Retention Rates a Key Issue at BOT Meeting
Alexis Bravo  
Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees meeting for the month of February commenced at approximately 5:09 PM in its usual location, Tech-128.

The meeting was called to order once again by Chairman, E. Carter Corriston, who also serves as the member for the Board, the Student Representatives, Chosen Freeholders, and Personnel Committee.

The beginning portion of the meeting concentrated on Tonya McKoy’s presentation on the results Bergen Community College’s 2010-2011 Data Feedback Report, a report generated by IPED (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data), which is based on a collection of surveys.

A few interesting facts included that more Bergen students were paying tuition through federal loans rather than state grants, more Hispanic Latinos were enrolled as students with an overall more diverse population than our college peers, and more students were paying tuition compared to our fellow peers as well.

In February, the most engaging results of the report were the retention rate, transfer, and graduation rates of Bergen students. Approximately 71% of students who began taking classes in 2008 graduated in 2011. This compares favorably to the 69% retention rate in 2007 when students were paying tuition through federal loans rather than state grants, more Hispanic Latinos were enrolled as students with an overall more diverse population than our college peers.

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One Billion Rising Brings Domestic Abuse Awareness
Lauren Smith  
Staff Writer

The Bergen Community College Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation has partnered with nearby organizations to host events in support of the monumental “One Billion Rising”, a campaign to end domestic violence.

On February 14, students, staff, and the public were welcomed to join them in the movement. In a dialogue about domestic abuse led by Professor Haddad, attendees experienced a friendly and comfortable atmosphere where they were able to start a conversation about experiences, beliefs, and ideas for prevention regarding domestic violence.

With an equal ratio of males and females, almost all the students shared a common belief that domestic violence must be stopped.

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The Torch
Volume 20 Issue 6
March 2011

One Billion Rising Brings Domestic Abuse Awareness
Continued

Erica Diaz
Staff Writer

Everyday there are students and faculty on campus that are impacted financially during personal crisis. The Bergen Community College Compassion fund was created to help them in their time of need.

The Compassion Fund has been helping students and faculty for over the past two years. It is partnered with Bergen County’s United Way, a company that provides assistance to people in all municipalities of the county.

On their website, BCCUW says, “Our mission is to help people 24 hours a day whenever and wherever help is needed by providing concrete solutions to crises and problems - with tangible results directly impacting individuals and families throughout every municipality in the county.”

The BCC Compassion Fund works with BCWU specifically for members of the college who are in financial need.

It’s that time when you’ve been doing everything. You’ve been paying all your bills, everyday’s great and then something happens; sickness, other things in your life and you find yourself in a tough spot in point in time. If we can help, we get that person over that obstacle and they can get back to normal again,” said Jim Miller, the executive director of Human Resources at the college. He is also a BCC Compassion Fund Committee member.

Individuals on campus who are in need apply for assistance online. They are sent directly to the Office of Financial Aid to the lack of knowledge BCC students have on how to use Portal correctly in order to receive notifications on time, and without difficulty.

Dr. Gonzalez-DeJesus and Dr. Milon provided feedback to these problems by explaining that certain students are being dropped from their courses because they have reached 150% of their time frame in terms of financial aid grants. They explained that all students were in danger of being dropped from their classes previously notified that they would be able to fill out an SAP Appeal letter in which the deadline has already passed where students were in the process of filling this application and were dropped from their courses were placed on a “protective status” where they would continue to be considered to remain enrolled at Bergen for the semester.

Dr. Gonzalez-DeJesus continued by stating that there are currently 176 files of student who have filled out the SAP Appeal application out of about 300 - 300 have not applied at all.

After being faced with more questions from students in the audience, the vice president explained that factors such as

BOT Meeting
Continued

Harmon: Commitment is Key to Economic Empowerment
Continued

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grade performance have a great deal to do with the decision making between students.

Dr. Gonzalez-DeJesus concluded by offering students to go to her office if they have questions or would like assistance in an attempt to remain in their spring semester courses. Following, Dr. Laye Walter’s comment stating that “we must take measures and create safe net for students, yet follow federal guidelines” she stated that all students not to lose their financial aid,” the meeting concluding with a private session executive session at approximately 6:00 PM.

Luppino who works for the registration office.

“It gives more of a variety and gives students a chance to take more classes and graduate”, said Chris Disabato, who also works for the registration office.

Approximately 20 courses will be available in the Paramus campus, 15 in Hackensack and 10 in Lyndhurst, (times and schedules may be subject to change; check the BCC website).

All courses will end in mid-May. With dozens of general education classes and plenty of major requirement courses to select from, the program should be the time compressing solution that helps students finish on time.0

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When walking along campus you may have noticed a decent sized dome sitting on top of the Technology Building. Erected from funds of the Buehler Science Center, this happens to be one of our newest observatories, housing the impressive Meade LX-200, a 16-inch diameter, and over 250 pound telescope. Although we live right next to the constantly lit up New York City skyline, the technology this telescope possesses allows us to clearly see straight to Jupiter!

The big 4-year reputable colleges own large multi-million dollar telescopes far off campus in remote locations of Arizona, California and Hawaii. In terms of having an on-campus observatory accessible to all students, ours is one of the best,” said Professor Sivo.

While most of us often get caught up in shooting for the moon and reaching for the stars, we often forget or are unaware that we can actually see the planets and the stars aligning right here from Bergen Community College. Since the construction of the Buehler Challenger and Science Center, a nonprofit education organization, in 1994, our astronomy department has gone to infinity and beyond supplying us with two new observatories, as well as incredible amounts of astronomical equipment that even exceed some highly acclaimed universities, such as Harvard and Princeton.

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Dental hygiene students gave kids brighter smiles by participating in an annual event called “Give Kids a Smile Day.” The program at the college gave free examinations, cleanings and fluoride treatments to children from ages 2 to 12 on Friday, February 1.

The event, which ran from 8:30 a.m to 3:30 p.m at Bergen Community College, was organized by the academic department chair, Professor Deborah Cook.

