

# QUOVO VADIS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022

WEEKLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF MIDDLESEX COLLEGE

VOLUME 60 - ISSUE 13

## Perth Amboy Center Helps

### Drive Helps Restock Edison Campus Pantry

By Estejani Calderon, Managing Editor

The Perth Amboy Center is holding a Babies In Need drive from Nov. 14 to Dec. 15 to help the Edison Campus with their pantry stock.

Director of the Perth Amboy Center, Angelo Abreu, said, "I was in a meeting with the Hunger Free Campus task force. We meet regularly, so Amanda Lions, she oversees the pantry at the Edison campus, had expressed all of the things that they were experiencing this semester at the pantry."

"I asked her what is something you're really low on that we could help support," Abreu said. "She mentioned to me a population of mothers who need other essentials."

Abreu said, "The staff put the flier together. We hope in the future to go outside of just a babies in need drive. We're looking to have an extension of the drives."

Josnelly Caba, who works at the Perth Amboy Center, is a business major and mother, said, "It's very meaningful because as a parent you do struggle so it's nice knowing that the Perth Amboy center is donating to those in need, especially during the holidays."

Robert Munoz, the Perth Amboy Center Coordinator (who has two kids ages two and 11), said, "We should have one because when I had my first, I knew the fear of not having or not being able to have stuff for your baby so I can't

imagine not being able to have them at all."

"Any brand, any size (of diapers are welcomed)," Abreu said. "It's pretty much open when it comes to the diapers, formulas, and rash cream."

When asked about what she had donated before, Caba said, "Yeah, clothes to church."

Ruth Garcia, Enrollment Services Assistant, said, "Oh yes, food, blood, clothes, diapers."

Munoz said, "I have donated platelets, so what they take out for cancer patients, turkey drives at the church I go to, and clothes."

"The drop off times for the drive are Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 60 Washington Street Perth Amboy NJ, 08861," said Abreu.

Munoz said, "We plan to do it (donation drives) at least two a semester. We feel like people get numb when looking at the text message or emails. Hopefully, this is really more impactful. There is always some child that needs something."

The donation drive was initially planned to run from Nov. 14 until Dec. 20, but now it is running until Dec. 15. This is to match the end of the semester and be able to catch responses from students. So they (the people at the center) can drop off all of the items on the last day of the semester, Dec 16, said Abreu.



Enfamil formula bottles



Diaper rash ointment

Photos by Estejani Calderon

### Local Pet Shelter Gets Items For Cat And Dogs

By Estejani Calderon, Managing Editor

The Perth Amboy Center is holding a Holiday Pet Food Drive from Nov. 14 to Dec. 15 to help the Perth Amboy Animal Shelter with their animal inventory.

Director of the Perth Amboy Center Angelo Abreu said this drive originated from Jeannie Wicklund, the evening coordinator of the Perth Amboy Center. Wicklund has a good relationship with the shelter since she adopted her pet.

Abreu said, "She (Jeannie) reached out to them (the shelter) about wanting to see if there was any way to partner with them. Whether it was to take students to volunteer at the shelter."

"We decided that we would go with doing a pet food drive because they expressed a very big need for wet and dry cat and dog food,"

Abreu said.

A physical education major, Edwards Vasquez, said, "Well, I think it's really cool that, as a community, we can help children, dogs, and animals. I really love the idea."

Elizabeth Chavez, a fine arts major, said, "I think it's amazing to support the animals who really need this. Sometimes they don't have the support they need. This is also an opportunity for them (the shelter) and the Perth Amboy Center community to build a connection with their people."

Chavez said, "I am going to donate food and some toys."

Abreu said, "The drop off times for the drive are Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 60 Washington Street Perth Amboy NJ, 08861."



Some of the wet and dry foods that have already been donated for the Perth Amboy Pet



The donation box for the Babies In Need



Nicely decorated donation box for the Holiday Pet Drive



## QUO VADIS STAFF

Managing Editors: \_\_\_\_\_ Jared Almanzor, Estejani Calderon, Adonis Jones, Nathaniel Thompson  
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 Staff Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_ Estejani Calderon, Ryan Cardenas, Hina Naqvi  
 Faculty Adviser: \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Melissa Edwards

This semester Quo Vadis will release three print issues themed: Diversity, Seasonal And End of Year/Next Steps.

Visit [quovadisnewspaper.com](http://quovadisnewspaper.com) to sign up

Students interested in reading our weekly newspaper can sign up for weekly emails to receive a copy of our newspaper and other online content.

### Campus Hours:

West Hall: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
 Library: 9 a.m - 9 p.m.  
 Computer Center: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
 Testing Center: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
 Cafeteria: 9 a.m. - 9 a.m.  
 Counseling Services: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Food Pantry: <https://www.middlesexcc.edu/student-life/food-pantry/>

