



Scepter

The Students' Voice

Kingsborough Community College

April 2017

The City University of New York

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Kingsborough Women's Rights Panel



By Isabell Rivera

On April 5, 2017, Kingsborough Community College hosted a “Women’s Right Panel” about colorism and ableism at the MAC Rotunda. Five women, each with different backgrounds and challenges, told their stories about daily struggles of colorism, ableism and gender struggles.

Dr. Katia Perea, a sociologist at KBCC, hosted the panel. The room quickly filled with students and faculty anticipating what is to come next. The first panelist to speak was Wendy Zhao, President of Student World Assembly. She explained that colorism is also an issue in Japan, China and India. Light skin is cherished and beauty is praised but character or intelligence is often secondary, if not completely ignored.

“It’s just the way people talk to you, as if your appearance is the only thing that matters.” Zhao said. “As you’re growing up it helps form your identity,

and it could form a negative identity.”

The mic made its rounds from panelist to panelist. Nehal Naser, a Presidential Honors Student, spoke next. Naser hasn’t experienced any colorism personally since she’s on the lighter end of the spectrum, but her darker daughter raised eyebrows in her community.

Dr. Perea shared her experiences of having a Cuban background, colorism, her challenges of coming out as queer and being an activist. Her perception of color and race changed after moving from Cuba and experiencing the difference society views color and race in America.

“My experience with colorism is a little bit two-fold. One I’m Cuban and my family is Cuban, so from Cuba I’m a white person. And then I moved away and was told by white people when I would meet them that I wasn’t white. So it was part of the reason for becoming a sociologist, because I’m very fascinated about how it is that we just decide who is what race,” Perea said. “And basically has really

little to do with much other than how it is society is viewing you. My other experience with colorism is as a queer person, when I was young and when I was coming out the closet, [...] and I tried to be an activist, the majority of the queer movement was led by white people. I was like, where are the people of color in this movement? And even amongst the queer community they were some very racist beliefs.”

Director of Crib Video Productions Margot Cole tells her story of dealing with ableism because of her cerebral palsy. Often she experienced ableism not from ordinary people, but from people who also have a disability.

“I experienced ableism from other disabled people. Some people I worked with only saw me as girl with CP, not as Margot the student, or Margot the friend. I like being treated as Margot the filmmaker, not Margot with CP. Although I love my CP, I don’t want to be judged based on that,” she said.

Continues on page 3

CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SPRING 2017 EVENTS

Thursday, April 27, 2017

COURT TOUR

1:30pm

Location: Downtown Brooklyn

Tour the Supreme Court and learn about possible careers. Observe an ongoing trial. Open to ALL MAJORS!

Friday, May 5, 2017

REAL WORLD VISIT: 1010 WINS

12pm

Location: New York, NY

Hear from the News Director about working at a radio station and participate in a tour of 1010 WINS. You will also learn about radio stations including (WFAN, WCBS-FM, AMP & FRESH 102.7).

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

HOW TO ACE THE INTERVIEW

11:30am—12:30pm

Location: M-239

This workshop will teach you how to make a positive impression before, during, and after a job interview.

Wednesday May 10, 2017

INFORMATION SESSION: IMAGINE EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

2pm

Location: M-239

Find out about job opportunities at Imagine Early Learning Centers and how to apply. Sign up in Room C-102!

Thursday, May 11, 2017

REAL WORLD VISIT: ABC-TV

11Am

Location: New York, NY

Go behind the scenes at ABC-TV! Meet the staff and visit the departments that contribute to programming at the television station. Sign up in C-102!

Thursday, May 18, 2017

SPEED NETWORKING

2pm

Location: M-239

Network with employers and increase your chances of getting an internship or job.

Thursday, May 25, 2017

REAL WORLD VISIT: New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

2pm

Location: Brooklyn, NY

Tour the lab and rehab gym and speak with medical staff about their careers. Sign up in C-102 to participate!

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

Kingsborough Women's Rights Panel



Mariedgy Algarra Cedeño

By Isabell Rivera

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“The most severe form of [ableism] is when you think that a disabled person’s life is less valuable because of their disability, because there’s always this perception,” Cole said. “You are disabled, therefore you must be unhappy and depressed. My life has been beautiful and joyous. I want to change the perception that disabled people are depressed all the time.”

As a Puerto Rican, Alana Ruiz, president of Phi Theta Kappa experienced xenophobia and colorism from a young age. As she grew up, whenever there was a Puerto Rican Day Parade, Dominicans came to fight and vice versa. If

someone was dark, they weren’t seen as their nationality. A dark Puerto Rican just black; instinct was there are no dark people in Puerto Rico.

Colorism is not always addressed with underhanded insults. Even terms such as ‘African American’ could often times be taken in a different way. Some people don’t feel associated with the term ‘African’ just because they are black. Lee-Ann Graham, founder of the Undocumented and Unafraid KBCC workshops, explained why she felt a certain way about using ‘African-American’ to describe a person of color.

“I’m not African-American, I’m actually Trinidadian, and if I say I’m black, people say ‘Oh, you’re African-American.’” Lee-Ann Graham, founder of KBCC workshops Undocumented and

Unafraid. “I’m not, because I’m not American.”

These are five different women with five different experiences when it comes to colorism and ableism. This panel session taught that language is a powerful tool. Words often have two meanings like two sides of a coin. For some it’s an insult, for others it’s language between friends. Naser argued that the way language and terminology are used in society is often vague and down-played and should be used with precaution.

“I had an anthropology class last semester, and the professor that taught the class, professor Ryan Chaney, started off the semester by talking about this idea of race and preference over skin tone,” Naser said, “and he said that basically all it comes down to, is a genetic number. And it’s so true.”

Join Scepter

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.

Student Government Association Makes KCC History with New Consolidation Plan

By Kiara Clarke-Knight

For the first time since the 1960s, Kingsborough's Student Government Association (SGA) is the closest it has ever been to restructuring the entire government.

Kingsborough's student government is unique across CUNY colleges. Since the founding of Kingsborough, student government has been separated into constituencies: Liberal Arts Council, Business Council, Public and Health Council, Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) council and the recently defunct Part Time & Evening Council. A four-council system like this can only be found at Kingsborough, but this year SGA is attempting to trade its distinctiveness for efficiency.

"My personal opinion is that [the four council system] is not very efficient at all," Assistant Director of Student Life David Prevost said. "The current structure puts up additional steps in the process that hold back the students' voice or just makes it harder for the students to come to a united decision."

