



# THE MONITOR



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MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# MADAME PRESIDENT

— MORE WOMEN RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT THAN EVER BEFORE —



*Photo Courtesy of CNBC*

**By Christina Bae**  
*Guest Writer*

In 2016, Hillary Clinton made history as she became the first female presidential candidate to ever be nominated by a major political party. Though Clinton did not win the election, she paved the way for other women in politics, giving them a fighting chance. Later, 2018 became the “Year of the Woman” when a record 36 women were elected to Congress, 35 of them Democrats. Now, as the 2020 presidential election approaches, women have made history for the Democratic party, as there are more women running for a party’s presidential nomination than ever before.

So far, eleven people have announced their 2020 presidential campaigns; of those eleven, six of them are Democratic women. The first of these women to declare her campaign

was Senator Elizabeth Warren on December 31, 2018. However, it was not made official until February 9, 2019. Running alongside Warren are Representative Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Senator Kamala Harris of California, Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, and author Marianne Williamson of Texas.

Democratic women have already made a distinct impact in our government, as we saw in the results of the 2018 primaries. According to the Rutgers Center for American Women and Politics, 52.7 percent of Democratic House female candidates won their primary, having the highest win rate over any other group. Moreover, more women ran for, and won, the position of governor in 2018 than ever before. NBC News reports that 61 women ran for governor, sixteen of them won their party’s

nomination, and of those sixteen, twelve of them are Democrats. Though not every woman won the nomination of the position she was running for, we still saw a significant increase in the number of women in the running than ever before. Women dominated the polls, and we can only expect to see more from them in the coming years.

Though the amount of women currently expected to run for president is historic, it doesn’t seem to be much of a surprise. President Trump has created policies that are hurtful to women and threaten reproductive rights, leading to a greater amount of politically active women who want to fight for their own rights. New female candidates also bring a new level of diversity to the table, thus providing the possibility of new ideas and perspectives. However, these women don’t plan

on using their gender as an advantage during the race; they are relying on their records and their visions to earn votes and aiming to be respected as equals, breaking traditional sexist views and opinions against women in office. Moreover, since there are multiple women in the running, we, as voters, can’t be biased towards a candidate simply because of their gender, and should listen to and treat each candidate’s beliefs equally.

2018 was a big year for women, and we can only hope they continue to succeed in the coming years. Hillary Clinton took a big step on behalf of women everywhere, giving them the potential to grow and earn the respect they deserve. Democratic women have hopeful ideas, and any one of the candidates are fully capable of becoming America’s next president.

## SGA UPDATE: RECYCLE BINS TO RESOURCE FAIRS

**By Brenelle Braganza**  
*Guest Writer*

The Student Government Association (SGA) has been working on a great deal of issues on campus. The Senator for Service and Sustainability, Julia Funari is working on getting signage for all the trash bins in school. This signage will be posted on the trash bin and will inform student’s that all the trash thrown gets recycled. Furthermore, there will be an email sent out to the student body about the recycling system

that Marymount uses and there will also be a web page on the school website that will go more into detail about this process. The Senator for Diversity and Inclusion, Dejah Bradshaw is organizing a resource fair on March 14, 2019 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm in Commons West. This resource fair will focus on different housing opportunities on campus and off campus. Dejah is organizing a student panel that will consist of students that live on campus and off campus and will have multiple people from different realtor companies to talk to students about the making shift. There will also be resources for students available

during the fair. The Senator for International Students, Kiara Mendez is organizing an International Student Talk Back, the purpose of this talk back is to continue the conversation among students, faculty, staff and the administration about the treatment and feelings of International students on campus as well as help foster a better environment for international students at Marymount. The talk back is happening February 25th from 5pm-6pm in MFC. If you have any questions, comments or concerns you can email SGA at [sga@mmm.edu](mailto:sga@mmm.edu).



LETTER *from the* EDITOR

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Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up yet another issue of The Monitor. This will be our eighth issue of the school year and I’m very happy that we can continue to provide you all with pieces that are pitched, crafted, and edited by our very own students. Because we are a student publication, it happens to be quite easy to publish unintentional mistakes that may slip through the cracks of our editing and proofreading process. With that being said, we made a mistake last issue of publishing an incorrect and inappropriate headline that had a very offensive connotation. On page five, above an article about the Lunar New Year event that went on a few weeks ago, we published the headline: “Marymount Celebrates the Infamous Chinese Holiday”. Using the word infamous was a complete mistake, as was the fact that it was published and completely overlooked during the editing process. I’d like to personally apologize to any and everyone who may have been offend-ed by our mistake. It is not something I am proud of and I completely regret not catching the mistake be-fore it went to print. We did publish a press release on our social medias as well as our website, but I wanted to make sure that the apology was also heard from me. Again, I sincerely apologize and I promise to make sure no mistakes like these will happen again.

On a much lighter note, I, the editor of The Monitor, would like to publicly endorse Student Government Association’s Presidential Candidate Marchael Giles and Yasmin Serrano, vice presidential candidate, as they attempt to better the school in this crucial position. Giles and Serrano have expressed their desires to increase the media presence at Marymount, facilitate important dialogue between faculty and students, and to use SGA as a platform that students can utilize in order to voice their problems and possibly find a solu-tion to their dilemmas. It is incredibly important to have trustworthy, student-driven candidates in these positions and I fully believe Giles and Serrano would be the best candidates to uphold these titles.

Please enjoy this issue and I look forward to providing you all with five more issues this semester.

Have a wonderful day!

