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The Brooklyn Hound

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Photo Credit: Nicholas Williams

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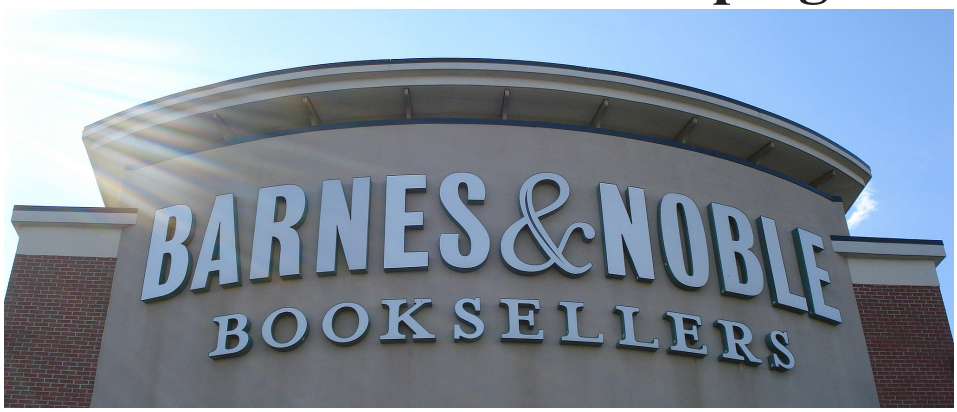
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Barnes & Noble Pulls the Plug on New Book Covers Campaign



BLUNDER - B&N faced backlash after releasing a controversial collection of books./FLICKR

By Dayanara Analuisa

Barnes & Noble sparked internet backlash with a controversial attempt at celebrating Black History Month that some called "literary blackface."

The bookselling chain announced plans on February 3 to release a new collection of books called "The Diverse Editions." The collection consisted of 12 classic books with new cover designs that featured people of color.

This partnership with Penguin Random house turned sour when Twitter discovered that most of the books were written by white authors. On the scheduled launch day, the company reported the cancellation of the collection.

Barnes & Noble apologized in a Twitter statement, stating that the new covers were never meant to be a substitute for writers of color and their voices.

"The booksellers who championed this initiative did so convinced it would help drive engagement with these classic titles," the company said. "It was a project inspired by our work with schools and was created in part to raise awareness and discussion during Black History Month."

The main issue seemed to be that out of all of the 12 books included in the launch, only one was written by a black author. This was Alexandre Dumas, author of The Count of Monte Cristo.

Some argued that the depicted edits to these classic books were problematic stereotypes, like Dorothy's new red sneakers. Others pointed out what they said was a racist background to some of the stories, like the offensive and inaccurate depiction of Native Americans in "Peter Pan."

Black authors continued to be vocal on social media. A Blogger who specializes in science fiction and fantasy books, Rod T. Faulkner, called the event "literary blackface" in his Medium essay.

"It's still a story by a white author, featuring a white character, told via the white gaze," a writer and the creator of the twitter hashtag #WhatWoCWritersHear, L.L. McKinney told NPR. "And none of this has changed within the contents of the story itself. They're essentially just slapping a cover on it to 'celebrate diversity.' But a lot of us felt that you're just trying to cash in on the fact that it's Black History Month, and now all of a sudden, black faces and brown faces will sell books."

This wasn't the first time Barnes & Noble disappointed the public. The company selected a controversial book, "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummings, for their February national book club. The book was under fire because readers disapproved of the white author's depictions of Mexican characters.

Barnes & Noble said in their Twitter statement that they would continue to put a spotlight on these diverse books and "to celebrate black history and great literature from writers of color."

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CUNY Votes Summit Aims To Educate Students On Voting



PLEDGE - NYC Votes and CUNY launched a new campaign titled "Pledge To Vote"./CUNY

By Irma Cadiz

College students were taught how to mobilize their peers to vote in the upcoming 2020 elections at the CUNY Votes Summit on February 21 at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

The event was hosted by CUNY student groups in conjunction with NYC Votes. The summit aimed to educate CUNY students and prepare them to promote student voter registration, participation, and voter awareness among their peers.

