

THE MONITOR

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MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

October 15TH, 2019

UN ANNUAL SUMMIT BRINGS WORLD LEADERS TO NYC



Photo from www.pewresearch.org

By Seamus Fallon
Staff Writer

The United Nations' annual summit filled with world leaders opened on September 23rd with U.N. Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, calling this major summit to promote actions to slow climate change. It's safe to say the United Nations Summit was not free of tensions as the assembly convenes amid simmering tension in the Middle East over recent attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities, which the United States and other nations blame on Iran in which Tehran denies. The summit officially opened following a climate strike held in Downtown

Manhattan's Foley Square, which totaled "at least 60,000 people" according to Mayor De Blasio's office who even allowed thousands of students in the New York City Public School system to take the day off in order to participate in the strike. The summit featured a 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, who traveled across the Atlantic on a solar-powered yacht in order to make speeches all along the Eastern Seaboard including Capitol Hill. The assembly will draw several world powers including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who all will detail

specific steps to lower dependence on fossil fuel in their respective nations. The leaders of more than 70 countries have made promises outside and inside the U.N. chambers that sounds "nothing short of revolutionary" as many news-houses call it. By 2050, these leaders say they will reach "net zero" thus, putting no more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. While the net zero buzzword was as ubiquitous at the United Nations Climate Summit the details of how these nations would reach their ambitious and "revolutionary" goals were elusive, sparking concern from Thunberg and many other speakers and activists. In the Summit, there was little talk of

eliminating the use of fossil fuels, an economic and politically painful step that would drastically reduce emissions. The nations that have declared "net zero" targets only make up a small percentage of global emissions. They do not include major polluters with heavy industrial or farming concentrations like China, the United States or India. While the U.S. hasn't made the pledge as a nation, New York state and California has set its own benchmark. Its net zero plan, are among the most ambitious on the globe which calls for reducing emissions by 85% by the year 2050 and using offsets from restoring forests and wetlands to "soak up" the remaining 15%.

STUDENTS, FACULTY PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC FORUM AMID PANIC

By Madeline Nortz
Staff Writer

In response to student security concerns following the school closures on Tuesday, October 1 through Sunday October 6, Marymount Manhattan College sent an email releasing a Fact Sheet on October 6 providing answers to the questions that many students and faculty had been asking. The email also announced a series of Student Open Forums to encourage a campus dialogue.

The first Student Open Forum took place on Monday, October 7 from 5:20 - 6:30pm in the Commons. President Kerry Walk fielded student questions and lead an

open discussion about the events that transpired, student reactions, and the current safety measures surrounding the school. Present at the forum was Graham Giraulo, Vice President of institutional advancement, Katie Belfi, Emergency management crisis consultant, Carol Jackson, Vice President of student affairs, as well as about a dozen other faculty members and about twice as many students.

In regards to the events, Walk reiterated that although the NYPD did not deem the threats credible, Marymount considered school closure necessary. When asked why the school didn't close immediately after the phone calls were made, Giraulo stated that they, "Did not

want to give him any more power," the same reason as to why they did not initially disclose the nature of the threats. Walk stated that now, the campus is in what is considered "high alert" and is working on implementing temporary and permanent security measures to the campus.

At the forum, many of the students in attendance expressed their gratitude for the chance to communicate directly with those involved in the decision to close the campus and improve security. Action was called for lock down drill practices as well as the use of the PA system that Marymount did in fact purchase last year. In regards to many of the student suggestions for safety measures, Walk said, "We always

knew that our students would be ambassadors in this effort." Students attending the forum voiced their different experiences with active shooters and violent threats, while students of color raised the concerns of possible gun violence and racial profiling with the presence of an armed guard. A quick survey of the room conducted by Kerry Walk showed that half the room felt uncomfortable with the presence of an armed guard near campus.

Walk encouraged students to continue speaking up in their concerns and suggestions for campus safety through her email or the suggestion box found on the website.

LETTER from the EDITOR



Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up another issue of The Monitor. This issue is a very important one, as our writers have spent many rushed hours getting their stories, angles, and sources together right after the chaos we endured requiring a last minute shift in material for our staff. Our school experienced a violation of our safety and peace, and will continue to feel that uneasy feeling for a while. As Ariana Contreras put it, our generation has grown up with this feeling of internalized fear that many other generations never had to endure. School shootings have plagued our country, and we all could be the next possible victims.

Marymount took measures that many other institutions would not do, and for that I am grateful. However, stepping foot on campus following the closure was incredibly nerve-racking and I think the students felt these anxieties a lot more than the faculty. I was born two months after Columbine occurred; yes I may be young, but I was also essentially born into a world full of fear, lock-down drills from Kindergarten until my senior year of high school, and a desensitization to seeing “mass shooting” in the trending news.

For people within this generation, we have grown up knowing what to do in a potential shooting or intruder situation, and have therefore thought about what we would do if in fact that situation came up. I was in class when we got the first email not to evacuate and I felt a panic arise inside of me, as my professor locked the door and other students talked and laughed. I was working at the school when we got the email to evacuate, and again felt the same panic as other students came into the office making jokes, asking questions, and letting me scan their ID’s. Maybe I overreacted, or maybe I was just faced with one of my biggest fears dated back to elementary school. Regardless, I think it’s important that the stories of this situation are read, re-read, and shared. I think it’s important for our school to take these safety measures for us, and to offer us a plan if it ever happens again.

Make sure to read Madeline Nortz’s pieces on page one and four, as she covers the public forum and the responsibilities of our SGA president, Marchael Giles. Also take a look at Meghan Masseron’s piece where she describes the timeline of the events, as well as President Kerry Walk’s plans for our future. We also have a Halloween events list on page eleven, written by Kennedy Blankenship, and much, much more.

Enjoy this issue, and always trust your intuition when it comes to events like these, it may save your life.

