



Genscript, a Leading Biotech Company
P.3



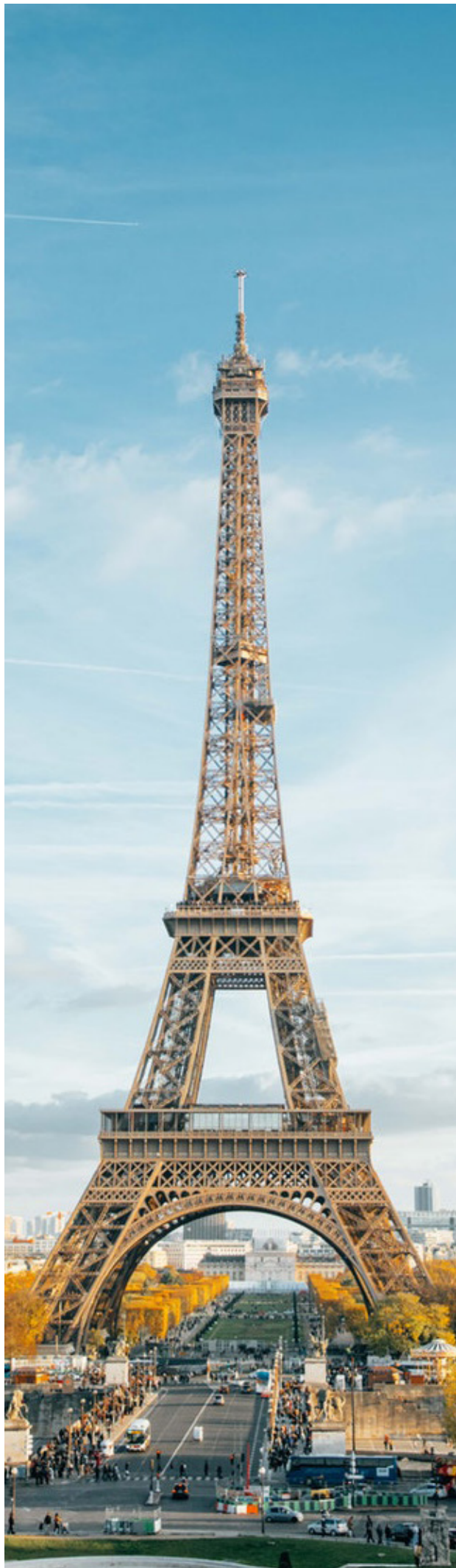
Holocaust, a Day to Remember
P.4



A Hostel is the Answer
P.7



Pynk Le'Monade in the House
P.8



Eyeful From The Eiffel Tower: The French Yellow Vest Protests

Protests against tax policies continue.

By William Morton

Since November of 2018, the French scene is abundant with color, but for the wrong reasons. The yellow vests or “gilets jaunes” movement of the people of France is in regards to increased costs of living to those who are of low economic status and have taken the brunt of the effects. Those that have participated in the weekly protest every Saturday for nearly four months have claimed that it is because of a disproportionate burden of the tax reforms voted by the French Parliament. The yellow vest as the choice of clothing for the movement is a mystery, though it has been assumed by reporters and media outlets that it is because French motorists from rural areas put them on in protest of their long commutes further frustrated by the increased on gas. That type of jacket has become a means of unification for its simple design and for conveying a distress signal for the people of France. Other countries and regions have copied adorning the yellow jacket as an outlet to protest such as England, Australia, and Latvia.

The yellow vest movement was emphasized in November of 2018, in rural areas where the financial burden of increasing diesel taxes hit especially hard. That anger spread to urban areas and the French government was forced to take notice of the protests. Reports of smashed traffic cameras, cars getting torched and pedestrians getting assaulted were seen but generally, protesters acted with peace. The rhetoric of French President Emmanuel Macron hasn't brought favor to France's economically struggling citizens. The protesters' articulation of how they feel is shown through their ongoing aggression in pursuit of recognition. They claim that other economic sections of the country don't want to empathize with their desire to feel represented. The disproportion of economic distribution brought frustration to the members of the yellow vest movement who thought they were underrepresented and, as a result, they were forced to loot and destroy in protest. That was a strategy to vent their annoyance.

On January 14, 2019, Macron wrote an open letter in response to the protests, which was published by French media outlets. In it, he sought to connect with protesters but he didn't want to get rid of his pro-business reforms. Macron also didn't say if he would continue with his economic

tax policy, which was an unpopular choice in his campaign. He considered the input of citizens in regards to taxation, citizenship, and democracy. Macron has faced criticism for being out of touch with citizens that are poor. Poverty is something that the French President doesn't know about and those that are affected by the tax increase feel like he should be more sensitive to the struggles of the economically desperate.

The news of the French yellow vest protests hasn't reached American media outlets with much frequency, so local citizens don't know about what's going on in France. Despite that, one Kingsborough staff member, Anthony Andrews, has followed the yellow vest protests. Andrews is the Director of Government and Community Relations at Kingsborough and is an adjunct professor in the Department of History, Philosophy and Political Science. He shared his perspective as to why the protests have been going on.

