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Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons / Courtesy of the candidates.
The Kingsman is looking to fill several paid positions for the Fall 2019 semester. Interested parties must be registered as a matriculated undergraduate student at Brooklyn College for the upcoming semester, and ideally, for the Spring 2020 semester as well. All interested parties should reach out to us over e-mail at KingsmanBC@gmail.com; or send an e-mail to our current editor-in-chief Quiara Vasquez at quiara@zoho.com.

BUSINESS MANAGER ($60 per issue) - The business manager keeps track of printing expenses, stipends, and other costs incurred over the course of the semester, making sure The Kingsman does not go over budget. In addition, the Business Manager is the conduit through which advertisers communicate with The Kingsman.

SPORTS EDITOR ($70 per issue) - The sports editor oversees sports coverage, with a focus on on-campus events. They are responsible for turning in an article every week, and delegating assignments to other writers interested in covering sports.

ADDITIONAL POSITIONS ($?? per issue) - As you may know, The Kingsman is currently pursuing a merger with its fellow campus paper, Excelsior. Should we do this, our budget would nearly double with printing expenses staying the same. This means we would be able to create several new paid positions: for instance, a dedicated arts or features editor, or a person in charge of photography, or a weekly columnist. If you have a skill or talent you think The Kingsman could use, please contact us!

Talk to us!
Are you a CUNY student or faculty member with something to say? The Kingsman’s Opinions section is accepting submissions. Send your op-ed to kingsmanbc@gmail.com before 11:59 PM Saturday.
(The Kingsman only publishes articles written by Brooklyn College students and faculty, related to goings-on at Brooklyn College or CUNY. We reserve the right to reject submissions which are off-topic, obscene, or excessively wordy.)
New York Passes State Budget With Key Reforms

By Allison Rapp
Digital Editor

After weeks of back and forth, the New York State Legislature and Gov. Andrew Cuomo have finally agreed on a new $175 billion budget for the state. The passing of the new budget is a major win for state Democrats, as the Senate was under Republican control for the past several years.

"This is probably the broadest, most sweeping state plan that we have done," Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Sunday afternoon after signing off on the budget. "There are a number of national firsts and it really grapples with the tough issues that have been facing this state for a long time."

Some of those national firsts will create considerably progressive changes in the lives of New Yorkers. A state-wide ban on plastic shopping bags will be put in place, along with millions of dollars for clean water projects and the Environmental Protection Fund. Another budget boost will be given to schools, with education spending gaining an extra billion dollars, which is a 3.8% increase from last year.

Another major aspect of the new budget is the passing of congestion pricing, which many CUNY students have spent the last several months pushing for. Congestion pricing will place a toll on all drivers entering Manhattan below 60th St., and the revenue created by the tolls will be put towards city MTA renovations.

Criminal justice reform is also included in the new state budget, with the elimination of cash bail for most non-violent crimes and misdemeanors, though not all of them. In addition, the budget includes funding for the Jose Peralta DREAM act, which aids undocumented students in receiving scholarships and state financial aid.

"The entire CUNY community takes great pride in the contributions of the late Senator Jose P. Ralita, a Queens College graduate and one of the earliest and most eloquent champions of New York's DREAM Act," said CUNY Interim Chancellor, Vita C. Rabinowitz, in a statement. "We thank Governor Cuomo and the state legislature and its leaders for their commitment to the thousands of undocumented Americans pursuing their dreams at CUNY."

This new state budget, though wide reaching, has a few things missing, such as legalized marijuana, and the proposal to raise the state smoking age to 21.

"This was not an easy one. It was a hard one. But the hard ones are the good ones, by definition," Cuomo said. "This is the best budget that has been produced since I've been governor."

Homelessness, Hunger High Among CUNY Students

By Allison Rapp
Digital Editor

The Hope Center at Temple University in Philadelphia has released the results of CUNY’s annual #RealCollege survey, in which the "basic needs" of students from all 19 CUNY colleges are evaluated.

The study, which polled nearly 22,000 CUNY students, showed 48% of respondents were food insecure in the prior 30 days, 55% of respondents were housing insecure in the previous year, and 14% of respondents were homeless in the previous year.

Food security was defined in the report as being "the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner."

Sara Goldrick-Rab, one of the founding directors of the Hope Center, and one of the co-authors of the report, told the Daily News that these numbers should serve as an alarm bell.

"This is devastating to these students. It's a very serious situation," she said. "Not having enough to eat in college, or dropping out because you can't pay your rent, can create a lifelong cycle where you are trying to get out of poverty and can't do it."

The Hope Center's report agrees.

"Food and housing insecurity undermines academic success. Housing insecurity and homelessness have a particularly strong, statistically significant relationship with college completion rates, persistence, and credit attainment," reads the introduction. "Researchers also associate basic needs insecurity with self-reports of poor physical health, symptoms of depression, and higher perceived stress."

Daniel Frazer is the higher education case manager for Brooklyn College. His role deals directly with crisis intervention in regards to situations like hunger and homelessness and he also assists students enrolling in city programs like SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid.

