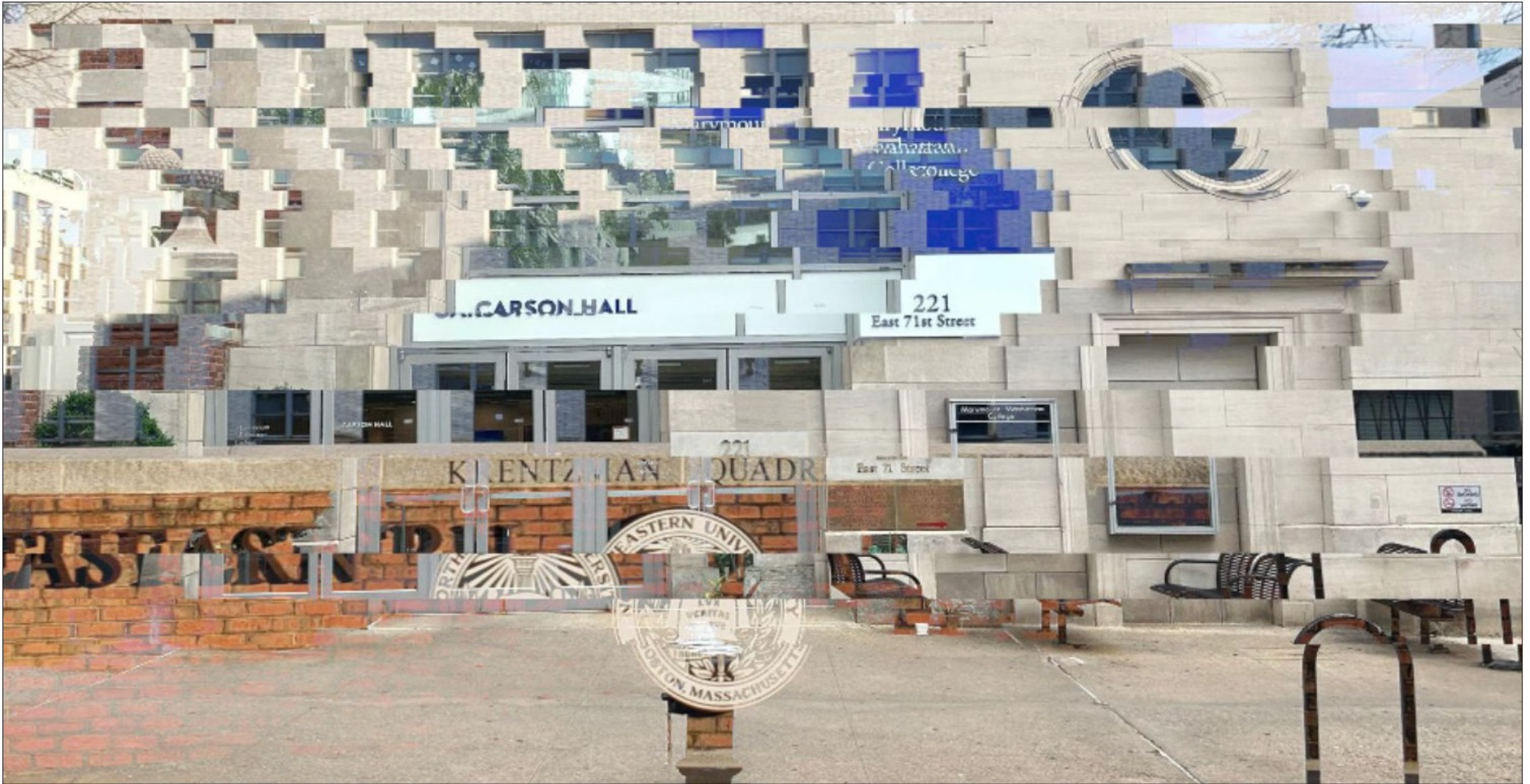


THE MONITOR

MAY 2025 | MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | VOLUME 23 | ISSUE 1 |



Marymount Manhattan College announced a merger with Northeastern University on May 28, 2024. The NYC location will become their newest edition to the NU global university system. /PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOANNA INSCO

Breaking: Marymount Manhattan to Become Northeastern - NYC

It's Time to Raise Your Hand - What Does That Mean?

Abby Vazquez, Contributing Writer

It's finally happening. Students are being asked, at long last, to raise their hands. Yesterday afternoon, Academic Advisement sent out an email with a link asking students to express their interest in continuing their education with Northeastern once the merger is complete.

Once accessed, the link leads to a Northeastern.edu page tagged "MMCOptin," where students are asked whether or not they consent to Northeastern accessing their academic record. Filling out the form will not be taken as a commitment to Northeastern.

According to a Marymount representative, Northeastern's intention is to learn which Marymount students are interested in becoming NU-NYC students.

The page does not state whether declining to consent means students will not be able to transition into Northeastern students. According to the email, opting into the information sharing is meant to provide interested students with specific information about their options in the future.

As of right now, there is no available information on what will happen to Marymount students who do not complete the form come time of the merger. ■ May 6, 2025



Check out pages 6-7 for more merger info. Keep tabs on the "Northeastern Merger" tab on themonitormmc.com to stay up to date. /PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JUSTIN MORRISON, INSIDE HIGHER ED



Keep up with the merger!

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS
Elliott Case
Joanna Insko

Dear Reader,

The Monitor team has been hard at work for the past few years and we think it's time to celebrate with a print edition showcasing our Staff

Writers, Guest Writers, Editors, and Artists who have encapsulated the spirit of Marymount and what it means to be a Griffin.

With the forthcoming merger involving Northeastern, the editors at The Monitor want to celebrate what has been accomplished and honor the students of MMC as we move forward into a changing landscape.

The future remains bright, and success is inevitable for our courageous and determined students.

As we sing "Hail Marymount Manhattan" for a final few times, we re-

member who we are at our core. Scholars of Theatre arts, Communication Studies, Humanities, Social Sciences, and more, we have it all, we ARE that college!

We hope you enjoy this tribute, and can take it as a token of your time at Marymount Manhattan College.

All the best,
Elliott Case, EIC
Joanna Insko, DME
Class of 2025

Joanna Insko,
Digital Managing Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, the students of the Bedford Hills College Program (BHCP) attended their last in-person class in weeks. A correctional officer wildcat strike that spread across 40 of the 42 prisons in New York State, put Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in lockdown—barring professors, directors and any other civilians from visiting.

After two weeks, New York state authorities and a union representing corrections officers reached a deal last night to end the widespread strikes. The officers were protesting for better pay, heightened searches of prison visitors and a reversal of recent prison reforms that limit solitary confinement.

“It boils down to safety within the prisons. Nobody feels safe. The inmates, the officers, the civilians, so that’s what the strike is about,” Jessica Soble, Coordinator of the Prison Education Program, said.

Governor Hochul deployed 3,500 members of the National Guard to prisons to maintain order amid the strike, but BHCP and other prison educators received reports of poor conditions within the facilities.

“The incarcerated individuals are just going through hell on the inside. They are not getting meals. They’re not getting medication, and in some of the prisons the heat has been turned off,” Soble said. “They’re basically all being kept in isolation right now.”

Incarcerated individuals at Bedford Hills maintained lines of communication with their families through tablets. An email passed along to Soble said, “They’re giving them a loaf of bread and telling them to ‘make it last a week.’”

The conditions were poor for the 138 students of BHCP as they rely on the already limited access

Upstate NY Prison Strikes Affect Bedford Hills Students



Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Bedford, NY. /GOOGLE EARTH

of resources for their educational programs, as they work towards completing classes and degrees.

“They don’t go through as fast as you do on the outside in four years; it takes longer on the inside. I know that the bachelor students especially are terrified. They need to finish the semester because a few of them at the end of the semester are going to be transferred to another facility, and they’re working on their senior seminar right now. They can’t do that somewhere else,” said Aileen Baumgartner, Director of the Bedford Hills College Program. “It’s just so crucial that we get through this semester.”

Despite the disruption, educational programs still continued on at Bedford Hills using methods

established during the COVID-19 lockdown. Baumgartner and two part time staff packed 138 envelopes for BHCP students full of assignments and notes from professors, pens and pencils, and loose leaf paper since the students can’t get to their computer lab. When the students received the envelopes Baumgartner said, “They were thrilled... getting that ‘here we are, we’re still here we’re working’ was really important to them.”

BHCP was the only college prison program in the state that still running during the strike. Baumgartner shared that other facilities did not have the ability to get materials to their students which means they may have to cancel their semesters.

Governor Hochul announced

an agreement late Thursday to tentatively end the wildcat strike on Saturday, and Baumgartner has hope it really will be over soon and does not, “see this as a situation that could go on for months and months.” But if things continue, there are alternatives in place.

“We could start using the WebEx machines, and the classes could meet virtually,” Baumgartner said. “And we could finish the semester through correspondence if we had to. It’s not ideal, obviously, but our experience, having done it through correspondence [during COVID-19], is that the students worked very hard.”

BHCP students have told Soble via email that continuing to receive assignments during the

strike is helpful in taking their minds off the situation.

“We are going to continue doing that as long as we can,” Soble said.

Katie Langan, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty echoed this sentiment.

“MMC leadership has been working closely with our prison education program staff and our partners at Hudson Link to mitigate as best as possible the disruption to BHCP and Taconic student education with the goal to have teaching and learning resume its normal course as swiftly as the situation allows,” Langan said. “There is no question that the faculty and staff are dedicated to our students.” ■ Feb 28, 2025

Hope and Uncertainty: An Analysis of COP16

With efforts to be made, no money to achieve them, United Nations must bridge gap between biodiversity goals, call to action

Angelina Inspir, Contributing Writer

Last weekend, COP16, the largest biodiversity summit in the world, concluded in Cali, Columbia. The event consisted of lively discussions among the 170 member state delegations in attendance, with the goal of highlighting biodiversity efforts in sustainability, human prosperity, and economic growth.

The summit achieved an array of notable outcomes. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) were highlighted as the first and necessary steps the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) must follow to achieve workable results. The adoption of modalities for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the GBF and other international agreements marked an important advancement in marine conservation.

Implementing equitable biodiversity goals and creating a permanent space for Indigenous Peoples



and Local Communities (IPLCs) as a subsidiary body in decision-making on biodiversity was the biggest takeaway. State parties and Indigenous peoples will now be able to enhance their dialogue with one another and together best define development towards biodiversity goals.

However, the summit faced challenges bridging the gap between their call to action and ambitious goals.

Out of the 196 national plans for biodiversity protection, only 44 have been updated to meet the ambitious 23 action-orientated targets established by the GBF by 2030. Negotiators also failed to agree on how biodiversity should integrate itself with climate change and desertification.

Vague financial promises to implement biodiversity goals were made at the end of COP 16. UN News reported that \$700 billion

is needed for large-scale implementation of the biodiversity framework. Due to the lack of agreement by the negotiators present, financial discussions on this matter were suspended.