At the summit, NYC Votes and CUNY launched their new campaign called "Pledge to Vote." As part of the initiative, they asked students to mobilize their peers to vote in 2020 by taking the "Text to Vote" pledge. Students can text "CUNYVotes" to 917-979-6377 to be reminded of upcoming elections leading up to Election Day, as well as prompts to encourage their friends to vote. The group's goal is to reach 25,000 participants.

Director of Outreach and Partnerships for NYC Votes Sabrina Castillo led a workshop that engaged student attendees in brainstorming possible obstacles that hold people back from voting. Castillo explained that voter turnout has been identified as the main hurdle to civic engagement. She noted that, in years past, the effort has been focused on getting the youth registered, which hasn't translated to voters showing up at the polls. Although 50.8% of youth ages 18-24 were reported as registered, only 39% voted, according to the United States Census Bureau.

The workshop analyzed the differences between technical problems versus adaptive challenges that keep people away from the polls. A technical problem is clearly defined and has a clear solution, such as a copy machine breaking down. On the flip side, an adaptive challenge is recurring and does not have a clear solution. Examples of an adaptive challenge are low voter turnout or the lack of representation among women in the higher offices of politics and corporations. These challenges require new learning in order to be both understood and solved.

Undergraduate Student Government President, Alyssa Taylor, told WBCR at the event that her main reason for not heading out to the voting booths in the past was because of issues of access, like not being able to leave work.

"Masses make change," Castillo told WBCR. "Your voices have power to move things and the numbers verify this."

Ethan Milich, one of the two Brooklyn College CUNY Student Senate delegates, explained that he was drawn to this cause by his belief that young people have so many issues that affect them and that their voices are relevant. He would like potential voters to understand the power of democracy. He noted that elections can be frustrating and politicians can seem fake, but said that the government is serious and the law is real.

"The law impacts every single person and voting is the most crucial way we can prevent the creation of bad laws," said Milich. "Voting is ironically both the easiest and the most important way a person can be civically engaged."

Taylor told WBCR that, as BC's assistant for civic engagement on campus, she came to the event to learn strategies to keep students engaged on campus. She noted that, from her view in her position in student government, there is no education on who the candidates are. She was convinced that students do not understand the level of power their vote yields.

"It is always better to have a small impact on an outcome than no impact at all," said Taylor. "Your vote counts, but it is up to you to make sure that it does."

Campus Metal Detectors Debate

By Carolann Lowe

A student petition with 51 signatures posted on the Facebook "Brooklyn College: In The Know 2" page sparked a heated debate about installing metal detectors at the entrance and exit of the BC library.

"I felt like the library was a good place to start," the student who started the petition, Lenard Piffington, told WBCR. "Baby steps. It just didn't make any sense to me why there was a metal detector for the exit instead of the entrance. If the school is concerned about paying for it, I believe they should utilize the one they already have properly."

Although Piffington acquired the signatures in 30 minutes, many BC students expressed disinterest in the comment section of Piffington's Facebook post. A common concern amongst the 163 comments was the inconvenience metal detectors may bring, with its potential of delaying students' ability to arrive to class on time.

"Disagreeing with metal detectors doesn't mean we don't care about our safety," Jazmine Zeng posted in the comment section. "Have you seen metal detectors? One unit can barely fit in the lobby of the library. I can't imagine how efficient this will be for a campus with thousands of students."

Jonathon Hanon commented, "I have a pacemaker - no. Enlighten me how someone using a wheelchair will get into the library. What about our laptops? We need to put those in bins now? Everyone has a laptop."

Piffington told WBCR that due to the overwhelmingly negative responses to his petition, he decided to drop it. His concern was more for future students than himself because he's planning to graduate this spring.

