Sandy Hits NJ, BCC Answers

BCC comes together in aftermath of Sandy to help those affected.

Emanuele Calianno
Staff Writer

It goes without saying that the past few weeks have been a tremendous challenge for everyone.

Hurricane Sandy has left New Jersey broken, its inhabitants stranded, and devastated at worst.

Thousands were left homeless or with irreparable damage to their property and possessions, and are now facing unimaginable debt. Countless have had to tough out freezing temperatures without power and heat, or without access to fresh food and supplies. Many will continue to be deprived of their basic needs for some time.

In reaction to the calls for help throughout the region, Bergen Community College has taken full charge in the effort towards their relief. After a week of suspended classes and operations, faculty, staff, and the student body together have teamed up and taken individual projects to provide for all those who need it on campus. As Student Activities Program Assistant Gregory Fenkart explains, “Our main focus right now is to give help to all members of our BCC family in need, and later on direct our efforts to helping others in New Jersey. So many of our students and employees have suffered great damage, and we want them to know that we’re here to help them.”

Immediately after the reopening of the school, a help center was set up in Room S-152 of the Pitkin Building, with a staff ready to help with whatever necessity.

This help can vary from providing for basic living needs, to more specific necessities like assistance with receiving prescribed medication, replacing what you’ve been without, and even emotional counseling. You can walk into the center any weekday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., call the designated hotline, or contact the staff by email.

Just as Student Activities has been coordinating with outside groups all over New Jersey, many local volunteer associations (such as the Red Cross), churches, small businesses and local town governments, keeping in close contact with them to receive and provide assistance and donations. But this is a mere fraction of the work the school as a whole has been doing in response to Sandy.

The Student Government Association has been collecting donation ideas for the hurricane relief drive which has given extraordinary results. All members of the SGA have donated items and time to the collection and sorting of items. They are also currently preparing a series of fundraising events, that include but are not limited to, a November cookout, a telethon, a food market and probably a benefit concert featuring talent from around the school.

Sports clubs have also joined in the cause, and will be donating the entirety of the profits made during their respective activities scheduled during this period. This, and much more, has been a main focus for so many of our students, faculty, and staff members.

The school and its groups are united in encouraging everyone to join in the cause, to give and receive whatever possible, to work with others towards relief projects. Many members of the BCC community have been evacuated from their homes, have lost their jobs, have had to wait hours for a few gallons of gas or a loaf of bread, and have spent the first November nights cold and in the dark.

“It seems only natural that everyone, affected and spared alike, should join forces and collaborate to revert to the serenity and stability we’re used to in our quiet little state.”

For all those needing assistance, looking to donate or collaborate in a projects, here are some helpful contacts.

Hurricane Help Center, Room S-152, Pitkin Building, Phone: (201) 301 1580
E-mail: bcedstudentrelief@bergen.edu
Student Government Association, Room A-101 Pitkin Building, Phone: (201) 447 7452
Office of Student Life, Room A-115 Pitkin Building, Phone: (201) 447 7215

NJ weather alert. In the event of an emergency, find Chris Christe and hold on.

Giving Back Now and Always

While the holiday season is a time for giving, helping others should be year around.

Antonella Sielicki
Features Editor

With the Christmas season around the corner, along with winter and the holidays, there are many things you can do to give back to your community. In the case of Hurricane Sandy, this need of compassion and community support is increased. The season reminds us how lucky we are to have all that we have, and the feeling after giving back is incredible. Even in our busy lives, there are many things you can do and try to give up some of your time so you cannot devote the time to it.

