and Greenlanders have not had the best relationship, but because of Donald Trump's pursuit of Greenland, the two groups have been able to come together. As the video

continued, Al-Adhani and the Greenlanders continued to make sarcastic, humorous remarks, even mentioning the ICE raids. "It's like being with someone who lies—cheats—and has zero morals." They brought out a person dressed as President Trump's wife, Melania Trump, saying, "Melania knows what we're talking about."

As of Feb. 24, the video has accumulated over 28.4 million views and 2.4 million likes, with comments from people and verified creators commenting "From America we love you," "We support you," and "Divided by colonialism united by Trump."

ABC News Australia reports that tens of thousands of people rallied together in Greenland on Jan. 20, wearing red caps saying, "Make America Go Away," and "Already Great," direct parodies of the "Make America Great Again" signature caps.

Reuters spoke with a Greenland shop co-owner, Michael, who said their store is the one that sold the caps.

"We only made one hundred to begin with," said Principal Owner Jasper Rabe Tonessen. Tonessen created another slogan for the caps, "Nu det NUUK", after the first caps' growth in popularity. A combination of the Danish term "Nu det nok" meaning "Now is enough", and NUUK, the capital of Greenland. "We just had enough."



Hands off Greenland protest at Rådhuspladsen in Copenhagen./Courtesy of Christian Ursilva via Wikimedia Commons.

# Vacating Vaccines: The Latest In Anti-Vax Legislature

By Emily Nixon  
News Editor

On Feb. 19, the New Hampshire House of Representatives rejected bill HB 1811, which would have repealed all of the “immunization requirements for enrollment in schools and childcare centers in the state,” and ensured, “no person shall be compelled to receive an immunization in order to access any public benefit from the state or its political subdivisions.”

This is the latest move in an effort to “Make America Healthy Again” (MAHA), a campaign by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., aspiring to “reform America’s food, health, and scientific systems to identify the root causes of the chronic disease epidemic.”

On Jan. 5, the Centers

for Disease Control (CDC) removed six vaccines from its childhood immunization schedule after the United States (U.S.) President Donald Trump released a memorandum instructing the Department of HHS and the CDC to review other developed countries’ immunization infrastructure and update the U.S.’s infrastructure accordingly.

“The CDC will continue to recommend that all children are immunized against 10 diseases for which there is international consensus, as well as varicella (chickenpox),” stated a fact sheet released by the Department of HHS.

“The immunizations recommended for certain high-risk groups or populations are for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, dengue, meningococcal ACWY, and meningococcal B.”

The latter set of vaccines

have been removed from the CDC’s childhood immunization schedule for 2026, seen as having “too many childhood vaccines [...] among Republican parents (41%) and MAHA-supporting parents (42%), and about half of Republican MAGA-supporting parents (49%),” according to a study conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF).

Some feel the repealing of the vaccines is “performative” and based on ideology, according to an interview by Georgetown University School of Foreign Service (SFS) News with SFS Professor Emily Mendenhall, who is also the director of the Science, Technology, and International Affairs program.

“If we rooted these decisions in public health, vaccination coverage would expand, in part to protect children from having to scramble to access healthcare in a system that is, for so many, unaffordable,”



Vaccine vials sit on a shelf./Courtesy of Prefeitura de Itapevi via Wikimedia Commons.

said Mendenhall.

“The idea of individual choice for generally healthy children is antithetical to public health because the idea is that we vaccinate to protect those most vulnerable among us.”

As trust in public health institutions declines, the future of health in the U.S. seems to be in a “precarious”

position, according to Mendenhall’s interview.

“Public health is in a precarious position right now, in part because COVID-19 was so often used as a political weapon, from masking and quarantine to vaccines,” said Mendenhall. “It will take a long time to rebuild trust in public health and medicine.”

# SAVE Act Officially Passed: Is it Really Voter Fraud?

By Schon Elcock  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 11, the House of Representatives voted to pass the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, sponsored by Texas Republican Congressman Chip Roy.

On a livestream from FOX, Roy and other House Republicans discussed the bill, its importance, and the effort they put into ensuring the bill was passed. Previous efforts to enact a more narrow version of the bill into law were halted due to Senate stalls, White House opposition, and substantive objections, according to an article from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

The bill states that individuals are required to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections, along with state regulations to provide voter registration lists to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). People on both sides of the political spectrum remain



Californian Senator Alex Padilla’s remarks in opposition to the SAVE Act, given on the Senate floor./Courtesy of Forbes

hesitant on this portion of the bill, as confidence in DHS has continued to diminish.

“Some Republicans have expressed concerns about the agency’s leadership,” reported The New York Times.

In a statement to FOX, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson said, “[Democrats] feel they’ve got to allow illegals to participate in elections so they can continue to win. [...] We’ve got to stop that.”

