



THE MONITOR



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MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

MARCH 24TH, 2019

ILHAN OMAR CONTROVERSY

— WHY HER COMMENTS ABOUT ISRAEL CREATED A FIRESTORM —



Photo Courtesy of Getty Images

By Fahima Degia
Staff Editor

Less than two months into being United States Representative, Congresswomen Ilhan Omar faced criticism and it started from a tweet. The tweet stated “It’s all about Benjamins, baby.” Omar tweeted that in response to Republicans who promised action against her and Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib, as they often criticize the Israeli government. The tweet suggests pro-Israel lobbying from groups such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. It hints at the idea that pro-Israel lobbying, is what influences United States support of the country.

Omar apologized after the tweet stating, “[I am] grateful for Jewish allies and colleagues who are educating me on the painful history of anti-Semitic tropes.”

Later on, Omar was part of a town hall meeting at Washington’s Busboys and Poets. Omar stated, “I want to talk about the political influence in this country that says it is okay to push for allegiance to a foreign

country,”

After the events, Congress passed the bill H.Res.83 condemning “anti-Semitism as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values and aspirations that define the people of the United States and condemning anti-Muslim discrimination and bigotry against minorities as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contrary to the values and aspirations of the United States.”

Congress passed the bill because House Democrats were worried that her comments played into anti-Semitic tropes about Jewish attachments to Israel. People stated her comments insinuate that the Jewish community has dual loyalty to both countries, making them disloyal to the United States. Democrats came out of it by passing H.Res.83 by a vote of 407 to 23.

After Omar’s tweet the controversy started, but it peaked after the town hall meeting and H.Res.83. Omar started facing backlash from Republicans, House Democrats, and the public. However, Omar also got a lot of support

as a movement arose #IStandWithIlhanOmar.

Republican reaction started in the West Virginia Legislature, where an Islamophobic poster was put up connecting Omar to the 9/11 hijackers. After the event Trump said he thinks Omar should resign from Congress. After the event Pence also came out with a tweet, “@IlhanMN tweets were a disgrace & her apology was inadequate. Anti-Semitism has no place in the United States Congress, much less the Foreign Affairs Committee. Those who engage in anti-Semitic tropes should not just be denounced, they should face consequences for their words.”

Despite criticism, many stood with Omar in the Democratic Party, left-progressive community, and Jewish leftists. Those who support Omar state that she is wrongfully being attacked as a Muslim woman of color, because she has the courage to criticize Israel.

Those who defend Omar also point out that anti-Semitism on the right doesn’t get as much attention and Islamophobia doesn’t get taken as serious. As Vox discusses,

““Republican officials frequently call on anti-Semitic tropes and say worse about other minority groups without nearly so much bipartisan condemnation. Pushing for a House vote on anti-Semitism really did feel like unfairly singling out Omar Republican officials frequently call on anti-Semitic tropes and say worse about other minority groups without nearly so much bipartisan condemnation. Pushing for a House vote on anti-Semitism really did feel like unfairly singling out Omar.”

Omar held a panel in which she made clear that it’s important to be sensitive when Jews take offense at her comments. However, she also points out that being Muslim leads people to assume that you are anti-Semitic. Omar and the 2020 Democrats who stand with Omar claim that the anti-Semitic label is used to shutdown the debate.

With a rise in hate speech, hate crimes, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism, it’s important to look at controversies like these from all perspectives.

SGA UPDATE: THE 2019 ELECTION DRAWS NEAR

By Julia Furnari
Guest Writer

A busy month for Student Government Association! We are now in the full swing of campaigning for the 2019 election. There are many fabulous candidates this year. Campaigning begins Monday, March 25th through Friday, April 1st. If you are interested in hearing each candidate’s future plans, stop by the Candidate Forum on Monday, April 1st in the Regina Peruggi Room from 1:00-2:20pm. Like what you heard? Vote for the candidates who you think would best suit their desired position at the April

2nd and 3rd in the Commons. Best of luck to all candidates! Along with campaigning, members of SGA are busy in their projects. Dejah Bradshaw, Senator for Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity, organized an off campus housing resource fair to provide students with information regarding apartments, guarantors, and rent. There were several housing companies who will also offer information. Julia Furnari, Senator for Service and Sustainability, is currently working on obtaining better recycling signage for the trash bins on campus. She also recently attended a meeting for the new Environmental Sustainability SPIN Team. Julia has followed SGA’s Vice President Allison Lehman in her involvement in organizing

events for the Day of Action in May. Allison has also been involved in organizing Safer Sex Week activities with Catie Pool, Senator for Food, Safety and Health. Safer Sex Week events will start on March 18th, with a second self defense class organized by Shaelyn McFadden, Senator for Retention. SGA’s President, Brenelle Braganza, has been working closely with the senior marshalls to organize the senior gift. Finally, Marchael Giles, Senator for Media and Technology, has been working hard to lay the groundwork for a TV Production Club as well as other media outlets. These are just a few of examples of the efforts the members of SGA have working on. SGA meetings are open to all students, so stop by if you have questions or concerns!