With Love,

Arnold

Chief



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NATION-WIDE SHOOTING EPIDEMIC INSTILLS FEAR,
ANXIETY IN STUDENTS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS

A TRIGGERED GENERATION



Photo from apnews.com

By Ariana Contreras
Staff Writer

The pathway to self-discovery is hard enough, and when you add living in an era where mass shootings are nearly an everyday occurrence, sometimes just getting through one day free of anxiety is hard enough.

It seems as though the members of “Generation Z”, those born in the mid 1990’s to the early 2000’s, carry an ongoing stereotype with them wherever they go. Sometimes seen as weak or even “triggered” by other age groups, but what do you expect from a generation of kids that learned how to adequately hide from a school shooter before they even got the chance to learn how to solve their multiplication tables?

Living just 10 minutes from Columbine High School, Junior Theater Performance Major Willow Samu recalls the effect that the infamous tragedy had on her upbringing in her Colorado community.

“While I might not have been born until 5 months after the Columbine shooting, I remember it still having an immense impact on every period of my adolescence. It wasn’t a topic we would shy away from in school at all, and every anniversary we would stop our class-

es to talk about the effects that still lingered with us. There was even a special service at the church my dad worked at, literally called Columbine United Church, which was one of the first churches to respond when the tragedy occurred.”

For so many nowadays, there’s a crazy intertwined connection to some type of mass shooting and the trauma that arises from that event should be treated with the same respect and validation as trauma that comes from other tragic events.

“Every time I walk into a space my mind automatically goes to where the best emergency exits are - it’s like an anxiety tick. I’m trying to get better with it, but I’m sure that I’m not alone when it comes to having these thoughts.” said Samu.

Growing up and trying to find yourself in any day and age has its own specific obstacles and proves constantly challenging. However, for a generation of kids that has spent their whole sentient lives with the looming threat of mass shootings, there is an added stress that past generations just don’t seem to fully understand. In the past year alone, there have been a total of 387 mass shootings in the United States, according to [massshootingtracker.org](#), and the number of days since a mass shooting sits at a steady zero.

“I think I realize it (the difference in living experiences) the most when I hear my parents talk about how they grew up because they used to be able to hop on a plane and go anywhere. The difference from one generation to the next is so vast.” Said Maddy Nortz, a Senior Strategic Communications and PR Major.

In fact, trauma from mass shootings in this day in age doesn’t even have to stem from having a type of tangible connection to a tragedy. Just growing up and hearing about the recurring events is really enough to make someone feel uneasy.

“I look at the news constantly but on the days when the media is focused on a particular recent shooting I am completely overwhelmed by the sheer volume of information.” Said Sophomore Digital Journalism Major Natalie Davila.

In fact, this topic is especially relevant in our community right now with the events that occurred around 2 weeks ago at our own campus, in which some students felt left in the dark about all that was going on, specifically surrounding the threats made to the school.

“While I applaud Marymount for taking extra precaution and doing a well enough job, in these awful times you shouldn’t simply be able to cover your ass well when a situ-

ation arises, you should have a set procedure in place for these events long before they occur.” Samu added, “I think there should be an understanding that many kids need more than a simple ‘evacuate before 1:30pm’ email. Triggers of this generation are new and unlike past ones and need to be taken into account. I feel very lucky to go to a school that took this event seriously, but I will feel more gratitude to go to a school that will now have a plan in place for the future, because unfortunately, events like this aren’t going away under our current Presidential administration, or maybe ever.”

Thankfully, while the threats made towards our campus were not credible and didn’t escalate into a much worse situation, this is just another example of how this enormous problem can play into and disrupt our day to day lives.

Davila sums it up best, “It always seems like I’ve been teetering in and out of our generation’s characteristic perennial burnout for years. It’s hard not to think about what could happen at school, or a movie theater, or a mall that could potentially affect me and my friends. Of course, all of this is completely solvable yet it feels like we’re not allowed to be the ones in charge of preventing these tragedies.”

MARCHAEL GILES

AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION WITH OUR SGA PRESIDENT



Photos from @MarchaelGiles

By Madeline Nortz
Staff Writer

In the midst of the events that took place last week, the community at Marymount turned to each other. From emailing Kerry Walk, to calling campus security, to speaking directly with student leaders. Marchael Giles, president of the Student Government Association, stepped right up to the task of his relatively new role. Giles is a senior theatre performance major, originally from Bayshore Long Island, who now splits his time between New York and Texas. Despite the school closures and busy schedules, Giles still found the time to sit down and discuss the events of last week as well as provide an inside look into who our President is.

The decision to attend Marymount was not taken lightly by Giles, who took the time to visit both Marymount and traditional state schools while asking himself, “Do I want a college experience, or do I want, for lack of better words, a more adult experience?” Giles, like many students at Marymount, has embraced the non-traditional structure of this school. While he has the ability to have traditional college experiences, Giles doesn’t consider it the forefront of Marymount. “I’m more of a person that is driven toward what they want to be in life instead of doing things that will make me happy in the short run.” Which is why he thrives in the environment of Marymount, where people are working towards

what they want to do in life. In addition to the drive, Giles also appreciates the passion of the Marymount community. “It’s a very nice thing to know that a good majority of us can have open discussions about anything,”

Giles describes his time at Marymount as interesting, “I’ve experienced so much life in the three and a half, four years I’ve been here in a magnitude of different ways”. When asked about one of his favorite memories at Marymount, Giles recounted one that some Marymount students may be able to relate to. “I had that actor debacle that every BFA actor at this school ends up having ... you realize that you’re rolling on the floor screaming... everyone kind of has that moment where they’re laying on the floor and you’re like “What the hell am I doing?” Giles has learned from his highs and lows. While he chooses not to focus on the negatives, he recognizes that they help him to grow. It was through this reflection that Giles realized how much he enjoys helping people and working for the benefit of others using the power that he has.