As a result, COP 16 was left with a number of unresolved issues and a lack of clarity around how to financially support the fulfillment of biodiversity efforts globally. ■ Nov. 14, 2024

Good for the Soul

Despite DEI Rollbacks, Black History Showcase Has Visions for the Future

By Abby Vasquez, Staff Writer

The Commons are buzzing. Event volunteers bounce around the room, setting out cameras, taping down wires, and queuing up the music. Near the stairs to the dining hall, seats have filled up quickly, so much so that another row of chairs is added to the front. Students and family members squeal hello to each other. Student Christina Newland, senior and leader of BLSA, steps into the center of the floor with a mic.

“Welcome to the Black History Month Showcase—‘Echoes of the Past, Visions of the Future.’”

The infamous “Dear Colleague” letter addressed to schools by the Department of Education has sent colleges and universities into a rush to remove all mentions of inclusivity from their websites. The letter, which was released on Valentine’s day, identified equity and racial balancing as “nebulous goals” and threatened to remove federal funding from institutions that continue DEI practices. Despite the pressure, the Marymount Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion statement is still available online—and students are still spreading cultural pride.

“Trump can say all he wants, that we don’t have a month, but today we will be celebrating.”

The Throne commenced performances with an embodied, majorette-inspired choreography to a marching band rendition of Kendrick Lamar’s “Not Like Us.”

They were followed by a quartet dancing to choreo by student choreographer Angeliq Pierre. The piece, set to Beyoncé’s “American Requiem,” was Pierre’s first stab at choreography at Marymount. The audience was enraptured, silence broken only by appreciative whooping and applause. Dancer Shemara Smith took the floor after, clad in soft and sparkling pink. She introduced her piece by dedicating it to her recently passed away grandmother. Smith moved the room to tears with an emotional, delicate performance to “At Last” by Etta James.

Intermission was called, and attendees were invited to grab a

bite of soul food from the tables. I took the opportunity to admire the photography put up around the room, and grab a few interviews. Christina Newland, who is a part of Marymount’s DEI council, had a few words to say about the DEI threats.

“Trump can say all he wants to say, that we don’t have a month, but today we’ll be celebrating, we’ll be showcasing[....] We will

One thing is certain: even with federal threats, Black students will continue to celebrate their identity.

always be MMC.”

Other students shared grievances with the showcase’s location.

“I think it’s disrespectful to put on so many events in the commons[...] when we have stages and dance rooms available,” acting student Claire Stoops



Members of The Throne performing in the Commons. /PHOTO BY ABBY VASQUEZ

said. “Last year we were in the Great Hall,” fellow journalist Peyton Weeks said, echoing a similar sentiment.

Weeks also shared a review of the food: The mac and cheese was good, the yams needed a bit more time in the oven, and “the chicken is chicken.”

As people found their way back to their seats, the second half of the night commenced. The Throne captured attention once more with an energizing hip-hop performance to “The Jump Off” by Lil’ Kim. Choir performances followed, directed once again by Angeliq Pierre. As the singers serenaded the room with “Melodies from Heaven,” Kirk Franklin-inspired ad libs were sprinkled in to the

delight of the audience. Laughter dimmed as the chorus began “Total Praise.” Harmonies ran through the room like melted butter, bringing the audience to tears once again.

The night concluded with some final statements by Newland. Attendees reconnected with the performers they’d come to support, and groups made their ways to the exit.

With the event over, questions about its future still remain. As MMC expects to merge with Northeastern University, students are worried about the school’s approach to diversity and equity on campus. One thing is certain: even with federal threats, Black students will continue to celebrate their identity. ■ March 22, 2025

MMC Students at 2025 National Model United Nations Conference

Neelima KS, Copy Editor

A team of eight Marymount Manhattan College Griffins headed to the United Nations this Spring semester to participate in the National Model United Nations. They brought home the title of Outstanding Delegates occupied by two of our distinguished delegates.

“Avery and Hannah had stood out from other delegates, proving themselves to be diplomatic leaders and exemplary delegates inside and outside of committee sessions. Every member of our team did amazing work this year, and I am so proud of them all,” Isaac Smith ’25 said to The Monitor.

The 2025 NMUN conference was held from April 10 to 17 at the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Students of MMC participated at NMUN in the past two years and had secured the title of Honorable Mention for Delegation. Upcoming graduates, Avery ’25, Isaac ’25 and Hannah ’26 founded MMC’s MUN team in 2023.

The team fundraised the cost of the

conference for this year, about \$325 per attendee.

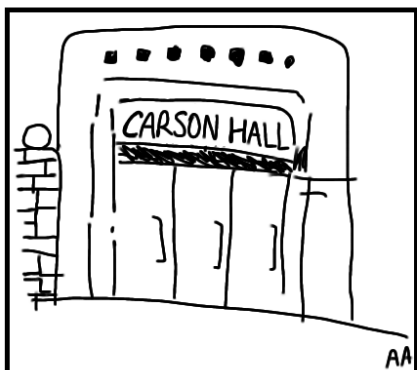
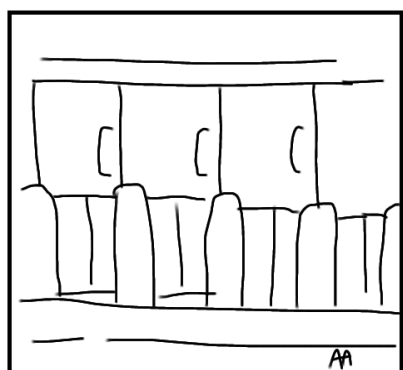
This year, MMC’s MUN team represented the delegation for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and had occupied positions in the GA1, GA2, GA3, and UNEA. The topics for the GA3 committee were: Protection of and Assistance for Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, and The Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation. They had voted to discuss the second topic for the entire week. The GA3 delegates, Hannah and Avery, were awarded with the title of Outstanding Delegates in Committee.

“It has not been easy to manage tight finances, fundraise, communicate, network, and go through team preparation each year, but every step forwards is a learning moment, and something so unreplicable elsewhere for the fact that I am able to do it with the MUN MMC E-Board by my side,” Smith said. “I’m excited to watch it continue on with the leadership of Hannah next year.” ■ April 25, 2025



Model United Nations Members at the Spring 2025 National Model UN Conference. /PHOTO BY NEELIMA KS

...THAT’S NOT MY JOB! ILLUSTRATED BY AVA LEDERMAN





My grandparents in NYC during Chinese Exclusion in the 1950s, from Family Amnesia, 2020–23. /COURTESY OF BETTY YU

The Power of Arts in Activism: MMC's Newest Comm Arts Professor, Betty Yu

Joanna Insko, Digital Managing Editor

This Fall, MMC welcomed 10 new full-time faculty members. Professor Betty Yu, MFA, is the latest addition to the Communication and Media Arts department. But this is not Yu's first time teaching at MMC. Five years ago, Yu taught as an adjunct.

"I remember Marymount very fondly. Even five years ago, both the faculty and the student body were super open, super creative," Yu said. "It seems like it's in the DNA of the

student body to care for each other. It's very sincere. It feels very genuine and very different from other places I've taught at."

In addition to teaching at MMC, Yu is a socially engaged multimedia artist, award-winning filmmaker, photographer, and activist. Yu is one of the three founders of a cultural collective called the Chinatown Art Brigade (CAB). CAB began as a tool for media work and organizing and has continued by

highlighting the stories of Chinatown residents affected by injustice surrounding immigration and labor.

But Yu's activism in Chinatown pre-dates her professional career. Yu recalled a time in 1995 when her sister participated in a hunger strike outside of Jing Fong Restaurant on Elizabeth Street to expose the working conditions: employees were paid 75 cents an hour and tips were stolen. Yu was in high school, but she brought her camera and began taking photos of the protest.

"Almost immediately I just went right in there," Yu said. "I was compelled to, even, abandon the camera, and just be part of this history in the making of these workers coming forward."

Yu pursued film study at NYU Tisch School of the Arts where her passion for social justice continued—and after graduating, she immersed herself in the organizing itself. All the while, Yu continued creating films and videos about the movement. Eventually, Yu returned to school for her MFA in Integrated Media Arts at Hunter College.

"I have so much admiration for people who are activists and organizers, but I realized my contribution was really as an artist," Yu said. "Social justice activism and film and video were so intimately connected for me."

Although Yu decided that the grassroots actions of organizing, door-knocking, and canvassing were no longer

her form of contribution—her activism work continued. It was during her involvement with CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities's Chinatown Tenants Union (CTU) that Yu was approached with the idea for CAB.

"They wanted to integrate more storytelling and arts and media making into their work, realizing the power of

"I have so much admiration for people who are activists and organizers, but I realized my contribution was really as an artist."

arts and culture to move hearts and minds and move people to take action," Yu said. "As we all know, arts and culture and media, have an ability to allow your imagination to flow, and to unleash it in a way that other mediums don't."

So that is how, in 2015, Yu, and artists Tomie Arai and ManSee Kong, formed CAB. CAB uses art, cultural workshops, and more to resist the changing landscape in Chinatown—the gentrification and housing policies that have been pressuring the largely working-class, low-income, and immigrant population. Over the past 20 years, hotels and commercial



art galleries have erased the history of Chinatown—the mom-and-pop stores, restaurants, bakeries, and more.

CAB noted that many Chinatown residents who immigrated from their home country, are creatives and artists. So, they started tapping into their skills for mapping workshops to envision what a future could look like where there's housing justice and enough for everyone. In these workshops, groups lead walks where people stop at each location, photograph, speak out, or chalk on the ground. Whatever moved them, they wrote: Chinatown not for sale. Where did these stores go? Do you know who you replaced when your gallery moved? CAB used these workshops and community engagement to create videos and

audio and visual mapping projects.

“Chinatown has existed for 150 years. So that's our home. It's not a blank canvas.”

“Our work has been really trying to connect the issues around displacement and abolition. These developers are just treating Chinatown like a blank canvas, like Disneyland, for them to do whatever they want,” Yu said. “But in recent history, folks are saying this is their home. Chinatown has existed for 150 years. So that's our home. It's not a blank

canvas.”

Not only is gentrification destroying local businesses, but it is also bringing the tallest jail in the world—a 40-story building with UV lights for light therapy. The project aims to improve inmate conditions and make visitation more accessible by building new jails in four of the five boroughs. It will cost \$15 billion to demolish the current detention center.

“To me, a cage is a cage, and no human being deserves to be caged. That's not restorative, that's not rehabilitating anyone,” Yu said. “There are many other ways to spend this money, on improving conditions for people like jobs, education, and healthcare.”

Despite all the changes in Chinatown, there are glimmers of hope. Wing

on Wo & Co is the longest consistently open store in Chinatown, at 120 years. The fifth-generation Chinese-American owner was going to sell the business, but she decided to put her roots back in Chinatown, and she developed a cultural arts project out of the store.

“So there's those kind of stories, but they are really few and far between,” Yu said. Last month, CAB participated in a month-long installation, the “Borough Based Liberation Project.”

