

# The Kingsman

"THE VOICE OF BROOKLYN COLLEGE SINCE 1950"

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## ELECTION IN QUESTION

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Image Credit: Liliana Bernal / Quiara Vasquez

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## English-Journalism Students Face Graduation Woes

By Allison Rapp  
*Digital Editor*

Some journalism students at Brooklyn College are finding themselves in a tough position: one where classes they need in order to complete their degrees and graduate are no longer being offered or cancelled altogether.

Two different programs of study used to exist for journalism students: English Journalism for those who wanted to focus more on print journalism and writing, and TV/Radio for those whose interests lie in the more technical aspects of the field. The distinction was significant, as students were required to take different classes in order to complete their respective degree paths. Now, that system is being phased out. The English program will be slowly merged into the TV/Radio program within the next several years, creating an overarching singular journalism program called "Journalism and Media Studies" (JAMS for short).

Students already in the middle of completing the English Journalism program were told they would still be permitted to finish out their degrees without any issues, but it now appears as though that might not be the case.

Carolann Lowe, a senior English Journalism student, only has three more courses left to fill her major, which she was hoping to fulfill this fall semester. Two out of the three courses are not being offered.

"One week after I enrolled in the ENGL 3401 Advanced News Writing and Reporting class on CUNYfirst,

I received an email that it would be canceled. I am currently searching for an alternative class to take in replacement of that course," she wrote in an e-mail. "My choices are to either find a related course at another CUNY school or to see if there is an alternate class under the TV & Radio department that can replace the course."

After asking professors, Lowe found that there was a replacement for the other unavailable course, History of News, but that it wouldn't be offered until 2020.

"There was some confusion at the English department in relation to who had the authority to enroll me back into the journalism classes due to the phasing out of the journalism major which means that by 2020, the English department would no longer deal with journalism students," she said.

Kevin Limiti is another journalism

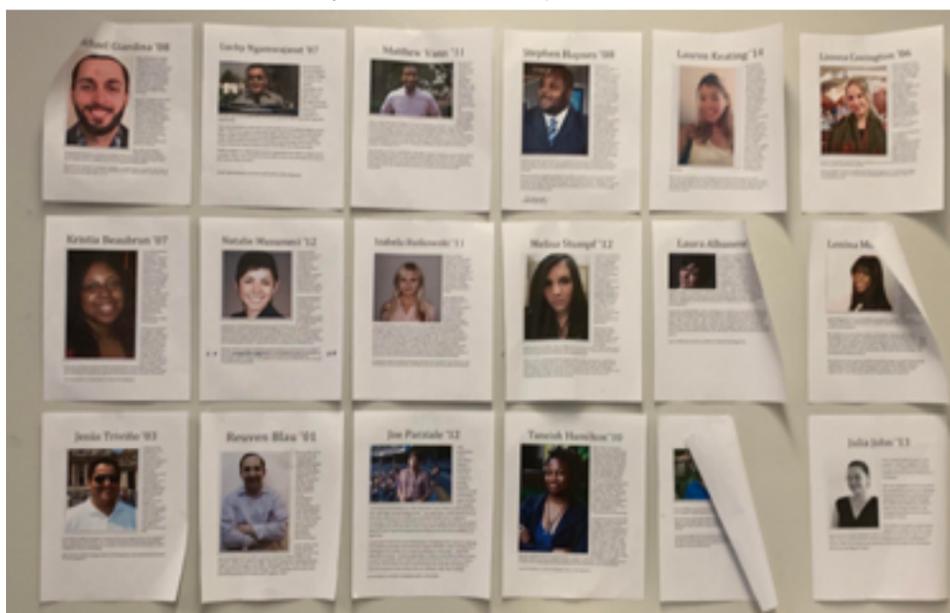
student who was hoping to take History of News.

"I'm not really that worried about it but I do think the journalism department is a bit dysfunctional at the moment," he said. "I feel like there's a real lack of communication and it might help journalism majors if the people in charge kept us in the loop."

"As for Advanced News Writing, the only thing the English Department has told me is that it's not being offered in the fall," said Professor Ronald Howell, who teaches in the journalism department. "I have not received an answer as to how students will work around this."

Professor Ellen Tremper, head of the Brooklyn College English Department, could not be reached for comment.

[Disclaimer: Kevin Limiti is a photographer and staff writer for The Kingsman. Prof. Howell is The Kingsman's advisor.]



The "alumnus wall" in 132 Ingersoll Extension's "News Lab" showcases English Journalism alums. / Zainab Iqbal

## Students Celebrate Indian Heritage at Desi Night

By Quiara Vasquez  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Students flocked to SUBO last Thursday to celebrate the best of the Indian subcontinent.

Hosted by the Desi Culture Club on May 2, Desi Night featured Indian food, a live DJ, and henna stations. But the real draw was a set of musical performances from several talented students and student groups.

"I've been meaning to go for four years, but I kept flaking," said senior Sabrina Mammen. "It's a lot of fun."

The theme of the night was "Chennai Express," a fusion between North and South Indian culture. This was most visible in the food, which mixed

the two culinary traditions into one fantastic mix. Students may had a preference for their personal cultural heritage, but they wolfed down the fusion cuisine regardless.