A LETTER FROM MARCHAE L GILES

Dear MMC Community,

Hi, my name is Marchael Giles and I am running to be your SGA President. If elected President of SGA, I will focus on improving and expanding the threefold purpose that SGA has. That being, one: to broaden the base of student involvement at MMC in order to enhance school spirit. In order to achieve that goal, my running mate Yasmin Serrano and I have agreed to work more closely with C.A.B (the Campus Activities Board) to increase student involvement. A small idea we already have is transforming MMCs International Food Festival into a Smorgasburg like event where we have different international food vendors from around NYC come and let us sample some of their foods while educating us on the culture and history in which the food comes from. Two: Enable students to gain leadership qualities needed to run the government body effectively. Therefore, Yasmin and I, along with the Leadership Immersion Weekend and Leadership Summit, will work to create more summits for our student body that actively pertain to their major and interest. In addition to this, we will push to have some of our student leaders attend national conferences such as the National Student Leader Diversity Conference to inform them more on the critical topics and social justice. By attending conferences like these, students will be able to gain the tools to make MMC a more inclusive and diverse institution. Lastly, three: to fight for students’ rights and improve school policies. Many students don’t know that MMC has the rights to release directory/public information without students consent under our current FERPA policy, according the 2018-2019 edition of The Griffin Guide (MMCs Student Handbook). Information such as: student’s name, home address, telephone/cell number, MMC e- mail, academic program, degree, majors, minors, concentration, etc. This is information that the school releases that can infringe on the privacy of you the student. Yasmin and I are ready to begin the discussion with Emmalyn Yammrick, Dean of Students and Carol Jackson, Vice President of Student Affairs to require the school to ask consent to release this information instead having an opt-out option that many students aren’t aware of. This is just a short list of what Yasmin and I are expecting to accomplish to improve the student experience here at MMC. We are striving to be an open ear to any other issues that you feel should be address by SGA and be YOUR voice, the entire community of MMC! Remember, A Vote for Giles and Serrano is a Vote for a Brighter Tomorrow!

Best regards,
Marchael L. Giles
Presidential Candidate



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CAPSTONE CONTROVERSIES

CAPSTONE PROJECTS USING STUDENTS FOR PERSONAL GAIN



By Billie Sangha
Staff Editor

“I started to wonder: am I helping you out or am I actually doing your homework?” This question has come up in multiple conversations with students who have assisted seniors with their capstone projects. It then prompts another question surrounding academic dishonesty and exploitation of student labour under the guise of “helping someone out with a project”.

I came across a couple realizations through conversations I had with both professors and students. 1) I myself have definitely been in a situation where a friend exploited the generosity I offer in our friendship in a way served them academically and that benefited their personal/professional reputation, and I didn’t even know until after over five months of supporting them. 2) Sadly, it is apparently a common issue among students who are not in the classes they are assisting with because they aren’t able to differentiate a homework assignment from a favour. For example, are you drafting an email for someone to brainstorm how to articulate their project or are you turning in a proposal that was actually due on Blackboard? The lack of information about capstone assignments is what allows students to end up doing work they shouldn’t be doing. They don’t realize it is happening. And when they do, the damage to the friendship is done, the time is wasted, and professors can only meet with you afterwards to discuss your grievances.

After having a couple conversations with professors teaching senior capstone classes, it was clear that their syllabus,

expectations, and assignments allow for outside collaboration and support. That much is acceptable and understood. But professors - and Marymount as an academic institution - absolutely do not condone students doing other students’ work, turning in anything that is dishonest about whose work it actually is, or omitting to students helping their peers that something is actually a major homework assignment, not just a passion project they need help with.

“First of all, I don’t mind helping people out with homework. I get that sometimes an assignment can be both, like a passion project that you have to turn in for a grade. But I think [seniors] should be more open about what they are having people get involved with from the beginning.” one student who wished to remain anonymous expressed. They informed me that they only found out they were doing more work than they should’ve been when classmates of the friend they were helping told them, wondering why they were doing so much and if they were even aware. The lack of transparency creates a loophole for accountability that

allows students to delegate tasks that should be completed by the student themselves. “And this might not even be a capstone issue,” another student added. “If people find out that all you have to do is frame a project in a way that makes people think they’re just

doing you a favour, I think people who lack integrity will for sure hop on that opportunity.” So then what is a way to address the issue of students unknowingly doing work that isn’t theirs to do? And how do you prevent that from happening again? If this has happened to you, or you suspect that it is happening to you now, contact professors of the class(es) affiliated with

a project and ask them for the syllabus or assignment description. Email them and ask for a meeting to discuss your concern “If your friend hasn’t even revealed that it is a homework assignment at all, it might require a more in-person confrontation because no friendship should be based on how sneakily you can use someone. If people are willing to be snakes in a college setting,

it should be a huge red flag for the type of professionals about to head out into the world,” commented one of the first students I spoke to. They insisted that professors require names and contact information for individuals involved in a capstone project from the beginning of project development and planning rather than finding out later should a student actually speak up and advocate for themselves. “There needs to be a built-in system to track who is doing what work. Reporting academic dishonesty or dealing with personal betrayal after the fact is not enough. It made me lose trust in the people I work with and in Marymount for not having something in place so that wouldn’t happen.”