With Love,

Megan Arnold  
Editor-in-Chief



MMC’s The Monitor is the entirely student run newspaper of Marymount Manhattan College. It is published 6 times each sesmes-ter, with the exception of January and Summer sessions. MMC’s The Monitor has a circulation of 1,000 and a shared readership. MMC’s The Monitor is funded through the Student Activity Fee supplemented by generous, local businesses purchasing ad space. Singe copies are free to Marymount Manhattan College students, faculty, staff, and community members. For advertising informa-tion, or for comments, questions, suggestions, or letters to the editor, please email MMC’s The Monitor at monitor@mmm.edu.

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STUDENTS START YDSA CLUB

THE YOUNG DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

By Fahima Degia  
Staff Editor

As of now Marymount Manhattan College officially has its own chapter of The Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA). The club was created by Adam Pedro, Claire Hubble, Scott Devenny, and Marden Peterson. The club’s first meeting took place on February 13, 2019.

YDSA takes an intersectional approach to activism and fights for many different groups, “[we] fight for the immediate needs of workers and students while building our capacity to fight for more radical and structural changes.”

“We work with labor campaigns to organize student workers of staff. We organize to defend immigrants through campaigns for sanctuary campuses. We campaign to divest our schools from fossil fuels. We do anti-poverty work through local mutual aid programs in our communities, and much much more.”

YDSA is the youth chapter belonging to the Democratic Socialists of America. The club has chapters in other New York campuses such as City College, Hofstra, New York University and Stony Brook.

Along with attending the first meeting, the interviews with board members Adam, Claire, Scott, and Marden will give you more perspective about YDSA at Marymount.

Adam Pedro answers questions about YDSA:

**Do you think Marymount was lacking a socialist organization?**

Marymount was definitely lacking a socialist organization. I was asked to come speak with SGA before we got our approval and was asked why at such a liberal college was YDSA necessary? It’s necessary because like everyone else, Democratic Socialists deserve a safe space to get together & voice their opinions. That wasn’t something that Marymount offered.

**What are your hopes and goals for this club?**

The hope is that people will become more politically active and have a better grasp of Democratic Socialism. I’d say a lot of people are there, they just don’t know it yet.

**What are some future events you are planning on holding?**

Currently, we’re talking about Apple Fest & YDSA meeting with other groups in the city.

**What are some challenges you faced in creating YDSA?**

It took us 6 months to actually get off the ground. Lots of emails & meetings, so to be honest starting a club at Marymount is not easy & that should change.

Since this is a new club to Marymount, how do you think you will get people interested and involved?

We’re at a time in history where we have to be active politically or else we are just sitting on the sidelines while people around us suffer. The past idea of “it doesn’t concern me,” just doesn’t work anymore, it most certainly does.

Do you fear getting backlash for creating a radical organization in a neoliberal/liberal institution?

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” We aren’t fearful at all. Every voice that wishes to better this institution should have a platform. Marymount is full of Democratic Socialists they just don’t know it yet.

**How did you become a socialist/activist?**

I’ve worked for a few campaigns, most recently on the Cynthia Nixon gubernatorial campaign. I’d say I was a socialist way before I knew I was one.

**Have your personal experiences inspired you to create YDSA?**

When I was 6 my dad lost his job & we became a single income family. Suddenly you start seeing the cracks in the American Dream. I’ve seen what it’s like to go without & that’s not something I want anybody else to have to go through. In the wealthiest & most powerful country in the world, people should not have to suffer to attain the bare necessities.

**Is there anything else you would like the Marymount community to know?**

Our club is open to anyone, you don’t have to be a Democratic Socialist. If you want to be more politically active & create positive change at our college, this is the club for you.

**How did you think the first meeting went? Can you give the Marymount community insight on the first meeting?**

We had a great first meeting. I loved seeing the energy everyone had. We definitely have a good group of people & found a few issues we already want to work on.

Claire Hubble answers questions about YDSA:

**Do you think Marymount was lacking a socialist organization?**

I think Marymount was lacking a political group in general. We have a killer Politics and Human Rights department with awesome professors, so I’m not sure why students haven’t thought of a political club before. I also think everyone at our school (students, faculty, and staff) could benefit from socialism and reading about and implementing socialist ideas throughout our campus. We’re happy to be the first though and happy to be representing and turning more students into socialists.

**What are some challenges you faced in creating YDSA?**

Well, I think the major problem between us having a club and not having a club was our lovely Student Government Association. Adam and I looked into making this chapter of YDSA early last semester. SGA said at the time that if we applied to make a club, we would have a

response within three weeks to a month, and we ended up having to wait two whole months just for them to say “yes, you can officially start having a club.” It was frustrating. And SGA apologized after the fact, but they didn’t say anything to us for a while which was strange and unhelpful.

**How did you think the first meeting went? Can you give the Marymount community insight on the first meeting?**

I think our first meeting went really well! We were hoping to have a discussion based on ideas our members brought to us and we definitely did. We ended up devoting about half of the meeting to talking out the various problems Marymount has and figuring out how YDSA can get involved and hopefully change things for the better. I hope this school community can see and understand that this club is for everyone (students, workers, even professors). If you have a problem with how you’re being treated -- whether it be because of who you are, what you look like, how much money you earn, your status on campus -- we want to help you solve it. And we want to help you solve it by uniting the student section of our college. We are a small school, but we have way more students than faculty. We have power if we unite against the forces that are making us uncomfortable.

Scott Devenny answers questions about YDSA:

**What inspired you to create YDSA?**

I was approached by Claire at the very beginning of the Fall 2018 semester. She was enthusiastic about starting a YDSA chapter at MMC. I was feeling politically charged and particularly excited about the opportunity to start a new club at Marymount.