"The students I serve are diverse and have issues that range from homelessness to food insecurity. Last year, I provided services to about 800 students and the amount continues to rise," Frazer said. "My work directly addresses the rising number of food insecure, homeless and otherwise affected students through rapid on campus access to many city services and the ability to cut through some of the cities' bureaucracy and provide timely access to services so many BC students need."

Frazer believes that while there is an issue at hand, all hope is not lost.

"I don't know what solution [sic] on a grander scale but I think we're on the right track," he said. "I hope to see, in the near future, expanded access to the services I provide as I know, while I see many, there's still so many more students who benefit from case management services to address the issues of hunger and homelessness."

Speaking once again to the Daily News, CUNY spokesman Frank Sobrino noted that the situation has been, and will be taken seriously by the university system.

"Rigorous, respected research by CUNY’s Urban Food Policy Institute found that the University’s aggressive efforts have helped cut food insecurity among its students almost in half," he said. "CUNY is taking active measures to connect tens of thousands more students to life-changing resources that will contribute to their physical and mental well-being and academic success."

For students interested in receiving assistance, e-mail Daniel Frazer at Daniel.Frazer28@brooklyn.cuny.edu to set up an appointment.
By Natalina Zieman  
Staff Writer  

On Wednesday, Apr. 3, author Cherrie Moraga shared her story, and her newest piece of work Native Country of the Heart, a memoir.

She described the book as taking a lot of time to put together and, not only pouring feelings and observations into it, a process because she did not know what was going to be a relationship with her mother, who suffered from Alzheimer’s. Moraga explained what life was like growing up queer and Latina. She discussed her closeness with her brother, admiring him and trying to be more like a boy. In snippets she read of her book, she mentioned moments with her older brother.

“There was a photo, a candid shot, I’m probably about four years old and I’m sitting on my brother’s lap. We’re watching TV. My sister at one end of the couch, James and I are couplet at the other. The length of each of my bare legs straddles his bathrobe clad thighs. The inner shadowy quality of the black and white mid-fifties photo gives me the impression of night time before bed,” she read.

Moraga went on to explain that this photo showed un-self-conscious contentment in the children. She shared her memories with her family, and explained them, both in her book and in her presentation, that it felt like we were there right with her growing up in the 1950s and 1960s.

Moraga talked about her mom’s struggle with Alzheimer’s, and her lack of resistance towards her daughter who she knew was queer. What she was hinting at, was that her mother may have minded her daughter’s sexuality, but did not make an effort to rid her from her life.

In another couple pages from the book, Moraga mentioned a moment when she had to “act like a man” and show the side of herself that she learned from her older brother.

“Mom? I try. She spins around and her look chills me. I’m in her way, that’s all she knows. An obstacle to the home, the bed, the familiarity which even the face of her youngest daughter could not provide… Suddenly it comes to me, a seduction of sorts. I feel myself literally growing into the compassionate husband, the devoted eldest son, all the missing men in her life, the ones I knew she would submit to. If only to be relieved once and for all, her burden of her own control. I feel myself more man than ever before.”

Moraga mentioned she “learned how to be a boy” from her older brother, when growing up. This moment she mentioned with her mother proved her masculine side. When answering questions during the event, Moraga said that her inspiration for her latest book was “the loss of the sense of the impending loss of my mother. And even though she was physically present, the look in her eyes… you know.”

Then she went on to explain the importance that her mother had recognized her and called her “mija,” or daughter, during her final days; although the mother would mistake her and say ‘tia’ (aunt). A strong relationship between mothers and daughters can never be broken, and Moraga so wonderfully presented that idea when speaking about her latest book.

Her sexuality may have dented their bond, but she stuck around until the end.

Cherrie Moraga is not only an advocate for the LGBTQ community, but also for feminism, which she only briefly talked about.

“All that you can be, is because you had history,” Moraga said, when a student asked her about feminism back then compared to now. Love who you are, and what you stand for, then get inspired.
Candidate Profile: Carlos Calzadilla-Palacio

Q: What is your personal background? How does this influence you as a candidate?
A: I'm a political science major, Junior, I have a minor in Puerto Rican and Latino Studies. I am the President and Founder of Young Progressives of America. I believe that change happens especially on a college campus that everyday that students make change especially on a college campus. Students need to organize in order to make the change you really need, and right now we are at a crisis here in Brooklyn College. Our buildings are collapsing, there's health risks because of the bathrooms, because of the cleanliness issue in classrooms.

...I have organized student strikes, I have organized with the professors, I have organized against ICE and the federal government to stop deportations. Two of them actually successfully stopped them, we went all the way to the Supreme Court and we got our message out on national television. And this is all organizing, this is the way I believe that change happens and how reforms being in the organization that I started and me being involved in a lot of the protests and being the organizer of the protest that happened last semester led to tangible change. The organizing that happened led to real changes in campus policy from mandatory sexual assault training for faculty and staff to the offering of racial sensitivity training for faculty and staff to the town halls happening every month - that was one of our demands. To the PRLS program being saved because it was rumored the admin was gonna merge it, merge all the ethnic studies and PRLS was understaffed but because of all the protesting we did against the racist professor and tied it into the systemic racism we actually saved it. We got a full timeline on all the programs saving it for generations to come, so I think when people look at my track record they will see that I've been there. When the going has gotten tough, I've been there organizing and been effective and a vocal voice for change.