“It is very tempting for people to take on violence and for them to express themselves in that way, considering that these are working class people. They may have felt as if they don't have any legitimate avenues to protest, where they can actually be heard. I think a president or government is responsible to articulate their government's policies. Maybe they didn't do so in an effective way. Maybe they were not in a position to articulate the larger economic effects that these taxes would have helped from a general economic standpoint but maybe they did not know the effect that raising the taxes would have resulted in strong emotions from these people,” said Andrews.

What seems disproportionate is that people that reside in areas of rural France don't receive the same benefits as those that live in affluent neighborhoods. Economic marginalization only satisfies the chosen and infuriates the despondent. There were reports of brutal policing, though infrequent, that made protesters question if authority was on their side. Macron is trying to make the effort to connect with crowds but that is tough to do with opposition and getting scrutinized. The yellow vest protesters have Macron's attention, possibly as a result of the bright colors on them and once their desires get an accommodation, they will have procured what they sought for months to get: recognition.


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Scepter welcomes letters to the editors and opinions from the entire Kingsborough Community.



Letter From The Editor

Though Winter has arrived in Westeros it's finally left us here at Kingsborough. Spring has sprung and Kingsborough is the perfect place to be to enjoy the warm weather. I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing spring break. Though finals are looming it's important to take a step back and smell the roses once in a while. That being said, I hope everyone has an easy time with the final few weeks of the semester.



The Saving, the Spending, and the Debt

The good, the bad and the ugly.

By Emahnuyah Noel

Our campus offers a wide variety of workshops and events but one really interesting one that I think everyone should attend are the financial events! I recently went to one about loans, debt, saving and spending. Let's admit it, most of us have credit cards and don't know too much about what is fully entailed. We just know we can now buy those new pair of shoes we want. OR some of us are going to take out school loans and don't know the options available to us. Within this workshop I learned about credit cards and the difference between good and bad debt and savvy saving habits.

Good vs Bad Debt

When we hear debt we all think, "Oh no" because debt is mainly associated with crippling sadness because you owe so much money and you're broke. Debt can actually be good though, it's kind of like a sour patch, first it's sour, then it's sweet. This is because it all depends how you acquire that debt. For example, taking out a loan for school is good debt because you are investing in your future but if you take out a loan to go on a vacay in California, that is bad debt (true story). So it is important you are smart with your money.

Saving

Doesn't this word sound foreign? Is it French? NO, this is something we all, I'm sure, seldom do. Saving is important because it will finance your future, have you covered in any emergency and, overall, will allow you to feel stabilized financially because you will know you have money just in case.

Getting a savings account is probably one of the best routes to saving because it allows you to save with occasional penalties if you take out of it.

Loans

Loans can be pretty scary. Probably one of the scariest adulting words besides debt because it in fact creates debt! Loans can be good and bad. School loans are probably the one we are most familiar with because college is like our personal gold digger, they just want our money. School loans are a good kind of debt though because it is going towards your future and your big dream job where most of that money will go to paying off that debt (funny huh?). But little do we know there are many different kinds of school loans, let me educate you!

So there's three kind of loans; federal student loans, parent loans, and private loans. It can be subsidized or unsubsidized, meaning if it is subsidized you won't be responsible for any interest until after you graduate. But if it is unsubsidized that means you are responsible at that very moment. Sounds like we all want that subsidized loan. Federal loans are your basic loan, that can be done through your FAFSA application. Parent loans are when your parents pay the loan off, sounds like a better bargain than the subsidized loan! Mom and dad taking care of your responsibilities and you get to dodge adulting another day. Private loans are as scary as private schools because they have private interests and private needs, in other words, this is the loan we want to avoid. for more money saving resources visit Single Stop in E115.

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JOIN ODYSSEY

Odyssey, Kingsborough's yearbook, is looking for graphic designers and photographers. If you are a Kingsborough student and are interested in photography and/or graphic design, please talk to us in M230.



Genscript, a Leading Biotech Company

KCC Biotech Club visits a top Pharmaceutical Lab.

By Jaweria Bakar

Genscript Biotech Corporation is a biology contract research organization that provides biological research, and drug discovery services to pharmaceutical companies. It is a multinational company founded in 2002 by only three people.

The company became a billion-dollar industry in just ten years and is now the world's largest gene synthesis supplier. One might wonder the reason behind their success in such a short time. The answer to this question lies in the evolving nature of life and the emergence of new infectious diseases as well as the reemergence of old contagious blights. Because these industries use biotechnology to provide breakthrough products and technologies to combat devastating and rare diseases, it is a very lucrative field.

The Biotech Club at Kingsborough Community College is quite active in terms of educating their students about the success and opportunities they could have in the field of Biotechnology. Dr. ZMG Sarwar Jahangir, Biotech Club advisor, conducts a trip to Genscript every year. It is an international industry. However, its main production site is located in Ningjin, China. The Biotech club visited Genscript facility in Piscataway, NJ. One of the best things about this company is it welcomes fresh graduates who want to try something new other than bench work. Therefore, there is a lot of scope for self-growth and training. One of the former students and ex-president of Biotech club named Jason got a job there in 2018 at the associate level and is still there. Therefore, such trips are very fruitful in terms of career opportunities.