1. Go through your closet and use the one year rule. If you have not worn it in a year, donate it to the Salvation Army or Goodwill.
2. Donate food to the food pantry on campus. While you may have a full refrigerator at home, so many don’t this holiday season, so a few cans here and there can go a long way.
3. Volunteer at a soup kitchen. There are numerous right here in Bergen County, and seeing the appreciation on people’s faces upon getting a hot meal will make you grateful for what you have at home.
4. Pay the toll for a car behind you. This random act of kindness promotes the idea of “paying it forward.”
5. There is always a need for blood, and it only takes a short period of time. That blood may be the reason someone’s life is saved.
6. Donate wrapped toys to your local church or charity. So many children will never get the Christmas that a lot of us take for granted. That gift may be the only thing they get to open.
7. Do something good you’re good at for someone who needs it. For example, if you’re a good writer, research papers are around the corner, and many of your classmates could probably use the help.
8. Write letters to soldiers overseas. Write one anonymously and it will brighten their day. The men and women overseas are fighting for our freedom night and day. A token of thanks will show them they are appreciated back home, by people they don’t even know.
9. Babysit for your parents, neighbors or friends. The holidays get hectic and a lot of us don’t realize the stress our elders are under. Give them a night off and take the responsibility away.
10. Lastly, now should not be the only time you give back and help others. Try to do the above not just during the holiday season, but throughout the rest of the year. It will give you a great feeling of satisfaction. It will give you a great feeling of satisfaction and can truly make a difference in somebody’s life.
The construction of an off the grid workshop for STEM are on their way to turn the old concession stand by the cafeteria, Gourmet Dining LLC, into a self-sustaining workshop using wind and solar energy through designing and building small scale projects leading up to the ultimate goal: creating a structure capable of running on its own.

Some current STEM Projects: Wind Cake Turbine, Solar Cooker, Generators.

Continued from page 1

$6 Fee

Some current STEM Projects: Wind Cake Turbine, Solar Cooker, Generators.

6 Fee

Continued from page 1

reason there is a minimum on credit card purchases is because fees that go into the percentage of each sale and the swipe fee increased. The company told her not having a minimum affecting it for awhile and something had to be done. That is when Rubin talked to the college in order to seek approval for the new policy.

"I immediately thought it was going to be a problem all around: students, faculty. Look, a lot of them are on tight budgets too... everybody," she said.

When I asked what her initial reaction to the student's email, Rubin said, "I totally understood and empathized." However, she felt the student had the wrong impression when they implied the cafeteria was trying to profit and also putting their financial burden on the students. Rubin made it clear that was simply not the case. "It's a compromise," she said.

It is important for students to know they have the option of paying an extra 40-cent swipe fee when purchasing anything under $6 with a credit or debit card. Rubin has told the cashiers to explain this to students if confronted with a complaint. Some students have come to her personally to talk about the credit card minimum and when she explained this option, they no longer were concerned and seemed content with the swipe fee. "I want the students to know that I am here...I’m hands on." Rubin emphasized that if there ever is a problem with anything regarding the cafeteria, students can ask for her personally and she will find a solution. "It’s very important that the students are happy too," she said. "I am here to take care and I’m here to make sure things are the way they should be."

The company running the cafeteria, Gourmet Dining LLC, is here for students in more than just one way. It supports them by awarding $20,000 worth of scholarships to those who are

Students, Seniors (65+) and all of Bcc $7

"These generators’ purpose is to produce energy that can be later retrieved from a battery to power the Blockhouse," said Toro when asked about her team’s task. "What my team is currently doing is maximizing the generator’s efficiency in using the benefits of natural weather conditions in order to convert wind energy to electricity." Her team’s project correlates to Flores’ team project and both teams are diligently working to optimize their designs in drawing and storing energy from the wind.

Flores calls his team’s prototype: The Wind Cake Turbine. “It is made of cut-out pieces of a bucket to act as a propeller and the base of a cake so we call it that. We’re working on how to make it spin more so it would produce more energy. We eventually want this invention to be able to store energy [using an attached generator] and be used as the main power source for the Blockhouse. Our goal is to take advantage of the average 10-mph wind speed that would help us build a power source for the Blockhouse and keep it sustained. You see, the main point for the Blockhouse is to keep it energy independent."

Misko’s Solar Cooker team’s goal is small but challenging. While their overall goal is to eventually use the sun’s rays in order to power up and be the heat source for the Blockhouse, he says, “Right now we just want to cook a hotdog. Later on, we want to use the solar concentrator (the gadget that generates heat) for something else, but right now our focus is to design a product that is simple yet sleek and cool. At the moment, we want to cook a hotdog using mirrors.”

When tested around sunset on November 6, the product heated up to an estimated 115°F. It’s being improved. “We want it to heat up to 451°F – the temperature that can burn paper," Misko said.

“Professor Sontag’s and Henao’s Electric Car team have just began assembling the wheels. ‘A lot of our tools haven’t arrived. But my team’s project is not only the enhancer for the Blockhouse; it is the starting point for future vehicle projects so that BCC can join other tech institutions and their traditions in having projects like this,” said Henao.