Republicans have begun to cling to the voter fraud narrative, with the passing of the bill acting as a signal of progress for the party.

An article from The New York Times stated that Republicans believe “Democrats were

of undocumented voters to sway elections in their favor,” a narrative that has helped to disrupt voters in this upcoming midterm election in November.

“This is about sowing chaos and confusion,” House of Representatives Democrat Member Jim McGovern said on the House floor on Wednesday. Democrats have continued to push back on the bill.

In a CNN interview, Chuck Schumer, the minority leader of the United States Senate, described the bill negatively.

“[The bill is] an outrageous proposal that mainly attacks the poor and people of color, preventing them from voting under this bill.”

In a post on Instagram, California Senator Alex Padilla also pressed back on the voter fraud narrative. “Donald Trump and Republicans remain hellbent on having us believe voter fraud is rampant, but it’s simply not true.”

According to The Brennan Center for Justice, “incident rates range between 0.0003 percent and 0.0025 percent. Given this tiny incident rate for voter impersonation fraud, it is more likely, the report noted, that an American will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls.”

With the real percentages clear, Democrats find that the bill is disenfranchising voters.

The bill requires proof of citizenship besides simple identification, like a driver’s license, when registering to vote and every time a ballot can be cast, ostracizing communities of Americans that don’t have access to these required documents.

Research from The Brennan Center for Justice indicates that more than “9 percent of American citizens of voting age, or 21.3 million people,

don’t have proof of citizenship readily available, and at least 3.8 million don’t have these documents at all, often because they were lost, destroyed, or stolen.”

In addition, according to The Brennan Center for Justice, the effects of the bill may be felt by the vast community of married people “whose married names aren’t on their birth certificates or passports,” forcing them to take extra steps to ensure their voices are heard.

Amidst the 2025 midterm election, many see the implementation of the bill as a ploy to manipulate voters in accordance with President Trump’s voter fraud narrative. It is unlikely the bill will make it past Congress due to Democrats vowing to block the bill’s passage.

In an article from The New York Times, “Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York and the minority leader, is planning to hold internal discussions to ready members of his party for whatever Republicans attempt. He has pledged to block the measure, which he derided as Jim Crow 2.0.”

# “One Love!”: CSU Hosts “Multicultural Night”

By Jaida Dent  
Managing Editor

On Feb. 19, several of Brooklyn College’s (BC) cultural clubs collided in a night of performances and celebration during “Multicultural Night.” Hosted by the Caribbean Student Union (CSU), the event allowed club leaders and students to represent their cultural identities and experience the diverse communities that exist on campus.

“I was pleased with the outcome of your event! I am very grateful for each club’s dedication in making last Thursday a day to remember,” said Cherish “Cherry” Williams, vice president of CSU.

Each club provided performances that engaged audience members to interact with the cultures that exist on campus, with many providing an underlying message. BC’s Dominican Student Movement (MEDO) delivered a performance centered around the community built in many Dominican salons and highlighted the several forms of Dominican music, including bachata, típico, and dembow.

“Every single detail was thoughtfully planned—from the hair rollers on the cart to the plantains and mangos our fellow performer and friend, Elijah, was “selling” to us on stage,” said Lizmell Echavarria Rodriguez, the president of MEDO.

“All of it was part of our effort to replicate a scene from an ordinary Dominican salon, something deeply familiar in our culture. The salon is more than just a place to get your hair done; it’s where women come together to look their best, debrief about life in Spanish, laugh, and dance to our music.”

The Black Student Union (BSU) delivered a tribute performance

to the late “King of Pop,” Michael Jackson. The act was layered with different moments across Jackson’s career, ending with his song, “They Don’t Care About Us,” a protest anthem that has gained deeper meaning since its 1995 release.

“We chose a tribute to Michael Jackson because of his global cultural impact, strong stage presence, and the messages in his music about unity and change,” said BSU President Kelsey Ganthier.

“It meant a lot to represent our organization and culture on stage. It showed our teamwork, creativity, and appreciation for Black music history and influence across cultures.”

The recently refounded club, Supreme Steppers, delivered a ground-shaking step performance that exuded Black excellence. Step was born as an African dance style and transformed into a form of community building by Black Greek Letter Organizations, also known as the Divine Nine.

“We worked super hard 2-3 days out of the week on our routine. We drilled every step one by one. We all

pitched ideas and narrowed down on the ones we wanted to keep. But we all wanted to show how important step is to Black culture,” said Allieana Brown, president of Supreme Steppers.

Beyond performing, preparing for the event over the last few months created a deeper bond between the clubs. The Blaze Dance Team delivered two star-studded performances that showcased their strength as a team and individual identities.

