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THE MONITOR



VOLUME 22, ISSUE 03

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

November 12th, 2019

MEMEHATTAN / MMC CONFESSIONS

By Elena Maldonado-Dunn
Staff Writer

LETTER from the EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to another year at Marymount, and if it is your first year, I hope you are enjoying your time in the Upper East Side. Thank you for taking the time to read The Monitor, we appreciate your readership and the discussions that may come from our articles. This year we have welcomed many new faces and I am excited to introduce their talents to print. Speaking of new faces, we have also welcomed a wonderful new advisor, Professor Tatiana Serafin, and her amazing talent and knowledge within journalism realm. We are incredibly lucky to have both Professor Serafin and Professor Tropp advising us this year, and I hope you all get to experience a class with either of them during your time at Marymount.

This issue we discuss the Climate Strike in NYC, the new ID system that has revolutionized how we get in and out of school/dorms, and much more. Make sure to follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook by looking up MMC's The Monitor. Our new website will be up and running within the following weeks, and we hope you choose to take a look. I hope you enjoy reading this issue and I wish you luck this year with your studies. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns for The Monitor, please email us at marnold@mmm.edu.

With Love,



Chief



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FOLLOWING THE TIMELINE OF SECURITY THREATS

By Neil Gunnion and Shelby Hall
Staff Writers

In light of the stalking, threats and campus closures of the last few weeks, students and faculty alike have expressed their concern, ideas for improvement and feelings. Students who were present during the evacuation all have strong feelings surrounding this topic, as do faculty and staff who saw it first hand and are still dealing with how to improve today.

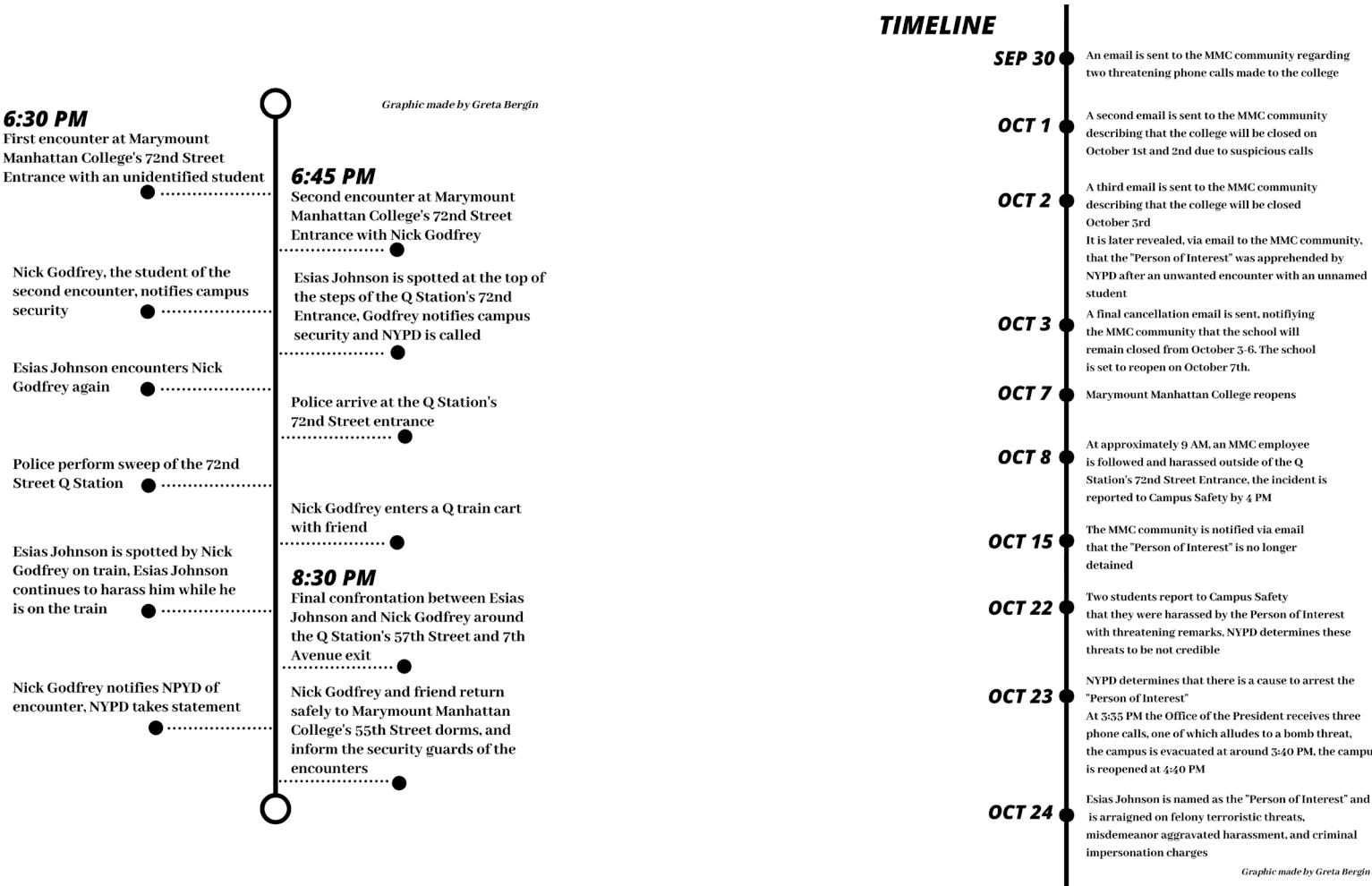
Nick Godfrey, a sophomore at Marymount, encountered the man who would later be identified as Esias Johnson three times on the night of October 22nd, 2019. Nick sat down with Neil Gunnion, a Staff Writer for the Monitor, for an interview. Godfrey said his first encounter occurred around 6:45 PM, and that Johnson had accosted another student (whom he did not name) 15 minutes prior to his encounter. The 6:45pm encounter happened outside of the 72nd Street school entrance, in which Godfrey described that Johnson “was implying that if I was not nice to him--to essentially watch my back,”. Godfrey called campus security, causing Johnson to flee. He began to notify his close friends about the encounter, and gave a statement to security before walking to the 72nd Street subway station. He spotted Johnson again on the platform, at which point he backed up and called security again. Security informed him that the police were on the way, and would meet him at the station. Godfrey says that the police arrived within ten minutes, but before they arrived, Johnson had returned to the top of the stairs. Godfrey told the woman in the ticket booth what was happening, before Johnson began to confront him again. As Godfrey summarizes: “...[h]e was trying to say that he wasn’t the person I thought he was, that he wouldn’t do anything--that he was innocent. I asked him to go away, at which point he said that he was leaving...that he saw that I was scared to take the train and that he felt bad and wanted to leave so I could go home. I didn’t trust that. He heard a train coming... hopped the turnstile