Giles considers one of the best lessons he’s learned at Marymount to be, “If you want to see something done you have to do it yourself”. Giles stayed true to this lesson when deciding to run for president of SGA. “There were so many things that were happening in the school that were affecting my identity” Giles also spoke about others who had similar identities as him who weren’t speaking up, but instead confid-

ing in him. He recognized that he was involved in this school but did not yet have the power to assist people with their issues, but realized that he wanted to, and so he decided to run for SGA President.

“In the last four years I’ve been here there’s kind of been a movement for the students to speak up and have their voices heard.” Giles considers this paramount in letting the higher ups at Marymount understand student concerns and ensure that change gets made.

“I’m not just gonna talk about it, I’m gonna be about it”.

“I wanted to really focus on the three main things that SGA says they’re going to focus on in our constitution. That is increasing student engagement, fostering a real community at MMC, and creating avenues for students to become student leaders”. Giles also wants these goals to result in creating a bigger pool of social change makers. Recognizing that Marymount doesn’t have the same tools that other colleges do, Giles took a hard look at the school, the population, and the world we live in now to figure out what he can do to improve those three tenets of SGA.

Giles emphasized increasing student involvement, but doing it in a way so that it’s not pigeon-holing anyone or putting them into boxes. “Because I’m a theatre major, a lot of people could assume that I’m going to just act for the theatre majors.” While Giles is aware of certain differences between theatre majors and non-theatre majors, he has every intention of gearing his actions

as president towards everyone.

Giles passion for student advocacy was made apparent in light of the recent events taking place at Marymount. In response to the confusion and flurry of student questions, Giles sent a strongly worded email to President Kerry Walk urging for stronger security measures and emphasizing how the Marymount community felt stripped of it’s safety. A copy of the message was posted on Giles personal Facebook page on behalf of Marymount SGA. Kerry Walk indeed received Giles’ email and thanked him for his timely and helpful questions, which Walk relayed to the team that coordinated the response to the security situation. Walk responded to Giles, “...your sense of the student body’s concerns has been especially important to us, given your role as SGA President and your personal sensitivity to student interests and anxieties”.

In addition to the SGA goals that Giles hopes to accomplish this year, he hopes that students can truly gain a lot during their time here. “I want students to leave better than what they came in as, to leave here ready to make a real serious change in the world, no matter what they’re doing for the better.” When asked what he wanted students to know about him, he addressed his “RBF”. “I want people to know that I’m not always angry. I’m approachable, you can talk to me.”

Giles invites students to attend SGA meetings and email sga@mmm.edu with any questions or concerns they may have.

MARYMOUNTS FACES CAMPUS SECURITY THREAT

HOW THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY DEALT WITH THE CHAOS, FEAR

By Meghan Masseron
Staff Writer

Last Tuesday Oct. 1 2019, Marymount Manhattan College closed following threatening phone calls made to the school’s administrative office expressing intent to commit a shooting or bombing.

The security incident began several days before this, however, long before anyone could anticipate what it would turn into. The preceding Thursday, Sept. 26th, students and faculty received an email in their Marymount inbox notifying them of a suspicious individual who entered campus unauthorized through the fire exit door also reporting that he harassed a Marymount student walking back to the residence hall.

The Monday following this, students and faculty received another notice in their inbox, this one causing much more alarm and concern: two threatening phone calls had been made to the school’s administrative office. The email explained that it was believed these phone calls were made by the aforementioned suspicious individual, and an image from him taken by a security camera was attached so that members of the MMC community could stay alert. The email did not divulge the nature of the threats.

“When they first told us there were threats on Monday, especially after already knowing there was a suspicious guy on the loose, I didn’t feel safe coming to school that day,” stated sophomore Caroline Storey.

Some students also felt that the threats were not taken seriously enough. “I think they should have evacuated the moment they heard about the threats,” Storey expresses.

On October 1st, this did end up occurring, though Marymount officials have repeatedly asserted that it was not an evacuation, but rather a closing of the campus. Four minutes before 1:00 PM, students and faculty received an email from President Kerry Walk informing them that more threatening calls had been received and the administration and campus officials had elected to close for the day, with all students being expected to exit the building by 1:30 PM, just a little over 30 minutes later.

Videos posted to social media by students showed groups exiting by the dozens in thick crowds, raising concerns for the safety and organization of the process.

Students and faculty received another email from Carol Jackson, Vice President for Student Affairs,

on Tuesday, announcing that school would be closed the following day as well. Wednesday Oct. 2nd went by without further updates from administration on the security incident itself, but another closure was announced for Thursday Oct. 3rd. On Thursday, the MMC community received an email from President Walk summarizing the security threat and explaining that the choice to not disclose the nature of the threats made against the school was in an effort not to give the person of interest power to terrorize. However, news outlets had

an open forum was held twice the week that school reopened to allow students the opportunity to express their thoughts, feelings and concerns on the safety threat and how it had been handled by the school.

Multiple topics were discussed, ranging from questioning what the school would do to improve security, to whether or not the school had a PA system involved, to victims of gun violence expressing horror at the events that had unfolded.

Sophomore Liz Brazil had mixed feelings on the open forum, expressing concern that there was

the students that attended. “The most important thing I’ve learned from our students is that there’s a difference between being safe and feeling safe, and that feeling safe comes from transparent communication and an approach to emergency response that’s highly structured, widely known, and frequently practiced,” she states.

While this situation generated much anxiety for students, President Walk’s response was one of protectiveness. “I felt incredibly angry at the individual who was harassing our students and threatening our campus community, and very protective of everyone at Marymount. I also felt, and continue to feel, deep compassion for our students, especially those who have experienced school shootings or other violence,” she explained.