“Preparation brought us closer as a team. We worked hard on stamina, stage presence, and synchronization. We gave the 90s segment creative freedom so dancers could show their individuality, while the Blaze Airlines Afro-Caribbean segment focused on strong synchronization and uniformity to represent unity and cultural pride. Every choice was intentional,” said Evelyn Kedelina, president of Blaze.

Having a space to perform and celebrate their cultures was equally impactful for the performers as it was for the audience.

Rodriguez finds that while she is passionate about her Dominican roots, it can be hard to pinpoint that community on campus with a robust student body.

“Dominican culture can sometimes be hard to find on the Brooklyn College campus—it’s not something that’s just visibly present; you really have to look for it,” said Rodriguez. “Our people are here, and there are many of us, but spaces where our culture is centered don’t always exist automatically. Being able to take the stage and create that space, even if just for one night, was incredibly meaningful. It was a moment of visibility, pride, and unity for our community.”

For Williams, a first-generation American in a Trinidadian household, she feels a disconnect from her culture because of her location, but providing a stage for several Caribbean identities to shine has allowed her to tap deeper into her roots.

“There will always be a major part of me dedicated to Trinidad, but not living there definitely

impacted how I represent. Showcasing my culture on a platform like this felt like I was paying homage to my family,” said Williams.

With representation as the forefront of the night, Williams is honored to have been apart of a night filled with inclusivity.

“I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to orchestrate a taste of different cultures, from traditional Haitian folklore dance from HASA to Y2K hip-hop performance from BLAZE,” said Williams.

“All of our cultures are here, and we love to share them!”

For more information regarding CSU, BLAZE, HASA, MEDO, BSU, and Supreme Steppers, please follow their respective Instagrams: @brooklyncollege\_csu, @blaze\_bcdanceteam, @bc.hasa, @bc\_medo, @bsu\_blackstudentunion, @supreme.step.bc, @brooklyncollege\_csu, @blaze\_bcdanceteam, @bc.hasa, @bc\_medo, @bsu\_blackstudentunion, @supreme.step.bc.



Blaze Dance Team performing on Multicultural Night./Allen Espinal

# Combating Food Insecurity Through Art: PHaM Hosts Apron Painting Event

By Margot Dragos  
Arts Editor

On Feb. 19, Brooklyn College (BC) Public Health and Medicine Club (PHaM) hosted an apron-painting event in the Student Center's Glenwood Room.

The club provided attendees with fabric paint and brushes, letting attendees choose between painting an apron or a tote bag.

There was an array of colors to choose from, along with a selection of fabric, metallic, and glitter paints. Members of PHaM served pizza

and played a variety of pop music throughout the event, including songs by artists such as Sabrina Carpenter and Ariana Grande.

"We have had apron painting in mind since last semester," said Natalie Wu, president of PHaM. "We wanted to foster a fun environment where volunteers and other club members can come, connect together, and paint."

Students sat at round tables, chatting as they painted. Despite PHaM being a public health club, the event allowed students to connect through art.

"Meeting new people, hanging out with the people I already know," said Chandly Jean-Baptiste, a psychology major, when asked what her favorite part of the event was.

"I struggle with talking to people and socializing if I don't already know someone, so this is a good

way to open up [and] meet some people."

"I really wanna meet more artist friends, and there's a lot of artists here," said Onyekachi Duru, an early childhood education major. "So that's a cute thing."

PHaM is also known for its NourishBC Community Fridge, located outside the Health and Nutrition Science Food Lab in 5129 Ingersoll Hall. The fridge provides BC students with free,

students and campus community members to have resources within reach."

"I'm really passionate about the issue of food insecurity and feeding the students," said Grace Zhao, a psychology major and member of PHaM. "Because I actually use the Brooklyn College food vouchers [...] and was using the

pantry pretty frequently too. And when I was younger, I was on SNAP, so I guess food insecurity really mattered a lot more for me."

Food for the fridge is donated by organizations around campus, such as BC's food pantry and BC Eats Garden. Meals for the fridge are then made during the club's meal prep events, which allow students to bond through cooking cultural foods.

"Not only do we tackle food

nutritious meals to combat food insecurity on campus.

As stated on their website, PHaM aims to "foster a supportive environment where no student has to choose between their education and their next meal."

"Initially, the opening of our community fridge was a response to the closure of the Boylan cafeteria a couple years ago," Wu told The Vanguard. "Despite its reopening, food insecurity and food access is an important ongoing issue. It's important for



L to R: Onyekachi Duru and Chandly Jean-Baptiste paint flowers and vines on a tote bag./Margot Dragos

insecurity, but we foster community through it," said Wu. "Throughout our meal preps, we have cooked foods from different cultures, including our upcoming one for Lunar New Year. PHaM values cultivating cultural celebration, ultimately bringing people together." "We communicate love, culture, curiosity, and even identity through the food we make," said Matute. "Having a community fridge allows students who wouldn't normally meet to cross paths and provides a holistic approach to learning more about Public Health."