On the first Friday of February, public and private dentists provide children with free dental care as part of a national program by the American Dental Association. Give Kids a Smile Day, also known as GKAS, is the single largest day of free dental health care for children in New Jersey.

The program began in 2003, and according to the New Jersey Dental Association, the purpose of this day is to, “ensure the delivery of care to thousands of underprivileged children who otherwise may not be able to afford or access care.”

Although some students aren’t aware, the college has its own 22 chair state of the art Dental Hygiene Clinic on campus which is open to the public. It is located on the third floor in the science wing of the Piktin Education Building in Room S-327.

The college’s dental hygiene clinic is open throughout the year and invites students and members of the community to have their teeth examined and cleaned for a reasonable fee.

The Dental Hygiene Program students provide services to the public under the supervision of Faculty Dentists and Licensed Dental Hygienists. Students have been performing preventative oral care procedures since 1972.

Appointments at the clinic are available throughout each semester. For more information on GKAS go to ada.org. To make a general appointment, call the Dental Hygiene Clinic at (201) 447-7180.

Student Katherine Espinosa, Dental Hygiene Major, with a patient for “Give Kids A Smile Day”

Photo by Erica Diaz

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the scientific equation for career success

If you’re ready to transfer and love science, there’s no better place to take your passion to the next level than University of the Sciences. This isn’t just another university, it’s an institution known for placing graduates in prestigious, high-paying positions in the science and healthcare fields. So instead of just getting a degree, you graduate with a career, making good money, and doing what you love.

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Where healthcare and science converge.
Increasing Minimum Wage is the Wrong Answer

This raises the argument that those in favor of the increase often give the idea that a family of four working for minimum wage will have an increase in their pay. This is not the case. The current federal minimum wage is $7.25 an hour, half are under the age of 25. Furthermore, those who are unmarried are likely to be minimum wage workers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 5.2 million workers making $7.25 an hour, half are under the age of 25. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), this is not a significant increase to the overall economy.

The largest problem with a minimum wage increase is that it will likely lead to employers having to make cuts to meet ends, which in turn will lead to fewer employment opportunities. It costs a small business owner over $60,000 to hire four employees. While this may not seem significant, keep in mind it is the small businesses that pay minimum wage, not the large companies that make minimum wage.

To serve a better purpose, minimum wage should act as a catalyst for people bettering themselves.

Being involved in your community is not only helping you make a difference, but also helps to change your life. Consequently, in the past few years, we have seen an immense increase in students becoming more active in many of the clubs that BCC offers. Furthermore, the SGA is always there, recruiting students to become part of our team. This semester we had a diverse population of applicants interested in becoming Senators to represent the student body. After a competitive selection process, the Student Government Student is ready to go and is there, recruiting students to become part of our team. This semester we had a diverse population of applicants interested in becoming Senators to represent the student body.

Bergen Community College offers a high quality education and environment where administrators care about their students, which is why the Student Government Association is always there, recruiting students to become part of our team. Bergen Community College offers a high quality education and environment where administrators care about their students, which is why the Student Government Association is always there, recruiting students to become part of our team.

The purpose of THE TORCH is to report on the events at BCC and the local community, and to offer the BCC community a forum for expression. The opinions expressed in THE TORCH are not necessarily those of THE TORCH. All the materials contributed to THE TORCH become property of THE TORCH.

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Corrections
The Torch strives for the highest journalistic and editorial standards. Readers are encouraged to contact us if they find any mistakes in any edition of the Torch.

Editorial and Opinion Pieces
As an open public forum, The Torch welcomes unsigned opinion pieces and letters to the editor from any member of the Bergen Community College community. Materials should be submitted to editor@torch.org or delivered to The Torch office, SC-111. Such submissions must include the writer’s name, contact information and affiliation with the college. Students should include their major; faculty and staff should include camp- us title or position. Opinion pieces are limited to 600 words and letters to the editor to 200 words. The Torch reserves the right to edit and to refuse publication of any submission.

ANONYMOUS

Margaretta Valdez
SGA President

Dear Fellow Students,

The importance of community colleges is significant, not only for those who are developing new skills and getting to know more about their career interests but also for those looking to save money. Although you cannot attain your bachelor’s degree at a community college, it is a helpful stepping stone that does not empty out your pockets. It’s already the Spring 2013 semester and commencement is around the corner. Make sure you do not miss the up and coming deadlines and apply for graduation or the 4-year colleges or universities of your choice.

During the first week of class, the SGA hosted its first successful event, “Book Exchange”, and many students came to sell their used books or buy them. Almost everyone established new connections at the Student Center. However, if you are coming to Bergen Community College for two more days, Feb. 13 & 14 from 10:00am-6:00pm. Come down and make some extra money. The SGA also encourages club members to be active at the Book Exchange, which is yet another great opportunity to gain work and get to know the campus. If you have not gotten the chance to check it out, do not let it pass you by. It is your chance to make your voice heard, do not let it pass you by. It is also one of the few opportunities where students can receive information on direct sources matters that can heavily impact their time on campus. You have the power to affect positive change.

In addition, the Student Government Association is working on a swipe card system, which will allow students to use their ID cards to access their financial aid grant funds at the Bookstore, the cafeteria and many other system can help address many other security problems. If you have any suggestions or ideas for this project, please stop by the Student Government Association office A-101 or email us at studentgovernment@bergen.edu.

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To serve a better purpose, minimum wage should act as a catalyst for people bettering themselves.
Anne Berlin  
News Editor  

The idea of going to a community college can be embarrassing for many students, especially because it is a common opportunity at Bergen Community College. Halfway into my first semester I started to write for the school newspaper thanks to my father inviting me on a retreat to learn more about the paper and then just a few weeks later I was elected for the position. Because community colleges have such quick turnaround, opportunities here come quite quickly and you don’t have to wait long to come across a new one.  