These are just a few of the projects that come from students’ imaginations. There are more in planning stages, soon to be developed.
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The Challenges of the Latinos in Suburbia

Anthony Skankga
Editor-in-Chief

To be a Latino and live in the suburbs is not easy. The fear of being rejected make people blur their cultural heritage until it camouflage with Americans. In some cases even the language is lost. "Suburban living is a challenge for Latinos," said Wendy Martinez, a Project Specialist and member of the Bergen County Health Services. She was part of a panel discussion held at BCC on Tuesday, Oct. 11 called Latinos in Suburbia.

How immigration affects the suburbs, the importance of the language, the race, the home country and the values in these areas were some of the topics they discussed. The panel was formed by Mrs. Martinez; Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Counseling, Academic Vice President Dr. Jose Adames; and Sociology Professor Alexander Benitez. All of these are from the Bergen County and claimed to care for their culture.

"Lots of people have lost the language because their families didn’t want to teach them. They had bad experiences having an accent and don’t want the same for the kids," said Martinez.

The ones who learned the language at home found very difficult to keep doing it. Cid Wilson grew up in Teaneck and learn English and Spanish. "If you grow up here you don’t have a problem. But if you get to high school," said Wilson. The consequence is the loss of identity of the person, who is now trapped between two worlds: the one at home, where he feels the roots of his people; and the one at school, where all that is excluded.

"Although around 75 percent of Spanish speakers want to keep their language, sometimes they feel it is a problem facing society. "When I was a kid, being Hispanic wasn’t cool and you internalize that negativity and rejection," said Dr. Adames.

"When you leave the park with your son proved challenging for Mrs. Martinez. Two women observed how Martinez was talking the child in Spanish and said: "how nice, the nanny is teaching him Spanish." Martinez’s distinctive Latina style strongly, big lips and dark skin apparently denied her resemblance as the mother of the white man, her light eye and fair skinned boy. Without realizing it, the women hurt Martinez’s feelings.

This stereotype of Latina women being nannies, cleaning ladies or a kind of superwoman in the house is what this community wants to overcome. Meetings and discussions like this one are part of a program to achieve this goal. This is a way to promote their culture beyond the stereotypes and provide awareness for people that being a Latino is not a synonym for inferiority.

Actually, the perception of inferiority makes Hispanic speakers hide their origins. It is what they call to ‘pass’ like an American. “There are some Latinos that pass like Americans, and others that try to do it," said Martinez. They change their habits and superficial aspects like the color of their hair. "When Latinos people dress up to pass, the culture resents," said Martinez.

Unlike inter-cities like Newark or Paterson, where you don’t need to speak English to move around and where who doesn’t speak it learns, the suburbs require adaptation. The increment of Latinos in past years strengthens this group and makes it easier for future generations to adapt.

Help SGA Help People Impacted by Hurricane Sandy

Helping the victims of Hurricane Sandy, the Student Government Association (SGA) at Bergen Community College is doing its best to provide aid. Since the storm hit New Jersey, the Student Government Association has been working closely with the Student Affairs Office, the Student Affairs Office, and the Bergen Community College Counseling Center to help students affected by Hurricane Sandy.

"People are now used to seeing Latinos," said Wilson. 16 percent of the population in New Jersey belongs to this ethnic group. In Bergen County 34 municipalities have 10 percent of Latino people or more, but besides their number and growth one of the problems that they find is the lack of organization. In Bergen County there is not one white Latin organization. "There are just churches and masses, so it’s a challenge for us to come all together and be visible," said Mrs. Martinez.

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The Food Pantry at Bergen

Brian Felix
Staff Writer

Behind the doors of HS-100, Barbara Buff is handing out food packages for struggling students. Buff works at the Bergen Community College Food pantry, which helps to feed students in need. The food pantry has a variety of quick breakfasts and dried foods to help students. The effort the staff makes to help the student body is impressive. The pantry stands out as an effort the staff makes to help the student body.

Once hurricane relief efforts have subsided, the food pantry will remain for all members of the BCC community that need it.
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A Long Month, A Debate, and ORCA: My Experience on the Romney Campaign

Anthony Skangka
Editor-In-Chief

Over the last two months I had the fortune to work as an intern on the Romney campaign. After applying in mid-August, I flew to Boston in the beginning of September and received a front row seat to the inner workings of a presidential campaign, and needless to say, it was an experience I will not soon forget.