PHaM's events are

open to all BC students, regardless of their interest in public health and medicine.

"Public health and medicine' can sound intimidating to many, but our events and space are welcome to everyone," said Wu. "PHaM's speciality is gathering our BC community together—whether you're a public health or psychology major, everyone is welcome."

Students interested in learning more about PHaM can follow their Instagram @bc.phamclub.



Graphic by Jocelyn Rios



L to R: Vice President Massial Matute, President Natalie Wu, and Secretary Tammy Duong of PHaM at the event./

Courtesy of Natalie Wu

# Resistance and Resilience: The Politicization of African American Fashion



Angela Davis in the 1970's./Courtesy of Unseen History

By **Serena Edwards**  
Opinions Editor

For centuries, African American (AA) culture has been policed and criticized. Even in present circumstances, Black fashion is often policed and diminished. Though there is criticism, the AA community converts society's external hatred into internal power.

Black hair has been classified as untamed and difficult, with a push for European hair types; AA hairstyles were silenced. Even down to which hair types are more accepted in society to wear in an afro than others. During slavery, enslaved people used cornrows, not only as a fashion statement but also as a way to communicate with one another. The afro has been used as a political statement, specifically during the Civil Rights Movement.

Activist Angela Davis famously wore an afro as a statement against societal norms. The afro empowered a natural hair movement for AA people and emphasized the beauty that is held within our crown.

Locs have recently made

a comeback within society and have become more accepted and romanticized; however, that has not always been the case. During the Rastafari movement in Jamaica, locs that were formally called dreadlocks, and were seen as "dreadful" to the white/European community, since the style challenged Eurocentric ideals. Locs hold meaning that is woven into African history and slavery.

In Africa, locs were worn by a plethora of groups, such as the Yoruba and Maasai tribes. Locs also affirm the AA community with a sense of resilience and resistance against European beauty standards.

When people wear locs, they use them not only for aesthetic reasons but also as a testament and a sign of resistance.

The Crown Act, which stands for "Creating Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair", protects marginalized communities, specifically the AA community, against discrimination for their hair. Though the act passed in 30 states, there are still 20 states that have yet to follow in their steps.

The AA community

didn't only use hair as a political statement, but clothing and accessories as well. Notable fashion companies such as Denim Tears, founded by Tremaine Emory, have used symbolism in their clothing to assert a new narrative on what African American history can be.

Another sense of fashion that has now become a statement piece is the Kente Cloth and the Dashiki. The Kente Cloth descends from African culture, specifically in Ghana, from the Ashanti tribe. Many African American graduates integrate kente cloth within their stoles during graduation. The Kente cloth represents royalty, stature, and cultural pride.

The simplicity in AA fashion was a clear statement in itself. During the Civil Rights Movement, there was a theme of wearing their "Sunday's Best". During the Selma to Montgomery march, men and women wore the outfits that are primarily worn at church and formal events. This was to signify the dignity and the seriousness of their rights. There was a bias already created about Black people, and they didn't want what they were wearing to play a negative role in the message they were sending.

"That sense of dressing for dignity was part of the Black experience, both inside and outside of a protest or movement,"

according to Women's Wear Daily.

Leather, though simple, was utilized by many civil rights groups, including the Black Panther Party (BPP). This provided a different message from other civil rights movements. While other movements wore more socially accepted outfits, leather provided an edgy perspective.

The BPP used leather and afros to say, "I have rights, so I'm not going to ask for them."

But political fashion statements within the AA community were not limited only to civil rights movements. During the 90s, rap and hip-hop artists used fashion in their music videos to help bring awareness through not only their lyrics but the outfits worn throughout the videos. A perfect

example of this is through their use of Bamboo earrings. Bamboo earrings were used as a form of self-expression within the music industry, with custom designs and engravings in the earrings that brought creativity to the accessories worn. It allowed artists to be unapologetically themselves without caring about what the media portrayed about them.

In present times, statement t-shirts have made an impact. A monotone shirt with a one-liner that packed a punch. During the wave of Black Lives Matter protests that started in 2016, these shirts sent a message without having to overexplain their meaning. When the world stood silent, these shirts did the talking. It sent a message that, though they try to politicize the narrative, we can use a

Graphic by Serena Edwards



different way to get our

message across.

There was intentions behind all the political fashion statements.

# Cuteness With a Cost: The Consumer Trap Behind Blind Boxes

By Elianna Tsigler  
Staff Writer

What began as a simple trend quickly transformed into a global sensation, pulling consumers into its addictive thrill of chance and mystery.