"I'm from South India. South Asian food is bomb," Mammen said. "But all Indian food is good."

Performances that evening also stuck to the "fusion" idea. The five members of Brooklyn College a capella group Avaaz performed a mashup of both Western and Indian pop hits; and a group of dancers combined "traditional" Indian dance moves with an all-female re-enactment of, bizarrely, Disney's Mulan. There were also performances from the Macaulay Honors Triplets a capella group, and

classically-trained singer and BC freshman Sarah Peter.

The Desi Culture Club has been holding these events for six years. Club president Milan Mathew has been working on it for two of them. Finding all the vendors to make the event work was a challenge, Mathew says - one that the club ultimately proved up to.

"You need to find a lot of vendors," she said. "We need a huge budget, because for Indian events you have to go all out for it to be worth it."

If the enthusiastic crowd decked out in saris and sherwanis was any indication, they did go all out, and it was worth it.

# Carlos and Hamza Dispute Claims of Racist Slander During Heated Hearing

By Ryan Schwach  
Managing Editor

The results of the USG presidential vote are in question with an ongoing investigation into USG President-Elect Carlos Jesus Calzadilla-Palacio's campaign with a hearing being held on Tuesday, May 7. The investigation began after allegations of slander with racist implications surfaced from one of his former opponents.

On Thursday, May 2, it was announced Calzadilla-Palacio and his vice president, Nailah Pressley, had won the first ever Undergraduate Student Government Presidential election, beating out current CLAS member Alyssa Taylor and her running mate Ethan Milich by a margin of 596 to 458.

"Seeing the results were very emotionally overwhelming," Calzadilla-Palacio told the Kingsman.

But the victory celebrations were short-lived. After this past weekend, it was announced that the election results were being challenged by a CLAS disciplinary committee after USG Presidential candidate Hamza Khilji claimed he was the target of a smear campaign led by Calzadilla-Palacio.

During the course of elections, Khilji had said that he would refuse the stipend given to the president. Khilji claims that he heard from numerous people that Calzadilla-Palacio had spread a rumor that Khilji wasn't accepting that stipend because his family was wealthy and had ownership in oil companies: a comment with racial and Islamophobic implications, considering that Khilji is both Pakistani and Muslim. (In reality, Khilji's parents are not wealthy: his father is a civil engineer and his mother is a stay-at-home-mom.)

Calzadilla-Palacio has continuously denied these allegations. On Sunday he made a Facebook post with the hashtag "Protect the Vote," asking people to e-mail appeals to campus administrators, and to "not let your vote and voice in this election be stolen."

It was then announced that a hearing would be held on Tuesday, May 7 to further investigate the comments. The hearing was helmed by committee members Kyle Larick, Victoria Baraiah, and Irene Berger. Berger had replaced Navin Rana, who resigned from the committee earlier, citing a conflict of interest. Still, Calzadilla-Palacio insisted on possible bias among the three CLAS representatives tasked with carrying

out the investigation. He cited Larick's relationship with Stephanie Ortega, who ran as treasurer on Alyssa Taylor's ticket.

However, as it came out during the hearing, Larick works for WBCR under Nailah Pressley, and his fraternity endorsed Calzadilla-Palacio's campaign. In addition, Calzadilla-Palacio claimed Victoria Baraiah was a close friend of Taylor's, but during the hearing, Baraiah reminded Calzadilla-Palacio that he offered her a position on his campaign.

In his opening statement, Khilji claimed he had originally heard these rumors weeks ago during the campaign, and investigated what he had heard.

"There was a general 'he said, she said' kind of consensus," he stated during the hearing. "I was talking to someone else and they said they did some digging around and they said [...] it's the person you think it was."

This person turned out to be Carlos Calzadilla-Palacio. Afterwards, Khilji made a Facebook post on April 14 regarding the rumours and their possible racial implications.

Calzadilla-Palacio vehemently denied having made these comments, and that he was sure "without a shadow of a doubt, that that statement did not come from me."

He made the argument that his past work as an activist has been standing against such sentiments the alleged comments contain, and that he ran a clean campaign, even going as far as saying it was Khilji who ran the truly negative campaign.

"This has been deeply hurtful," he said.

Calzadilla-Palacio had several witnesses there to attest to his character, that he was not the kind of person to make the alleged comments, and also that they themselves never heard him make these comments. Among these half-dozen witnesses were Luke Messina (who said, "I have full confidence he would not say this") and Alison Derevensky (who said, "I really don't believe he'd be able to say that.") It should be stated, these testimonies were solely on character, and not evidence to say whether or not Calzadilla-Palacio made these statements, at least not to those testifying.

While Calzadilla-Palacio relied heavily on character witnesses, who could not definitively say he had not made the claims, Khilji relied upon a relatively small set of witnesses who made concrete claims.

The first of these was Zainab Iqbal,



Hamza Khilji (right) at Thursday's hearing in the Student Center's Ward Room. / Illustration by Quiara Vasquez

Editor-in-Chief of the Excelsior newspaper, who first reported on the investigation on Sunday, May 5. Iqbal testified that she had three different sources - including an unnamed member of Calzadilla-Palacio's slate - who claimed they had personally heard Calzadilla-Palacio make the oil company comment.

"They are all trustworthy sources," she said.