Emergency Phone:  
732.906.2500

Non-Emergency Phone:  
732.548.6000 x3500

School Info Line:  
732.906.2555

Police/Fire:  
911

Suicide Prevention:  
800-273-8255

Edison Campus:  
732-548-6000

New Brunswick:  
732-745-8866

Perth Amboy:  
732-906-7755

Click Map to view in web browser

### Faculty Adviser

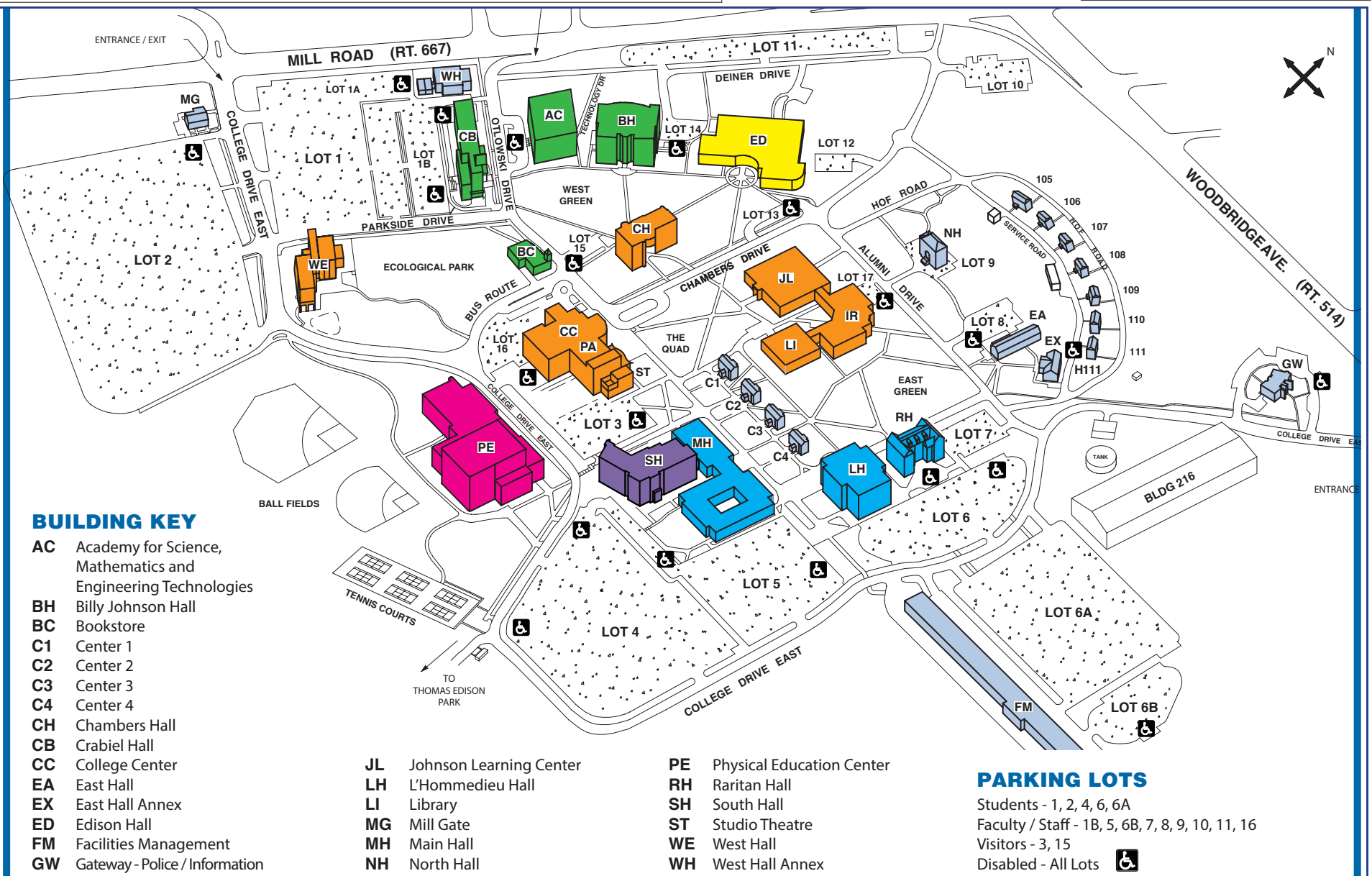
Melissa Edwards

[medwards@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:medwards@middlesexcc.edu)

### Corrections

In Issue 12, the quote below was erroneously attributed to Professor William Fabiano:

“The [car wrapping] is ugly and tacky. I understand what they’re trying to accomplish but maybe other advertisement opportunities would be more effective.”





## Internet Issue Remains Unresolved

By Trevor Clarke, Core Staff

Some students report ongoing difficulties with accessing the internet on campus, though the college said it has fixed all problems related to internet outages occurring earlier this semester.

John Mattaliano, executive director of IT, said there were a total of three interruptions to the campus internet over the first two weeks of the semester, amounting to three hours of outages in all.

Mattaliano said the source of the interruptions has been decisively addressed.

However, Salwa Ragoub, first-year student, said she continues to encounter problems with the campus internet.

"The number of times I've had to go on field trips with my classmates, searching for a class with Wi-Fi, is bizarre," Ragoub said.

Yufan Yang, first-year student, said, "There are some places where the signal is really bad."

Yang said the Wi-Fi signal in classrooms in Main Hall is especially bad and supplementing smartphone data for Wi-Fi is no solution because the data signal in many buildings on campus tends to be poor.

Likewise, Celia Winchester, associate professor of English, said some of their students have had to rely on hotspots and use data to access the internet while in class.

"That's not fair. That's data that some (students) can't afford," Win-

chester said.

Winchester said to accommodate these students, they have often resorted to printing in-class material — but because the copy machine in Raritan Hall has been broken since the summer, they have had to do their printing in the copy center in the East Hall Annex.

For his part, Mattaliano said that while there was a reduction in on-campus activity during the pandemic, the IT department undertook widespread upgrades to the campus internet, including enhancements to its security.

Though the IT department planned for an influx of internet users and tested the upgrades before the beginning of the semester, Mattaliano said it was difficult to predict how the upgrades would interact with existing technology until there were more users on campus.

During the first two weeks of the semester, he said the IT department discovered one of the devices protecting the college from cyber-security threats was interrupting web traffic in response to a spike in the volume of users.

He said the IT department then made an adjustment allowing the flow of web traffic to proceed unimpeded while ensuring the security of users' data.

"After careful analysis of the data traffic during the period following this adjustment, we are confident that the changes implemented in

response to the interruptions stabilized the virtual environment," he said.

Mattaliano said the IT department has not received reports of widespread issues since the time of these interruptions.

"We have been advised of sporadic Wi-Fi issues and followed up with all concerns that have been reported," he said.

He said anyone who encounters a problem with the campus Wi-Fi should report it to the Help Desk for tracking.

Counselor Sheema Majiduddin said, regarding the issue of internet access on campus, she would say only what students had told her.

"It has not been resolved," Majiduddin said.

She said she hears regularly from students who say it is hard for them to stay and work on campus because they can't rely on the campus internet.

Winchester said some students, who can't afford internet at home and therefore come to campus to complete assignments, instead have had to go to McDonald's or Starbucks to get Wi-Fi and do their coursework.

Majiduddin said the IT department should consider surveying the students about their experience with the internet on campus.

"Meet the students where they are," said Majiduddin. "If they say it's not working, listen to them."

## Transfer Fair Guides Many to Success

By Hina Naqvi, Core Staff

It was the first time I planned to attend a transfer fair at college. Planning is easy, but it is difficult to say whether it will actually happen. As soon as I saw the notification on my canvas about the Transfer fair on November 7, I registered for a 10:00 am session. As a mother I face some daily challenges, but the most difficult is when my daughters get sick.

My elder daughter woke up with a stomach ache, and I decided not to send her to school. While calling her school to report her absence, my mind was sketching how I could attend the session as I might need to take her to the doctor.

After giving my desired medication to my daughter, I went to the college for the information session. It was divided into four categories, and I opted for "True Life: How to Navigate College as a Transfer Student." The moderator was Jenifer Olvera, and the panelist was: Amery Thompson (who graduated in 2014), Divon Pender (who graduated in 2021), Kerly Cabrera (who graduated in 2020 and is working at Middlesex College, Perth Amboy).

