

the EXCELSIOR

Feeling the Bern Out in the Cold



A crowd of over 10,000 people were in attendance to see the senator launch his presidential campaign. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont is running for president and he decided to launch his campaign right here at the Brooklyn College East Quad.

"This is not some exaggerated myth. This is the origin story of a political revolutionary," activist and journalist Shaun King said before telling the story of Sanders—a story which Sanders had always tried to steer away from, not wanting to use it for political gain.

Sanders was born in Brooklyn the same year the Holocaust began. He grew up in Flatbush, went to James Madison High School, and attended Brooklyn College for a year before moving to Chicago.

Throughout his young life, he was an activist, a protestor, and an organizer. And there are plenty of photos to prove it. In 1963, he was arrested for protesting against "Willis Wagons"—trailers that were being used to keep

black children out of schools.

"For most of us in our minds, Bernie has always been a disheveled, gray-haired respectable politician," King said. "We must reject this idea that who Bernie was in the 1960s is irrelevant. Because who you are and what you do, what you fight for, who you fight for, and who you fight against, is always relevant."

In a speech filled with passion, King spoke highly of Sanders, saying, "Long before we used the phrase 'white privilege,' Bernie had the notion that he needed to use his own white privilege to fight back against racism, and bigotry, and inequality. He's been doing it. Bernie had a desire to hold this country to a higher standard."

With that, he introduced Sanders as the next president of the United States, asking Brooklyn if they felt 'the Bern.' Sanders was welcomed with over 10,000 people cheering and holding their posters in the snow.

There were plenty of people in the crowd that traveled to see him. One lady said it took her two and a half hours to get to Brooklyn from Queens, but it was worth it.

"This is going to be a 50-state campaign," Sanders said. "We're not going to concede one state to Donald Trump."

Sanders then joked and thanked the weatherman for "giving us Vermont weather."

Sanders iterated his many popular ideas that he spoke about in his 2016 campaign—ideas that he has been working on for most of his life. He said this campaign would be a campaign that "says loudly and clearly the underlying principles of our government will not be greed, hatred, and lies. It will not be racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and religion bigotry."

Instead, "The principles of our government will be based on justice—on economic justice, on social justice, on racial justice,

on environmental justice."

That was not the only reference to Trump he made in the afternoon. He called out the 45th president on shutting down the government, saying, "Unlike Donald Trump who shut down the government and left 800,000 federal employees without income to pay their bills, I know what it's like to live in a family that lives paycheck to paycheck."

"Now it is true. I did not have a father who gave me millions of dollars to build luxury skyscrapers, casinos, and country clubs," he said. "I did not come from a family that gave me \$200,000 allowance every year beginning at the age of three. As I recall, my allowance was 25 cents a week."

He called for criminal justice reform, promising that, "We are going to end the international embarrassment of the US having more people in jail than any other country on earth."

Instead of spending

\$80 billion on jails, Sanders said the money would be spent on jobs and education—education that should be tuition-free.

"We want you to get the best education you can get regardless of your income," he said. "Good jobs require a good education. And that is why we are going to make public colleges and universities tuition-free."

He iterated that the minimum wage in the country would be raised to at least \$15 an hour, and he would make it easier for workers to join and be protected by unions. He also emphasized his big plan on guaranteeing free healthcare to everyone.

"We're standing with you, yes Bernie, because we believe in you. But Bernie, we're standing with you because you help us believe in ourselves," King said. "You help us believe in our potential to make this country and this world a better place."

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The Excelsior is funded by the Student Activity Fee and Advertising revenue and serves as a public forum for students and members of the Brooklyn College Community.

Submissions may be edited for space, clarity, and good taste. We reserve the right to reject any submission. All submissions are the opinions of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the Excelsior or its editorial board. Calendar items must be emailed to layout@bcexcelsior.com. Submissions sent by any other method are not guaranteed to be placed in the calendar.