**Do you think Marymount was lacking a socialist organization?**

Yes! I think that Marymount is definitely lacking the representation and organization of a socialist group. We (the officers) were approached by a few students in the early stages of making the club and they seemed really excited by the idea of a YDSA at Marymount. There seemed to be a missing link between students with similar ideas. This club most certainly can help bring those people together.

**What are your hopes and goals for this club?**

My hope is that YDSA at Marymount sticks around for a good while. It would be great to come back in ten years and see students still partaking in politics and carrying out the legacy of the club.

**What are some future events you are planning on holding?**

YDSA is running a few campaigns, which include college education for all people, and voter registration drives. At our first meeting, we discussed possibly working to better the conditions of Marymount’s culinary employees, debating with other political clubs, holding guest lectures, and bettering the conditions of students

at Marymount.

**What are some challenges you faced in creating YDSA?**

There was (and still is) a lot of red tape. Kevin Croke has been extremely accommodating of our new club and has done a tremendous job in helping us prepare for our first meeting. Getting people interested in the beginning was tough because we had no clue when the club would actually be up and running to hold the first meeting.

**Since this is a new club to Marymount, how do you think you will get people interested and involved?**

At our first meeting, the members of YDSA at MMC mentioned having a table at Strawberry-fest and Apple-fest. The officers have discussed possible movie nights, mixers, and general collaboration with other clubs at MMC. You can also learn more about our meeting and events by signing up for text alerts. Just text “@ydsammc” to 81010 to enroll.

**Do you fear getting backlash for creating a radical organization in a neoliberal/liberal institution?**

I wouldn’t say fear. We are, of course, expecting some opposition, but we hope it is channeled through open discussion and that it may spark the organization of opposing clubs.

**How did you become a socialist/activist?**

I realized that I was a bit of a socialist during the Primary Elections for the 2016 Presidential Election. I was a big supporter of Sanders and was quickly shut down by my elders for being so, which made me think and question our current political climate. Although I may not agree with every aspect of socialism, I do find myself wishing for a dignified life for human beings.

**Have your personal experiences inspired you to create YDSA?**

Trump’s election in 2016 was a pretty big jumping-off point for me. I have been searching for ways to better my knowledge about all political viewpoints, and YDSA, I hope, will be a great opportunity to express my political beliefs and create change in our community.

**Is there anything else you would like the Marymount community to know?**

All are welcome at YDSA meetings! We are open to hearing from students and staff about what needs to change in the Marymount community, and especially open to those MMC community members that will put in the work to make change happen.

**How did you think the first meeting went? Can you give the Marymount community insight on the first meeting?**

Our first meeting went very well! Members showed up with great ideas about events and campaigns that we’ll be discussing further at our next meeting. We will also be holding elections for our Board on March 27, 2019 (time and location TBA).

MARYMOUNT’S DRAG RACE

STUDENTS STRUT THE RUNWAY

By Gwen Attridge  
Guest Writer

On February 8th, Marymount Manhattan students went about their normal, day-to-day college routines, which at some point included a trip to the third floor Commons. With its cafeteria set up, students can be seen grabbing a bite to eat between classes, busy typing away on MacBooks for a paper due who knows when, and chatting and laughing with fellow classmates. By the end of the day, the bustling social hub of MMC falls quiet, as the last few students who have to suffer through a night class trickle in and out of the area. And finally, after a long day of entertaining America’s next Broadway stars, directors, writers, and politicians, the Commons falls quiet.

But not last Friday. An area that normally looks straight out of the cafeteria scenes from “High School Musical” turned into the catwalk that would shake Anna Wintour

into her grave. The ceiling was doused with colorful lights and purple and blue hues tinged the room to resemble some of New York City’s most iconic nightlife. The chairs that were normally positioned at their designated tables lined the room to form a walkway that would soon be overcome with Rupaul’s two favorite things: heels and FANS. That’s right, Marymount Manhattan debuted its third annual Drag Show that night, where the queens that walk among us through the halls during the day can finally shine to their full potential.

This year’s drag show differed slightly from the previous two, as it has progressed from a showcase to a competition. After two successful years of giving the MMC community the fierceness it was missing, it was time to finally crown Marymount’s first Drag Superstar. The queens that stepped up to the plate to the plate this time around were Anne Cunningham, Cosimo Satalino, Brooke Stocken, Robert Williams, Hayden Ergenbright, and Marie Wallace. All

dressed to impress (lashes, wigs, heels, and all), the catwalk and a rowdy student audience (equipped with fans, of course) were ready to welcome the queens to battle for the drag title in MMC history.

Each gave incredible performances that had the crowd bald, as they say in drag terms. To top off the night, none other than Marymount’s own Infamous Unit closed out the show with some pieces that embodied the drag show spirit, including lots of voguing, fan throwp-ing, and death dropping. The energy was high, and the audience was waiting on the edges of their seats to see who would take the crown. Founder and host of the drag show Romello Rodriguez stepped out on the catwalk to commend all of the participants and tell audience just how important the addition of the Drag Show as an event on campus has been to the student body. In reflection, Rodriguez says the biggest effect of the establishment of the event, “has been the creation of a space that fosters creativity, risk taking, and

no judgement. Even beyond no judgment I would say encouragement to be whoever you are, and be loved for that.”

And then, it was the moment everyone had been waiting for, the announcement of the winner of the 2019 Drag Show. With my much anticipation, Princess Romello called the two lucky queens who had worked it on the runway the most in the judges’ eyes. Miss Anne Thrope and Miss Marie Yonette were called as the crowd roared with excitement. They shared one final lip sync to Donna Summer’s “Last Dance,” and then the heat was on to see who would be crowned the first annual Drag Superstar. Miss Marie Yonette was called, and the crowd went wild, as Infamous Unit crowded around the queen of their own and hoisted her up in the air in all her glory. Though Miss Marie took the ultimate prize, anyone in attendance truly felt like a winner, because in a place where love and acceptance are celebrated, everyone is truly a queen.







