

# The Viking News

## WHAT'S NEXT?

With vaccines rolling out, and the dangers of COVID still looming, students wonder what form their education will take this Fall

by Emily Moriarty and Vanessa Gonçalves

College administrators all over the country are facing difficult decisions right now regarding the Fall semester.

Should they return to the pre-COVID practice and offer live classes the traditional way we were all used to before the pandemic struck? Or should they play it safe and keep things they way they are right now, with all classes remote via Zoom except for those requiring students' live presence, such as laboratories? Or should there be a mixture of both? And if so, what sort of mixtures should be offered?

These decisions are the more critical right now at WCC because Fall registration is scheduled to begin on

March 29. Whatever course the college will follow will have to be determined quickly.

The sources for what follows are various and include Faculty Senate discussions, a town hall-type meeting conducted via Zoom by Dr. Karen Taylor, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, various responses to these issues shared by professors, and anecdotal conversations around the Zoom water cooler. In a phrase heard frequently these days, "Nothing is official."

With that caveat, the following are unofficial options being discussed—and evaluated for likely success—by the WCC community:

o **100 % live, face-to-face (f2f): considered UNLIKELY (given current knowledge) due to COVID risks and space constraints imposed by social distancing**

o **100% remote: considered UNLIKELY due to potential reduction in student enrollments**

o **Mixture of live and remote: Considered Highly likely because the modal versatility offers students flexibility.**

A relatively new option being seriously considered is "HyFlex." The word combines "hybrid" with "flexible." With HyFlex, students choose their learning options week to week, sometimes day-to-day. Critics of this model argue that it is impractical and

**A variety of mixture models are possible:**

o **Divided courses (e.g., a course meets twice per week, once live on campus and once remote at home)**

o **A combination of all-remote courses and all-live courses**

o **A combination of synchronous remote (Zoom) and asynchronous remote (the latter being the traditional online course in which students and teachers do not meet either remotely or in person)**

potentially chaotic, placing unnecessary demands on teachers. Proponents point out that 1) it would likely be given a short trial run before wide adoption; 2) only volunteers would teach HyFlex courses; and 3) those volunteers would receive special training.

But what do the students want?  
(Continued on page 4)

## Faculty Senate Spotlights Adjuncts

by Mason C. Nayyar

In recent weeks, the Faculty Senate has launched two initiatives aimed at improving the professional life of a part of the WCC community often overlooked: the adjunct faculty. To many, such attention is long overdue, since part-time adjuncts historically make up close to 70% of the WCC teaching staff.

The differences between full-time "tenure-track" and part-time professors are many. Besides being paid less, an adjunct almost always is employed one semester at a time compared to the annual contracts most full-time professors enjoy. This often means scrambling for courses, since employment is not guaranteed for the next semester. As a result, many adjuncts are forced to work at several different colleges.

Unlike their full-time counterparts, adjuncts are ineligible for tenure, which means most adjuncts will never enjoy the security full time teachers have. They also differ in that most adjuncts do not have health benefits and the other perks of full-time employment.

The plight of adjuncts is not confined to WCC. The number of adjunct professors has grown significantly over the past few decades, due to their cheaper labor cost to the institutions they work for. Across America, over 40% of educational staff are adjunct professors. According to a study conducted by the American Federation of Teachers (continued on page 4)



Dr. Bernard Lafayette

Photo: U.S. Congress Office of Terri Sewel

## *A Freedom Rider's Guide to Change*

by Ava Gibbons

There are many ways in which young people can create change. Just ask Dr. Bernard Lafayette, the venerable civil rights activist who has spent most of his life seeking racial justice.

Dr. Lafayette had already been active in the movement when at the age of 20 he joined the legendary Freedom Riders, he told WCC students recently. In Smithsonian Magazine, writer Marian Smith Holmes defines the Freedom Riders as “more than 400 volunteers who traveled throughout the South on regularly scheduled buses for seven months in 1961 to test a 1960 Supreme Court decision that declared segregated facilities for interstate passengers illegal.”