Another submitted testimony, from an anonymous member of the New York Public Interest Relations Group (NYPIRG), stated that Calzadilla-Palacio not only repeated the racist comments to them, but that he also said he intended to use the rumor in his campaign, saying that "this is how we wanted to frame Hamza to the student body."

The room fell silent after Kyle Larick finished reading the statement.

Perhaps the most damning testimony came from Young Progressives of America (YPA) chapter President Corinne Greene, who worked with Calzadilla-Palacio (the founder of YPA) on several activism events, most notably the October protests calling for the termination of controversial business professor Mitchell Langbert.

Greene stated her testimony was neither for nor against, but merely "circumstantial evidence." She prefaced her statement questioning the legitimacy of the investigation and called for an independent inquiry into the allegations by

either the Campus-Wide Election Review Committee (CWERC) or by an independent group. She went on to confirm that a USG Presidential candidate - who had approached her asking to have her as their VP - told her in a conversation in the Tow Performing Arts Center on the day of the vigil for victims of the Christchurch shooting in March that Khilji's family "was wealthy and they believed his parents owned an oil company." Of the four people who ran for USG President, only Calzadilla-Palacio fits her description.

She said she believed these comments to be true until she saw Khilji's April 14 Facebook post.

"I was immediately alarmed upon realizing the potentially racist undertones of the comment that I had heard upon realizing it was indeed false," she said.

Greene clarified she does not call for Calzadilla-Palacio to have his election victory revoked. She did claim, however, that all of his character testimonies should be revoked, because they do not provide any evidence.

Calzadilla-Palacio "unequivocally condemns" the accusations that he ever made these comments.

The committee will make its decision on Thursday, May 9 after declaring their conclusion to CWERC. They will announce their decision to the public by 7 p.m. that same day.

# Letter From the Editor: A Tabloid War Ends. An Adventure Begins.

(or, how I stopped worrying and learned to love the Kingsman-Excelsior merger)

By Quiara Vasquez  
*Editor-in-Chief*

As most of our readers have heard by now, next semester the Kingsman will be merging with its rival newspaper, Excelsior. Some people are not happy about this. I was one of them - initially, anyway. It took about two months of being editor-in-chief to realize how wrong I was, and how vital this merger would be to the continued existence of free student press on campus.

There are plenty of valid concerns about the merger: in-depth local reporting is usually the first thing to get the axe when local news outlets consolidate, for one, and there's a legitimate worry that there will be less room for diverse student voices should there only be one major campus publication.

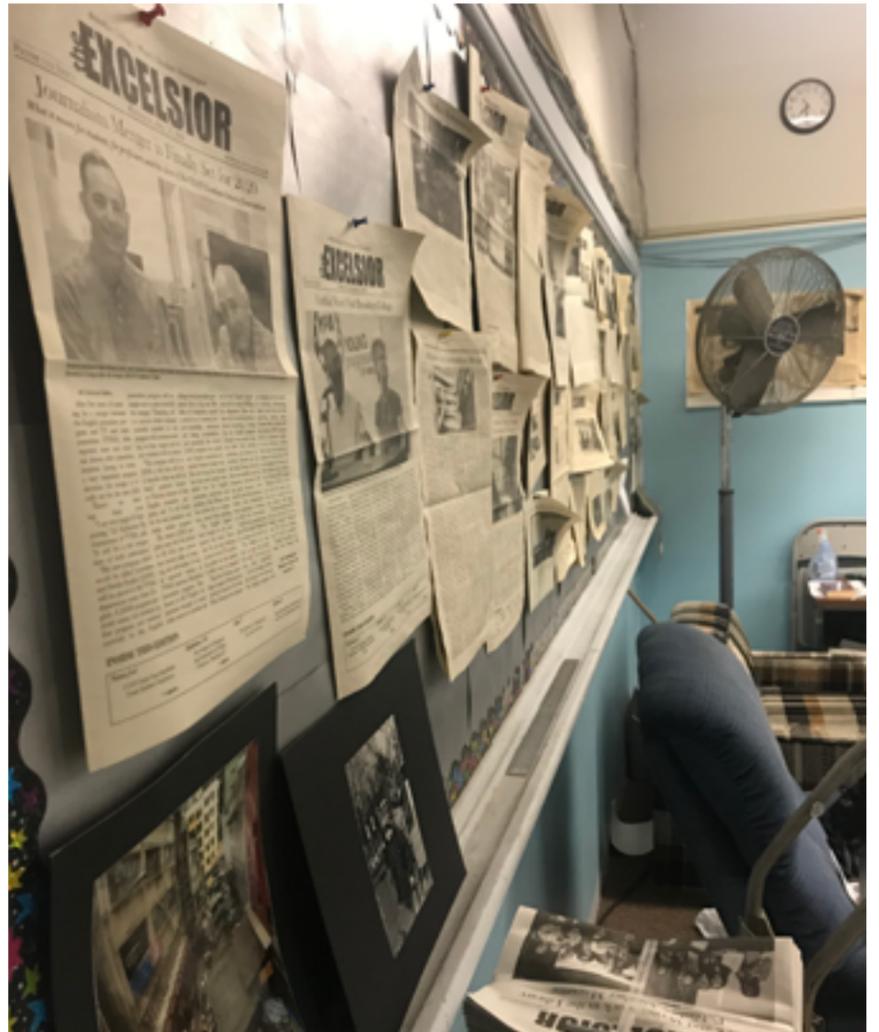
These fears are as understandable as they are unfounded. The merged paper will have twice the staff and twice the operating budget - meaning that we can run longer, better issues, on a wider swath of campus events. Instead of scrambling for content week-to-week, as we've been doing for the past decade or so, we can devote resources to in-depth investigative journalism.