In the current SGA Constitution, there is no single point-person for Student Government affairs. Instead, administration must contact each of the councils separately and students are required to follow a system that determines which council they belong to. The categorization system was created and is maintained by Student Life. Each year, Student Life publishes a list of majors offered on campus. The majors are then sorted into the councils based on their curriculum. As it stands, Liberal Arts Council has the most constituents and STEM the least.

This means that there are four Student Government presidents, vice presidents, treasurers and secretaries. There are also four separate budgets for each of the councils. Each council gets \$5000 per year to maintain their offices and provide outreach for their separate constituents.

The individual councils mostly stick to their own devices, only coming together when a unified decision needs to be made. (Currently, there is no official way to do this.) What becomes the result is some councils being notably more active than others, and minimal communication between the councils.

As imagined, collaborating with all four councils takes lots of planning and patience. Since there is no central way for SGA to decide on problems affecting all students, the responsibility usually falls on the Campus Activities Board (CAB).

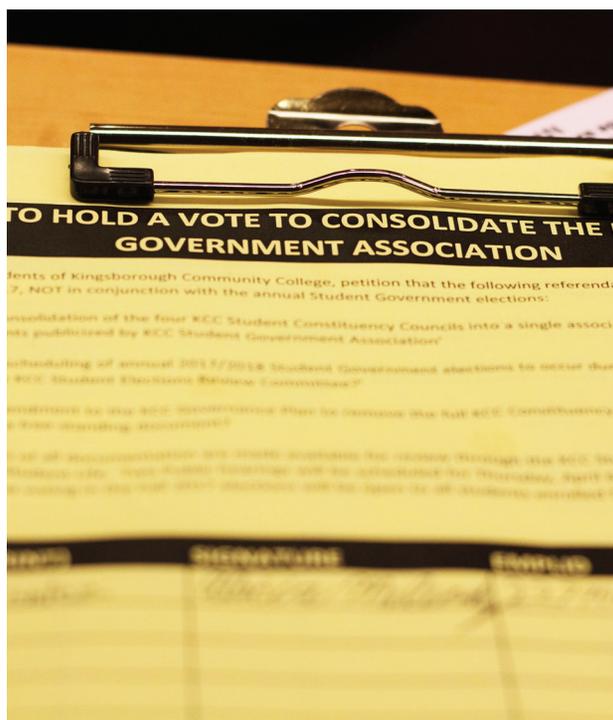
CAB is the student-run organization that plans some of the major events on campus. They host events such as the Halloween party, Throwback Time Machine, and Spring Fest. CAB is meant to function separately from SGA even though it is a part of it, like how the judicial branch is a part of the federal government but operates independently of it. However, because CAB comprises mostly of SGA members (currently, you need to be a council representative to be a voting member), CAB and SGA usually overlap.

"It's hard to have one vision when there're so many moving parts", Director of Student Life Maria Patestas said. "Even though the current [four council] system is setup to better represent certain

constituents in certain majors, it's actually failing to do that because the students within the councils can't work together to do that. There's also a mixed message on what the purpose of student government is."

This is not the first time SGA has tried to consolidate. Every few years, a student or group of students begins the process of trying to restructure. However, the hype usually fizzles out when they hear of all the work ahead. This year's SGA has gone the farthest of any to restructure the government. Despite the councils' progress, there seems to be a pole down the middle of the collective opinion on the restructure. Heated debates have sprung all over the cluster offices.

"I agree with the restructure," Vice President of Business Council Mark Vilck said, "I just don't agree with the way it's being done. It needs to be a gradual



process. I think we should first focus on getting the SGA Constitution out of College Council."

Others, such as CAB treasurer Darcean Edwards, oppose the restructure for reasons including the fact that those who pushed for the reconstruction, such as the VP of Liberal Arts Council Olalekan Shonowo and the president of the Business Council Christian Reyes, will be graduating this spring, essentially planning the revolution and disappearing when the fighting begins.

Those for the restructure like Shonowo argue that SGA will be taken more seriously with one president instead of four. With one president, the power is no longer diluted and allows SGA to operate more efficiently. It also dispels the idea that the four councils are essentially 'glorified clubs', as Edwards phrased it.

This drama is not confined to SGA offices. Outside of the council, word is buzzing that the government is trying to consolidate and opinions on the outside are just as divided as those on the inside.

"Yes, student [government] needs to represent the student body, but [SGA] is already one. It's just that it's divided into subsections because each student

has different needs. If you make it into one big thing, then it's going to be difficult for all of those needs to be addressed," student ambassador Cleavon Harris commented.

Despite the naysayers, on January 20 2017 SGA voted to draft a new constitution with the goal of consolidating the government. Prevost confirmed that this new, consolidated government will comprise of seven executive officers.

Those seven officers would be student government president and five vice presidents. VP positions include the vice president of Student Affairs, Legislative Affairs, Public Relations and Communications, Finance and Administration, and the Campus Activities Board chair, who would work independently of the student government.

"[The new constitution] would ultimately reduce the number of officer positions, because right now there are four separate councils that each have four officers. Under the new structure, there would be seven officers and a total of 12 senators," Prevost explained. "Those positions would be open to all students on campus as long as they meet the academic and judicial requirements. There would be no major requirements to be involved." This is starkly different to the old government, which requires SGA officers and members to take a major that falls under the council's jurisdiction.

The pressure is on for SGA. If the new structure is to be implemented in the fall 2017 semester, the council members and Student Life must work overtime regardless of affiliation. The process involves a battle that begins with getting about 1200-1500 signatures to prove the school wants a vote. SGA members had just about two weeks to get these signatures. Then those signatures go to College Council. To upkeep transparency, two public hearings were held this April where students could voice their concerns and questions.

If SGA secures the petitions in time, an online vote will take place where students vote either for or against the consolidation. That online vote was set to happen in late April. If the vote passes the student body, this information along with the new constitution will be compiled and sent to the Kingsborough President Farley Herzek. The president can make suggestions where he sees fit. He will then send the full document, along with his suggestions, to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees must approve the new structure for it to be implemented. That meeting will be in mid-June.

"Because of the timeline and making sure that is fair to students, there is a transition plan. We'll wait until the fall semester begins to do elections for the new structure," Prevost said. "That way, all students on campus have a way to be involved in the process."

"I think we can do it," Patestas said, "but it's a matter of having the buy-in from the students. Getting out there and explaining the purpose of the restructure and why they're actually signing the petition. Signing the petition doesn't mean you're in agreement or not. It just means you're willing to have a vote. I don't want students to be misinformed. I want them to make informed decisions based on conversations they've had with the truth."

S.P.A.R.K: Kingsborough's Newest Aid For Students

By Kevin Bonilla

In the cases of several college students, the transition from a high school to a university is not easy. An unfamiliar school environment, along with unfamiliar faces topped with a few unfamiliar courses can be a stressful environment for a freshman. Situations like these can be a bed of nails for any undergraduate, but there is a new program on campus that will lend a helping hand to those same students who want to modify their learning experience.