In October, a mixed media collage by Yu went on display at the Brooklyn Museum as a part of the “Brooklyn Artists Exhibition.” The work is titled, “My grandparents in NYC during Chinese Exclusion in the 1950s” and will be up until Jan. 26, 2025. ■ Oct. 19, 2024

Chinatown Art Brigade: A Multi-Cultural Social Justice Movement



Collage posted on a wall at the Art Brigade. /PHOTO BY SKY CAMBRON

Sky Cambron, Staff Writer

Past the crowds of shoppers and sellers on Canal St. is a small space, seemingly blending in with its setting, but upon closer inspection, plastered with emphatic words of demand. A sharp contrast is evident between the walls here and the walls full of menus on the surrounding restaurants.

“Protect our elders!” and “NO NEW JAILS” are two demands repeated within the Chinatown Art Brigades September exhibit.

The organization describes itself as “an intergenerational collective driven by the fundamental belief that our cultural, material, and aesthetic modes of production have the power to advance social change.” The Chinatown Art Brigade otherwise known as CAB is made up of various creators of art across mediums who are Asian-American or Asian diasporic. CAB looks at the historic roots of Asians in New York City and the settling of many in what is now one of the world's largest Chinatowns. As of 2021, New York City is home to over 1.2 million Asians.

The formation of ethnic centers in major cities is not something unique to NYC. Across America and the world Chinatowns exist. These Asian-Ethnic Enclaves are most often found in port cities. Look to San Francisco which has not only one of the largest Chinatowns but also the first Japantown. Upon arrival from abroad, immigrants assembled in designated areas to foster a sense of community and belonging. As a result of this preserved culture, enclaves were born in the middle of major urban areas.

However, the role of racial segregation in the creation of Chinatowns is also apparent. Besides the sense of community that comes from being around people with shared experiences, culture, and language, Chinatowns were in part created by the push for segregation of non-white ethnicities.

When settling in the late 19th century, PBS cites “the Chinese were prohibited by law to testify in court, to own property, to vote, to have families join them, to marry non-Chinese, and to work in institutional agencies.” So, with nowhere else to go, Chinatowns had to be born.

Now, CAB seeks to protect this sacred community that has been an essential building block of New York City for two centuries. Despite the community maintaining autonomy from the city's economy, having its own set of landlords and independent prices for goods, things are changing. With the expansion of the city has come rapid gentrification.

CAB explains, “Since 9/11, Chinatown has seen the loss of more than 600 garment factories and over 15,000 housing units for low-income families. Over 20% of its Chinese population has been forced to relocate with a 30% rise in luxury housing.” The rest of the city is creeping into Chinatown, looking for ways to co-op property that longtime residents of Chinatown rely on for either economic stability, housing, or both. One of the newest and most damaging developments in Chinatown is the construction of a \$2.3 billion jail that will take over the record as the biggest in the world. The high funding involved in the project seems to mock the thousands in poverty below.

Not only will the jail create a literal shadow over buildings in Chinatown, but

it will create a shadow of unease on the residents of the neighborhood. With the building of a jail comes increased police surveillance of the area, ultimately targeting minorities as it has in the past. According to lawyer Raymond Magsaysay Between 1999 and 2004, the AAPI prison population surged by 30 percent.

On Monday the 23rd of September CAB hosted a Climate Week Opening Ceremony. However, the walls were not just lined with demands of liberation for Asian Americans but for all minorities. Inside of a Chinese Dragon Dance costume hangs a Palestinian flag. Besides the costume is an explanation:

“Asians, like Palestinians, have endured colonialism, displacement, and the struggle for sovereignty, creating a shared history of resistance and survival.” It continues, “As Asians, standing with Palestine reaffirms our own historical struggles for freedom and justice, as injustice anywhere threatens justice everywhere.” In their own way, CAB is, like MLK Jr. when he wrote this quote in his Letter from Birmingham Jail, writing from a jail. “The Tombs,” the given name for the Chinatown jail, will be built on the other side of the wall of the CAB building. The explanation ends with “We are not here to Free Palestine, the struggle for Palestine will FREE US ALL.”

For the opening ceremony, CAB brought together leaders from around the globe and across cultures. Despite the room being small, 20 people at max, the presence of each person was felt.

The speaker of the ceremony was an Indigenous Mayan elder named Carmen. As she spoke in her native language, she told the story of her connection to water. How the water is sacred, it is life. How

the earth is mother. She went on to describe how we, humans, are 70% water. When the water is polluted, our bodies are polluted and our heart is polluted.

She began to discuss the relationship between humans and the world around them. “I have two promises. One: we believe we are the center of the Universe and two: we live in a state of crisis.” Continuing she explained that people still carry with them the “law of the strongest primate.” She believes that there is somewhat of an inherent human trait of selfishness, and with this comes harm to others.

As she closes the ceremony she offers a final piece of wisdom “We are all victims. By being a victim you give power to others.” She begins burning Palo Santo next to the last two candles on the plate. As the smoke rises she adds, “You must say, “so what.”” Though the world has been unfair and will continue to be unfair, Carmen offers the advice that we must not let it pollute us.

Before the group dissipated, everyone went in a circle to describe their intentions behind attending the ceremony. One testimony that stood out was from an Ecuadorian woman. She had traveled through the rainforest to a town and through there to a city in which she could fly to NY, all with the intention of spreading a message regarding her home. Her home has faced destruction for decades and is now on fire.

Though she is from Ecuador, she lives with a small tribe deep in the Amazon Rainforest. She described it, “There is no supermarket. We just fish and collect food from nature.” Her description detailed this lifestyle, and unfortunately how it is ending.

“We've gone over five days without food. I'm worried about the future of the children.” Her anecdote helped contextualize how deforestation and climate change is actively disrupting the lives of people around the world. This woman fears her heritage will come to an end with her generation, and that centuries of culture will be gone in the next few years because of the growing fires.

As the intentions died out and the smoke faded away, people too began leaving. The Chinatown Art Brigade, though about the people of Chinatown, is not just about the injustice of the locals. CAB brought together people from around the globe who are experiencing injustices to speak and uplift each other. Although the “Borough Based Liberation Project,” the current installation, has come to an end, the Chinatown Art Brigade has been around since 2015 and seems here to stay. ■ Oct. 10, 2024

Addition:

As I was at the event eating my empanada, I overheard a British man discussing with a woman what the project was about. He noted that he brought his camera because he was a photojournalist and stumbled upon the event. Naturally, I approached him afterward and asked about his work. His name is Tom Lewenden and he is one of the few Western journalists to have stepped foot in Gaza since the conflict began in October of 2023. His work captures both the horror and hope of the children of Gaza and showcases the reality of genocide. He stayed with victims of violence in Al-Aqsa Hospital.

Abigail Abbott-White, Guest Writer

What to Know About Waste Systems On and Off Campus

New recycling and trash bins have recently been implemented across campus as part of broader efforts to improve waste systems and raise awareness around proper waste management.

This article outlines how students, faculty, and staff can work to properly dispose of waste both on and off campus for recycling, composting, and electronic recycling. For waste disposal options not currently available on campus, there are numerous citywide alternatives available to the MMC community.

In a recent study published in *The Sustainability X Magazine*, New York City was named the most sustainable city in the United States, making it one of the most convenient locations to pursue a sustainable lifestyle. This ranking is attributed to several factors, including robust public transportation systems and advanced waste management practices.

Recycling on Campus

Recently, new recycling and trash bins were implemented in convenient locations on every floor of MMC. In accordance with NYC waste sorting practices, MMC has implemented a color-coded bag system: clear bags for recycling and black bags for trash. This system helps reduce contamination and improve recycling efficiency. If discrepancies are noticed, students are encouraged to notify the Senator for Service and Sustainability, Sustain MMC, or other sustainability officials on campus.

What can be recycled on campus?

Glass (bottles, jars, etc), Metal (cans, aluminum foil/trays, metal caps/lids, empty paint/aerosol cans), Rigid plastics (bottles, lids, and other rigid plastics), Paper (in designated bins)

Plastic bags, straws, film, condiment wrappers, food wrappers, and chip bags should not be placed in recycling bins. Additionally, liquids should be emptied from containers in a nearby restroom before placing them in a recycling bin to avoid contamination. Both of these practices help preserve the recyclability of collected materials.

Paper-specific recycling bins

are located near the printers on the first floor of the library and in the Commons. Additional paper recycling locations are currently under consideration as a part of ongoing sustainability efforts on campus.

Of these materials, plastic is among the most difficult materials to recycle, with only about 9% of all plastic ever produced having been successfully recycled, according to multiple reports. By following proper recycling practices and reducing single-use plastics, the overall recycling rate has the potential to improve significantly. For sustainable alternatives, glass can be recycled indefinitely without loss of quality, and metals like aluminum are among the most easily recyclable materials. When possible, consider choosing these over single-use plastics.

Recycling Off Campus

Off-campus protocols for recycling are consistent with on-campus protocols, simplifying the process for MMC students living in dormitories or apartment buildings. Recycling bins are typically located in each building's designated waste disposal area.

For more information on what can and cannot be recycled in NYC, visit the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) website. Additional resources can also be found on Sustain MMC's Instagram.

Composting and Reducing Food Waste on Campus

At least 18% of all waste created in NYC is food waste, according to a 2020 study. Many assume that individual food waste is minimal yet inedible components of meat, dairy, fruits, and vegetables, along with tea leaves, coffee grounds, and soiled leftovers contribute significantly.

At this time, a system for composting food waste on campus has not yet been implemented due to facility limitations, but potential solutions are actively



being explored. In the meantime, efforts to reduce food waste are underway. Every Friday, David's Cafe gives away food to students just before closing, as it would otherwise need to be discarded the following Monday. This food meets all food safety regulations, but would not be sellable after the weekend commences.

In residence halls, a composting site has been implemented. Students with questions about composting locations in their building are encouraged to reach out to their RA.

Composting Off Campus

Due to recent mandates for residential composting in New York City, residential composting is now widely available throughout New York City. Apartment residents can request a curbside composting bin for the proper disposal of all food scraps, food soiled paper, and leaf/yard waste. It is recommended to store compostable waste in a leak-proof bag in the refrigerator or freezer throughout the week to prevent odor and pests.

For those with food waste on the go, orange colored NYC Smart Compost Bins offer a con-

venient alternative. These bins are accessible 24/7, have many locations throughout all five NYC boroughs, and are operable via the NYC Compost app.

E-waste Disposal on Campus

E-waste includes batteries, unusable cords/outlets, computers, cell phones, monitors, printers, keyboards/mice, tvs, lightbulbs, household appliances, electrical tools, and more. According to the New York Department of Sanitation (DSNY), "e-waste is the largest and fastest growing household hazardous waste in NYC," making proper disposal essential. A pathway for a student-accessible electronic waste disposal system is currently being evaluated.

E-waste Disposal Off Campus

Until e-waste services are more broadly accessible on campus, there are plenty of convenient and free options for proper disposal of e-waste items throughout the city. The Lower East Side Ecology Center hosts regular e-waste disposal events in all boroughs of New York City. Typically these events are held

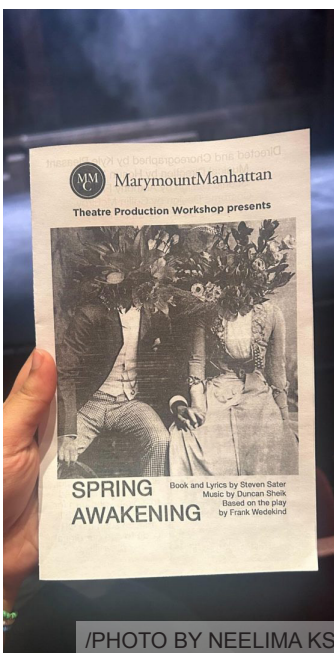
on weekends from 10am-2pm, visit their website to find a collection event near you.