And even with the merger, there are more news sources on campus now than there have been at any given time. WBCR's news team

has really stepped up its game this past year, for one; and I'd argue the BC In The Know 2 Facebook page has broken more stories in the past year than all the campus publications combined.

But the main reason for discontent surrounding the merger, especially among alums and professors, is the nostalgic allure of a tabloid war. We've been at war with Excelsior since 1988, longer than any of either publication's current writers have been alive. Our little feud is the junior version of the Daily News/New York Post feud that defined a generation of American journalism, or so alums like to tell me.

I've never been comfortable with this comparison. For one, we have the funnier covers, which makes us the Post in this analogy (and which makes me the campus Rupert Murdoch - yikes). But more seriously, the past three years of American politics have forced me to re-evaluate the impact of a tabloid war. Yes, the neverending oneupsmanship between the Daily News and the Post gave us some of the greatest headlines ever. But it also made our public discourse louder, dumber, and more driven by celebrity and outrage than the issues affecting our daily lives. Granted, they didn't start this trend; they were just they're generation's standard-bearers



The Excelsior office in 117 Roosevelt will soon close its doors forever. / Quiara Vasquez

in an unbroken line of news brouhaha that stretches across time from Pulitzer and Hearst to BuzzFeed and Twitter.

I don't hate the tabloids by any means. I admire their audacity. But I also like us to be serious, and accurate and to take our time and really check our sources. It's hard enough to strike that right balance between audacity and rigor every week under deadline. When your secondary objective is to "beat" the other guys to the

punch, that balance starts to shift away from rigor, because bluster is so much easier. And in that case, no matter who wins, both publications' readers lose.

I'm still worried about this merger, not as a student but as the merged paper's editor-in-chief. The presence of a second newspaper on campus gave us some slack - it's okay if we drop the ball from time to time, we'd say, Excelsior has the campus's back when we mess up. That puts a lot of responsibility on our shoulders. And yours, reader: more than ever, we need you to speak up, to let us know what issues we're not covering. (My e-mail is always open to field student concerns.)

But ultimately, I'm excited to be helping the merged Kingsman-Excelsior, or whatever we end up calling it. (Then again, we may just keep the name - there's no obvious replacement, and there are seven decades of alums who I suspect want us to stick with Kingsman.) When we return in the fall, we'll be bigger and better than ever - or so I hope.

Thank you again for your faithful readership all these years. Next semester, we're going to do everything we can to deserve it.



Our humble abode in 118 Roosevelt. (Not pictured: the team's trusty dartboard, my year's worth of empty Coke cans, and a photo of Cuomo topless.) / Quiara Vasquez

# Creativity on Display at BFA Capstone Show

By Jack Coleman  
Staff Writer

While on your way to finish up those final papers, print them out, or just relax in the Library, you may have seen the BFA Capstone Show. If you haven't, you should. If you haven't taken a good look at the work, you should do that too. While you're at it, you should definitely check out the work that is hanging in the practice room, 5410 Boylan Hall.

The show, which opened on Wednesday May 3rd, is the culmination of work that our BFA students on campus have been working on for quite some time. With eleven artists showing, the exhibition is one of the largest Capstone shows in years, which is why the collection is split between the two locations. The actual size of many of the works is also a factor in the need for a dual gallery show. The library gallery includes artists Shanshan Huang, Shahaadah Morell, Jocomo

Falconer, Umbreen Mohammed, and Yiting Zhao. In the Boylan gallery hang works by Jameelah Thompson, Genesis Monegro, Janay Mosley, Shanshan Huang, Shuying Zhao, and Spencer O'Connell.

All of the artists bring their own voices, visions, and statements to the table. There are some common themes among many of the works, however. One of which, in varying forms, is the representation of the body, as it relates to internal and external factors. While not all of the artists' work focuses on the human form explicitly, there is a common thread of interest in the human subject.

Shahaadah Morell's energetically colorful portraits in melted crayon, acrylic, and mixed media exude a personal response to the politics of self love. "Knowing your soul, and being in love with that soul as a black woman," is what Morell focuses on in her Capstone project, shown in the library gallery. These ideas are

articulated most clearly in her piece "The Good, Bad, and Ugly." This portrait is in your face, in more ways than one. The subject's face is split in two, where a plum-skinned version has emerged in three-quarter view. "I am a Queen... I'm black and beautiful... My skin glows like the sun," reads one of the glued slips of paper immersed in the hair of the split figure.

Where Morell's pieces provides the lyrics, Jomo Falconer's works provide the music. Also in the library, Falconer's work features relief print portraits of jazz musicians and singers in the midst of performing.

"I've always loved music; ever since I've made art, it's been about music," Falconer remarked. There is an exciting play on positive and negative space in his renderings of iconic figures such as Miles Davis and Louis Armstrong. The contours of the figures, the instruments, and the music flow in stark white against the otherwise wholly black space.