The Strategic Partnership for Achievement and Retention at Kingsborough (SPARK) program is the newest initiative to be introduced to the Kingsborough campus thanks to the 'Heckscher Foundation for Children', an organization that has undertaken the everlasting objective to 'level the playing field' for

the traditionally underprivileged youth for nearly a century.

The program held an event on March 29th further discussing their agenda. "I think it was a good experience, they give you different information on many topics that are useful to you," Liliam Beltran, accounting major, said. "I learned that there are services for people who have depression and anxiety." The SPARK program helps students gather a better learning experience, while helping to paint a clearer picture for the career endeavors of Kingsborough Community College.

The program also plans to raise the academic performance, credit accumulation and retention rate of arriving KBCC students as well as provide additional benefits such as innovative learning communities, academic advisors, accessible K.B.C.C resources, need-based MetroCards, community

and need-based personal textbooks, co-curricular and extracurricular programming, and networking opportunities with local non-profit and for profit organizations.

The purpose behind this is to alleviate some of the responsibilities that students typically have, while enabling them to thrive without unnecessary inhibitions.

Students who attended the event had generally optimistic and favorable comments regarding what the program was going to provide for students.

"I think it's a good program. Normally we would have to go to offices to learn about certain programs, but this event had everything laid out for you." Youn Lei Eain, a business administration major, said, "It was an easy access for anything you wanted to know about SPARK. We learned a lot about diversity and stuff like that. Basically, this college cares about us."

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GOT CONSENT?

YES MEANS YES

NO MEANS NO

“Boas Over KCC Drag Show”



Come visit the annual KCC Drag Show, hosted by the famous Queen, Schangela, showcasing five local, gorgeous Queens, that brings ethnic- and age diversity, on Thursday, May 11th 2017 at U-219/U-220 from 2p.m. – 5p.m. Let's have fun, dance and balance our colorful boas all over the campus.

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Strategies For Organizing and Becoming An Activist



Mariedgy Algarra Cedeño

By Mariedgy Algarra Cedeño

Matt Gonzalez, the Director of the School Diversity Project, New York Appleseed presented the session, Students Advocating for Their Rights: Strategies for Organizing, in the KCC Spring Diversity Symposium, which was held last April 5th, at the MAC Rotunda.

Gonzalez is a graduate student at Teachers College, Columbia University and the co-founder of Teachers College Students for Quality Education (TCSQE), which is an advocacy group committed to involve students, faculty and staff in discussions about racial and economic diversity.

Gonzalez who is an activist since he was 16 years

old, expresses to KCC students that there is a lot of work to do for the country and that work comes in different forms.

“Everyone has the capacity and should have the capacity to be an activist in some way, if you have the capacity to advocate for something that you really care about, that is activism,” said Gonzalez.

After the presenter asked to the audience if there were any activist, he certainly explained that activism is a political thing, and every action that people take is political. Therefore people have to be engaged and make changes.

“If you resist to something that you against that is activism, if we talk about activism we need to recognize how we are operating the world,” communicated Gonzalez.

Because activism and politics work together,

Gonzalez did not hesitate to talk about Trump's Administration and he encouraged everyone to acknowledge the moment we are living in.

“We are living in a scary political moment right now, we have a President who has a very different perspective from a lot of folks in this room, from a lot of folks in this city and from a lot of folks across the country, this campaign manifested a lot of racism, sexism, and xenophobia,” expressed Gonzalez.

The activist who is Mexican-American, encouraged the students not to hide themselves and avoid the reality we are facing now. Matt Gonzalez inspired students to organize and get along together, to get changes through strategies.

“Be your authentic self, learn the history of activism at your institution, build coalitions, and maximize accountability.”

Natural Additives the FDA Allows in Our Food



By Mariedgy Algarra Cedeño

What could be more delicious than a piece of green apple with a crunchy peanut butter mixed with some rodents hair? Or maybe a smooth piece of chocolate with some feces? It sounds gross, but the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allows a group of natural and unavoidable defects in foods that are not health hazards for human consumption.

It is not a joke. The FDA shows in its Defect Levels Handbook a current list that permits natural additives such as mold, insect fragments, excreta, rats, and mice hair, maggots and flies eggs, into our food. In the booklet, the FDA displays the set of these actions, "it is economically impractical to grow, harvest, or process raw products that are totally free of non-hazardous, naturally occurring, and unavoidable defects." For instance, these products are harmful to consumers whether are subject to

regulatory actions that exceed or not different action levels of criteria.

The Defect Levels Handbook classify the products according to its defect source and its significance, without forgetting the action level, that shows the average of mold, rodents hair, insect fragments or excreta that every product contains.

Here are five of more than a hundred products that are allowed by the FDA as a natural with unavoidable defects:

Cocoa beans have an average of 10 mg or more of mammalian excreta per pound, their significance is offensive to the senses, a potential health hazard and may contain mycotoxin producing fungi.

Products canned as berries, apricots, beets, citrus fruits, pineapple, plums and others have an average of 2% and more insect fragments, maggots, mold, and infestation of beetles and flies eggs. The defect source of the veggies is because of a pre and post harvest.

Tomatoes paste, canned, puree and juice have a

pre and post harvest insect infestation for flies eggs, and an average of more than 20 flies eggs per 100 grams.

Spices such as cumin, oregano, and allspice (ground/whole) contain a defect source of insect fragments, rodents hair, and excreta.

Peanut butter has an average of 1 or more rodent hairs per 100 grams. It also contains insect fragments, excreta, and grit.

Gerald Sachs, a professor from the Department of Health-Physical Education and Recreation at Kingsborough Community College, expresses that it is inevitable what is happening with our food, not only in the United States but around the world.

"A large population at this point requires a certain amount of lacks food production with regard to by using insecticides and herbicides. However, wealthy people are able to avoid this if they have the knowledge, but most of the people are eating and consuming a certain amount of polluted food," said Sachs.

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Roving Reporter: Dreams Begin at Kingsborough

By Mariedgy Algarra Cedeño

The Aspen Institute's Community College Excellence Program identifies Kingsborough Community College as one of the top four community colleges in the United States. KCC helps approximately 30,000 students per year to achieve what they want in life by offering more than thirty-five different Associate's degree.

Photos: Mariedgy Algarra Cedeño



“Yes, because I have advisors from ASAP that they push me to do what I have to do to get where I need to be, and I really love my professors, so they really encourage me in everything I want to do. Also, the way they teach is just really good.”