The Biotech Club was given a detailed

summary of the kind of work they are doing. The staff was highly educated and well trained. The overall working environment was amiable and the employees were charming. The Biotech Club saw their workplace as well as the place where workers have lunch every day. They also visited their labs and learned how DNA strands are synthesized and read in an oligo synthesizer. Oligosynthesis is the chemical synthesis of relatively short fragments of nucleic acids (DNA) with a defined chemical structure. Another interesting fact about Genscript is that they are using rabbit monoclonal antibodies along with conventional mice monoclonals. The procedure of making rabbit monoclonals is similar to the way mice monoclonals are produced. However, the rabbit's immune system can generate a more extensive range of high-affinity antibodies as compared to mice. As rabbit monoclonal immunoglobulins give a better reaction to antibodies; therefore, using these monoclonals are particularly advantageous for more accurate immunohistochemistry results. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) is a vital application of monoclonal as well as polyclonal antibodies to determine the tissue distribution of an antigen of interest in health and disease. It is mainly used for the diagnosis of different kinds of cancers. All of this information and the exposure to the working environment of the profession is helpful for anyone pursuing a career in the field of Biotechnology.

Honors Program to Succeed!

Scepter discuss the benefits of the Honors program with Aliyah Howard.

By Nathan Mosseri

Why are we here? Why do we attend Kingsborough? These questions may spawn a variety of different answers, but there is a common underlying reason we all choose to be here. While the students at Kingsborough are diverse in age and background, we all come here to become more successful people. Success, however, does not come from grades alone. Success is achieved by taking advantage of the opportunities you are provided.

In Kingsborough, we are lucky enough to have an Honors Program committed to providing us with the tools and opportunities we need to succeed. The perfect example of Kingsborough students benefiting from the Honors Program is our very own Jack Kent Cooke scholarship semifinalists Aliyah Howard, Nicholas James, Alvin Wu, and Maria Gonzalez. The Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is a highly selective scholarship for the nation's top community college students who are aiming to complete their bachelors' degree at four-year universities and colleges. Scholarship winners, deemed "Cooke Scholars," receive significant

financial assistance for books, living expenses, and most importantly tuition. Cooke Scholars receive up to \$40,000 per year to attend the college of their choice. Not only does the scholarship provide financial assistance, the lucky winners also get personal advising on what school is right for them and how to transition into said school while maximizing the student experience.

Scepter had a chance to speak with semifinalist Aliyah Howard, an honors student here at Kingsborough, about what an opportunity like this means to her.

"Just being a Jack Kent Cooke semifinalist has helped me stand out and enabled me to apply to prestigious schools," she says, "I've already gotten into Stony Brook." Howard attributes a lot of her success in becoming a semifinalist for this prestigious scholarship to her participation in the Honors Program: "For me, being an honors student, especially at Kingsborough, is an honor. It opened doors for me. Especially for the scholarship. Admissions at Jack Kent Cooke look at that and having that on my resume was a big reason I was able to apply." She said that just being an honors student isn't all that helps. "The mentorship and motivation from the Honors Program is very important, They try to help you any way possible. Advisors reviewed my essay making sure it was grammatically correct and good enough and they motivated me and encouraged me to apply."

While most students might not get the same

opportunity that Howard and the other semi-finalists have, it's important to stay motivated. Working hard and getting good grades is very important, but today, it's important to have something that makes you stand out. Howard believes that "You have to put in extra work go the extra mile. Success isn't one-two-three. It requires a lot of hard work and dedication." She says, "It is very important for people to have good grades but it's equally important to get involved in extracurricular activities and programs that make you distinguishable."

According to the director of Kingsborough's Honors Program, Dr. Homar Barcena, of around 3,000 Kingsborough students eligible for the Honors Program (3.20 or higher GPA), only about 300 actually take advantage of it. Students here are intelligent and capable of success, and many of us work hard to achieve good grades. However, as Howard said, grades are important, but today it's about participating in programs that make you stand out that can open doors for you. The Honors Program is the place to start. If you already have the grades, join and take advantage of everything it has to offer you from advisement, clubs, and events that include book clubs and guest speakers. We're all here to be successful and achieve our goals, but as Howard said, "success isn't one-two-three." Being a college student at any age is important for future success, but it's the way you take advantage of the tools your school has to offer that really makes the difference.

JOIN SCEPTER, BE PART OF OUR TEAM!

Scepter is always recruiting new team members to contribute to monthly editions of the paper. If you are a Kingsborough student and are interested in writing, photography, layout design, or copy editing, talk to us in M230. You can also email your opinion or letter to the editor to: scepter@kbcc.cuny.edu

Remembering the Holocaust

An interview with the faculty educator of the Kingsborough-Manhattan Beach Holocaust Memorial Center.

By Matt Hirsch

January 30, 1933; a date remembered in infamy. It was on that day Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and is widely recognized as the day the Holocaust began. 86 years later the effects of the attempted Genocide are still seen throughout the world. Professor Richard Tomback is the first faculty educator of the Kingsborough-Manhattan Beach Holocaust Memorial Center. His goal is to educate students about the devastation that occurred at the hands of the Nazi Party.

"As a historical event of such proportion, not only involving the Jews of Germany but eventually the Jews of all of Europe and North Africa it's important from a geographical point of view just to understand the scope of the hatred that was carried on by the Nazis as far as their military regime would take them," said Tomback.

