



**A Vessel of Change at Kingsborough Community College**



**Maritime Tech Program: Making Oil and Water Mix**



**Kingsborough Declares Enough is Enough**



**Trinity Griffin: Fashionista in Training**

# New President Promises Positive Change

By *Matt Hirsch*

Kingsborough's new president speaks about her aspirations for the college.

**K**ingsborough Community College has a legacy of excellence spanning fifty-five years. With a rank in the top four community colleges in the nation, the south Brooklyn institution nurtures the minds of thousands of academics.

The beauty of Kingsborough is that it welcomes those who want to learn with open arms, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or any other status a person may hold. Unfortunately, in recent years, enrollment has been on a decline. Shrinking from sixteen thousand students to as low as eleven thousand. This drastic decrease is just one issue that Dr. Claudia V. Schrader faces since her recent appointment as President of the college. The challenge of convincing people to spend thousands of dollars a year is a daunting task. Even if it is an investment for the future.

"I've probably been here seven weeks, and I would say the most critical priority is enrollment. The college experienced a significant enrollment decline which, as you know, sometimes it can have an impact on morale, it can also have an impact on resources," said Dr. Schrader. "Because then we use those resources to provide more supports to students, for faculty to engage in research and scholarly activity and to do programming and just make Kingsborough a more vibrant academic community. So, my priority would be enrollment. That's number one."

The issue of enrollment decline is one that demands immediate action. It's the kind of problem that forces Dr. Schrader to take a step back and analyze what Kingsborough needs to change, but also think about the strengths of the college and how to emphasize them.

"In terms of how I'm going about doing that, [I'm] just thinking about what we're doing, figuring out what's needed. One of the big areas is marketing and advertising. We need to have a presence outside of Kingsborough. We do great things, but no one really knows," said Dr. Schrader. "So, a lot of my emphasis is how do we get the word out about who we are? And what are our bragging points? Our Marine Science area. We have students who believe strongly in civic engagement. We have an incredible faculty that does research that really cares for students. We have the highest retention rate and highest graduation rate in CUNY and people need to know that."

With experience in Academia dating back to 1989, Dr. Schrader spent twelve years at Medgar Evers College as Senior Vice President and Provost, as well as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Bronx Community College.

Her hands-on practice with the diverse academic community of New York, as well as holding various



positions in multiple institutions have helped prepare her for the challenges she faces as President.

She said, "Everything that I've done at Medgar and BCC prepared me to be here. At Medgar, I was a junior faculty member, so I learned a lot from senior faculty members, and you know I sort of had to, as a young person you sort of have to be very firm and strong and have strong convictions. And, at BCC I got to do a lot as Senior Vice President and Provost. When you combine those things, I think people see in me somebody who is really strong and a leader, and I know a little bit about a lot of things, so that's really helpful."

It is a tumultuous time to be a college student. With diversity comes differences in opinion, religion, and political ideology. These core philosophies can create turmoil among a student body. Dr. Schrader however, believes that students and faculty can work past these divergences to strive for greatness.

"I want to improve the campus climate. There are a lot of undercurrent issues with people who have different political ideologies and religious beliefs, and while I don't expect everyone to agree with each other, I do expect respectful discourse and tolerance for the ideas of other people. I really want a climate that people who have diverse beliefs and backgrounds can really just agree to what we have in common and that's our students, and that's the most important thing," said Dr. Schrader.

One of the most important tasks that any administration faces is open lines of communication between professors,

students, and faculty. Access to information is paramount in creating an academic environment that runs smoothly.

It can be difficult to hear the questions and concerns of the whole student body, let alone an entire college. Simple issues become magnified when unnecessary. Dr. Schrader has several plans in motion to get the information she thinks is essential to the people it affects.

"I've already started open lines of communication...I promised I would start having an annual report to the campus community. And that's just a report that shares what I'm doing," shared Dr. Schrader. "I'm working on a new initiative right now where all the administrative VP's will send updates to the campus on things that I think they should know. I think that there might be a subset of the campus population that has information and somehow, it's not trickling down. I want everyone to know. So, we're starting on that."

Kingsborough seems to be in good hands with Dr. Schrader as President of the college. With multiple decades of experience and a can-do demeanor, she looks to continue KBCC's policy of striving for greatness.

"I would say that I would like my legacy to be someone who restored Kingsborough to its greatness in the eyes of other people. We already know it's great. I need other people to know that Kingsborough is great. I want to be able to restore that. I want to be able to elevate it back so everyone else can see what we already know," said Dr. Schrader. "This is exactly where I want to be. I want to be in some place vibrant and with different cultures and beliefs."



# Scepter

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## Letter From The Editor

To the student body of Kingsborough Community College,

My name is Matt Hirsch, and I'm honored to be the new Editor-In-Chief of Scepter. My goal for the newspaper is to continue our decorated history of excellent journalism. I apologize that there is only one issue released this semester, but in the spring we will resume monthly publication. I want to thank the editorial team for their hard work and for bearing with me these last few months. And thank you to Helen-Margaret Nasser for taking over as head of student publications on such short notice. That old adage that we see on every advertisement is true, Kingsborough is where dreams begin. Without Kingsborough I would have no idea what to do. We can all accomplish great things, and it all starts here.

## How is Kingsborough Helping You Accomplish Your Dreams?

By Vickie Blackman

A great way to ensure success is to anticipate challenges you might face in the future and prepare for them beforehand. No one said it would be easy- but as the saying goes, there is a silver lining behind every dark cloud. Going back to school can be a tough decision for some, but it also opens doors. As one of the mantras at Kingsborough Community College, "Dreams Become Reality," with the right drive and passion. Considering that, Scepter asked students how Kingsborough is helping them accomplish their dreams.

"I have learned new skills and techniques and my mind is now open to things that I have never experienced.



Cooking is something I don't do at home and here I do it and I really enjoy doing it. Maybe I can be a chef after I gain my experience whether it is cooking or pastry making."  
*Rashema Clarke, Culinary Arts, 20.*

"For me, Kingsborough is a good starter school, it gets me on the right track and the people are more open.



I see it as being beneficial in helping me gain knowledge into whatever field that I decide to go into.

"At the moment I'm not sure but at least I would have an idea as time goes by."  
*Gabrielle Rodriguez, Liberal Arts, 21 years.*



"Well at present I am in the Nursing Program and everything seems to be going well. The faculty is awesome and I have gained a lot of knowledge about the health field. I have also developed more passion for nursing because the professor takes her time to explain.

"I was not sure about doing nursing but the hands-on experiences are really worth it."  
*Pamela Caesar, Nursing, 31.*



"Kingsborough provides the classes I need to achieve my goals and it is also close to where I live. The professors are really helpful and give me the information that I need."  
*Joseph Meneses, Computer Science, 20.*



"Here at Kingsborough there are activities and clubs such as The Student Wellness Center, Women's Club, and Career Center etc. These centers help me in my social and educational aspects of life.