In that session, I learned a few things such as keeping good relations. If we discuss our plans with the teachers, it will help in the future. Later if teachers find out about any job opportunity, they can refer to us.

Don't overlook the travel time to/from the university we choose. Sometimes we think it will take only half an hour to Rutgers or Kean University, but it takes more, leading to poor time management.

They emphasized the importance of being active on campus and making relationships. While taking part in STUDENT LIFE can help make the transfer process be more accessible.

Overall, it was an informative session; later, I learned about another

exclusive session of Columbia University of General Studies, which was scheduled to be held around 3:00 pm in Edison Hall.

I wanted to take that session. So, I headed to my home and found out that my daughter is still not well. I made my last appointment with the doctor for around 5 o'clock. In that way, I was able to attend Columbia University's session. It was beneficial, and few things I want to share it.

The representative from Columbia University is Ms. Eva, who started it by giving us an overview of Columbia University. It is the oldest school, established in the 1700s. It has almost 29000 students and has one main campus in New York City. It is nearly an hour and 20 min away from Middlesex College.

There are four undergraduate schools at Columbia University. It is imperative to find out which of the four schools you are looking for because if you are denied admission once, you must wait for three years before reapplying.

First, when you visit the website, check out Academics; under that umbrella, there are 20 schools. As a transfer student, check out Columbia College. It is the largest school and has 6000 students in Columbia College. They welcome transfer students as well as fresh students from high school. This is a home for a traditional transfer school. They have broad, significant courses.

Then, Engineering colleges are a broader pool of national and international students.

Bernard is a female school which makes it a unique school. It has liberal arts, humanities, social, and natural science.

Lastly, the Columbia School of General Studies accepts students with an average age of 26. If we plan to give a break after a bachelor's or Associate's degree, we would be welcomed at the Columbia School of

General Studies. It is for nontraditional students.

The student community is strong because of the diversity, such as veterans and transfer students.

They accept transfer students who have completed a minimum of five courses. They also want us to research the website. It means we should know what exactly we are planning to do. As far as GPA is concerned, sometimes, 4.0 GPA students don't get admitted because of a lack of work/volunteering, etc. For example, if you are a political science major, they want to see your proficiency in both political science and math and sociology. If you are a Stem or Computer science major, how did you perform in Computer science and other courses?

The core curriculum is essential for everyone studying in the undergraduate program. One of the main courses you will need to take is a Writing class, which will prepare us to write. So, in order to learn more, it is crucial to spend more time researching the core curriculum. The essay is very important. It tells how much a student wants to acquire admission at Columbia and what he/she is capable of.

Lastly, we need to find out about scholarships. There are many scholarships available on [careeronestop.com](http://careeronestop.com) and the department of education. Federal aid is for domestic students received, but it has to be paid back. This is borrowed money. Grants and scholarships are awarded to students, and we cannot require them to pay them back. Then work study helps us to get a job in the university and get some. The whole process of getting financial aid starts after we get into college. We can also ask questions to a financial adviser. An application fee waiver is also available. We need to know about it and ask for it.

## Calendar of Events

To be able to click the links, please download the PDF file. To do so, click menu icon on the top left, click on Downloads and then click Full edition. After the document opens click the download icon on the top right.

Dec. 2

**Student Government Association Public Meeting**  
12 p.m.  
Dec. 2

We, the students of Middlesex College, hereby establish through this constitution a student government to ensure the vitality of the student participation in the governance of the College. Our goals are to offer opportunities for students of Middlesex College; to offer optimal opportunities for student leadership, provide proper student representation, encourage vibrant campus life, share concerns, express opinions, and jointly participate in the resolution of conflicts with other members of the college community.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions during the public portion, please email us at [studentgovernment@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:studentgovernment@middlesexcc.edu) prior to the 24 hours of the meeting.

Dec. 8

**Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Cakmak**  
1 - 2 p.m. monthly  
Dec. 8

**Business & Computer Science Chairperson Dr. Cakmak will be available to answer students' questions regarding majors, classes, careers and more.**  
Contact: [acakmak@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:acakmak@middlesexcc.edu)

Dec. 14

**New Jersey City University Transfer Admissions Representative**  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Middlesex College Field  
Repeats weekly on Wednesdays (to Dec. 14)  
Meet with a Transfer Admissions Representative from New Jersey City University in the College Center.  
Contact: [rgaviria@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:rgaviria@middlesexcc.edu)

## Police Blotter

Oct 20

**Motor Vehicle Crash**  
Parking Lot #6  
11:11 am

Vehicle #1 was driving through Lot #6 and was struck by Vehicle #2 which was attempting to back out of a parking space. Both vehicles sustained minor damage. No injuries were reported. #I-2022-016724 – Closed C.

**Suspicious Person**  
Physical Education Center  
9:43 am

Police responded to the PEC on the report of a suspicious person occupying the locker room. After making contact with the individual, it was determined that he was not a current student and was directed to leave campus. #I-2022-016722 – Closed C.

Oct 24

**24 October**  
Medical Call  
South Hall  
8:43 pm

Police were called to South Hall when someone overheard an individual state that he was going to harm himself. An evaluation was conducted and it was determined that the patient did not present a danger to himself or others. #I-2022-016945 – Closed C.

**Medical Call**  
South Hall  
1:40 pm

Police were dispatched to South Hall for an individual who had fainted. Upon their arrival, they found the patient conscious. First Aid responded and evaluated the patient who refused further medical attention. #I-2022-016925 – Closed C.



## Basketball Game Creates Memories in NYC

By Nathaniel Thompson, *Managing Editor*

A couple of weeks prior, I rang up three of my friends and asked them if they would be interested in attending a Brooklyn Nets game. They said yes, and I was a bundle of joy for the next few weeks. The day finally came, and my excitement reached peak levels.

All four of us got something to eat and we were on the road quickly. As we got closer to the arena, we remembered that we needed to go to a parking garage. Once there, it was easy to tell where we were at. Some workers were shouting about the Yankees and Mets, while others were debating the Nets and Knicks. I handed my key to the valet driver and we began walking to the arena.

The huge buildings with big screens blinded my eyes. The atmosphere was amazing. One thing about New Jersey that makes me upset is the lack of chopped cheese sandwiches. I don't have that problem in New York. With no words, I

nodded my head in the direction of the bodega and we were out. We looked like GTA civilians crossing the street. The entire city was Jay-walking, so why would I not?

I entered the bodega and asked the cook for a chopped cheese. I opened the cool fridges and the breeze hit me immediately. I grabbed my beverage and paid for all my items. Once I got my hand on the chopped cheese, it meant the world to me. The cut up burger meat with the cheese, lettuce, onions, mayo, and ketchup delivered a sweet savory taste.