I also have experience in student government, when I was at my previous college I was chair of the senate and actually passed the most comprehensive bill ever attached to SG which forced the administration to hire more janitors and they did and that's what I think we need right now on this campus.

Q: What is your main goal if you are elected?
A: To bring a real voice to students on this campus. Things have been ignored for far too long and that's gonna change. We have to assess the immediate systemic dangers that students are facing, and obstacles to learning. Like I said, basic things like bathrooms, like the food being affordable, like the Wi-Fi working.

So one part of our program is the immediate needs of students. The library should be open 24-7 for midterms and finals. It has been proven that it helps academic success and other colleges do this. So my main priority is addressing the immediate issues that hinder our education, and the other one is making Brooklyn College fun. Increasing school spirit by making sure that clubs have the proper budget. If they are active they should be allowed to have the funds that they need to provide for their members and making sure that the student government promotes these events so students are aware of everything that is going on on campus. We are using a program for student government if we get elected called #promoteyou and what this program is gonna be is that every single event or initiative that a club or organization has will be promoted.

Q: How do you plan on combating the issue of CUNY underfunding?
A: So this is where I have the most comprehensive planned approach. First of all it's understanding, and informing the student body where the underfunding comes from. So there are certain decisions made at the college level that student government has the power to outvote the administration and make sure resources are allocated correctly. So that's step one.

Step two is that we have CUNY Central who controls a lot of the funding as well, that needs to be pressured to give us emergency funding if we need it, or extra funding for certain programs. And then there's another step which is the trustees and the governor, who appoints the trustees, and they keep raising our tuition and not funding our school properly. So we need someone in this position that understands that dynamic, that has actually protested and organized against the governor, which I have, and the Board of Trustees, which I have as well, and inform the student government about that and organize and mobilize the students so that we can be an effective campus at fighting back against the tuition increases and getting the funding we need. It goes all the way to Albany.

Q: Only 2% of the student body voted last semester, how do you change that?
A: In order for people to vote they need to know there's an election and I think that for far too long the efforts have not been made to inform the student body that there's elections. There is a lot of apathy, someone would say, why should I vote if my vote doesn't make any change? But that's gonna change if we get elected and that's what we are trying to tell students, that your vote matters, your vote can actually radically change the direction of our campus and a big goal of ours is to increase the voter turnout. We are gonna increase it because we have a message that people can really get behind and believe in. We are gonna follow through, we are gonna make sure students believe again in student government.

Q: Talk about your VP. Why Nailah Pressley?
A: So Nailah Pressley is amazing. I actually interviewed several people but I chose Nailah because she shares the vision. She shares the vision that we need to have an activist student government. She's an activist herself, she's been an activist, she's organized a lot on the past as a student, she is very outspoken, she's the VP of the radio station, VP of her sorority, someone that shares my vision, is an active leader and an activist just like me that shares the same vision that we need to fight for the student.

Q: What was your favorite Halloween costume growing up?
A: Spider-Man. I love Spider-Man, he was my favorite superhero.
Candidate Profile: Hamza Khilji

Q: What is your personal background? How does this influence you as a candidate?
A: I'm a junior. My major is Business Administration with a concentration in Business for Health Professionals. As far as programs I'm involved in, I'm in Macaulay Honors College and the college BA/M program. As far as clubs that I am active with, I'm one of the most active members of the Brooklyn College Speech and Debate team. It's pretty much taken up most of my time here, there's usually a lot of practices we go to and a lot of trips as well. Other than that I've been working to kind of bring the BA/M program has a club as well. We haven't really been active on campus but starting last semester I tried to host a service event where we made homeless kits to donate, so because it's about future positions I've been trying to get us to do more service events on campus.

The speech and debate team is where I learned about a lot of politicians. Ten minutes out of high school I was an introvert, didn't really interact much with anyone, but speech and debate team has given me a public voice, and I think those are important as a candidate because you need to be able to voice your concerns as a leader properly, because if you can't give your vision then you're not going to get anywhere. Each time I give a speech I have to figure out is what I want to convey actually going to be conveyed into words.

I think these clubs show the involvement I have to make change, not just pad my resume. So the greatest thing about the BA/M program is I don't have to pad my resume like traditional med school applicant because I already have a seat in downtown. So I only have to pursue my interests, or what I'm passionate about. So when I joined CLAS a year and a half ago it was not about my resume at all.