Letter submissions must be received no later than 2:00 P.M. Friday to be printed in the following Wednesday's edition.

Stop by the Excelsior's office, 117 Roosevelt Hall, every Tuesday during club hours for meetings.

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THE EXCELSIOR

BULLSPIT!

Bullspit! is a weekly satirical column by Brooklyn College comedian Ryan Gleason.

Who Took My Pen?

BY RYAN GLEASON

No, seriously. Who took my pen? I left it here on my desk and got up for 5 minutes and it is gone. Which one of you sticky-fingered thieves took my pen? Oh, just because I bring a computer to school, you think I won't need to use a pen? Real mature you guys. C'mon! Where is it?

Tell me who took my pen or else I will tell the professor that you took it. I will cause a scene. Call me Master Splinter because I am a huge rat. But at least I have the decency to NOT steal people's pens. I used that pen to sign my name on the attendance sheet at the beginning of class so I know I brought it with me today!

Give me back my pen! Please! I don't have any money to give as a reward upon the return of my pen but I will be forever grateful. I am so sorry if I bothered

you in any way beforehand which caused you to take my pen. I promise I will be so quiet and out of the way, you won't even know I am there from now on.

NO! No more Mister Nice Guy! I want my darn pen back you fricken frack! I hope whoever took my pen

goes to Heck! Gosh, Darn It! I really wished this newspaper allowed cursing! I would be ripping you a new wash cold!

OK, I AM SORRY FOR LOSING MY TEMPER! I just found it in my laptop case. Sorry for the misunderstanding. I really wish I wasn't using voice to text

to write this article submission. Too late to turn back now, I need to submit something for this week and I have already wasted enough time on this witch hunt. Have a good week everyone. Peace and Love.



Give me back my pen! PHOTO/ Pexels

EVENTS LISTING

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

We Stand Against Hate - A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History by Professor Jeanne Theoharis

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Woody Tanger Auditorium

Brooklyn College Library

A conversation with writer and Black feminist Barbara Smith, founder of the Combahee River Collective.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

The State of Indigenous and Native Studies at CUNY

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Boylan Hall

Dr. Stone-Cadena is an expert on Indigenous Migration to NYC, and helps facilitate the Indigenous Migration NY Workshop Series.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Montage Quotidien: The Photographs of Maximo Rafael Colon

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Brooklyn College Library

The semester long exhibition documents both the cultural and historical experience of the Puerto Rican community on the island and New York City metropolitan area. Photographs by Maximo Raphael Colon.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

JCPenney Suit Up Event

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

JCPenney at Kings Plaza

Purchase everything you need to finish your look for the Job Fair.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Museum Careers Panel

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

4th Floor - Student Center

Experiment in Electroacoustic Improvisation: Jam Session

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

312 - Roosevelt Extension

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Transgender Lives in Nineteenth-Century America by Jesse Bayker

2:15 PM - 4:30 PM

6th Floor - Student Center

As a student, Jesse Bayker was instrumental in the creation of the LGBTQ Studies minor.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

WGST: Making All Black Lives Matter: Reimagining Freedom in the 21st Century

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

5th Floor - Student Center

Barbara Ransby interviewed more than a dozen of the principal organizers and activists in the movement and provides a detailed review of its extensive coverage in mainstream and social media.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Voices for Change: “Audre Lorde, Assata Shakur, and the Formations of Black Women’s Studies at CUNY”

3:40 PM - 4:55 PM

Brooklyn College Library

This presentation will draw from their critical support for campus strikes and ethnic/gender studies, community control, and coalitional power to propose lessons for our liberation struggles today.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Structural Barriers and Potential Solutions to Teaching Writing Across the Curriculum: A Workshop and Roundtable

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

2420 Boylan Hall

Join other faculty for an open and honest round table to help identify the systemic barriers to teaching reading, writing, and research across the disciplines as well as discuss ways in which full-time faculty, adjuncts, and WAC fellows can coordinate efforts to act as advocates for improving WAC education at Brooklyn College.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Master Class/Preview: The Horszowski Trio

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Don Buchwald Theater

Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

First Year Thursday: Time Management Workshop

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Room 242 - BC Library

Fourth Annual Black History Month Showcase

BY MARCUS AYALA

Black History Month at Brooklyn College was capped off with the “Fourth Annual Black History Month Showcase.” The event featured numerous different talents from students from multiple different Caribbean backgrounds.