According to the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C., about six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. That's almost 40 percent of the Jewish population in the entire world at the time, according to the same Museum. The sheer scope of the atrocities is almost unbelievable. It was as systematic and efficient as murder could get.

Tomback said, "initially the Nazis would shoot the Jews, it was death by bullets. But later on, this became a little bit too costly. In lieu of the fact that they needed all these millions of bullets for the war. So they would eventually develop a system of gassing the Jews in some of the camps, namely Auschwitz. According to the commandant whose name was Rudolf Höss, they could gas up to twenty thousand Jews a day."

It was because of this efficiency, this systematic removal of the Jewish peoples from the world, that Professor Tomback felt the need to educate others on the topic. It's not an argument of right versus wrong, it's a discussion of can versus should. At least, according to professor Tomback. To him, it's not just about becoming a more educated person, it's important that the world remembers the abject horror of the Holocaust, so that such events may never occur again.

"I don't look at it as merely academic research, I look on it as an absolute moral necessity. Since the holocaust doesn't only represent a historical event, it represents an event that never in history ever occurred," Tomback said. "Meaning that there have been many, many people in history that have been subject to murder and rape and pillage but this was a unique event in that the Nazis specified that this would be a solution. Not just a solution as the church envisioned in the middle ages to convert the Jew, or the monarchs envisioned to expel the Jew from their lands, this was going to be a final solution to the 'Jewish problem' meaning every Jew on the face of the earth would be ripe for elimination."

It's thanks to organizations like the US Memorial Holocaust Museum, and people like Dan Weiman, Ken Schoen, and Eric Greenberg that professor Tomback has materials to help people understand and learn about the Holocaust. As well as a special mention and thank you to Mrs. Evelyn Pearl, a Holocaust

survivor who also contributed to the KBCC Holocaust Study Center. Collectively they've donated thousands of books and Professor Tomback wished to extend his gratitude. The Kingsborough Holocaust Studies Center is located in the back of the second floor of the Library building in room L215 and is open every day from 9:00 to 10:10 and on Tuesday from 9:00 to 11:30 and again from 12:30 to 1:30. Professor Tomback is always there to answer the questions of curious students who wish to learn more about this historic and traumatic event.

In today's day and age with hate crimes on the rise according to the FBI, the need to understand this tragedy and the malice that drove it is at an all-time high. Hate will always exist in the world, but if every person remembers just how destructive bigotry can be, these supremacist groups will have a much harder time gaining power.

"Unfortunately the Holocaust as a defining event in history has to make not only the scholar but the sensitive person question the values and the use of what western civilization developed during the enlightenment," said Tomback. "The so-called man is the measure type of world that we wanted to exist when, in fact, what defines many events in history today is almost the same as what defined many events in history for thousands of years before. And this is most decisions are made at the end of periods of tremendous violence."

To commemorate Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Kingsborough-Manhattan Beach Holocaust Memorial Center will offer a month-long calendar of events to raise awareness about the Holocaust.

KCC REMEMBERS
KINGSBOROUGH COMMEMORATES:

Yom HaShoah



Wednesday, May 1, 2019

12:30PM - 3:00PM

**WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY -
GLOBAL FILM SCREENING**

Leon M. Goldstein Performing Arts Center (PAC)

Monday, May 13, 2019

12:40PM - 1:40PM

PERFORMANCE OF WITNESS THEATER

Leon M. Goldstein Performing Arts Center (PAC)

Friday, May 24, 2019

10:30AM

VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

Part of KCC's Museum Month!

Space is limited.

Please RSVP in Room M-230 by May 20.

This trip is made possible with the support of the KCC Foundation Holocaust Fund

QUESTIONS?

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She Dances and She Poeticizes

Kingsborough solidifies its solidarity with LGBTQ+ students following another successful Safe Zone performance.

By Shamsur Nayeem

Both Brooklynites to the core, Nia Shand and Ness White retell their experiences as a Black-American lesbian couple via the means of performance-based storytelling.

Fierce amity can best describe the March 19th Safe Zone performance staged in Kingsborough's Tapestry Room, where dozens of spectators filled an already crowded room solely to catch a glimpse of the dancer-poet duo: Nia & Ness. Nia and Ness White retell their experiences as a Black-American lesbian couple via the means of performance-based storytelling, employing elements of dance and poetry, respectfully.

Undeniably, the combination of dance and poetry used has proven to be the perfect match to capture student and instructor engagement, all of whom are firmly bonded to New York's urban setting, a city known for its diversity and championship of minority rights. However, it would be false to say all members of the Kingsborough student-body, and even our most qualified instructors for that matter, share an awareness of the challenges, gifts, and wisdom of the LGBTQ+ community has to offer.

Safe Zone was first incepted by English professor Steven Amarnick, a proud instructor of Kingsborough who has served 19 years thus far. With the assistance of fellow colleague Estelle Miller, who at the time was in charge of Kingsborough's Women's Center, wished to emulate an ally workshop she had witnessed at the New York City College of Technology. Consequently, Kingsborough's own rendition of the workshop, dubbed Safe Zone, was born. Faculty members and students alike were asked

to commit three hours of their schedule to learn how to better serve as allies for the LGBTQ+ community.