I was on the Student Affairs Committee. I joined student government because I wanted to be a little more involved in campus events. Some of the events I was involved with were... the Movie Night on the Quad. Back then we had a lot more people show up. Another big initiative was in SUBO, putting up signs to see where the rooms actually are. A lot of it was me holding others accountable because I don't think things go unaddressed. There was a very bureaucratic structure that I tried to call out.

I know there's some stuff about me leaving [CLAS] but I left at a time where pretty much anything that needed to be done was done, because after that nothing relevant to the campus itself was accomplished. So me leaving did not impact anything and again, what I've been hearing is, there's veterans, but me and Zain were there before any of the current candidates running for student government were.

Q: What is your main goal if you are elected?
A: My main goal if I'm elected is to work towards an entire platform that we're proposing. It's not only about campus spirit, it's also about the issues that students voice, the major ones we consistently complain about like bathrooms or the cafeteria or not having merchandise. We came up with a basic list of ten initiatives. I have these initiatives listed on our website, things like for example, the Women's Center referendum, and merging Bulldog Connection into the BCNavigator app so you know when events are. So there's these ten concrete initiatives that I want to go after if elected.

But I think the overall goal is, to increase school spirit, yes, but engagement - people wanting to come to events, people wanting to associate with Brooklyn College. Another way I've been figuring out is getting Greek life more involved on campus and not serving as two separate entities.

And the last goal is, student government really doesn't have a positive reputation on this campus, and I want to start to change that and I know the dynamic between the government itself and the students.

Q: How do you plan on combating the issue of CUNY underfunding?
A: I think one of the biggest things with that is, the reason the entire campaign can't just be "student spirit" is because there's a lot of other surrounding issues that can be fixed. Rather than say it's an underfunding issue, we can't do anything about it, I think there are some methods to go about this, especially considering the new USC coming in. That means more money for us, and more power to leverage as just one government that's willing to work with the administration.

I think we need to work with the administration. I've been working with VP Alan Gilbert and VP [Jori] Jackson. They actually have a lot of departments that report to them. An example of this underfunding would be bathrooms. People consistently complain about bathrooms, but we don't have the money to fix them. But I think we can work with Alan Gilbert to at least make cleaner bathrooms and bathrooms that have utilities we can use like soap. There's been a lot of times where there's been no soap in the bathrooms, right? Yes, we may not have the best infrastructure, but I think we can start by bringing tangible benefits back within the first semester or month that I'm in office. I think kids will be a lot less likely to complain about these CUNY underfunding issues.

And despite me being elected, activism is still going to continue on campus. Insofar as we're concerned, activism is the goal that gets this. But I think it's better they exist as two separate entities. And of course as student government we will continue to use our power as USG. Now that we're gonna be USG, we're gonna have a lot of power as compared to CLAS as an individual entity. And we're going to use this to voice our concerns with the administration.

Q: Only 2% of the student body voted last semester, how do we change that?
A: Well, number one, I don't think that it was properly advertised. Again, this happens because the debates were held in SUBO, where I think a very specific niche of kids go there. The average person walking by Boylan Hall will not go to SUBO. Very specific student government candidates are always in SUBO, and the voting population is always the one that is most heavily involved in government as is. So, that's one of the reasons I want to engage voter turnout by having the debate at a public place.

But moreso, people need to feel like they have an incentive to vote. A lot of the platforms, kids don't feel like they affect them in any way. We're actually going out by Oyenlca cafeteria and talking to students and telling them, "hey, these are the issues you guys talk about, and we have solutions directly to them." And I've been speaking in all my classes, and telling them that only 400 of you voted last semester, and there needs to be more of you if you're going to complain about these issues. You can't complain if you didn't vote.

Q: Talk about your VP. Why Zain Qureshi?
A: Zain and I, aside from our friendship, during our time in student government, he's actually worked extensively in gov ops. Gov ops is the one that kind of makes all the ruling documents. He helped draft the election act. So at the top level, he knew where the bureaucratic power and the bureaucratic BS was. We've kind of agreed on the same term, that we kind of need to "drain the swamp." I think the easiest step is to remove all political associations and student government would be a thousand times better. We don't come in with any personal biases for any club or against anyone.

I love Zain because he has a lot more experience in government, and he knows how things are governed. Even in high school he managed a $60,000 budget. I think with him, we have a similar vision and we can carry it out.

Also, he has very distinct ideas on school spirit, so for example, the concert was his idea. I want a VP who's gonna be willing to do stuff, and I think he has a lot of projects he wants to go after.

Q: What was your favorite Halloween costume growing up?
A: I liked the inflatable turkey costume where you look like you're actually riding a turkey, but it's actually an inflated balloon.
Candidate Profile: Alyssa Taylor

Q: What is your personal background? How does this influence you as a candidate?
A: Some things that I have been involved in in the past; I’ve done Jumpstart here on campus, I’ve been a member of Women of Color, I’m NAACP, CSU, Blaze Dance Team... the list is endless. BSU, I’m a part of that now. I always forget some, those are the ones I can remember now. So those are clubs.

I run on the cross country team, I was captain of the 2018 season. I’m also on the swim team, this was my second year, and this is my first year on the softball team. I major in physical education, with a minor in health and nutrition sciences.