- Sarah Abraham, 18, Exercise Science

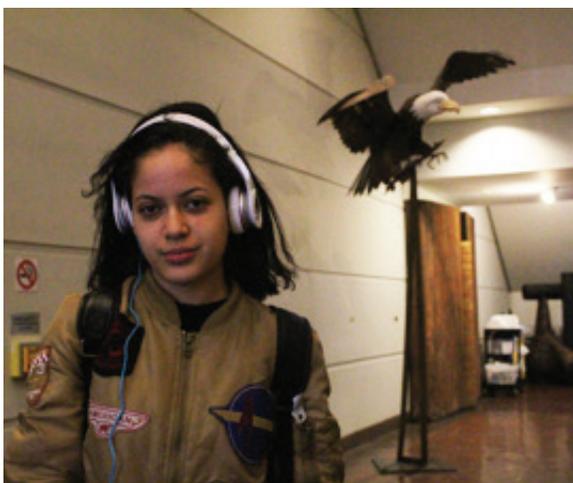
“Yes, because this college has a lot of benefits, I am an international Student and this college has been helping me a lot, besides taking my classes I am taking tutoring. I will transfer to Brooklyn College and KCC is helping me to reach this goal.”

- Pedro Rauda, 19, Liberal Arts.

“Yes, KCC is a stepping stone to get my undergraduate degree. Kingsborough belongs to CUNY, then it is a bridge to take me to Hunter College.”

- Shaindy Urman, 29, Liberal Arts

Do you think that KCC is helping you to accomplish your dream?



“Yes it is, KCC offers exactly what I want, I want to become a psychologist, and even though we don't have Psychology as a major, Mental Health is going to help me after this get my Bachelor's degree, and pursue my dream to become a psychologist.”

- Skyelee Fontanez, 19, Mental Health

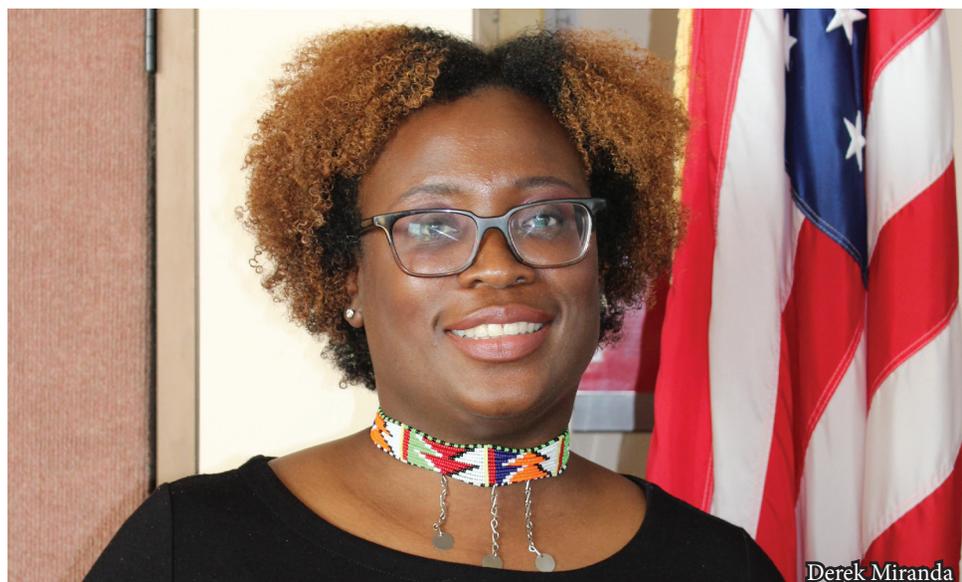
“Yes, I do, because it gives you all the textbooks required for your classes, which are basically free. The college also has great professors and the learning environment and the library are pretty amazing. Additionally, the advisors here are really helpful compared with other colleges.”

- Jammie Roper, 19, Biology

“Yes KCC is helping me, over here we have an environment where we are stuck between people who try to work hard and get a second change and do better, I am sure there are people who do not really care about their education, but a majority of the people here want to graduate, they want to find a nice job. It is very nice that KCC gives you the opportunity to take summer classes, winter classes, night classes and even weekend classes.”

- Jimmy Kong, 19, Liberal Arts

What Is Feminism?



Derek Miranda

Dr. Keisha Thompson



Kimberly Padilla

Dahlia Valle-Peterson

By May Khin

March's calendar was filled with events, which focused on women empowerment. Assistant professor of Behavioral Sciences Dr. Keisha Thompson and adjunct lecturer Dahlia Valle-Peterson hosted events on campus in honors of Women's History Month.

With the current political situation in America and the fear of the outcome of women's rights and the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender community, Valle-Peterson said it is really important that Kingsborough community knows about the Women's & Gender Studies Department.

"I think it's really important that professors of Women's & Gender Studies are known and have a presence here at KBCC," Valle-Peterson said. "I am doing a faculty roundtable with various Women's & Gender Studies professors here at Kingsborough."

It's important to understand what the focus is on the Women's & Gender studies and the purpose to have such department.

"There are a number of Women's & Gender studies professors on that particular panel," Valle-Peterson said. "This is what we did last semester. We talked about how we got started, what our focuses are, after we go through that students can ask questions."

Women, like Valle-Peterson is what society needs, especially in colleges to be a mentor for young women and educate women, but also men about the study and history of women. As a young woman, Valle-Peterson had this passionate drive to participate in various women's movements and considers herself a feminist without any hesitation.

"I use Bell Hook's definition of feminism which is a movement to end sexism and sexual exploitation," Valle-Peterson said. "Feminism can be a number of things but ultimately, I think it's just an attempt to end sexism."

But it's not just sexism that is a problem in society, it is other concepts of oppressions, society has a problem with, which also need to be addressed. It's like a domino effect, where one block keeps the line moving, until it stops. By removing one oppression, the hope to end others rises.

"[It] connect the various systems of oppression like sexism, racism, homophobia, classism, ageism, ableism," Valle-Peterson said. "All of these systems of oppression are interlinked and interconnected. So

to believe in ending sexism, to me is also believing in ending other oppressions."

Valle-Peterson stresses the importance to know why you believe in what you believe in, patriarchal culture and patriarchal society.

"I think having knowledge and being able to articulate why women believe what they believe is really important," said Valle-Peterson.

Dr. Keisha Thompson who facilitated the Women's Career Panel said it is of importance that students think about life outside of the classroom when students leave college.

Besides the term feminism, there is also the term womanism that focuses on the natural contributions of women to society, where feminism primarily emphasizes on middle-class white women. Thompson considers herself as a womanist because the ideals of womanism resonate with her more than traditional feminism.