However, his response to criticism in the comment section read, "I myself personally DO NOT care for these metal detectors. I am quite sure I will graduate in May regardless if this project sees the light of day or its thrown on BC's 'To-Do Eventually' list....all my attempt was to maybe speed up the police officer's dream which she has been waiting for over three years (no proof just going off what she said to me)." he wrote.

With an increase in gun violence and school shootings in the United States, metal detectors are entering more conversations involving school security. In the United States, college campus shooting casualties from 2011-2016 were more than double what they were from 2001-2006, according to the New York City Crime Commision.

Brooklyn Rapper, Pop Smoke, Shot And Killed In Home Invasion



SHOCKING - Pop Smoke was only 20-years-old when he was killed in a Hollywood Hills home./Earl Gibson III/Shutterstock

By Telvin Poledore

Twenty-year-old Bashar Barakah Jackson, better known by his stage name, Pop Smoke, was shot and killed on Wednesday morning during an invasion of a Hollywood Hills home.

Two men wearing hoodies and masks broke into the home and fired multiple shots that struck and critically wounded Jackson. He was quickly rushed to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in West Hollywood, where he was pronounced dead, law enforcement told TMZ.

The suspects have yet to be identified by the Los Angeles Police Department.

The LAPD reportedly received a 911 call from the East Coast. The caller said that multiple suspects entered the home and one person was carrying a handgun around 4:00 am, according to LAPD Capt. Steve Lurie. When officers arrived at the scene, they found Jackson with multiple gunshot wounds.

Jackson posted a photo on Instagram with his friend hours before the shooting. Also, there was allegedly a party at the home before the invaders attacked. The home Jackson was staying in was owned by "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star Teddi Mellencam. It was rented out to Jackson for the night.

Mellencam posted on Instagram about the incident, confirming the home belongs to her.

"Early this am we were informed by a 3rd party leasing and management company overseeing a rental home we own in Los Angeles that a shooting had taken place at the property. Foremost, we would like to extend our prayers and condolences to the family and loved ones affected by this tragic loss of life."

"Rest up Pop Smoke, you were too young, God Bless and comfort your family. What a crazy trajectory you were on man smh," Chance The Rapper tweeted.

"Man Come On I don't even know dude but he was just getting started in this Rap Game. I was definitely interested in seeing his Growth. Too many young lives with so much potential being taken away. This Shit has to stop R.I.P. Pop Smoke," Ludacris said in a post on Instagram.

Some rappers alluded to the possibility that Jackson's death could have been done by people who were close to him. A deleted Instagram story from the rapper surfaced on the internet, which showed the address of the home he was staying at on gift bags.

Nicki Minaj posted a photo of Pop Smoke to Instagram with the caption, "The Bible tells us that jealousy is as cruel as the grave. Unbelievable. Rest In Peace, Pop."

"No such thing as success without jealousy, treachery comes from those who are close. R.i.P.," 50 Cent said in a caption on Instagram.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Jackson was an up-and-coming rapper who was known for his hit song "Welcome To The Party." The song was officially remixed by Nicki Minaj in 2019, but artists like ASAP Ferg, Pusha T, Rico Nasty, King Shooter, Meek Mill, and Dave East have also remixed it. He had recently released his album, "Meet the Woo 2," with features from rappers like Quavo and A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie.

Students on campus also shared their reactions to the tragic story.

"lt just shows that jealousy is such a danger to people of success and it's just really sad because he was so young and just getting started," BC Senior Jolie Baynes said.

"He was literally at home in his safe space and someone came into his safe space and killed him and that was like really upsetting," BC Junior Serena Munnilal said.