W’ drove me to run for student government, as an athlete, not many people believe in our ability to do anything more than compete and go to school. They think that athletes are stupid, they don’t care about anything but their sport. And somebody at my old school would influence me to advocate on behalf of the athletes and the other students, all of them. People think that, oh, you’re in athletics, you already have funding, oh you’re in athletics, you get all the gear. So they’re like, oh, you already get all these perks. They forget that athletes are regular students too. So that’s what drove me to join student government.

I’ve realized how, not only being an athlete but being a black woman on campus, how much people think that we don’t really have much to say. Last year Women of Color stepped up because they were, not that we were being pushed out of BLMI, but BLMI was re-shifting their focus to focus on only black males. It’s because of situations like this where you don’t feel represented on campus where I want everybody to feel represented. I want to fight for everybody to have a home here. That’s what my goal is for student government.

Q: What is your main goal if you are elected?
A: Empowerment and unity. My main goal is, there’s so many student leaders on this campus. There’s so many people who want to do more, and I feel like they’re halted by all the bureaucracy here and all of the rules and regulations. But to me nothing is ever a no. People say that you can’t do something, it’s like well you can’t do that the way that you’re trying to do it, so you have to figure out another way to do it. Me running, I want to empower students to dig deeper into their goals and I want to help them figure out how to accomplish it. If you’re going to VP [Ron] Jackson for all your problems, but he’s not the one that solves your problems who’s the person that you’re supposed to go to? There’s so many different people, if your problems communications you have Jason Carey, the facilities you have Alan Gilbert, but not all students know about these people. You see Jackson, or, for much of the beginning of my term, just the people who are in Central Depository. You go to Central Depository for all your issues, but they don’t really know all the answers. They’re right next to student government, they work with student activities. But that’s not the person you should be going to, so who should you be going to first? And how can we get your problems fixed quicker? That’s empowerment.

Unity is because I feel like this campus is very separate, in that a lot of the clubs hosting very similar events and not collaborate with each other. You would have a much bigger turnout if CSU and ASU were doing a Caribbean event together. So figuring out how to get each of the clubs to empower each other and work together, and have bigger and better events. We sort of started that this year with making sure that clubs got the funding that they need. Little to no clubs that I’ve heard of have been rejected for funding, all of this year. That was something that really bothered me last year. Why are you asking someone about the kind of food that they want for this event? It’s a different story if you’re saying you have five people at your event and you’re trying to buy food for a hundred people. That’s more of a coaching or training. If you have a hundred people coming to an event and you want to buy a hundred egg rolls then buy a hundred egg rolls, you know? And that’s what I want students to be able to do. And feel empowered to do what they want.

Q: How do you plan on combating the issue of CUNY underfunding?
A: Student government is not about the individual. Student government is about working together. By having a student advocate fight for student rights is how I plan to work on that. I’m one person knowing I can’t do everything so having someone like David Schykerynec, the person that I’ve chosen for student advocate, who has been in the room with VP Jackson and will call VP Jackson if necessary, I know that he’s willing to read all the documents, he knows the documents, he’s read the entire Robert’s Rules book and he can recite it for you at any time. I have full faith that he knows what he’s doing and knows how to use the documents that people have put out against them.

And just for the record [David Schykerynec] wrote all of the USG documents, him and Ethan [Milich] together.

Q: Only 2% of the student body voted last semester, how do we change that?
A: Communication. What’s nice is that everybody has these teams that they’re putting together for the elections. Last year I was chair of outreach engagement in media. We went out and we actually went to go get people to vote, we hosted tablings at the student center. This year so many people on student government are running for positions themselves, it’s hard to have neutral tablings for the election.

One of the things I have to look into is getting the administration involved and be neutral. They have to be neutral. People like them who have no pull in elections can open up their offices for a computer space. The Women’s Center has computers, BLMI has computers. Having like election sites where you can go and vote there. I tried last year, but it was during elections. Now that we have time, trying something like election sites might be a way, because students already go to these places. It’s just about drawing them in and letting them know this is happening, you need to have your voice heard.

I hope this is a huge turnout. There’s so many great candidates, I can’t wait to see how this turns out.

Q: Talk about your VP. Why Ethan Milich?
A: So Ethan has been my deputy speaker for this past year. He was also a trainee who was voted into the assembly this past year. We actually joined the assembly around the same time. He and I are like salt and pepper. We are very different but we work really well together, cause we help reign each other in. We help in ways that we each are different. He is very big on documents, and I am very big on organization. I’m very big on making sure that everybody is on task or making sure that the foundation of student government is running. He knows who, where, what, when, he knows our documents and creates our documents. He’s literally the best clerk I’ve ever seen. I didn’t know much about how to take minutes, but Ethan’s minutes compared to anybody else’s minutes I’ve seen have been on point. And that’s why I chose him to be my VP; because we work so well together. We get the job done with both of our skill sets.