"I get information about the various resources available and hands on experience which is very vital."  
*Nicole Giordano, Mental Health, 26.*

## 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.



## A Vessel of Change at KBCC

By Carolina Khanin

KBCC's Student Life Coordinator Raquel Torres sees our world as troubled in many ways. She refuses to accept living with daily encounters of racism and discrimination. She strives to make a valuable change in this way of thinking. She wants to be the change.

Among her many talents are being a leader and a poetess. She has made use of her youth to give voice, empower and serve as an advocate for minorities, such as immigrants, women, and members of the LGBTQ community. At 28 years old she has accomplished many of her goals and still endeavors to continue making her dreams come true. Such dreams aren't egocentric, but benefit anyone surrounding her.

**Scepter: Where do your parents come from?**

Raquel Torres: My mother is an immigrant from El Salvador. She migrated here when she was about 12 years old. She moved to Perth Amboy, New Jersey and that's where she met my father. My father was born in New Jersey, but his brothers and his parents came from Puerto Rico. So I am actually half Puerto Rican half Salvadorian, and I like to call myself salvadorequeña as a combination of two because it is important for me to acknowledge both identities as a whole and not one or the other. I'm both at the same time.

**Scepter: What was your major in college, and in what did you focus your education?**

Torres: Even though I was born in New Jersey I went to High School and college in Texas. I went to the University of Texas at San Antonio for my undergrad as well as my master program; for both, I've majored in English. In my master's, I focused on Latinx Literature, as well as women, gender and sexuality; diaspora in border studies and feminism.

**Scepter: Why did you choose as a research focus on diaspora studies, and please define first what diaspora is?**

Torres: Diaspora is a term used when there is a large migration of individuals. To break down the word *spora* is a seed, like when you think about a dandelion, and the wind blows, all those little seeds start migrating, and they're relocated into a different place. When we talk about diaspora, sometimes we talk about forced migration. My diaspora study focused on my Puerto Rican identity because there is a huge diaspora of Puerto Ricans who had migrated to the United States, whether voluntarily or forced because of the US government. When I say border studies, because I was in Texas a lot of my studies come from Mexican-American and Chicanos.

**Scepter: What made you move from Texas to New York?**

Torres: I currently live in hometown Perth Amboy, but I work here New York. I've decided to come here because New York has such a large and diverse History within the Latino Community. Being from Texas, I learned a lot from the Chicano movement, Mexican-American Studies. When you come more to the East Coast you learn about the Caribbean Studies like Puerto Rican, Dominican History as well, so to diversify my research. I am really young. I don't have a family, I don't have children. It's just me and me and my little dog. It also gives me the opportunity to be close to my family.

**Scepter: What is your occupation, and what does it entail?**

Torres: I am the Student Life Coordinator at Kingsborough Community College. I am the person students come to talk about student leadership opportunities, to get involved whether in student organizations, student government, student ambassadors. Our department holds multiple diverse programming for students. I work closely with my colleague, Lauren Ferguson, who is the Diversity Inclusion Events Coordinator. I've gotten to do Dinner and Dialogue events where Lauren

and I've been speakers talking about different issues within race, sexuality, immigration status and just diversity in general. We have also done events for the Latino Heritage month and the LGBTQ History month as well; because I have multiple identities, so I do identify as a queer, salvadorequeña or Latina.

**Scepter: What is the YWCA, and what role did you play at this institution based in Texas?**

Torres: YWCA is the Young Women Christian Academy. It was meant for the empowerment of young women. I was one of the board members YMCA in San Antonio. That was on the West side of San Antonio, so it serves more Mexican-American, Chicano youth. We hold our fundraising events for programming that were for children who needed after-school care, after-school programming and the school couldn't provide it; or any type of educational program for single mothers or elderly caretakers like grandparents that usually take care of the grandchildren when their children are working. We hosted VITA workshops which are Voluntary Income Tax Assistance. We also did vaccinations, and workshops on how to eat healthier.

**Scepter: What is Mujeres Marcharán/ Women Will March?**

Torres: I was one of the main community organizers for that organization. This is an organization by volunteers. Every year we held a march and a rally on the international women day (March 8th). We talked about more than women issues, because women issues can affect immigration, LGBTQ, feminism. This organization advocated for multiple rights like when it came to Dakota pipeline with water is life, we made sure we had a demonstration for that, as well as for the Black Lives Matter movement, DACA, or ICE having raids.

**Scepter: What is Puro Slam, and what did you accomplish in it?**

Torres: Puro Slam is one of the nation's spoken word slam venues. It is San Antonio's version of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe or the Bowery Poetry Club. It has the reputation of being one of the rowdiest slam venues. I started doing poetry and competing in 2016, and that was the year I was able to compete for Puro Slam and represent San Antonio in Colorado and also North Carolina. In Colorado, our team came in third place for that year. In the poetry community there were not many latinas who would slam poetry, so to talk about my latina issues was a huge accomplishment.

**Scepter: How do you plan to use your experience and enterprise to promote events on campus that promote the values that you highly regard?**

Torres: I am part of so many communities. I have so many different identities, I am very lucky that I try to use all of these experiences and identities to locate and help students who might fall into one if my communities or one of my identities and really advocate for that. And to be open. It is necessary because I have so many students that maybe are questioning or identified as queer. When you see a faculty or staff that looks like you or might have the same identity as you, it is so important. Just representation is so important.

## 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](mailto:scepter@kbcc.cuny.edu)



## Janine Graziano: Kingsborough's 'Zen-Master'

By Steve Jean-Charles

Scepter speaks with Kingsborough's resident 'Zen-Master'!

Long before she was a professor, Janine Graziano spent time working at various eateries from Bay Ridge to Wall Street waitressing, and in that time learned a lot about herself. Working in the customer service/food industry, she developed a strong work ethic, found that she enjoyed helping others, and even managed to enjoy herself.

"It was fun, but hard work," Graziano said. "A lot of stress and multitasking. I learned how to keep smiling under stress and how to deal with difficult people. Lots of life lessons."

While waitressing, Graziano would always find herself helping her colleagues with their homework.

"It was funny," said Graziano. "When I was a waitress, a lot of my colleagues would be going to school, and I was always helping everybody with their homework and it was just a natural thing for me to be a teacher."

Graziano prides herself on mentoring young minds, and even keeping in touch with students long after they've graduated or are no longer her students. It's not uncommon for Graziano to devote some of her personal time to catch up with a former student or mentee. At times she has a parent-like level of satisfaction when it comes to hearing about how her former students are doing, and she isn't shy about mentioning how proud it makes her feel.

Patient, kind, understanding, and helpful. These are a few words that can be used to describe one of Kingsborough Community College's most universally loved professors. The Brooklyn-born professor and mentor has taught at KBCC for 14 years, and in that time has forged many close-knit relationships with her students. Throughout her tenure at KBCC, Graziano has always welcomed students into her office to talk about and help with academic and personal matters alike and to her, that is one of the biggest and most rewarding parts of her job.