In recent years, a phenomenon known as “blind boxes” has surged in popularity, captivating consumers worldwide and driving mass purchases while normalizing the gambling-like thrill of chasing rare items and further fueling already existing addictions. Popular examples include Sonny Angels, Skullpandas, Hirono, Chiikawa, Labubus, and many others that have all emerged out of this new trend.

Many brands that produce blind boxes, sealed decorative packages containing a mystery figurine, such as Pop Mart and Miniso, offer the chance to obtain an exclusive “hidden” or “secret” edition, often with extremely low odds, like 1 in 72 boxes. To obtain one of these secrets, you either have to be incredibly lucky or buy an absurd number of boxes.

These rare figures often skyrocket in

market value, driven by the appeal of owning a limited item that everyone else is chasing. Yet in many cases, the “secret” editions differ slightly from the regular figures. For example, in Pop Mart’s The Monsters (Labubu) Big Into Energy Vinyl Plush Blind Box V3 set, the only real distinctions are that the secret version is gray rather than brightly colored and has rainbow facial features. Despite these minimal discrepancies, this specific Labubu resells for a market value of \$100 to \$200, with some sellers listing it for well over \$400.

Labubus have been around for over a decade, created by Hong Kong-born artist Kasing Lung, who was inspired by Nordic folklore.

His series “The Monsters” introduced the Labubu creatures, and in 2015, he partnered with the company How2Work to produce dolls based on his designs. In 2019, Pop Mart collaborated with Lung, and Labubus began picking up in popularity, however, not to the extent they have now, as stated in an AzCentral article.

The question behind this

inflated market value and sudden popularity is simple: why? Why do these items sell for so much when, at the end of the day, they’re just

collectible toys?

One major reason for the rise of blind boxes is the influence of popular creators, such as Twitch streamer VanillaMace and other TikTok and/or YouTube content creators, whose whole platforms started with unboxing videos, leading fans to feel compelled to own the same items as their favorite influencers. Studies, including one by Sepideh Samadi and Imran Akhtar, have shown that the widespread use of social media and the resulting parasocial connections can influence how customers’ interactions with influencers impact their buying intentions.

However, the craze for blind boxes began long before VanillaMace rose to popularity.

While Labubu figures already had a strong following among young collectors in China, their global visibility surged after BLACKPINK’s Lisa publicly shared her love for Pop Mart, especially in her 2024 Vanity Fair appearance, where she was recorded praising them, as well as in her own personal posts featuring Labubus. This helped introduce blind boxes to a much wider international audience and contributed to the wave of interest that later took off in the United States.

Another reason is the fear of missing out (FOMO). After the

popularity of blind boxes exploded, influencers across platforms began creating their own unboxing and purchasing videos, only amplifying the trend and intensifying the desire for viewers to buy their own. It’s similar

competitive rush to buy. This is considered demand scarcity. The shortage isn’t caused by a lack of products, but by the overwhelming number of people who want them. In other words, the scarcity comes from the consumer side, not the supply side.

Graphic by Jocelyn Rios

With this idea in mind, it’s

important to note that a single blind box, mainly from the Labubu and Skullpanda series, typically costs between \$30 and \$50.

to the hype around new Nike releases, where owning the latest drop becomes a social marker and not having it can feel alienating, much like the frenzy that surrounded the release of Air Force 1s, or any new shoes.

As the blind boxes offer rare prizes, the scarcity principle comes into play here. Since there is high demand and low supply, prices need to increase to compensate, resulting in a lower demand with the goal of reaching equilibrium. However, this has not been proven effective with the blind box craze and merely leads to outrageous prices and market inflation.

The scarcity and urgency built up around blind boxes is another factor driving their surge in price. Scarcity increases impulsive purchasing by triggering feelings of urgency and uncertainty, especially when products are limited in quantity or available only for a short time. For example, blind boxes often sell out quickly, not just because of their popularity, but because consumers feel pressured to secure one before they disappear, creating a

For many people, that’s a significant amount of money for a small collectible. Yet the pressure created by hype culture, influencers, and FOMO often pushes consumers to buy them anyway, especially the younger audiences.

Mystery has always been a large part of consumer culture, whether it’s Pokémon cards, where you buy packs unbeknownst to what might be inside, loot boxes in video games, or blind boxes that rely on the same thrill of the unknown; it’s all predatory and strategically designed to exploit customers.

While the Labubu craze has quieted down, there are still concerns that have been raised about the psychological and financial consequences of blind-box purchasing. Given its structural similarities to gambling, scholars have described the blind box economy as potentially addictive, noting that it can lead to financial strain, emotional distress, and other serious negative impacts on well-being.