After that, it was time to actually go into the arena. It was bigger than I expected on the inside. This was my first NBA game, so I did not know what to expect. As I was walking to find my seats, the arena was bombarded with many "BROOKLYN" and "LETS GO NETS" chants. I finally got to my seats and I had a lot of space due to COVID-19 restrictions. Being at the top, it felt like heaven in multi-

ple ways. It was finally time to see my Brooklyn Nets take down the Boston Celtics.

The player introductions looked like something out of a movie. The bright lights shone on each player, as their name, position, number, and college was called out. My favorite line was, "At starting Point Guard, the New Jersey raised kid from Duke University... number 11... KYRIE IRVING!"

I was so locked in and excited, it looked like my smile was stitched together. With the Boston Celtics being one our top rivals, I knew we needed to have this game. I knew we needed to win this game. The ball flew in the air for the opening tip off, and we were on the way. First shot by Kyrie was up, and it was water. All net, all splash, and the Brooklyn Nets were also ready for the game. My back hit the seat, and I was finally in my comfort zone.



the top of The Edge



Outside of N.Y.P.D. in NYC



The Manhattan Center in NYC



Interior of The Edge

Photos by Nathaniel Thompson

## Lil Durk Concert Causes Excitement



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

An indoor theater

By Nathaniel Thompson, *Managing Editor*

The summer had been great, highlighted by sunny skies and calm breezes. Every day seemed like a new adventure. Over the summer, I inquired with my friends about going to see American rapper, Lil Durk, perform. They agreed. When the day finally came, I had a Kool-aid smile on my face. My friend picked me up, and we were on our way. My stomach was throbbing from hunger, so we went to Wendy's. You can never go wrong with the four for \$4. I ate my burger and munched on my fries. The little dose of salt was just enough to keep me satisfied. I went on to wash all that down with a sweet strawberry lemonade. It was a blast, to say the least.

We were closing in on the destination when I saw a horde of people standing outside of a building. I pointed and told my friend, "Look,

that has to be it." There it was, the Ritz Theater in Elizabeth. It was spacious and the exterior was insane. We kept driving around until we found a parking spot. While there, a lady charged us \$5 to enter the lot, which was packed and tight. It was to the point where we had to just find a single spot and squeeze into it. Thankfully, all we had to do was go up to the second level. To put the size into perspective, there were a total of seven levels. The walk was more relieving only being on the second floor.

We waited in a long line. With a train length of people, I did not even think I would get inside the theater on time. Suddenly, a worker came running down and yelled "V.I.P TO THE FRONT!" over and over. I quickly hopped out of the line and waved at everybody else in the line

as I skipped to the front. I waited no more than five minutes and was guided to the theater. Once in, I realized we were in a compact environment. With rap concerts, the bigger artist is always the last performance. We got an appetizer with others while waiting for Lil Durk to come.

The entire crowd was getting annoyed as hours passed by, but Lil Durk was still not present. The guy on the mic was full of it, he kept telling the crowd to make noise if they wanted Lil Durk. He probably said it about 1000 times. After an eternity of waiting, Lil Durk came on stage and the crowd was hyped. While performing, the bass was so loud, I felt the vibrations bouncing off the walls. Inside concerts are a phenomenal experience. It was a long wait, but it was worth it.



## Thanksgiving Cultivates Different Traditions

By Tiffany Pham, Staff Writer

Even though Thanksgiving is an American holiday, multiple countries have similar holidays with

feasts. For example, the Vietnamese celebrate the Tet Trung Thu Festival. But as a child of an immigrant, I learned that some immigrants want to make their version of an

American holiday with something that will remind them of their home country. The Tet Trung Thu Festival is also called the Mid-Autumn Festival. It takes place in September or

in early October. Another name that the holiday goes by is the Children's Festival. Children light lanterns and perform lion dances as part of the celebration. This is the second most important holiday tradition in Vietnam. Then my other side of the family has a slightly different meaning to Thanksgiving.

My dad told me that celebrations have chicken curry (cà ri gà), rice paper spring rolls stuffed with shrimp served with hoisin or peanut sauce (goi cuon), and spicy beef soup (bò kho). Some other popular holiday foods are duck (mì vit tiem), fried egg rolls (cha giò), and crispy yellow crepes filled with meats and vegetables (bánh xèo).

Another similar celebration is a ceremony to commemorate and thank your ancestors, like your grandparents or parents, if they have passed on already. It is called Le Ky or Le Gio. It is a ceremony to commemorate the death of relatives. This is a family tradition. Each family does it depending on the Death Day of the ancestor. So it is not a national

holiday.

Americans love celebrating holidays. Native Vietnamese people don't usually celebrate birthdays. Still, Death Days because logically speaking, you can only celebrate a person properly if you know what they have done throughout their life.

Although, instead of celebrating, my mom makes a dish known as thit kho tau. This dish consists of braised pork over broken jasmine rice with hard-boiled eggs marinated in a sweet and savory sauce. Thit kho tau is typically eaten around Lunar New Year. But since this is America, we celebrate in our way.

Skip the gravy, stuffing, and cumbersome turkey—maybe spice things up a bit and have a non-traditional Thanksgiving, like my family. Each member of my family chooses a particular favorite food and dessert. Subsequently, we close the dinner with what we are thankful for. I thank everyone who wished me good health and for being alive. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



Photo by Tiffany Pham

A rice bowl with a mix of vegetables

## New York City Draws Pakistanis In For Visits



Skyline view of skyscrapers in NYC



Skyline view of public speaking area

Photos by Hina Naqvi

By Hina Naqvi, Core Staff

Ever since I landed on the plains of New York, I had the wish to spend a day in New York City. Perhaps it is because of the characterization I have seen in many movies. There was always a desire to see and observe it closely. We rented an apartment in Long Island, and it took more than an hour to reach the city. When I came here, it was August, and I had to do some paperwork to get a green card and social security card. Later, I had to learn to drive. During all that, I could not plan to visit the city. But as soon as December started, I asked my brother to take me to New York City. My younger brother came to the U.S. when he was 12 years old in 1999, and I came to the U.S. in 2006. My brother was already in the system; on the other hand, I struggled to understand the method as I worked at Macy's and the local bank.

He knew about my wish, so we planned to go to the city one day. It was a random day in December 2006. We left for the city around 3:00 pm. We planned to eat first and then look around the streets. But the place we

chose for dinner was closed. Our research could have been better. Now we had to find another place. During all these efforts, my brother told my sister and I why not explore, and he would get the food from a nearby shop as that place was not appealing to us. So, we decided to go alone, and in the meantime, my brother got the food.