"It's [about] the relationships you develop," said Graziano. "It's not just about feeling like you might have influenced somebody or maybe not even influenced, but [that you] gave someone a space to talk when maybe they didn't have that to watch another person grow is incredibly rewarding."

Graziano has played an integral part in KBCC's New Start program, which is essentially a way into Kingsborough for transfer students that struggled at their previous colleges. She had this idea that she could help combine the Learning Community program that extends to groups of other students and apply it to transfer students from four-year schools.

The Learning Community is a program that offers "linked" courses that have a common theme shared between them to groups of students as either incoming freshmen, culinary students, transfer students, and more. Janine helped head and put into motion what is now called The New Start Learning Community (linked English and Philosophy courses for transfer students from four-year colleges).

"I thought, maybe it's possible to work with students to figure out what got in your way, and how can you get it out of your way?" said Graziano. Several students have benefitted from the New Start Learning Community. It provides a seamless transition into Kingsborough for transfer students from four-year colleges and offers a comfortable environment of familiar faces, and graspable course-work that the professors involved have set a common theme around.

Before she ever knew that she wanted to be a professor or a mentor, as a young child Graziano actually enjoyed "playing school" and always liked going to school. As a teenager, she thought that there was a possibility that she would end up being an Art History professor. Graziano ended up finding her way to becoming an English professor with a Ph.D. in Linguistics and it's almost as if her life just naturally

flowed in this direction.

Located in the Marine and Academic Center section of Kingsborough in room M391, Graziano's office has served as a safe-haven for her students to talk about whatever is on their mind, discuss their grades, or just pop in and say hello. Her office has a door that leads out onto a beautiful patio of sorts, with a unique and alluring view; this, along with her cozy blue couch provides a comfortable and inviting setting for anyone visiting her office.

Graziano has one of the more down to earth and nurturing personalities that one can find on campus.

"I think she's a great teacher, a great professor, she's easy to work with, she makes her class interesting, and she's engaging. So overall, I think she's a great professor and I highly recommend her," said Matt Hirsch, current Editor-in-Chief of Scepter.

Her current and former students alike know Graziano for her easy going and Zen attitude, which isn't a surprise because off-campus and outside of work, meditation is one of Graziano's biggest interests. Students, colleagues, and underlings alike have an overwhelming amount of positive praise for professor Graziano.

"Hands down, she's been the absolute best person I've ever worked with," said Jocelyn Figueroa, Janine's assistant in room M391.

She began her meditation practices earlier than most, but it's still managed to stay with her as a consistent practice throughout her life. For a lot of people, meditation is a common practice for those that want to find an outlet to relieve stress, but Graziano has a different reason for her meditation practices.

"I started meditating when I was about 16 [and] it really wasn't about stress at that time for me," Graziano said. It was about spirituality. I started moving away from Catholicism, but I always had that need for something spiritual."

These days, Graziano spends a lot of her free time outside of work delving into her spiritual side. Reading about spirituality, meditating, and doing yoga. Music is another big interest of hers; she has played the guitar for several years, has taught herself to play the Ukulele, and also likes to sing, though she doesn't sing as much as she used to. Traveling has become one of Graziano's favorite things to do. She says that it is something that she enjoys doing alone, and not necessarily as a vacation, but instead to soak in the feeling of being in a completely new and different place.

"In January, I went to Japan and Thailand by myself and I just got back in June from Senegal, which blew me out of the water," said Graziano. "So I've really, really gotten into travel."

Also, traveling ties into her spiritual side, and when she was in Japan she spent the night in a Buddhist temple and had a session with a monk while she was there as well. In Bangkok, she had an all-day session with a Buddhist nun in vipassana yoga. Graziano describes traveling as a spiritual experience and the reason she says this is because spirituality has a lot to do with being in the "here and now" and soaking up the present moment as much as possible. In her view, this gives way to the idea that traveling (and thus being in the here and now) would allow for one's spiritual side to flourish.

Graziano is a professor with a down-to-earth attitude that loves to see her students succeed, and likes the idea of students taking a calmer approach to their schooling.

"I just think that students should take a breath," said Graziano. "They should meditate and take a breath because there's a lot to think about and you've got time. It all doesn't have to happen in a second."

# How to Get the Most Out of Traveling as a College Student

By Allan Santana

Traveling the world with friends and experiencing new places is everyone's dream, especially for a young college student. Everyone wants to say that they have traveled the world but the question that everyone asks is "how can one afford to travel wherever you want more often?" What many do not realize is that while traveling is expensive, there are deals all over the internet waiting for you. Here is how a young college kid can take their dream trip on a budget with the help of these insider tips on the best way to travel cheaply.



## **Flights...why are they so expensive!?**

The reality is that flights become expensive as they become more convenient. When you purchase flights last minute and take flights out of nicer airports and terminals, prices can double and triple easily. Here's how saving money can be an option on that round-trip ticket to your dream destination can be an option: use a website called Secret Flying and buy tickets to countries such as Paris, Melbourne, and Bali for as low as \$294, roundtrip!

## **When is the best time to travel?**

The best time to travel is in the low season, winter. Most people want to see the world in the summertime but sadly, the summertime is when all prices are inflated. On the other hand, who wants to save money and travel somewhere in the winter and freeze when they could freeze in Brooklyn? Settle in the middle and go in the Spring (where it's still a bit hot) and a whole lot cheaper!

## **Bring a friend.**

By bringing a friend, splitting the cost of everything will become an important trick. The

options are endless! It cuts the cost of the trip in half and the traveler will get more for their money.

## **Where will I stay?**

Airbnb is so useful in many countries and truth is, it is not as scary as it seems. Airbnb allows their customers to stay in the nicest places with the comfort of having a home or an apartment alone for prices that can be as low as \$50 per night! The ability to meet a lot of great people through Airbnb is another plus alongside saving tons of money.

## **Eat in...more.**

Food is arguably where the heart of the cities lie, but try and skip eating out and saving will be easier. Here is how to do it! Stock up on groceries the first day there, opt for breakfast in, and pack a lunch to go as you venture through city streets. This leaves the saved up cash for indulgences and memorable late nights out.

## **Use free tours...or better yet: Get Lost!**

Seriously though, a single tour of Paris during the day could cost you \$70 and up. Here's the real way to explore a new place...get lost! Meet new

people and try new things. Just try and live like a native would and you'll experience the true beauties and hidden gems of wherever you are.

## **Learn the metro system.**

Yes! This one is important, in any major city, the cost of Ubers alone could be above \$75 daily! The metro system is almost always around but most people are too lazy and just want to see everything quickly. Learning the metro system will save you a ton of money and is worth it in the end.