Big Into Energy Labubu Blind Box./Courtesy of PopMart and Kasing Lung

# Love At First Interaction in “56 Days”

By Reagan McLean  
Staff Writer

Is love at first interaction misleading? Does the person who believes that they are driving the relationship dynamics always feel in control?

Watching the Amazon Prime Video Original series “56 Days” starring Disney darling and recording artist Dove Cameron and teen heartthrob and Nickelodeon actor Avan Jogia, these questions evolve to much darker thoughts. The show intends to show the double facade in the lead characters, Ciara Wyse and Oliver Kennedy. Oliver Kennedy’s real identity is Oliver St. Ledger, who is hiding the murder of his high-school classmate Paul Sparling.

His girlfriend, Ciara, is Megan Martin, the younger sister of Shane Martin, who was framed wrongly by Oliver and driven to commit suicide in jail. Overall, the show is very good. I loved the way that it made you think more about the irony and foreshadowing used. The script was mature enough to show that the actors have moved beyond the roles they once played in their childhood; however, the pacing made the show feel rushed and undermined the suspense built.

This show follows the characters Ciara Wyse (Cameron) and Oliver Kennedy (Jogia) as they navigate their fast-paced relationship. They met in a supermarket, went out for coffee, and Ciara moved in with Oliver; however, throughout the series, we see Ciara’s true intentions with Oliver. When the two characters meet for the first time, they are both living in a facade. They are hiding their true identities from each other. In Chapter 4, we learn that Ciara knows Oliver’s real identity. His real name is Oliver St.Ledger. His family is super wealthy, and Oliver is a murderer. In Chapter 6, we learn that Ciara’s real identity is Megan Martin, the younger sister of Shane Martin. Shane, Oliver, and Paul were classmates in high school. Oliver murdered Paul, but Shane was framed for the murder. Therefore, Megan is with Oliver to seek justice for her brother. Although Ciara does fall in love with Oliver, there is an internal conflict Megan battles; she knows that she is seeking revenge for her brother, who was wrongly framed and committed suicide while in jail, but she’s in love with the man who is responsible. So, can you fall in love with someone who you think is a monster and still seek revenge? Megan and Oliver look like a happy couple; however, there is a dead body in the bathtub of Oliver’s apartment. This serves as a reminder that they are in a trauma bond, and violence is the reason that both characters are together.



Dove Cameron and Avan Jogia in 56 Days season 1 episode 1./Courtesy of: Philippe Bossé/Prime

An engaging thriller series that highlights the growth of its lead actors, yet the show falls flat on what could be an impactful statement on relationships. The show’s core strength is its writing. As mentioned previously, the script demonstrated the actors’ maturity. During Season 1, Episode 4: Chapter 4, we see Oliver talking with his therapist via video call, and Wyse overhears the therapist telling him to break up with Wyse, since Oliver isn’t mentally ready for a relationship. She walks into the room, shuts the laptop, and tells him that you’re paying for someone to talk to about your problems, but I am right here, so why don’t you just talk to me? Kennedy defends himself by stating that they only met last month, which snowballs into an argument in which he brings up Wyse messing with the safe in his closet.

This scene illustrates the problems that arise when two young people fall in love and move in quickly without setting proper boundaries and not fully trusting each other.

Another strong point of this series is the use of irony. In the first episode, Chapter 1, we learn that Ciara works in Information Technology (IT) and is looking for a new job in a “boring industry” in Boston, Mass. However, in Chapter 4, we see that Ciara knows Oliver’s real identity. Irony is seen during Chapter 4 when Megan goes on Ledger’s laptop and transfers funds from his account to her mom’s account; however, being presented as a young woman in STEM with technical skills in IT, Megan temporarily deletes the emails tied to the bank on his laptop instead of permanently erasing emails in Oliver’s account when it comes to the money. This shows her carelessness in looking over a simple digital trace, while reinforcing the theme of illusion vs. reality. We see Megan and Oliver’s erotic relationship blossom, and see Megan lie about her identity, but the audience knows her true intentions are rooted in wanting justice for her

brother.

Megan isn’t the only character who struggles with a double identity. Oliver lives his life in a facade. Due to him killing his high school friend, guilt has been eating him alive for sixteen years, and although his family is super wealthy, his therapist has been causing more harm to him. Oliver wanted to say the truth about what actually happened, but his therapist, Dan Troxler, told him not to. Although Troxler isn’t a licensed therapist, and Oliver’s father was paying him by force to keep the truth a secret, while watching, I noticed signs of Oliver being emotionally abused. You can see in the flashback of Chapter 7 that he is traumatized by water when he steps into the pool of his house, and he also self-harms. Troxler sees that

Megan is interested in learning more about Oliver and wants to accept him for who he is. Troxler advises the relationship because he thinks she isn’t a good match for him, and Oliver isn’t in the right frame of mind mentally to be dating.