Echoed once again by another student was the question: “How do you prevent that or deal with students who potentially manipulated others for their own benefit? And what’s to stop it from happening again? Like, this is clearly a problem if there is a culture or norm where it can happen every semester with multiple students whose editing, graphic design skills, writing, personal time doesn’t get respected.”

These were all valid questions and concerns that urged me to advocate for solutions as well. If you would be interested in being part of an informal committee in which students meet to discuss ideas and concerns surrounding academic dishonesty and labour exploitation, please email jsangha1@mmm.edu. This information can then be used to present to faculty and department heads and serve as a foundation for action steps to prevent this from going undetected and happening again.



Photos Courtesy of WordPress

JK LARKEN

POSITIVITY, GUIDANCE, AND FRIENDSHIP

By Meg Masseron
Staff Editor

Meet JK Larkin, current junior at Marymount Manhattan and major in BFA acting with a concentration in directing with two minors

made me feel the most myself that I had felt in my life, and I really love the idea of having the opportunity to be that catalyst for other people who are going through the same thing.”

While Marymount was JK’s top choice college (and really his only choice - as soon as he got accepted into the acting program he cancelled all his other applications) and he dreamed of coming here, he still struggled in the beginning, as everyone does. The

best advice he ever received in college came during

else, and then that can be the catalyst for you feeling connected to what they’re connected to, and it ends up spiderwebbing. And in a small community like Marymount, that spiderweb is really strong.”

The “spiderweb” statement JK makes about Marymount really rings true for his experiences, as for the experiences of many others. With a small population of around two thousand students, you’ll always be able to find familiar faces, and if not, JK suggests reaching out to someone new.

“What’s so great about Marymount is that, speaking from my own experience, I have had a few days at Marymount where

I’ll get out of class and I won’t see anyone I know. I’ll walk

through the library and sit down next to a new person and ask them a random question, and I think that

because it’s such a small campus, and there’s so many amazing people who are also looking to make new connections, it’s very easy to walk up to someone and say hi. Even in class, make sure that you’re participating with the people around you because we’re all here for the same reason, which is to grow and learn about ourselves.” With so much enthusiasm, school pride, and such an open heart, JK sets a wonderful example for Marymount students and really embraces the open, accepting feeling we all need to find here

so we can grow and s u c c e e d

they’re not going to do anything but give you all the love you need.’ That was really important to hear. Not everyone needs everyone, but everyone needs someone. Everyone has someone. as long as you have someone, they can be the catalyst for allowing you to feel connected to something

together as a community.

Image via Instagram

Image via Larken’s Website

AFFORDABLE SPRING BREAK



Images from the NYCGo

STAY IN YOUR BUDGET IN NEW YORK CITY

By Katherine DeZarlo
Copy Editor

As spring break approaches, it can be difficult to decide what to do with your free time that is usually spent attending classes. It is likely that many of your friends are heading home for the week or may be going on vacation to a warm destination. If you’re staying in New York for the break, you may be experiencing some serious FOMO. Don’t worry, though, because there are many fun, exciting, and affordable things to do in the city, and spring break is the perfect time to try new things.

While the concept of spring break often elicits thoughts of warm weather, the unfortunate truth is that the temperature in New York is often unpredictable. For those that want to stay warm, there are plenty of affordable museums to visit around the city. Popular destinations such as The Met and MOMA are always options, though there are plenty of lesser-known museums with just as much charm. The Americas Society Museum, located in Lenox Hill at 680 Park Avenue, has the mission to teach visitors about economic, social, and political issues that are faced in

Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada. The museum will help guests create an appreciation for the diverse cultures that make up the Americas. Also, featured galleries are free. Another museum that is worth checking out is Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx, located at 895 Shore Road. The museum, which is in a historic Greek Revival mansion, features both historical artifacts and intricate landscapes to help educate both New Yorkers and tourists. Admission only costs \$6 for students. A final museum that is worth visiting is the Brooklyn Historical Society, located at 128 Pierrepont Street. The museum teaches visitors about the 400-year history of the borough. A major bonus is that students get in for free with a valid I.D. In the slim chance that it’s warm during spring break, a visit to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden is a must. The garden is located at 990 Washington Avenue. From blooming cherry blossoms to rose gardens and indoor conservatories, the venue offers beautiful scenery that is as aesthetically pleasing in real life as it is on social media. Tickets for students are only \$8, so visiting the Botanical Garden won’t break the bank. Because you go to MMC, it’s inevitable

that you enjoy going to Broadway shows. Instead of splurging on tickets, take advantage of your free time during the week and buy rush tickets instead. Anastasia, Angels in America, The Band’s Visit, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, A Bronx Tale, Chicago, Lobby Hero and The Play that Goes Wrong are just a few of the shows that offer discount ticket prices. All you have to do is visit the box office of the show you want to see the morning of the performance. Be prepared to get to the box office early to ensure that you get tickets. Visit the show’s website or Playbill.com to confirm that the show of your choice offers discounted rush tickets.

As long as there’s not a blizzard warning, head to Coney Island with some friends. While your Instagram feed will likely be full of your friends showing off their bikini bodies in Florida, you can enjoy the famous boardwalk at Coney Island. Start off your vacation by attending the Coney Island Ritual Cabaret Festival, which opens on Friday, March 23 and closes on Sunday, March 25. The event will feature performances from artists, musicians, and dancers that incorporate “ritual cabaret” into their work. The festival begins at 8pm and only costs \$15.