As soon as we got out of the car, I could never forget the chilled air that touched my face. It was my first time in the city, and it felt freezing. Due to the tall buildings, the cold breeze was icy and withering. My head was bowed against the gusty wind. It was tough to walk. Soon my sister and I decided to enter a nearby building. In other words, we took shelter at the entrance. I felt I wouldn't be able to explore, so we called our brother and told him our location.

The next thing was more appalling. We waited for our brother—it was a long wait. First, he needed to pick up our phone so that we could find out why he was taking so long. Imagine two girls alone (although two are not alone) standing in a building waiting for their brother, who did not know their surroundings. I only spent

three months in the suburbs, and my sister was also unfamiliar as we had rented an apartment in St. James, a small town in Smithtown, Long Island.

I can never forget those thirty minutes of waiting, millions of scary thoughts came to my mind, and finally, we saw our brother's car. He was smiling, and we burst at him as soon as we sat in the car. He was like, "What! What happened?" He was right; I mean, it takes time to get the order ready, and driving in Manhattan is not accessible due to the excessive rush. Finally, we went back to our home.

Later I visited the city, not in winter, but during summer, and explored NYC.

After many years, I recently visited Summit One Vanderbilt. This time, I had my two girls, my sister and her two girls, and my husband.

It was my first ever visit to a highrise building. Yes, I have never been to the Empire State Building, One World Trade Center and Bank of America Tower in sixteen years, even though my husband used to work for Bank of America.

This past summer, I was deter-

mined to visit that place because I was reading a lot about Summit One Vanderbilt. Finally, I researched and purchased tickets. I chose the 4:00 pm slot. Everything was smooth, the weather was excellent, and we arrived on time. The line was extensive, but it was moving very fast.

It was a serene experience. I felt as if we were in a spacecraft. The loud noise and the ambiance of the three levels were enough to inspire and thrill us. Summit One Vanderbilt was opened in September 2021. It takes us to a whole different level.

It is located on the top three floors of one of the tallest skyscrapers in Manhattan. The floor has ceiling mirrors which give the environment an extraordinary view. While stepping up on the mirrored floor, it took me a few seconds to understand that it was a mirror, and we could see ourselves and almost everyone there. It was interesting to see different people with some vibrant colors of clothing and their reflection in the mirror. A very unique experience indeed.

While sitting on the top, the people on the street felt like very tiny particles wandering. Deep inside

me, I heard a voice about how people feel when they reach the top in their lives. The people that survive are humble and pride brings them to fall. I was thinking about some Wall Street magnets that fell from the top.

With these thoughts in mind, suddenly I hear my four-year-old daughter's voice, who was scared to sit on the floor. I soothed her by saying, "Don't worry," but I felt a little scared too.

After almost an hour, we moved to our next attraction, a halal food cart. My day is never complete without eating out. Although we had sandwiches that we packed, we all wanted to eat from the halal cart.

Our last stop was Times Square; we walked from 45 E 42nd St. to Times Square in hardly ten minutes. Usually, Times Square is very crowded, but we were lucky and got a chance to sit there and enjoy the weather and surroundings. At last, our kids were noisy, and we had to return home with a successful and fun day. I will remember this previous trip with many fond and unforgettable memories; in some way, the desire to wander in the city was slowly minimized.



# Fall 2022 Semester Gives Opportunity to Reflect

By Enrique Medel, Core Staff

I cannot remember the last time I discussed my school year at Middlesex College and how it was a real roller coaster for me — even when trying to cope with my nervous system. The tension of feeling helpless was a horrible distraction from my goals and I was unable to control my anxiety while focusing on my work. Sadly, the emotions were too strong, struggling to even breathe correctly while scratching my head constantly. I figured my school year would turn out the same in the coming semester; however, faith had a different approach, and it gave me the courage to stand up for myself and take control of my life, which I have done since. Enough was enough — finally, my most remarkable moment was having a sense of freedom and control of my mind and having no doubt about class, assignments and school. The Fall 2022 semester has been the best school year for me, by far, as I have done exceptional work for all my classes, taking part in

group sessions, completing most of my homework and feeling like a real college student.

Throughout September, I began to worry that I may re-do my mistakes in the past and not be responsible with my work. And then I needed to catch up in completing my homework, never having the courage to make up for it, especially to Professor Edwards. I constantly desired to prove to my professor that I could be better than I was for the past two years as I pushed myself for greatness and improvement. Truthfully, I wanted to stay caught up with my work in order to pursue my goal of becoming an Associate Copy Editor for the New York Times, as New York City feels like home to me. After the first week of the semester, I felt ready and prepared for whatever came as I began constructing my papers for the newspaper and ensuring they were professionally written. It took me a while to get published, but it was worth my time and patience to

know that I have what it takes to put a smile on Edwards's face. Working alongside the students in my JOURNAL 202 class pleased me enough to enjoy class every day and encouraged me to put in my best effort and do well in the Quo Vadis club.

In addition to working well in class, I made new friends who encouraged me during my semester. I never thought there would be a day when I would find a group of friends who could make me feel safe and comfortable inside and outside of school, allowing me to be myself. I have been able to embark on a new life and journey and be prepared for whatever is to come. Issata Seysey always reminds me that, while I may feel anxious or stressed, it is essential to remember that things happen for a reason, and I should never let myself fall into darkness. Her words are a treasure to me and keep my good spirit intact; and ever since, I have been doing more complex work with the Quo Vadis paper. My other

friend, Miel, is a good sister figure to me and has been watching my back since I started school. Ever since I lost a bond with another friend, Miel has supported me when I go to class every day, reminding me why I do what I do, as she knows me very well. With her and Issata by my side, I know I dare to do what is right for me.

I remember how I would often freak out and believe that I would become a failure whenever I was in my weakest state, with so much homework to complete, which I always struggled to become available for. Working at two jobs made it challenging to keep my head in the game, but managing my time and finding good days for me to work and do part-time hours has given me a good college experience. I also spend more time on campus and chatting with other students. I still end up tired after my shifts, but my intention to be a professional writer does wake me up: I head to Barnes

and Noble and write. All of this is the college experience, including walking with other students and chatting with them. This is even more of a reason why I admire the Fall 2022 semester.

The Fall 2022 semester is going very well, and I look forward to having more wonderful future semesters. This year is when I can finally see that I have the potential to move forward and write for my audiences and help students understand that we all have complicated issues with our personal lives. Still, it should never hold us back and keep us away from our dreams, as it is our responsibility to protect ourselves from the issues that occur in the world. The semester has taught me that I could be happy doing what I do and to encourage others to do the same for themselves. I want to enjoy my school year, and I want to continue to have more memorable moments to forever hold onto as I look forward to greatness.