I interned in the communications department, and during my time there I did various tasks leaving from the memorial transcribing, to more the interesting managing the press line and lists. For a journalism major, getting hands on experience dealing with the press was invaluable, and provided me with some very entertaining stories, not all of which are fit for publication.

I arrived during what had to be one of the worst months a campaign could experience. After Bill Clinton’s speech at the Democratic National Convention boosted President Obama’s poll numbers, the infamous “Unveiling” video was released. Follow this up with articles on Politico and other websites about dysfunction at Romney headquarters and you can easily paint a picture of disarray and panic.

However, this was not the case. Aside from any stresses you would see at any normal 9-5 job, the events was handled pretty well. Everybody kept their calm in anticipation that the race would soon change heading into October. And it did. While it was well known that Mitt Romney had prepared more than any other candidate in recent memory for the debates, nobody expected campaign to know by noon of election day what the outcome would look like, especially higher than ever and each intern left the office excited to work on ORCA.

The majority of my final two weeks there, as the rest of the interns and the whole of the political department, were spent on ORCA. Each night and early often into the morning, planning and meetings detailing various aspects of the project were discussed and worked over. Volunteer numbers sleep was as rare as during the day I would fill my obligations to the communications department, then once finished there at 6 p.m. I would continue with ORCA.

The next day, Romney was nearing. On November 5th, the day before the Election, we turned away from polls, etc. These problems were larger throughout the early morning and began to subside around 9:00 a.m. However, new problems would soon arise, a map that was supposed to project the swing states in coordination with how we were doing in voter turnout never appeared on the jumbotron and numerous calls regarding the app and phone system crashing grew as the afternoon began. As we tried to keep volunteers calm over the phone, it was obvious something was amiss with the system and as the not to mention that the problem still had not been fixed. Around 7 p.m. as the first polls closed, those in charge of the project began handing out paper slips for volunteers to make his concession speech.

Around 1 a.m., the concession was made and the speech was given. That announcement was surreal, I cannot understand the profound feeling that we were going to win. I truly believe that not a person in the room believed this outcome was possible. Making it even more troubling was the fact not only did we lose, but went one for twelve in the swing states.

The next day, Romney came into the office to speak and thank all the people who helped the campaign. One of the more surprising aspects of the loss was how quickly a candidate goes from a national figure to a normal citizen. Hours after the loss, the losing candidate no longer has the privilege of secret service. Romney, instead of by motorcade, was driven to the office by his son, Tagg. Furthermore, it was surprising to see the headquarters begin to be cleaned out and packed away just hours after the election.

During my last days in Boston, I made sure to keep contacts with the people I had worked with, as I felt that, aside from working in politics, the most important thing I can take from the campaign was the people I had met.

Now, having been back in New Jersey for a couple of weeks, I have to say how quickly the campaign was to a normal office workplace as well as the people who work there. While politics are certainly known as a cutthroat business, the Romney campaign was anything but. This campaign showed me that youth is at the heart of politics as well as the future of this nation, that working for something not the most, satisfying lines of work be a part of. While I did not see the result I had hoped for, I gained something just as gratifying out of this experience that would last far longer than the four years of a presidency.
We all know that October ended and November began with difficult circumstances for our area. Hurricane Sandy has been one of the worst storms to have ever hit the northeast coast.

The storm left thousands of people without homes, gas, and electricity, and many individuals lost their lives. New Jersey suffered severe damages that will take months to years to rebuild. However, if we put all efforts together, we will be able to help those who were affected by this catastrophe.

We must take this opportunity to give thanks for all that we do have, and to help those who have lost so much. If you would like to collaborate with the SGA, please stop by our office and donate canned goods, non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products, or gift cards. Your donations will help us to supply those who are in need.

Due to the storm, Bergen was closed for the entire last week of October. Many events were canceled, including the Town Hall Meeting. This event is a great opportunity for students to address their concerns and questions to administrators. Unfortunately, it was moved to a future date not yet available, but it is imperative for the Town Hall to be realized because it allows the student body’s voice to be heard.