and ran downstairs. The cops came with me, and swept the station and said he wasn’t there...they thought that he’d fled out the other side of the station.” Godfrey then boarded the Q train with a friend , when Johnson entered their train car. Godfrey claims that Johnson made a smile that “...the only way I’ve been able to describe this smile is that it looked like The Joker--like, it literally looked like that. He kept walking and went to the next car, but looked through the subway glass at me and flipped me off and then came back into the car and got close to me...one to two feet close to my face and told me he didn’t do anything. I tried to cause a scene, and said stop harassing me, stop harassing me. At that point, the subway doors opened at 57th and 7th...me and my friend got off, and he followed us off the train, shouting after us. The last thing I audibly heard him say was something along the lines of I still see you...don’t think I can’t find you--I know what you look like now--I know where you go to school. My friend and I ran out of the station and hid in the back of a nearby Starbucks, where I called campus security and she (his friend) called 911.” The police took a statement, and he and his friend began walking to the 55th Street Residence Hall. Godfrey also told the Monitor that after the police took a statement, he received a call from Carol Jackson, who he says was “very supportive” Jackson offered to help him get an Uber home so that he wouldn’t have to risk taking public transportation. Godfrey decided to stay with his friend for the time being. Upon arriving at the Residence Hall, they went to tell the guards what had happened. “They said that they hadn’t heard anything from the school at all about the man being present once again. Their words to me were “oh, we would probably hear within a few hours.” All of these encounters with Johnson occurred between approximately 6:45 PM and 8:30 PM. Within the time frame of these encounters, no formal security notice was issued. Some of Godfrey’s friends had heard through him and others what was happening. He

claims that they asked security about it, and that several times people were told that nothing was happening (or happened), but told others that there was one incident that was solved. Godfrey eventually took an Uber home, and the security notice officially went out after midnight.

Writer and Copy Editor Shelby Hall asked Graham Ciraulo, the College’s Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Public Information Officer for a summary of the events as they occurred over the past month. He gave her a response, where he summarised events chronologically and explained why the College closed, saying: “The College was confident that these calls were made by the same individual who was harassing students; however, NYPD needed to conduct a thorough investigation to be able to legally link Johnson... The College closed from October 1 through 6 while this investigation was being conducted.”