Dr. Lafayette became inspired to take part in this nonviolent movement when his college roommate, John Lewis, who was later to become a long-serving Congressman, persuaded him to attend workshops on nonviolent disobedience.

“I decided that it was important to me to give my life to trying to make change that would benefit all peo-

ple,” he said. After that, he became part of the Freedom Riders in Nashville and was involved in their sit-ins.

Before long, Dr. Lafayette was very involved in the civil rights movement and working towards desegregating places all over the country. He has a long history in the civil rights movement, including marching at Selma and working closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He has gone on to promote global change and to help all people to be treated equally.

So how can young people today create change? As someone who has spent his entire life promoting and creating change, Dr. Lafayette believes the best way to start is to make sure you know your stuff. “Before you go and try to change something or even a person, study and get information. Learn as much as possible so that when you began to try and understand a person you can stand under them. You don’t have to agree with everything, but you can have some appreciation for the system.”

Dr. Lafayette believes the nonviolent approach to

change is the best one there is.

He says, “The nonviolent approach to dealing with conflict is phenomenal and is applicable in any situation. In your school, in your home, your community, your church and on a global level.” In order to evoke change, Dr. Lafayette says that “there is no substitute for leadership training. The most important thing for leaders to learn is to get along with one another.” Being able to work with others toward a common goal without necessarily having to agree on everything but understanding each other’s ideas is vital, he says.

Dr. Lafayette wants to stress his reaction to issues going on today. He is feeling positive about the way young people today are advocating for change. “I am so excited about what I am seeing now with you young people. My goodness! Hundreds of thousands of you in the middle of the streets marching together, black and white, all over the world. In spite of all the challenges of today you are still trying to make things happen.”

## News Briefs

### *Faculty Senate Makes Memorial Donations to Scholarship Fund*

by Emily Moriarty

The WCC Foundation Scholarship Fund will be five hundred dollars richer thanks to contributions authorized by the Faculty Senate at its February 24 meeting. By unanimous votes on two separate motions, the Senate approved donations from its own funds of \$250 each in honor of two distinguished members of the college community who passed away last month: Raphael

Henkin, a popular professor in the Biology Department, who suffered a fatal heart attack while conducting a remote class on Feb 1, and Mr. Keith Miles, husband of WCC president Dr. Belinda Miles and avid supporter of the college, who died on Feb 9. The donated funds will help support the Foundation’s efforts to provide scholarships for WCC students.

### *Academic Support Center (ASC) Users Eligible for an Award*

by Vanessa Gonçalves

WCC students who took advantage of the help offered by the library or the ASC on their path to commencement are eligible to apply for the ASC Division Award for Graduating Students. Applicants need to write a 250-300 word essay explaining how the library and/or the ASC contributed to their

academic success. Also required is a letter from a professor and a copy of an unofficial transcript showing a GPA of 3.0 or better. The deadline is Friday, March 26. Materials should be sent to [ASC-Group@sunywcc.edu](mailto:ASC-Group@sunywcc.edu). Further information can be found on the college website.

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# Waterways Need Attention, Experts Warn



The County Airport may affect streams like this one // Photo: Mac Collier

## Environmental Club's panel emphasized conservation

by Mac Collier

Water conservation was the theme of a panel discussion hosted by the WCC Environmental Club on February 25th. The online event featured four experts, two from the Biology Department and two from organizations that advocate for New York's water resources.

Following introductory remarks from Environmental Club officers Chelsea Green and Ruby Gauchman, the floor was ceded to Dr. Rajashree Karve, biology professor at WCC, for her presentation on water scarcity in the time of COVID.

In her presentation, Dr. Karve shed light on the ways a pandemic interacts with environmental and social factors. She used the coronavirus as a jumping off point to inform her audience of the major role that unclean water has in spreading disease, and the environmental or socioeconomic conditions that can force people to rely on unclean water sources.