The Black History Month committee, NAACP club, and African Students Union gathered diverse talents that everyone could enjoy. Performances ranged from the Brooklyn College gospel, Val Johnson, Sharon Davis, Caribbean Students Union’s traditional dancing and even Brooklyn Colleges version of “Let me Holla” from MTV show “Wild N out.”

The first performer was Val Johnson who recently graduated from Brooklyn College in the summer of 2018 with a degree in English. Johnson

received a warm ovation after he performed his new single “Be my girl,” which he now plans to release a video for. The crowd’s reaction only lifted his spirits more.

Tyanna Green sees dancing as a hobby of hers. She takes a lot of pride in it. “If the dance isn’t on point then people will see every flaw,” Green said.

Brooklyn College Caribbean Student Union members from Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad, Barbados and Grenada preformed showing the diverse Caribbean heritages. Green said “We take pride in where we come from.”

What’s a diversity event without diversity? According to the event’s DJ, he liked the vast number of countries that were represented over the course of the showcase. He enjoyed being the DJ of the event and would do it again.



Riya Alexander performs at Brooklyn College’s “Fourth Annual Black History Month Showcase.” PHOTO/ **Marcus Ayala**

According to Brandon White, the president of the Black History Month committee on campus, “Black History and blackness isn’t only what you see on TV, it’s not a one track thing. Black History month doesn’t have to be a four-week span of doing lectures on MLK.”

A person who worked with the Black History Month committee from

their very first showcase to its Fourth Annual is Riya Alexander. She was part of the NAACP and made her college debut, where she pushed herself to perform. From then to now she’s gained a ton of confidence, which she used to win over the crowd.

She said, “It was nice to see a crowd so supportive of their peers and artists they don’t know.” She believed

the event was successful in that perspective. “I saw people bring in more and more chairs for people to sit and the room was so packed.”

She believed “Everyone was enjoying themselves and at the end of the day, as a performer, that’s all you can hope for.” It’s no easy task being a performer and Alexander explains. “You have to appease to your crowd’s vibe while still sounding your best and that’s never an easy task.”

She takes pride in her music and states “At the end of the day, music is a language I can use to communicate with people all over the world and be understood.”

As White said at the event, “Anytime you are together just existing, you are creating black history.”

BC Business Round Discussion: Amazon’s Escape From New York

BY M.A. RAHMAN

The Brooklyn College Student Leadership Council (SLC) held an open discussion for students of all backgrounds and majors to discuss their thoughts on Amazon’s now abandoned plans to establish a second HQ in Long Island City as well as the economic implications of this scheme.

“New York didn’t need Amazon, Amazon needed New York,” said Jordan Caine, a senior and Marketing major, expressing doubts that few, if any, white collar work would be made available by Amazon. Caine also remarked how underwhelming the quality of work Amazon would have offered saying, “just about everyone would have been working in a warehouse doing entry level work, thanklessly.”

Throughout the student-guided discussion, participants were overwhelmingly fixated on arguably Amazon’s most prominent feature as a corporation: its size and the political leverage that comes with an employer of its magnitude.

“I like Amazon, I want



Students and members of SLC discuss their qualms and insights concerning Amazon in NYC. PHOTO/ **M.A. Rahman**

them here, but three billion in subsidies? What’s the point of giving them those kinds of benefits if all we get back is 25,000 miserable jobs?” clamored one student before referencing reports of low paid employees resorting to using ‘pee-bottles’ in order to maintain their jobs.