# Some Athletes Fall Off, While Few Continue Their Dominance

By Nathaniel Thompson, Managing Editor

In sports, the definition of father time is when old age catches up to an athlete, causing them to decline. Almost all athletes are victims of this, as that is what causes most to retire. I say almost all (around 99.8%) because there are very few outliers, like Tom Brady and LeBron James.

Starting off, I want to discuss how father time has a definition that varies from person to person. Many people will say that father time will remain undefeated because a player has to retire at some point regardless. That may be true to an extent, but I see it in a different way. To me, the definition of father time is when you can still compete at a high level, when the average great player is washed at that age.

Looking into the greats of all sports, the lists get interesting. Names like Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky, Peyton Manning, Barry Bonds, etc. come up. These also hap-

pen to be some athletes that ended up losing a step near the end of their careers. Still putting up decent numbers, father time just simply caught up to all of them.

There are three athletes that I believe have caused father time to take some losses. One of them being a woman. Tom Brady and LeBron James have defeated father time to me. Explaining both, it is insane to see how these players are "old" for their sport, but still dominate competition during their games.

Tom Brady is at the age of 45, and he has been producing at a high level for 20+ years. His season with the most interceptions came in 2005. A whole 17 years later, Brady has yet to play worse than that and is still producing at a very high level. I believe this is one of the more clear examples of father time being defeated.

LeBron James is a 37 year old player who is actively in his 20th year. At

36, LeBron put up an average of 30 points, eight rebounds, and six assists. Those are Most Valuable Player (MVP) numbers. With the Lakers having a terrible record, he was not able to get that award, but it still has not stopped his dominance. In a sport that most elite players retire at 35, LeBron has shown no signs of decline. LeBron even told reporters that he invests \$1 million into his body every year.

After looking at these two athletes, I see why they are able to dominate at the top with their age too. It's their diet plan and the new age of technology. Athletes are getting the best of the best treatment. So, is father time really undefeated? I say no, Tom Brady and LeBron James are still playing at high levels. When they end up retiring, they'll still be at the top, and I count that as a loss for father time.



Junior Size Football

Photo by Ryan Cardenas

# Hispanic Traditions Bring Families Close For Christmas

By Ryan Cardenas, Core Staff

When Christmas was around the corner, my parents celebrated Christmas in Peru; my family came from Chiclayo to the capital, Lima, a few days before Christmas and spent it at the house my dad has in Lima. Since everything in Peru is expensive, gift-giving was not a thing for my family. Christmas was one of the few times we got together and enjoyed each other's company.

When my sister and I were young, we thought that Santa Claus came to our house every night before Christmas and left presents under the tree. The way our parents told us that Santa would come throughout the day while we were at school and drop off the presents under the tree.

At first, my sister and I found it weird because we thought that Santa traveled at night, but we went along.

Another thing my family did was go to church on Christmas Eve. I come from a religious household, and we celebrate "Nochebuena," which translates to "the good night." Nochebuena for Hispanics is celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The mass would start around eight at night and last about two hours. My family and I would go almost every year. I enjoyed going not just because I went with my family, but because my friends also went.

When it comes to family gatherings, my parents always go all out. My parents would wake up early and start cleaning the house. They would also put music on the speaker and

make it extremely loud, which is a regular thing. Once all the cleaning is done, my dad helps my mom prepare the ingredients to start cooking. Little by little, my aunts, uncles, and cousins started coming over. My sister and I, along with my cousins, would go to the living room and play FIFA until dinner was ready. We always played FIFA tournaments so that it would get a little intense. Once we all ate, it would be around 10 p.m. We were allowed to open one gift before midnight. It would have to be a small gift. Once midnight came, that's when everyone opened their gifts. The amount of joy there was all around the room. Christmas has a special place in my heart, and it brings me joy to spend it with my whole family.



Christopher Quinones next to his Christmas Tree

Photo by Ryan Cardenas

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QUO VADIS



# Perks in Atlantic City Draws in an Amazing Review

By Enrique Medel, Core Staff

It is always a question everyone asks: Where is the best family vacation spot in New Jersey? There is no number one spot for me; it is only the fun times and memories we create that makes any vacation spot the best. Visiting Atlantic City has genuinely brought my family and me a wonderful day to spend outside during a hot sunny day — 98 degrees — and the memories I made during our time together will never disappear. Atlantic City is always an exciting place for family and friends to be; and the beach did please me, though it was a little cold as well (strange how the beach was not crowded, as it was a pleasant time to be outside). It was my cousin Alan's last week before returning to Mexico, and I wanted to make his day the absolute best.

Arriving in Atlantic City was like driving into another world, where there are many fun activities, such as shopping at the outlets, playing at the casino, playing arcade games, and enjoying the food. Returning brought back memories of Atlantic City, for it has been four years since my last visit, and, surprisingly, nothing seemed to change, but it is hard to remember very well. Nonetheless, our trip started off satisfying as we headed to the beach and had a refreshing time tanning and enjoying the chilly water with fewer people on the beach than usual. The deep-

er into the water I swam, the colder it was, and it took me a while to get used to it; though the freezing water was very difficult to handle, it made it more fun. My two nephews were enjoying themselves; with my phone, I recorded them playing in the sand with my aunt by their side. The waves were not intense or extensive, but the beauty of it all was satisfying to watch from a distance, and I was living a dream of wonders. The sound of waves passing through the water gave me a sense of peace and joy as I played with my feet in the sand, watching the boats roaming through the ocean and imagining myself with my family, having a suitable time on a cruise ship and living our best moments; a dream I wish to come true.

The Tanger Outlets was another significant moment of the trip: we shopped at a few retail stores that I am familiar with and sightsee as well. My mind was at peace and feeling the comfort of the sun in the sky as it shone upon me while I walked to the Nike store, a fresh breeze passing through my hair and body. The store inside was filled with many Nike Tech shirts and pants, but I examined the whole store, and seeing there was a sale for all customers, I was wondering what to buy. However, I put my cash aside and searched for other stores: Crocs, Polo, Ralph Lauren, Coach Tommy, Adidas,



Photo by Enrique Medel

People relaxing around the water

among many more. Overall, the experience of staying outdoors at the outlet mall was indeed gorgeous: I remember the excessive heat outside and felt like I was tanning throughout the day, as I continued to shop. And I only bought one pair of white socks.