Dr. Karve pointed out how the economic effects of COVID have made it harder for people in disadvantaged regions to access clean water. This creates a vicious cycle as unclean water sources lead to further outbreaks of dangerous diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid, polio, and possibly even COVID-19, in the case of water contaminated by bodily fluids.

Next on the program was Jessica Alba, the Watershed Forest Stewardship Educator for the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) based in Westchester County, who gave a presentation on the Council's Forestry Program.

The Forestry Program works in outreach and education, she said, informing people about the relationship between forests and water quality. The secret to how nearby forests will keep a river or watershed clean, said Alba, occurs underground — the forest trees' roots hold soil in place, preventing excessive soil from eroding into the

water and contaminating it. The roots can also absorb or filter pollution, stopping it before it can enter the water. The Forestry Program also does on-the-ground implementation of methods to combat soil erosion. Alba is involved with a project called Trees For Tribes, which plants trees along tributaries near the Croton Watershed, a source of water for Westchester County. Volunteer and internship opportunities are available to those interested in Trees For Tribes, or in other activities promoted by WAC, or NYC's Department of Environmental Protection.

The next speaker was Jeremy Cherson, a Legislative Advocacy Manager with Riverkeeper, which was founded in 1966 by an association of Hudson River fishermen in response to the terrible environmental conditions of the river.

Although the river's pollution has improved through regulation and cleanup efforts, Riverkeeper still has further goals for the Hudson. Cherson stressed the sheer amount of biodiversity that was present prior to industrialized use of the river. Populations of American shad, Atlantic sturgeon, and striped bass,

native species which were once abundant in the river, are now endangered or in decline. Riverkeeper wants to "give the Hudson its life back," said Cherson.

The organization has several initiatives through which they're attempting to achieve this. One ongoing project involves removing obsolete dams from tributaries, such as creeks and streams, which lead into the Hudson. These dams block fish from their spawning grounds, and keep vital minerals and nutrients from entering the food web. Riverkeeper removed its first dam in 2016, from the Wynants Kill Creek in Troy, NY. Within days after the dam's removal, herring were seen swimming in the creek for the first time in 85 years. There are 67 dammed tributaries which feed into the Hudson. Many of these tributaries are "dammed many times over," as Cherson put it, with multiple manmade blockages.

Along with physically removing these dams, Riv-

**"Give the Hudson its life back"**

**-Jeremy Cherson**

erkeeper also endeavors to protect the Hudson through environmental policy and regulation. They have been trying to get the Stream Protection Act passed in New York, a bill which would require a permit to build on or near streams which are designated as Class C by New York's stream classification system. There are 41,000 miles of Class C streams, which are currently unprotected, despite the fact that millions of New Yorkers rely on these small streams for drinking water. The Stream Protection Act has passed in the State Senate multiple times, and passed in the Assembly for the first time in 2020, but was vetoed by Governor Cuomo in November 2020.

The final presentation of the event, from Biology

professor Holly Bukofser, focused on the sustainability of water sources surrounding Westchester County Airport. Professor Bukofser explained that the airport, which was originally built in 1942-43 by the federal government as an air defense base, is adjacent to two watersheds — Rye Lake Watershed to the northwest, and Blind Brook Watershed to the southeast. The proximity to the Rye Lake Watershed is a potential concern because Rye Lake is a section of the Kensico Reservoir and supplies water to millions of people, including Westchester residents.

The typical operation of an airport involves the use of many harmful chemicals, and there's a concern that chemical runoff from the airport could leak into Rye Lake, contaminating the water. Professor Bukofser discussed the specific details of the impact an airport could have on nearby water resources, and thing that Westchester County Airport does to monitor water quality, and the actions the airport has taken to protect the nearby water source, such as switching to a less toxic deicer and diverting water which contains deicing fluid away from Rye Lake.

Once the presentations were concluded, a Q&A session was held. The audience had been sending questions into the Zoom chat as the presentations had been going on. Panelists tackled these questions, as well as any further questions, and then the event came to a close.