Oliver’s characterization uses dramatic irony. While watching, I thought he was suspicious of the murder because the audience sees him in a very vulnerable state. The audience learns that he lost his dad and deals with anxiety, along with anger issues.

While watching, the audience learns of the threat he poses. Later on, it is revealed that Ledger is a murderer, and this shifts how viewers interpret his behavior.

In Chapter 3, Oliver sees Jane following him, and he tries to catch up with her. Out of anger, he smashes her

windshield. This shows the dual irony, since although he seems suspicious while watching the series, we see his softness and vulnerability.

Although the acting of the lead stars is phenomenal, and the script is mature enough to prove that Cameron and Jogia have matured beyond the roles they once played on Disney and Nickelodeon, to me, the pacing was too fast.

While the show progresses, we see the events that happen on day 1, but then, after those events, we see the police investigating the murder in the bathtub. To me, when a show reveals small details quickly, the suspense dwindles over time. We can see the loss of tension. In Chapter 3, we see an earring in the bathtub, and the scene cuts to Ciara taking off the

same earring in the bathroom. With the earring connection, it is heavily implied that Ciara’s body could be the dead body in the bathtub.

The suspense is there, and the audience starts to think who the victim can be; the mystery starts to dwindle.

Overall, I’d recommend “56 Days” to anyone who likes watching romance, thrillers, and murder mysteries. Cameron and Jogia’s performance showed that they have outgrown their origins on Disney Channel/ Nickelodeon.

Their performances made certain aspects of the show relatable for young adults and elevated the show. I liked how the emotions used throughout the series showed the seriousness of the situation at hand and the dynamic of predator vs. predator between Megan and Oliver, to show us that both of these characters are smart, its a matter of which one is most likely to break first and if one of them does break, would they stay together as a trauma bond, or would the relationship end. The show’s use of irony teaches us all a lesson, not only about being careful with what you do and the execution of the idea, but also that there’s always a person for everyone. Even the most intimate bonds can be built on a shared foundation of trauma. Despite the pacing feeling rushed, manipulation, love, and perception ultimately reveal depth and versatility.



Dove Cameron and Avan Jogia on 56 Days promotion poster./Courtesy of @amazonmgmstudios on Instagram

# The Death Of The Political Athlete

By Manuel Polanco  
Sports Editor

Last week, during the National Basketball Association (NBA) all-star weekend, an Israeli reporter asked LeBron James what message he would send to Israel and what he thought about the Portland Trail Blazers and Israeli athlete Deni Avdija.

“(Avdija’s) playing exceptional basketball, so that’s that. And then, if I had fans over there, I’ve never been there,” James said. “If I have fans over there, then I hope you’ve been following my career. I hope I inspire people over there to not only want to be great at sports but to be better in general in life. So, hopefully, someday I could make it over there. Like I said, I’ve never been over there, but I heard great things. I appreciate the question.”

This response came off as tone deaf and irresponsible to many, like political commentator Medhi Hassan, who wrote an open letter to James, saying, “In fact, ‘worse’ than nothing. This past weekend, we heard praise from you for the very same country that has been doing the mass killing and starving in Gaza.”

Lebron’s comment comes off as highly tone deaf since the Israeli government has been under constant criticism by the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for their unruly treatment of the Palestinian people during their military occupation of Gaza.

Back in January, it was revealed that the Golden State Warriors point guard and future Hall of Famer, Steph Curry, was investing in Israeli tech companies through his venture capital firm, “Penny Jar Capital.”

One of these companies is called “Zafran Security,” which is run by ex-Israeli intelligence operatives, and many of the other companies Curry invested in have deep ties to the IDF, and some even played a role

in the Gaza War.

Curry is hypocritical in his social justice as he is financially war-profiting off the suffering of others, yet calls out racism in America in the same breath (don’t forget how opposed he was to affordable housing). I can’t forget Kevin Durant’s investments in Skydio, an American drone company that made drones for the Israeli Govt, some of which were used during their military occupation of Gaza.

Three major athletes, two war profiteers, and Lebron, who has become a brand so big he dishes out PR responses for everything. What happened to the Political Athlete?

Short answer long, they died. Just 10 years ago, we were exposed to Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the national anthem in protest of racial injustice and police brutality in America. Now fast forward to 2026, and Anthony Edwards can’t be brought to condemn the brutality of Immigration Customs

Enforcement (ICE) agents in his team’s state of Minnesota.

60-70 years ago, political activism in sports was

plenty. Athletes understood the power they had to speak out on social issues. Muhammad Ali famously protested the Vietnam War and was arrested for it.

Ali famously said, “If I thought the war was going to bring freedom and equality to 22 million of my people, they wouldn’t

have to draft me, I’d join tomorrow. But I either have to obey the laws of the land or the laws of Allah. I have nothing to lose by standing up for my beliefs. So I’ll go to jail. We’ve been in jail for four hundred years.”