SPRING '20 WBCR SHOW PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9AM-10AM					
10AM-11AM	Bloomer Radio				Cruisin' w/ Lordy & Willie G
11AM-12PM	News Team	Sports Team	News Team	Sports Team	
12PM-1PM		That's On Period	Science w/ Marie	99 on the Line	Weekly Buzz with Nick
1PM-2PM	The Run Down w/ Sam and Nick	TBA w/ Felicia and Jane	Mixed Bag	Spillin The Tea w/ Janine & Dan	First-Gen•Ish
2PM-3PM	Zé-TV - The Ratchet Hour	MBA VS. THE WORLD	Strictly Sports w/ Denis Johnson	The MiX- UP with Lyna	SPL 60 w/ Gabriel Pariente
3PM-4PM	Music Team		Music Team	Music Team	Basketball Unfiltered
4PM-5PM	The Kash Daniels Show	News Team		News Team	Growing up Spanglish w/ Genesis
5PM-6PM	Sofa Pizza	What's Good & What's Trash	The Weekly Dose	ATM (All Things Money)	On The Block w/ Xavier George
6PM-7PM	Across The Board	Talks w/ Mo		The 222 Show	On The Block w/ Xavier George
7PM-8PM	Flip The Switch	Glam Talk Radio	The Review	Sporting Life	No Topic
8PM-9PM	A Matter Of Politics	Just The Bassics	Talkin' 4 Curry	Healthy Beauty Radio	Catch up w/ The Brooklyn Girls
9PM-10PM	Zach In The Eve		Talkin' 4 Curry	Healthy Beauty Radio	Catch up w/ The Brooklyn Girls

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Brooklyn College Club Hosts Black History Month Fashion Show

By Oba Williams-Cantine



SHOW OFF - African Student Union club hosted a fashion event in SUBO./Nicholas Williams

African Student Union sent people "Back To The Motherland" at their fashion show hosted by Papi Ojo in the Gold Room of SUBO on Thursday night.

"I think people like to lump [Africa] together and have this image in their heads of what it looks like, but really it's 54 countries and like 2,000 languages spoken. Each one that's really beautiful in its own way," said ASU President Aminata Sam. "We literally want to teach people one by one about each country and then hopefully in the end that makes them want to go back to the motherland hence the name."

The show kicked off with a traditional African Dance and drum segment from Congolese drummer and dancer, Nkumu Katalay, alongside one of his students.

"In our village, the drum makes the calls," Nkumu told WBCR. "When you hear the [sound] of the drum it tells what it means. Will that mean let's get together? Will that mean, all of these traditional sounds of drums spoke to people."

The performance served as an introduction for the audience of about 50 people to enter the world of African culture and fashion. It set the tone for the rest of the event as each brand showcased their looks.



FASHION - A model at the event./Nicholas W.

The first brand to showcase its collection was Just Skirts, which featured beautiful geometric and traditional patterns on form-fitting silhouettes that accentuated the model's figure. The collection had an array of different designs from modest but sexy shift dresses, to a confident two-piece pantsuit with a flared leg.

The collection was closed out by the ASU Vice President, Tenneh Sandimanie, who wore a flared black and white dress that matched her every move as she elegantly made her way down the runway. She walked off the stage in a series of spins showing off the dress' beautiful layers, ending the collection with a bang.

The show continued with the second brand of the night, Nawa Authentics. The brand showcased Nigerian patterns and fabrics in a "universal" and vibrant collection that "anybody could wear" whether they were young or old.

"My father used to make clothes back in the 70s and 80s, so I said why don't I do clothes in this era, and collide them with the traditional," said Lovine Nawa, the designer, and owner of Nawa Authentics.

The fashion show included a couple of performances. Groove Phi Groove, a black fraternity on campus, first took the stage as the second collection was getting ready.

"We always have to go back closer to our roots," Groove Phi Groove member, Jaden Weekes, stated. "So from there, we could see our true selves now in the present."

The group blessed the room with a ground-shaking performance, attempting to incorporate a few African dances into their routine. Ojo felt inspired after watching Groove Phi Grove's performance that he decided to take it upon himself to "show them how to really do it," treating the crowd to a brief display of his dancing ability.