One student attendee, Psychology major Jacob Nawy, gave his opinion on the panel. "Because they tackled the issue of water conservation from a variety of angles, they were able to illustrate how this topic has far-reaching ramifications for many different aspects of the environment," he said, adding that "I appreciated the willingness of the presenters to give their honest answers to difficult questions."

# NEWS

## What Will Happen This Fall?

*Students weigh in on which learning model works the best*

A relatively new option being considered is “HyFlex.” With HyFlex, students choose their learning options week to week, sometimes day-to-day. Critics of this model argue that it is impractical and chaotic, placing unnecessary demands on teachers.

The Viking News asked a sampling of first-year students which of the options they would prefer. We also asked which option would be a dealbreaker for Fall registration. Although the results are not scientific, three trends seem noteworthy and likely to bring comfort to administrators: 1) the wish to restore things to pre-COVID live teaching is by no means universal; 2) a hybrid option is not unwelcome; and 3) most students said that they will return to WCC regardless of the learning format chosen by the school.

Here are some excerpts from the student responses:

“I believe the optimal form of education right now is 25% live and 75% through zoom....I would love to have live interactions with my classmates and professors.

But too much interaction can cause harm because we are still in a pandemic and most of us are not vaccinated yet. However, regardless of what the administration chooses to do, I will be going to college.”

**- Issa Jouda**

“Quite honestly, I do not mind taking classing in the comfort of my home. I have more time to complete schoolwork and don’t have to worry about traffic. An additional bonus is the money that I have been saving on gas... I will be attending class in the fall regardless of the final decision.”

**-Clinton Mekeel**

I prefer to do 100% remote learning because that’s what works well for me and my family. I have two small children at home and due to COVID I cannot hire someone to come into my home and babysit. Going back to 100% live for fall semester will cause me not to attend school at all... WCC should really consider being remote until 2022,

and see what happens with COVID... Being remote is keeping the staff and their students safe.

**-Kenia Granados**

“My preference would be 100% remote. I don’t feel that we can possibly know what is going to happen in the fall. There are so many unanswered questions and too many variables...if I had to, I would come in.”

**-Michael Kennedy**

“If I were returning to WCC in the fall I would prefer online classes.”

**-Nick Doto**

“I feel more comfortable with the idea of online classes because it would be safer for me and my classmates... I believe it is more efficient when students and professors can put their full effort into one format, rather than attempting to juggle in-person and online classes at the same time. I can see many students mistaking certain days for online days

and vice versa...I will still attend WCC regardless of the situation because I still need to continue my education.

**-Galo Chica**

“I would prefer that I did 50% remote and 50% live. It is harder for me to concentrate at home... If classes will be 100% remote next semester, I will have to transfer to another school that has at least a 25% live option.”

**-Josephine Hall**

“I prefer school to be 100% remote because I feel like I get more out of it. I don’t have to get ready or have to drive 30 minutes to get to school...I also don’t have any long breaks in between classes.”

**-Karla Illescas**

“I would prefer for our next semester to be 50/50 But with that being said there is always a risk that students that go in person

can be positive. Some students that go to WCC that I know don’t really respect the quarantine rules or the masks. So I assume that there will be students that will do that on campus.”

**-Leo Ordonez**

“I would like to go back to live classes... because even though its more convenient to be at home, I find myself more easily distracted [there]... To be quite honest I would attend no matter what because I have to go to college.”

**-Matt Tenesaca**

“I would rather have a mixture of live and remote learning. I would choose 75% remote and 25% live. The option that would cause me to not attend next semester would be 100% live. Even though I would love to work on campus I don’t want to take the risk because the virus cases could go up.”

**-Briana Spielmann**

## Faculty Senate Launches Adjunct Initiatives

*(Continued from page 1)* and reported in Inside Higher Ed (April 2020), nearly 25 percent of adjunct faculty members are forced to resort to public assistance and 40 percent have trouble covering basic household expenses.