Esias Johnson, the person of interest, was arrested on October 22nd and charged with aggravated assault and making terroristic threats. However, questions and concerns from the student body still persist about what specifically the faculty was doing to improve security, and why they seemed to avoid being forthcoming as these events unfolded. In his interview, Nick Godfrey also informed us that the announcement made over the P.A. System in the campus’ Starbucks, which he was in when the evacuation was announced, could not be clearly heard. Some students were told by security that the evacuation was a drill instead of an actual evacuation. Godfrey recalls that at the first student forum, which was held after the initial October 1-6 closure, faculty and staff “constantly reassured us... that they’d be more prompt with getting information out to students”. After speaking to all parties, students and faculty alike want to make progress on issues of security and transparency. That progress could come in time, but students and faculty alike will have to work together to make a safer environment for everyone at the college.



THE HARRY POTTER CLUB

By Maddy Nortz
Staff Writer

Marymount is home to over 40 student organizations, one of which being the Marymount Marauders. Often seen during Apple and Strawberry Fest, which the club uses as their main form of student outreach, the Marymount Marauders are a student organization joined together by their common love of all things Harry Potter.

If you were to look up the club on the Marymount website you would find the following description, “We are the Harry Potter generation. To our generation, Harry Potter isn’t just a book series or movies; it is our childhood, our fantasy, our inspiration, and so much more. In our activities, events, and meetings we will learn and embody the true lessons of Harry Potter- which include friendship, courage, love and unity- and bond together over a common obsession.”

The Marymount Marauders are, at their core, a group of friends who come together to revel in all things Harry Potter. The term, “marauders” being a reference to a group of friends from the series. While many members of the club have read the series, perhaps multiple times, the club welcomes everyone with an interest in Harry Potter, no matter their level of experience. In addition to the books, the club also delves into the movies as well as any other medium for the Harry Potter fandom.

During the course of one meeting the group watched Harry Potter themed Tik Toks, took online quizzes, and updated each other on general news, such as the recent grosses of the currently running play “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” on Broadway. The group also discussed the filming of the latest movie in the “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” series, which is set to release in 2021.

The club aims to read through one book a semester, and alternates assigning chapters for different members to lead discussion. The Ma-

rauders had purposefully aligned reading the chapters of the first book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone taking place during Halloween for their meeting on the same day. As Caroline Storey, club secretary said in regards to the series, “Something always happens on Halloween.”

Treasurer Maggie Salko arrived at the meeting in a blue Ravenclaw sweater and a t-shirt that stated “Professor Snape was a single mother”. The shirt was the Marymount Marauders club t-shirt for the 2018-2019 school year, featuring a quote from a YouTube video called “JK Rowling These Days” that is popular among the members in the club. Members of the club will sometimes dwell outside the written world of Harry Potter to try and analyze what isn’t explicitly written in the books, from questioning plot holes to dissecting semantics. Examples that were brought up during the meeting included, what ever happened to Filch and his cat? How does Halloween in the wizarding world relate to Halloween in the muggle world? Did Dobby homeschool Draco? The Marauders are creative in their discussion of possible outcomes and theories.

Therefore the club is hosting a Fanfiction night on November 21st where people are welcome to write and send in their original works of fanfiction for Harry Potter to be shared with the club. To meet the Registered Student Organization community outreach requirement, the Marauders are planning a Quidditch Match. The Marauders aim to host one event a month, including movie watching parties and game nights. An event for a night of karaoke is in the works after the club tried to perform Starkid’s “A Very Potter Musical”, an online Harry Potter musical parody, but was unable to do acquire the space to do so. However, Salko decided she wanted to make sure people were still able to have a space to rock out to songs like the ones in the show.

“Honestly, our events tend to come from a ‘what if’ mindset,” said president of the club

Jazlyn Hyde. “We understand that some people might not be able to come to our weekly meetings because of class or work so we use events as a way to increase member participation and let people feel like they are a part of the club even if they may not be coming to meetings every week.”

The club will also host a Yule Ball on December 5th in the Commons East, which Hyde admits is her favorite event of the year. “We host this every December... and it is a huge party that we throw with lots of good food and music. We always have a photo booth set up for people to take advantage of to get the good Instagram photo and we recently started doing a costume contest where people can come dressed up as their favorite Harry Potter character and then the attendees of the Yule Ball vote on who’s outfit they like best. It’s a great way to destress before finals come up and also a great way to hang out with your friends.”