Going forward, President Walk promises that this is not a situation that will highlight a lack of sufficient security at Marymount, but improve security and serve as an opportunity for growth. “The biggest enhancement to security at MMC is going to be practice, practice, practice so that we all know what to do in emergency situations. This will mean a culture shift, but I think it will be a welcome one, and it’s certainly a necessary one,” she remarks.

President Walk also expresses that student feedback was an incredibly valuable source of information, providing the school with ideas they may not have had otherwise. “Students have suggested that they shouldn’t simply be participants in the College’s security efforts; they should be at the vanguard. Having come of age in this tragic era of school shootings and bomb threats, students are extraordinarily knowledgeable about school safety and security, and I now know will help lead our efforts. I wouldn’t have predicted that as an outcome,” she says.

Above all else, President Walk feels optimistic about Marymount’s ability to bounce back. “Although this has been a distressing situation for everyone in the MMC community, I believe the situation has also made us stronger—by accelerating the pace of our enhanced security efforts, by giving us the chance to address our vulnerabilities, and by opening up a dialogue about fear and safety. Resilience is a Marymount hallmark. As we recover, my hope is that we will use this experience to become more empowered individuals and an even closer college community.”



Photo from James Cambria via Email

already reported what the threats were, and students found out what had happened from articles shared by friends, rather than from the school’s administration. In an effort to amend this, President Walk confirmed that the threats were for a school shooting and/or bombing in the email, and announced that the person of interest had been apprehended by NYPD.

While this email disclosed a great amount of information on the subject, Marymount students still expressed disappointment in the lack of transparency from the beginning. “Not knowing what the threats were kind of made my mind race even more. I didn’t know what to expect. I would’ve preferred to know the nature of the threats from the start. I feel like we deserve to know what’s going on in our own community,” claims Storey.

These concerns were noticed by the school’s administration, and

still a lack of transparency, but had hope that changes will be made. “I feel that throughout the forum there were a lot of questions that were still left unanswered, says Brazil. “One thing that seemed to be a very positive outlook was the PA system that they mentioned buying six months ago, but haven’t implemented yet. I really do hope that we can have lockdown drills and test the PA system as soon as possible,” she adds.

Brazil also commended the leadership of President Walk throughout the forum, as well as throughout the entire incident itself. “President Kerry Walk was most definitely a beacon of light for the students throughout the forum with her open and honest answers, and also in providing the leadership students needed.”

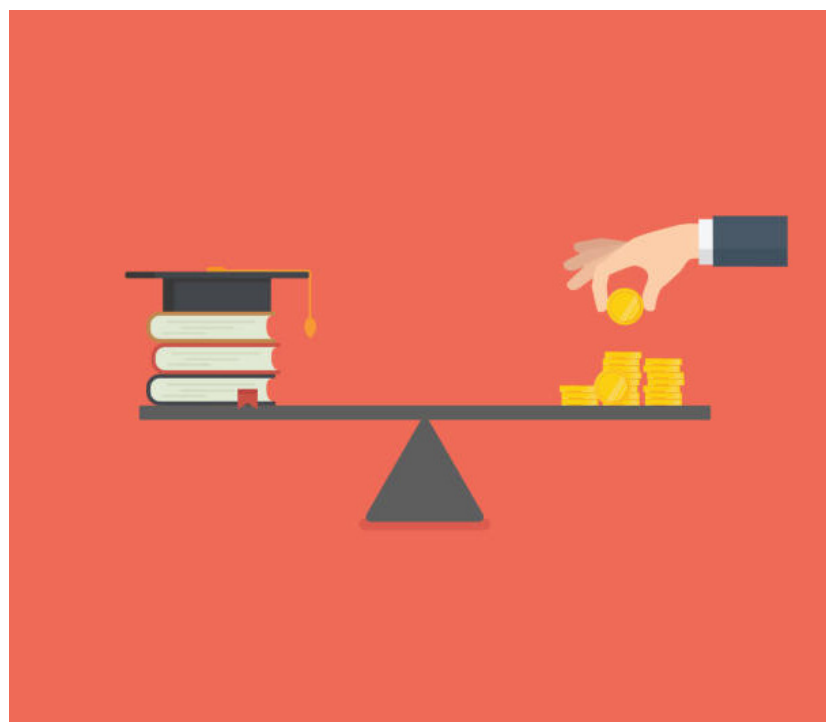
President Walk offered her perspective on the open forum, sharing what she had learned from

HOW TO SAVE YOU

Dining Dollars are a useful way to alleviate the costs of living in New York City. By sectioning off a portion of your resources exclusively for food, you avoid having to worry too much about it. However, impulse spending, lack of planning, and high food costs mean that many students end up blowing through their dining dollar accounts. Here are five ways to save your dining dollars, and therefore save money overall.

MAKE A BUDGET

Check your balance and see how much you have. Once you know this, you can do the math. This helps you figure out the biggest or smallest amount of money that you can spend through the week, month, or semester. Depending on how many dollars you chose to start with, you may have enough to cover anywhere from one to all of your meals for the day.



Graphic from www.istockphoto.com

UTILIZE DEALS

The Café on Carson Hall's fourth floor offers meal deals to help students save money. You can get breakfast for \$3, lunch for \$5, and dinner for \$8. Your options are limited to what the meal deals entail, but it's a good way to make sure you aren't spending too much money. Breakfast and lunch at the Café especially can end up costing less than an order at Starbucks or Morning Star.

R DINING DOLLARS

BY NEIL GUNNION

PLAN OUT YOUR MEALS

Planning your meals ahead of time is a good way to conserve dining dollars. This helps you avoid impulse spending, since you have a list of exactly what to get ahead of time. A good way to do this is to go down to the C-Store and check what they have, and form a “grocery list” of sorts based on what you need. At the 4th Floor Café, you can plan out your meals by looking at the schedule that the staff emails monthly.