If you plan on trekking out to Coney Island, be sure to check out The Coney Island Museum, which is open on Saturdays from 12pm to 5pm and Sundays from 2pm to 5pm. In addition to the permanent exhibitions that include funhouse mirrors, old postcards and collections of memorabilia from the 50’s and 60’s, the museum also includes the “Five Cents to Dreamland: A Trip to The Coney Island Exhibition. This temporary exhibition promises to give visitors a unique look at the history of Coney Island. While visiting Coney Island is free, tickets to the museum are only \$5.

You might also want to designate a day to learn about the country’s history with a visit to the Statue of Liberty. As tourism as it is, everyone should see the famous statue close up at least once. It only costs \$25 to reserve a spot on a ferry that will take you to the statue and Ellis Island. Once on the island, you should visit the Ellis Island Immigration Museum to learn about America’s history of immigration.

Break away from Netflix this spring break and explore New York City. The city may not always be cheap, but there are always exciting experiences to be had.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM: FRIDA KAHLO

By Cross Nelson
Staff Writer

Frida Kahlo. Hearing this name conjures up an image that you most likely recognize. You may have seen this woman’s portrait on a wall, or perhaps on a tee-shirt or a tote bag. But wherever you recognize the image from, you are interested to know more about who she is. You see a woman looking out from her canvas with a hard expression, focused, yet understanding, and you feel like you can see her mind at work. Her eyes are dark, but not lifeless, and they allow a glimpse of feeling to come through her steadfast expression. Color dominates the canvas. Her clothing, her makeup, the flowers in her hair, and the background are all steeped in vivid color. Her black shirt trimmed in orange, her crimson lipstick, the pink flowers in her hair, and the green foliage breathe life and movement into this otherwise still scene. Every element is placed with purpose and by her design. She is trying to tell us something and we have to look close enough to understand her true genius.

An icon for Mexico and for the world, Mexican artist Frida Kahlo defined her place in history not just through her artwork, but through her personal style, that became a hallmark of the prolific artist that she was. This Spring, the Brooklyn Museum is bringing the artist to life in their newest exhibition Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving, and it is the first ever exhibition of her paintings, clothing, and personal possessions to be shown together in the United States; making it a monumental moment in art history. In the spirit of the title, appearance is something that was very definitive of Kahlo as both a person and an artist, but many people don’t understand why. Before walking through this exhibition, you may think she simply wears these colorful outfits as costumes; however, after walking through you will understand that these articles of clothing are much more significant to Kahlo than just dress up. From start to finish, the exhibition leads the viewer through a visual journey of Kahlo’s life that begins cleverly with a room of black and white photos and ends with a room

full of her colorful clothing. Upon first entering the exhibition the viewer is met with a wall of photos taken by Kahlo’s father, Guillermo, who greatly inspired her as an artist. The photos allow you a glimpse into Kahlo’s youth in Mexico City, both before and after her tragic bus accident that nearly ended her life and left her with lifelong health complications. Through these images you begin to understand Kahlo as a person, and her expressions and mannerisms help to show the pain she endured, but also reveal her fiery spirit that kept her persistent despite her hindrances. Perhaps some of the most provocative images are those of Kahlo at a Communist protest for the Mexican Communist Party that she was a part of in Mexico. Being that she was born and raised in Mexico, Kahlo had deep nationalist ties to the country she so loved, and she became very politically active in fighting for her country’s identity. This sense of nationalism, was also known as “Mexicanidad” and it is what tied Kahlo’s art and style to her deep appreciation for Mexican culture. Her most significant representation of Mexicanidad was her clothing; which was inspired by traditional clothing worn by the women of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca, Mexico. Her mother was from this region of Mexico and with familial ties to the culture, she decided to use her clothing as a way to honor her rich Mexican heritage and put her powerful sense of nationalism on display for the world to see. The final gallery of the exhibition lets viewers experience Kahlo’s beautiful and inspiring clothing for themselves, where her colorful dresses line the room and bring her to life in the space. In this last room, the colorful clothing is greatly juxtaposed to the black and white photos that adorned the walls of the first room, and this contrast helps bring the exhibition full circle and puts Kahlo’s diverse life and career into perspective. Walking out of the exhibition, you leave feeling better acquainted with Kahlo as both a person and an artist, and everytime you look at a portrait of her you will feel like you’re locking eyes with an old friend who let you step into her world for a moment. Experience the world of Frida Kahlo for yourself now through May 12th at the Brooklyn Museum.



Images Courtesy of Author

FIVE STEPS TO GRADUATION

1. CHECK PROGRAM EVAL

Go on MMC Connect, and make sure on Program EVAL it says next to Program Summary, (Pending (Anticipated complete)). If not, speak to Academic Affairs.

2. CHECK FOR HOLDS

Go on MMC Connect, and make sure on Program EVAL it says next to Program Summary, (Pending (Anticipated complete)). If not, speak to Academic Affairs.

3. EXIT COUNSELING

Have student loans through the government? You need to complete exit counseling and take a small quiz on their website in order to qualify for graduation.