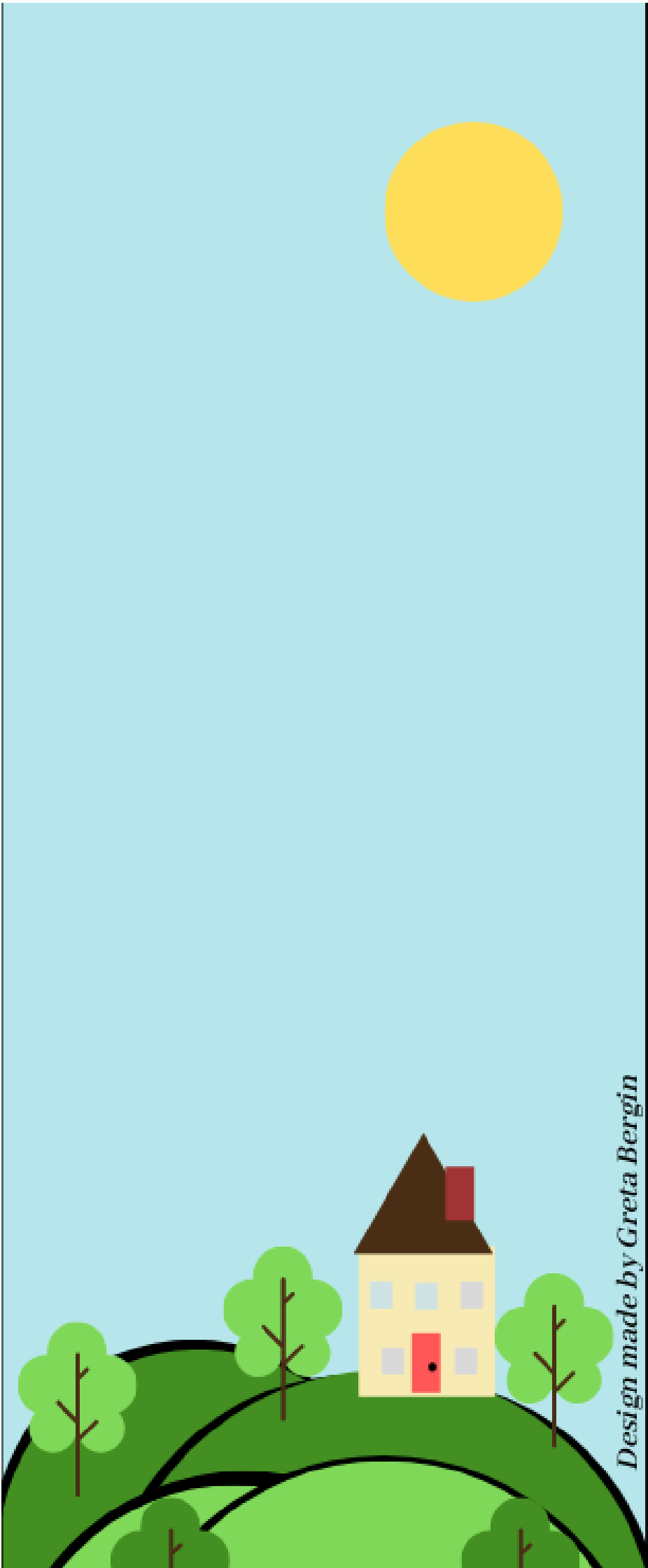
Although the club may be small compared to other clubs on campus, it’s found its niche in who it caters to. The Marauders have been present on campus for so long that the current president who joined her Freshman year was unable to recall the origins of the club. Katy Milewski, Vice President of the Marauders called the club her saving grace when it came to making friends at Marymount, “I think people like that it’s an intimate small club”. A meeting with the Marauders can feel more like a group of friends hanging out than a standard club meeting at a different organization. The president of the club Jazlyn Hyde wants the school to know that, “The Marymount Marauders is a place for every fan of the series and movies to gather and have fun talking about any and all things Harry Potter. If you have read all the books 10 times or have only seen one of the movies, all are welcome to come to our meetings.”