"In the beginning, we were really nervous," Professor Amarnick expressed when referring to his first ally workshop.

Despite his initial state of despondency, Professor Amarnick was shocked to see the first of his two workshops, conducted twice in that same semester, was surprisingly filled to maximum occupancy.

"Overall, I'm proud we had stuck to a three-hour block of time because it meant that anyone taking the workshop was willing to take the time in concerning themselves with LGBT issues," said Amarnick.

This spring's Safe Zone performance was a team effort, facilitated by Professors Jason VanOra, Jennifer Oliveri and Tisha Ulmer. Professor Ulmer has served as an Associate Professor of English since 2011 and facilitated Safe Zone since 2015. Professor Oliveri has served as a full-time lecturer of the English Department since 2014 and facilitated Safe Zone since 2017.

"In fact, for this particular event, Professor Oliveri really made it happen, and interacted directly with Nia and Ness," Professor VanOra commented. Professor VanOra is an Associate Professor of Psychology and has served as a facilitator of Kingsborough's LGBTQ+ Safe Zone program since Fall 2015.

"Our main purpose is to use all the tools at our disposal to better serve LGBTQ students, staff, and faculty at KCC, and to bring visibility to the gorgeous diversity within our community,"

Professor VanOra later added.

Professor VanOra had undoubtedly remained firm on this basis, as this semester's Safe Zone performance continued to bring more awareness of the issues faced by all marginalized persons. Elegantly dressed and poetically stylish, Nia & Ness executed their uniquely characteristic "blind spot" performance in Room A212, conveyed with a deeply-connecting and congenially synthesized new wave track produced by Garret Miller.

In an interview post-performance, both artists spoke candidly of the harassment they faced in regards to their identity of living day-to-day as black queer women. The duo revealed they had experienced abuse from a wide range of perpetrators, from racist confrontations carried out by white people, to homophobic hostilities from people of color.

When asked to comment in regards to the blatantly homophobic, sexist, and racially-motivated abuse directed towards them via online communication and social media, Nia maintained "We do not block the haters, but allow them to see us flourish...we are just blessed to have each other. I honestly don't know what I would do without Ness, and that's what really matters."

"We need to go beyond words if we truly want to understand the experiences of members of the LGBTQ+ community," Professor VanOra explained emphatically.

In a sharply divided America, invaluable presentations such as those produced by Nia & Ness are not only deserving of critical attention and are unfortunately in dire necessity, but a sine qua non.

**Thursday May 9th**

10:00am – 10:20am	Welcome by Christina Colon (Biological Sciences) Breakfast will be served. *Kingsborough Art Museum	S161*
10:20am – 11:20am	Speaker Luz Martin Del Campo (Anthropology) <i>Underneath the Canopy-Indigenous Women's Ecological Impact in the Rainforest</i>	S162
11:00am – 1:00pm	Wellness Pop-Up: Wellness Through Nature Hosted by the Wellness Center	U113
11:30am – 12:30pm	Film Screening & Discussion Pt. I <i>Plastic Paradise</i> Hosted by Celeste Creegan (Office of Environmental Health and Safety)	S162
12:40pm – 1:40pm	Film Screening & Discussion Pt. II <i>Plastic Paradise</i> Hosted by Jason Leggett (History, Philosophy and Political Science) and KCC Students	S162
11:30am – 4:00pm	Camp PERRT Hosted by Health, Physical Education and Recreation	Lawn in front of S Building, Library & T5
10:00am – 3:00pm	Kingsborough Art Museum Exhibit <i>Time and Tide</i> Paintings by Frank Lind	S161

Friday May 10th

9:00am – 10:00am	Film Screening <i>Plastic Paradise</i>	MAC Lighthouse
10:00am – 10:10am	Welcome by President Claudia Schrader	MAC Lighthouse
10:15am – 11:15am	Speaker Kasey Cantwell, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Expedition Coordinator <i>Deep Ocean Discoveries</i>	MAC Lighthouse
11:15am – 11:30am	Civic Engagement and Citizen Science Experience Registration	MAC Lighthouse Lobby
11:30am – 12:30pm	Speakers Merry Camhi and Christopher Durosini (New York Aquarium) <i>New York's Hidden Ecological Treasures</i>	MAC Lighthouse
11:15am – 4:30pm	Civic Engagement and Citizen Science Experience In order to fulfill ONE Civic Engagement credit, Kingsborough students can participate in a full day citizen science event. Lunch and other giveaways are included. Space is limited. Register with Student Life in C-123. Activities include: Boat Ride on the R/V CUNY 1 Botany with The New York Botanical Garden Sustainable Agriculture with KCC Urban Farm Oyster Mania with Profs. Tom Greene & China Moore (Physical Sciences) Water Quality Testing with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Seine Fishing with NYCH20 Shorebird Survey with American Littoral Society Horseshoe Crab Ecology w/Center for Environmental Research & Coastal Oceans Monitoring (CERCOM)	M239



A Hostel is the Answer to Cheap Travel!

Saving money is the clue!

By Margarita Hartoularos

We all want to travel. However, airline tickets and hotel rooms don't come cheap. Hostel International is a worldwide organization for those who want to travel with a tight budget. For an annual fee of 18 dollars you have access to temporary housing all over the world.