Alternatively, Staples, Best Buy, or other electronics retailers often accept select e-waste items, though it is advisable to confirm acceptance policies with individual stores in advance. Items in working condition may also be donated to a thrift store.

Lastly, for residents in apartment buildings with 10 or more units, enrollment in electronic recycling through DSNY is available. Visit their website to fill out an application.

With the implementation of new and continuing initiatives, Marymount Manhattan College has strengthened its waste disposal infrastructure in an effort to improve sustainability across campus. While institutional improvements provide essential support, the success of these systems relies on the everyday choices made by individuals to participate in responsible waste practices. Ensuring proper waste disposal and reducing single-use items can collectively make a significant impact on environmental health. ■ April 16, 2025

MMC Presents Spring Awakening



/PHOTO BY NEELIMA KS

Neelima KS, Copy Editor

On the night of November 15th, the seats of the Theresa Lang Theatre began to fill in a few minutes, while smoke started engulfing the air within the theater. An audience member confirmed that the smoke was actually coming from the stage. The best spot for enjoying plays at the Theresa Lang is now pronounced Seat No. 14 of Row C as it offers the occupied spectator a central view of the stage.

MMC's production of *Spring Awakening* lasted from November 14-17, there were five performances total during two different timings: 2 PM and 8 PM.

Before the play commenced, actors took the stage—drawing

borders over different squares with chalk. By 8:05 PM, the talkers behind me finally shushed, and the sound of their chalk marking the stage became the only voice. Then, silence, for half a minute, and the play officially commenced.

Based on the play by Frank Wedekind, MMC's take on *Spring Awakening*, directed and choreographed by Kyle Pleasant, depicts the various phases that adolescents go through while navigating different forms of intimacy. There were trigger warnings mentioned in the brochure concerning mature content.

The climax of the play was an intimate scene between two characters quite unsettling as the matter of consent was in ques-

tion. There were instances when the female character tried to push away the male character mid-scene, but whether it was out of fear or lack of consent was left to the audience for interpretation.

Wood and hay were major elements of the set on stage. The center stage was flat on the surface with a couple of wooden chairs and the up stage had created an entrance to a wooden house with stacks of hay piled in the corner and pillars of old wood at each side. The costumes emanated country school life; with the female actors dressed in long white ruffle dresses and suspenders and male actors dressed in suits and trousers. Humor was a strong element throughout the play, gaining applause and laughter from

the audience countless times.

The actor of Martha, Lanes Miller, told *The Monitor* that, "This is the first mainstage I've been in. I've directed student projects before but I've never been in anything so this is really exciting. We opened yesterday and I definitely was feeling nervous then, but it went so well that I'm just feeling good. I play Martha and she is friends with most of the girls in the play and it is so fun because I'm friends with them all in real life too. The role itself is a bit darker but my real-life friendships kinda play into that on screen, that is true joy right there. I'm so grateful to be in the moment so when we all get off stage, we all jump in for a group hug and cheer for each other." ■ Nov. 17, 2024

Slam Dunk! MTA's Lysistrata Jones takes the stage by storm

Morgan Stoermer, Features Editor

In a time of unrest in the nation, MMC's production of *Lysistrata Jones* reminds audiences not to give into apathy and to "Go! Go! Fight! Fight!" and rally together.

The Theresa Lang Theatre saw four performances between March 14-16, and the show was directed by Theatre Arts professor Emily Clark. With a cast of 24 and four swings, the stage was filled with modern movement and costumes.

Lysistrata Jones is a 2011 musical comedy based on the ancient Greek play by Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*. The musical pulls from the original work, makes fun of it and creates a modern take to emphasize the power of community and teamwork, overcoming setbacks, and the dangers of fear.

"Everyone in the show is so talented. The content of the show grew on me, and I think that is very much due to each actor's portrayal. With different intonations each character came together and creatively made the show what it was," El Markee said. Markee is a first-year lighting design student who operated follow spotlight for the show.

"My favorite part about the tech process

was watching the show come together. The first time I saw any part of it there was only one part of the set up, the stairs. Then the next time the walls were up and over the course of tech week, the walls were painted," Markee said. "It was cool that I really got to watch it come together as a work in progress."

The show's plot follows a new student, *Lysistrata*, as she creates a cheerleading team and persuades them to withhold sexual favors from the basketball team, until they break their 33 year losing streak. Filled with witty one-liners and hip-hop moves the cast left audiences giggling.

With seven weeks of rehearsals and about three weeks of tech work that overlapped, the show was a combined effort of over 100 people. *Lysistrata Jones* was choreographed by adjunct faculty member Marc Nunez and music directed by Theatre Arts professor Christine Riley.

"In reality, everyone has wants; everyone has something that they are fighting for," Dramaturg Sam Tuschinski writes in her note.

The show celebrates young love through happiness and betrayal and highlights the importance of friendship. A unique combination of Greek mythology and pop culture,



a heroine fights the war against indifference, drawing emotions in relation and reflection of the state of the world today.

"*Lysistrata Jones* reminds us that we cannot

walk away from where we are; from who we are," Tuschinski wrote. "Changing the world isn't easy, but this show is a reminder that fighting is always worth the shot." ■ March 22, 2025

FABSCRAP at MMC: Sustainability in the Costume Shop



Joanna Insko, Digital Mangaing Editor

Snipping, cutting, shaping, de-signing—fabric scraps inevitably clutter the floor of the MMC costume shop.

MMC offers a Costume Design minor that allows students to build costumes for both Dance and Theatre performances in an on-campus shop. Students studying costume design are given hands-on experience with materials, which, of course, means that some fabric will be wasted.

"Fabric scraps are an inevitable part of any clothing production, especially within a learning process. We try to be as aware as possible; our Costume Construction class even has a project based around upcycling; but there will always be some pieces

that are not useable," said Cassandra Deveau, Costume Shop Supervisor.

Every year, residents of New York City dispose of 200,000 tons of clothing, shoes, accessories, and linens. Textiles make up 6% of the city's overall waste. MMC is a contributor to this issue, but individual classrooms, like the costume shop, are working towards sustainability goals.

"Setting MMC up with a FABSCRAP account was one of my first goals on campus," Deveau said. "FABSCRAP is a wonderful organization that recycles fabric as well as providing reselling of unwanted pieces... FABSCRAP allows us to collect and have the scraps be properly recycled."

FABSCRAP is a nonprofit that was established to address

the commercial textile recycling needs of New York City. Materials that would have typically ended up in landfills are now being recycled and made available for reuse. The service fees FABSCRAP collects cover operational expenses, enabling them to provide fabric to students, artists, local designers, and crafters for their reuse projects.

Each show put on at MMC has several pieces that are fully built by a student from the designer's vision. FABSCRAP allows the Costume Shop to collect and have the scraps properly recycled, up-cycling the students' trash into someone else's treasure.

"We are continuing to grow and learn how we can best support our students every day," said Deveau. ■ Nov. 7, 2024

"Fresh!", first first-year-only cabaret, has 'best turnout ever', MTA President says

Morgan Stoermer, Features Editor

With over 150 attendees, 24 MMC first-years performed at the Fresh! Cabaret on Sept. 20 at 9:15 p.m. in the Reggina Perrugi room.

The show consisted of 19 "fresh" songs written within the past four years, ranging in genres from pop, musical theatre and romantic ballads.

The fully staged and choreographed 75-minute show was put together in a nine-hour rehearsal on Sept. 14. Set in an "H" shape, with two audience sections facing each other, performers utilized the aisle to interact with audience members.

"We wanted to give more

freshmen an opportunity to perform," said MTA Vice President Alex Murray.

All performers were chosen by video audition and the cast list was released on Sept. 10.

"A good amount of these guys aren't performance majors and they're not gonna get other opportunities like this," said MTA President Chloe Selavaka.

The show included full-cast opening and closing numbers, 11 solos (many that had background performers), four duets, a trio and a five-person piece. All set pieces, which included one acting block and two chairs, were black, as well as all clothing worn by performers. ■ Sept. 26, 2024



The Regina Perrugi Room overflowed in capacity for the cabaret. /PHOTO BY MORGAN STOERMER

Follow us!

@mmcthemonitor

We've been following the merger. Have you?

Read the stories below to get caught up.

Make sure you keep tabs on our website's "Northeastern Merger" section!

Phase One of Merger Has Expected Completion Date of June 30, 2025

Sky Cambron, Staff Writer

On April 24 the Middle States Commission On Higher Education released a receipt for a change request for Marymount Manhattan College. The change request which "includes a merger with Northeastern University becoming the sole member of Marymount Manhattan College (MMC) and the surviving institution" will be effective June 30, 2025. At the time of the merger, student records, programs and services will transfer from MMC to Northeastern University.

At this point, approval is now dependent on the New York State Education Department.

What this means for MMC students and the "hand raising" process to declare interest in joining NU is not yet known. More information will likely be given at the conversation with Northeastern University's Dean of Students Chong Kim-Wong and Leland Clark, Director of Global Student

Success on April 29th at 4pm in the Inter-cultural Center and on April 30th at 1pm in the Regina Peruggi Room.

Addition: An email was sent to the student body by President Peter Naccarato on April 29 at 1:40p.m. The email outlines that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), MMC's accrediting agency, approved the Complex Substantive Change Request. This means the merger will move forward pending federal approval.

The letter addressed the community as follows:

"Dear MMC Community,

I am writing to share news of an important step forward regarding our planned merger with Northeastern University.

At the end of last week, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), MMC's accrediting agency, approved our Complex Substantive Change Request.

What does this mean? It means MSCHE is giving us the green light to move forward with the merger pending additional required regulatory approvals. Those italics are important; MSCHE is not the only entity who must approve us moving forward. There are additional approvals required by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the US Department of Education.

As a reminder, there are two steps to the merger process:

Step 1 (Change of Ownership): This is when Northeastern assumes ownership of Marymount Manhattan College.

Step 2 (Merger): This is when MMC merges with NU and becomes Northeastern — New York City.

Before we can complete Step 1, we need additional approval from NYSED, which we hope to receive sometime in June. If this is the case, we would be able to complete Step 1 by the end of June.

While completing Step 1 is an important

part of the process, it will have a minimal impact on our students' experience. We will continue to operate as Marymount Manhattan College; our usual day-to-day activities will continue. Our Fall 2025 semester will proceed as it typically does.

The timeline for Step 2 remains uncertain, as it will require additional approval by the US Department of Education. We expect that securing this approval will take several months, but we cannot project a specific date as to when the merger will be implemented. For now, we continue to work with our Northeastern partners to ensure that whenever Step 2 does take place, we will provide the smoothest possible transition for our students, faculty, and staff members.