The Marymount Marauders meet every Thursday from 2:30-4. For more information email maraduers@mmm.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STUDENT RESPONSE TO SECURITY THREATS

DEALING WITH WINT



The weather is quickly changing from warm to cold, changing not only our wardrobes, but our emotions as well. There could be many reasons for this shift, but a big factor is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), more commonly known as Seasonal Depression. SAD is a mood disorder subset in which people who have normal mental health throughout most of the year exhibit depressive symptoms at the same time each year, most commonly in winter, but people most often start exhibiting symptoms in the fall. Common symptoms include sleeping too much, being overly emotional i.e. crying more than usual, and overeating. Seasonal depression is known to hit college students more because we are known to stay up later and sleep in, therefore minimally exposing ourselves to sunlight in the colder months. All of the workload of classes, working a job, anything else that takes up an individual's time, and taking care of ourselves on top of that is a big stressor on anyone's life. Students have experienced a change in their normal biological circadian rhythms while being in college. Going from being with family everyday, to being independent, to living with strangers who hopefully become close friends, to choosing close friends to live with if possible. Homesickness also accounts for being seasonally depressed. Statistics show that 66% of college freshman report feeling lonely or homesick. At Marymount, a poll that was taken shows that 60% of students seem to be feeling unhappy as the weather is getting colder and drearier, and 55% of students feel that that weather is making them homesick. Home-

ER BLUES

BY GABRIELLE FIORELLA

sickness is apparent in everyone, regardless of age or how well you’ve adjusted to living here in NYC. It may not be as apparent as new college students, but it’s still there. The same as Seasonal Depression. It becomes noticeable in us all in some way or another around this time. “With SAD, the best treatment would be light and psychoeducation, which is the understanding of why they feel less well when the hours of darkness increase. For adjustment issues, we provide strategies to help navigate new environments and remind students of their internal resources,” said Dr. Neda Hajizadeh, Director of the Counseling and Wellness Center, when explaining how homesickness and seasonal depression warrant different interventions. “Often times recognizing that having trouble adjusting is normal is extremely helpful,” said Dr. Hajizadeh. It’s the first step that you need to take to realize help is what is needed and to become aware of the resources available to you, such as the Counseling and Wellness Center. When students come in with the feeling of homesickness or adjustment issues, The Counseling and Wellness Center faculty try to remind them that they are more in control of their experience than they think, so normalizing, validating and providing a strategy that will help them feel more connected to their new environment is key. Limited interaction with “home” to help them make strong connections in their “new home” is highly encouraged by the CWC. Take advantage of the resources MMC offers if you are feeling seasonally depressed or homesick. You are most definitely not alone if you are



MUSEUMS IN EACH BURROUGH

— THE BEST WAY TO EXPLORE OUTSIDE OF YOUR BURROUGH —

By Ariana Contreras
Staff Writer

Living in NYC can be exciting but how many of us actually make the effort to visit the different areas that the city has to offer. The Monitor is here to help give you that push by letting you in on some of the lesser known yet still equally as great museums in each borough.

Trying to explore every inch of New York City seems like a daunting task. With five boroughs and over 300 square miles it seems almost impossible to see it all. Logically speaking it probably is but that shouldn't stop anyone from going out and exploring one of the most popular cities in the world.

Whether you are a first-year student or last, we are all guilty of not taking advantage of the place we are lucky enough to call home. So, try not to stick to your same routine. Go out and be a tourist in your own city, explore a new neighborhood.

One of the best ways to immerse yourself in the culture of a new borough besides just walking around is to visit a museum, and New York has a plethora of museums to see.

Of course, we all know about the MET, MoMA, and The American Museum of Natural History but there are so many more hidden gems out there. So, we've narrowed it down to the best museums to visit within each borough:

Manhattan: The Lower East Side Tenement Museum

This museum is located at 103 Orchard St right on the corner of Delancey and Orchard, and is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Tenement Museum's main focus to bring to life America's immigration stories and show how they have helped shaped our country. With immersive neighborhood walking tours and restored tenement buildings tours, one can travel back in time to see the way immigrants lived during the 19th and 20th century in New York City. Student tickets range from \$22-24 and one can choose between different themed apartment and walking tours by going to their website: www.tenement.org

Bronx: Bronx Museum of the Arts

The Bronx Museum of Arts is open Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Located at 1040 Grand Concourse this is a contemporary art museum that's main focus is to provide exhibitions and educational programs in order to promote cross cultural dialogues within a diverse audience. The best part is admission into the museum is FREE for all. The Bronx Museum of Art's really strives to reflect the diverse and beautiful community that it's set in through its exhibits and promotes art accessibility to all.