## **Arrange cabs beforehand.**

Sometimes, opting for the train or the bus is not the smartest or the safest, such as after a long night out or the morning of a 4 am flight back home while it's pitch black dark. In these cases, opt for an arranged cab with your hotel or if you are at an Airbnb, call an Uber or Lyft. This is especially important in a country where you do not speak the language. It would be a shame to an end an unforgettable trip by getting overcharged because of a lack of preparation.

There you have it...go out and have the most unforgettable trip ever.

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Carolina Khanin.



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Carolina Khanin.

## Maritime Tech Program: Making Oil and Water Mix

By Carolina Khanin

The Maritime Tech Program gives 'French Fry' a whole new meaning.

If you smell French Fries off the coast of Kingsborough Community College, it's not from the school's cafeteria; it's from the maritime technology department.

Equipped with cooking oil from the school's culinary department, the ship, dubbed, "French Fry," starts up in regular Diesel fuel and then switches to cooking oil. With the salty smell coming from the engine and emanating throughout the air during its sails, the name of the vessel is an appropriate one.

Maritime Faculty at KBCC came up with the idea of a green boat fueled by oil. This boat was donated to the college about five years ago, and have been used ever since by the students of Maritime Technology. Especially the ones that aspire to obtain Coast Guard License Captain, because they need 360 sea days from which this program provides them with 225. They use the boat to practice navigation.

Moreover, the students get to remodel vessels like French Fry. It gives them the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary in real life situations. This ship is unique in many ways.

"I think is a great opportunity to work on a boat that is environmentally-friendly and that does not use fossil fuels," Jameal Defreitas, a Maritime technology student said. "It is a privilege to be in a school that provides such an opportunity for students, especially people with no opportunity to get some experience, actually to be in the water on a green boat."

Another vital member of this department is

Captain John Nappo, who is the Director of Maritime Technology. Since he was five-years-old, the seasoned sailor was capable of running a small boat owned by his family all over the Brooklyn Bay.

"The Maritime Technology Department at KBCC is a two-year Associates Degree program where we train people to get jobs or to transfer into four year Marine Academies," Captain Nappo said. "Most of the students that graduate here will either work on the ferries in New York Harbor, dinner boats, or they work for the fire and police department. We have quite a few individuals who are deckhands and mates in the Staten Island Ferry. In addition, we send five to 10 students a year to SUNY Maritime, a college in the Bronx and the KBCC students are so well-trained and actually do very well when they are transferred there."

One of the reasons why KBCC students are successful in this lucrative field is for the hands-on work. This is accomplished by means like French Fry, which is useful in more than one way. For example, French Fry is capable of saving the college roughly 1,000 dollars per year replacing fossil fuel with kitchen oil; otherwise, it will be 2,000 dollars.

"The engine, the propulsion unit that makes the boat go, can use any number of different fuels," said Professor of Marine Engineering Conrad Kreuter. "The boat originally was made to run on diesel oil which is a standard oil we use in the marine industry for big engines, and this engine was converted to run on french fry oil coming from the cafeteria, which is an

unusual fuel because you will not think that you can run a boat on kitchen oil."

The eco-friendly vessel also does not emit gasses like CO or NOX into the air contributing to a healthier environment. "The purpose of the French fry boat was to take the students out and go around Jamaica Bay and clean it up," Gerald Kenna who is the College Lab Technician in the Maritime Department said. "So we are using an environmentally-friendly boat to do an environmentally friendly project."

The boat is used to collect trash from the shore and what is collected is then recycled or disposed of. The department isn't satisfied with all these efforts though. They keep innovating, building more low-maintenance and low-cost vessels, with the ultimate intention of extending the dollar and be less harmful to our decadent planet.

"We are going to secure funding to create biodiesel which is a derivative of cooking oil and can be mixed with diesel fuel, so it is absolutely more efficient from a combustion standpoint than vegetable oil is," Nappo said. "That is one thing we are working towards in the future."

"The other thing is that the college has now the hybrid power vessel that uses battery power and diesel generators to charge the batteries up, and we have that technology on campus now. We are trying to secure the fundings for a student project where we are going to convert one of our old training vessels in an electric powered boat that will run off batteries and solar power."

# Kingsborough Declares Enough is Enough

By William Morton

Scepter covers Kingsborough's Enough is Enough campaign against sexual violence.

The room was silent, not only from lack of noise but from years of oppressed voices. On October 9th, 2018, Kingsborough hosted its "Enough is Enough" event adjacent to the school cafeteria, a campaign against sexual violence. There was participation from students as seen by the handwritten notes that explained once suppressed stories of sexual harassment.

Damali Dublin, coordinator of the event and Director of Community Standards and Student Engagement, hopes to inform students of the ramifications of unwanted sexual harassment. Situations could at first seem trivial can lead to more extreme cases such as violence.

"What we've been trying to do is make sure that we educate our students to what exactly is considered sexual harassment, especially in the time of #MeToo, so we make sure they understand consent, how certain things that may have been acceptable in a different period isn't anymore. What we did for 'Enough is Enough' this year was a great presentation by Project ACE, who are Kingsborough students, in which they played out scenarios and gave the crowd the opportunity to participate and gave really great examples of what it means to be sexually harassed or assaulted. Something as simple as a catcall but over and over again, even though you said you're uncomfortable with it but someone continues to do it is considered harassment," said Dublin.

The desire to have support and companionship is a common thing in relationships, but that doesn't mean it's a healthy one. One out of five college relationships experiences abusive behavior according to the campaign's flyer.

There are warning signs, or "red flags" couples experience that could let someone know their partner may be abusive. For example, if someone gets angry when their loved one spends time with others. Coercion is another flag as the individual ignores the wishes or needs of their partner. Stalking is a concerning matter as an individual that repeatedly follows their partner or sends inflammatory messages to them is likely to have violent behavior.

Kingsborough student Kiara Saunders loves voicing her opinion to matters that are relevant to her. Though she is a student, she feels that her outlook on society can benefit others. She has advice on how couples should interact with each other in hopes of trying to bring attention to an issue that needs it.

"In my opinion, the most difficult part has to be trust. In a lot of relationships, partners have trust issues. Having trust issues within your relationship causes problems because it tends to keep you from opening up. It also can cause you to accuse your partner of doing things they might not be doing. Best way to end having trust issues in your relationship is by speaking up. Tell your partner the real deal and



Ross Dewees

be honest with them. If they understand, they are going to be patient with you and your feelings," said Saunders.

CUNY's Sexual Violence Campus Climate Survey, conducted from February 21 to March 25, 2018, was sent to 115,100 students selected randomly. The internet-enabled survey was available on desktops, smartphones or tablets. The survey had some noteworthy results. The majority of sexual misconduct incidents that happened to CUNY students occurred off campus and didn't get reported.

The "Enough is Enough" law that Governor Andrew M. Cuomo ordered is a comprehensive review attempting to ensure that all higher institutions in the state of New York are protecting students from sexual assault and violence. "Enough is Enough" was signed into law in 2015 and Cuomo himself is emotionally invested in the progression of it.