This year has been full of new challenges, but also opportunities. The SGA had an excellent retreat this fall. New Senators were trained and learned skills on how to represent BCC students. During the retreat, we had the honor of being visited by two great inspirational speakers: Freeholder John Driscoll and Trustee Cid Wilson. They both shared their stories, which were full of motivational anecdotes and advice on how to better our Bergen community.

This has been a year for changes. The SGA hosted a successful Voter Registration Drive and members volunteered at the three campuses in Paramus, Lyndhurst, and Hackensack to spread the word and collect voter registration forms. As a result, over 1,000 students were registered. Great efforts were also made on Election Day to motivate registered voters to go out and vote.

Education is important in life, but it is not cheap or easy. Going to college costs a lot of money and requires great dedication.

The Bergen Community College demographic varies from recent high school graduates, students from low-income households, and even students who have been laid off and are coming back to get their degrees and struggle to pay for tuition.

As BCC President Kaye Walter has mentioned before, “Bergen can be better.” This is why SGA believes that in order to move forward, we need to work together. SGA has various committees in which everyone is more than welcome to join.

The members of these committees are students that dedicate many hours researching, planning activities, hosting meetings with administrators, and listening to students’ concerns. They don’t take breaks, and they need your support. Information on committee meeting times can also be found in the SGA office.

In closing, always remember Kay Venturi’s wise words: “I don’t believe you have to be better than everybody else. I believe you have to be better than you ever thought you could be.” Get involved!

Margarita Valdez
SGA President

Letter from Student Government

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A Nation Divided

On November 6, the United States elected President Barack Obama to a second term as President of the United States. In what was predicted to be a close election, the final electoral college tally was 332-206. The 24-hour news cycle in part with Twitter and other social media may have never seen a busier moment than the 2012 election. However, sadly, when they had the chance to cover a historic event they turned it into something comparable to reality television.

Spinning each side and promoting divisiveness, bitter splits were strengthened and partisan rivalries were highlighted. However, is the country truly as divided as the social media portrays?

If you look simply at the numbers, the answer is yes. On Election Day President Obama carried 26 states, with 60 percent or more. Mitt Romney carried 24, with 60 percent or more.

Furthermore, both gender and age groups split differently for each candidate. According to the chart below, women voted for Obama 55 to 44 percent, while men voted for Romney 52 to 45 percent. In age groups 18-29 Obama won 6 to 37 percent, while in age groups 35-44 he won 45 percent. In age groups 45-64 he won 52 percent. In age groups 65+ he won 56 percent.

But are these numbers representative of a national split? When considering thoughts of everyday citizens, there appears to be plenty more middle ground than what appears. While Congress cannot come to an agreement on numerous issues, there is probably more able to find agreement on issues. This begs the question, why does logic and agreement defy our nation’s leaders?

It seems that in order to please the more extreme factions of their parties, top Republicans and Democrats have switched and held firm to their positions. Instead of working for the people and working to negotiate a deal that satisfies both sides, politicians, as usual, are working only for their parties.

In something comparable to a shooting match, each party cannot negotiate on even the tiniest of stances in a battle that amounts to nothing but pride. In essence, we do not have a split between the people, who appear to be more in agreeable than ever, between parties.

So now, weeks removed from a bitter election and facing a fierce debate over the fiscal cliff, it is imperative more than ever for the factions of the nation to come together to solve the nations problems. However, given what we have seen from our “leaders” over the past year, should it be expected?

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The numbers speak for themselves, in terms of politics, America is divided.
Up in Smoke: Can Public Safety Monitor Smoking?

Ricardo Montero
Staff Writer

Someone told me once that nicotine relaxes the body and takes your mind away from the essay that you are procrastinating on. However, 20.1% of adults aged 18-24 years old smoke, according to research by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and those are the ages of most college students.

When cancer is the issue, it is up to individuals to agree on quitting. But what to do when the issue is smoking on campus? It is common knowledge around campus that if caught by Public Safety, the result is a $100 dollar ticket, straight out of your pocket. Yet, the campus smoker does not care about the tickets or the signs, sometimes using the signs that say "NO Smoking on Campus", to put out the burning tobacco on their cigarettes. This is the situation clear to everyone on campus: it is not a mystery that society has a hard time with prohibitions, but if it did not work in American history it will not work here. Telling young adults to not do something, and expect them to subdue is ineffective; just ask any psychology major.