"I think some of the things that womanists stand for are grounded in the experiences of all women," said Thompson. "For me, being a black woman, the ideals of womanism really is what resonates with me more than traditional feminism." Because of that, she feels that feminism has not been inclusive to women of color.

Thompson and Valle-Peterson both agreed that society is continuously evolving and progress is made in some ways but women still haven't caught up.

"I think definitely women have made a lot of advances. Society as a whole has moved and women have moved too," said Thompson. "But we haven't arrived."

The structure of society as a whole, aside from the political aspects have to change its perceptions and viewpoints in order to make it easier for minorities to be equally successful and equally accepted. Education and awareness are key elements in order to make positive changes among the communities and start with education at home and in school.

"We do have to educate people. We do have to become more self-aware. We do have to become less self involved and think about how our position in life affect other people because there are consequences for everything," said Thompson. "But the systems that we belong to are not based on equality, they are based on someone doing better than the other

person or they are based on someone benefiting off of someone not benefiting."

Valle-Peterson said women have definitely made progress. However, social attitudes have not changed very much.

"...though there are laws that have in a sense attempted to create some form of balance, some form of equality, social attitudes have not changed very much," said Valle-Peterson. "That's one of the biggest struggle because when you look at the representation of women in power today, women who are participating in politics, governing, it's still overwhelmingly male. It's actually gotten worse."

In order to achieve equality, men need to relinquish some power. Men need to accept that women do belong in those places and that women are not going away. She said people who hold onto these sexist ideas ultimately need to change.

"That's one of so many things that need to happen. Men need to feel comfortable with the fact that women are not going away," said Valle-Peterson. "I think that a lot of older generations of men, the men who are in political office today, truly don't believe it's women's place to be there. They really firmly do not believe it."

Socialization is a prominent issue because many women are socialized to be accommodating to people and not socialized to be confident and commanding. Women are oftentimes afraid and in shock when sexually harassed, and don't how to react.

"So when faced with a sexist situation, a lot of times women either don't know how to respond so they don't say anything. They just withdraw completely and never go back to that conversation again," said Valle-Peterson. "I think that socialization of women and girls is a really big problem and of course, socialization of men as well. It goes hand in hand."

Valle-Peterson believes that women feel more empowered to speak up, especially young women in particular, which sets a good example and takes the fear out for others.

"So in that sense, we've definitely progressed which is necessary because old feminists like me are tired. We need help," said Valle-Peterson. "I am really relieved that even the word feminist is used far more frequently and liberally in a positive way than it ever has before."

She's Beautiful When She's Angry



By Kiara Clarke-Knight

She's Beautiful When She's Angry

On March 21st, the MAC Lighthouse was transformed into a movie theater for the docu-film "She Beautiful When She's Angry."

The event was sponsored by the Women's Center in celebration of Women's History Month. The documentary chronicles the forgotten history of the women who founded the modern women's movement.

The 2014 film has a 3.5 rating on IMBD. It is described as "great movie for liberals who want

to feel good about themselves without getting too upset" by the Guardian.

Despite the lukewarm reviews in the papers, facilitator of the event professor Joanna Stein thought it was essential.

"I thought it was necessary to show the birth of the women's liberation movement," the English professor commented.

The 100 or so students that attended the event were all treated to sandwiches and soda. Most of them sat for the entire event; a few left before it was over.

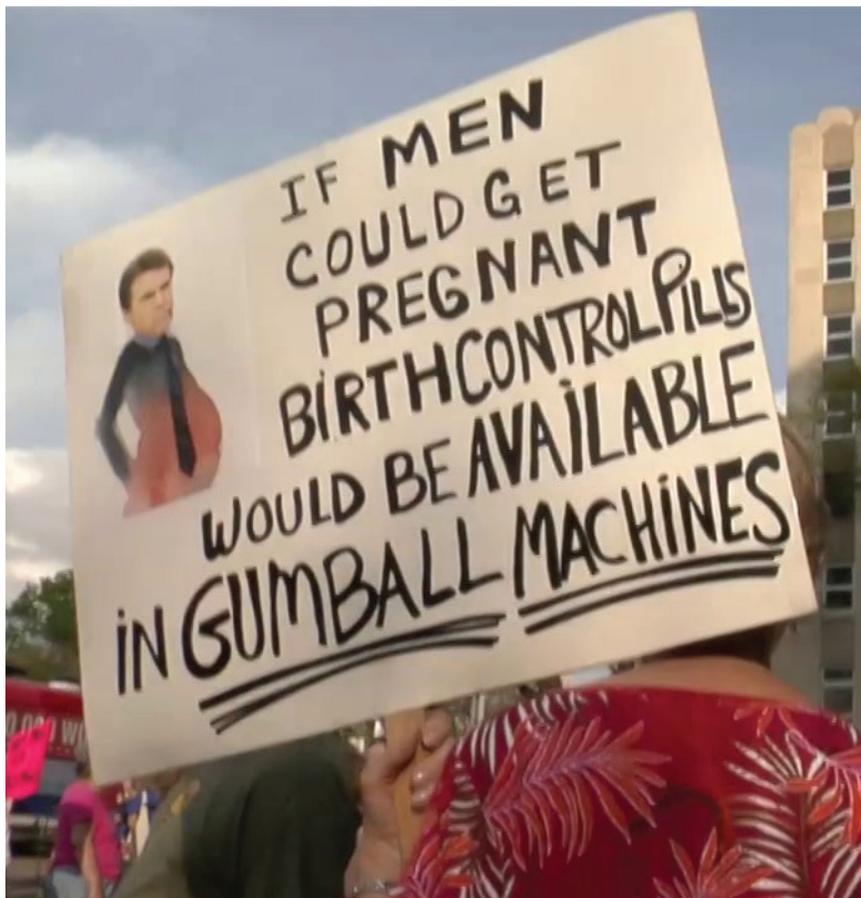
"I hope that they [the students] felt more informed," commented professor Stein, "but I also hope they felt inspired and maybe less afraid to use

the term feminist, which sometimes has a really negative connotation to it."

The film echoes Stein's sentiments. Splashed throughout the movie are visuals of women holding signs that say, "Uppity Women Unite" and "If Men Could Get Pregnant Birth Control Would Be Available in Gumball machines."

This movie was selected because, according to Stein, it was new and inclusive.

"This [movie] is fairly new," she said. "It shows multiple perspectives so it's also showing different races and movements, like the black liberation movement and the LGBT movement. I think it's important to show all these perspectives and not just the white women's perspectives."