"As Governor of New York, but even more so as a father, the safety of New York's students is my top priority," said Cuomo.

According to the United States Department of Education, a plethora of colleges reported over 9,200 forcible sex offenses in 2015, but in the years after, the reports declined gradually. The reasoning for the decline can vary but one issue that can appear is ethnic orientation. A victim is more likely to be put at fault if they are of darker complexion.

"What we've been also trying to speak to our students about, which is also part of the education process of it, is that they understand that we have resources on our campus and they can have conversations with us and we also speak to our students about bystander intervention. If they see something, they should definitely say something. CUNY also has a policy in place, let's say, for instance, if a student is at a party and they've all been drinking, and they've seen something, they should say it and not feel as if they would be sanctioned or penalized for it because the bigger question comes into play is sexual harassment and sexual violence. That's what we're focused on. Yes, the drinking is terrible but a crime

may have been committed, and you need to report it. So we talk to our students, and they know that it's okay to tell us but in that, they should know that they have support and resources on this campus who would walk you through it step by step and share so they can be comfortable," said Dublin.

Proper research and further review of prevention programs can bring to light the urgency of sexual violence. If stories and instances are not brought forth, progress slows down and those that are wronged do not get the vindication that they deserve. Another stigma of sexual violence is that only females are affected.

"I guess with stigmas, the thought that men can't be sexually harassed or that men can't be a victim of sexual assault, that is completely incorrect. While stats usually show men don't usually report, it is not true to say that they aren't victims too," said Dublin.

The resources that are available at Kingsborough are made to comfort students and attempt to reassure them that they are in an environment that supports their struggle. The staff that goes with the resources are professional in what they do and make sure that they do what they can to getting the vindication that they need.

"We have the Counseling Center, we have the Wellness Center, we have the Women's Center as well as the Men's Resource Center. There's a resource everywhere on this campus because if you think about it, there's faculty, staff, even your own students," said Dublin. We can provide outside resources if necessary, but you have to let us know what is going on for us to share this information with you. We have the Title IV Office for students who feel that they've been sexually assaulted, sexually harassed, a victim of sexual violence or they know of an incident, so there are definitely different places on this campus. Student Affairs, for instance, you can walk in there. Public Safety, you can walk in there, and we all have conversations with each other because our main focus is for faculty to be safe, our staff to be safe and our students to be safe."



## Biotechnology Trying to Beat Cancer

By Jaweria Bakar

Biotech Club has an Informative Evening About Cancer Therapy at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Biotechnology is very important for the world to progress. KBCC's Biotech club, which meets every Thursday from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, provides an opportunity to educate students about science and allows the members of the club to make connections and expand their network. In addition, students get an opportunity to visit the leading biotechnology industries based in New Jersey.

Students recently took one such tour of Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) in Hopewell, New Jersey under the supervision of Biotech club advisor professor Sarwar Jahangir. Monique L. Sprueill, Manager Advisory Services at the International Society for

Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE), organized the event. There they learned that BMS is a global pharmaceutical company. Their prescriptions include several areas such as; cancer, HIV/AIDS, rheumatoid arthritis, hepatitis, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases to name a few. However, their main focus these days is to treat cancer cells.

Cancer, or malignancy, is an abnormal growth of cells that divide uncontrollably and can spread throughout the body. There are hundreds of different kinds of cancers owing to the multitude of cell types. One way cancer can be treated is through monoclonal antibodies. Our system attacks foreign

particles in our body by making antibodies. An antibody is a protein that sticks to a specific protein known as an antigen. Antibodies are like an army that defends the country against invaders. They circulate throughout the body until they find and attach to the antigen and engages the other parts of the immune system to destroy it. Researchers use this scheme to design antibodies that target specific antigen found on cancer cells. They make many copies of that antibody in the lab known as monoclonal antibodies.

Students of the Biotech Club at KBCC ventured through the 433-acre campus on October 18th and learned how BMS, produces antibodies for cancer therapy. Their team of scientists research, test, and manufacture cancer antibodies. They have distribution facilities in almost every country in the world. They acquired the Hopewell, New Jersey site in 1997 to use as a research facility. They emphasized the process of design, testing, and development through scaling throughout the tour, as well as explaining various equipment and their uses.

They gave a detailed talk on the design and development of the facility and discussed the procurement of equipment and efficient laboratory layout practices. KBCC students asked questions throughout the tour as they transitioned from one phase of the facility to another. At the moment, BMS is focusing on the development of antigens for cancer treatments by using Chinese hamster ovarian cells to produce antibodies to fight cancer using biotechnology. "I really liked the experience as I was able to see myself working as a biotechnologist in the future," said Jaweria Bakar, KBCC Biology major and Biotech Club Treasurer.

Unfortunately, Bristol Myers Squibb plans to close their site in Hopewell, NJ due to the construction of a new facility. The new place will co-locate lab-based discovery and Translational Medicine Activities. Additional attendees were students from Rutgers, Stevens, NJIT, and Rowan University.



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# Using Language Skillfully

By Pantea Jahangiri

How words can build or break relationships.

I was working at a clothing store in Maryland. It was hot—it was Summer 2013—humid and busy as usual; people were shopping and messing around. My position on that day was in the dressing room, moving racks full of clothes from one side to the other, standing on my feet for hours, hanging out all the clothes, putting sizes on the hangers; it was so frustrating.

But I was good at talking to people, giving them compliments, telling them that they looked so lovely in their clothes. I wanted to say, “That is one tacky dress!” or “Don’t you wanna ruin your best friend’s wedding by wearing that white dress?” Of course, I had never told them those things; it was all in my head. It was around 12:30 that the couple came to the fitting room. They were around fifty or sixty years old, and they were both skinny. The woman went to the fitting

room, and the guy came to me, laying his elbow on the table, staring into my eyes, “Where are you from?” he said. “Why?” I said. “Your accent is telling me that you’re from another country.” I smiled. “I’m from Iran,” “Oh! I-ran.” “It’s Iran,” I said. “We want war with Iran; we want war with your country,” he said.

I could have given that man a lesson that he would never forget for sure; I could have called my manager to come and throw him out, but that wasn’t my goal, so I waited until he finished talking. I started patiently explaining to him about the deep culture of Iran and how many Iranian people are fighting with the current regime because they disagree entirely with everything it stands for. I was trying to convince that dumbbo that war is just as stupid as him.

The words were pouring into my head at that moment. I could have said a lot. We both were arguing, and once in a while, his wife took her head out of the dressing room like a cuckoo bird and kept telling me, “Don’t listen to him. Hush, Paul!”