Unless Public Safety carries out covert operations to catch these sly students, BCC must change its views towards smoking. "A few years ago," said Professor Rose "There used to be designated places for smoking, but kids did not use them, so smoking was just banned."

Students should be given the option to enjoy their smoking in designated areas without the danger of being ticketed, while Public Safety hunts down anyone who is not following the regulations. The smoking population of BCC will smoke regardless of how many signs are put up, and instead of issuing more tickets, smoking areas should be placed. With this idea, the smokers will do their thing while the smoking on campus remains under control, and non-smoking students do not have to cough at people so that they stop lighting up. There is smoking areas in all Disney parks; if one can smoke near Cinderella’s castle, why ban it at a community college?

Simple observation has shown me that Public Safety is attempting to tackle this problem, but not quite getting it down. Rarely is there patrolling along the areas where smoking is most common; if one was to dissolve this problem, one should probably look for the columns of smoke rising up from a single area. At the very least, hold the ticket booklet to ones face and look menacingly at everyone, attempting to intimidate the solution into this issue. If areas for smoking are designated, Public Safety officials will be able to catch the rebel smokers who skip the smoking areas and the fumes will be contained.

Opposition to this idea is imminent; some might argue that it will not work and people will smoke everywhere, but why not give the students a chance? Not everyone will be happy, but mutual cooperation is better than simple bias solutions.

I carried out interviews in order to find out what the smoking population thought of designated areas. "It could work, at least I would use it if it got me off a $100 dollar ticket," said an anonymous source. Most students agreed; the rest of the responses I cannot print in a public newspaper.

Perhaps it is time for change in regards of smoking at Bergen Community College. Perhaps it is time to trust the students to do the right thing. Perhaps it is time to hold hands with Public Safety and be friends, can we do it? Yes we can.
“Beautiful Redemption” Ends Caster Chronicles Perfectly

Jamie Kurtz
Photo Editor

Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl triumphantly end the Caster Chronicles with book number four, “Beautiful Redemption”. Within the first few pages, you will be already be hooked and transported into a southern Gothic world filled with secrets, love, action, and power.

Within the first few pages, you will already be hooked and transported into a southern Gothic world filled with secrets, love, action, and power. You are such beautiful creatures,” is an example of the compelling use of language to pull readers in.

The story takes place in the town of Gatlin, a town so small it’s hard to keep secrets without having the whole town find out. So how is it Ethan Wate, the protagonist, never knew about the Caster world before he met Lena Duchannes? Lena is one of the most powerful Casters in her family line; a family line that was cursed from the beginning. On a Caster’s 16th moon, he or she is either claimed for the dark or for the light.

Richard LaGravenes, screenwriter and director of the upcoming film, describes this series as “a Romeo and Juliet story, and then a race against time.” As time goes by, Ethan gets more and more entangled in his town’s history and starts to face things that test his relationship with Lena. And right when they think they have figured everything out in this paranormal universe, things start to take a strange and impossible twist.

They did not realize the impact that Lena’s claiming would make and how it was going to affect the town, let alone themselves. Throughout the rest of the story, characters are struggling to figure themselves out and sacrifices have to be made to put the world back together.

Ethan never knew that falling in love with Lena would change his life forever. In this deliciously stunning finale, Ethan and Lena must once again work together to rewrite their fate.

“Beautiful Redemption” is an intense and breathtaking ending to a fabulous series. And this last book has a different insight since it is told from both Ethan and Lena’s perspective, instead of just Ethan’s alone. Readers get to have one last chance to really connect with Lena before it’s over.

This series is definitely a page-turner you will not be able to put down. My heart aches in a good way and I found it very difficult to not make an attachment with the characters. I cried, laughed, and gasped on many occasions and highly recommend this book.

—James Falero

Staff Writer

Ricardo Montero
Staff Writer

“Sinister” came as a savior to the horror movie industry this year, with its innovative style, superb acting and unique story. It is definitely a movie worth watching.

Elliott Oswald (Ethan Hawke) is a former successful writer and is missing the economical abundance and the stardom that being a New York Times Bestseller can give you. His writing was an attempt at capturing real life murders and he likes to live near where they took place, as he believes it makes his writing more realistic. Without the knowledge of his wife Tracy (Juliet Rylance), he moves his family into a home where a family of four was hanged and the fifth member, a child, is still lost.