CHOOSE YOUR FOOD WISELY

Some kinds of food stays in your stomach for longer, so that you don’t feel hungry as quickly. Complex carbs like whole grains, or proteins like meat or tofu tend to last longer. (So does oatmeal, and it lasts a long time so you can keep it in your cabinet forever!). Avoid simple sugars and processed carbs (white bread, doughnuts, chips). This can help you save dining dollars because you end up buying less food.

SAVE AND SHARE

Some of the restaurants on the dining dollars plan give large amounts of food that you can either split with a friend or save for a second day. Going out with a friend and ordering a shareable meal means that you only have to pay for half of it. If you want to eat alone, you can always have leftovers for lunch or dinner the next day. Morning Star Café has plenty of shareable options, and Midnight Express’s burgers are good enough for two meals. Additionally, you can share some refrigerator essentials with your suitemates (splitting the cost of milk, eggs, etc.) Overall, you spend less this way because you don’t have to pay for each individual meal.

GENTRIFICATION IN NYC CONTINUES TO EXPAND, CAUSE ISSUES

By Gabrielle Fiorella
Staff Writer

Gentrification has been an on-going issue in the city for quite a few years now. By definition, gentrification is “the process of renovating and improving a house or district so that it conforms to middle-class taste.” Gentrification is happening as you’re reading this, in most areas of the city. We’ve seen the signs, mini store closures, large futuristic buildings in the middle of local neighborhoods, etc.

The ongoing question about gentrification has been: Does gentrification have to be determined by only the gentry or is there a way to develop a place and change it while also serving the interests of the long time residents? New York hasn’t exactly figured this out yet. The New York borough of Brooklyn has become one of the most expensive cities in the country due to business owners willing to pay a premium just to be in downtown Brooklyn flocking to buy property.

Its evolution over the years has made it a hub for anything you could think of. But about 40 years ago, this wasn’t the case at all. In the 1980’s, downtown Brooklyn had an urban feel with small businesses and homes on every corner. The feel of the area let people dress and speak any way that they wanted to. People felt at home, and had roots there. These residents were then informed that they had to be uprooted and leave where they had called home for so long. These residents had been there when no

one else wanted to be there, and were told that people with more money who had been there only six months in total, were entitled to be there and could ask anyone to leave. Downtown Brooklyn in the 1980’s had been a predominantly black and LatinX area, and their cultures thrived there through their businesses. Fulton Street Mall was the heart of the area for the residents and it was taken away from them because it was labeled as not “diverse” enough. “Important parts of downtown Brooklyn are ugly, and this plan will help fix that.” said Chris Havens, a real estate developer in Downtown Brooklyn.

Policy makers had called for “retail diversity,” because the mall was practically only catering to black and LatinX people. The sad reality about the need for “retail diversity” was that there were various other retail stores just blocks from the mall that were still in downtown Brooklyn.

Mayor Bloomberg had endorsed the gentrification of downtown Brooklyn, saying “If you don’t like wealthy people, or successful profit-making businesses then you’re not going to have a city.” The process of gentrification is about the corporations, and the idea that the city has no role in the overall goals of the people. “Redlining was used to segregate, and once the area that was predominantly white became scarce, it became a black ghetto” said Craig Wilder, Historian of ‘mybrooklyn’. “People think that redlining that actually happened after white flight, had already happened, and neighborhoods were al-

ready black and LatinX and then banks had discriminated against them because of racism and redlined them and wouldn’t lend to them,” said Kelly Anderson, Co-Director of ‘mybrooklyn’. The choice for gentrification was from policy decisions, and segregation played a huge part. The rezoning of people just increased segregation and inequality in the city. FUREE (Families for Racial and Economic Equality) held strikes, rallies, and contacted local congressmen to strike against this gentrification.

The city was going to seize some buildings by eminent domain in Downtown Brooklyn that had been a part of the Underground Railroad on Duffield St., but activism, protests and a lawsuit made the city back down from buying them, but it took two long years. Brooklyn has changed tremendously over the years, and it will never stop evolving, like the rest of New York City’s boroughs.

Today, parts of the boroughs are either extremely gentrified, at risk of being gentrified, or just too low of an income area for it. East Harlem and the Lower East Side are at tremendous risk of gentrification. Tribeca, DUMBO, and various parts of the Upper East Side have been heavily gentrified. Williamsburg, Long Island City, and Bed-Stuy are deep in the process of gentrification.

These are just a select few places in the city that are involved in some way with gentrification, even if it’s not totally obvious. In the areas of low income, the city is trying to figure out how to protect residents and their homes when rent is rising significantly, and there

are fewer alternative housing options each day. The city needs to answer the essential question regarding gentrification quickly because people are really struggling. Another place that has been in the process of gentrification for a while now is Roosevelt Island. Known as “One of New York City’s best kept secrets,” Roosevelt Island used to be known as Welfare Island from 1921-1974, and was home to a mental asylum and a smallpox hospital. Then in 1974, it was renamed Roosevelt Island, after Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The island back then was primarily home to veterans, families, and those who wanted to escape the hustle and bustle of Manhattan. It’s still home to a lot of elderly people, and families, but the population is starting to increase, and get younger. Residents are afraid that with this rise in young people moving to the island, rent and real estate prices could increase significantly, and many low income situations will arise.

New businesses have come to the island within the past few years, and this has made the islanders happy, but worried at the same time. They fear that the island will turn into a “consumer cesspool” where upper middle to upper class will take over and completely make lower class living a thing of the past.

So far this hasn’t happened and Roosevelt Islanders hope that it won’t happen anytime in the near future. Gentrification has its fair share of pros and cons, but not one out of either category could justify why it should or shouldn’t continue to take place.

MT. VERNON PARTICIPATES IN HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

VISIT THE 18TH CENTURY NYC HOTEL

By Aryana Lee
Staff Writer

Halloween is just around the corner and many places have already begun to set the scene for the spookiest and most candy-filled holiday. Living in New York, it can be extremely difficult to find fun and safe activities to do for the holiday, especially while also living on a strict budget.