At the end of our conversation, I said “Well, I don’t want a war anywhere in this world, not in Iran, not in America,” because the goal of using language skillfully is to bring peace between people, and in this case peace between us. I could have stood up for myself, acted, behaved, talked and used poor language like him to stand up against somebody using words without thinking, but I was

smarter than him. Plus, I was younger, and I had chosen peace. His overconfident face melted after I said that; he shut down like a television unplugged from the wall. More importantly, my purpose was to use language respectfully and properly to find a compromise between two people. My job at that moment was to bring good vibes between us instead of shouting and hitting our fits on the ground like babies to prove which one of us is right.

Language is a useful tool for communication. It connects people. Language is a connection between every human being from the same or different cultures. The more language we learn, the more powerful and confident we get. It will rescue us from confusion, and clarify misunderstandings. Language is ancient; it is older than us; it was a tool that ancient humans used to communicate with one another through images, emojis, the first simple thing that you can use to speak. Language is a savior because knowing other dialects in addition to your native tongue will help you to communicate with people from different parts of the world. That helps you to understand them, who they are, where they came from, and what cultures they represent. Especially if we decided that we want to live in a different country, the first tool that we need is language. Knowing other languages shows your respect for that culture. It shows that you are not an outsider; besides, you want to be part of that culture.

# Trinity Griffin: Fashionista in Training

By William Morton

Using fashion to promote identity, reassurance, confidence and comfort.

Trinity Griffin wants to be a force of nature, someone who changes the world. Fashion can help her do it. Griffin, an alumnus of the Fashion Institute of Technology, within a few years, has procured an Associate’s Degree in Fashion Merchandising and a Bachelor’s in Advising and Marketing Communications.

For her, fashion isn’t a hobby; it’s a career. Her website, [Iamthetrinity.com](http://Iamthetrinity.com), strives to inform viewers on the racial issues beyond the stitches that she has a firm opinion about, and is connected to due to the fact that Griffin herself is a woman of color.

The competitive nature of the fashion industry makes it hard for enthusiasts to get their voice heard and if they do, their words tread on thin ice. Griffin noticed this problem and created a platform via her website to act as a vessel for the voiceless. The goal of [Iamthetrinity.com](http://Iamthetrinity.com) is to serve as inspiration while at the same time try to view things in a similar multifaceted view as its founder.

Griffin personally felt that compartmentalizing her blog to one particular category was unnecessary. Since her perspective is diverse, her blog has the allure of being accessible to whoever wants to follow her journey.

“I draw my fashion inspiration from multiple places; one of them being the street style I see daily. I often admire other people’s outfits that I like which can give me ideas to recreate them into my own,” said Griffin, “Another place I draw my inspiration from is social media. It keeps my outfit ideas fresh and innovative.”

Griffin also has a laissez-faire view of fashion. She has a neutral position to the attempt to dress to impress but does support the need for a certain level of comfort. Griffin’s philosophy caters to those who have insecurity about how they look and that acts as reassurance, which conveys that fashion is what is bought, but style is what is utilized with it. Her intention within the field of fashion is to evoke thought and provide insight.

Though she has confidence in her knowledge of apparel, she wants to reinforce the idea of individuality that she carries with her.

“I believe people should wear whatever they feel comfortable with and many people find the most comfort in dressing to impress, while others are as cozy as possible. Whatever type of clothing gives you the most confidence is what you should wear. People’s outfits speak for them before they can speak for themselves, therefore, I believe it’s extremely important to have the utmost confidence in anything you wear,” said Griffin.

One aspect of fashion that provoked controversy is the seldom presence of African-American designers that are given opportunity in the fashion industry. Out of the 470 members of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, only 12 of them are African-American. In June of 2018, Issa Rae was recognized as the first black emcee to host the Council of Fashion Designers of America Awards. Other black celebrities that were in attendance in support of Issa Rae were Naomi Campbell, Ciara and Oprah Winfrey. Such racial progress in fashion is what Griffin’s website wants to promote and seeing the opportunities that are now available for women of color further serve as motivation for Griffin and others in her ethnic group.

“Ethnic fashion is very socially relevant. With the racial tension this country faces currently, I believe marginalized groups find a lot of power and refuge in being able to indulge in the fashion that is exclusive to them,” said Griffin. “People that this ethnic clothing may not particularly be made for are even adapting and trying to emulate some ethnic fashions which solidify the fact of how socially relevant they are.”

People of color have faced colorism by



fashion companies, which has hindered their self-esteem. In 2014, the website [The Fashion Spot](http://The Fashion Spot) reported that out of a collective 611 covers of 44 mainstream fashion publications, only 119 featured women of color. That same year, the magazine [Harper’s Bazaar](http://Harper's Bazaar) featured no women of color.

Griffin noticed this problem and was determined to make sure black girls had representation in regards to fashion. “I definitely embrace my skin color. I can’t remember a time when I haven’t. Then again, I feel like I may have it a bit easier being that I have medium-colored skin on the ‘black scale’ of complexions,” said Griffin. “I’m not light, but I’m also not dark, and I know people with those specific complexions may have a hard time growing up. Especially for those with darker skin. Thankfully there has been a huge ‘melanin movement’ in recent years and a lot of people with darker skin have really embraced the beauty that their complexion truly is.”

# Brian Dowd: Mind of a Coach, Heart of a Player

By Michael Hicks

From Suicide Squeezes to Sacrifice Flies, baseball is a huge mental game. At least that's how the Kingsborough Community College baseball team Head Coach Brian Dowd sees it.

This is Dowd's second full year as Wave Head Coach. He sees a brighter future than their 5-18 record last season indicates. More than a second-year coach, Dowd has put a serious amount of time in with this group. Two years prior to becoming Wave Skipper, Dowd was the teams head strength and conditioning coach. Seven years prior to that he was an assistant coach.

According to Dowd, this job was one he's known he's wanted for years.

"I've always believed I was going to make it big. There's always been that thought and it's never left," Dowd states. "Growing up playing wiffle ball, basketball, hockey, whatever – we believed on that field – that street that we were going to make it big."

Make no mistake, however, going from player to coach has been a transition.

"Being a coach has made life a little more stressful," laughed the 36-year-old. "But that's okay because stress is not always a bad thing, stress can be good too. It's given me a way to see that some of my ideas were really good and some of them really stunk. It also helps me figure things out with raising my family and children, and for future players for my team."

Positivity is the key to Dowd's approach. In fact, he even has a group text message with the team in which he sends them a ton of motivational quotes,

pictures, or videos.

"Building up confidence, giving my players positive acclimations leading into games," said Dowd, as he strokes his reddish-brown beard. "Thinking on things we do well and improve on those things, and thinking of things we don't do well and improving, but looking at it in a positive point of view and a good opportunity to improve on something."