Movie Review: Power Rangers



By Matthew Hogan

Five teenagers with attitudes have been chosen and given intergalactic power in this spring's "Power Rangers". Based on the popular children's television series (which is still shown on TV since '95), this film tells the story of a group of misfit teens who find themselves selected by an ancient force known as the morphing grid, to protect the Earth from a renegade ranger bent on finding a sacred relic which would give her enough power to wipe out all life on the planet. Though before they can achieve their complete potential they must cope with their angst, learn to work as a team, and inspire each other to become the titular heroes.

The original incarnation of the series ("Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" '95-'98) was never really known for intricate plots and in-depth character development, but it was fun for its targeted demographic to watch color coated super soldiers battle it out with the monster of the day, using their dinosaur inspired vehicles to come together and form a cardboard stacked giant Voltron-esque robot warrior. It was a guilty pleasure among kids who at the time didn't even realize that the show's producers cut budget costs by editing the American actors and sets with used footage from the original Japanese program it was based on for the action. It was basically "Saved by the Bell" meets "Godzilla" for ages 6 to 11, but this isn't your little sibling's Power Rangers.

Let's get to know our heroes; First, there's Jason Scott (Dacre Montgomery), the varsity all-star athlete who gives up his potential football career by stealing an actual real live bull and letting it loose on the competing school's locker room. Jason doesn't rat out his friends who joined in with him for the prank, so he ends up on house arrest and for the remainder of his education has to attend Saturday detention. There he meets his Breakfast Club: Kimberley Hart (Naomi Scott), the fallen cheerleader who has been pushed out of the crowd for cyber bullying, and autistic super nerd Billy

Cranston (R. J. Cyler) who brings the two together along with social bohemians Zack (Ludi Lin) and Trini (Beck G), to the town's restricted gold mines. There an explosion brings strange glowing colored amulets to the surface and into the teens' possession. Not only do the amulets give the group superpowers, but eventually leads them to android Alpha 5 (voiced by Bill Hader) and Zordon (Bryan Cranston), a former ranger whose consciousness has been downloaded into the mainframe of a spaceship that has been buried under the Earth for billions of years.

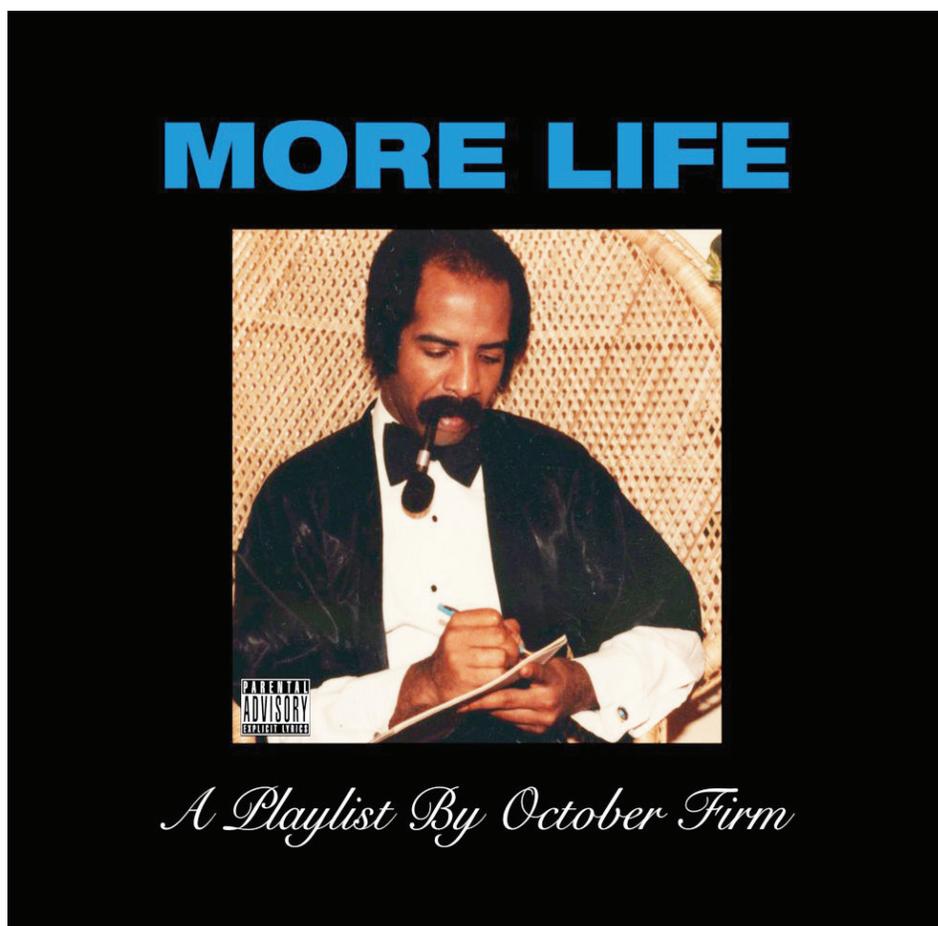
Zordon tells Jason and his newfound friends that they have been chosen to become the latest team of Power Rangers but first, they must overcome their differences in order to stop Rita Repulsa, a former ranger corrupted by power who has laid dormant for millenniums only to be awakened now. She then freshens up by going on a murder spree while gathering enough gold to bring forth Goldar, a giant monster that will help her unearth the Zeo crystal (a life-giving jewel buried under the town of Angel Grove) which will give her ultimate genocidal power.

In the original show Rita Repulsa was never a real threat, but here Elizabeth Banks makes her a true menace, playing the villain with joyous catastrophe and charming naughtiness almost as fun to watch as Tom Hiddleston's Loki in the Marvel films. Though the real ones to watch here are the Rangers; contrary to the TV show's protagonists, this time they're three-dimensional human beings full of teen angst, real depth, and big hearts. Especially R. J. Cyler who plays Blue Ranger Billy. In the film, Billy's on the more functional side of the autistic spectrum, but he's not at all written as a gimmick, and Cyler performs with a perfect balance of empathetic vulnerability and endearing spirit.

For adults who feel the need to cash in on their nostalgia and younger audiences looking to indulge in quirky dialogue and CGI delight, "Power Rangers" won't disappoint. The only place I felt the film truly fails is in the absence in memoriam. On September 3rd, 2001, Thuy Trang who played Trini the Yellow Ranger in the original show has died in a car accident. She was a wonderful talent who was taken too soon and I feel that her birth year of 1975 on Becky G's t-shirt for a quick scene was not enough dedication. Thuy Trang is missed by her fans and will be forever inspiring bravery in the hearts of the franchise's ever so faithful audience.