4. APPLY FOR TICKETS

Make sure to check your email to apply for tickets, graduates are allowed six tickets and possibly six more additional on a first come first serve basis.

5. PACKET PICK-UP

April 23 & 24th is Packet Pick-up Day for graduating seniors. Make sure to stop by the Regina Peruggi Room and collect your tickets, cap and gown.



Image courtesy of MMC

THE JONAS BROTHERS ARE BACK

SINGER ROBYN ROCKS AT MSG

WHAT’S HAPPENING AND WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE JOBROS

90’S SINGER SELLS OUT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN



Image Couresty of The Jonas Brothers

By Kayla Pacenka
Layout Editor

On February 28th, the *Jonas Brothers* made a official announcement that they would be back with a appearance on Late Night with James Corden as well as they’re new hit song and music video “Sucker” releasing at midnight on that same day. On Friday 1st of March, they interviewed on New York z100 and played their hit songs like “Burnin Up”, “Year 3000”, and, of course, “Sucker” to a small private audience that won through a raffle. In 2013, the brothers broke up due to creative differences, while there has been a slight mystery around why they decided to cancel their tour last minute after their flop of a song “Pom Poms” and break up all together, it was revealed a few weeks ago on *Late Night with James Corden* that Nick, the youngest brother, was the result of the break up. While they have said they have resolved their differences, the tension in carpool karaoke wasn’t lost on fans and it seems that the brothers still have some talking out to do. Will they break up again soon? Probably not, like I’ve been saying, how can you really break up a group of brothers? The song “Sucker”, sticks with the old *Jonas Brothers* pop-rock tune from the first go-round of being a band. While

some fans were worried about the *Jonas Brothers* releasing another version of “Pom Poms”, they let out a breath of relief when first hearing “Sucker”. This time around, with the velvety pop-rock tune, the *Jonas Brothers* created a bolder, maturer, and sexier song that leaves their *Disney Hollywood Record* label into *Republic Records*, a label with other famous acts like Taylor Swift, Nicki Minaj, and Ariana Grande. The music video for “Sucker” took a interesting, *Alice in Wonderland* type aesthetic to the song. It stars the brother’s real life love interests, showing they have all grown since their teen idol days. Kevin is seen with Danielle Jonas, his now wife of ten years, Joe, with his current fiancé Sophie Turner, and Nick, his new wife, Priyanka Chopra. It’s clear from the “Sucker” video that the boys are ditching their break up

songs they were so famous for, and going for a different approach to their new music with this music video. The video takes a strange fantasy world and mixes in strange fetishes and lust. It’s extravagant costumes and interesting setting created a fantasy world out of a 17th century mansion in Hertfordshire, England. The one problem I had with the music video was the short shots, and quick exchange between scenes, while I absolutely loved the costumes and the set, it would have been nice to be able to see them for more than two seconds as the video switched to a different plot. In the first week of March, the *Jonas Brothers* took over *Late Night with James Corden* and did some of Corden’s famous sketches like “Carpool Karaoke”, “Three-Second Photo Booth Challenge”

and “Side Effects May Include”. While each skit was incredibly funny and the *Jonas Brothers* never failed to deliver witty banter and gush about their wives and fiancé, their new take on their 2006 hit “Year 3000”, now “Year 2019” took the cake. They dressed up as their past 2006 selves and sang about the the current year with lyrics like, “You won’t believe who the new president is, it’s the guy who hosts the apprentice, and it’s pretty weird” as well as “We thought the future would be the best, so what’s new with Kanye West?”. So after all this success in the first week of March since announcing their comeback, what’s next for the *Jonas Brothers*? While I think Nick is new to married life and Joe is planning a wedding, I think a limited city American tour is in the works. But look out fans, if this will be anything like big name singers going on tour, they are bound to announce it and then release tickets the same or next day, so keep that savings account intact. As for an album, most likely in the beginning of the summer, as that’s a primetime for new music. Until then, peace, love, and the *Jonas Brothers*!



Image Couresty of Elle Magazine



Photo courtesy of pitchfork.com

By Jack Irvin
Guest Writer

Robyn, electronic dance pop singer best known for “Dancing On My Own,” rose to New York City legend status after headlining a sold out Madison Square Garden on Friday, March 8. A sold out arena concert may have been a goal for the singer back in the nineties when she was chasing major label pop stardom, gathering top ten hits such as “Show Me Love” and “Do You Know (What It Takes),” but since her pivot to independent, experimental, critically-acclaimed pop music, it comes as a long-deserved achievement.

To a sea of roughly 20,000 attendees, the beloved Swedish songstress played a two hour set of career- spanning tracks



from hits, to fan favorites, to album Honey was embraced by deep cuts, and remixes—from fans and critics alike, and at The post-Robyn, her first album Garden, Manhattan embraced released through her own label, Konichiwa Records. The omission of her two pre-Y2K smash hits was bothersome to a few fans (One of which exclaimed, “Is it over? Is she really not going to play ‘Show Me Love?’” on the way out of the venue), but the move marked Robyn’s control over her career as she celebrated her slow, organic, re-rise to the top of a different pop landscape. After an eight-year hiatus from solo music, Robyn’s latest

Robyn delivered a concert to make up for lost time, complete with two encores, throughout which the venue remained full of fans ready to soak up any song they could get out of

attentively, danced endlessly, and sang their hearts out, especially for the first chorus of “Dancing

On My Own,” in which the speakers went silent, and the crowd took over for a romantic moment of connection followed by a lengthy, rowdy standing ovation. Robyn delivered a concert to make up for lost time, complete with two encores, throughout which the venue remained full of fans ready to soak up any song they could get out of the singer. The crowd most certainly got exactly what they wanted, and Robyn got what she deserved—a career milestone representative of perseverance, artistic integrity, and longtime devotion from fans to the singer and vice versa.