Queens: Queens County Farm Museum

If you're looking for a place to escape all the city noise and then The Queens County Farm Museum is for you. Sitting on 47 acres of land at 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy this museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. tickets range anywhere from \$12 to \$85 depending on what it is one wants to do. Events such as farmers markets, wildlife weekends, and 18th century tavern nights are some of the few this museum offers. The event calendar can be found on their website: www.queensfarm.org

Brooklyn: New York Transit Museum

Open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on weekends from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Transit Museum is located at 99 Schermerhorn St in downtown Brooklyn and is actually set in a decommissioned subway station. It is dedicated to preserving and telling the stories of the transportation and the workers that New York City has relied on for over 100 years or so. Visitors are allowed to board vintage train cars and busses and learn all about how the transit system in New York runs 24 hours a day every day of the year. Admission is \$10 and while there isn't a student discount \$10 seems like a fair price to pay.

Staten Island: Sailors' Snug Harbor

The Sailors' Snug Harbor is known more as a cultural center and botanical garden. It is located at 1000 Richmond Terrace and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and its main campus is FREE to the public. Snug Harbor houses multiple attractions including the Staten Island Museum, the Connie Gretz Secret Garden, and Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art. All of their partnering locations have their own set prices and can be found on their website: www.snug-harbor.org Due to the fact that Snug Harbor houses so many attractions it would make a great day trip to get out of the city and experience something new.

BRING IT ON

— THE MUSICAL ON THE CLASH OF CHEERLEADING TEAMS —

By Ana Coakley
Staff Writer

Bring It On, a musical based on the 2000 Kirsten Dunst film of the same name, is a show that illustrates the competitive world of cheerleading and their rivals while battling with the “clash of class, race, body type, and gender meeting at a cheer competition, each character in Bring It On learns ultimately about friendship and forgiveness after experiencing envy and deception” according to the description on Marymount’s website.

The show, in a quick synopsis, is about a girl named Campbell (Originally portrayed on Broadway by Taylor Louderman) who was just named cheer captain at Truman High School for her upcoming senior year when an unexpected redistricting forces her to go the neighbouring school, Jackson High School. Jackson High has a dance team and, despite rocky waters at first, Campbell befriends the dance team and along with their hardworking and headstrong leader, Danielle, forms a highflying team ready to take on Nationals. This show combines colorful characters, songs, and amazing cho-

reography with aerial stunts -- this is a story that everyone should see! Although it has the same name as the first film in the Bring It On series it most similarly matches with the second movie in the series, Bring It On: All or Nothing, which features a girl getting redistricted and placed in another school, where she competes against her former squad mates. The show adds a sprinkle of Mean Girls, a dash of Clueless, and a pinch of Glee to create a cheer phenomenon.

Ellie Baker, who plays Campbell in MMC’s upcoming production, says she prepares for the show by “keeping her voice healthy, making sure she doesn’t push her body too hard, and learning her lines in down time.” When asked what tips she has for being apart of a show she said, “Be a team player, don’t give other people notes, do the best you can.” Ellie wanted to add that she “loves being the leprechaun” which is just one of the many reasons to come see this wonderful production!

Meridien Terrell is in the ensemble she plays both a girl in Truman High School and Jackson High School and says that it the most challenging part because, “they need to be two different peo-

ple” when bringing the script to life. Her favorite part about being in the show is all of the stunts she gets to do and prepares for the show by doing “Lots of cardio! We dance and stunt while singing so much in the show so it’s helpful to keep the energy up.” She also loves “Cross the Line” because “it’s the most action packed number and we all genuinely enjoy it so much.” She says what’s going to surprise people the most about the show is “All of the lifts and tricks! And how much love and hard work we’ve put into this show.”

Bring It On’s score was written by Tony Award winning Tom Kitt (Next To Normal) and Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton and In The Heights) who also wrote the lyrics with Amanda Green. The original book is by Jeff Whitty (Avenue Q). The show was first previewed on Broadway at the Saint James Theatre on July 12, 2012, opened on August 1, 2012, and closed December 30, 2012 with a total of 171 shows on Broadway. It was nominated for several awards during its run including Tony Awards for Best Choreography and Best Musical. Ranging from traditional Broadway tunes, pop, a bit of rap

and melodic hip hop and R&B.

Some of the most popular songs from the show include Bakers’ favorite, “Cross The Line”, as well as “What I Was Born to Do”, “I Got You”, and “It’s All Happening”. Which are all full of high energy that matches the pace and choreography of the show.

Reviews were posted everywhere during the shows hay-day including one from Charles Isherwood from the New York Times saying, “Cheerleading, that most American of pastimes, is not likely to become an Olympic sport anytime soon. Yet the highly acrobatic, gasp-inducing style of sis-boom-bah competition celebrated in ‘Bring It On: The Musical,’ “which opened Wednesday night at the St. James Theater, almost makes you believe that it should be.” and a review from Steven Suskin for Variety saying, “Athletically impressive staging and an engaging score combine to make ‘Bring It On’ a pert and refreshing surprise.”