In the Boylan Hall gallery space, an illustration of a flower is literally shattered with each section of the work overlaid in film, the nectar of the flower leaking out of its bud. But through all the precariousness, the stem of the flower remains sturdy. This is Jameelah Thompson's "Self-Portrait." Drawing inspiration from the certain emotional places that grief can lead her to, Thompson's showcase reads as meditations of these emotional



Jameelah Thompson's "Self-Portrait." / Jack Coleman

locales. "Self-Portrait" is done on paper, and acts as a reminder of the instability and resiliency of life to remain, at times shattered, still beautiful to behold as the piece most definitely is.

Hopefully, by next year, the art department can work out an alternative to splitting up the Capstone Show between two galleries. For next year's, perhaps the works hanging in the fifth floor hallways of Boylan Hall could be replaced temporarily by the annual show, to create an immersive experience for students and viewers. The library obviously has the most foot traffic compared to the fifth floor of Boylan, but there just simply isn't enough wall space in either gallery to effectively accommodate a collection of this size. This is surely a problem which could be solved, for next year, by students interested in exhibition design and curation.

Regardless, each artist presents collections which illustrate the hard work and dedication of our BFA students on campus. The exhibition is on view until Thursday, May 16.



Shahaadah Morell's "The Good, Bad, and Ugly." / Jack Coleman

## OPINION: As A Conservative Student, I Stand With Carlos

By Samer Chiavello  
Opinions Contributor

Ah yes, it would not be a proper election sundae without a ridiculous scandal to serve as the cherry on top.

On May 2, 2019 it was confirmed to the entire student body that junior transfer student Carlos Calzadilla-Palacio was president-elect of the Brooklyn College Undergraduate Student Government.

However, even with a landslide victory against his competitors,

Calzadilla-Palacio and his campaign may have celebrated too early. On May 5, 2019, just three days after the results of the election, the student body was made aware of allegations against Calzadilla-Palacio accusing him of making Islamophobic/racist remarks about one of his former presidential opponents (and good friend of mine), Hamza Khilji.

As a conservative student who attends Brooklyn College, I am certainly not a fan of Calzadilla-Palacio. I dislike the anti-Trump agenda that he and his organization,

Young Progressives of America (YPA), have been pushing relentlessly at Brooklyn College. It has damaged bipartisanship on this campus, and has made it harder for me and other Republicans to coexist with the extreme leftist presence he has created. His stance on American politics are the complete antithesis of mine, and his promise on making USG into an activism-based government is very unsettling to me since the plan is to essentially marginalize unpopular opinions/voices on campus.

It was in my best interest that Khilji win the election not only because I know him as a friend through the BC Speech and Debate club, but because his stance on having a well-rounded representation of all political voices on campus resonated with me, instead of the polarizing tone that Calzadilla-Palacio and his campaign were pushing up until the election period.

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# OPINION: As A Conservative Student, I Stand With Carlos

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

In short, I think I can speak on behalf of the many Republican students who attend Brooklyn College that Calzadilla-Palacio's presence has done nothing but damage to bipartisanship on campus. For all of these reasons, I did not vote for him in this election.

With that said, as much as I have a large distaste for Calzadilla-Palacio, I am showing nothing but support for him throughout this ridiculous scandal for many reasons.

Throughout my entire life, I have always prided myself that I live in a country where we have our unique First Amendment rights. It is evident that our founding fathers were smart enough to realize that when the majority is silenced by government, tyranny ensues upon the public and wreaks havoc among the innocent. The right to free speech is, in my opinion, unparalleled to any other constitutional amendment because it has given us the privilege to create change, and has allowed activists like myself and Calzadilla-Palacio to inspire others to help bring change into our nation.

However, when we as a people attempt to punish those by deciding what is okay to and what is not okay to say - what is hate speech and what is not hate speech, or what is a racist comment and what is not a racist comment - history has evidently shown that those people resort back to the tyranny that they tried to escape in the first place. Calzadilla-Palacio's campaign revolved around making Brooklyn College a "safer" environment by eradicating hate such as racism, sexism, or any other "-isms" that you can think of. In my mind, while his comments may definitely be perceived to be racist and Islamophobic, it should not condemn him to the point where we revoke his fair victory. Comments of said nature are an awful way to generalize someone, let alone an entire race and religion, but to have it affect a campaign that was promoting the antithesis of this negative nature to begin with is absolutely ludicrous.