Q: What was your favorite Halloween costume growing up?
A: Brooktoberfest was the day before Halloween this year, and I was Minnie Mouse so that everybody knew where to find me. That was my most thought-out costume, I guess. It was on theme with the whole Brooktoberfest. It’s just an easy way to be like, “when you’re here to check in, find the Minnie Mouse.”
Opinion: The Middle Generation

How kids born between 1997 and 1999 are lost in today’s culture

By Ryan Schwach
Managing Editor

Millennials, a term that has lost all of its meaning and is tossed around in the same fashion words like “Literally” whose meanings have been warped into futility to the point it really doesn’t matter if you use them correctly anymore. It’s well documented at this point that the titles we give generations of babies born in a certain time are completely made up, you can throw it in with the numerous other things choked up to being a social construct. The trend of using generations to note spans of time rather than each time a family has a new offspring regardless of birth year happened sometime in the mid-20th century among European intellectuals, in what turns out to be a rather interesting anthropological history lesson which I know you probably don’t care to hear nor do I care to explain. In any event, naming generations became a way to group people under certain defining characteristics, for instance Millennials are lazy while Baby Boomers have a hard work ethic, or Gen X had a rebellious bent and The Greatest Generation was thoroughly patriotic.

Of course, all of these mean nothing, in the same way there is no statistical fact to say I, having been born in February would have a hard time being friends with someone born in July because of something to do with the stars. There were lazy baby boomers and conservative members of Gen X, there is no rule of law to any of this.

However, the generational divides do act as a way to study the political and social climates each group of people were raised under. The Greatest Generation was raised in the Great Depression and fought in WW2, so the argument could be made that that generation as a whole was given the values of determination and overcoming adversity due to the world they lived in, where Millennials have lived mostly in years of economic upturn, and never had to deal with a war in which swaths of the population were drafted into an overseas war, giving them an entirely different cultural upbringing. Of course, these paint the generations with a wide brush and there are most likely millions of exceptions to these rules, but nevertheless they can be studied in a broad sense. This brings up my main point, the categories are far from perfect, and things are missed, and certain years of people slip through the holes in the fence, specifically the years 1997,1998, and 1999. This generation (My Generation) is often at a loss when associating itself with either Millennials (Traditionally noted as being born between the mid 70s and mid 90s) or Gen Z (Mid 90s to around 2012).

The distinguishing factor between Gen Z and Millennials is an obvious one: Technology. Traditionally Millennials are characterized as enjoying the fruits of the tech boom, obsessed with screens, but remember what it was like in the dark ages pre-world wide web. Gen Z however are characterized as having been born with an Iphone 3 in their hands, and “Learned to swipe before they could walk.” Although, our years in question, let’s call them the “Middle Generation” barely share any of these traits, and this is why we have hard time claiming belonging to either category. We were born in the formative years of the tech boom, the world wide web. Gen Z however occurred in my childhood, and I remember how amazed I was when I found out how many songs an Ipod could hold, and I remember when Netflix was just a DVD delivery service. I often compare that to my kid sister, born in 2006, smack in the middle of Gen Z. Her first phone was an Apple, she just skipped the Ipod, she had instgram before puberty, and god forbid we ever explained to her the point of a Blockbuster. My point is, how can we be the same generation? There are just too many cultural differences there because of the technological renaissance that occurred in my childhood, and the same reasons exist in why we can’t be Millennials either.

first phone was a flip, I didn’t have social media until I was 13, I remember how amazed I was when I found out how many songs an Ipod could hold, and I remember when Netflix was just a DVD delivery service. I often compare that to my kid sister, born in 2006, smack in the middle of Gen Z. Her first phone was an Apple, she just skipped the Ipod, she had instgram before puberty, and god forbid we ever explained to her the point of a Blockbuster. My point is, how can we be the same generation? There are just too many cultural differences there because of the technological renaissance that occurred in my childhood, and the same reasons exist in why we can’t be Millennials either.

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The Latinx Art Show

By Hernan Pacas and Allison Rapp
Staff Writer & Digital Editor

The third annual Latinx Art Show drew a considerable crowd in the Student Center last Thursday evening. Hosted collectively by the Puerto Rican Alliance (PRA), the Mexican Heritage Student Association (MeHSA), and the Dominican Student Movement (MEDo), the event was lively with club activity.

"It's amazing working with the other student clubs. MEDo and PRA have always welcomed MeHSA with open arms and it's really amazing the connections we have because we're always supporting each other," said Litzi Martinez, President of MeHSA. This was her very first time handling the organization of the Latinx Art Show. "Since we're so close it's very easy to get things done and communicate efficiently."

In one room, a gallery of student artwork was displayed, featuring pieces by members of all three clubs. Students demonstrated their multitude of skills in painting, photo editing, drawing, and even woven art, and many advertised their availability to do commissioned work.

"Art is pure expression, it is a vibe, the way you live life, it is a way to deliver a lesson or express something interior," said Flo Magica, one of the students presenting their artwork, who also challenged visitors to a short drawing puzzle. The prize? One of his very own prints in portable postcard size.