Many places throughout Manhattan are holding fun events to kickoff the celebration. One event most are looking forward to is taking place at the Mount Vernon Hotel and Garden, located at a historic building on 421 East 61st Street featuring rooms like the Ladies Parlor, Lower Hall, Garden Gazebo, along with five other rooms. The museum was built during the late 1790’s and was used as a carriage house, but was then turned

into a hotel in 1826. The museum’s setting is meant to bring the visitors back in time to the setting of the hotel, which provides, “a country escape for New Yorkers living in the crowded

city at the southern tip of Manhattan” (Mount Vernon Website). The workers plan to create a game which is “loosely based on a historic newspaper account, an unidentified skeleton has been discovered at the Mount Vernon

Hotel” (Mount Vernon Website). The visitors will have to walk throughout the museum with nothing but a lantern for light while searching around throughout the area for numerous amounts of clues in order to solve the mystery. Although the museum’s theme for this year might seem slightly mature, Mount Vernon Museum has made sure not to include elements that would restrict the age while still trying to keep it spooky for all ages. Their website states that the museum is “Appropriate for adults and families with children 10+” (Mount Vernon Website).

They plan to show off the exhibit on October 20th, 26th, and 27th at 6:15 pm and 7:30 pm on the following dates. The museum does require reservation so make sure to purchase tickets early. Having beautiful locations like the Mount Vernon Museum hold amazing games and activities for people of all ages every year really help everyone get excited for holidays by giving them so many different ways to celebrate them!



terry themed activity for its visitors. The workers plan to create a game which is “loosely based on a historic newspaper account, an unidentified skeleton has been discovered at the Mount Vernon

GRAFFITI VS. ART

THE LINE BETWEEN VANDALISM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

By Rayiah Ross
Staff Writer

Graffiti is an artistic concept that is constantly being scrutinized by neighborhoods and businesses. While many people consider it vandalism by law, others consider it a form of artistic expression and art. From a legal standpoint, the only distinction between street art and graffiti is permission. With permission granted to the artist, painted graffiti is (for the most part) considered public art.

While most people view graffiti as simple tagging through symbols and intricate lettering (the more territorial components of graffiti), there are many other forms of non-destructive graffiti. Many artists have expanded their art to video installations, stencils, yarn bombings, and video projections. The artists sometimes illustrate their emotions

and stories through their art. Sometimes this art functions as a code for other artists, while other times it is an outward piece for the public to understand. In recent years, more street art is changing individuals' perceptions of the concept because of its normality. Art such as murals and mosaics have been around for centuries, typically covering entire walls. These viral forms of art are taking over urban settings around the world. For example, Banksy (an anonymous street artist and political activist) did an installation of his Better Out Than In project around Manhattan, New York in 2013. He used his dark humor to aid in social and political commentary on streets, walls, and bridges.

This complex boundary between art and vandalism has been challenged by many people, but not many have been as successful as American photographer and videographer, Henry Chalfant. He is most notable

for his work on graffiti, breakdance, and hip hop culture. One of Chalfant's prints, City as Canvas: Graffiti Art From the Martin Wong Collection, is held in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. In addition to galleries and museums in the United States, his work can also be found in Europe and Asia. Most recently, Henry Chalfant: Art Vs. Transit 1977-1987 will be on view at the Bronx Museum from now until March 8, 2020. Many of Chalfant's photos in the exhibit, show teenagers being creative on the streets, on the walls of abandoned buildings, and train platforms. "A lot of trains were painted by groups of kids, the social life of the graffiti writers was to belong to a crew," Chalfant told Artsy in an interview.

While buildings were burning in the Bronx in the 1970s, consumed by discriminatory practices and neglect, residents of the borough were rebuilding and creating. In the

1970s, the borough saw the rise of graffiti art, as young Bronxites used the city's streets and subway cars as their canvas. "What we were doing was using a language among ourselves and talking to each other," John Matos, a graffiti artist known as Crash, told the New York Times in 2012. "Henry [Chalfant] brought an intellectual eye to it, and I guess that was needed. He was able to manifest our language to the public so they could see it differently. He brought a clandestine thing out into the open."

Whether you choose to believe that graffiti or street art is a valid art form or not, doesn't stop artists from expressing themselves. Of course, painting graffiti without authorization is considered vandalism, but that doesn't make it any less artistic. Graffiti offers an uncensored message that other forms of art can't always portray. And art as a whole is never really defined by society, rather the artist themselves.

S O C L O S E , S O F A R

A REVIEW OF VIJA CELMINS' EXHIBITION, "TO FIX THE IMAGE IN MEMORY"

By Cross Nelson
Staff Writer

Walking into the fifth floor gallery at the Met Breuer and coming face to face with a work by Vija Celmins, you may think that you are viewing the work of a photographer. The image you are standing in front of is of the ocean's surface, a cropped section of a vast body of water, captured in black and white. Then suddenly you notice something interesting about the image that makes you wonder. You step closer to it, focus your eyes on the details, and realize that it is not a film image at all, but rather a painstakingly realistic rendering in graphite. The rippling waves, and the light reflecting off of them are not captured through a lens, but sketched by hand with pencil in various shades of grey and black. It is a marvel to look at.