The aforementioned plans associated with the construction of a new HQ were estimated to bring in roughly 25,000 minimum wage jobs over the course of the next 10 years with Amazon seeking roughly three billion in tax subsidies.

Alarmed by this and the precedent set by it, many stu-

dents in attendance decried Amazon for the company’s reputation of being able to circumvent anti-trust laws, business practices, work conditions and perceived political maneuvering in service of gaining more favorable deals from local politicians.

The discussion at times contentious with occasional disagreements, virtually the entire room found themselves in agreement: Amazon was and has been a ruthless actor in terms of behavior as competitor and employer, the kind with a history of being particularly hostile to the interest of working-class people.

Questions swirled across the room concerning the parallels between Amazon and another competing conglomerate that also lost its fight for NY-- Walmart. “Maybe New York has too high expectations,” whispered one speaker. “That’s fine,” replied another.

Eventually discussions came to a predictable halt, as it began to lead into the dilemma of how to enact some means of regulation to prevent corporations from paying their share of taxes while preventing them of hiring outside labor, a thought experiment that for some in the room elected not to entertain.

Still, some students insisted that things would have been better for New Yorkers if Amazon would have stayed.

“I’m in the minority but I think it was a mistake, I feel like everyone was too quick on this,” said one of the SLC organizers, Muhammad Ahsan, a junior and Finance major. He iterated that advocates against Amazon’s expansive plan were seeking financial upliftment too soon rather said opponents should consider that with

enough time the positive effects of this deal would have eventually caught up with the negative ones.

According to the Young Progressives of America (YPA) founder and BC student Carlos Jesus Calzadilla-Palacio, the Amazon deal posed a particular predicament for CUNY students as in the time when college tuition is due to hike and infrastructure falls in disrepair. The CUNY members of the Board of Trustees have elected to support a deal that will deprive the city of much-needed funding.

Amazon remains mum as to the reason(s) that led to why it ultimately pulled plans to build its second headquarters in New York, currently, NY Governor Andrew Cuomo is looking to get Amazon to reconsider leaving NY.

“I liked today’s discussion, not everyone agreed on they see different parts of Amazon and that’s OK,” Ahsan concluded on the SLC event, optimistic students will be just as interested in their future topics of discussion.

The opinions expressed in the Opinions Section do not necessarily reflect the views of The Excelsior.

Jussie Smollett Failed the American People

BY RYAN BECKFORD

Liars get penalized. Liars cannot and should not be trusted.

A liar is simply what the word means: a person who has told a lie or regularly lies.

That is the new title for actor, singer, and songwriter Jussie Smollett. Back in January, Smollett reported to the police that he was a victim of an attack, in which police started to investigate it as a possible hate crime.

According to Chicago police, Smollett was walking in the early morning hours when two people he did not know attacked him and started “yelling racial and homophobic slurs” at him. The attackers also yelled “MAGA country,” beat, and poured bleach on him.

Police confirmed that one of the attackers put a noose around Smollett’s neck and then fled the scene.

Three weeks later, Chicago police concluded their investigation and charged the actor for making a false police report. In other words, Smollett staged his own attack by paying two men \$3,500 to attack him. Chicago police Superintendent Eddie Johnson says Smollett “took advantage of the pain and anger of racism to promote his career.”

Chicago police presented evidence to a grand jury court and charged Smollett with felony disorderly conduct.

What Smollett did was wrong, offensive, and disrespectful to the city of Chicago and the men and women across the United States.



What Jussie Smollett did was wrong, offensive, and disrespectful to the city of Chicago and the men and women across the United States. PHOTO/ FOX

go and the men and women across the United States.

He lied to our faces. And, he used us; the American people.

In an interview with Robin Roberts on Good Morning America, Jussie Smollett described the attack to the public in full details. But what was supposed to be an innocent, informative interview, Smollett took advantage of media airtime to sell his lie to

appeal to Americans instead.

In the end, he lost his case to public opinion.