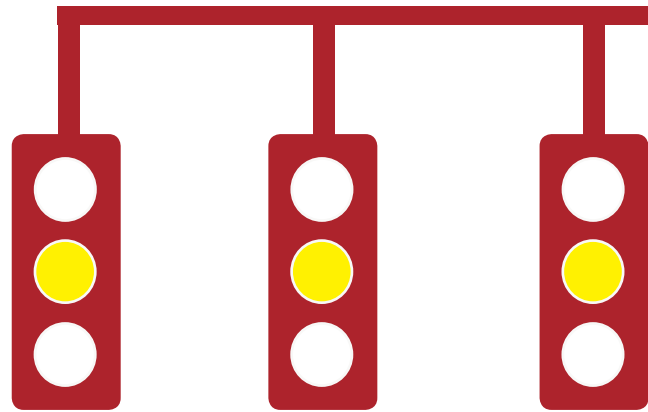
# PRODUCTS OF BLACK EXCELLENCE

BY BILLIE SANGHA

We owe a lot of our modern amenities to the work and genius of prominent black inventors who changed the way we lived our lives. Here are some of the minds behind things we may otherwise never have known or thought much about.



**Dr. Shirley Jackson** is a theoretical physicist and the first African-American woman to earn a doctorate in nuclear physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which she achieved in 1973. But her accomplishments range far beyond just that. She helped develop the touch-tone telephone, caller ID, and fiber-optic cable. So your smartphone and the high speed Wi-Fi it runs on? You can thank her for providing the stepping stones for that.



In 1923, inventor and businessman **Garrett Morgan** patented the three position traffic signal. In England, the traffic signal had already existed for quite some time, but Morgan offered the idea for the yellow “slow” sign rather than just a “stop” and “go”. This ended up regulating traffic in a way that made both drivers and pedestrians a lot safer, which is a huge necessity, especially in major cities like New York.

When the hot and humid New York City days arrive, the name to remember is **Lewis Latimer**. An inventor and engineer who once worked alongside Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell, Lewis Latimer’s breakthrough known as the carbon filament changed the world. It was a vital component of the light bulb, and he also helped Bell design and copyright the telephone, and what you’ll find to be most important this summer, he invented the first air conditioning unit.



Appropriately named, **George Crum** invented the potato chip, the salty snack you can never only eat just one of while maniacally typing up an article for the Monitor that was definitely due last night. Crum was a chef and hunter with a vast knowledge of various foods, and he enjoyed experimenting in the kitchen often, which is what led to the invention of one of the most addictive and essential party foods ever known.

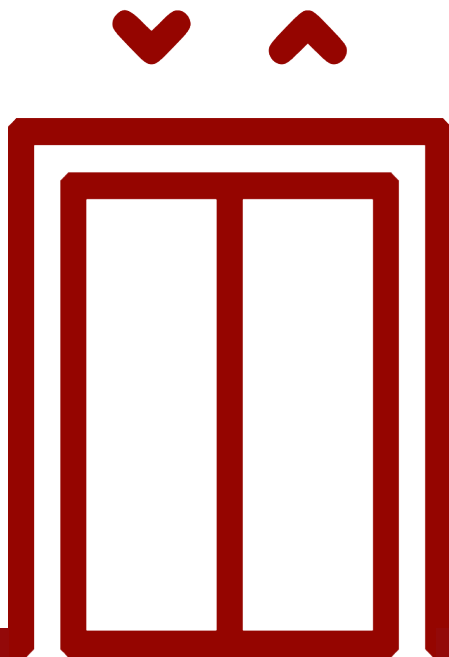


Speaking of inventions that come in handy during the summer, the water gun is another invention birthed from the brilliance of black intelligence. (You’re welcome for all that alliteration.) **Lonnie Johnson** decided to give us childhoods full of super soaker fun, a surprising invention to come from someone who was actually an aerospace engineer for NASA and is currently working on more complicated endeavors such as technology that can convert heat directly into electricity. But his water gun still remains one of the most bestselling toys worldwide, bringing joy to millions.



**Thomas Elkin** was a man who wore many hats: dentist, abolitionist, surgeon, pharmacist, and of course, inventor. Without him, we wouldn’t have household essentials like the refrigerator or dining table or the toilet.

If **Alexander Miles** did not work on making elevator doors automatic, your worst nightmare of getting trapped between subway doors or running late to class in the most embarrassing way (because you got stuck) would come true. Lucky us for living in a world where someone decided that our bodies should be detected when entering elevators and not sliced in half or violently smushed by its closing doors.





MARCH HOROSCOPES

HOROSCOPES BY NATHALLIE HUGHES

These are horoscopes from February 25th through March 11th. You should read for you sun, moon, and rising sign. If you’re not sure what those are, you can find out at <https://horoscopes.astro-seek.com>. These messages are received through the use of oracle cards as a tool of Divination, or communicating with Spirit/God/Source/The Spaghetti Monster. Take what messages resonate— you should check back at the end of the next two weeks to see if they were accurate! If you like these, you can find pre-recorded tarot readings by me on YouTube at [Youtube.com/c/nathalliehughes](https://www.youtube.com/c/nathalliehughes).

You should also listen to “Signs” By Beyonce ft. Missy Elliott to enhance your reading experience.