Marymount is premiering this epic tale of rivalry, friendship, betrayal, and forgiveness on November 13-16 at 8pm and November 17th at 2pm in the Theresa Lang Theatre.

NEW ART AT MMC

By Gwen Attridge
Staff Writer

LATINX COMMUNITY VS. INCREASED POLICE

JUSTICE AND REFORM ON CAMPUS



By Rayiah Ross
Staff Writer

New York being the most populated city in the United States, crime is not foreign to the people who reside within the area. The seventy-seven precincts around the state consist of 36,000 officers and 19,000 civilian employees that have sworn to protect the lives of millions, yet so many of these people have grown to fear the organization that is there to protect them. Much of this aversion to the NYPD stems from their practices that aggressively target communities of color, young people, homeless people, people of the LGBTQ community, immigrants, women, and other underrepresented communities.

Fearing police takes a historic role in reinforcing racial inequality and has led many people of color to stray away from armed forces. Even though the police force is among one of the most trusted institutions, many cops take advantage of their authority and badges to act outside of details in their job description. Rather than safeguard the community, some use their higher title to get away with things that have a negative and sometimes dangerous effect on the citizens they are trained to protect.

Being in a culturally diverse and eccentric place like New York, the NYPD are everywhere. Because of this, many of the people who come into contact with police suffer prejudice towards their previous criminal records, immigration status, mental and physical disabilities, race, and other presentments. Many citizens live in fear of police who discriminate against and brutalized innocent citizens, some even straying away from police rather than going to them for help.

The New York City Police Department has a mission statement that explains their job is to “enhance the quality of life in New York City by working in partnership with the community to enforce the law, preserve peace, protect the people, reduce fear, and maintain order.” Despite the NYPD’s outward portrayal of a protector of the common citizens, police departments still find ways to keep cops afraid, and much of this fear is masked as self-defense.

Louis Hayes, a full-time Police Officer for the Chicago Police Department, served as his department’s Training Coordinator and Firearms Range Master in order to plan educational and development programs for sworn armed staff members. Much of his advocacy stems from research by The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology who reported that police training helps to counteract biases in shootings. Even with this knowledge though, not all police will truly understand it or take advantage of these training opportunities.

“We need implicit bias training and community outreach. Our training spends too much time

and effort on the “exceptions,” and not enough on the “rules,” Hayes told Quartz. “Above all, we need to adopt evidence-based risk management modeling that will appropriately train our officers to be aware, prepared, and ready, instead of using biased, anecdotal war-storytelling methods that–unintentionally or not–create an us-or-them mentality.”

The training that Hayes is doing has become more important over the last few years. With insufficient training around the world, there is virtually no accountability for bad police. The result of this being that the people who live within the community are not only susceptible to crime from adventitious violence, but also from the police themselves.

An example of this abuse is shown by Micaela Tompkins, a first year student at Marymount Manhattan College. On her long walk from her dorms to school, many police officers stand posted on every few street corners in order to direct traffic. With this being just another day for Tompkins, she wasn’t thinking much of her surroundings, much less about if a police officer would approach her. To Tompkins dismay, as she waited for the crossing sign to turn in her favor, she was approached and cat-called by a police officer on duty.

“I was confused at first, and slightly hesitant to say no, but he was persistent in asking me out to dinner. He was a police officer in uniform and he was way bigger than me. There was no real way around him if I wanted to get to school on time,” Tompkins explained.

“I think it’s really irresponsible to hit on someone when you’re a police officer in uniform, because there are so many power dynamics in play there. Of course, I know I’m white and I will always be more protected strictly because I’m not profiled the same way people of color are, but I’m generally distrustful of police anyways being a queer woman.”

While interviewing Tompkins, she also pointed out that some students are wondering how the college students and organization are going to respond to fear of police during specific incidents.

Recently, Marymount Manhattan College had a threatening scare and had to increase security and police presence in and around the dorms and school campus. Esias Johnson, a previous graduate from the college, made multiple threats to the school which caused the cancelation of many school days and an emergency evacuation.

Following Johnson’s arrest, the school has been sure to increase security at the school by asking the NYPD to stand put outside of the schools main buildings. This decision has raised some questions considering some students at the school feel more uncomfortable and more unsafe with police around. First year student, Jasmin Brown, happens to be one of these students.