There are people in our country who face ongoing challenges with racial division, homophobia, and political hate crimes. When these people choose to come forward and speak out, the public will now be suspicious. People will now have doubts about victims of true hate crimes.

They would think, “Are they doing this for personal gain?” or “Are they lying?”

What Jussie Smollett did was spoil the public’s perception of hate crime victims and that is simply not fair. Smollett should disappear from the mainstream spotlight, but not forever. Furthermore, we must also choose to not hear from him until he apologizes to the city of Chicago, the American people, the broadcast media, and his supporters for letting them down. Most importantly, he must apologize to the victims who face hate crimes because of their political affiliations, sexual/gender orientation, and the color of their skin.

Since the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s, African Americans have come a long way. During this time period, African Americans faced prejudice and violence against them. Smollett staging a hate crime to rouse up African Americans is immoral and unethical.

In a political climate where the status-quo is challenged, Democrats and Republicans are fighting on policies, President Trump is making the media America’s enemy,

and society is cold; the main goal for all racial groups are to hold hands, move forward, and remain positive.

It is time we look forward. It is time we move forward. By doing so, we can create better people, better mindsets, and a positive outlook for the future of our world. We do not have to agree on the same things and we can choose to react differently to different situations. But what we must not do is use this event to destroy positive work and engaging conversations in politics, sociology, and race.

We must denounce Smollett’s illegal actions and all actions of fabricated hate crimes. Our country does not have the time, energy, or the space to destroy people for personal gain. As for Smollett, there is enough evidence which was presented by the Chicago Police Department and the two brothers who came forward that undeniably shows the act of racism did not happen.

I look forward to Jussie Smollett coming forward to address the American people and apologize.



PHOTO/ Associated Press

Rocking with Grandpa, John Mellencamp at the Beacon Theater

BY MICHAEL CASTANEDA

On February 25th, John Mellencamp, formerly known as John Cougar Mellencamp, played the first of three nights at the Beacon Theater in the Upper West Side.

It was a Monday night and I was free. Since I had a free ticket to his concert, I decided to go see the show after I hit the gym.

The average age of people in line to go through metal detectors to get into the venue was about 50+ years old. There were two guys right behind me who sounded like Fox News viewers talking loudly about the Robert Kraft Massage parlor scandal; saying how police will probably start to enforce the laws concerning massage parlors, hence ruining it for everyone. Oy!

When I was finally ushered in, there was no opening band, instead, I had to watch a video of John Mellencamp's life told in a way he wanted you to know it. It felt like I was back in high school when the school couldn't get a substitute. The audience was restless.

Finally, Mellencamp and the band came out. I knew I would know some of his songs, but not most of them, since I am more of a hip hop fan who loves Drake and Kendrick. Therefore, I wasn't



On February 25th, John Mellencamp played at the Beacon Theater in the Upper West Side. PHOTO/ Wikimedia Commons

sure how I would take it. Mellencamp stomped his right foot like the Talking Horse to start the show. His first song was bluegrass. I liked it. Most of his music was like any solo performer. There was a solid backing band that played two levels lower than the singers soaring vocals. His voice was rough like a person who had

been smoking their whole life and was on the edge of emphysema. Also, he moved really well for someone with arthritis. As his show went on, the audience was unkind to him by being obnoxious or leaving anytime he didn't play one of his hit songs from the '80s. But when he did, they'd go crazy like they grasped a dim image

of their far far away youth. Overall, I enjoyed all the songs. His music has similar themes to those today. There were songs about hook-up culture, being poor, being policed, being inebriated, etc. But there was also something timeless there. His songs didn't seem overtly mainstream to today's standards but at the same time, it

could have been music from anywhere in the 60s through the 90s or even an indie band from today. There's a mix of country, liberalism, and a distinctive voice that never wavered. He also took the time to speak about income inequality, gender inequality, and racism. I'm happy that grandpa can still rock!