Not only do clubs and organizations become more meaningful, but we also have more opportunities, but we also have more friends and colleagues. It really is true that they say, “you can’t judge a book by its cover.”
President Obama and the State of Our Nation

Jeff Carbone
Staff Writer

Before the State of the Union everybody, especially conservatives, expected President Obama to move to the far left. Some will tell you that's exactly what he did, but anybody who actually listened to the speech will tell you the truth: The president was moderately liberal.

President Obama’s view on the economy remains cautiously optimistic. He lauded the six million jobs created by private business. He also pointed out that while we buy more American cars than we did five years ago, we are using less foreign oil than we have in 20. He mentioned other signs that the recession is coming to an end, such as the stock markets rebounding.

However, the president realizes that this isn’t a world of extremes. The conservative will have you believe Obama’s playing the fiddle while America is burning. However he understands that though we’ve made progress, his and Congress’ responsibilities, you can get ahead, no matter where you come from… This line shows that the president knows that though we’ve made progress, his and Congress’ job isn’t done until everyone who works hard has the chance of succeeding.

President Obama then transitioned into new initiatives. These ideas included Medicare reform, that “achieve[s] the same amount of health care savings by the beginning of the next decade as the rest of us pay for.”

His other big idea is closing tax loopholes for “the well-off and well connected.” While many conservatives will try to tell the American people that this is a tax hike, what it really would mean is that billionaires will be taxed like normal Americans.

Other plans include a network of 15 3D printing hubs throughout the US, the reopening of talks on a market-based solution to climate change, an Energy Security Trust designed to create new ways to get automobiles to run on alternative fuels, his new “Fix-It-First” program designed to help fix the nearly 70,000 structurally deficient bridges we have, and a restructuring of the minimum wage.

Even the biggest optimist realizes that not all of these plans will ever come to fruition, but if only half of them do, average Americans will see improvement, both today and in the future. Conservatives will ask where the money will come from, but all of these ideas are budget-neutral, and if tax loopholes are closed there will be new revenue.

President Obama concluded the address by calling upon Congress to act on voting reform, immigration, and gun control. The president demands laws on all these issues be passed, failing that, he believes the American people at least deserve a vote.

These topics are key issues, especially with midterm elections two years away. Members of Congress seems to agree with President Obama that at least these issues must be dealt with in a timely manner, or else they may find themselves without a job soon.

Conservatives will continue to paint President Obama as a tyrant who wants to tax the middle class to death, the way Marco Rubio did in his infamous water bottle aided response, anybody who listened to the speech knows this is untrue.

President Obama realizes that for America to succeed we don’t need an unfathomably rich upper class, but for a large and stronger middle class.

Rubio’s Clear Alternative to Big Government

Anthony Spanga
Editor-In-Chief

Florida Senator Marco Rubio responded to President Barack Obama’s State of the Union Address on February 12, providing a fresh alternative to both the stagnant ideas of former GOP leadership as well as the current administration.

While many argue that the GOP is purely a party for the rich, Rubio, who is widely expected to make a presidential run in 2016, appears to represent a new moderate wing of the Republican Party. With the case that he presented, Rubio shows he understands that though we’ve made progress, his new “Fix-It-First” program designed to help fix the nearly 70,000 structurally deficient bridges we have, and a restructuring of the minimum wage.

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President Obama realizes that for America to succeed we don’t need an unfathomably rich upper class, but for a large and stronger middle class.

Rubio, a son of two working class immigrants, explained that opportunity is best had by going out and obtaining it ourselves. Telling those watching that he was given the best inheritance possible, “the real opportunity to accomplish his dreams,” a gift that is not handed down from Washington.

With this, he makes an excellent point, a free market and the opportunity to take risks and obtain reward is what built this country and will allow it to grow. Continued regulation will only allow for growth in small spurts, and in many cases will negatively affect business with the costs of conforming to the new rules.

However, the most hard hitting part of the response came during it’s midpoint play. Rubio, in broad terms, encapsulated the argument that more government spending is not going to get us ahead.

“And the idea that more taxes and more government spending is the best way to help hardworking middle class taxpayers – that’s an old idea that’s failed every time it’s been tried.

More government isn’t going to help you get ahead. It’s going to hold you back. More government isn’t going to create more opportunities. It’s going to limit them. And more government isn’t going to inspire new ideas, new businesses and new private sector jobs. It’s going to create uncertainty.”

Furthermore, Rubio is correct that the solution to many of today’s problems rest with individual enterprise. While government can continue to give handouts, the right answer is to teach citizens to help themselves. As the old saying goes, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

Based on what has been seen from Washington recently, it does not appear to be the time for an expanded government role. With a divisive Congress and typical bureaucracy that makes even the smallest of issues appear to be the time for an expanded government role. With a divisive Congress and typical bureaucracy that makes even the smallest of issues difficult to solve, the government needs a smaller role that will give power to the states and to the people.

Through individual enterprise and liberty, we can achieve economic prosperity and the continued chance for a better tomorrow. The fear that a better future for our children may not be had should motivate Americans for a change. We cannot continue down the current road and with his address, Marco Rubio presented a path towards a brighter future.
Public Safety Blotter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Date Occured</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Disposition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Disruptive Student</td>
<td>1/11/2013</td>
<td>Bergen Meadowlands</td>
<td>Student became agitated over the content of an exam - Referred to Student Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malicious Mischief</td>
<td>1/23/2013</td>
<td>Ender Hall Men's Room</td>
<td>Swastika - Report taken by Public Safety - Referred to Student Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbal Dispute</td>
<td>1/24/2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary Vehicle</td>
<td>1/29/2013</td>
<td>Parking Lot C</td>
<td>Vehicle Broken Into, Insurance, Registration Card, and Back of a Phone Missing - Report Taken by BCPD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trespassing</td>
<td>1/30/2013</td>
<td>Student Center</td>
<td>Person Reported to be Looking Inside of Cars Arrested for Burglary</td>
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<td>Suspicious Acts</td>
<td>1/31/2013</td>
<td>Parking Lot B</td>
<td>Weapons Found in Troubled Student's Bag Escorted to Bergen Regional Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suspicious Acts</td>
<td>1/31/2013</td>
<td>HS 100</td>
<td>Student Who Had Been Dismissed Seen on Campus Acting Suspiciously</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suspicious Acts</td>
<td>1/31/2013</td>
<td>S Wing Stairwell</td>
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</tbody>
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Roving Reporter: What are Your Plans for Spring Break?