I will continue to update you as new information becomes available. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the MMC and Northeastern webpage, (mmm.edu/future) "where we continue to update FAQs." ■ April 29, 2025

Inside 2029: MMC, NU – NYC Freshmen Anticipate The Fall

Abby Vazquez & Sky Cambron



NU cookies were given out during tours of MMC's campus. /PHOTO BY SKY CAMBRON

Marymount hallways were packed Friday April 25th as Northeastern NYC students gathered to tour the school. Less than an hour later, the NU tables would be cleared of their monogrammed cookies and bags, and replaced with similarly styled MMC gear.

In the fall of 2025 Marymount Manhattan College is expected to host a full first year student body, usually about 400 students, along with 300-350 Northeastern NYC Scholars.

Reporters from The Monitor tagged along to learn about the NU NYC Scholars program and understand feelings Northeastern freshmen have about attending this fall. As they followed the tour guide up and down the stairs of Carson and Nugent halls, students shared their feelings.

"It's cool," incoming Film and Media major Elle shared. She expressed open interest in being able to share her semester with Marymount freshmen. Another student in Northeastern's College of Media, Art, and Design, Callidora Hargreaves, shared a similar sentiment.

"I'm excited to be in the mixed atmosphere," Hargreaves said. "Northeastern is so business centric, so it will be a nice change."

Business is NU's most prominent program, making up over 22% of its undergraduate population and triple the number of students in its College of Media, Art, and Design.

At Marymount, Performing Arts ma-

jors rule the halls. Students in math class are likely to hear the singing of theater students and drums from dance practice. The contrast in focus for the schools has affected Marymount's Class of 2029 in their decision making.

Prospective Dance student Rory Suazo and her father were part of the Marymount student tours on Friday. "You can tell her heart is set on this school," Suazo's father stated while passing the Great Hall, a dance studio larger than most in NYC. Uncertainty over the future of the Dance program has delayed Suazo's commitment to Marymount Manhattan.

For Biology major Aryanna, however, the opposite is true.

"I'm looking forward to it," she said. She had strategically chosen Marymount Manhattan for her freshman year in order to reap the benefits of the merger.

Greg Dellorco, Senior Associate Director of Global Network Programs at NU, remarked, "Northeastern students are collaborative, they're excited to partner, and they're compassionate students" who "want to honor what's made (other) communities really different and unique."

As Phase 1 of the merger progresses, one thing is clear: MMC is changing faster than anyone anticipated. Some freshmen are ready to take the leap, while others are held back by the uncertainty. The tours are a reminder to all students that this fall will be something Marymount has never experienced before. ■ May 7, 2025

MMC to Pause Applications to Certain Majors Due to Merger

Sky Cambron, Staff Writer

According to Katie Langan, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, Marymount Manhattan College will pause Fall 2025 recruitment for the BFA in Creative Writing, the BFA in Film & Media Production, and the BA in Business. Minors in these areas will not be affected. She explains that a pause in recruitment means that MMC is not currently enrolling new students in the indicated programs. However, Langan seeks to assure students that "Our [the College's] first priority is ensuring that students enrolled in all our academic programs between now and the merger will have a pathway for completing their degree."

When planning for the future of these degree programs, MMC in collaboration with Northeastern University plans on "taking a number of factors into account, including budgetary considerations, current and projected enrollment numbers, and possibilities for expanding these areas of study," Langan said.

The Interim VPAA added: "Prospective students who may be interested in one of these majors are being encouraged to consider the BA in Literature & Media with a minor in Creative Writing, the BA in Film & Media Studies with a minor in Film & Media Production or the BA in Communication Arts, and one of several BS degrees (International Business,

Finance, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Management) with opportunities to minor in Fashion Studies, Economics, or Accounting."

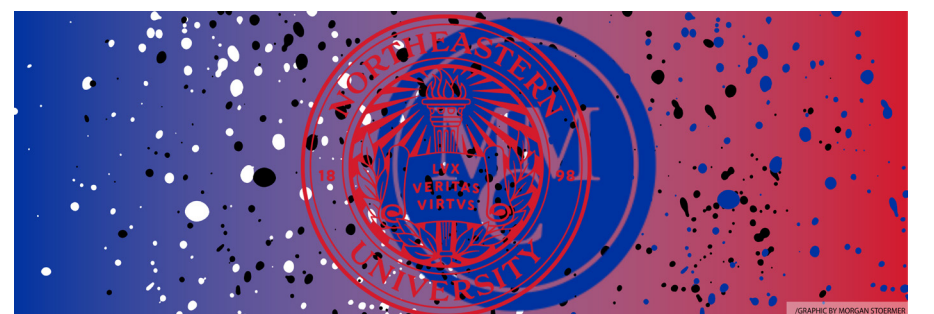
Although enrollment of new students in the BFA in Creative Writing, the BFA in Film & Media Production, and the BA in Business majors will not be available in 2025, "a pause in recruitment leaves open the possibility that recruitment of new students to these programs may resume in the future."

Faculty in the departments associated with the programs will continue to teach the courses they have been teaching.

Students interested in sharing their ideas and opinions with MMC's and NU's administration should reach out to the Student Government Association (SGA). According to MMC's website, one of the main priorities of SGA is "to fight for students' rights and improve school policies."

Going forward, Emmalyn Yamrick, Associate Vice President for Student Life & Dean of Students states that SGA "will continue to be an important resource for bringing student voices into our ongoing conversations with Northeastern."

So far the SGA has co-hosted two events with NU to support MMC students through the merger and help bring clarity to the situation. SGA's email is sga@mmm.edu. ■ Jan. 31, 2025
Edits were made to this article on Feb. 2, 2025 in compliance with MMC.



GRAPHIC BY MORGAN STODER



/ILLUSTRATION BY JOANNA INSCO

NU's Chancellor Interviewed by MMC Professor

Morgan Stoermer, Features Editor

To continue the conversation about the MMC and Northeastern merger, a live interview with Dr. Ken Henderson, Northeastern's Chancellor and Senior Vice President for Learning, was hosted by Katie LeBesco, MMC Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Professor of Communication and Media Arts.

The interview was held at 4 p.m. on Oct. 25 in the Theresa Lang Theatre. The public interview was promoted as a Homecoming Weekend event, open to the MMC community after the annual Apple Fest. About 70 people attended, and an option to join over Zoom was available.

"It is an absolute joy to be here on this particular day. It really gives you a sense and feel of the energy and vitality of the organization," Henderson said.

Henderson and LeBesco discussed topics including Henderson's role as chancellor, the integration of MMC into Northeastern University's Global System and

the alumni network.

With no updates to the state of the merger since the student town hall, both NU's board and MMC's board have agreed to the merger.

"Hopefully we should be done in a relatively short order. We cross our fingers and hope for the best," Henderson said.

He encouraged current MMC students to get involved with the Student Government Association if they wanted to have a voice in the merger and highlighted the importance of NU's growing global system – an American model of education.

"We are exporting that model to other locations, and it's really reproducing what we do in the states in other locations," Henderson said. "We want to have a network of campuses. We've got this rich tapestry, and each campus has a different flavor to it."

Promoting the international study programs that will become available to current MMC students, Henderson believes that resources will increase substantially.

"This makes absolute perfect sense for

the institute moving forward," Henderson said.

Though confident in the merger itself, Henderson pointed out the difficulty of preserving MMC's legacy.

"It's easy for us to build our own campuses in other locations, but it's much harder for us to do these mergers. The reason we are doing this the way we are doing it is A: because it's more interesting, and B: because it really fits the educational model that is experiential education," Henderson said. "For us, this is just an amazing partnership."

NU has completed two other mergers including their London and Oakland campuses.

"There's so much alignment when we have done mergers in the past," Henderson said. "This is all partnership, this is all discussion over long periods of time to make sure the very basis or essence of Marymount is maintained."

Though the merger is a slow process, Henderson foresees the first New York

Scholars Cohort will begin Fall of 2025. This year-long program consists of NU students that will study on MMC's campus for their first year, then transfer to NU's Boston campus their second year. This cohort will add numbers to the MMC population – a concern of space – which was left unaddressed by Henderson.

To conclude the conversation LeBesco asked Henderson how the MMC legacy and alumni would be preserved.

"Post-merger there will be one alumni organization. All the assets will be tied to everything Northeastern has," Henderson said. "The thing we would love to see is the integration of Marymount alumni with Northeastern Alumni."

A reception was held directly after the interview, available to all that were in attendance.

The full conversation is available on youtube. The event was also highlighted on the MMC website, available on the Student Development and Activities' news page. ■ November 7, 2024

NU Academic Leaders Hold Town Hall

Morgan Stoermer, Features Editor

Hosted in the Regina Peruggi Room and on Zoom, academic leaders from MMC and Northeastern University held two Student Town Hall sessions, on Oct. 1 from 4-5 p.m. and Oct. 2 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The sessions were informational meetings, focused on academics, followed by a brief time of Q&A.

Only 15 MMC students were in attendance on Oct. 1. MMC's Emmalyn Yamrick, Dean of Students, and Katie Langan, VP of Academic Affairs opened the meeting with introductions and a cursory reexplanation of why MMC is merging with NU.

"Our goal is really to be transparent in this process," Yamrick said.

Because of fewer international students, declining birth rates, and the great recession of 2008, numbers are dropping.

"Colleges are expecting to pull from a pool 500,000 less students," Yamrick said. "With that data, our board of trustees looked forward and wanted to identify a way to preserve the mission and other core elements of Marymount College."

There are three phases of the merger: the state of New York must approve the merger, the federal government must approve the merger, and then MMC will have an official transition to the name Northeastern – New York City, or NU – NYC.

While much is unknown, the town halls were focused on academics and the process that continuing MMC students will go through. Three NU academic leaders spoke: Thomas Sheahan, Executive Vice Provost, followed by Jane Amidon, Vice Provost for Network Academic Programs, and Mike Pollastri, Senior Vice Provost.