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NYU: A Hostile Place for Jewish Students

BY ALIYAH JACOBSON

Alejandro Villa Vasquez, an NYU student and former deputy managing editor at NYU's Washington Square News, tweeted multiple race-sensitive posts on December 6th. "I hope every Zionist kkunt @ New York University is crying right now," and "I want all Zionists to die". Vasquez tweeted this as a reaction to NYU Student Government's decision to pass a divestment resolution that targets NYU's assets and interactions with Israel. He also went on to say, "My views on Zionism do not reflect my views on Judaism." It is also interesting to know that Vasquez's opinions on Zionism were not recent, as he has once reminded his Twitter followers in 2014, "to spit on Zionists, it is proper etiquette." While I do not claim that Israel is perfect, I believe in its right to exist and my right to express this as a pro-Israel student without being harassed or violently discriminated against.

Following those tweets, staffs at The Bronfman Center for Jewish Life at NYU took safety precautions to what they called, the inexcusable "harassing and potentially threatening" posts on social media, and closed down its campus on Wednesday, December 12th. According to The Algemeiner, the head of the Bronfman Center, Rabbi Yehuda Sarna, sent emails that said, "Due to 'heightened tensions at NYU' — where a resolution supporting the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel passed last week — 'we are taking all threats seriously and have notified NYU Public Safety and NYPD'."

Vasquez claimed his views against Zionists are aggressive as his tweets reflected because he believes, "That individuals supporting the Jewish nation's right to self-determination ..." believe in the genocide of ethnic and religious groups." This belief is false and only ignites hate and prejudice against Jewish students.

Alan Dershowitz, a Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law, Emeritus at Harvard Law School and the author of several books such as *The Case for Israel*, wrote that



On December 12th, NYU closed down its campus "due to heightened tensions" that arose from a former student's race-sensitive tweets the previous week. PHOTO/ Wikimedia Commons

BDS and its messages are anti-Semitic tactics directed against Jewish citizens and supporters of Israel. Sarah Disselkamp, a student and CAMERA fellow at Ohio State University, where a BDS resolution was also recently passed, feels that she is being discriminated against for supporting Israel. Disselkamp writes, "There are legitimate ways and reasons to criticize Israel and there are ways to express these criticisms without BDS. There is no nuance in BDS". (BDS does not take into account different backgrounds, identities and race as amongst the citizens of Israel include Jews, Muslims, and Christians.) In a video released by Realize Israel, a pro-Israel club at NYU, one student said, "Our campus has become an unsafe environment for students of different backgrounds, identities, and race." One instance of this took place at Realize Israel's celebra-

tion for Yom Haatzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) on May 2, 2018, where an Israeli flag was burned and a Zionist student was injured by a member of Students for Justice in Palestine.

According to a former pro-Israel senator at NYU, "There are no longer any pro-Israel students in student government now that she has stepped down. There is a senator from Jewish Voice for Peace, a fringe anti-Israel organization that does not represent 'the values of Zionist students,' and a senator from Students for Justice in Palestine in student government." In addition to having to present in front of a student government, several of which members who are biased against Israel, Jewish clubs were given an unfair amount of time to speak. Thus, the resolution was left to be decided by a biased student group.

The recent BDS resolution at NYU was endorsed

by 61 student groups and 35 faculty members. Anti-Semitism on campus tends to follow BDS resolutions with recent statistics showing that anti-Semitism increased by 40% in 2016 on more than 100 public and private colleges and universities. The Amcha initiative shows that the presence of BDS-promoting groups and faculty were strong predictors of acts that have once targeted and harassed Jewish students on campus. A blatant example of this is when a BDS resolution passed at the University of Oregon last year, the welcome sign of the campus Hillel was vandalized with anti-Semitic messages, one of which said, "Free Palestine, you fucks".