Usually, the location of the hostels is in the center of the city or exclusively in the tourist areas. Most of the hostels are near the main attractions of the city, with plenty of restaurants and services for the diversity of students from all around the world. For example, here in New York City, we have one of the most modern hostels in the entire organization. It is located on 891 Amsterdam Avenue, near 125th Street, in the upper west side of the City with easy access to all kinds of mass transportation. The rate per night is around \$25 and always includes a continental breakfast. You get your room keys and the hostel identification card with the breakfast passes for the duration of your stay. The rate depends on how many beds are in the room you will select. There are bedrooms with for two, six, even ten bunk beds with one bathroom in each room. Each floor has a communal bathroom and showers.

The experience of meeting other people, usually students, from other countries is extraordinary. You can make new friends in all the daily activities they have programmed. Every day there are activities free of charge around the city "to help connect with each other," as the slogan reads on the entrance area of

the hostel. At night they reserve a nearby restaurant for anybody interested in trying the variety of the exquisite cuisine of New York City at low prices. The hostel also organizes bar crawls and entrance comedy or music shows around the neighborhood. Of course, you will need to have proper age identification and your passport. Your day is always full of events and you can get a better knowledge of the city and its residents that you visit. You can even stay in and enjoy the free Wi-Fi and pool table. The other conveniences hostels offer are the cooking facilities that stay open late. You can buy groceries and cook your own meals to save some money. They provide all kind of cooking tools, but you have to wash your own dishes right after you are finished preparing your meal. It looks like a cooking show to see a few people cooking their own ethnic meals in groups of new friends. You just have to identify your bag of groceries and you can store them in one of the several refrigerators available in the kitchen and dining area.

Frequently, Hostel International provides the community with conferences or seminars in order to spread the word of their services. A few times a year they organize open houses and for only \$10 a night you can experience the city at once for a whole day. You can reserve your airline ticket with the confidence you will sleep in a safe, clean environment and save money that you can spend to see all the attractions of the city.

Will the Mets be Worth Watching?

Kingsborough students answer one of New York sports' most heated debates.

By Vincent Estrella

With spring training over, all heads are slowly beginning to turn to the diamond and away from the hardwood. As fans get their gear ready and schedules cleared, some are unaware they could be in for a curveball.

KCC students are up at bat to answer!

"Hell no. I hate the Mets. I'm a Yankee fan for life." **Luis Rivera**, 30, Health and Physical Education office

"No. Sports are stupid." **Masum Mazid**, 23, **Chemistry**

"I think they will be worth watching this year, they just changed the street name, the address name today so you know the Mets are coming with new energy, it's still spring (training)

so we'll have to see. Let's watch the first 40, 50 games." **R. Cameron**, 25, **Liberal Arts**
 "Yes. Peter Alonso, first baseman, nasty. He's a truck, he's gonna be rookie of the year. Jeff McNeil 2nd base or 3rd base. Rosario, youngin, Conforto. We got this closer, Edwin Diaz and Robbie Cano!" **Adrian Huseinovic**, 19, **Sports Management**

"Were they ever worth watching? Honestly I'm like, not really into baseball, but every time I hear about the Mets they always losing." **Dinesh Medard**, 19, **Mathematics**

The Amazins' are off to a hot start, fighting for first in one of the most competitive divisions in the MLB. Though the last few seasons were a disappointment, fans might be in for a surprise come October.





Pynk Le'Monade: Creativity, Career and Camaraderie

Four talented artist talk about their journey.

By William Morton

Sydney Bourne, Inaya Ashanti, Jackie Ibarra, and Savanna Game make up the group and after each performance, Pynk Le'Monade leaves their fans thirsty for more of their party vibes. They have collaborated with celebrities such as Sabrina Carpenter and Fifth Harmony, which though sounds grandiose, doesn't exempt them from their quirks. Jackie is afraid of heights, Sydney hasn't visited a zoo, Savanna is the only person that she knows with the surname Game, and Inaya doesn't know how to whistle or ride a bike. Appearances at events sponsored by Radio Disney and Nickelodeon has prepped Pynk Le'Monade for the spotlight, and the group looks to be a quadruple threat in the music industry. In this Q & A, Pynk Le'Monade talks about the formation of the group, their creative process and what's next for them.

Scepter: What was the inspiration for the name "Pynk Le'Monade"?

Sydney: My mom was out with her friends at a restaurant, and she was trying to come up with a name for our girl group. Then one of her friends just so happened to have ordered pink lemonade as a drink and said: "What about Pynk Le'Monade"? My mom was like "Yeah, I love it." So that's how we came up with the name.

Scepter: How do you want your music to affect people?

Inaya: I want our music to empower women. That's something that I would like, but not just only women. I just want our music to make people happy and I feel like our vibe is really great. We like to dance and we're really out there. Tons of positive vibes.

Jackie: Yeah, we really like uplifting people. It's what we do, and really, that's who we are. We're so live and I love it.

Scepter: How are your live shows different from your studio work?

Sydney: Our live shows and our studio work are actually very different vibes. Our live shows are really hype. We're dancing and connecting with our fans, our supporters, friends, and family. In the studio is where we're comfortable though. It's a lot of listening and getting into our zone. Sometimes we are hype in the studio but it's more of a focused type of hype.