But financial difficulties are not the only ones faced by adjuncts. According to a WCC adjunct who requested anonymity, “We face the problem of being regarded as second-class citizens compared to full-time faculty, even when we are equal to them in training and teaching ability. The caste system is alive and well here.”

In an effort to support the adjunct population, the Faculty Senate two years ago chartered the Senate Adjunct Issues Committee. According to Prof. Claudia Jacques de Moraes Cardoso, a Senior Adjunct in the Art Department and co-chair of the committee, “The Senate Adjunct Issues committee is an unprecedented adjunct representation in a SUNY college Senate.”

Cardoso is well-known on campus as an advocate for adjunct rights. At WCC, she says, “Adjuncts teach half of all the college courses and in numbers are three times more than full-time faculty. Having a joint rep-

resentation in every school body—senate, union and different college-wide committees—is necessary to try to make sure that adjuncts are at par with full-time teachers as college decisions are being made.

This semester, the Senate Adjunct Issues Committee is conducting a survey of adjunct professors. According to Prof. Elizabeth Miller, a full-time member of the Sociology Department and co-chair of the committee, “The aim of the survey is to gauge adjuncts’ needs, particularly professional development and support needs in the context of teaching remotely, and to

pass that information along to individuals and offices at the college that could implement changes to provide appropriate support.”

“This survey may give us a better insight of the inequalities among the faculty,” says Cardoso, “not to criticize full time faculty or administration, but to help ensure that everyone working at the institutions that serve them are promoting inclusion and equality.”

The committee has work ahead of it. “Now that the survey is closed,” says Miller, “the committee plans to analyze the data and hopefully present it to the Faculty Senate in April.”

The second Senate initiative is the re-instatement of the WCC Foundation Award for Adjunct Excellence, last given in 2013. According to the Senate Awards Committee, Foundation awards will be conferred upon two adjunct faculty members based on excellence of teaching and other factors. Adjunct teachers may nominate themselves for the awards. Applications have been distributed to the entire adjunct faculty with an end-of-March deadline. Faculty may request further information by contacting the Senate Awards Committee, chaired by English professor Joanna Lackey.

## The Viking News

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Spring 2021 Issue 2 March 18

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# Letter to the Editor

## 'Beer Hall Putsch' Aptly Cited in D.C. Riot Story

To The Editor,

This letter is in response to the article written by Guadalupe Conde, "Students React to Capitol Hill Insurrection," in the last issue of The Viking News, February 17, 2021. It was a well-written article that brought out some important points about former President Donald Trump's role as an instigator of that insurrection.

Ms. Conde reported that in the virtual town hall meeting to discuss the insurrection, SGA Secretary and co-moderator of the meeting, Sebastian Loreti, "gave a history lesson about an event that occurred nearly a hundred years ago that was very similar to what happened at the Capitol," the "Beer Hall Putsch" by Adolf Hitler.

I found it inspiring to know that there are well-educated and intelligent students today, such as Sebastian Loreti, who know about this event and who are able to see its relevance to this recent tragic riot in our nation's capital. "History often

repeats itself," and as pointed out by George Santayana, among others, "Those who fail to learn the lessons of history are condemned to repeat them."

Mr. Loreti is not alone in drawing a comparison between the followers of Hitler, who attempted to overthrow the democratically elected government in Germany in Munich in 1923, and the followers of Donald Trump, who basically tried to do the same in 2021. As he pointed out, both attempts failed. However, in the following decade Hitler was able to successfully gain control of Germany in spite of his failed earlier "Putsch," and the consequences of that take-over were devastating to humanity.

There are other considerations linking these two incidents. According to FBI reports, right-wing extremist groups supporting Donald Trump include a growing number of "American" Neo-Nazis who have participated in the Capitol insurrection as well as in dis-

turbances in Charlottesville, Michigan, and elsewhere in the United States.

Both Hitler and Trump relied on massive rallies to demonstrate their support, to convince others of their popularity and power. Both appealed to the anger in voters to gain their support: emotional appeals rather than reasoning. They condemned and vilified strangers, foreigners or anyone who competed with them. They belittled others. They sought power for power's sake. They were anti-democratic. They made the most of what Hitler called "The Big Lie." According to the Washington Post, Trump told 30,573 lies while in office for 4 years.