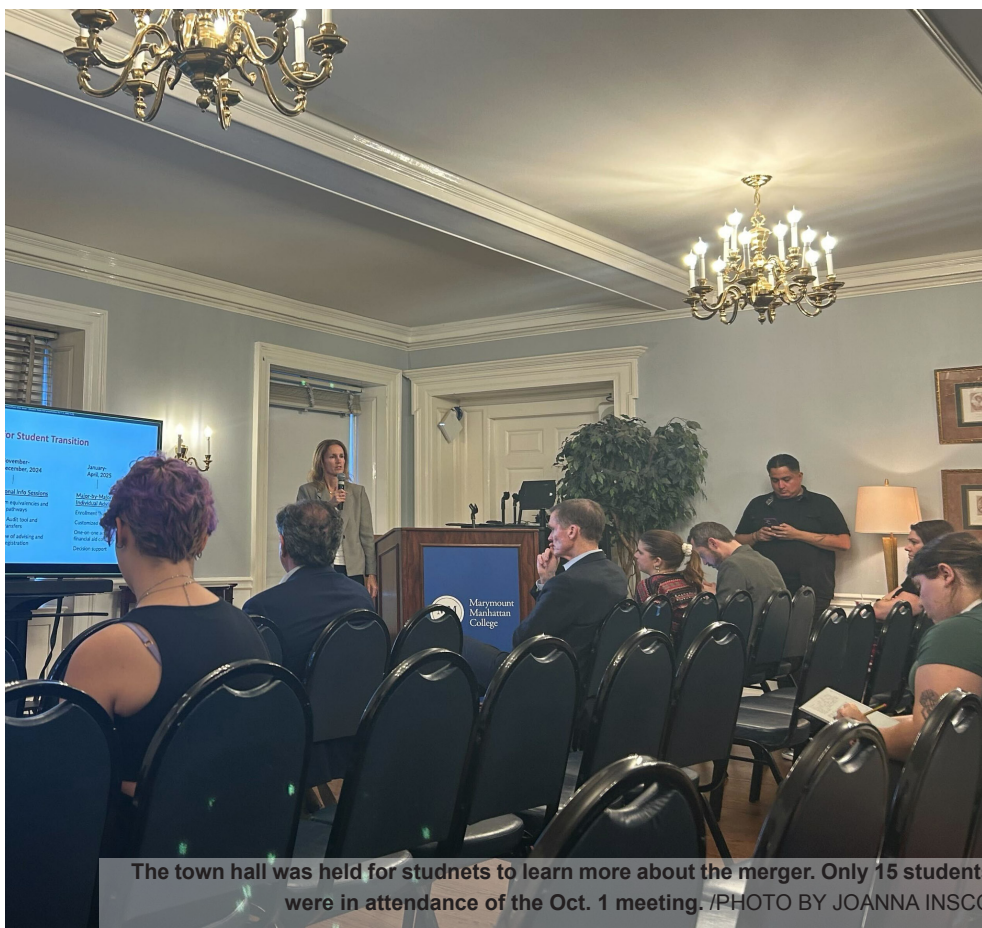
The discussion began with an 'about NU' talk that resembled a typical campus tour college information session. NU is a nationally recognized R1 research university that encourages students to participate in its co-op program. Current MMC students are expected to be eligible for the program as long as it won't delay their degree timeline.

Though there are many steps to this transition, no reapplication is necessary for current MMC students of 'good standing' to become a NU – NYC student.

"You will be learning from the same faculty in the same spaces, you will not have to move to Boston to continue in your degree programs," Sheahan said, "In many ways, things will not change much at all because you will still have the same faculty advisors and staff here."

Degrees that don't have direct equivalencies at NU will be recreated so every student can continue their path of study. These will be called gap degrees.

"If you hear that term, it means,



The town hall was held for students to learn more about the merger. Only 15 students were in attendance of the Oct. 1 meeting. /PHOTO BY JOANNA INSCO

for example, a BFA that may not exist at Northeastern will be recreated in order for you to complete your studies," Amidon said. "Some people will have very clear major equivalencies, like biology to biology, but some concentrations may be honored as a combined major or separate minor program."

The process is not going to be a quick one, and no real changes can be expected until

after the turn of the year.

"We are right now in the process of initiating conversations with colleagues across the institutions, the academic leadership, academic staff, about getting to know the programs, getting to know the way that teaching occurs on this campus," Amidon said. "Throughout this entire process, our goal is to serve in the student's best interests." ■ Oct 13, 2024

Did you know?
 We used to have print all the time!
 The last edition was before COVID-19... So, to catch
 you upon some of our best stories, here are some of our
 favorite pieces from 2020-2024.

MMC Students Make Their Call



Students call for a free Palestine. /PHOTO BY ELLIOTT CASE

Elliott Case, Editor In Chief

On the morning of May 2nd, 2024, Marymount Manhattan College was setting up the annual tradition of Strawberry Fest. A bright sunny day filled with a celebratory energy that filled the air. While the MMC campus was full of joy, other NYC college campuses were filled with police presence, student encampments, and fleeting student resources. As Strawberry Fest went on from 12-3 pm, a group of Marymount students made it their duty to join in the fight seen all over campuses throughout the country. Around 2 PM, as the music was blaring on 71st Street, “The students united will never be defeated” began to ring between 2nd and 3rd Avenue as a growing power was emitted from the student demonstrators.

Organizers of the demonstration to fight for the freedom of Palestine, Alukah Wiener and Kalys Santini stood strong with a message of peace to the Marymount community. Wiener spoke with The Monitor about the intentions of the movement, “Palestine and Palestinian rights and lives is an issue that Marymount students care about, this is something we really believe in and we are the students, we are the college.”

Some of the statements being chanted are ones that some students, specifically members of Hillel MMC who wish to re-

main anonymous, have stated made them feel hurt as a collective, with one particular chant, “from the river to the sea” as this was a final solution in erasing Israel and its people altogether. Some of the members felt an overwhelming emotion relating to the family they know in Israel who were harmed, “On October 7th some of my friends were murdered, others I knew were taken hostage,” “It was horrifying and isolating.” Another statement from the group was “We are also proud that we have a community that welcomes non-Jewish and Israeli students to join us in our celebrations and we are so happy and thankful to everyone who joins us. When our members vocalize safety concerns we address them because we want everyone to be safe on campus. The recent protests on campus have changed the MMC community and we believe that they [members] should be the ones to tell you.” followed by a quote, “I’m so done I just want to lay in bed and cry.”

Following Wiener’s statements, and shortly after Strawberry Fest wrapped up, the MMC student protestors who were standing on the north side of 71st Street in a line were met with counter-protesters from outside the college community. At 2:46 pm, a woman and a man who were counter-protesting began shouting obscenities in the faces of the students of Marymount yelling words such as “terrorists” in their faces while filming them

and continuously encroaching on the campus. A man showed up with a large dog and a golf club, and another later entered the premises wearing a mask and a hood while taking photos of himself standing in front of the students holding up his middle finger. A woman passing by was heard saying “Palestinians don’t even exist.” All at the same time cars were driving through, at times honking to show their support, a jeep even drove through to praise what the students were doing. As tensions began to rise, a heavy police presence started to make their way to 71st Street. Police officers showed up in pairs to monitor the situation, eventually barricading the students in front of the college, and the counter-protesters to the other side of the street. Around 4:48, the street was blocked to through traffic and anyone walking trying to pass through. Due to this, evening classes were canceled as a result of professors not being able to get onto campus due to the measures the officers performed in their want to barricade the situation.

Students from outside high schools showed a presence as well, including one 16-year-old, Gavin Ramos, who was there standing with a “Free Palestine” sign drawn on a ripped-out piece of notebook paper. “Today my teacher was telling me how her doctor went to help, and the things they saw were horrific. They have

no more anesthetics, and people are suffering and dying because there is no other option. It’s impacting her because a lot of the people who are dying look like her relatives and like her.” Ramos stood with MMC as a high school student to show the impact on other people here in the United States.

The students stayed on campus until 6:09 pm when they calmly dispersed and left the school as it was while the barricades remained. Their plans to meet at the same spot the next day were changed when students at The New School were facing conditions that called for an outpour of help from anyone around who could provide, so they made that their mission on Friday, May 3rd.

MMC administration followed the events with two emails, the first explaining how Marymount students have the right to free speech while sticking to the Code of Conduct, and the second about RSO’s showing support to the pro-Palestine protesters stating that members should be able to weigh in on what is being done as a number of RSO’s showed support in putting their banners in front of the students. Overall, Marymount has still held off on making a statement and answering students’ demands regarding divestments, or making public their funding list. As updates come through, The Monitor will continue to update. ■ May 11, 2024

Sustain MMC Finds Out What's Being Littered in Central Park

Joanna Insko, Digital Managing Editor

This past weekend, over 200 cigarette butts and more were cleaned up in Central Park by one of Marymount Manhattan College's Registered Student Organizations: Sustain MMC.

Sustain MMC is an RSO dedicated to facilitating a sustainable culture on campus, and holding the College accountable to its sustainability commitments through action and communication.

This Sunday, February 18, Sustain MMC held its second Central Park Clean Up day. Despite the chilly weather, MMC students walked all the way from 96th Street to 86th Street on the East side of the Park, picking up litter on sidewalks, trails, and in the greenery.

The students were equipped with gloves and bags; one for recycling and one for trash. By the end of the event, the bags had been filled with an array of items including masks, energy gels, plastic bottles, cigarette butts, lost gloves, coffee cups, and much more. The two most common items gathered were cigarette butts and the discarded parts of trail runner's energy gels.

Charlotte Black, a Politics and Human Rights major, and the Social Media Manager for Sustain MMC attended Sunday's event. Black documented highlights from the event on the Sustain MMC Instagram to engage students who weren't able to participate. Black, who is a runner, took notice of the sheer volume of energy gel litter found along the trails.

"It doesn't really make sense to litter in a place you run every day and enjoy for the view and the nature," Black said. "But then you're going to simultaneously degrade it every single day."

Black reported that the students cleared approximately 231 or more cigarettes in a post she made on the Sustain MMC Instagram. To the students involved, noting the types of litter and the amount of each is a valuable part of their experience cleaning up the Park.

Abigail Abbot-White is an acting and



Sustain MMC members take a picture outside of Central Park. /PHOTO BY JOANNA INSCO

environmental studies double major, and the Vice President of Sustain MMC. She shared that the intention behind the event had to do with more than just picking up garbage.

"My goal with it is to clean up our community obviously, and also evaluate what's being littered so we can try to avoid those items in our daily lives," said Abbot-White, "I think we're so accustomed to being frustrated with their being litter, but then we continue to use those products when we have the ability not to."

The majority of the items found by the students on Sunday's clean-up went into their trash bags and not their recycling. This is because most of the litter they collected could be defined as single-use, a term that encompasses any item that cannot be recycled or reused in any way. A few examples of single-use items include plastic straws, coffee cups with plastic lids, plastic water bottles, and plastic

take-out containers. Despite these items having a one-and-done use for humans, their existence does not end with their usefulness.

"I think it's important to note that everything we consume is going to end up back into the environment in some way," Abbot-White said. "So if we consume less, pollution will not be such a big issue and everyone will benefit."

For students with direct involvement in Sustain MMC, it made sense to seek out an opportunity to clean up the Park, but not everyone who attended on Sunday had these same incentives.

Grace Staples is majoring in international studies at MMC and was encouraged to come to the event by an involved Sustain MMC member. Despite not having previous personal connections to Sustain MMC, Staples expressed some of her reasons for participating in cleaning up the Park.

"It's important to think globally and act locally," Staples said. "I am a citizen of New York and it's not all about my comfort and what I want to do to have fun. It's also about giving back to my community and at the end of the day, it's not about me, right? We gotta keep this world as clean as we can because someone else is gonna inherit it one day."

Despite the cold weather and the tedious act of picking up trash, there were positive takeaways from the experience. Clearly, since this was the second Central Park clean-up facilitated by Sustain MMC, it was a well-liked event. In fact, Sustain MMC Officers have expressed an interest in turning it into a monthly occurrence.

"I feel like it's the least I can do," Black said. "And it's not a bad way to spend an afternoon walking through Central Park with some friends and having meaningful discussions about the environment." ■ Feb. 27, 2024

Climate March brings people to NYC from diverse communities

Neelima KS, Copy Editor

The March to end fossil fuels was held on September 17th, 2023 from 1 PM to 4:30 PM at 56th Street and Broadway. The rally was 1.5 miles long. The march was led by people from all walks of life, from all generations to diverse groups irrespective of race, gender, nationality, age, and sexuality.