Ellison finds a box in the attic full of motel videos, depicting various murders. Believing that this will give him the inspiration that he needs, he dives into a world of obsession over the case, which will unravel more than one murder, and awaken supernatural horrors.

The peculiar and irregular soundtrack, the disturbing camera angles and the traditional “jump off your seat” scares make this movie unexpected and worth it. If the director, Scott Derrickson, was trying to make you think about “Sinister” once the end credits came up, job well done.

Rated R and without a purpose, the rating did not match the movie, because it did not have the ingredients needed to be restricted. Overall, this movie was much better than expected, two thumbs up for Sinister and for Ethan Hawke on wearing the same cardigan the whole movie.

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James Falero
Staff Writer

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association, or better known as FIFA, is back with their hit FIFA 13. This release is FIFA’s 20th game of the soccer video game series.

Perfected apps are featured in game, such as EA Football Club. This app allows gamers online to connect and compete with one another. New features, like Football Club Catalogue, allow players to unlock rewards within the game through gaining Football Club Credits. Instead of leveling up and receiving XP (Experience Points) as was done in FIFA 12, players can redeem these credits to unlock prizes such as historic kits, new boots and leveling up your Virtual Pro.

Game play has also been altered, making it as real as on the soccer pitch. In past FIFA games, players on a team would not search for an opening or attempt a run on the defense as often as one would want. Now, the players are programmed to search for an opening run and stick to it. Another add-on is a curved run. Instead of trying to avoid the offside by slowing down or coming to a complete stop, players now stay active. If the computer recognizes it as offside, it will sprint onward and continue to accompany your run.

Finally, tactical free kicks can now be taken with more precision. When taking a free kick, a third player can be called to participate in the shot. Plays can be made for one player to run over the ball and fake the wall and goal keeper out. Another new feature is nudging forward. When protecting a free kick, one has the option of nudging the wall forward. When protecting a free kick, one has the option of nudging the wall forward. This can result in a yellow or red card if caught, but it all adds to the extraordinary realism of game.

If you’re a die hard sports video game fan, FIFA 13 will appeal to you even if your interests lie in sports besides soccer. The realism, the aggravation and celebration make FIFA 13 the quintessential sports game.

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Luxurious Night Out
By Ana Pastor

Nested in the middle of New York City, there is a little jewel from the past called Capitale. It is a ballroom of high ceilings, Corinthian columns, art glass and velvet curtains.

This limestone building, located at 130 Bowery Street, is difficult to miss: a deep triumphal arch, flanked by two pilasters, welcomes its guests. This landmark, with another entrance around the corner at Grand Street, is breathtaking.

Capitale was built in 1983, originally as the Bowery Savings Bank and was designed by Stanford White. The building worked as a bank until October 2002, when it became Capitale. Although the place only holds private events, it is not impossible to step inside the 40,000 square foot space. They still throw big parties like the one they had last Halloween, or the one they are preparing for New Year’s Eve. If you want an opulent affair, this is probably the best place in the city. The tickets go from $95 for the general admission with 6 hours of open bar, to $225 for the Royal Admission.

If you are thinking about coming here the last night of the year, keep in mind that these prices will get higher as the date comes closer. As an example, a month before Halloween the tickets for general admission were $10 with one hour of open bar, but they reached the hundreds two nights before the date.

It might sound a lot, but Capitale has earned its reputation as an elegant and magnificent venue for “everyone who is anyone”, and proof of it is some of the celebrities that have been there such as Alicia Keys, Jay-Z, Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig. If you are over 21, prepare your best attire and be ready for luxury.

By Ana Pastor
So you were in a relationship yesterday, and today, you’re not. It’s ended, and regardless of whether it was your decision or theirs, a break up is always bound to hurt. Before, you had another half and whether it lasted 3 months or 3 years, you had a confidant and friend to turn to. Now they’re gone, and you aren’t sure what to do.

The first thing you must remember is that it was life before them and there will be after. Although it may seem like the end of the world now, in time, the pain will subside. First things first, you must cut off contact with them. At least for a while, the cut is too raw to attempt at being friends. Also, stay off the internet. Stop stalking their Facebook and Twitter, because you’re only torturing yourself. Don’t post sad lyrics or how hard it’s been for you. You’ll make yourself look bad, and by checking up on them, you’re going to feel bad too.