Next door, an entourage of performers entertained the guests with poetry readings, dances, music, singing, and everything in between. Magica recited original poems, including several written in Spanish.

"Each year it gets bigger and better and I can't wait for what this event will look like a couple years from now," said Martinez, who was happy with how the event turned out. "For next year I really hope we are able to establish a way that artists could possibly sell their artwork. Apart from that I just hope that each year the event keeps growing and the campus community becomes closer because of it!"

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Millennials have clear memory of the 90s, the youngest born were five at the turn of the century, and even those have memories of the age before the internet became the most important tool in the history of humanity. Although, go back a few years and the difference between those born in 1990 and 1998 are numerous. Forgetting that Millennials go back into the 70s, there are enough differences between me and someone born in 1990. While I merely remember a non-interconnected world, they were truly raised in it, they have memories of the days before cell phones, let alone one you could call smart. The point being the cultural differences there are just as common, so how could we be Millennials? Basically, do I remember pagers? Yes, did I ever use one? Nope.

I think what makes this particular case a case at all is because of the tech boom that has defined the past thirty years. It happened quick enough and spread quick enough that the culture changed over a matter of a few years that those of us born in the middle can't connect with a generation born into it, or a generation who remembers a world without any of it.

The thing is, we really don't want to. Millennials have gotten the stereotype of being lazy and entitled, born into a world that made them believe they were special. Of course, just a stereotype, but not one we want to be associated with. We definitely do not want to be grouped in the screen-dependent generation of our younger, that only knows a soulless world of clickbait and social media influencers.

So, we are lost in the middle, not really belonging to either of the generations that people tend to associate us with. The best suggestion I could propose is that we forget about these stupid generational things all together, but as long as cable news and market research exist that is not going to happen, but, we could at least stop trying to think it means anything.
MoMA PS1 Explores the Subjugation and Resiliency of Women with Nancy Spero

Jack Coleman
Staff Writer


Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Nancy Spero (1926-2009) was a leading figure in feminist art. In 1972, Spero founded A.I.R. Gallery, the first art venue in the United States run by and featuring only women artists. In the most far-reaching retrospective of the artist’s work since her death in 2009, the show encompasses her earliest work from the 1950s to her last piece, created in 2007. Curated and organized by Julie Ault, this show was done in conjunction with the Museo de Tamayo in Mexico City.

Organized in a breathtaking overview of Spero’s different phases, the exhibition includes over one hundred works which ponder oppression, maternity, and the resiliency and vitality of women. Also featured is Brooklyn College Professor Irene Sosa’s video documentation of the artist at work.

Upon entering the third floor gallery at PS1, viewers are inundated by Spero’s meditations of women’s history. Most of these works are hand-printed on large and small scale paper panels, but there are also smaller works done in oil on canvas.

Spero’s Black Paintings from the 1950s and early 60s are gloomy oil paintings with gestural brushstrokes and barely discernible, hollowed human forms. The figures here are one with the abstraction, not laid over. Her activism and art begin to blend most audaciously at the onset of the Vietnam War with her War Series, where the brutality of the conflict is reflected in male and female forms. In keeping with her highly politicized subject matter, the Artaud Series of the 1970s focuses on the french poet Antonin Artaud’s language of “cruelty”, which Spero uses to express her status as a female artist in a male dominated art world. By looking at war, history, and literature in gendered terms, Spero lays the foundation for her later works which almost exclusively tackle issues such as gendered violence and inequality.

The subject matter and form of the early phases congregate into her large scale works Torture of Women and Notes in Time on Women, which is on view from the MoMA’s collection for the first time in a decade. The multi-panel friezes, made of taped pieces of paper, feature female figures prancing, jumping, and running freely amidst harrowing news stories, passages of literature, and historical documents. The selected text (featuring numerous Artaud passages) in the work is a sort of overview of the history of women, and contrasts with the liberated nude figures bouncing around the pages.

Her last installation piece, Maypole: Take No Prisoners, is situated in the basement of the museum, but can be seen by a balcony on the first floor. A polemic on the war in Iraq, Maypole calls attention to the atrocities of international conflict. Where handprinted heads on aluminum plates are attached to ribbons and seem to dangle from a large central pole, viewers are able to walk underneath and get a closer look at the grotesque faces as they are suspended overhead by wire. Though the bulk of her oeuvre is done on paper and often takes the form of scrolls or friezes, her idiosyncratic handprinting and treatment of politicized violence is still present in this massive piece.

In between the panels which tower to the ceiling, and those but a hair away from the floor, the works are scattered about the walls of the gallery in a seemingly chaotic way. This exhibition style, however, does not foil but flows with the work shown. Spero’s focus on the feminine realm is presented to the viewer in compositions which read more like documents than completed works of art, but shown in this magnitude and with Ault’s design genius, the life of each piece is brought forth in an unforgettable journey through Spero’s reimagining of history, or herstory.