As a Jewish college student in New York City, I see the rise of anti-Semitism that follows BDS resolutions being passed and that worries me. The same hate and discrimination felt in Greenwich Village at NYU

could have ripples spread to my institution, Brooklyn College, located in Flatbush, New York City. It is a place rich with diversity that welcomes and loves all walks of life and it must not become a breeding ground for racism and conflict. Individuals in my school and city must feel safe to practice their beliefs and religion on campus and/or in their daily lives.

The President of NYU, Andrew Hamilton, as well as NYU leadership overall, unequivocally opposed previous BDS resolutions including this recent resolution. The student government at NYU should focus on bettering the student's lives and not passing discriminatory and unenforceable resolutions that serve no purpose other than to intimidate.

Aliyah Jacobson is a junior at Brooklyn College and a CAMERA 2018/2019 Fellow.

“Greta” Feels Like A Gimmick

BY CARMEN SAFFIOTI

Greta is the latest thriller/horror film by director Neil Jordan about a young woman living New York who befriends and is later stalked by a lonely European woman.

The young woman, Frances (Chloë Grace Moretz), recently lost her mother and Greta (Isabelle Huppert) is widowed. The two seem like the perfect match until Frances discovers that Greta intentionally lured her in. Frances then has to try and get rid of her obsessive stalker. The film takes place in a saccharine version of version of New York City where two young waitresses, Frances and her roommate, can afford a giant apartment in Manhattan. It is also to the dreamy background music of Franz Liszt’s “Liebesträume” or love dream, which becomes a re-occurring metaphor in the film. Despite some things that worked really well, like the performance given by Isabelle Huppert, the stiff dialogue, predictable plot, and overall bad screen writing made this film more of a gimmick rather than the deep metaphorical statement it clearly wanted to be.

At the end of the first act, Frances tells Greta that her friends say she is like chewing gum— she tends to stick around. This corny pun becomes one on the thickest



Greta (Isabelle Huppert, right) lures Frances (Chloë Grace Moretz, left) while she is grieving the loss of her mother. PHOTO/ POPSUGAR

and in-your-face metaphors in the movie. This type of on the nose, cheesy fake deep writing makes it incredibly difficult to actually immerse yourself into the emotions of Frances as she is stalked by this elderly woman. Another glaring problem was the questionable choices the characters made by the third act.

Major Spoilers After months of stalking, Greta kidnaps Frances, and her roommate, Erica, takes it upon herself to get lured in by Greta herself, instead of

alerting police that she is most likely at her stalkers house. While this was supposed to be a dramatic plot twist at the end of the film, the idea is just so preposterous and idiotic it’s hard to go along with it. Also in the third act, while Frances is kidnapped, Greta lets her out to do creepy mother-daughter activities like playing piano and baking. It is so obvious that Frances could easily overpower Greta and escape, but Frances doesn’t even try until a few weeks into her

kidnapping. However, after she injures and knocks out Greta, she is unable to open a single door or window. It leaves audience members wondering how naïve and stupid the writers can make the characters to carry this already predictable plot.

Greta clearly had the ambition to be a much better, perhaps even a great movie. The writers seemed to want to create a horror film that was more than just jump scares or gore, but a horror film that had universal hu-

man feelings of loneliness and the fear of being followed. But even with a great writer and director like Neil Jordan, who is best known for his film *Interview with the Vampire*, could not pull together the right narratives to make a compelling story. Despite my criticism, *Greta* is not a bore— it quite the hot entertaining mess. This film would be fun to watch with friends as it is filled with suspense and plenty of corny lines you can laugh along to.

Do you have a #MeToo story from your experiences at Brooklyn College to share?

Please email editor@bcexcelsior.com. If you prefer, you may remain anonymous.