Secondly, it is safe to say that Calzadilla-Palacio has been the

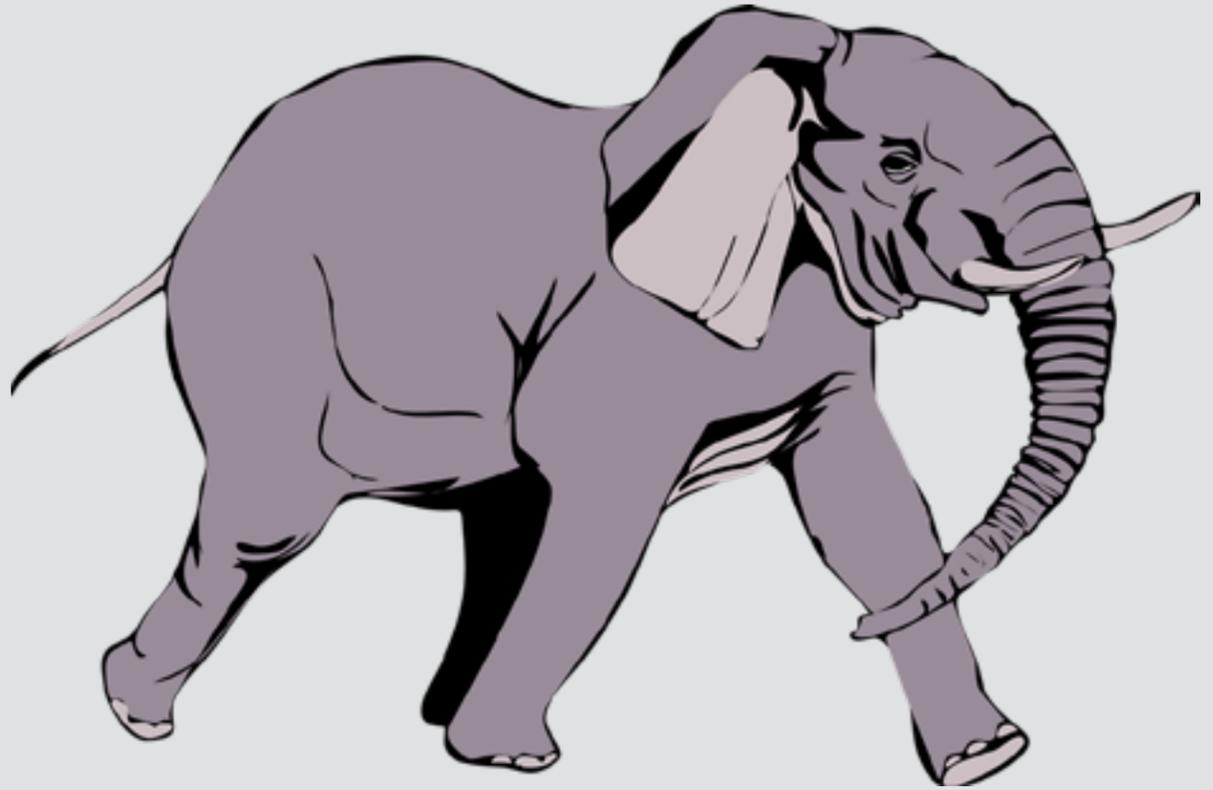


Photo Credit: freestockphotos

victim of unnecessary shame by his own kind, particularly his colleague, friend, and former USS candidate Corrine Greene. Greene, who is the president of the YPA chapter at Brooklyn College, has been ruthlessly calling out Calzadilla-Palacio in this scandal and has taken the bull by the reins to make everyone aware of the "wrongdoings" that of which Calzadilla-Palacio has committed.

Having been witness to Greene's work in activism through YPA, I am not a fan of her either for the same reasons that I have distaste for Calzadilla-Palacio, yet as someone who judges those by character, it is very clear to me Greene has an underlying agenda calling out "j'accuse" towards Calzadilla-Palacio.

Anyone familiar with the activism work of YPA will know that Greene and Calzadilla-Palacio have worked hand-in-hand with each other pushing the leftist agenda on campus. Personally, I have been witness to their participation on the debate team together and as much as I dislike the both of their political views, there is no denying that they make a great team.

This is why it was such a huge surprise to me that despite the fact that her stance on American politics would warrant excessive

whistleblowing, reading her comments on the scandal in an article by the BC Excelsior were incredibly targeting and negative. Her submitting a statement of support against Calzadilla-Palacio, and claiming how "not cooperating with/interfering with a fair investigation... is absolutely disqualifying," was shocking on an almost laughable level.

Finally, I think if anyone can attest to my thoughts aside from the Republican community at Brooklyn College, I could imagine that person being none other than my friend Hamza Khilji. With a campaign that revolved around creating a well-rounded student government that would be open to all voices on campus, it would be no surprise to me that the person who is the target of this slander could understand why this scandal is ridiculous. Sure, he is the victim of alleged hateful comments, and if it were me as the target of said comments I think I would be none other than offended. However, I believe that as a presidential candidate it is important to exemplify professionalism and the spirit of democracy. Khilji, being a firm believer of free speech based off of his campaign, would know that the investigation set to move forward by the elections commission is

completely unnecessary, and that the ad hominem of a candidate - while incredibly unnecessary and perceived to be hateful - should not be punished by their removal of office when it was fairly obtained by a democratic election. With that said however, I am not one to speak for my friend.

My opinions about Calzadilla-Palacio regarding his identity politics and his efforts to polarize Brooklyn College are unchanged. I still believe that his activism government is going to be a negative addition to the college. I stand against YPA and their anti-Trump agenda, which has only damaged bipartisanship at Brooklyn College, and I certainly still do not like the fact that he got elected president to begin with. However, (and ironically), a student's rights are being violated thanks to the leftist rhetoric that has been pushed on campus all school year, and I am committed to show my complete support for Carlos Calzadilla-Palacio, regardless of my identity politics. This is not the time to conduct a "hate speech witch hunt," but rather a time to recognize that we need bipartisanship on campus now more than ever.