Savannah: And also when we perform, we have like a track in the background with no vocals on it. So when we perform, there's more going on with the crowd and as a group too.

Scepter: So is there a high level of energy during live performances?

Jackie: Definitely, it works with crowds because if they're hype, then we're hype so then that show would go really well. It's a win-win type of situation.

Inaya: Yeah, with all those people out there that

have high energy, that's like an overall high vibe and then both us and the crowd just go and go so it's a lot of energy throughout each show.

Sydney: Pretty much everywhere that we perform, we're meeting a new group of people so when people see us perform, we're gaining more and more supporters so that's great.

Scepter: What was it like to make the choice to pursue music as a career?

Jackie: My dad is the one that really introduced me to singing. He always put Mexican music on and he would say "Come on and sing with me". I loved singing since then.

Savannah: I've been singing since I was super, super young and it's always been a passion of mine and it's what I want to do.

Inaya: Music has always been in my family. My mom is a rapper. My dad raps too. My whole family has been surrounded by music since I was younger. I always wanted to be famous since I was a kid so that's how that happened.

Sydney: I would say that I was kind of forced into it but not really. I was a dancer and I was put into another girl group before this one. I didn't really know how to sing so I was forced to learn how to sing and get better. Then eventually, I loved it and thought oh yeah this could be kind of cool.

Scepter: What are some embarrassing incidents that have happened while performing?

Inaya: I have a lot of embarrassing moments. I'm like the most awkward and embarrassing person, like really cringy. My most embarrassing moment out of all of that is my outfit ripped on stage, like a whole lot, and the whole backside was completely off so that was pretty embarrassing.

Sydney: There was a performance that I was nervous about but our manager was like "Get up there." so I did and it wasn't great. After the performance, my friends were hyping me up and I was like "Guys stop".

Jackie: For me, it was when we first started as a group and it was only three of us there but there were only two mics available, and I was like "We have to make it work". I had to go on stage, and I had to hit a high note and I couldn't so then I said into the mic, "I can't do this" but it was loud enough that people in the crowd could hear it.

Savannah: I don't have an embarrassing, embarrassing moment but sometimes I'm really performing fully out there and it can be cringy watching it back, even if I was in the moment, but yeah it could get cringy.

Scepter: What contributes to the group staying together?

Sydney: We build a sisterhood so we're more than just a singing group. We're here to make our

dream come true. It's work but we build a friendship so it's more than that so that's what motivates us to stick together because it's our dream and we want it to come true and we have a good relationship with each other.

Jackie: I think the fact that we have the same passion and we all want the same thing, which is to be famous, well known, or at least inspire people. We motivate each other.

Scepter: What's one thing Pynk Le'Monade can improve on?

Inaya: We can improve on a lot of things. We're still teens, still living and learning. Every day there is something new I learn. Every performance, every interview, every event we had. There's so much we can improve on.

Jackie: There's vocals, stage performances, and presence. Lots of stuff that we could work on but that's what learning is about though.

Scepter: What's the group's goal for this year?

Sydney: Go on tour. There's going to be a few new songs that are going to be released too. Probably within the next few months. Gain our fan base and music videos.

Inaya: 2019 is going to be our year. This is the year that we're hoping is going to really make us and we're hoping for positive things.

Scepter: What's one thing you want Pynk Le'Monade to be remembered by?

Jackie: Probably our stage performances. I want people to come to our shows and say stuff like "That was amazing. That was unforgettable. I'm always going to remember that. When they have kids they're going to say "Back then, there was this group called Pynk Le'Monade and their stage performance was great."

Sydney: I agree with that. I want people to leave our stage performances or even, one day, our concerts feeling inspired. When I saw Beyoncé, I remember how that felt. I want that type of performance that makes people feel inspired. I just want to inspire people.

Savannah: I want the group to be remembered in a positive way that can help people in their situation. That we could help and do help make their life easier.

Inaya: I also would like our music to inspire people. Nowadays a lot of older people don't like the music that this new generation is coming out with so I want our music that all different generations, even older generations can listen to. I want our music to be the type that can last for years and years and years and not get old. We come from different backgrounds so I want people to come and see what we can do. I want people that look like us to see that they can make it too.

Out of the Park Baseball 20 Review

A Stats Guy's Dream, a Newcomer's Nightmare.

By Matt Hirsch

Out of the Park Baseball 20 is easily one of the most involved, creative, and time-consuming micro-management games ever made. What it does, it does damn near flawlessly; this is a die-hard baseball fan's dream come true. For those whose year isn't defined by Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter; but Pre-Season, Regular-Season, Post-Season, and Off-Season, will find themselves consumed by OOTP 20's buffet of game modes and management options.

That being said, die-hards are just about the only type of person that will fall in love with OOTP 20. It takes a particular kind of gamer to find themselves invested in a game with no gameplay. Give Out of the Park 20 to a stat guy, and they'll go to the World Series in a season. Give it to a casual fan, and they'll find themselves fired before pre-season is over.