By: Valerie Batista

George Bosch
Criminal Justice
“For now my plans for spring break is to enjoy it with great friends and to do productive things such as going to the gym, volunteering, and catch up with family. Spring break is great because we get a week off to have some time to myself and catch up on school work or even projects.”

Monique Strachan
Professional Studies
“My plans for spring are to go to Florida to visit my dad. I am going to chill by the beach and shop at the mall. Spring break will be very relaxing for me. I will also visit my father’s wife family and have like a family dinner with them. It should be fun, I am excited and ready to get the sun!”

Benny Rodriguez
Computer Engineering
“My plans for spring break is to go to baseball camp in Long Island. Also, I am planning to go to Florida and visit my Godfather. I am going to visit my godfather because he is going to help me with my baseball skills.”

Paola Baez
Business administration
“For spring I will be staying here. My father and little brother are going to come from the Dominican Republic to visit me. Here I’ll show them around, go watch a Broadway show, take a stroll in Central Park. I really don’t know. Just have as much fun as I can with my family before they go back to the Dominican Republic.”

Ilya Grigorovich
General Studies
“My plans for spring include doing on a Euro-Trip. Stops would include Russia, my birthplace, and other parts of Europe including England, France and Amsterdam. One week of traveling through Europe is limited, but I plan to go back during the summer.”

Jessica Lee
Liberal Arts
“During my last spring break at Bergen Community College, I plan to go to Korea to visit my family and eat lots of good street food! When I am not stuffing myself with all the things I could not find here, in the United States, I will be anticipating graduation and making the best of my trip.”

Richard Jackson
Electronic Engineer
“My plans for spring break is visiting my family in Florida to go to Disney because my little cousins are coming from England to visit my uncle.”

Melissa Nunez
General Studies
“During spring break I plan to go down the shore with my fellow Student Government senators and students at NJIT to help with the cleaning and rebuilding of seaside.”
Match the Pictures of the Professors and Administrators to the Text:

**A**

**School:** Brooklyn College, The City University of New York, Tufts University, Brown University

**Major:** English

**Extracurricular Activities:** Restores Victorian furniture and fixtures, traveled, did extramural studies at Salzburgh, Oxford, Edinburgh, and London

**Funny Story:** He was learning how to punt at the Cherwell River in Oxford, England in the same group as a girl he was very attracted to. He was so drawn to her that he couldn’t focus on the lesson; didn’t let go of the punt at the appropriate time, lost his balance, and fell into the river. Luckily, this event finally got her to notice him, and now they are happily married!

**B**

**School:** University of Scranton

**Major:** Double major in biophysics and philosophy, Minor: Math

**Extracurricular Activities:** Worked in campus music ministry, DJ for WUSR (school radio station), Philosophy Honors Society, file clerk at a doctor’s office

**Funny Story:** “One of the sophomore year requirements for my Philosophy Honors program was a class entitled “Logical and Rhetorical Analysis.” It was an intense speech & writing class with some notable projects, including one where students had to memorize a Shakespearean sonnet and perform it twice in front of the class, one time serious, one time doing something ridiculous and embarrassing as you spoke. One person I know performed a pole dance (in stripper costume!) during her sonnet; another mixed the raw ingredients for a cake in his pants as he recited. I dressed as a tennis pro and served 10 balls at my classmates and professor, one for each mention of the word “love” in Sonnet 40. No one was permanently injured.”

**C**

**School:** Yangoo U. in Myanmar, U. of London Satellite Program, Montana State U.

**Major:** Education

**Extracurricular Activities:** President of International Student Association

**Funny Story:** While studying as an international student in America the President of the school called their father to alter him that he/she was starting peace marches

**D**

**College:** University of Houston, Rice University, University of Texas

**Major:** Chemistry

**Extracurricular Activities:** Student Government, Honor Society, and Marching Band

**Funny story:** First year members of the marching band were required to wear a beanie all the time. So he/she had to walk around campus wearing a beanie. He/she was not used to this because the only other hat they wore was a cowboy hat since they had grew up in Texas.

**E**

**Colleges:** University of Wisconsin- Madison

**Major:** History; Minor: Economics

**Extracurricular Activities:** The Cardinal (UW-Madison School Newspaper), Students for Democratic Society, History Students Association, anti-Vietnam War movement, Taekwondo (brown belt), eat “not-too-bad food”, and drink cheap wine

**Funny Story:** During the 1968 Democratic National Convention, He/she was caught photographing Chicago policemen beating a group of demonstrators, after which he/she had shotguns pointed at him. He/she ran away, bumped into a guy with a suit and badge, and was arrested. Turns out, the guy with the suit and badge wasn’t even a cop, and didn’t have the authority to put him in jail. On the bright side, in jail he met Jerry Rubin, a famous anti-Vietnam war protestor, and got to interview him.

**F**

**Colleges:** University of Scranton, Drexel University, Rutgers University

**Major:** History

**Extracurricular Activities:** worked as a gas station attendant (“Regular gas was 34 cents a gallon, high-test was 37 cents a gallon”), not worry about a career because it was going to collapse anyway, worked in the school cafeteria and had food fights

**Funny Story:** “In the late ’60s when I entered college, male students could not visit female student dorms (you had to sneak in through a first floor window if you found a willing participant). After my freshman year at Drew things began to change. An open house was introduced on Sunday afternoons so guys could visit girls’ dorms. However, the door of the girls room had to remain open at all times (so the RA could see what you were up to) and the guy could only have one leg on the bed at a time! By the time I graduated, we had co-ed dorms.”
of the Professors and their college story

G
College: Kingsborough Community College, CUNY Richmond (currently college of Staten Island)
Major: Humanities
Extracurricular Activities: He/She was a terrible student and participated in no extra-curricular activities.
Funny Story: Went to three semesters of Kingsborough CC then flunked out with a GPA of 1.29. When to night school to bring GPA up as a military deferment.