**Aries**

This issue, you are being asked to stop letting fear hold you back. You have the strength to accomplish whatever idea you have been dreaming up in your mind. Don’t focus on past failures and hurts. Instead, focus on being confident and stepping into your power as your goals are achievable and in the long run you will be incredibly satisfied with your successes. Keep your eyes on the prize and remember that any and every move is forward movement in some way!

**Taurus**

You have made a choice, but your stubborn nature (aka ego) has you convinced you are still being indecisive. Show the world the real you. Some aspect of you,linked to how you communicate with others, is being hidden. For some, it could be not revealing romantic feelings. For others, it could be as simple as not truly revealing career aspirations out of fear of judgement. This issue, you should be focusing on working through your fears and whatever programming has told you that you should not be your truest, most authentic self. You are safe to be who you are. When you decide to follow your heart over your mind, your ships will come in and you will see victory.

**Gemini**

Take five deep breaths. You are safe. Your emotions are clouding your judgement and you are not seeing the situation clearly. The answers you need are coming and then you will be able to make a decision. Confidence is your key to success, so focus on staying in your power and in your peace. Compromises may need to be made, but this situation will ultimately have a win-win outcome, especially if you are being asked to give back to others in some way in order to balance the scales.

**Cancer**

There is no need to rush. Look at the bigger picture and understand that in the grand scheme of things, you are always exactly where you need to be. In fact, you are much closer to your goal than you believe you are. This victory is coming soon, in the form of communication with someone you hold in high regard. Your intuition has been trying to communicate to you that you are safe and this will all work out; but instead you’ve chosen to be anxious and focus on logistics instead of going with the flow. Stop that. Your suffering is coming to an end sooner than you think. Your dreams are becoming a reality as you read this. Congrats.

**Leo**

You are being encouraged to step up and make the first move to be a leader in whatever creative or team based project you are involved. You know what to do, and others involved may be too emotional to see the full picture at this time. This project has the potential to be great, and you know that, intuitively. Step into your Empress energy and do what you know is right. This situation will work in your favor. Follow your intuition and your heart, and do not back down.

**Virgo**

It’s time to take your mask off. Believe in the impossible, and follow your heart’s deepest desires. The universe is offering you a new emotional start, in love or any emotional matter, but you can only accept it if you are in an authentic energy. You have been trying to balance the false and real you, and the facade is starting to fade. It’s becoming overwhelming and this is the universe showing you that there is only room for one personality: your truest. This awakening will encourage you to enter a new level of self love and acceptance where you will begin to truly understand your value. Spoiler: it’s grand.



**Libra**

It’s time to take your mask off. Brownie points if you’ve also got virgo energy in your chart. There is someone you are particularly attached and attracted to (in more than one way, if you know what I mean) and this relationship has the potential to go the distance. And I mean the marriage-house-two-kids-and-three-dogs distance. You have all of the tools necessary to manifest a stable relationship with this current soulmate. Spirit is telling you to step up, step out of the aloofness that is your comfort zone, and approach them because they feel the same way.

**Scorpio**

The answers you need are coming. They are coming FAST. For some, this is going to be a love offer. For others, this will be regarding work. Either way, your dreams are manifesting into reality this issue. However, the divine

is telling you that adjustments need to be made. You are getting the answers you know are coming, but you are going to be surprised. Don’t curse anyone out this issue, Scorpio! Listen to what they are saying before you react, and then release your expectations and understand that this is a time to give instead of take. Stay compassionate because whoever is coming to you has integrity and is a good leader offering you a stable new beginning.

**Sagittarius**

No one is mad at you, Sagittarius. You can still have your happily ever after with the person you made a few mistakes with. They aren’t going to react how you think they will. In fact, a new start is coming. For now, you need to work on your heart chakra and tap into following your intuition over your oh-so-logical mind. This is a soulmate connection, and there is the opportunity for commitment and happiness, but you’d better get to work on that apology and unblocking your heart chakra.

**Capricorn**

Keep going!! You’re literally almost there. Look at the bigger picture and alayze how far you’ve come as you have worked hard towards this goal. DO not quit right before your hard work pays off. Emotional fulfillment is coming! Your wishes are literally coming true. Someone is coming to bring you a message telling you how much they value you and your hard work. For some of you, there is potential for a romantic victory with this person as well. Well done Capricorn!

**Aquarius**

Stop being so pessimistic this issue. Well, you should stop being so pessimistic this lifetime, but I digress. Your dreams are capable of manifesting into this reality, but you need a practical plan first. Stop doubting yourself, and open your planner. Release negativity and see yourself succeeding because you can! You value honesty and realism, but be careful not to cross the border into pessimism this issue because you are sabotaging yourself! Now is a time to give to yourself and others. Understand that you deserve to receive good things and the success that you crave!

**Pisces**

Can you feel that glow? Is there a little bit more pep in your step? I completely understand and feel the same way because it’s Pisces season!! Happy solar return, my fishy friends. Spirit is telling you to show the world the real you! Take your mask off because your dreams are coming true and you’re being discouraged on purpose. The universe is testing how badly you want this dream. You are being lead in circles and you are being confused because the trick is to follow your inner knowing instead of your logical mind and the inputs of outside influences. Sending you lots of luck and I hope you pass the test because the prize will be well worth the wait. A new start is coming!

THE 2019 GRAMMYS

BEST AND WORST MOMENTS



By Jack Irvin  
Guest Writer

Another year, another Grammys. The most prestigious of music award shows has travelled rocky roads over the last few years due to neglect of—well, anyone other than straight, white men. Whether it has been Beyoncé losing Album of the Year to Beck in 2014, Rihanna losing all eight of her nominations in 2017, Lorde being the only Album of the Year nominee in 2018 to not be offered a solo performance slot (the rest of whom were—you guessed it—men), or the countless other Grammys controversies as of late, people have left most Grammy nights quite disappointed, angered, or just confused. This year’s show had quite the ups and downs as expected; the ratings reflected an improvement in quality, but some moments were still a bit questionable. These are the best and worst moments of the 2019 Grammy Awards.