Giannis Antetokounmpo’s Case for MVP

BY ELIJAH HAMILTON

As we enter the home stretch of the 2018-19 NBA season, one of the ongoing debates among fans and media is who will take home the NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award. This season, players such as Paul George and James Harden have made significant cases to why they should be MVP. Both are excellent all-stars in their own right and top candidates for a first team All-NBA selection. They have dominated the league thus far and are putting their team in the position to compete and make a deep playoff run. Although both of those players have definitely built up a strong case for MVP, no one in the league has shown the will of an MVP quite like Milwaukee Bucks Forward, Giannis Antetokounmpo. Antetokounmpo is currently enjoying a lot of success this season, putting the Bucks in position to finish the season out with the best record in the league. His case for MVP is simple, generally, the best player on the best



Giannis Antetokou is leading the Bucks in all statistical categories. PHOTO/ Keith Allison - Flickr Creative Commons

team, record-wise, is usually a shoo-in for the MVP award. Taking a deeper dive into Antetokounmpo’s stats, you’ll see that he currently leads the Milwaukee Bucks in all statistical categories including points per game (27.1), rebounds per game (12.6) and assists per game (6.0). Antetokounmpo is also currently averaging a steal and a block per game. He ranks top ten in scoring and rebounding throughout the league. What makes Antetokounmpo stand out from the

rest of the MVP race crowd, is his 58 percent field goal percentage, which is higher than the other candidates in the MVP race. Along with this, he is able to contribute all around giving excellent effort on the defensive side of the floor and on the glass. Not only does Antetokounmpo thrive on the offensive side of the court, but he is also a nightmare for anybody he guards on the defensive side as well. He is one of the main catalysts behind Milwaukee’s best-ranked defensive efficiency rating which is number one among all teams to go along with an offense that is ranked number four in efficiency rating. Antetokounmpo currently leads the pack in the MVP race according to Vegas odds and members of the media. He looks to end the season on a high note leading his team to the playoffs and making a run in the Eastern Conference as well as bringing home his first MVP trophy this June.

BC Women’s Basketball Falls to Grove City in ECAC Quarterfinals

BY NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

The Brooklyn College women’s basketball team ended their season last Friday, after a loss to the Grove City Wolverines, 64-55, in the quarterfinals of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championships at Cabrini University. The Bulldogs started the ball game neck and neck with the Wolverines. Going into the second half, the Bulldogs were down 33-30. The Wolverines started to gain a big lead, being up by 11 points by the 8-minute mark in the third quarter. The Bulldogs continued to battle and eventually regained the lead by the end of the third quarter. After a hard fought fourth quarter, the Bulldogs couldn’t reel in the victory. Going into the fourth, the Bulldogs were up 48-46, the lead vanished after the Wolverines scored two three-pointers pushing the score 52-48. The Bulldogs wouldn’t be able to gain the lead again after, as the Wolverines would



Coach Alex Lang talks to the BC Women’s Basketball team during a timeout against the Grove City Wolverines. PHOTO/ BC Athletics

close the game out mostly from the charity stripe. The Bulldogs shot 35 percent from the field for the entire game and 40 percent from three-point land. The Wolverines had remarkable shooting numbers as a team, shooting 43 percent from the field, 60 percent from 3 and 93 percent from the free throw line. The Wolverines were dialed in from long range and took advantage of getting to the free throw line. This was a thorn in the side for the Bulldogs. Leading the scoring load for the Bulldogs was Sophomore Taylor George with 20 points and three assists. Sophomore Chanel Jemmott tallied 14 points and six rebounds. Senior Alex-

andra Moogan added 11 points and seven rebounds. The trio in total combined for 45 points for the game. The Bulldogs end the year on a high note with a 20-9 record, which is their eighth consecutive 20-win season. Moogan, who recently became the 6th player to score 1,000 points for the Women’s basketball team, played her last game in a Brooklyn College uniform on Friday afternoon. Moogan is notable for her sharp-shooting prowess. She played on the team for four years, playing a key role in the team’s success over the years. The Bulldogs will look to continue their winning culture going into the 2019-2020 season. The women’s basketball team is continuing to build and improve each season. With the core of Jemmott and George, the team will be looking to make it nine consecutive seasons of over 20 wins next season.