H
College: St. Andrews College
Major: Theatre Arts and Romance Languages
Extracurricular Activities: Work study in theatre, studied abroad in Spain and London, was co-chairman of the bicentennial committee and buried a capsule with keepsakes in it to be dug up in 2076.
Funny Story: During their first week of freshman year, he/she and a friend thought it would be cool to line the ceiling of their dorm with tin foil to create a mirror effect. They popped out all the tiles, and then realized that it did not work well at all.

I
College: Central Connecticut State University
Major: Theatre Arts
Minor: Communications
Extracurricular Activities: Campus DJing, Admission tour guide, Orientation Leader, Black and Latino image in film, Resident Assistant, Student Union Technician.
Funny Story: Had to wear a red union suit on stage and right before going on, his friend decides to unbutton his butt flap without him knowing. Little did he know, he went on stage and gave the audience a “show”.

Drew University, Rutgers University
Extracurricular Activities: worked as a gas station attendant (“Regular gas is 37 cents a gallon, high-test was 37 cents a gallon”), not worry about because he thought the entire capitalist system would collapse and worked in the school cafeteria and had food fights.
Funny story: “In the late ‘60s when I entered college, male students could male student dorms (you had to sneak in through a first floor and you found a willing participant). After my freshman year at something so guys could visit girls’ dorms. However, the door of the girls to remain open at all times (so the RA could see what you were the guy could only have one leg on the bed at a time! By the dautated, we had co-ed dorms.”
Vegetarians enjoy giving oral sex more than non-vegetarians. The more your parents are involved in your educational finances the more horny you are. These are findings done by OKCupid Trends. Since OKCupid went online in 2004, they have been collecting massive amounts of data about human interactions. Since it is also a dating site, how could they not have your dorm, you don’t have a job, your school tuition is thankfully taken care of by your gracious parents, and you are in college? You are probably hitting the wall that your bed frame is up against more frequently than those who worry about funding their own education. So if you’re wondering when the next probability of having sex is, the answer can likely be found on a chart.

### Cheating: Should You Tell Your Partner?

**Erica M. Diaz**  
*Staff Writer*

So you’ve cheated on your partner and you want to tell them the truth but you don’t want to hurt them. Should you tell your partner? Some would say the answer is clear but that isn’t always the case. Before making a decision, take a look at both perspectives.

Yes, you should always tell your partner. Cheating is wrong and whether or not you’d like to admit it, you can’t avoid the truth. Hiding something from your partner cannot cause you a tremendous amount of guilt and ultimately affect your relationship in a negative way. If you’ve decided to be in a monogamous relationship, your partner deserves to know that you’ve violated your agreement and their trust.

No, just keep it to yourself. The only time it is acceptable to keep something you don’t want your partner to know is if it only happened once and there is no chance it will ever happen again. Although what you did was wrong, everyone makes mistakes. A single action does not define who you are. If you truly love your partner, sincerely feel compunction and commit to staying faithful in the future, and keep it to yourself. Ignorance is bliss. Once you admit to cheating, the relationship will never be the same. Your partner will not only be hurt but they may never trust you again.

Instead of causing them pain by confessing, consider seeing a therapist to figure out why you cheated. Then take the time to communicate with your partner on what’s missing in the relationship and what you can both do to help it improve.

There is no right or wrong answer in this situation. Every person and relationship is different. Consider both sides first and then make a decision. Only you know what is best for you and your partner.

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### Better Posture, Better Grades

**David Koo**  
*Staff Writer*

According to the American Chiropractic Association, 31 million Americans experience lower-back pain at any given time. Back pain is also the second most common reason for doctors visits after upper-respiratory infections.

As a sedentary lifestyle has become more pervasive in our daily lives, the age of patients who complain about having back pains lower every year. Today, it is not a rare phenomenon to see elementary school students consulting chiropractors for back pains. Most of the time, the main cause of back pains for teenagers and young adults is poor sitting posture. If one can improve their sitting posture while reading, using a computer, or doing any kind of sedentary work, they will experience a dramatic back pain reduction in back pains. It is especially true for college students who spend lots of time sitting on chairs to know how to sit correctly. Here are some examples of bad postures that are commonly seen around the campus.

**Postures like these will put too much pressure on the lower back, which will eventually turn into a sharp pain when engaging in activities that require back strength, such as bending to lift up objects and playing sports. Also, crossing the legs causes the pelvis to become uneven and leads to scoliosis, an abnormal lateral curvature of the spine. Therefore, chiropractors recommend patients never to cross their legs.**

This is an example of a good sitting posture. The person in the picture sticks his lower back to the back of the chair to minimize the pressure on their lower back. The neck is not too close to the desk so to prevent the strain of his neck muscle. His legs form a right angle which also minimizes the pressure on his knee joints. When sitting with a healthy posture, one can study longer and more efficiently than when one does not sit correctly because it reduces the pressure and strain of muscles that could otherwise interfere with concentration. Keeping a healthy back is crucial to keeping a healthy life and keeping a healthy back starts from keeping healthy postures.
Spring Shots for a Sloshed Semester

Spring break means good times with good friends. Here are some shots to fire your creativity. Try to concoct your own and share them around! Enjoy good company and great taste!

By: Nita Lim, Layout Editor

**TOP SHOT**
Even though the Christmas holidays are over, why should we stop taking this exotic shot?

Santa shot recipe: ¾ ounce of grenadine, ¾ ounce green crème de menthe, ¾ ounce peppermint schnapps.
Step 1: Slowly pour the grenadine in the shot glass
Step 2: Slowly pour the green crème de menthe
Step 3: Slowly pour the peppermint schnapps
Step 4: Drink.
Hint* Some people in order to layer the liquors use a spoon and slowly disperse the liquor evenly in the glass.