## Interested in writing a column?

Are you a CUNY student with something to say - every week?  
The Kingsman's Opinions section is looking for weekly columnists.

Interested parties should send an e-mail to [kingsmanbc@gmail.com](mailto:kingsmanbc@gmail.com) introducing themselves and their subjects of interest (e.g., politics, science, music reviews...) over the summer. Provide samples of your prior writing if you have it - but don't sweat it if you don't have any! The most important thing is that you can meet your deadlines every week (or, if not, that you can write material in advance so you can run weekly).

We ALSO are interested in original weekly comic strips/cartoons, if that's your thing!

# OPINION: On Arson and Philosophy

By Aleksandra Skica  
*Staff Writer*

On Wednesday, Apr. 17, Marc Lamparello, a graduate student in philosophy and an adjunct lecturer at Brooklyn College, stepped into St. Patrick's Cathedral with tools to set a fire and canisters of gasoline. Upon questioning, he insisted that he was walking through the church to refill his gas tank (a most implausible explanation, considering that his tank was full). He was arrested on charges of attempted arson and reckless endangerment. Since that time, he has been under psychiatric evaluation at Bellevue Hospital.<sup>1</sup>

At Brooklyn College, Lamparello taught business ethics and "Introduction to the Problems of Philosophy", which deals with "such topics as the nature and scope of knowledge, meaning and verification, the existence of God, determinism and free will, the mind-body problem, and the nature of moral judgments," according to an online course description. The course introduces students to the branches of philosophy, and to the fundamental problems which thinkers have contemplated for millennia.

I am currently taking the same course he taught, albeit with a different professor. After the event, my professor recalled Lamparello's generally strange manner and noted that oftentimes those who take philosophy too seriously can

lose their connection to the real world. This is a common yet alarming notion. If an honest and this-worldly quest for truth and moral goodness, when taken to the extreme, has detrimental effects, it defeats its very purpose. If taking the study of reality too seriously makes one lose touch with reality, maybe it wasn't reality one was studying, after all.

The purpose of philosophy is to answer questions about fundamental facts and to provide a framework for living, based on these facts. What are the facts? How do we know them? Based on the facts, how do we act? Or, alternatively phrased: what is true and what is good?

When examining Lamparello's actions from this perspective, one can see that something went drastically wrong in the reasoning process that led to his actions. It does not take a philosopher to see that burning down buildings is wrong, but it does take a philosopher to try to rationalize doing so.

Indeed, in his book *Reason and Counterpoint*, Lamparello explicitly states that the goal of his theory, skeptical hermeneutics, is to deconstruct knowledge and to abandon a principled normative approach. He writes, "[...] hermeneutic skepticism is broadly post-modern in outlook, in that it (a) aims to isolate and deconstruct any one or several (pre-)analytic, methodological foci, and (b) does not attempt reconstruction of any (constitutive) first-order theory



Former BC adjunct lecturer (and failed arsonist) Marc Lamparello. / Quiara Vasquez

or [...] \*universal\* (emphasis his) 'principles' of philosophy."<sup>2</sup> This approach to philosophy contradicts what philosophy is for and what it is supposed to be: a systematic way of understanding the world and choosing courses of action. His theory says, in effect, "You are incapable of really knowing anything. Hence, there's no reason to have a principled moral framework." And hence, you can rationalize your way into holding any conclusion at all. If you can't know anything, how can you know how to act?

Philosophy disconnected from the real world cannot be used as anything but a semantic game or a rationalization. It certainly doesn't serve as a guide for finding out what's true, being a good

person, or leading a good life. If philosophy deals with finding the true and the good, someone in honest pursuit of these could not possibly view arson as a viable path to achieve them. Just as one cannot drink poison if he wishes to live, he cannot mix the true and the good with their opposites in an attempt to achieve them.

Lamparello, a lecturer on ethics, attempted an act of violence. Whether he did this for ideological reasons or from psychosis is yet unknown. But this event makes one thing starkly clear: philosophy disconnected from the real world does not achieve its purpose.

1) Watkins, A., & Winston, A. (2019, April 18). The New York Times. "Man Arrested With Gas Cans and Lighters at St. Patrick's Cathedral Is a Philosophy Teacher."

2) Lamparello, Marc. (2016). *Reason and Counterpoint*. (pp. xvi), Eugene: Wipf And Stock.

## Men's Tennis Advances to Semifinals

By Maruful Hossain  
*Sports Editor*

The Brooklyn College Bulldogs Men's tennis team saw themselves in the semifinals for the second year in a row. Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, who was the number 3 seed in CUNYAC, they ended up dropping the game to the CSI Dolphins, the second seed, in a very close match, losing 5-4 at the USTA National Tennis

Center. The Bulldogs closed the season with a 7-9 record and CSI Dolphins improved 11-2, moving on to the championship.

CSI's Matthew Vesci defeated BC's Justin Vazquez (2-6, 7-6 (9-7), 7-4) in a third set tiebreaker in singles action to give CSI a team victory.

The Bulldogs trailed 2-1 after doubles play, but Bulldogs Rohan Mathur defeated CSI's Ivi Selencia (6-2, 6-2) and Bulldogs

Jonathan Lum also took a victory (6-1, 6-1). Due to inclement weather, the game was moved indoors to Queens College with the Bulldogs ahead 3-2.