Having to spend our evening on the boardwalk was also fun, as there were many activities, such as exploring restaurants, playing arcade games, riding the Ferris wheel and watching live performances. The

walk was immense: with so many people passing through, it gave me the feeling of claustrophobia, a little uncomfortable. However, nothing was more exciting than entering the Caesar Palace casino, getting free drinks and hoping to win some cash. I had no intention of playing but watching my cousins using the slot machine was fun; I was excited as I saw my cousin Alan's face with joy, enjoying his last moments in Atlantic City with us. Spending two hours walking through the boardwalk was

tiring, and as we struggled to find other entertainment, we noticed a live concert by the Playground Pier; they were playing country music. It was hard to decipher the lyrics, but the music was good. We listened to almost two songs and after that, the night ended. Afterwards, I enjoyed every second inside, and I did anything I could to relive that day: I even dreamed of winning tons of money at a casino one day. If that happened, it would be the most significant moment in my life.

# Elon Musk's Twitter Could Be a Threat to Democracy

By Nicol Maciejewska, Core Staff

Over the past few weeks, Twitter continues to make headlines due to Elon Musk's takeover of the company. Many of his new implementations at the tech giant have caused controversy. It began when a huge portion of the staff was initially let go. As the days progressed, Musk gave the employees of the company an ultimatum: either subscribe to a harsher work culture with longer hours or resign and receive three months' severance. Many chose the latter. The alarm bells began to ring for Twitter users as concern for the platform's infrastructure ensued. They wondered: are there enough employees left to fix issues that may arise? As many of these employees left Twitter, safety and security concerns began over racist and antisemitic comments surfacing and about the risk of personal data being exposed. Because of this Twitter is losing advertisers and many big companies are leaving Twitter like Balenciaga or are temporarily suspending their accounts as CBS News did.

One of the biggest outrages amongst users was the introduction of Twitter Blue, a subscription service pitched by Musk, which would charge users \$8 monthly to obtain a blue check mark that was once used to verify if accounts were legitimate. This is problematic because to have a safe democratic process we need to be sure that the information we read is verifiably true. And when we

have people creating fake accounts with public figures' names it could be a cause for concern. Now if you are here for the memes then maybe you are not concerned, and some funny moments have happened because of these parody accounts running rampant. This includes a parody Nintendo page posting pictures of Super Mario holding up the middle finger or politician and other public figure parody accounts tweeting obscenities. Even though this may be some cause for laughs, the Twitter Blue program could have dire consequences for our daily lives. Some users have harnessed the power of Twitter Blue to disrupt the stock market. A user created a parody account of Eli Lilly and Company, a pharmaceutical company responsible for the soaring prices of insulin, and tweeted, "We are excited to announce insulin is free now." From this tweet alone it cost Eli Lilly and Company billions as their stock plummeted. Some could argue that making an "evil" pharmaceutical company that has affected over a million Americans with diabetes lose billions of dollars is a good thing, but what happens when something important to our society becomes affected—such as our democracy?

Comparatively, we saw the effects of the Cambridge Analytica scandal which weaponized social media powerhouse Facebook. Cambridge Analytica is now a defunct political consulting firm that harvested data on Facebook users and was responsible for spreading disinformation

to susceptible voters to influence—most notoriously—the 2016 U.S. election and Brexit. Because of what happened Facebook was investigated for mishandling its users' data and the Federal Trade Commission imposed a 5 billion dollar fine and new privacy restrictions. If Twitter continues its Twitter Blue subscription it must put more fact-checking safeguards in place or it could run

the risk of influencing future elections under false pretenses.

The real question that remains is will Twitter survive these past few chaotic weeks? Even Musk does not know for sure. According to The New York Times, one of Musk's first messages to his remaining workforce was, "Sorry that this is my first email to the company, but there is no way to sugarcoat the message. The eco-

nom picture ahead is dire." Many are already grappling with Twitter's end. Some users have been tweeting goodbye and other ways that their followers can reach them—these tweets seem rather apocalyptic. It gave a whole new definition to doom scrolling. One thing is certain, the public square that we have all come to love will be forever different now.



Photo Courtesy of Facebook

Some users have harnessed the power of Twitter Blue to disrupt the stock market.

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# Rapper Provides Award Winning Music



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

A Microphone and Headset at a recording studio  
By Nathaniel Thompson, Managing Editor

Kentrell Gaulden, also known as YoungBoy Never Broke Again, or NBA YoungBoy, is recognized as one of the top rappers of our generation. NBA YoungBoy has many accolades,

including multiple top hits, awards and even the YouTube crown. Every time NBA YoungBoy comes on a track, he never lets his fans down. AI YoungBoy 2 was released on Oct. 11, 2019, and it is the sequel to AI

YoungBoy. With 18 songs spanning 55 minutes, NBA YoungBoy brings a variety of emotion to this album. There are moments where he is excited and joyful; he flows on the beat well. There are also times when he is speaking about how some people did him wrong. I see music as a cure for many of my problems; I don't go to therapy, but I feel like listening to NBA YoungBoy is my equivalent to that. In this review, I will give my top three songs, and then a general overview of the album.

One of the top songs on the album is "Ranada." In general, I don't know whether or not "Ranada" is a real person. However, at the end of the day, it is a symbol of a woman. "Ranada" is not about killing at all; it is a "learning to a love" song. I love "Ranada" because the beat is absolutely insane. NBA YoungBoy flows on the track as he talks about how Ranada will always be there for him. The lyric throughout the chorus, "She a real rough rider," implies

that the woman he is singing about knows she will go through a lot and still holds him down. NBA YoungBoy is a street person of status, so anyone around him will always have unnecessary drama.

Another song that is on the top of the list is "Seeming Like It." This is another song where NBA YoungBoy is "in his bag." The song is not about a female specifically, but it is about all his problems. NBA YoungBoy speaks on how he tries to cope with all of his problems, but nothing seems to work out. I can relate to that in many ways because there are many issues that I have that only I know. NBA YoungBoy speaking out on his own and rapping about it brings more awareness to the situation. Listening to NBA YoungBoy is a form of therapy for me, especially with a song like that. When an artist is spilling out his or her emotion and it relates to you, the music feels more relaxing.

My last pick (in this very hard to pick top 3) goes to "Head Blown." If

the title of the song itself isn't self-explanatory, I don't know what is. Yes, it is a song about violence. However, this is a great hype song. There are multiple subjects he touches on, but the main point is this: if you run up, you will get done up. I love this song because NBA YoungBoy shows that he is still that guy at the end of the day. My friends and I love this song and get turned up every time it comes on the aux.