It is good to know that students such as Sebastian Loreti are able to remind us of the "lessons of history." We can not afford to fail at this never-ending task.

Sheldon Malev  
Professor, Psychology  
Social Sciences Department  
Westchester Community College



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*Right: Katie Langer rakes the third layer of a five-layer "lasagna bed."*

*Below: Katie Collins lays a bed's ground layer.*



# Growing Hope

## *The Peekskill Regeneration Farm Strives to Feed Both Body and Soul*

by Ruby Gauchman

The community of Peekskill, and Westchester at large, are coming back to life after a long winter of hibernation and isolation.

In Peekskill, three blocks down from the Westchester Community College extension center, the beginnings of a community-minded farm are taking root. Peekskill Regeneration Farm, a locally centered and run endeavor, is striving to connect with and aid its surrounding community during a time when it is easy to feel alone in one's struggles.

Food is one of the core basic needs of human survival. However, not everyone has sustained access to

nutritious foods, a challenge that can feel extremely isolating. Food insecurity in the United States, while significantly lower than the global average, is still alarmingly high. In 2019, 10.5 percent of U.S. households were designated as food insecure by the United States Department of Agriculture.

"It is easy to feel anger and frustration at the systems that currently drive society, and to feel alone in looking for solutions," says Maeve McGee, one of the founding organizers of the Peekskill Regeneration Farm. "A severe lack of public health guidance, financial support, and blatant corruption has made itself very clear this past year."

The Peekskill Regen-



*Katie Collins prepares decorative garden rocks.*

eration Farm's hope is to feed its neighbors either at cost or for free in the future. "We recognize the right to land access, nutritious food, connection to nature, and pure joy as a human right," says McGee. "This farm will feed our neighbors, act as an outdoor community gathering space, host workshops

and classes, moments of joy and sincerity with yourself, your human friends, and your plant friends."

McGee started her journey last spring when she answered a call to action from the Ecological Citizens Project (ECP), a local non-profit organization focused on global change

# FEATURES



through creative collective action. Jocelyn Apicello and Jason Angell, of Longhaul Farm and the ECP, have been working towards connecting growers to land, creating space for education, and strengthening food sovereignty throughout the Hudson Valley for many years now and are at the heart of this endeavor.

In the spring of 2020, the ECP launched the Regenerative Communities program which trains farmers in regenerative agricultural practices and connects them with underutilized land. At the Peekskill Regeneration Farm, this dream is coming to fruition.

Over the summer the organizers ran multiple virtual town halls where community members could learn about the farm's goals. This past fall saw two volunteer days with support from local residents and businesses alike.

The farm's supporters include members of the WCC community. Nadia Briones, a current WCC student and Peekskill resident, had been watching the development of this plot of land on Main Street with eager interest when she pitched in at the farm's first volunteer day back in November. "I think they did a

really good job at helping to make sure that people were socially distancing. Everyone was wearing masks," Briones said when asked about how the organizers responded to COVID19 protocol.

Former WCC student Sarah Sainz agreed. "I felt very safe and comfortable while volunteering, thanks to the organizers," she said. Briones praised the location of the farm between the local middle school and another public space: "I think it's such a great addition to the block and to see it not just be a barren field anymore is really exciting."

Sainz also connected with the mission of the organizers. "The most wonderful thing I find about the farm is how much it emphasizes community and justice. Its mission in its entirety is so important and I'm eager to see its progression in the future as well as help contribute to meet its goals."

The role of community cannot be overstated in regard to those leading the way with this space, according to McGee. "I hope that in the coming months and years, individuals who have a lack of land access can utilize space at the farm, to share experiences and dreams here, to break bread and come together to heal and support each other. This farm can be shaped by the whole community into a space that best serves all of our needs, to be a place of



healing for land and bodies alike."