### Best Moments

**Gaga’s Glam-Rock Return**

Lady Gaga took the stage to perform “Shallow,” her latest top five hit from the soundtrack to her blockbuster film, A Star is Born. The nominated track, usually a duet ballad with co-star Bradley Cooper, was delivered by Gaga as a solo performance with a rock edge that has not been given to the song in live performances thus far. Gaga performed the track like the rock star we know she’s been since she hung from a rope and bled during her performance of “Paparazzi” at the 2009 Video Music Awards. Dressed in head to toe gems and rhinestones, Gaga delivered many meme-worthy moments including a final pose where she twisted her body upside down, staring into the camera as though she could see the souls of everyone watching at home. Seeing Gaga step out of the toned-down Joanne era and back into her avant-garde, high concept energy is refreshing,

especially leading up to the Oscars where she will presumably perform the track as composed with Cooper by her side.

**Kacey Musgraves’ Golden Evening**

While she could have ridden into the Grammys on a high horse with four nominations, Kacey Musgraves humbly had the best night of anyone in attendance at the awards. After taking home three awards within the country genre, Musgraves performed “Rainbow” from her latest album Golden Hour, followed by a performance alongside a stacked lineup of Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, Maren Morris, Little Big Town, and Dolly Parton in a tribute to the the legendary Parton, who took home the MusiCares Person of the Year Award. Musgraves ended her night taking home the coveted Album of the Year award, which has not been awarded to a country album since Taylor Swift won for Fearless in 2010. Golden Hour has been praised by critics and fans alike since its release, but radio has heavily neglected the body of work, leaving everyone, including a shocked Musgraves in what has turned into a meme, surprised by and supportive of the deserved win.

**Dua Lipa and St. Vincent’s Sexually-Charged Duet**

Historically, the Recording Academy has enjoyed placing two unexpected artists onstage together for a performance coined (to death) as a “Grammy Moment.” This year’s pairing was alternative guitar goddess St. Vincent and newly crowned pop princess Dua Lipa, the former taking home Best Rock Song and the latter taking home the high honor of Best New Artist in addition to Best Dance Recording. The pair performed St. Vincent’s “Masseduction” and Lipa’s “One Kiss” in addition to a cover of Aretha Franklin’s “Respect,” complete with almost-kisses and the most sensual eye contact in existence.

The performance was free of the high production seen in the other pop-focused performances of the night (See Camila Cabello’s “Havana” performance), but the polished performers made it work, turning heads and perking ears to full attention.

**Dua Lipa’s Dig at Neil Portnow**

It’s hard to forget the disheartening comments that followed last year’s Grammys from Recording Academy president Neil Portnow in which he claimed that women needed to “step up” in order to win awards. This year, women took home 50% of the awards in the main categories, including Dua Lipa for Best New Artist. During her acceptance speech, she threw in a quick jab seemingly directed at Portnow in which she said, “I guess this year we really stepped up.” Lipa’s acceptance speech was immediately followed by a speech from Portnow, placing a bit of a damper on whatever he had to say (Honestly, does anyone remember?).

### Worst Moments

**The Lack of Ariana Grande**

For the last year, Ariana Grande has been one of the most inescapable figures in music. She released two albums within six months including smash hits “No Tears Left to Cry,” “God is a Woman,” “Thank U, Next,” and “7 Rings,” which happened to be number one on the Billboard Hot 100 during the Grammys broadcast. Similarly to the Grammys’ treatment of Lorde the year prior, Grande was not offered a performance slot without compromising to the Grammys requests for song choice. Instead of performing the way she was asked, Grande chose to not show up to the awards whatsoever, despite taking home Best Pop Vocal Album for Sweetener. It is quite confusing as to why the Recording Academy did not want Grande appear on

the show badly enough to allow her to perform a song of her choosing, especially when she is arguably the most popular artist in the country at the moment.

**No Mac Miller Moment**

This year’s show featured tributes to many artists, including Dolly Parton, Aretha Franklin, and Donny Hathaway among others, yet there was hardly a mention of the late rapper Mac Miller’s name. The rapper, who passed this year after tragically committing suicide, was not spoken of throughout the night except for a very minor mention in the everlasting “In Memoriam” segment. Miller was nominated for Best Rap Album, and the Recording Academy even had his parents at the show to accept on his behalf if he had won, which he did not. The Grammys loves to tribute artists 20+ years after deserved, but in a digital age of instant gratification, why wait? A Miller tribute performance (perhaps featuring Ariana Grande?) would for sure have been a viral moment to pay respects to his artistry and family while his passing is fresh on his fans’ minds. The fact that he went basically ignored throughout the night was not only disheartening for his loved ones, but a missed opportunity for the Grammys.

**Jennifer Lopez’ Motown Dance Party**

One of the many tributes of the night was a tribute to Motown led by none other than Jennifer Lopez, a non-black Latinx pop singer who has been criticized numerous times for allegedly ‘stealing’ material from black female artists including Mariah Carey and Ashanti. Lopez’ performance was heavily dance-oriented, which is not at all often associated with the genre, and she has even been accused of at least partially lip-syncing the performance. Luckily, Ne-Yo, Smokey Robinson, and this year’s host Alicia Keys stepped in to save the day, but what was gained by Lopez’ involvement in the tribute?