You must then allow yourself to vent. Talk it out with a friend and listen to their advice. Knowing you have some kind of emotional support will help you get through it.

Let yourself wallow and cry for a few days, because you are allowed to be hurt by this. After this, let it go. Get all your emotions out and then decide that you’ve allowed yourself time and now it’s time to move on with your life. Remember, it’s not everyone who meets the person they are going to marry at 20. Realize that you have everything else going for you. Switch your perspective around and know that with every relationship beginning and ending comes with new lessons. The first breakup is going to be the hardest, but you’ll get past it. Realize you now have a newfound freedom of being single and embrace it.

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New York Comic Con is the East Coast’s largest and most exciting pop culture convention. It has everything from comics and graphic novels to video games, toys and movies. In addition, there is a show floor that is filled with exhibitors promoting and giving away a lot of free swag. Here you can play the latest video games, use the newest consoles, receive advanced reader’s copies (ARCs) from authors and so much more. NYC also has an extensive and very popular guest list. Some celebrities that appeared at this year’s convention include: Adam West, Christopher Lloyd, Tom Felton, Seth Green, Stan Lee, and even Elm! NYC also has panels, autograph sessions, and screenings where the view never before seen footage exclusively for New York Comic Con attendees. Fans were very thrilled this year to hear that the Walking Dead and the Stephen King’s remake of Carrie both were scheduled to have a panel in the high demand theatre of IGN. The casts of both attended and were able to answer fan’s questions while giving some exclusive information on their projects. Not only was the IGN theatre packed for that Saturday, but the WB had a popular line-up for Sunday too. They had panels and autograph signings for The Following, Arrow, and 666 Park Avenue with stars including Kevin Bacon, Stephen Amell and Vanessa Williams.

All of the above is just a handful of what Comic Con has to offer. Comic Con is a 4-day event, though people can choose the days they go whether its one day, three days, or all four. But with the extensive amount going on, I suggest nothing less than a three day. Thursday is primarily a preview day where eager fans can get a hold of the exhibitor tables and early without the huge crowds. Saturday is the busiest and most packed day while Sunday is kids free day!

There is something for every age group here. If you have been contemplating whether to go or not, just go! It takes place every year in October in the Jacob Javits Center. Just prepare well (there are survival guides posted online) and the weekend will be a fun breeze!

How to Save Money When You’re a Broke College Student

Antonella Sielicki
Features Editor

“I’m a poor college student,” is a phrase that rings all too true for most students today, especially in this economy. As the cost of living goes up and it’s harder to obtain the money to pay for school, students are often finding themselves pinching pennies every day. There are ways to help alleviate the harsh pain of saving and spending money. The first thing one must do is plan ahead: Set a budget for yourself. If you know your phone bill is at the end of the week, keep money aside for it. If you go out to dinner or a party, set an amount you can spend without breaking your bank and leave the rest at home. If you know you will be in class all day and midday you usually get hungry, bring a snack from home to hold you over until dinner, rather than overspend in the cafeteria.

Next, prioritize what you are spending your money on. Sometimes we get caught up with our friends and often spend money on things we don’t want. Figure out what gives you the most satisfaction. Perhaps your best friend wants to see that new action movie, but you aren’t crazy about it. Don’t waste $12 on the movie; put it towards something you’ll actually enjoy.

Also, consider the little things that empty your wallet. Do you smoke cigarettes, or maybe you find yourself in line at Dunkin Donuts every day? Although you’re only spending a few dollars at a time, the repetition of these activities adds up. Even a pack of cigarettes a week, can be almost 50 dollars monthly. Do the math, and you could be saving tons if you cut these activities out or substitute for a cheaper alternative. Rather than go to a coffee shop daily, get a travel cup and make your own at home. In addition, be careful of impulse purchases. When you need to go to a large store such as Target or Walmart, make a list and stick to it.

Finally, open a student savings account and try to add a little every week. It does not have to be a substantial amount, but even ten dollars a week adds up over time. Budget ahead of time when things need to be paid. Set up an account for bills, personal spending and saving. Tracking where your money goes helps you to keep track of it and applications such as Mint, help you do that simply. In addition to saving money, cutting back on your spending by taking advantage of various educational discounts will help you spend less. Being in college is not easy, financially, for anyone, but by being frugal and practical, you can get through it comfortably and as least stressful as possible.
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