The protesters were determined to call on Biden to stop funding fossil fuels and bring an end to this climate emergency; and flag up the world leaders just days before the UN's first Climate Ambition Summit in New York. The streets of NYC were filled with crowds holding up flags and placards with the extinction symbol and slogans on Climate Emergency. Various students of Marymount Manhattan College were also a part of the march.

"As a student, I feel like

it's important to get involved in these types of movements," said Noah Brown, 21, an MMC student. "Revolutions have a history of starting on campuses. If our generation doesn't get out there now and fight for our future, there may be no future left to fight for at all."

A Brooklyn-based artist, Ellen Driscoll, 70, said, "I think that the climate emergency is urgent and people are dying from it. The flood in Libya was a human disaster. The forest fire in Canada over the summer had brought the smoke to NYC. Climate change has arrived here in NYC; I was here for Hurricane Ida, when the subways flooded and people who lived in basement apartments couldn't get out and drowned in their apartments. Forest fires, floods, droughts, and melting of glaciers is a serious emergency and we've run out of time." ■ September 25, 2023



Climate March participants carry banners through the streets. /PHOTO BY NEELIMA KS

The Modern Day Club Kids

Elise Uhlar, Guest Writer

Club kids of the late eighties and nineties may have lived for the club, but those of the modern era live off of it. Take Henry Casson and Isadora Barnett as a gleaming example. Casson began throwing parties at 19, met Barnett at the club, and from there, the two made it their goal to bring people together.

Upon arrival, our hosts are elusive. There's a flash of blonde hair, a simple, well fitted white shirt, the glint of a disco ball against black shades. The tell tale signs of Casson. Just as quickly as he's spotted, however- he disappears into the crowd. He's doing his rounds. Attaching to group after group in a tornado of positive inclination and gratitude. A litany of thank you's and compliments pour from his lips and prior to the interview even commencing, it's clear that this is an individual with an obscene amount of love to share.

Hearing is fickle, but regardless, Casson makes the effort to set up a productive interview. A tap on the shoulder captures his attention, and a migration commences to a quieter section of the bar. He is quick to offer credit where it's due.

"I throw every single event with Isadora Barnett," said Casson. He takes a seat at one of the booths. Meanwhile, he's blowing up the aforementioned's phone with urgent reminders to come seek recognition.

Just as Casson did moments prior, Barnett appears out of the crowd. She's dressed in a delicate lace ensemble, drenched in mystery. She's warm and grinning, enthusiastic and patient as answers to shouted questions are rushedly jotted down in the docs app.

Barnett is a creative culture consultant- meaning her job entails throwing parties, and essentially maintaining tranquility. Pulled into the club scene via nights out, Barnett's initial career route was entirely different.

"I originally went to school for Journalism," Barnett said.

The partnership between Barnett and Casson was born out of spontaneity.

"We didn't plan anything, it was just really organic. I met Henry at the club," Barnett said. "Isadora and I are like Yin and Yang, and together,



we're an explosion of creativity," Casson added.

A night out is a customary New York experience. Barnett and Casson take this concept, and curate it for "the creatives of tomorrow". The crowd is colorful, in both attire and varying levels of queerness, and the space is buzzing with energy. This being said, there is a common understanding that though the evening may grow belligerent- a secure location has been created. Everyone maintains the privilege of being irresponsible, responsibly. Should someone pose a threat, they won't make it past the door to get in.

The primary appeal of these events lies in their exclusivity. There's no cover fee, at times, no liquor fees either- but

you need to be invited to attend. The list may be expansive, but to enter the jubilee your name must be inscribed- first and last. In this way, the crowd which is created is extremely close knit for a high volume function. With time, returning to these events over and over again, one will see a familiarity in the faces which appear below technicolored lights.

"We are what's up next. Everyday, I help companies keep a finger on the pulse of what's going on culturally. There's people in offices talking about us, and what we do, but honestly, we're just kids trying to get by," Barnett said.

The kids aspect of this statement rings extremely true, given that Casson and Barnett just recently turned 21. In

the clubs which they were granted legal access to merely a year ago, they have sought out their livelihoods.

"We don't just throw parties, or go out because we enjoy it. We do it because we know that this is how you get recognition. This is how we get signed," Casson said.

Creatures of the evening gather at these events. To approach them feels daunting, until you are embraced in the warmth of their energy. The building reeks of confidence and of love, because in the end- that's the name of the game. When asked if they had anything to add, Casson and Barnett assured:

"It's all about love. It always has been, it always will be. This is New York youth culture!" ■ April 19, 2023

Watching the Eclipse From Brooklyn, NY: A Photo Story

Joanna Insko, Digital Managing Editor



New York City may not have fallen into the path of totality for the Solar Eclipse of April 8, 2024, but that did not stop thousands of viewers from making their way to the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens (BBG) to watch the occurrence. BBG held a Solar Eclipse Community Event on Monday that granted ticketholders free access to the gardens for the afternoon, during the peak of the Eclipse. The event was sold out, so visitors waited in long lines outside the gates, tickets in hand.



Once inside the gate, BBG employees handed out special Eclipse-viewing glasses to everyone who entered. The specs bore the brand Warby Parker, and their arms detailed a series of safety instructions to keep wearers from harm. With a structure reminiscent of 3D theatre glasses, these cardboard-constructed specs were for one functional purpose alone: staring into the sun.



With over 52 acres of land, the BBG offered a variety of lawns, benches, and hideaways for eclipse viewing purposes. The first highly occupied lawn accessible from the Eastern Parkway entrance was the Osborne Garden. Here, people sprawled out between borders of crabapples and azaleas on picnic blankets in the Italian-style garden.



4 The number of visitors scattering the lawn of Osborne Garden paled in comparison to the crowds seated in the Cherry Esplanade. This lawn, framed by flowering cherries, was packed full. Nearly every grassy spot had been draped in a blanket for watchers to comfortably await the moon's passing.



6 For roughly an hour after the Eclipse's peak- the moon still partially obscured the sun. But, within a few hours, the sun became shrouded in clouds, and the eclipse was over. However, despite its passing, the events of April 8th will not be forgotten. Departing visitors were heard exchanging farewells and declarations of, "We'll always remember today!"



5 For individuals looking for a quieter experience, BBG also provides a variety of hideaways to marvel at the sky. A few places for discreet viewing included the Alfred T. White Memorial, the Japanese Hill and Pond Garden, and the Shakespeare Gardens. From here, the eclipse could be seen through tree branches and among the stillness of nature.



7 The Fragrance Garden provided the perfect place to watch the eclipse reach its peak, with about 90% of the sun covered by the moon. The lawn of the Fragrance Garden was uncrowded, with a clear view of the sky. Here, among the sweet-smelling flowers, visitors could feel the temperature slightly drop, watch as the lighting shifted, and observe the sliver of the sun through their tinted glasses.



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Sustainable Fashion: The Generation at the Forefront of Vintage Clothing

Elliott Case, **Editor in Chief**

Tucked behind the musty odor and racks of jackets, jeans, and avant-garde pieces that would make any head turn, a world of wonderment lives. A group of teens walk in and go straight to the wall of Levi's while an older woman has been at the shoe bin looking for the matching burgundy loafer to add to her collection of sensible flats. The group of teens are like bulls in a china shop as they try to get to the best vintage finds before their friend does. The owner sits behind the desk with eyes following customers like a hawk, in a way protecting the goldmine that sits in front of him. The doors open and close, people come and go, but he stays perched, seeing everyone and everything. He makes assumptions about the shoppers, his years of experience allow him to read a room, and the wisdom of being in the game shows on his face. He

wears a worn-in tan bomber jacket, the quality is the kind that was only produced before the 80s. His store is his baby, and he doesn't let it go unwatched for even a second.

The Vintage Fashion scene in New York City has been a bustling business and thriving community for many years and only keeps growing with Gen Z's interest in not only the clothes but also the sustainability factor. Young shop owners such as Gabriella Rose of the store Isle of Monday, use their approach to create specific collections that are original and revamped to bring new life to old pieces.

Times are changing and this is why Gen Z is turning against fast fashion to create a sustainable approach to their own vision of what vintage fashion is and what it is to become. Change is on the horizon, and the urge to create a more sustainable future for our generation

and those ahead is a determination that will only keep growing as more people get educated on the true beauty behind vintage, and how it can help save our planet.

When knowledge becomes power, Gen Z will use the strength

and willingness to make a change and turn it into a thriving business as a result of their determination in helping the cause. The greater issue the fashion industry faces lies within the sustainability factor. It is common knowledge that we are taught from

a young age to reduce our time with the lights on, or to turn off the water while brushing our teeth, so why is it so common to allow for consumerism to be so normalized.

The 2019 House of Commons Environmental Audit titled "Fixing



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LOOKING BACK

Fashion: Clothing Consumption and Sustainability,” revealed that the emissions produced in clothing production outweigh the emissions of international plane travel and shipping. Now three years ahead of 2019, the emissions have only increased as demand for the upkeep of the newest

The impact of these mass-producing textile companies will continue to affect the groups in society that need the most help.

trends has only gone up.

Unfortunately, the effects of fast fashion can be seen in cities and communities where poverty and homelessness run rampant. From the same audit, the issue of water consumption is brought up, “The water scarcity exacerbated by cotton production in arid regions has an impact on local communities – especially in low-income countries. 162 Major cotton-producing countries such as China and India are already suffering from medium to high levels of water stress in certain areas” (29).

The impact of these mass-producing textile and clothing companies will continue to disproportionately affect the groups in society that need the most help, this forces the members of the community into unfair working treatment in these factories where they are treated as less than human. Fashion Checker reported that 93% of the brands that took part in their study were paying their workers a salary that was not a livable wage. The companies included brands such as Abercrombie, Aeropostale, Adidas, Canada Goose, and so many more. This knowledge is the jumpstart to the reason why young vintage lovers are taking it into their own hands to start the rally for a resolution.

A store making changes in NYC is owned by Gabriella Carota. This young woman took her vision and passion for a sustainable approach to fashion and turned it into a thriving vintage collective based out of different pop-up events being held throughout the city. Isle of Monday focuses on pieces from the 70s through the 90s, with quality and uniqueness at the forefront. Carota addresses the toxicity of big fashion labels ripping off the designs and styles of smaller companies, a big trend in the fast-fashion world. Mass-produced labels such as Shein or Nasty Gal, are known for doing this, selling millions of pieces for under ten dollars, and never giving credit to the original creator. Mundane reported Carota’s words, “My biggest pet peeve is when large fashion labels rip off the designs of small, independent designers, claim them as their own and then sell them at cheaper prices due to their economies of scale.” Carota also noted in the same piece her thoughts on the environmental impact of companies, and how they do not give transparency to their practices. “I wish companies were required to measure and disclose their yearly waste and environmental impact. This would allow consumers to make educated decisions about where to shop and would hopefully be an incentive for brands to reduce their textile waste.” If more people knew the impact of

the companies they buy from, that would open the door for more people to care about choosing sustainable companies that support ethical fashion. As it is, the consumer is solely responsible for educating themselves on these brands, but Carota thinks that is where change needs to happen, putting the information upfront will encourage the change to happen on a larger scale.