“Nancy Spero: Paper Mirror” runs until June 23. CUNY students are granted free admission to MoMA PS1 and other cultural centers thanks to the CUNY Arts Program.
By Quiara Vasquez  
Editor-in-Chief

There was a running joke among the stage crew at my old theater that went a little something like this: "a prop is something that gets in the way during scene changes. An actor is a prop that won't shut the fuck up." Harsh? Maybe. Jealous? Sure, but don't hold it against the poor guys, toiling away in obscurity every night.

One thing's for sure though: I suspect that if they went into playwriting, their works would look a little something like "Superterranean," the latest work from stage designer Mimi Lien.

Lien's made a name for herself these past few years, becoming the first set designer to get a MacArthur "Genius Grant" in 2015, and winning the Tony in 2017 for her scenic design for "Natasha, Pierre, and The Great Comet of 1812." Now, Lien's turning her attention to an even greater institution: CUNY City Tech.

"Superterranean," was unveiled to the public at City Tech's Voorhees Theater on Sunday, Apr. 7. The work was done in collaboration with Pig Iron Theatre Company and City Tech's Theaterworks program, which lets CUNY students interested in theater tech and related fields work with professional artists.

Lien came up with the idea for "Subterranean" when Pig Iron's artistic director, Dan Rothenberg, asked her about her biggest obsessions.

"I guess a lot of my obsessions are spaces that have some kind of extremeness to them," Lien told the audience. The extreme heights of cathedrals, for instance, or tunnels. Even the New Jersey Turnpike, which Lien admitted is "an eyesore for some," is a source of fascination for Lien.

"There's no dialogue, no real narrative, and next to nothing in terms of acting - and yet it's totally riveting theater in spite of that, or perhaps because of that. Lien's worked in plenty of materials and spaces over the past decade, but the thing that unites all of her work is the skill with which she entices an audience into the artificial world of the stage. In this case, the simplicity of the set is at once earnestly child-like and wildly open to interpretation on some symbolic level.

As she told me afterwards, Lien likes to keep it vague. "I wasn't thinking, what am I gonna make?" Lien said. She and members of the Pig Iron Theatre Company collaborated, hashing out ideas. Initially the actors focused on contrasting "soft bodies" with "hard bodies," but hard bodies turned out to be less fertile ground than they first thought. After all, Lien explained, architecture is almost all made up of hard bodies.

Between rehearsals, Lien and the Pig Iron crew went to some of the inhuman spaces that fascinate her so for inspiration.

"In an early version, I took the company on a field trip to a wastewater treatment facility in Philadelphia," Lien told me. "There's this feeling of this whole system of infrastructure that's hidden, and it's something that wasn't designed for human inhabitation, but we can't live without it."

This inspired the second act of the show, where a company of props - sorry, actors - huddle around a giant prism full of square orifices. The gurgling tower alternately recalls a watertower, a glory hole, and (even worse) a DMV. Soon the humans are joined by even softer bodies - a giant black esophagus monster, and a veiny white serpent which can only be described as "scrotal."

But Lien doesn't think you should be alarmed by these plastic flesh snakes. "Being human is really just being a sack of skin," Lien told me.

Lien's vision of "Superterranean" is only halfway realized. Between the first two acts, the space grows more spacious - from the claustrophobic diptych to a large enclosed space surrounding a pillar. In part three and four, Lien says, the space will only get vaster. As for how she intends to pull that off... well, that would be a spoiler.

"Subterranean" will have its formal premiere at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival this September.
Softball Team Drops Two to CSI

By Maruful Hossain
Sports Editor

The Brooklyn College women's softball team got dominated through two games and were held to zero base runners in one of them by the College of Staten Island Dolphins this past weekend. CSI took game one 18-0, and closed out the second game 11-0. The Bulldogs drop to 2-12 for the season after its first CUNYAC double header.

In game one, the Dolphins scored six runs in the bottom of the first inning and added two more in the second. The Dolphins then exploded with 10 runs in the fourth inning. They dominated BC with 18 hits on 34 at bats. The Bulldogs infielder/pitcher Anna Curran and first baseman Melanie Garate each went one for two in the game. Freshman pitcher, Megan Ortiz-Mengedoht had 10 earned runs and pitched four innings.

The Bulldogs were held to only two hits.

Game two told the same story as the Dolphins dominated again in five innings, and CSI pitcher Jacklyn Kateridge threw a perfect game in the process. The Dolphins held a 3-0 lead throughout the majority of game two, and the Bulldogs still weren't able to find answers as the Dolphins ran the lead up to eight runs in the fourth inning. Curran had seven earned runs and she pitched three innings. The Dolphins had 11 runs on 14 hits while the Bulldogs had zero runs on zero hits.

The Bulldogs look to shake off that loss as they next face Hunter College at home on Thursday, Apr. 11 at 3:00 p.m.

Photo Credit: Damion Reid

HEADS UP!

The Kingsman will NOT be printing for the following two weeks due to spring break.
Our final two issues for the Spring 2019 semester will come out on May 1 and May 8.