INTERNATIONAL TRANSITIONS

THE UNENDING TRANSITIONAL PROCESS

THE INTERNET TO BROADWAY



By Brenelle Braganza  
Guest Writer

The international community at Marymount is made up of about 70 international students from all over the world and in the words of Fara Faizdan a graduating senior, “We have a community amongst the international students, and we trust and aid each other with whatever help we need because we understand the struggles faced coming to a foreign land,” this shows that the international community is close nit and united. For the number of international students, MMC had two people that were the faces of the International Community, Alexandra (Alex) Berry, Assistant Director for International Admissions/ DSO and Alison D. Eassa, Assistant Director for International Students/ PDSO. They both served as advisors to international students and their respective offices were international student spaces. In June 2018, Berry left Marymount

and her position was then made available. During the beginning of the fall semester of 2018 there was still no information on someone being hired for Berry’s position and her office was then given to Lisa Velez, the Director for Admission Operations. In November the international community was informed that Eassa was also leaving Marymount, which lead to a panic among the international students. Eassa was an integral part of the international process as she would handle the visas, homeland security and other important details for international students. “We’ve been told that it’s being worked out and that we have not been forgotten, but that’s not what it feels like.... International students face prejudice... now, we’re getting it from the administration too. The international advisor’s office was the only place where we would truly feel safe, and we don’t have that anymore... They cannot even begin to understand just how difficult being an international student... We need someone who specializes in working with international students

and not people who may or may not be able to help is and ask us to come back in a few days after they’ve done their research,” said Ethan Wond, a sophomore and a Cultural Peer Mentor at Marymount. Eassa’s Position has not been listed on the Marymount Careers page and the two faces that international students trusted had left Marymount, which left the international students in a position of concern and now have no space to call their own. An email was sent out by Carol Jackson, Vice President for Student Affairs on February 2nd, 2019 letting the international students know about the team that is temporary in place for Eassa’s Position. This email was sent out few minutes prior to the international student welcome back event. During this event which was supposed to be a fun filled and light hearted, the environment got a little tense. The international students had questions about the unending transitional period because of the lack of communication from the Center of Student Services. The international student body have a lot of feelings regarding this matter but do not have a space

or a person they can trust to talk to, therefore the International Student Senator (SGA), Kiara Mendez (Junior), is organizing a talk back today (at the time of writing this) from 5pm-6pm in the MFC, this event will be used to voice the concerns that the international student community have with Marymount. “Alison’s role at MMC quickly gave me the sense of belonging, stability and community in a foreign, daunting and sometime hostile country. Not having anyone to take over Alison’s role within the college has made me feel like I’ve lost the foundation that I started to build in my first semester,” said Braydon Robison, a first year Marymount student. This is a situation that is also affecting first year students who still have 3 years remaining. Neither having a space, people that are dedicated to international students nor answers to international student questions and concerns, makes the international community feel like they are not on Marymount’s priority list.

Photo courtesy of Rockefeller Center

PROACTIVE VERSES REACTIVE

WHY BEING PROACTIVE IS IMPORTANT IN AMERICA

By Catie Pool  
Staff Writer

What does it mean to have a reactive response? How about a proactive one? Are they both important? Is one better than the other in a certain situation? To be reactive is to only act after the situation has occurred; reacting to the situation, and looking to the past instead of anticipating the future. To be proactive is to prepare before a certain situation occurs. Reacting is not necessarily a bad thing. You would want to be able to react to a surprise or to a question. It is important to be able to react appropriately to any situation. In a sudden car accident that could not be prevented, the response is going to be a reaction and it needs to be one that can better the situation. However, there are not many instances in life where reactive is better than proactive. In the case of an emergency involving a vehicle, a proactive response would be to have the appropriate tools already there: scissors, ball-peen hammer, spare tire, flashlight, jumper cables, etc. You may not be able to prevent the emergency/ situation, but you can prepare for it. Someone who lives in tornado alley may have an emergency survival kit in their home or car, a criminal may have a go-bag, an avid believer in zombies may have an apocalypse survival kit. These are all simple ways to be proactive. There is never an instance in an emergency where the reactive response benefits the majority. No one expects the disaster but being prepared for it can make all the difference



in the outcome. Today, many politicians in the United States are reactionaries. They look towards the past in a way that is almost anti- social change. Often times, the laws in our society are made as a result of a disaster or as a call for change because of problems that already exist. It can be difficult to create laws that are proactive. The challenge presents itself when trying to convince lawmakers to support something that has yet to occur. This can be a struggle in international law when trying to create laws for new technology and innovations. Being proactive is a challenge when trying to convince others to do the same, and as a result, laws tend to follow conflict.

When it comes to being a college student being proactive can mean the difference between a positive and negative outcome. Reading the Emergency Response Guide made by the Department of Campus Safety can provide the information necessary to properly handle a multitude of potential emergencies. One of the first lines in the Guide states, “As all emergencies will vary in scope and complexity, this information is provided as a guide to help you stay safe and reduce your personal risk in the event of an emergency.” The information on how to stay safe is out there, it is then a matter of choosing to be proactive that will ensure your own personal security. One

very easy and proactive step for a student is to register with Connect-Ed via your MMC portal. We are lucky to have Jimmy Cambria and Mike Emmons in Campus Safety because they advocate for student safety and despite the occasional struggle to be heard by administration, they continue, for the students. Knowing how to properly act in the event of a fire is important, understanding shelter in place is important, being aware of the assembly areas is important; read the Guide, ask questions, but above all be proactive. This is not about being paranoid it is about being prepared.