Music Review: More Life by Drake



By Zaman Gilani

After tremendous hype and equally disappointing setbacks, *More Life*, “A Playlist By October Firm,” a mysterious Drake project, finally dropped on 3/18/17. But five days earlier the album cover was already posted to Drake’s Instagram account @champagnepapi circulating among fans the idea that this would not actually be an album as expected, but a playlist. This move, while surprising, is nothing unexpected from a man like Drake; who is constantly preoccupied with innovation and exists at the forefront of music in a digitally dominated age. In a scene where the newest come-ups are born on Spotify and the latest albums are dropped on Apple Music, it’s easy to understand where Aubrey is coming from when he told DJ Semtex that he thought of this *Views* successor as an “evolution of the mixtape” in an interview back in February.

But a move this big has ripples. Considering it a playlist has proven polarizing; by showing to his fans that this project is not to be taken as seriously he simultaneously invites and deflects criticisms of it, and he’s well aware of this. The playlist flows like an unfinished B-sides collection, polished on the ends with more mastered tracks like “Get It Together,” “Passionfruit”, and “Ice Melts” that help the project pass as a completed idea. However, the middle of the playlist is where the criticisms come in spades: songs are made with an unimaginative verse-chorus-verse simplicity featuring few bridges and fewer hooks. Tracks like “Can’t Have Everything” and “KMT” seem to exist solely to support the songs they lead into and keep a solidarity of the project’s sound. Stronger tracks like “Skepta Interlude” and “Portland” highlight an absence of Drizzy’s presence on his own mixtape, supplementing heavier bars (courtesy of Quavo and Travis Scott on the latter) onto the project so as not to draw attention to Drake’s own uninspired verses and empty choruses. “Teenage Fever,” coming

off of the playlist’s midpoint, has a slowed down sample of J-Lo’s “If You Had My Love” to thank for its appeal, providing a moody yet sensual hook to an otherwise forgettable track. “Fake Love” sounds like a failed B-side to “Hotline Bling” and lifts its melody and beat straight from Ginuwine’s hit “Pony.”

As a follow up to *Views*, it maintains the lush and tropical style he attempted to lay down in 2015 with dancehall infusions and Beenie Man samples, but as a sequel Drake has expanded the sphere of influence he works in to include Nigerian and South African afro house (with a small shoutout to afrobeat on “Madiba Riddim,” whose title references Nelson Mandela) and more noticeably, London grime. Although the 22-track EP spends its second half returning to classicist Atlanta trap roots, the grime influences are where the project is weakest and most at danger of falling apart. Drake’s fatal attraction to accents he cannot master leads him to add an interesting selection of slang to the unconvincing appropriation of global sounds he calls *More Life*, such as “gyal,” “wasteman,” and the poorly delivered “tings.” Yet, these tracks are where the underlying genius of *Champagnepapi* shows. The idea works almost exclusively off of his iconic economy of creativity: by choosing respected and established artists in whatever genre/culture he chooses, he ensures that he has both a proper guide in this new world AND a heavy hitter feature on his track, allowing an easy exit from common allegations of Drake’s unoriginality and inauthenticity. The exchange offers the featured an opportunity at international limelight, and cultural capital for Drake.

But he is still making this music for a largely Western audience. And while this is clear through the filtered and whitewashed foreign sound the playlist provides, it becomes crystalline on the second half. The final track sells a creamy R&B vibe more native to us and his own vocals, and a peek at the credits shows a laundry list of Soul and classic

R&B influences; gathering talent like Earth Wind and Fire, Jennifer Lopez, the O’ Jays, and even R. Kelly. These connections subtly counter the heavy outsider influence of the album by reminding us of where Drake himself stands in the international mix.

More Life has left one question on most people’s tongues since it dropped: is this cultural appropriation? Certainly Drake’s perceived distance from his project, on his project, could be taken as a mark of inattention. The size of Aubrey Graham’s ambition here seems to swallow him up like a hungry dog with a meek master: by leaving his listeners with something to be desired in his work, does he not insult his own features and samples by snubbing them of the more complex lyricism and attentive beat production we’ve come to expect from OVO? Or does his usage of other people’s culture and sounds merely make him an international curator of the sounds of the black diaspora, tastefully navigating the world by way of his ear and bringing together musics like spices in a pot, to make something wholly new and far reaching?

I believe it is on the shoulders of the listener to fight appropriation by seeking out the true roots of the things they enjoy, and to understand the jams you bump to came from a place, far away from you, made by people different from you, for reasons that you might not understand. Drake doesn’t afford us the comfort of diversity his samples and features have, but he shares his stage with the world. The rest is up to us.

Overall, *More Life* achieves a solid 3/5 rating from this listener. Undercooked ideas and a reliable composition of producers pull Drake’s latest release in two different directions to create an ‘album’ that can only be described as passable at best. If you’ve already listened to *Views* too many times and still need more tropical sounds in your eardrums, feel free to look to *More Life* -- just don’t get your hopes up.

Spring 2017 Fashion Tips

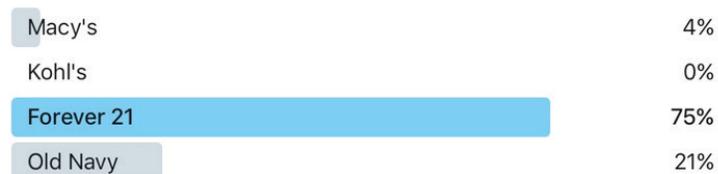
By Naosha Gregg

There are many retailers that have been topping the charts in the recent years and epic changes of trends. Macy's, Kohl's, Old Navy and top favorite, Forever 21 have been taking the Fashion Industry by storm. According to a poll, 73% of consumers preferred Macy's while only 27% preferred Kohl's. However, when the same poll added Forever 21 and Old Navy to the mix, Forever 21 took the top vote with 75%, Old Navy in second place with 21%, Macy's at 4% and Kohl's with no votes at all. Originated right in New York City in 1858, Macy's and its partner store Bloomingdales have been ranking the charts in terms of fashion for years. In 2015, Macy's Inc racked in a whopping \$5,874 million dollars in their third quarter, and in 2016, the number jumped to \$8,515 million. Macy's has always been known for their trendy pieces. Macy's introduced their Mstylelab back in 2012 and it has been a smashing success ever since. Featured on popular award shows such as BET Awards, 106 & Park, Macy's has been styling the millennials for a while.



Naosha
@NaoshaOXO

What are your favorite places to shop? Tweet me or respond via poll!



24 votes • Final results

4/1/17, 11:32 AM



Naosha
@NaoshaOXO

Where do you prefer to shop?