This fall and winter, the Met Breuer is showcasing this drawing and 120 other works of art by Vija Celmins in their latest show, To Fix the Image in Mem-

ory. With the goal of always capturing an ephemeral moment through her art, this retrospective show takes many of Celmins' most affecting works and allows the viewer to experience her creative world from the beginning of her career to now. Born in Latvia in 1938, Celmins was only two years old when the Soviet Army invaded the country, eventually forcing her family to flee their home on a German Ship. After living at displaced persons camps around Europe for several months, the family

came to America in 1948 where they lived in Indianapolis. It was here that Celmins began drawing,

and when the time came for her to go to college, she got her art degree and moved to Los Angeles. In California, Celmins really began experimenting with her art, taking photographs and using reference



Photos Courtesy of the MET



Photos Courtesy of the Tate Museum

photos to produce compelling images in paint and pencil. Aside from using her photos as reference,

Celmins also used her surroundings as reference for her art; creating a series of paintings that featured objects from around her small L.A. apartment, such as a lamp and a hot pot. Then, in 1964 she had her first solo show, which showcased her drawings of World War Two planes, inspired by the planes she recalls seeing as a young girl in Europe. Upon walking into the exhibition, these are the works that you are met with first, and it really helps you get acquainted with Celmins' unique aesthetic, while also allowing you a glimpse into her life through the subjects that represent her as a person.

Continuing onto the lower level of the exhibition, you enter the next phase of Celmins' artistic career: her famous "surface drawings."

These drawings aim to capture the surface of a particular subject matter, such as the ocean surface, a close

up surface of a spiderweb, a small portion of stones in a vast desert, or even the night sky. Celmins' was fascinated by the idea of surfaces, and how simply capturing a small portion of a large surface on paper or canvas created an intimate and secular experience for her viewers. She believed that she could give people things that they couldn't typically have by drawing or painting them, such as the ocean, the stars, or the moon. Suddenly a white sheet of paper could become someone's very own night sky. With this in mind, walking through the exhibition is a special experience that allows you to go to the moon, stand amidst the stars, and study the rocks in a desert just by looking at the work of art in front of you. Experiencing the work of Celmins is truly a wonder, and to have the opportunity to experience her pieces in a retrospective is one that is not to be missed. Allow yourself to be transported by her work now through January 12th at the Met Breuer.

STUDENT DINING OPTIONS PROVE SATISFACTORY

A REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE EATING OPTIONS

By Elena Maldonado- Dunn
Staff Writer

The Morning Star Cafe, The Kitchen Sink, The Midnight Express. These restaurants are probably so familiar to Marymount students by now that they could recite the menus. For any 55th Street resident wanting some variety or a new place to go, here are three different restaurants at three different price points with the pros and cons weighed by myself and my taste-testing assistants just so you don’t have to! Note that these restaurants do not take dining dollars, but they’re all close to 55th and pretty convenient.

Restaurant #1: NY Hot Jumbo Bagel
Price Point: Cheap
Address: 1070 2nd Avenue

This restaurant is a classic New York bagel store/deli combo. They have an extremely extensive menu for such a small family run store, serving bagels, wraps, salads,

desserts, and more. It’s open 24/7 and they bake new batches of fresh bagels throughout the day, so it’s a great stop on the way back from a late class, or if you get the midnight munchies and the C-Store just isn’t cutting it. It’s a bit cramped, so it’s maybe not the best place to sit and eat, but the prices are reasonable. We ordered the Caesar wrap, a ham and Swiss flagel with egg whites, a lox and cream cheese sesame bagel, and the barbecue chicken wrap. While the worker who took our order didn’t write it down and had to clarify it several times, we all got what we ordered in a timely manner. The lox was freshly cut, the bagels were warm, and the egg whites were well seasoned; both wraps were tasty, although the contents were a bit unevenly spread. The only complaint we had was that when we’d come before the food had tasted different, so it’s important to specify what you want in your sandwich. A great, very reasonably priced bagel store!

Restaurant #2: Moonstruck Eatery

Price Point: Medium
Address: 250 E 58th Street

The aesthetic of this modernized diner is really charming, something that’s noticeable as soon as you walk through the door. The back wall is one big fish tank, with giant koi floating about peacefully while you eat, and the whole place is light-filled and whimsically decorated. It’s a lovely spot to hang out, especially with one of their delicious milkshakes or perfectly crispy fries. The mozzarella sticks are wonderfully cheesy and the French toast crunch is an extremely creative and delicious combination of French toast and Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal. Their more savory entrees, however, leave a lot to be desired. We also ordered the classic burger and chicken quesadilla, both of which were fairly bland, the burger accompanied by some coleslaw that appeared to be completely devoid of sauce. However, if you know what to order, Moonstruck Cafe is a delightful place to spend an afternoon.

Restaurant #3: Serendipity 3
Price Point: Expensive
Address: 225 E 60th Street

This restaurant is famous for being the home of some of the most expensive meals in the world. However, even as a broke college student, there are definitely some (admittedly pretty fancy) things on the menu you can afford if you want to treat yourself sometime. Although their overall vibe is a bit overstimulating (their upper level is something out of Mary Poppins, whereas the lower level looks like Tim Burton’s Wonderland), their desserts are undeniably delicious. We ordered a mix of desserts and main courses: cheddar burger and fries, the frozen hot chocolate, the chicken strip basket, and the Forbidden Broadway sundae. While the burger and chicken were adequate, it was the massive, beautifully presented desserts that really stood out. Due to the price, Serendipity probably wouldn’t become part of a daily routine, but it’s a great place to go to celebrate something special.

MMC STUDENTS FUEL HALLOWEEN EXCITEMENT

HOW COLLEGE STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE SPOOKY HOLIDAY

By Gwen Attridge
Staff Writer

Upon entering college, whether it be in busy New York City or in the middle-of-nowhere Pennsylvania, it is a widely known fact that you can count on one specific time of year to be full of classic, crazy college fun: Halloween. The suffix of “weekend” is added because one day is just too short to pack all of the costumes and festive events into. This time of year always awaits with great anticipation from every college kid, whose costume and event planning could start months in advance. However, the holiday lacks purpose if there is nowhere to go to show off these costumes that so much careful thought went into. We’re too old to trick-or-treat, and too young to go to bars, so what options are left? For most people who are currently in college at large schools, their plans are made for them; fraternities, sororities, or sports teams normally have the space to host a get-together and enough people at their school to create a guest list. But what if both

of these aspects are taken away, and all you have is a tiny school, in a city packed with people, where space is limited, and your tight circle is all you can count on to make plans?