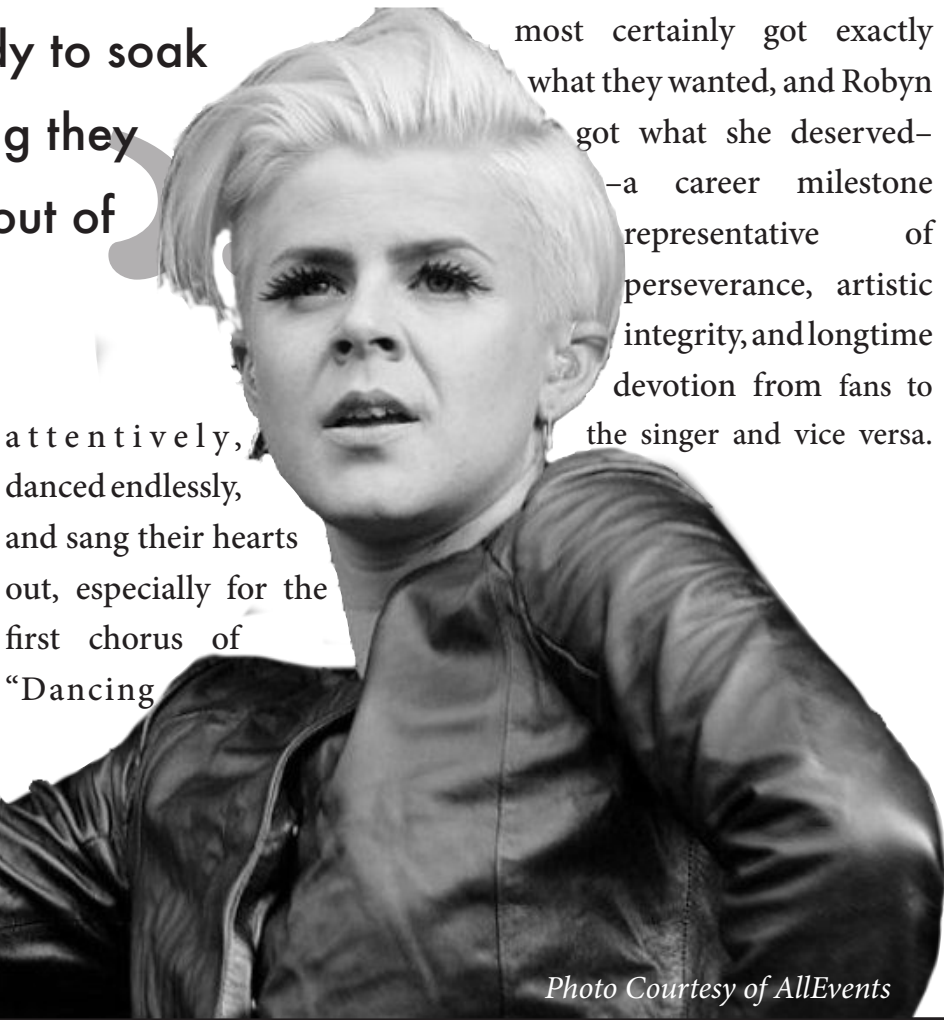


Photo Courtesy of AllEvents

MY FIRST SEMESTER

7 LESSONS I'VE LEARNED

By Meg Masseron
Staff Editor

Fall 2018 marked my first semester of college in New York City. As a transfer student, I had already figured out a decent amount about the general aspects of college life, such as time management, studying skills, budgeting, and so forth. I hadn't experienced living outside of my parent's house yet, nonetheless had I experienced living in Manhattan alone. Going from a five minute car ride with my father to class everyday to commuting on my own in a city of 8 million people was a jarring transition, but I quickly learned what worked best for me. There were some lessons I learned along the way living on my own here in New York City, though, and with spring transfer students or even just freshman still adjusting to college life, I thought it might be helpful to share them in this list!

1) Not sleeping enough (and continuously getting sick from it.)
I had dreamed of living in New York City for nearly half of my life, so when I arrived, I didn't want to waste a single second sleeping when I could be out exploring the city. Managing homework, social life, extracurricular commitments and New York City experiences often meant purposefully sacrificing sleep in exchange for more time for fun. Because of this, I ended up constantly crashing and

getting sick because my immune system just wasn't strong enough without proper rest.