Roberto Clemente, Hank Aaron, Jackie Robinson, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Tommie Smith, John Carlos, and the list goes on and on were some of the most famous political athletes who used their platforms and positions to take a stand and have their voices heard.

But as more athletes enter the league already wealthy, the class divide and consciousness grow wider, with many becoming disillusioned with what’s right and wrong.

Many use the same copy and paste response of “Hopes and

Prayers” and “I’m not

educated enough on the issue,” rather than give a staunch response and take on a key issue, like Oklahoma City Thunder forward Chet Holmgren.

Not all hope is lost,

however, as many athletes in the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) have taken a stand and created a movement demanding that the league begin paying them fairly. Many WNBA players would hold up signs reading, “Pay Us What You Owe Us,” in protest. Indiana Pacers player Tyrese Haliburton rightfully called out the murder of Alex Pretti at the hands of I.C.E agents, and Milwaukee Bucks coach is critical of ICE as well.

“I look at our league. I

We’re celebrating Pioneer’s Day today, right? And I look at our league and think (Hakeem) Olajuwon could have been taken off the streets. But we would, right now, the way Brown people feel, only the Brown people would be taken off the streets, and it’s just not right. And it’s not morally right, so I stand by my words 100 percent.”

The three most important figures that aren’t politicians are artists, actors, and athletes. They have the power to reach those that regular people cannot, and we, as fans, must implore them to use their influence and status for good.



F to B: Muhammad Ali, Roberto Clemente, Tommie Smith, and John Carlos./ Graphic by Jocelyn Rios

look at the NBA.

# Sports Recaps (02/13 - 02/20)

By Manuel Polanco  
Sports Editor

Both men's and women's Brooklyn College (BC) basketball celebrated their seniors on senior night, and the women's basketball team celebrated its fifth CUNYAC championship in the last six years. On top of that, they blew out their opponent by triple digits!



BC Women's Basketball celebrate their seniors pre game./Courtesy of BC Athletics

## Women's Basketball

In a close game against another CUNY powerhouse, Hunter College, BC took home a hard-fought win, beating Hunter 68-54 on Feb. 17. After honoring the accomplishments of their senior players during the pregame, BC showed again why they're the best of the best.

One highlight of this game is the bench outscoring the Hawks' bench, 51-2, and the biggest product was Jackson, who ended her night with a double-double. She had 18 points and 11 assists. Kitch ended her day with 14 points.

Senior Dior Dorsey, one of the seniors honored, had a great game with 12 points, six rebounds,

and three blocks. Sophomore forward Danae McMullen had seven points and eight rebounds off the bench in 16 minutes of play.

With this win, BC ended their season with a regular season record of 22-3 and a crisp 14-0 in CUNYAC play. BC will begin play in their semifinal matchup against the No. 4 seed, John Jay College, on Feb. 25.

## Men's Basketball

With their win against the Hunter College Hawks on Feb. 17, BC clinched the No.2 seed in the CUNYAC championship, and they also honored senior Thomas Hall before the game. BC beat Hunter 64-60 in a close game that saw them be on the defensive in the

second half.

After the end of the first quarter, BC was up 33-25, but in the second half, they were outscored 35-31. BC utilized key turnovers to score 26 points. Hunter had a great game, scoring a career high 23 points, with three rebounds and three steals.

Charles had 16 points, four rebounds, and three assists. Hall ended his day with 10 points and three rebounds, with three assists as well. The men end their regular season with a record of 11-14 and a CUNYAC best 9-5, their best record since the 2015-2016 season.

BC will host the CUNYAC semi-finals on Wednesday, Feb. 25, against the

No. 6 seed, City College (CCNY).

## Men's Volleyball

On Feb. 19, the BC men's volleyball team faced CCNY in a CUNYAC matchup and took home the win. BC swept CCNY 3-0 and won each quarter via scores of 25-18, 25-14, and 25-20.

They improved their record to 4-3, and their CUNYAC record improved to 1-1. Key contributors were senior Joaquin Calderon, who ended his day with 11 kills, 10 blocks, and three aces, and junior Aaron Siu, who had eight kills and two aces. Their teammate, junior Miguel Trejjo, had 33 assists with six digs.

In a disappointing 3-0 loss to New Jersey

City University (NJCU) on Feb. 20, BC lost this game and each quarter. Each quarter went as follows: 25-9, 25-13, and 25-15.

Calderon had four kills and one ace; freshman Lior Amromin had three kills and one block. Senior Armand Kaloshi had two kills and two blocks, and freshman Aiden Melecio had two kills and one block.

BC will continue their fight for a win on the road against Purchase College at a date still to be determined.