Step team, Magik Motion, also brought their high energy routine to the stage. The entire room was filled with excitement and joy.

Ending off the show on an electrifying high note, the ASU executive E-board came out on stage dancing to songs that represent their respective countries.

The African Student Union was started in 2018, by Mariama Barrie, a Brooklyn College alumna of Muslim and African descent. She wanted to use ASU to unite the population of African students at Brooklyn College, as well as educate people about African culture with intentions of dispelling any myths and stereotypes surrounding them.

"It's great that African culture is spreading around because it hasn't always been a cool thing to be African," said one of the steppers from Magik Motion. "But now we're coming out, we're celebrating our heritage, and it's a beautiful thing."

How The BC Women's Basketball Team Dominanted The CUNY Athletic Conference



WINNING CULTURE - The Bulldogs had multiple games blowing out teams./David Rozenblyum

By Jose Rohdin

The Brooklyn College Women's Basketball team defeated Medgar Evers College Cougars 94-31 on Tuesday, ending the regular season for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs finished with a 19-6 record, as well as going 14-0 in City University of New York Athletic Conference play. This is the first time the Bulldogs finish the season undefeated in conference play since the 2011-2012 season.

The Bulldogs have been a dominant team all season. They are averaging 77.1 points per game and allowing 54.8 points per game, leading the conference in both of these statistics. With a point differential of 22.3, they lead the conference by 8.3. Their closest game of the season was a 67-63 win over Hunter College on January 6, which they squandered a 13-point lead after halftime. However, they ended up blowing out Hunter College 82-42 in the West Quad Center weeks later on January 31.

With only three seniors on the roster this season, it was clear from the start that the Bulldogs would need to rely on their younger players. Coach Alex Lang stated in an interview before the season that he was very excited about his new core of youth players, who he felt were very gifted basketball players.

Throughout the year, freshmen Erika James, Sarah James, Sarah Labiner, and Dasha Goodman became regular starters and contributors. Chanel Jemmott, Taylor George, and Michelle Pena also added to the great shape of the roster.

On offense, the team was able to score and score quickly. They have had multiple quarters of 30 or even sometimes 40 point barrages against opponents. A lot of this came from the team's ball movement and three-point shooting. The team led the conference in both of these statistics, shooting 33% from beyond the arc and averaging 18.8 assists a game as a team. This ball movement and shooting is something that Coach Lang preached. He also previously discussed having lineups of five three-point shooters who could all dribble and pass.

The backbone of the team was its defense. They only allowed 54.8 points a game, which is best in the conference. They also only allowed a team to score over 50 points four times in conference play and only to three teams, who are ranked second (Hunter), third (John Jay), and fourth (Baruch) in the conference. They held City College to just 10 points in a single game. The Bulldogs are second in steals in the conference averaging around 13 a game, and also second in forced turnovers with 22.6. The reason for such high numbers has been the Bulldog's full-court press and willingness for everyone on the court to defend. Pena and George are both speedy and constantly hound whoever has the ball. The James sisters and Goodman are great wing defenders who force difficult outside shots but are tall enough to contest the paint as well. Jemmott plays defense as if she was a free safety in football. She is always around the ball, contesting shots in the paint and having chase-down blocks.

One of the biggest things that shouldn't go unnoticed about the team is the evolution of their offense. The Bulldogs have been solid on defense year-round, but early in the season, the offense tended to rely too much on Jemmott's production. There was a clear difference in the offense whenever she was off the court. A lot of the offense would go through Jemmott, when she was not in the game the offense became stagnant. George would then become the number one option on offense, and opposing teams would double her causing turnovers and easy fast break points for the opponent.