26 votes • Final results

4/1/17, 11:25 AM

Macy's' Spring Pieces this year are completely to die for. Featuring embellishment, the infamous cold shoulder and not to mention beautiful embroidery and floral patterns, Macy's is your go to for Spring 2017 fashion. A popular piece this year features a Tommy Hilfiger Chevron Striped Sheath dress. Originally priced at \$129.00, this piece features an unlined, allover chevron print.

A chevron print for those who may not know is defined as a line or stripe in the shape of a V or an inverted V, especially one on the sleeve of a uniform indicating rank or length of service. It is unlined and has a concealed back zipper with hook and eye closure. On sale now for \$79.99, and an additional 15% off with promo code SPRING, this dress tops the charts at just \$67.99.

Kohl's department stores has been around since 1962. Founded by Maxwell Kohl, the department stores has extended its olive branch, growing

and opening stores from Wisconsin to Florida to the Big Apple. Featuring private brands such as Croft & Barrow, Apt. 9 and Sonoma, Kohl's is another go-to for Spring trends this year.

Trending now at Kohl's are embroidery and shoulder show. A fabulous collection piece is the Apt. 9 Embroidered Chiffon Top. This top comes in three different colors; Lily Pad Blossom for those who prefer a neutral white, Ultramarine for those who love blue and Desert Flower for those who love a subtle pink/peach color.

The shirt features a deep V-Neck cut and Belle sleeves, which in perfect timing to the movie, are either long or short sleeves and are usually set smoothly into the armseye (no pleating or shirring) and flare toward the bottom, similar to Belle's dress in Beauty and the Beast. This top retails at \$40.00, is currently on sale for \$24.99 and additional coupons can be found and used on

the weekends. Though Macy's and Kohl's rank high on the fashion list, fortunately they are not the only options. As college students, you want the best quality of fashion but also at an affordable price. "For men, anything ripped seems to be the trend this year," Edith Koci, former Fashion Institute of Technology student (FIT) commented. "Ripped jeans, ripped shorts are all in.

The best place to buy them for guys is the Guys J Crew Factory, Off Saks, H&M or Banana Republic." Kick also addressed the latest trends for women, "Pastel colors are really in for women this year. Especially blush, it's almost the new nude. Chokers are also a number one accessory, they can add a kick or flare to an outfit." No surprise, Macy's was another recommended shopping place, coming in along Zara and Forever 21. Men's jeans start at just \$19.99 at H&M, and chokers start at \$2.90 at Forever 21.



2017 NBA Finals Predictions

By Ivan Morrobel

The NBA (National Basketball Association) playoffs are underway and 16 teams will battle it out to win the Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy. The Golden State Warriors, San Antonio Spurs, Boston Celtics, and Toronto Raptors are amongst the many teams that are currently in the race. However, they'll have to overcome the 2016 NBA Champion, Cleveland Cavaliers.

After being down three games to one against the best regular season team of all-time, 73-9 Golden State Warriors, in last year's NBA Finals matchup, the Cavaliers were led to glory by the best basketball player in the world, LeBron James. The two teams have met each other in the NBA Finals for the past two seasons and are favorites to make it three straight years in 2017.

Talent is an understatement when comparing these juggernauts because both contain a star-studded cast. Basketball fans in Kingsborough Community College shared their predictions for this year's NBA Finals.

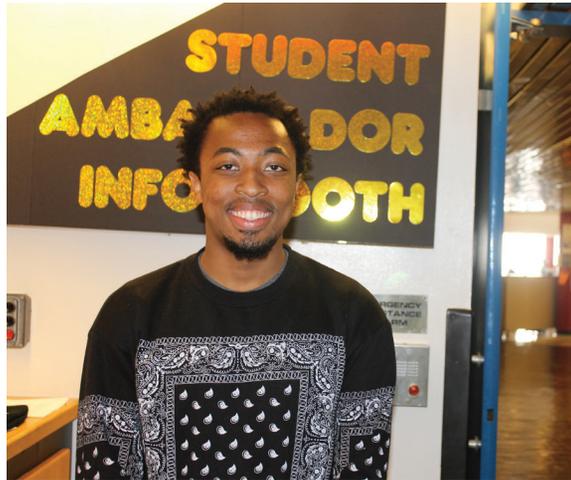
Photos: Ivan Morrobel



"Cleveland Cavaliers and Golden State Warriors, but if not Golden State then OKC. Stephen Curry is just a shooter and if you have him on lockdown he's not going to do anything. Westbrook has been making a name for himself. He's showing that without Kevin Durant he can still dominate."

Winner: Cleveland Cavaliers

- Wisly Sabourin, 19, Information Technology



"Cleveland and Golden State, it's an easy question. I'm taking Cleveland in seven games because we have the best player in the world and a killer in Kyrie Irving. I feel that Golden State is trumping themselves with Kevin Durant. They're missing out on key pieces that they had on the bench last year."

Winner: Cleveland Cavaliers

- Jermani Faulk, 20, Liberal Arts.



"I'm a huge Golden State Warriors fan. We have Kevin Durant and the chemistry is there. There's something about Washington and John Wall is looking like a beast. It looks like LeBron is always going to get there, but I'm hoping that the Wizards can make it past the second round."

Winner: Golden State Warriors

- Jerell Brown, 21, Culinary Arts



"My favorite team is the Portland Trail Blazers and we have a big three that's highly slept on. In the Eastern Conference, it's a given with LeBron James. Damian Lillard is going to come through in the clutch and we're going to win. I feel that it's our year." Winner: Portland Trail Blazers -

Qwintel Beckum, 20, Criminal Justice



"I definitely know that it's going to be the Warriors and Cavaliers. The Warriors have an overall structure of how basketball is supposed to be played. People want Curry to win, but if Kevin Durant returns then I believe he will get Finals MVP." Winner: Golden State Warriors

- Timi Alli, 20, Chemistry



"It would have to be Cleveland and Golden State. As long as everyone on Golden State is healthy then they're good. Cleveland is streaky right now and they're missing a solid backup center." Winner: Golden State Warriors

- Felix Le, 20, Business Administration

Athlete of The Month: Malik John



By Wilbur Thomas

Kingsbough's very own Malik John has been named National Male Athlete of the Week for DIII for his performance this past weekend at the Gamecock Invitational. Malik ran 10.94 in the 100 meters good for fourth best in the country in that event for NJCAA D-III and 21.59 in the 200 meters which is top mark in the country for D-III.



Athlete of The Month: Keziann Jones



By Wilbur Thomas

Lady Wave Sophomore Keziann Jones was named the National Female Athlete of the Week for her performance at the Osprey Open and the Multi Meet last weekend in New Jersey. Jones captured the title in the hammer throw with a distance of 47.07m the top mark in the NJCAA D-III and also a new school record.