This is the struggle for Marymount Manhattan students as this spooky holiday approaches. Unlike other New York City schools like NYU, Fordham, Columbia, and Pace, Marymount lacks the numbers and social circles that make it easy to make plans for Halloween. This adds a whole other level of planning, and stress, to a time where things are supposed to be light-hearted and fun. Just like finding a job in this crazy big city, it becomes about networking: who you know, who they have connections with, and seeing if you are close enough to hitch

onto their plans. But despite the school size, Marymount students will show no mercy in sitting out of this chance to dress up and go out.

One of the best options for Marymount students, when nothing else surfaces, is New York’s Village Halloween Parade. This is a lucky draw for students at the Cooper Square Dorms, for this huge Halloween party on the street is just blocks away. The website for the event puts it perfectly: “Join 100’s of PUP-PETS, 35 BANDS, DANCERS, ARTISTS, and thousands of other New Yorkers in costumes of their own creation in the nation’s most wildly creative public participatory event in the greatest city in the world!” Not only is this a fun way to show off your costume, but it’s a fun night out that’s easy on the budget.

Going to school in New York, it is common to have friends that live in apartments instead of dorms. This can be a great option if you’re into a more quaint celebration. This is an easy fix for the struggle to find Halloween plans, since it puts you and your friends in control of your own fun. Text your group chats to come dressed up in their best costumes, get a good spooky playlist, and deck out your space with all the most classic Halloween decorations. Despite the size of your crowd, it’ll give you and your friends the festive setting needed to show off your costumes on Instagram!

Although it’s easy to get caught up in the fact that going to a small school means less festivities, it allows you to get creative and form your own fun instead of just being a part of a swarming crowd at a frat house. And being in New York City, it is easy to just walk out your door and see where the night takes you! Just know that you don’t have to put pressure on yourself to find plans, and that doing something small doesn’t mean you can’t have fun. As long as you have good company, and good costumes, you’re set!



TOP 5 NYC HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

WAYS TO SPEND YOUR HALLOWEEN

By Kennedy Blankenship
Guest Writer



THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE TO BE FOR SPOOKY SEASON THAN THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS. THIS YEAR THERE ARE MANY EVENTS THAT WILL LEAVE YOU SHRIEKING IN TERROR AND JOY. WHETHER YOU ARE IN THE MOOD FOR A TRICK OR A TREAT, THE CITY HAS PLENTY TO OFFER...

TOMPKINS SQUARE HALLOWEEN DOG PARADE

When: October 20th, 2019, Noon-3PM
Where: East River Park Amphitheater
Cost: Free.

Come on down to the lower east side and enjoy some of our furry friends strutting their stuff in adorable and beyond creative costumes. Hundreds of dogs compete to win their owners a cash prize (hopefully some treat money). There will be music and Halloween festivities, and did I mention dogs? Buy some coffee on the way, enjoy the cool fall breeze along the East River, and watch as a dog dressed up as Frodo from Lord of the Rings chases their tail. Dogs in costumes? Sounds less like a Nightmare on Elm Street, and more like a dream come true on Cherry Street!

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN FLOTILLA

Feeling crafty? Join the Central Park Conservatory for an evening of pumpkin carving, ghost stories, costumes, and a pumpkin flotilla across the Harlem Meer. The pumpkin festivities kick off at 4PM and if you want your chilling creation to be a part of the flotilla make sure to submit it by 5:45PM to the designated area... Because who doesn't want to see their jack-o-lantern baby take sail across the water in the twilight of Central Park?

When: October 30, 2019, 4 PM to 7 PM.
Location: Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (inside Central Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues)
Cost: Free

ALL OF THEM WITCHES

When: All of October.
Location: Nitehawk Cinema.
Cost: \$13 for entry (optional: food and drink).

It is the season of the witch! Let's celebrate at the Nitehawk Cinema in Williamsburg. This theater offers a unique and fun viewing experience with food and drinks. Also, for those who are 21+ there is a special cocktail called a Witch's Garden that is guaranteed to cast a spell on you. All through October, Nitehawk is paying homage to the witchcraft throughout film. The witchy films being screened and their dates are posted on the website under the Nitehawk Williamsburg Schedule. Bubble, Bubble, Toil, and trouble; I need a spooky movie night or maybe a couple! Bad witches only.

BLOOD MANOR - STUDENT NIGHTS

Looking for things that go bump in the night? Look no further than New York City's premier haunted attraction: Blood Manor. A haunted house full of actors depicting nightmarish scenes that will make your skin crawl. This experience is not for those of the light hearted. Be prepared to be scared in this walk-through haunted house, designed to make you scream and jump with pop-up scares and in your face scenes. Now offering an awesome student discount on Sundays with a school ID. If you can't make it on a Sunday check the website for other dates and times. If you like the adrenaline rush from a good scare, I promise you don't want to miss out on this!

When: Every Sunday Until November 9th.
Time: 6PM-10PM.
Where: 359 Broadway New York, NY. 10013.
Cost: \$25 with Student ID at the door

46TH ANNUAL NYC VILLAGE HALLOWEEN PARADE

When: October 31st, 2019. 7PM-10:30PM.
Where: On 6th Avenue North of Spring Street to 16th Street.

Last, but certainly not least, is the Village Halloween Parade. Dress up and join your fellow New Yorkers for an amazing parade of elaborate costumes, bands, and floats. Everyone will be dancing in the street to the harvest moon. If you would like to walk in the parade there is a fee and general line-up admission that can be found on their website. But just by attending you will already be immersed in a sea of costumes and Halloween spirit. The crowds are big, so plan accordingly with time and train... But don't let that spoil your fun, let loose and enjoy the Wild Thing theme parade!

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