This dream might be close to coming true. Beginning March 21st, the Peekskill NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee will be holding a Sunday morning non-denominational service at the Peekskill Regeneration Farm, which will be followed by garden work. Additional volunteer days are being planned for the spring.

**You can contact the farm via Instagram @peekskill-regenerationfarm or email them at peekskillregenerationfarm@gmail.com**

*Top: Jason Angell, co-founder of ECP, lays the foundation for his crops.*

*Bottom: Trevor McGee hauls soil to the farm.*

**Photos: Ruby Gauchman**



Photos: Liam Murphy

# Fans Return to the Garden

*The Garden is open and fans are happy but will it be the same?*

by Liam Murphy

Knicks and Rangers fans have something in common these days. They are both celebrating because Madison Square Garden has reopened for live audiences.

Located in Midtown Manhattan, the famed arena played host to the New York Knickerbockers on Feb 23 and to the New York Rangers on Feb 26. These games were the first time the Garden has been able to welcome fans since March of last year. The crowds, though, were considerably smaller. Following state guidelines, Madison Square Garden will operate at only 10 percent capacity.

Knicks head coach Tom Thibodeau said, “Even though it won’t be to capacity, it’s a start, it’s a beginning. It gives us a baseline. We know how important our fans are to our organization, the city, to the league. It’s our lifeline.”

Thibodeau had praise for the National Basketball Association (NBA). “I think the league has done a great job all along. It’s been planned out. They have the medical people involved. They’re using science. They’re taking every safe-

ty precaution that they can. Hopefully somewhere down the road we can get back to being somewhat normal. We’re looking forward to that,” said Thibodeau.

Among those looking forward to watching live games at the newly reopened venue is WCC student Aristono Suriel. “The people [at Madison Square Garden] are what makes [the games] the most fun for me,” he says. “The atmosphere is pretty crazy, and the people are very passionate. You got people shouting and roaring. When I go to see any games, I am more entertained by the energy of the people that are there, watching their reactions.”

Suriel says it doesn’t matter where you’re seated. “Even if you are in the nosebleeds all the way up, you still feel that energy because of the amount of people that are there.”

Now he wonders if it will be the same. “Being such a small amount of people, it will be interesting to see if it is the same feel,” he says. “It will be interesting to go there and see what the energy is going to be like because you do not have that group mentality that takes over. At 10 percent capacity



Photo: the Stadium Business

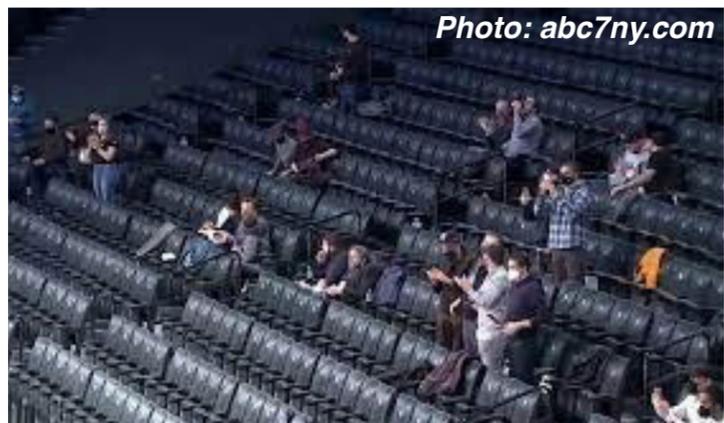


Photo: abc7ny.com

it isn’t going to be the same energy. I am curious to go to a game and actually watch the people, the audience, especially the people that pay thousands of dollars [for season tickets].”

Sadly, the reopening has not been especially lucky for the New York teams. As of this writing, the Knicks are currently 8th in the East with a record of 20-21. The Rangers are currently 6th in the East division with a record of 12-12.

*Top: the Garden facade bears Knicks and Rangers players, awaiting the fans’ return.*

*Middle: The Garden before COVID*

*Bottom: The Garden after COVID*