“Yes, with the guy following people, I feel

more comfortable knowing that a situation like this won’t happen again because we are more prepared this time, I can definitely understand how other people feel uncomfortable because the more police interaction, the more likely there are cases of brutality and assault,” explained Brown.

“I thought that because the intruder was a person of color there was a stigma against all people of color and we were looked at differently. Every black male on campus was a target. Of course, the school has open forums and the black and latinx heritage club has met previous to the man’s arrest, but I’m not sure if the issue of discrimination has ever been brought up.”

“I think it’s necessary for the increased police presence -- I feel safer here than I would in other larger cities. Coming from San Francisco, California the police presence isn’t as extreme, but there is still crime here the same way there is crime there.”

Because of problems that these women and many others have faced, committees have formed to call for justice and reform. One of these local groups are the Communities United for Police Reform. This organization coordinated the Right To Know Act Coalition and the Safer NY Act in New York. The Right to Know Act aims to prevent NYPD abuse and unnecessary police encounters, while also requiring that the NYPD be more transparent when interacting with the public. The Safer NY Act is a package of bills in the New York State Legislature that helps increase police transparency accountability to New Yorkers’ encounters with police. Both of these policies are put in place to ensure that New Yorkers know their rights and responsibilities when it comes to lawful matters.

“These policing practices create and foster an atmosphere of fear and mistrust of the police, while violating New Yorkers’ human and constitutional rights, and systemically perpetuate inequality in our city,” The Communities United for Police Reform said in a statement about their organization.

A more national organization that calls for police reform is Black Lives Matter. Organized in 2013, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi created a project called #BlackLivesMatter in response to the Trayvon Martin case against George Zimmerman. The member led organization has a goal of building local power in order to intervene in violence against the black community.

This fear of police has led to the call for collaborations with government investigative agencies to prosecute abusive police in many states as well as hands-on training and mentoring for police and other officials and support the government in strengthening the legal safeguards that protect innocent people. Maybe with more of an emphasis on communication and more civilian input, things could get better and we’ll see a more prominent change.

THE MARYMOUNT BEDBUGS

— THINK TWICE BEFORE SITTING IN THE THEATRE THE NEXT TIME —

By Seamus Fallon
Staff Writer

Students and faculty all over Marymount were frankly “grossed out” about the fact that on October 24th, the Theresa Lang Theater was abruptly shut down after students and faculty received an email from Lucy Wells, the Capital Project Manager and Administrative Coordinator for MMC, stating that “seven seats in the Theresa Lang Theatre were found to be positive for bed bugs.” Further stating that “[n]umerous other locations on campus have been tested for bed bugs” and all those locations tested have come back negative for bed bug presence. The email declined to say whether or not any students or faculty were affected by the presence of bed bugs in the theater. MMC’s Student Health Services also declined to speak to whether any students sought medical assistance after contracting bed bugs.

The email was closed with a projected less than 24 hour turn around in opening the theater stating “We expect the theatre to be available for regular opera-

tions by tomorrow, Friday, October 25 at 11:30 am”. Well’s email also included some facts about bed bugs such as What are bed bugs? Where do bed bugs live? Where do bed bugs come from? And What are precautions I can take to keep bed bugs at bay?.

“Bed bugs are nasty little critters” says Dr. Allan Fritz, a practicing general physician. “They’re difficult to pick up on because they’re have the size of a lemon seed and sometimes bite don’t show for a few days or weeks in some cases.” Dr. Fritz continued to explain why bed bugs are found close to us humans with “like mosquitoes and leeches, they feed on warm-blooded animals. Not only humans but dogs and cats can be subject to bed bug bites as well.” Although you can not feel a bed bug bites at the time, it may develop into an itchy welt similar to a mosquito bite. Unlike ticks or mosquitoes, bed bugs do not transmit disease; however, they can cause significant itchiness, anxiety, and sleeplessness. Unlike head lice, they do not live on a person. However, they can travel from one place to another in backpacks, clothing, luggage, books, and other items.

Marymount students received another email on Monday, November 4th again stating two seats tested positive for bed bugs despite treatment in late October. The Theresa Lang Theater was closed abruptly again on Saturday, November 2nd in response to the bed bug’s presence in the performance space. It is unclear whether or not it was two of the seven seats infested with the small brown insects previously reported in the first place. Wells, who authored the second email said that the bed bugs were discovered “during production rehearsal work” and that “the audience area of the theatre was immediately closed off and the exterminator was notified.” Wells further stated that “the theatre was cleaned and reopened for normal operation at 12pm on Sunday, November 3.” According to said email, a follow up inspection with the exterminators will occur within two weeks of November 4th.

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