**DOUBLE TROUBLE**
For those of you that have a love for the south and its way of liquor, this one is for you.

The Southern Joe recipe: ½ Southern comfort peach liqueur, ½ Jack Daniels sour mash whiskey
Step 1: Give the shot glass a quick spritz of water, then put in the freezer until you feel it is cold enough.
Step 2: Pour both the Southern comfort and the Jack Daniels in the shot glass.
Step 3: Shoot it down.

**THREE’S A CROWD**
The party always tends to begin when you have those three people. The ones who party hard and never let the night stop.

Three Wise Men Go Hunting recipe: ½ ounce Johnnie Walker Scotch Whiskey, ½ ounce Jack Daniels sour mash whiskey, ½ ounce Jim Beam bourbon, ½ ounce Wild Turkey bourbon.
Step 1: For those one you who actually have a cocktail shaker, pour all of the liquors in the cocktail shaker with ice. For those who don’t have a cocktail shaker simply give the shot glass quick spritz of water, then put in freezer until cold enough.
Step 2: Pour the chilled liquor in the shot glass.
Step 3: Go hunting.

**FOUR TO THE FLOOR**
Let’s take a little break from these hard core shots with something a little bit sweet.

Oatmeal Cookie recipe: ¾ ounce Butterscotch Schnapps, ¾ ounce Irish cream liqueur, a splash of Jägermeister, a splash of Cinnamon Schnapps
Step 1= place the Jägermeister in the freezer until chilled. (For those who don’t want to wait for the freezer, what I do is fill a bowl with water and ice and put the bottle in that for a bit.)
Step 2= after the Jägermeister is cold, pour the rest of the ingredients in the shot glass
Step 3= drink the cookie

**THE LAST ONE STANDING**
This one is for the hardcore. If you could take a couple of these and still be standing you may have what it take to become a shot legard.

The Devil recipe= ½ ounce Everclear, ½ ounce Bacardi 151, ½ ounce St. Vincent sunset rum
Step 1: Pour all the liquors in the shot glass
Step 2: Prep yourself for the hell that’s coming.
Step 3: Enter hell and swallow your fears.

Disclaimer: The Torch does not endorse or promote underage drinking. Please be 21 or over if trying any of the below recipes. Always drink RESPONSIBLY.
Here are just a few of the fantastic courses offered at Bergen Community College—many of which you probably never knew existed! Although some of them do have prerequisites, they are definitely worth checking out, especially if you happen to be in the field to begin with.

Do you love studying science but hate sitting for hours through never-ending lectures and labs? If you want to get closer to him, then you have to know more about his species. Best way to do that?—Take the Intensive Wolf Study class! In this course, students “deal with an organism that represents the conflicts between humans and wildlife management issues,” which would definitely help you in your interaction with wolves as a human. The course does not take place in a classroom, instead will “students will study captive wolves as well as wolves in their natural habitat” at the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota. Lecture topics include the biology and ecology of the gray wolf, Canis lupus. Afternoon and evening sessions involve field work and independent study. Time to replace skiing with a chance to become BFF with the wolves!

**BIO-119 Intense Wolf Study**

**BIO-229 Tropical Marine Ecology**

Here is yet another opportunity to escape monotonous classroom learning. If you are interested in marine ecology, why not spend your summer vacationing, learning, and earning college credits in the Sunshine State? This course is taught at the Keys Marine Laboratory in Long Key, Florida, during the summer semester. Students study “coral reef structure and ecology, the intertidal zone, mangrove and terrestrial communities, interstitial organisms, and atrophic relationships.” Lab sessions do not take place in the kind of labs Bergen students are used to, but include field experiences, group projects and report writing outdoors...in Florida!

**INF-271 Ethical Hacking**

The course description claims that “Students will learn to use... hacking techniques to perform a white-hat ethical hack”. Well, when hacking for homework you’re not really doing anything wrong, are you? Besides, Bill Gates did the same thing, and he saves many lives every year!

**WEX-208 40+ Fitness**

Have you still not got over the fright of staying alone in school without your mommy? Well, that is exactly why Bergen is making this fantastic offer of an exercise class for “students 40 years or older”! Your mom (or grandma) can come to college with you and take this class to “increase fitness through individualized programs emphasizing flexibility, aerobic conditioning, muscle strength/ endurance and weight management.” I’d say this is also a good way to find a potential partner (or partners) if you’re single, and ready to mingle.

**HRM-212 International Cuisine**

Nice! Free Food! You’re probably tired of eating school food or McDonald’s hamburgers every day. Well, the answer to your problem is right here! Take this class on international cuisine and explore delicious tastes you didn’t know existed! According to the course description, “French, Italian, German, Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, and American cuisine” are taught. As for the American cuisine part of the class, I think it’s time for us to get to know American foods that are not burgers and fries. And if it is...let’s just admit that no one really gets tired of hamburgers and fries, anyway.

**AVT-100 Introduction to Aeronautics**

Have you ever dreamed of building your very own airplane, and flying it around the world? Now you can do this by taking Bergen’s Intro to Aeronautics course! Here you will “study the science, theory, and practice of designing, building, and operating aircraft.” You’ll actually feel like you’re flying a plane!☆
The Transfer Opportunity Program (T.O.P Scholars) at Berkeley College offers scholarships of up to 50% of tuition*, based on a student's grade point average (G.P.A.).

To be eligible as a T.O.P Scholar, a student must:

- Have an Associate's degree from another college
- Be enrolled as a full-time student at Berkeley College
- Remain continuously enrolled for his/her first academic year (three quarters). After that, the student may take one quarter off without losing the scholarship.

For more information, visit BerkeleyCollege.edu/Transfer_Scholarship or call 800-446-5400, ext. GBC.

Locations in New York, New Jersey, and Online

The Torch

Creative Corner Contest

Congratulations, Candice and Viv! Look out for an email for instructions on how to claim your cash prizes!

Good news! Starting from this month, the 1st place prize for The Torch Creative Corner Contest has gone up from $25 to $50! That means, if you win, you’ll be able to say “Fill up!” instead of “$25, please.” next time you get gas.