That's the game's biggest problem; it's not easily accessible. OOTP 20 is exceptionally complicated and involved. There are dozens upon dozens of moving parts that all have to be kept track of simultaneously. While the game can be made easier with options to let parts of the game manage themselves, doing so detracts from the experience. The tutorial section is a link to a 70-minute series of Youtube videos that explains how to navigate the maze of menus and play the game. An hour-long tutorial is exceedingly gratuitous, especially in this hard-to-stomach form.

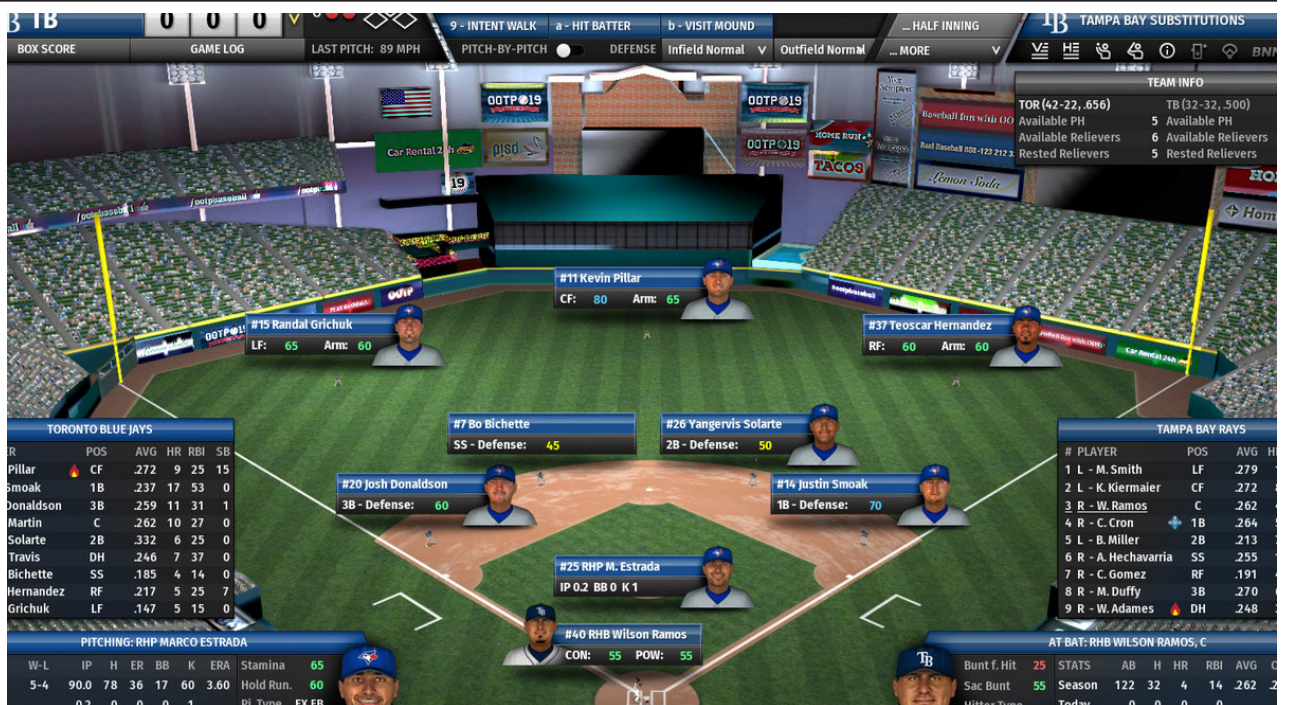
It's unfortunate that Out of the Park 20's greatest strength is also its greatest weakness. What makes it unique is the sheer broadness and depth of its "gameplay." OOTP 20 is not an example of "ocean wide, puddle deep." It might as well be on the job training for managing a baseball team. The game has live updates to make sure every statistic is as accurate as possible. You make decisions that affect every facet of the team from trade deals to the starting line-up. It's expansive but seriously intimidating. You can and will spend hours going through every nook and cranny of the game's slew of menus to make sure your team is successful, and your boss is happy.

To the guy who needs to know every stat about every player, OOTP 20 probably sounds like the perfect way to spend all their free time. However, the casual fan who loves the "MLB The Show" series probably won't find OOTP 20 so appealing.

Though it caters to a niche audience, it cannot be understated just how impressive Out of the Park 20 is. There is no baseball management simulator this accurate and expansive. OOTP Developments did an incredible job delivering this experience. Long-time fans of the series will adore the latest entry in this long and storied franchise. You can tell how much love and thought was put into the game. Every part of the experience is customizable from UI themes to the outrageous number of game options. The ability to custom-tailor the way you play is like no other game. Any entries in the series after this one seems pointless. Out of the Park 20 is one of the most complete and polished games the micro-management/strategy genre has ever seen.

Good: A Polished and Realistic

Experience. OOTP 20 is about as close to



managing a Major League Baseball team as 99 percent of fans are ever going to get.

Bad: Intimidating and Inaccessible.

The depth of the game is also OOTP 20's greatest weakness, the tutorial videos are a chore to watch, and the nuances of the menus are hard to learn.

Final Thoughts:

There are no other games like OOTP 20. It's a game made for a particular group of people, and to those people, it is beyond perfect. To anyone else, a more traditional baseball game would probably be more fun.

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