While walking down the streets of New York City, it is impossible to pass a street corner without some type of vintage store, whether that be clothing, furniture, or old vinyl records. The city has become a mecca for the world of reselling, and now the new faces of Gen Z are bringing a fresh new look to its importance. The East Village of New York City has become the neighborhood synonymous with the vintage scene. From big names like Beacons Closet to Buffalo Exchange, Hamlet’s Vintage to East Village Vintage Collective, turn down any street and be transported to a part of the past. Since the 60s, vintage stores in New York City have been supplying college kids with cheap finds that fit their budget. The beginning of the vintage scene was birthed out of necessity rather than an urge for sustainability. The publication, “Racked,” stated in an article about the history of New York City’s Vintage scene, “There were places like Diamonds — a half-used clothing store, half-pawn shop owned by a Holocaust survivor — and there were the Army Navy stores, like Hudson’s on Third Avenue and 13th Street.” Stating that these stores were ideal for a young person to come in with five dollars and find a broken-in pair of levis, or a pair of worn-in chinos from the 20s. Stores like Diamonds set the blueprint for today’s vintage store, but the change lies in the intentions of the new young owners.

Carota is a young entrepreneur who has a passion for finding pieces that reflect her main style inspiration, Carrie Bradshaw. She describes this as a love for her “mix-and-match mantra, styling retro vintage finds with higher-end designer pieces,” Carota says while her main focus for Isle of Monday is “Carrie Bradshaw meets 90’s supermodels.” Isle of Monday began as a hobby that turned into a primarily e-commerce vintage store. Carota started doing pop-ups in NYC including the Brooklyn Flea, Canal Street Market, and the Grand Bazaar. The brand began to get a following as the in-person events were such a hit, “after seeing how well my brand did selling in-person, I decided to rent a rental space for the month of February to test it out.”

Carota has a business degree from Boston University and a background in modeling as well as an extreme love for fashion, so for her, a business dedicated to fashion just seemed natural. Carota noted that many vintage stores in New York City price their items at outrageous numbers, but she wants to make her brand one that anyone can enjoy. This love for fashion and business was met with her concern for the growing problem regarding big names in the fast fashion industry and the climate crisis we are facing. “The environmental impact of fast fashion has a huge influence on my brand. Sustainability is a very trendy topic right now but unfortunately, sustainable brands are not affordable for the average person.”

This is of course because the brands that are making clothes in a sustainable way are using local re-

sources and paying their workers wages they can live on, for those who have the budget these are great brands to support, but in order for it to become accessible, the whole business model needs to change. “As an industry, we are still a long way from bringing affordable, sustainable brands to the masses.” Carota sets one of her main goals as creating a vintage brand that is both fashionable and affordable. “I try to keep my prices as reasonable as possible to encourage people to shop vintage and buy second-hand. The more we can compete with the low prices of fast fashion.”

Carota has hopes for the future of the industry because of Gen Z’s overall desire for social change, and the fact that the generation is stepping up to make change that sticks, “I am willing to bet that in 10 years there will be strict legislation requiring fashion companies to measure and disclose their yearly waste and environmental impact.” As a young woman in the business, Gabriella Carota is making strides as a big player in the game, and someone to keep an eye on as her vision and desire for social change continue to grace the vintage scene in New York City.

Technology and social media has become a tool that is synonymous with youth culture. The usual notion is that young people are rotting their brains because of technology addiction, but what often goes overlooked is how it truly is a tool for greater social change. Especially in the vintage clothing world, apps and websites such as Poshmark and Depop have become a staple in the resale world.

Depop specifically has exploded with young sellers who not only have original pieces of vintage clothing but also take old pieces and upcycle them to create new life. The ability to bring vintage online is an amazing tool to increase accessibility for the people who can’t take a walk on St. Marks Place on a random Tuesday afternoon. Business of Apps reports that Depop has a total of four million active buyers. That is four million people who are dedicated to online shopping in a way that benefits the planet. The site’s two million sellers have created online storefronts that reflect their passion in a way they can do from anywhere in the world. The same report also states that 90% of the users of the site are under the age of 26, making the dominating age generation Gen Z. Depop reports the total sales made on Depop since the beginning of its time is one billion dollars. One billion dollars going to sustainability and fighting the big names in fast fashion. Many of the online shops on Depop have

“This generation’s attitude is a lot more centered around dedicating time to feel your best, and thrifting allows you to feel good about what you are doing as well as what you are wearing.”

taken to the streets of New York with the surge of pop-up markets that are happening post-pandemic. The shop

We’ve missed having print: Best of 2020-2024

on Depop called Candied Cherry Thrift is based out of New York City, but makes the most sales on Depop. The two girls running the shop are Charlotte Roy and Stella Palone. The duo has created this collection out of a passion for good clothes and to contribute to the greater fight to save our planet from fast fashion pollution.

Starting out, Candied Cherry Thrift was an idea that came from the simple want to make a quick buck by cleaning out old clothes to make room for new ones, but as time went on, a greater purpose was found. “To be honest. I didn’t even consider it [climate crisis] when I first started, I just wanted to get rid of some old clothes, and I just found a love for the whole process. Now that I am aware of these social issues, it just makes sense to me to want to work even harder to create a cleaner and



safer environment for future generations and makes me ten times prouder of what I do.”

These two young college students living in New York City take advantage of the opportunities to sell at local flea markets but do the majority of their business over Instagram and on Depop. For the pair, Vintage fashion is more than a trend, “I feel as though we have passed the point where it’s just a trend, and vintage fashion is here to stay. With a majority of my generation [gen z] being so environmentally conscious and aware of the climate issues in today’s world, it only makes sense that thrifting and vintage clothing would be at the forefront.” The climate crisis has brought us to a point of no return that can sometimes leave the community with a sense of gloom and doom, but as a generation, stepping up in a way that is enjoyable is a simple way to make a difference, “I think this generation’s attitude is a lot more centered around dedicating time to feel your best, and thrifting allows you to feel good about what you are doing as well as what you are wearing.”

While leaving Buffalo Exchange, an NYU college student was walking in. Dressed in the archives of designers from years past, the piece that stood out above everything else was the Vivienne Westwood necklace draped beautifully around her neck. The piece was a true sign of appreciation for a good piece. From the necklace to the torn-up Levi’s, it was clear that this was someone who was a vintage fashion veteran. Her name was Sophie Constantine, she was a fashion business major who was gracing the streets of the city on this day with the goal to find a great jacket, the kind that already has wrinkles that show the love of the previous owner.

At 19 years old, Constantine has always loved a good thrift find, but most recently learned the environmental impacts one of her favorite hobbies has on the planet. “I never really thought about it like that before, but now that I know what I do about the industry, I do not think I would ever choose shopping at big-name stores that contribute to the disgraceful practices that exist

within fast fashion.” Sophie went into detail about her understanding of the privilege she had growing up, never needing to thrift for necessity, but knowing now that she can shop vintage without taking away from the people who do not have the option to buy new. “Stores like goodwill are obviously going to be more affordable than boutique vintage shops which is why I try to stick with those because I do not want to take away the more affordable options of thrift stock. That would only cause people to rely on the fast-fashion businesses that have no ethics with their production, therefore allowing for prices to be so low.” Constantine wants to start a business one day with sustainability at the top of the list of priorities. She spends her days looking for inspiration that sparks her creativity and keeps that with her in all the things she does. She walked

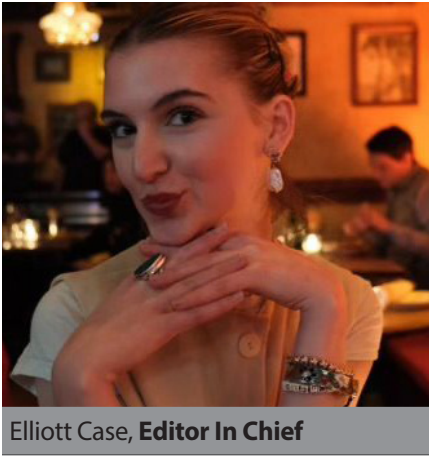
away and the sun glimmered on the necklace that started it all. The vintage Westwood piece, the torn-up Levi’s, and a purpose to take every step possible into reversing the damage of climate change.

The influence of vintage expands to the power of speech by celebrities. Specifically, stars such as Sarah Jessica Parker, have made it a point to express the love they have for a good vintage shop. Parker noted in a piece from Insider that she had to thrift in her early career out of necessity. Parker has made an appearance at stores all over the city, including Hamlet’s Vintage, a staple of the East Village since 2007. Drew Barrymore wore a dress on the red carpet in 2010 that was twenty-five dollars that she proudly got second hand. At the time, that was a bold move for a Nylon Magazine event, but now the love of the old is praised because of the knowledge we have of the environmental impact. The influence of celebrities can backfire when they are pulled in to represent brands that are at the front of contributing to the problem, but luckily it is becoming more common to call them out so the influence stops there. By celebrities taking it into their own hands to make it known that they shop used, vintage, old tattered clothing, it makes it more attractive for people to want to give it a try. Any small step is a step in the direction of sustainability.

Looking ahead at the future of the generation’s role in reversing the detrimental damage done by the industry of fast fashion, the overall consensus was that of hope and optimism. It is clear that the goals will be accomplished because the determination of today’s youth expands past a point of care, it is at the point where the change needs to happen so that in 10 years, we can still have a place to call home. The time for claims that go by with no action is over, if the steps aren’t taken now, it will be too late.

Generation Z has sent a clear message that they will not give up, and in doing so, why not dress up a little, shopping in the name of global change is how Vintage will continue to influence the world and produce positive change. ■ April 22, 2022

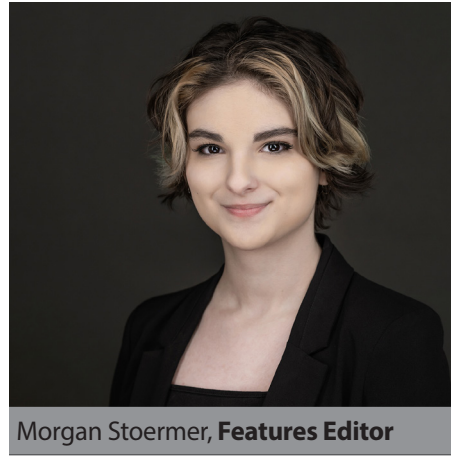
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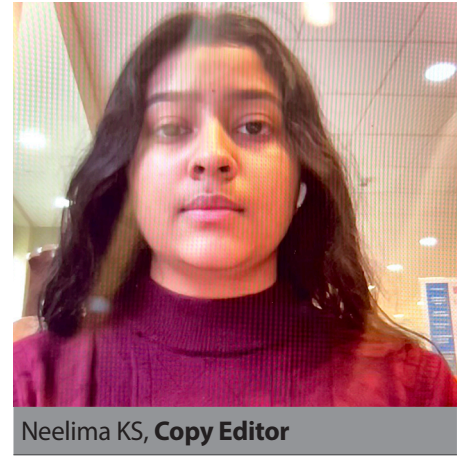
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