2) Not owning up to my mistakes.
Getting sick so often, and also just being very overwhelmed with this huge transition in my life and getting frazzled very easy, often meant that I would occasionally miss a due date. Instead of being up front with my professors and asking for an extension if they're willing to give one, I covered in shame and tried to pretend the assignment never existed. This semester, I've learned that more often than not, professors will be understanding. Sometimes, we face unexpected obstacles and setbacks in our lives and we need a little bit of time to work through them. Even if your professor doesn't give you that extension, at least you'll know you tried!

3) Too many absences.
This one is one that was really hard to control personally due to my many illnesses, but I still do feel that there were some occasions I probably could have really forced myself to just be present in class, and simply provide my professor with a disclaimer beforehand that I wasn't feeling well and wouldn't be my best self, but still wanted to be there. That way, I'm still making an effort and showing commitment to my academics, but there's no pressure for me to be at my best.

4) Jumping into a fitness routine I couldn't maintain (and didn't really need anyway.)

One of the things that excited me most about the dorms was having 24 hour access to a gym for free, a privilege I never had growing up. Immediately after moving, I pushed myself to do a minimum of four nights a week at the gym, if not more. I often ended up failing at this because many nights I just didn't have the time, with homework and social commitments. I usually ended up spending a significant amount of time every night sitting in my gym clothes yelling at myself to get up and go, then spent another hour at the gym I could've spent sleeping (and as previously implied, I was hardly getting enough in the first place.) Fitness is great, but I also walked at least three miles a day, so it probably wasn't necessary for me to sacrifice sleeping and studying time for a little extra cardio.

5) Focusing on relationships instead of focusing on myself.
Moving to the big city meant I was officially a small, inexperienced fish in a very big pond, and I was completely overwhelmed with all the exciting possibilities, opportunities and options available to me. However, I don't think that my first four months in New York City were the best time for me to be investing time and emotions in the first guy that showed interest in me, when I had so much adjusting and growing to do. I'm definitely not telling you all to not enter a relationship shortly after moving into the city - when it's right, it's right;

but there's definitely something to be said about focusing on yourself for a few months before you jump into anything. You might find that after moving to New York City, you become a new person, and you might need to get to know that person before you get to know anyone else.

6) Duane Reade.
I get that it's convenient because they're everywhere, but stop. Just stop. Do not buy snacks every week at Duane Reade. Don't do it. Stock up on snacks at Trader Joe's or even Target in Herald Square because the prices at Duane Reade are vastly disproportionate to their value. I could've saved so much money if I'd just avoided the temptation.

7) Being overwhelmed by all the opportunities for extracurricular activities.
Adjusting to living in Manhattan and adjusting to college is enough of a commitment, so adding extracurriculars on top can be pushing it too far. There are so many amazing opportunities to get involved and make friends and develop your talents at Marymount, but I'd recommend simply choosing one that really interests you your first semester and sticking with it, and then once you're more comfortable with college life in your second or third semester, you can branch out more. If you join too many, believe me, you'll just end up dropping out of them eventually because you'll be too overwhelmed with all the other responsibilities in your life.

PRETTY WOMAN OPENS

BROADWAY INTRODUCES ANOTHER MOVIE TURNED MUSICAL



Photos courtesy of The New Yorker

By Jenna Fanelli
Guest Writer

The recent trend of movies being turned into Broadway musicals has had a variety of results amongst the theater community. Some become hits while others barely last a year. However, the classic Julia Roberts and Richard Gere love story known as Pretty Woman has made quite the impression on audiences at the Nederlander Theatre.

Samantha Barks is an absolutely stunning and endearing Vivian Ward, and the always - charming Andy Karl gives an excellent portrayal of hotshot businessman Edward Lewis. The two have a chemistry that lights up the stage and the score, by Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance, fits perfectly into the overall theme and feel of the story. And of course, powerhouse Orfeh brings audience members to their feet with her comedic timing and booming belt as Vivian's mentor and best friend, Kit DeLuca. The entire cast, from leads to ensemble, performs cohesively as a unit, and their show is filled with technically sound and truly enjoyable musical numbers that audiences cannot help but move to and smile throughout.

For lifelong fans

of the 1990 film, going into the theater with the mindset that they are about to witness an exact, word-for-word representation is not recommended. This sort of expectation is certainly not conducive to appreciating the art that is being created on the stage. Also, due to the drastic differences between live theater and filming on a movie set, there is little to no feasible way for show creators to keep every aspect of the story the same.

This should not discourage people, though, from going into the performance with an open mind and a readiness to just enjoy themselves, because this will ensure a much more pleasant experience at a show that has a genuinely high level of quality.

With the constant negativity in today's society and all of the drama that surrounds us daily, an inspiring and feel-good story about female empowerment, personal growth and unlikely love can be the perfect distraction from reality. The story that unfolds is only one of the many things that make this show as incredible as it is. The vocals are on point even when understudies go on, and the cast members put their own spin on their respective characters while not losing the essence of who they are in the movie. It is just the right balance of maintaining the purpose and entertainment of the 90s classic and also creating something modern and new, and after seeing the show twice I have yet to be surrounded by any theatergoers who did not love their experience, laughing the whole time, singing along and being moved by the performance as a whole. So I must say, my verdict is that to miss this show would be a big mistake. Big. Huge!