For a chance to have this opportunity, and to be featured in next month’s Creative Corner Segment, submit your creative works to featureseditor@torch@gmail.com. Your work can be anything—a joke, a poem, photos, a short story, drawings—as long as the work is original.

Email your submissions with the subject line “February Creative Corner Contest!”, with your full name and a method of contact in the body of your email. The contest closes 3/23.

Hope everyone has a wonderful Saint Patrick’s Day!
We’ll be awaiting your submissions!
Have fun!

Winners

First Place (left): Cerulean Kiss by Candice Vieldhouse
Second Place (Below): Artwork by Vivi Hwang

Cerulean Kiss

Crisp air whispering through the cracks
Scents of enchantment linger in abundance
The sky painted greys, purples and blues
like a giant bruise
I am bewitched by her beauty
her eyes are ice
her voice the most frigid wind
The last shriveled leaves grasp
at the nearly naked trees
The truest skeletons of the landscape
now finally apparent
Her breath sends shudders down my spine
But I forever thirst for more
I thirst for this truth
this death
so clean and genuine
I will always seek her perfect beauty
though she is so cold
Her enchanting song will always woo me
by Candice Vieldhouse

For the most up-to-date information, please visit BerkeleyCollege.edu.

*Award amounts applied after all other federal and state grants and scholarships, and will not exceed the remaining cost of tuition and fees. Cost of books and supplies not included.
Only a skilled writer could write a smooth, intriguing opening to an article about toilets. I am not that man. Still, I did have the right mixture of sick desperation and quiet self-loathing to go around campus inspecting as many public restrooms as I could find, leaving the girls' and teachers' secret vaults for another day.

Honestly, there isn't much to report. The details of my investigation are more fit for a piece called “Don't go to Bergen.” Nothing against the school, it's just that public facilities in general often lean towards the "neglected mental asylum" end of things, and we all know why. Let's remember that the biggest cause of plague—bathroom is of course us, people. People with poor aim, poor hygiene, poor impulse control, a racist conspiracy theory, and a pen. We're the ones clogging toilets and undoing dispensers, getting everything wet in the process. The more crowded a place, the more abuse it takes. It's a simple formula that I'm sure most of the readers have figured out by now.

Population density should be the greatest factor in all scatological discretion. In this case, Bergen is no exception. Take the library bathrooms for example, the ones inside and the ones by the doors. They arguably receive the most traffic in school, and it shows. Every other day, one of the stalls is rendered useless by a generous stuffing of toilet paper, or someone accuses John Cusack of being a pedophile on the wall. But the bathrooms on the third floor, directly above the library entrance, are instantly much nicer, simply because they're no longer on the way to the library. This is why I personally never even enter the cafeteria bathroom.

In my search I only found one "good" restroom. As in, one that was better than my own. This magnificent lavatory is located in the SA wing of the Pitkin building. It's only on the first floor, adjacent to the S wing. It's very easy to miss, no one even knows it's there unless they've taken chemistry. The motion-detecting faucets are always a plus, and it may be the only bathroom on campus with windows. Here they act like skylights, creating a dreamy ambiance at the right times. The people factor is minimal of course.

The remaining majority of public restrooms at Bergen fall into the "average" category. They're nothing special, you get the job done without cringing. Most have mirrors and working faucets, every now and then something breaks and is fixed. There's a whole cycle of life, and the diligent janitors of the school do the best they can to keep order. But still, there are highs and lows. It's better this way; you can't appreciate an automatic paper dispenser until you've tried to work a broken one. Ender Hall appears to have deteriorated the most over the years, but it's nothing too serious. In fact, the varying degrees of disrepair made my journey more interesting: a broken wall, a missing panel, a dim light.

It honestly sometimes felt as if I stepped into a Film Noir movie, and I only stepped into piss once (although that was outside the library). West Hall is a little better, but you'd really expect more to go along with its clear, day lit glass atriums. An honorable mention goes to the bathroom across from the book store in Pitkin. It defies conventional logic by remaining quite pleasant despite its central location. Maybe it's just those wavy sinks.

Gene Fedorenko
Staff Writer

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Photos by Gene Fedorenko
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**Killer Klowns on a Spaceship**

Chris O’Hanlon  
*Staff Writer*

There have been at least a few movies in my life that made me wish I had a DeLorean that would allow me to travel back in time to erase bad movies from existence. Occasionally, I’ll stumble upon a movie so mind-bogglingly bad that I actually enjoy it. No movie is a better example of this than Killer Klowns from Outer Space. This movie begins innocently enough with a couple named Mike and Debbie. Their romantic evening is cut short after they discover an abandoned circus tent that ultimately turns out to be a spaceship. Despite some misgivings, the couple explores the ship and eventually come into contact with clown-like aliens. Think Pennywise is scary? These guys shoot popcorn from oversized Nerf guns. If that isn’t horrifying enough, these clowns also harvest their human captives in acidic cotton candy cocoons, giving way to a texture that all too clearly resembles bubbloo gum. And of course, no clown b-movie would be complete without a ball of Marbles and the sight of clowns drinking blood from bendy straws.

Most of this movie is just a really entertaining game of cat and mouse as Mike and Debbie race to warn the town about the arrival of the clown invaders, who attack them with everything from clowns-in-a-box to ray guns and pies. Coming along for the ride is Dave, Debbie’s ex-boyfriend who works as a police officer. Together, the group unleashes an all attack on the alien ship, hoping to drive the clowns back to their own world.

Overall, this is a fairly entertaining movie. As ridiculous as the premise is, there’s something entertaining about watching clown aliens wage war on corrupt police officers and biker gangs. You almost find yourself rooting for the clowns until they begin targeting animals and children. If you enjoy mindless horror movies that do not take themselves seriously, you should definitely check out this movie. Photo courtesy of imdb.com

**“Good Kid, m.A.A.d City” a short film by Kendrick Lamar**

Ricardo Montero  
*Gabe Wanissian*  
*Staff Writer*

A star has arisen from Compton. Kendrick Lamar. Dewurtch is simply known as Kendrick Lamar, or Kdot, released an album named “Good kid, m.A.A.d City” on October 22, 2012.