Photo courtesy of Cloundinary

THE INTERNET TO BROADWAY

BE MORE CHILL CHANGES FOR ITS BROADWAY RUN

By Kayla Pacenka  
Layout Editor

Based on the late writer Ned Vizzini’s book, *Be More Chill* tells the story of a high school geek, Jeremy (Will Roland, *Dear Evan Hansen*) looking for an easy way to survive high school. When a fellow student tells him that he can take a pill containing a supercomputer to become chill, Jeremy decides it’s his time to be popular. This highly energetic, comedic, pop musical opened previews on February 13th after its hit off-Broadway debut this previous summer. *Be More Chill* is the first musical to become popular largely because of the power of the internet. In 2015, the off-off Broadway production opened in New Jersey at the Two River Theatre, ran for a couple of weeks and received lukewarm reviews. Luckily, the run also got the chance of a cast recording, and thanks to Spotify and social media, *Be More Chill* has over 150 million streams and the song “Michael in the Bathroom” now has over three million hits on YouTube.

Today, fans are worried about the changes made for the Broadway rendition and if it will stray away from the feel of the original production with its new branding. While Broadway afforded bigger sets, more detailed costumes, and a more extravagant theatre, it also came with some plot changes and minor lyric changes. The biggest change, however, that the Broadway production made was most likely how they created dynamic characters from ones that



were once static, making the message of *Be More Chill* clearer to those who have not read the book. The character Jake (Britton Smith, *Shuffle Along*), who was just a cool guy crushing on the character Christine (Stephanie Hsu, *Spongebob the Musical*), is now a depressed teenager who’s upset about living alone and isn’t sure how to open up to Christine. Jenna (Tiffany Mann, *Waitress*), a gossiping teen who thinks talking about others is the only way to make friends, begins to open up early in the musical about how no one ever really wants to know how she feels, looking for someone to confide in. A new song was also added,

entitled “Sync Up” replaces the “More Than Survive” reprise after Jeremy first takes the supercomputer pill. Songs like “Upgrade” and “The Squip Song” start with a stronger verse, further explaining the plot of the show. While others, like “Smartphone Hour”, sung to explain how rapid gossip can change and twist in high school, changes the iconic line “Rich set a fire and burned down the house” to “Rich set a fire and burned down Jake’s house.” Some scenes were changed to stay truer to Vizzini’s vision of the book. In the novel, the characters Jeremy and Chloe kiss behind the school after the super

Photo courtesy of Playbill

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

PART ONE OF ANNE OF GREEN GABLES OPENS A NEW WAY OF STORYTELLING



By Meg Masseron  
Staff Editor

Last month, Royal Family Productions debuted the first installment of a new two-part, one-woman play based on the classic story of *Anne of Green Gables*. From the size of the theatre to the minimalist set to the small cast, the style and staging of this production fostered an intimate, unified experience between the story and its audience. *Anne of Green Gables: Part I* recounts the emotional journey 11 year old orphan Anne Shirley (Ali Ewoldt) embarks on when she is adopted by two siblings, Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert. (*Anne of Green Gables: Part II* also ran concurrently to Part I and starred Doreen Montalvo as Anne.) Anne’s story is told completely through Ewoldt, but she is aided by visual projects on the set, sound effects, music, and four featured dancers (Brooke Averi, Nichole Forde, Kara Menendez and Stephanie Young). The dancers never speak, only gesture through movement, leaving most of the storytelling to Ewoldt. To signify a change

in character, Ewoldt would assume a certain posture or make a certain change to her physique and alter her voice or accent, such as folding her hands together primly and speaking in a formal, distinguished accent when playing Marilla. Prior to seeing this performance, I wondered if I would be able to follow along with a one-woman play, as it seems it would be easy to get lost, but Ewoldt masterfully distinguished the voice of each character so that the audience always knew who was speaking in that moment. The dancers would often take some sort of pose in the background to reflect which character was speaking as well, creating a non-verbal technique of characterization and storytelling that I have never seen before. The set’s minimalistic design allowed it not only to easily adapt to the setting of each scene, but also to keep the spotlight on Ewoldt and the dancers’ movements. Looking at the set before the play began, it simply looked like a few wooden platforms. However, through the creative genius of this play’s staging, the symbolism of the dancers and Ewoldt’s impeccable acting, the wooden set began to represent different

images in my mind. By the end of the play, when I looked at the top platform, I saw it as Anne’s bedroom. The theatre itself is rather small, allowing even those sitting in the back row to feel as though they are right on stage with the cast. The close, intimate setting also aided in drawing the audience into the story without boasting loud costumes or elaborate props. Ewoldt’s transition from character to character was seamless. There were moments when I had actually forgotten that I had been watching the same person perform for the entirety of the show, because Ewoldt made every single character feel like a different person. Anne Shirley’s character, of course, was what I enjoyed seeing her play the most - a passionate, headstrong and absolutely brilliant young girl prone to great bouts of emotion, Anne’s character alone is a daunting role, nonetheless playing every other character in the story as well. Ewoldt’s acting and empathy allowed her to completely sink into the role of Anne and all the beautiful passion and energy that comes with her. From Anne’s most jubilant, optimistic monologues, to her lowest and darkest

points, Ewoldt told Anne’s story with an expertise that would leave even the most die-hard fans of this classic novel stunned by the heart and grit of the character as though they are meeting her for the first time. Royal Family’s *Anne of Green Gables: Part I* left me with a whole new perspective on acting, staging and storytelling, and an intense admiration for the ability to place the emphasis on an actor’s abilities in a show rather than an exuberant chorus or bright, flashing lights. Though *Anne of Green Gables: Part I* has concluded its run, Royal Family Productions prides itself in innovating “raw talent, seasoned professionals and involved audiences,” so I would highly recommend attending a show at the Royal Family Performing Arts Space whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Photo courtesy of Royal Family Productions



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