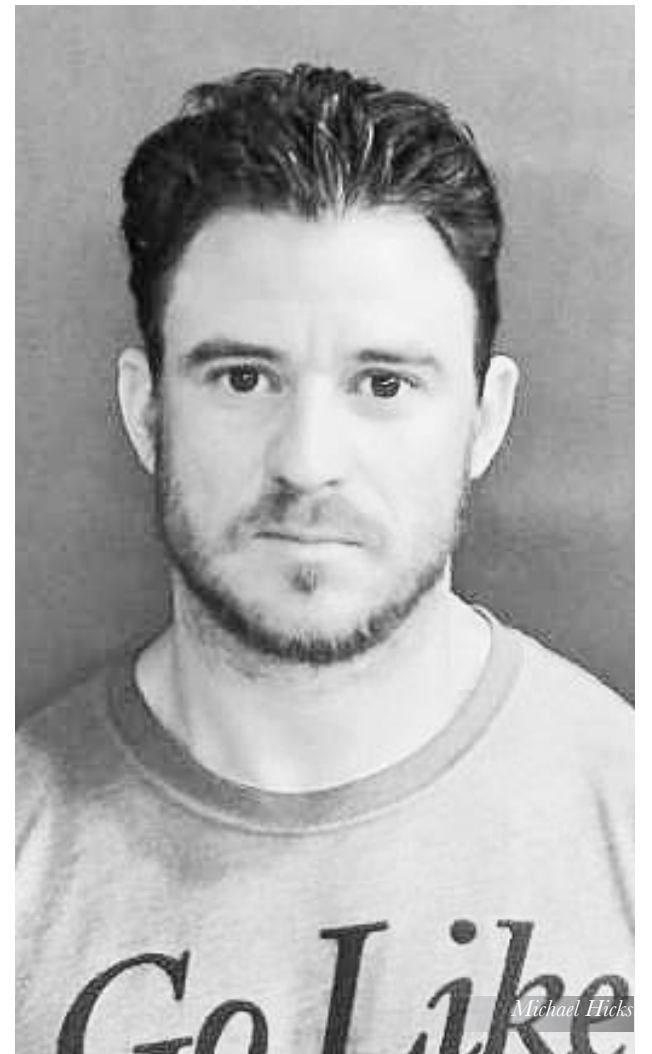
His day is not only filled with he and the team working on things. He starts his day as early as 4:30, where he makes breakfast for his family then heads to the gym to get a workout in. From there he heads to his job as an elementary school teacher in Brownsville.

He then makes his way to the Kingsborough home field, works with the team, and finally gets home to spend time with his family before repeating it the next day.

He gets enjoyment from having a positive impact on someone's life, saying, "if I couldn't coach or couldn't teach. I'd probably go crazy."

That doesn't mean he doesn't have a stern side, either. Coach Dowd sees a bit of MLB managers Joe Maddon and Buck Showalter in his approach to the game.

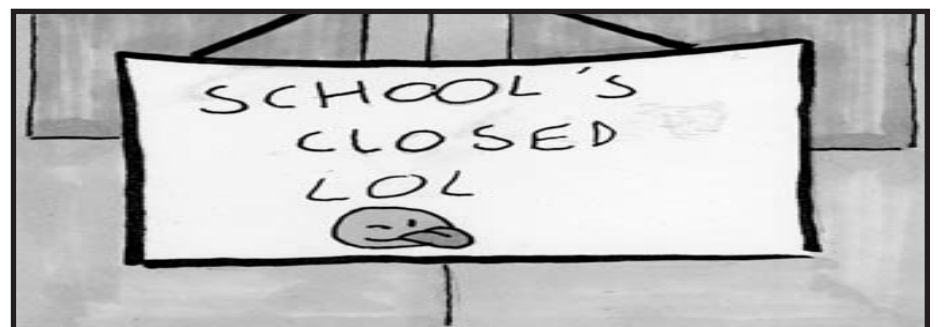
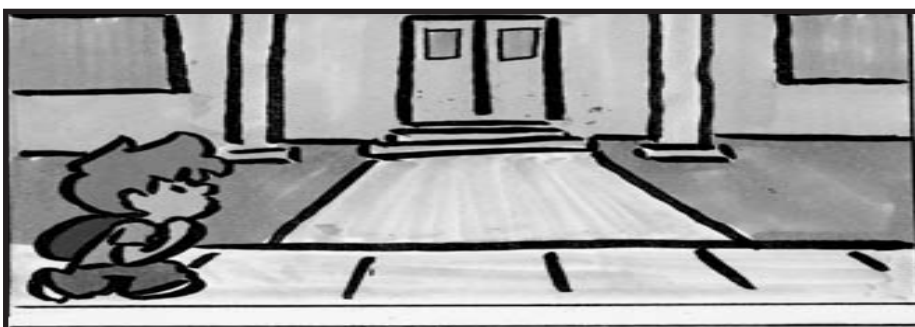
"I think I'm a pretty good combination of guys, but I wouldn't compare myself to someone individually," Dowd says. "I'm a 'no-nonsense' type of guy just like them."



Michael Hicks

The team has improved and is hoping to maintain that after coming off a tough 5-18 season last season. Dowd is confident.

"This team reminds me of the Atlanta Braves, because nobody came into this year thinking the Atlanta Braves were going to win the National League East," said Dowd. "And we're going to win the region this year."



Deion Lodge

# Call of Duty: Black Ops 4

## Multiplayer Review: Fun Again

By Matt Hirsch

Will Black Ops 4 return Call of Duty to its former status as the King of First-Person-Shooters?

For many gamers, Call of Duty holds a special place in their heart. Kids would run home after school to team up with their friends and play all night until their mothers yelled at them to go to sleep. The phrase "Rust 'one-v-one'" still piques players ears because when that gauntlet was thrown down, things were about to get serious. The series inspired friendly competition and forged friendships amongst young gamers for years. With recent iterations though, CoD's luster has dulled. An increasing number of microtransactions, less base content, and poor design choices have alienated the series' faithful fanbase. In the case of Black Ops 4, Treyarch made a slew of changes to core mechanics that are hit or miss depending on who you ask. But one thing is sure. Black Ops 4 had more day one digital PS4 sales than any other CoD since Activision partnered with Sony in 2013.

It's not all sunshine and rainbows though. Black Ops 4 is very much a mixed bag. With this year's game being the fifteenth entry in the series and the novelty of jetpacks long worn off, it was time to shake things up in a way never seen before in the franchise.

The first and most substantial change is health no longer auto-regenerating. Now you have a stim-shot bound to L1 (or L2 depending on your button configuration). This stim shot is on a cooldown and when activated will quickly bring you back to full health. The change is an interesting one, as it speeds up gameplay quite a bit. Instead of hiding for five seconds waiting for your health to regenerate, you can quickly dip behind cover, pop the heal, and get right back into the action. The issue though is in the upgraded stim

shot. Easily the most overpowered equipment in the game, the improved stim shot decreases the cooldown significantly and allows you to hip-fire while it's activating. Having a full heal on such a short cooldown becomes obnoxious when players can repeatedly undo all the damage you did almost instantly every few seconds. The stim shot ties into the other significant change to gameplay.