Coming off the buzz of the late 1980’s, the player controls the features are few, they are taking on your favorite letterman jacket and head outside. But here in Miami, nothing is as it seems. This is your life as the character Jacket, in Hotline Miami by indie game developers, Dennaton Games. Taking place in a skewed timeline during the late 1980’s, the player controls Jacket as he runs an ultra violent swath through the underworld of Miami. While the player is smashing heads with baseball bats and using thugs for target practice, the player views his victim from the top down. The entire time, the music pulses to an 80’s synth-pop soundtrack that just might be acting to disorder the player, thrusting you further into Jacket’s bloody exploits.

The overall feel of the world through its 16 bit filter is one of a nightmare. You earn points according to how ruthless you were to how innovative you could have been with your task. Then, these points are added at the end of every level to a total to unlock more weapons to use in the coming levels. Violence is the name of the game here but it’s not the only selling point. The story is disorienting and at times not to be believed. While Jacket seems to be a deranged hitman, there could be something bigger driving this crush of death and viscer. It’s almost as if the entire environment is meant to keep you on the back foot, questioning every kill. But when morning comes, you know you’ll be answering that phone again for a chance to know what really is going on.

Blair DeLong  
*Staff Writer*

All you can hear is the beeping of your answering machine going on and on. When you finally check the message, it sounds like someone needs you to take care of some rowdy children. So you throw on your favorite letterman jacket and head outside. But here in Miami, nothing is as it seems. This is your life as the character Jacket, in Hotline Miami by indie game developers, Dennaton Games. Taking place in a skewed timeline during the late 1980’s, the player controls Jacket as he runs an ultra violent

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**HOTLINE MIAMI**

**Lyra**

*March 5th: Best chance to see Mercury in Miami*

Mercury will be far enough away from the sun that you will be able to see it shortly after sunset.

*March 12th: Mars Opposition*

This planet will be the closest to the earth during this time and will be illuminated by the sun.

*March 3rd: Mars at Opposition*

This planet will be the closest to the earth during this time and will be illuminated by the sun.

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**Aquarius**

*May 20th: Annual Solar Eclipse*

Even though western North America has a better chance at witnessing this event, it is still worth looking up for. The path of annularity will start in southern China and move east toward the U.S.

*May 5-6: Eta Aquarids Meteor Show*

This show will not be as worth while since there will be a full moon washing out the sky. But it produces about 10 meteors per hour and is best viewed looking east after midnight.

*April 21-22: Lyrid Meteor Shower*

With no moon in sight, this meteor shower is to be predicted as a great show! Look toward the constellation Lyra after midnight and you have a good chance at seeing a shooting star. This shower produces about 20 meteors per hour.

*April 28th: Astronomy Day part 1*

This event to bring astronomy to the people. Check with your local planetarium or astronomy club to see which events are going on. Or contact Bergen’s astronomy club at roopishaanur@bergen.edu

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**FEATURES**

**THE TORCH**

**VOLUME 20 ISSUE 6**

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**18**

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**Illustration by Jamie Kurtz**
You got it, dude! – Michelle from Full House

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Life will all be like, “Whaaat?” – Phil Dunphy from Modern Family

When I die, I hope I go quietly in my sleep like my grandfather did -- not screaming in terror like the other people in his car. -- “Deep Thought” by Jack Handey, comedian

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius -- and a lot of courage -- to move in the opposite direction. - Albert Einstein

Just win baby, win! - Al Davis, Oakland Raiders Executive

The only normal people you know are the ones you don’t know very well – Alfred Adler, founder of the school of individual psychology

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who’ll decide where to go. - Dr. Seuss, Oh, the Places You’ll Go

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Saint Peter’s UNIVERSITY
The Jesuit University of New Jersey
Championship Inspiration

Karim G. Daif
Sports Editor

The heart of a champion is most often times measured on what’s displayed in the arena. Yet what most of the spectators don’t see is how much he means to the team. When the Baltimore Ravens wrapped up their Super Bowl XLVII victory party, Head Coach John Harbaugh got up to the podium in front of a nationally televised audience and an astatic Raven fan base behind him and pointed his index finger to O.J ‘Juice’ Brigance and said “This one’s for O.J”, repeatedly. Brigance is a former CFL and NFL lineman who was undrafted, signed, and eventually became captain for two seasons as a Miami Dolphin and a Super Championship lineman. As a national tenacious defender, he set the tone with the game’s first tackle in the 2000 Super Bowl which helped lead the team on to a victory. Brigance’s journey resembles one that would fit the script of a Cinderella story; except this one ends with Cinderella in a wheelchair with a terrible disease, and a harsh life expectancy of less than 5 years.

O.J Brigance and the Baltimore Ravens reminded us all of what true champions are.

BCC’s wrestling team looks for greatness in Iowa

Karim G. Daif
Sports Editor

Six BCC wrestlers will travel to Des Moines, Iowa the week of February 18 to compete in the NJCAA Men’s Wrestling National Championship, which is exclusive for the best wrestlers and wrestling team’s in the nation.

Leading Bergen to hopeful glory will be Krzysztof Kucab (174 lbs.) of Garfield, Chris Lantz (125 lbs.) of Bloomfield, Nick Barone (197 lbs.) of Westwood, Matthew Jacobson (141 lbs.) of Saddle Brook, Jeff Rottingen (133 lbs.) of Ramsey, and Christian Rohn (184 lbs.) of Ridgewood.

The unwillingness to give up no matter what the circumstance is what drives a true champion.

The greatest challenges which O.J ‘Juice’ Brigance has experienced to date ended with ALS, a terrible disease, and a harsh life that alters their original game plan, but that’s the game of life. The greatest challenges which every champion faces come with extenuating circumstances that alter their original game and that’s the game of life. The greatest challenges come with the greatest lessons; perseverance and gratitude, in which O.J ‘Juice’ Brigance has plenty of both.

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