BLACK HISTORY SHOWCASE

A LONG TIME COMING FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Image Courtesy of Author

By Emani Mack
Guest Writer

It took 83 years for Marymount Manhattan College to put forth an effort to celebrate Black History Month. Is it because Marymount has to fulfill its extremely promoted notion of diversity, or is it inspired by the political environment we are in today? Either way, every continuing student at Marymount has been stunned by the efforts of the college to celebrate every designated cultural month. "I was very disappointed with the Black History Month Programs my first year at MMC. I believe there was one small mixer kind of event, and the turnout was very minimal. The event was not great and seemed very unorganized. Before Marymount, my high school would do a full day of showcasing many areas of the school, and the entire student body would be in attendance. I decided to speak up. I am so happy that I was able to be a part of this month's programming and overall, I thought every event was not only insightful and entertaining, but definitely eye-opening to all in attendance. I was happy to diverse turnouts at these events and have open conversation about a topic some people are afraid to talk about,"said sophomore Pedro Cabrera. The newly implemented movement of celebrating diversity has emerged due to the Students Activities Advisory Board (SAAB), which was created by newly appointed Director of Student Development and Activities, Dayne Hutchinson. SAAB consists of a collection of talented student leaders, who take time out of their busy schedules to put these events together. Focusing on Black History Month, SAAB had planned several campus events to

celebrate and recognize black history, and the generations of black folks who fought, and continue to fight, for black and brown lives. All events were sponsored and hosted by the Office of Student Development and Activities, Student Activities Advisory Board, Campus Activities Board, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Science Society, Counseling and Wellness, Career Services, Black and Latinx Student Association, Student Government Association, Marymount Muscle, Marymount Community Outreach, The 40 Percent Club, Infamous Unit, and SocAttack. During what can be considered one of the first and few times, students of color have had access to a series of events dedicated to their culture. As a result, many students of color have reported actually feeling included in the predominantly white climate of Marymount. Each event has had some sort of cultural, educational objective behind it to allow all students to be included in the journey through time. The series of Black History events concluded on Wednesday, February 27th with an extravagant cultural showcase titled The Black Experience: A Cultural Showcase, which was directed by Monae Greene, Nathalie Hughes, and Emani D. Mack. "Planning the Black History Month Showcase was special for me. I wanted to help create a space where students could be seen, and have their experiences validated. This showcase couldn't have happened without the committed student leads, and the student performers who poured their heart and souls into their art, and really made my job throughout the process easy. Black History is American history, and through the work of the Student Activities Advisory Board, the showcase's goal was to educate and bring awareness of the Black experience in America," expressed Director of Student Development and Activities, Dayne Hutchinson.

The showcase provided a timeline reaching as far back as slavery to contemporary America through dance, songs, monologue, speeches, spoken word, and more. This showcase required each member of the cast to dive deep into themselves to embody various emotions tied to black history. "Throughout the creation of the Black History Month showcase, it was intense. Trying to manifest the hurt and pain that our ancestors endured is a different kind of feeling that humbled me in a sense. Having to tap into the hurt and freedom one tries to obtain in a repressive society today required us to give a part of ourselves in each piece. This being the first event of its own happening in MMC demonstrates the school's progress; there's still much more to go, but it's a foot in the right direction. I appreciate that this showcase is going on because there isn't much black representation in this institution, but this shows that we're here, we're not completely alone, and we are a force to be reckoned with," expressed first year student and Infamous Unit member, Kayleen Cabrera. Acknowledging the fact that black history is not taught in our college curriculum, events like this allow students to be a part of something much bigger than themselves. Exemplified by the showcase, Jayzean Santillano took on the role of a black college student taking a African American Studies class at a predominantly white institution and took it upon himself to educate his out-of-touch peers on his culture. "Slavery is not who we are but the traumatic events and experiences are a part of what makes us, us. We definitely reminded the audience that Black History did not start with slavery; it interrupted Black History,"President of SocAttack Monae Greene said. This was shown through a captivating performance by SocAttack and Soul Steppers, which set the tone with a piece that embodied

slave labor and communication of West African Ancestors. Jacqueline Leon, Marilyn Gonzalez, Ta'Lor D'Yonna Mosley, Martine Faustin, and Micah Sanford performed historic speeches and monumental movements that contributed to the freedom of black Americans. Via Donovan Hodge, Kamasha Potter, Anita Chisum, Ery Peace, Pedro Cabrera, Ariel Hilario, Trinité McNeal, and Emani Mack provided the audience with honorable performances that channeled various major contributions that black culture to society. Infamous Unit also made multiple legendary appearances throughout the showcase by performing skits, visual representations, and performing their new piece, "The Fight for Institutionalized Freedom". "As a freshman, having the opportunity to be one of the leads in the show was an honor, but it also pushed me to give my best representation of the struggles that the black community went through. Because the theme was freedom, I had to get in the mentality of wanting to escape and the yearning for it. While performing, I didn't want to put on a 'show'; I wanted to give the piece justice not only for myself but for my ancestors before me," explained first year student and Infamous Unit member, Samantha Nelson. The audience was so astonished by Infamous Unit's piece because it was the first time that the MMC community had seen the dance group perform a piece with such a powerful message. Major points are granted to Marymount for its effort to celebrate Black History Month, because the entire student body can agree that this was long overdue.



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