Treyarch also boosted the health-pool from one-hundred to one-hundred-fifty. These extra fifty hit-points are a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it allows for more competitive, mechanically skill-based gun fights akin to Halo. On the other, the increased health plus the upgraded stim-shot can be incredibly frustrating. When an enemy narrowly escapes death two or three times and then you get shot in the back, it is somewhat aggravating.

Another glaring issue with Black Ops 4 is the spawns. Often you will find yourself respawning directly into the line of fire or looking at an enemy. Spawns are a common issue in new Call of Duty games that gets fixed after a while. But this year spawn kills have been especially egregious.

Despite these issues though, man is "BIOps" 4 fun to play. While the changes might not be for everyone, it's certainly not as jarring as the advanced movement was, and breaths some new life into the series. What is most important though, is that the game feels good. Call of Duty hasn't felt so fluid and kinetic (but not overly so) since Black Ops 2 when competitive Call of Duty was in its heyday. Audio design is fantastic; the guns sound threatening and distinct. The dynamics

of each character and their abilities adds a layer of thought to team compositions. And the excitement of unwinding after a long day with CoD and a few friends is back.

There are still several kinks to work out. Certain specialists are overpowered compared to others, some perks feel useless, and most assault rifles outclass small machine guns. But game balance will get better with each patch. But the most critical factor - the gameplay feels good - is there. And that's more than you can say about some of the more recent entries in the series.

Will Black Ops 4 return Call of Duty to its former status as the king of First-Person-Shooters? Probably not. But it is undoubtedly going to hold your attention for a while. That is, provided Activision doesn't ruin it by oversaturating the game with microtransactions.

There's heart in the franchise again. And the heart is what made CoD great in the first place.

The Good: Fun and Addicting Gameplay. Call of Duty's biggest draw was always its gameplay. The fast-paced, but calculated combat drew players in for hours at a time. In recent years Call of Duty has been more annoying than fun. It's about time there was a return to form.

The Bad: Balance Issues. It's a problem when you should ignore equipment in favor of much more useful items. The goal is to make everything have strengths and weaknesses, but some things are just too strong. Fortunately, balance patches will iron this out with time.

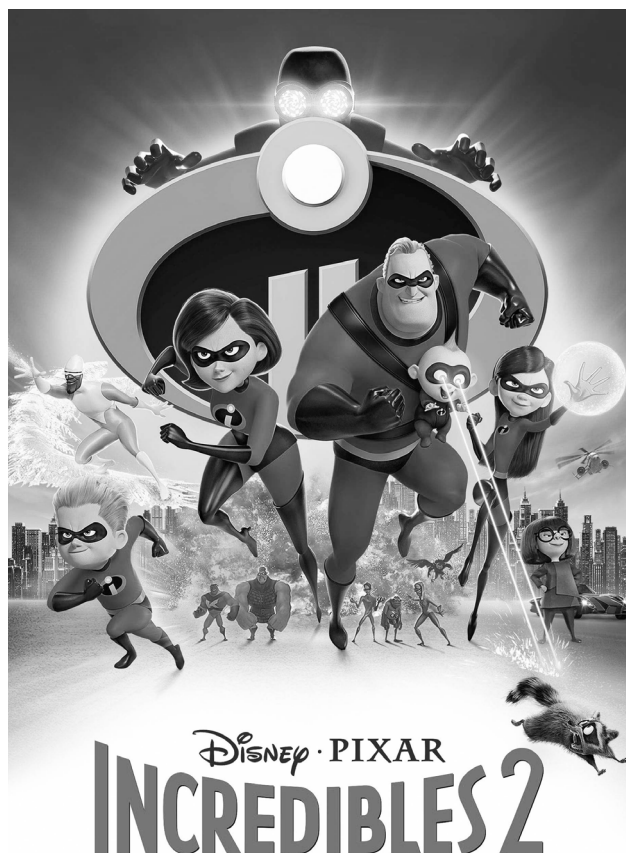
Spawns: Just like with balance issues, spawns need to be adjusted. This year though, spawn-kills are particularly egregious. Hopefully, Treyarch will fix this quickly.

Final Thoughts: It's about time Call of Duty is fun again. CoD has been rinse-and-repeat for more than a few years now. With each entry getting worse and worse, something needed to change. While Black Ops 4 might not appease everyone, it's impossible to do so. Those who have stuck with this franchise since its heyday will be pleased to hear that Call of Duty is back.

# Incredibles 2

By William Morton

The Superheroic Sequel.



Disney and Pixar's "Incredibles 2" was the much anticipated sequel to the first film from 2004, and like the other film in the franchise, was directed and written by Brad Bird. The story continues from the closing scene of the first film; the Parr family battling the Underminer. The financial burden associated with chaos from the battle results in the legislation of having superheros banned. Helen Parr tries to act as the spokesperson for superheroes while her husband Robert Parr tries to embrace being a father to his three children: Jack-Jack, Violet and Dash.

Robert Parr in the movie is clearly not prepared to be a father to his children. He has to work twice as hard to be great at math for the sake of Dash, he ruined his daughters opportunity to go on a date with the guy that she likes, and he is sloppy at babysitting Jack-Jack. The only thing that he is competent at is being a superhero.

Violet doesn't have confidence in herself so how she is a superhero is strange. She seems to

prefer love as opposed to fighting, which is a great philosophy to have but there is a difference in passivity and reserving action for a necessary instance. Violet can put a force field on others but has she put one on herself? Hopefully, in the next movie, her character can have confidence.

Dash is hyperactive and can't stay put. He isn't confrontational as he literally runs from his problems. That isn't fitting of a superhero and his character needs to brave out his troubles. If Dash tried to act like a hero, he could have an effect on his community. Another thing that he is amateurish at is math.

The voice actor of the character the Underminer, John Ratzenberger, couldn't refrain from contributing to another Pixar movie. Ratzenberger could have given the opportunity to one of the fresh faced voice actors as it wouldn't really matter. The Underminer has a brief appearance in the movie so there wasn't much at stake but the Pixar veteran had to have his time on the screen.

"Incredibles 2" director,

Brad Bird has had successful movies such as "Ratatouille" and "Tomorrowland". Disney has been known to recruit winning directors to ensure that their films are structured in a storytelling style. "Incredibles 2" is something that Bird should be proud of. It redeems him from when he directed the "Do The Bartman" music video. In the movie, he was the voice of Edna and his portrayal of her evoked laughter.

There is one particular scene in the movie, in which strobe lights shine in a fast pattern on screens featured in the film, which could result in photosensitive epilepsy. Those that suffer from migraines or autism can get jittery or visually disturbed if subjected to view that scene sans getting notified prior. Another observation was infrequent cursing in the film though it was advertised as a movie for children. The obscenities that spew out of the mouth of a select few of the characters is unnecessary. Those that suffer from anxiety that gradually have progression can relapse if they view this movie.

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