There are many opinions on NBA YoungBoy's music. However, one of the biggest claims is that he makes the same songs over and over. That is simply not true. When people say this, they refer to his raps about murder, drugs and violence, which is not the case with every song. AI YoungBoy 2 offers a variety of themes and emotions that Kentrell expresses in his music. Bias aside, I would give the album a 9.8/10. My only complaint being that 18 songs was not enough; he should have kept going.

## 'Umbrella Academy' Displays Very Dynamic Characters

By Enrique Medel, Core Staff

The Netflix series "The Umbrella Academy" is about a family of seven siblings who have supernatural abilities. Sir Reginald Hargreeves, who adopted the siblings, trains them to protect the world from unexpected threats. The children are numbered by order of birth, from one to seven. They grow up and go their separate ways, recovering from the trauma they experienced as children. However, as time passes, they reunite, only to be informed by Number Five of a critical event that would transpire later in the show. Number Five is the only family member capable of bringing everyone together to keep the family safe.

Not only are children given a number, but also named by their robot-mother Grace, naming all six: Luther, Diego, Allison, Klaus, Ben and Viktor; Number five is nameless. The show portrays the siblings' attempts to work together as a functional team but also develop as a real

family. Each character has struggles, mainly daddy issues, which are shown when they fail to work as a family or a team. They have agendas and tend to make decisions based on instincts rather than logic, which drives the family apart, but their childhood primarily corrupted the family.

What I enjoy about the show is that the characters are hilarious and engaging, and their powers are fascinating, making their screen time enjoyable throughout the series. Every power the children discover that they wield also has an interesting adverse effect that haunts them throughout the series. Their abilities define them as people, including unpleasant experiences occurring when the children initially utilized them. It establishes an exciting story of circumstance as the audience experiences the show that takes place in the future, where all the kids have grown up. Still, brief flashbacks de-

tail how they became an unconventional family over time. Their past reflects their lackluster present lives.

Sibling One is Luther Hargreeves, played by Tom Hopper. He is the leader of the Umbrella Academy. Luther's character is the only member who continues to loyally serve Sir Reginald, although he sinks into a lonely depression without the others around. Number Two is Diego Hargreeves, played by David Castaneda. He tries to stop crime as a standalone hero in Oklahoma City to prove to the Umbrella Academy that he is worthy as a leader. Number Three is Allison Hargreeves, played by Emmy Raver-Lampman, who can influence events by prefacing any statement with "I heard a rumor."

Number Four is Klaus, played by Robert Sheehan, and his character represents an alcoholic and the funniest in the family who enjoys a hedonistic lifestyle, living his life free from responsibility.

Number Five, played by Aiden Gallagher, is the most responsible member of the family, doing his best to stay on task and help save his family by working together. Number Six is Ben Hargreeves, played by Justin H. Min. He is always with Klaus and is much like his babysitter, trying to help Klaus through the trouble he gets himself into. Lastly, there is Number Seven, or Viktor Hargreeves, played by Elliot Page. He is a respectful and bright man who suffers from deep-rooted trauma and is vulnerable and naive.

Gloriously weird but an excellent way to show a dysfunctional and funny family of overpowered children who have grown up and whose lives have all changed for the worse. They are not the best at portraying superhero-like qualities, but they are a real family that attempts to do the right thing and protect one another. They find that joining together again is their only chance to keep everyone safe as they strive to save the world from an impending event. The series has three seasons with more to come in the future, and I would recommend it to audiences who enjoy comedy, violence and drama. Netflix The Umbrella Academy is the best choice.



Photo by Jared Almanzor

Umbrella on the floor

## 'Power Book II: Ghost' Shows Drug Dealer's Problems

By Nathaniel Thompson, Managing Editor

Power Book II: Ghost is a sequel to the series "Power." Both shows were executive produced by popular American rapper, Curtis Jackson, also known as 50 Cent. However, Courtney A. Kemp is the actual creator of Power Book II: Ghost. The first episode of the show premiered on September 6, 2020. The show is broadcasted on the network Starz.

If you watched the original series of Power, you might have fallen right in love with it. You also may be reluctant to watch other shows in the series, as they might not be as good as the original. I say this because that is exactly what happened to me. I was reluctant because my favorite character (also the main character in Power) James "Ghost" (his alias) St. Patrick, ended up dying in the show. I connected to St. Patrick so much that it absolutely ruined the series for me. Tariq St. Patrick, who is his son, ends up being the main character of Power Book II: Ghost. Month after month had passed by since the release of Power Book II, and I finally caved in.

Getting into the main plot of the story, Tasha St. Patrick ("Ghosts" wife) is under trial for the murder of James St. Patrick. Tariq was the one who killed his father, but his mother took the blame in order for him to continue living his life. In this series, Tariq is a student enrolled in Stansfield University, a fictional university that is based in Queens, New York. He is also one of the biggest drug dealers on campus, and he runs into many people. There are some backstories on why Tariq is a drug dealer. He started off as a good kid, then he found out about all the lies. His dad was essentially a kingpin behind the

scenes, and the mistrust made Tariq do a complete 180. With Tariq not being able to access his dad's large estate, he "follows" his footsteps.

Tariq and his best friend Brayden use an app called CourseCorrect. With this app, they can make easy communication and set up for where the drugs will be arranged. The app is a tutoring service for the students, but they can wiggle their way into making it a drug dealing app. Clients pay in app, and the drugs will be placed in hidden lockers all over the campus and city. I actually think that idea is one of the smartest ideas one can do. If you watch the show, you will see how the entire process works. It is also something that I can see happening in the future with drug deals.

Tariq is one of those characters that you start to hate at first, and then he grows on you. With him being the main character, there are multiple obstacles he has in his way. Monet Tejada is the wife of Lorenzo Tejada, who is a kingpin as well. Tariq starts a partnership with her and her family in hopes to maximize his profit. Tariq's number one goal is to get custody of his little sister Yasmine and pay off his mother's defense attorney.

Overall, Power Book II: Ghost is one of the best mature-audience T.V. shows. With a variety of themes, you will be able to connect to every character and see their true side. You might start feeling bad for the "bad guys" and dislike the "good guys". With two seasons down, the third season does not have a set date to release. Going off past release schedules, I would expect it to come out sometime before the year ends.



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

A skyline view of NYC, which is where Power Book II takes place



# Attend the Quo Vadis General Virtual Meeting every Friday at 11 a.m.

QV is hosting a fun, campus-wide meeting for students, administrators, faculty and staff to learn about how we can best serve our readership!

Come and have a great time with us!

Review the paper and play games!

**We want to learn more  
about what you want to read!**

**Click the  
Zoom Link:**

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Passcode: Newspaper

**Attend the SGA Meeting  
on Dec. 2 at noon via  
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**Meeting ID: 941 0281 8690**

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