However, with the emergence of Ericka James and Dasha Goodman as scorers, the offense 1 changed. Both of them were great shooters from three and could fill in that center/power forward role that Jemmott plays. On top of that, teams could no longer double George because James or Goodman can hit a three or cut to the basket for an easy layup. This was a significant improvement on the team's offense, and adds another layer for defenders to think about.

Coach Lang was able to use many different players in many different situations. There are nine players on his roster, who all average over 10 minutes a game, and who have played in over 20 games this season. He utilized his roster in whatever way he needed to win, and had players buy into his system and play hard. This roster has the depth and skill to win it all this season.

The Bulldogs are set to play a CUNYAC semifinals home game next Wednesday against either Baruch College or York College for a chance to make it to the CUNYAC Women's Basketball Finals. It will also be a chance for Coach Lang to get his 9th straight season with 20 or more wins.

Several Women's Basketball Team Members Takes Home Awards At Annual CUNYAC Luncheon

By Nicholas Williams

Multiple members of the Brooklyn College women's basketball team earned awards on Thursday from the City University of New York Athletic Conference at their annual luncheon.

One of the biggest stars on the team, Chanel Jemmott, was awarded CUNYAC Player Of The Year for the first time. Jemmott is also the first Bulldog to win this award since head coach Alex Lang began leading the team in 2002.

This season, Jemmott averaged 15.6 points per game, grabbed nine rebounds per game, and shot 52% from the field. Jemmott also showed off her impressive shot-blocking ability — blocking a total of 40 shots, ranking second in the athletic conference. She led the Bulldogs in points, rebounds, and blocks. Plus, Jemmott reached the 1,000 point milestone against Baruch College Bearcats on January 15.

"I'm so grateful I found a home in Brooklyn," said Jemmott after the game against the Bearcats. "I'm from Brooklyn, but I never knew how to find a basketball home and a basketball program that would accept me like this."

Jemmott joined the team in 2017, and has been the Bulldogs' offensive and defensive anchor. In her career as a Bulldog, she has a winning record of 63-19.



STAR POWER- Jemmott(left), Lang(Middle), George(Right)./BC Sports Information

Additionally, Lang was awarded the CUNYAC Coach Of The Year on Thursday.

Lang coached the Bulldogs to a 19-6 regular-season record and 14-0 record in CUNYAC play. He takes home his sixth Coach Of The Year honor in his long tenure with the Bulldogs. Lang has an above .500 overall coaching record with 278 wins and 192 losses and transformed the program into adopting a winning culture.

Lang had been anticipated to lead the Bulldogs to the top of the Athletic Conference, as a preseason favorite.

Additionally, Kailyn Richburg, was named to the CUNYAC Sportsmanship team. Richburg is a graduate student on the team, majoring in Business management. She provided the Bulldogs with versatility on both offense and defense. Taylor George was named to the CUNYAC All-Star first team, she recently won the CUNYAC Hospital For Special Surgery Scholar-Athlete of the Month last Tuesday.

PUZZLE OF THE WEEK!

N	F	O	C	V	B	S	Q	I	E	I	R	C	M	P
A	F	R	I	C	A	J	W	G	L	P	O	R	A	T
G	R	U	B	H	C	I	R	A	R	N	X	E	G	D
O	X	Z	J	O	F	O	N	Y	T	O	E	Z	I	K
F	J	D	J	R	E	G	D	R	L	I	O	M	K	A
X	S	O	D	G	Z	V	O	B	C	E	C	V	W	C
L	W	D	Y	A	Z	V	M	B	N	E	B	Y	E	F
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T	B	Y	S	H	U	N	M	M	Q	V	K	M	N	O
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M	E	B	J	I	C	O	M	V	F	U	H	X	T	E
M	P	W	N	I	Z	O	R	D	O	E	I	Y	X	D
E	W	H	K	I	J	U	F	O	F	B	B	O	Y	W
J	P	Z	O	M	M	H	B	Y	D	E	B	H	W	L

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Thank you Bulldogs, wishing all a successful and productive Spring semester!

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