The Bulldogs' Christian Pena gave Brooklyn its final win of the evening over CSI's Lesly DeCastro (6-2, 4-6, 7-5) in the Number 6 slot. The Bulldogs Julian Calame-Mars lost in a tie breaker against CSI's Raymond Hwang (6-7 (7-4), 6-3, 3-6).

The Bulldogs did not go down without a fight. The Bulldogs can keep their heads held up high as they focus on next year.



# A Fond Farewell from Noah Daly

By Noah Daly  
*Outgoing Business Manager*

After twenty-four issues, dozens of stories, and that one time I got yelled at for playing Frisbee on the East Quad, it is time to head out of this office. It is fortunate that my brief tenure at Brooklyn College coincides with the most significant transition in the history of The Kingsman. Along with our rival sibling paper The Excelsior, we will be forming a new united publication to bring more, better quality reporting to you, our readers. All we need is a name. Submit your votes by writing the name for the new campus paper on this page, crumpling it into a ball and eating it. Don't worry, we'll find you.

The changing of the guard also means saying farewell to longtime faculty like Dean Willie Scott, who helped found the Koppelman Business School (KSB is only the second CUNY school with AACSB accreditation). It is a skill to work well under all kinds of managers in life, and the proving ground for this is in the classroom. By the time I showed up at Brooklyn College, I had spent three years studying in three different countries. Before moving to Brooklyn I worked with Ivy League

educators and out-of-work teachers. Some who volunteered their time to educate illiterate migrant workers, and some who wouldn't get out of bed for anything less than a hefty fee. Some of those people will remain in my own small font of knowledge, and some were as much fun to work with as a jar of wasps. But being able to learn from seasoned educators like Dean Scott, Professors Nakato Hirakubo, Richard Long, Henith Samuel, Carlos Cruz, Christa Paterline, and James Pletcher, gave me a crystalline vision of the dedicated teacher.

I'm thankful to have taken the long road to my degree. After I graduated community college, I took a semester-long chance on a study abroad adventure that nearly killed me, and spent the following semester recovering from it. And after all that, I felt that I had somehow lost by arriving at Brooklyn College. In my hubris, I thought I had worked hard in school, that I "could do better than a CUNY school", "get an authentic college experience", and that I really ought "raise my standards". With the obvious odors of cultural privilege aside, I think that this is the thought that crosses many people's

minds when considering the pantheon of New York universities.

Many of the people I've had the good fortune to work with at this school are tremendously talented, and would fit in at the schools we've been taught to idolize by our teachers and parents. It is only the gut-wrenching twists of fate and personal finance that granted me the good fortune to meet them here.

Since my arrival in August of 2017, I've seen the birth and rebirth of important campus organizations like the Marketing Society and the Cryptocurrency Club met with high student engagement. I've also seen a more than 300% increase in voter turnout in Student Government elections, and hundreds more students exercising their rights to peaceful protest. Yes, we go to a commuter school. Many of us lead lives far from Flatbush, but some have left an indelible mark on campus life at Brooklyn College.

As the curtains close on my undergraduate experience, I'm wracked with regret: projects uncompleted and ideas unexecuted, living with classmates, and attending rowdy sporting events. I was raised to think I would go to the Ivory Towers, but I ended up



Noah Daly gazes out upon his domain. / Quiara Vasquez

here under the BC Library's spire. I had thought of luxurious campus fields and vast spaces, but found myself kicking away garbage on street corners. But now I am thankful for the garbage. That stench made me tough. Sometimes my desire to contribute may have eclipsed the actual value of what I had to say. But I am at my core, a yammering chimpanzee that some fool taught how

to type. In a world of perfect imperfections and limitless chances to do good, I was able to walk right into this school and do what I do best: squawk and button mash to my heart's content. And for this, I am eternally grateful.

"We are but small boats at sea, tacking to chase the wind. But no matter how far we go, we appreciate those places we've been." -Me

## Maruful Out!

By Maruful Hossain  
*Outgoing Sports Editor*

Hey all, this is Maruful Hossain, the current Sports Editor of the Kingsman. This is my first and only semester I have written for the Kingsman as I'll be on my way out of Brooklyn College very soon.

However, this semester, I had the wonderful opportunity to become a Sports Editor and it was a pleasure covering these sporting events as my first love growing up was sports. It was also a pleasure giving assistance during big events like the Bernie Sanders rally and the Jumaane Williams panel after he won his Public Advocate Position for NYC.

I'd like to thank Quiara Vasquez, for giving me this opportunity to

showcase my ability to talk about what I love, and Ryan Schwach, for making me a better writer/journalist. And most importantly, thank you to the entire Kingsman staff for welcoming me with open arms. I'd like to say I always considered you all my family, and I thank you for making my final semester a fun one.

I have very big things planned as I move on from the Kingsman. I am an IRTS (International Radio and Television Society) Fellow, and I'll be working with Entercom, a place where I always wanted to work since I was a sophomore. Once again, I'd like to thank the Kingsman for the unconditional support for my career goals. This is not a goodbye, rather, this is a see you later. Maruful out.



Maruful Hossain, looking forward to the future. / Camila Dejesus