Bravo Wins SGA Presidency;  
Tahhan VP, Valdez Alumni Trustee  
1,112 of 15,563 Students Vote; 7.1% Turnout Sets Record

Anthony Sganga  
Editor-in-Chief

Following a weeklong ballot amid the highest turnout on record, the Student Government Association elected a new executive board and alumni trustee. SGA Senator Alexis Bravo, 18, was elected President with 61% out of 1,112 ballots cast on Tuesday. Bravo, who campaigned on bringing more programs to night students and her ability to relate to the younger student population at the college, will assume office at the semester’s end.

Bravo stated that her victory was very fulfilling. “I feel so blessed and honored to serve as leader, it’s a dream come true and I hope to do whatever it takes to do the job properly.”

Said Bravo.

The race for the position was defined between Bravo’s knowledge and experience of student issues and candidate Senator Pepe Romero’s experience in the private sector. Romero, 32, the other candidate for President, received 39% of the vote, was cordial in defeat, offering congratulations to Bravo and the students.

“Congratulations to the student body for breaking the record for most votes. I hope the student body continues to participate and congratulations to Alexis,” said Romero.

In total, 679 students voted for Bravo, with 433 voting for Romero.

Victoria Tahhan was elected Vice President in a close race, receiving 40% of the vote to George Bosch’s 37% and Michelle Perez’s 23%. Tahhan plans on working toward improving financial aid and making EBS courses unrepresented in a student’s GPA.

In total, Tahhan received 443 votes with 410 for Bosch and 259 votes for Perez. Both Treasurer and Chief of Staff were unopposed with Elif Karacaay and Kayla Williams being elected to their positions, respectively.

The final position, Alumni Trustee, was closely contested. Current SGA President Margarita Valdez defeated student Matthew Friedberg by 596-516, Valdez will join the board in July following the end of current representative Kathryn Rodriguez’s term.

Overall, turnout was 7.1% with 1,112 out of 15,623 students voting. The election was held April 23-30 via an emailed ballot sent to students.

Obtaining a license to hold a TEDx event is no easy task, and so this opportunity is significant because Bergen Community College is one of only 20 colleges and universities in the world to receive a TEDx license, putting it on the map and bringing an incredible amount of exposure to our campus. It has also given our students, faculty, and administrators a chance to listen, speak, and interact with each other in a whole new way.

Ranging from current Bergen students and faculty, alumni, musicians, activists, and other persons of interest, the conference provided a multifaceted approach to the theme of diversity and forgiveness, two topics of relevance as of late, not only at Bergen, but abroad.

Presentations included but were not limited to Gabriel Bol Deng, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, renowned musician Gary Lucas, and Jorge Rivera-Schreiber, a current computer science major at Bergen Community College who programmed and designed an iPhone application containing maps of the college, fully accessible links to Bergen’s

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Editor-in-Chief Anthony Sganga discusses how the media erred in their coverage of the Boston bombings

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Staff Writer Lauren Smith gives her opinion on NYC homelessness

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Interview five graduating students about how they came to BCC and what they plan to do post-graduation

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BCC Food Pantry: How it Started and Continues to Help Today

Erica Diaz
Staff Writer

You might be surprised to find that some students here on campus are going to sleep hungry. Not only are students struggling to find ways to eat, but members of our own faculty and staff are facing the same problem. The BCC Food Pantry was created to help these people in need.

Barbara Buff, Head College Nurse, said that the idea of giving food started off small. “What we were seeing was that we were picking up students off the floor.” The department had to respond to emergency situations and when asking students if they had eaten breakfast, the answer was usually no. Students were usually given a peanut butter and jelly sandwich because that’s what the office always had to offer. This continued when the office of health services moved to a different room on campus.

“They were becoming hungry and due to that, the student would be able to get their own groceries. It was a very small scale and we didn’t have very much. We had one little cubby hole of food that we were able to give a can of tuna fish or some soup that [students] could take home with them or eat that day,” said Barbara.

As time went by, health services realized things were getting worse for them and help included them to not have anything to eat in days because of their living situation.” The counselors were finding out more information about the students and asked Barbara if the office had anything more than peanut butter and jelly to offer. Health services then asked the department of student services if they could help out because they were going to start a small food pantry.

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“The personal counselors came over here,” said Barbara. “...And what I learned from them was how many students really needed help, and that help included them to not have anything to eat in days because of their living situation.” The counselors were finding out more information about the students and asked Barbara if the office had anything more than peanut butter and jelly to offer. Health services then asked the department of student services if they could help out because they were going to start a small food pantry.

“More contributions began coming into the office in the form of supermarket gift cards, so the student would be able to get their own groceries. It was a very small scale and we didn’t have very much. We had one little cubby hole of food that we were able to give a can of tuna fish or some soup that [students] could take home with them or eat that day,” said Barbara.

As time went by, health services realized things were getting worse for their students. Realization came over them when the students started asking for more donations from staff and the school. One day, while Barbara was talking to a student, a professor came into the office and asked what she was doing. She told him they had a small food pantry and explained that she was trying to help the student get some food. After talking for some time, he pulled out his checkbook and wrote a check for $500. He then came back at a later time and gave the food pantry a sizable donation. “We have that in an account that allows us to continue what we’re doing and hopefully help more and more students,” said Barbara.

Students are interviewed about their situation before receiving food and it is strictly confidential. “We purposely do not have students working for us,” said Barbara. “And the reason we have that is so we can keep everything confidential. It is extremely difficult and we are well aware of students for them to even ask for help. But we want them also to know that when they come to us for help, we keep that privacy for them.”

The Food Pantry is seeking donations of nonperishable food, personal care items and grocery store gift cards. If you know someone who is in need or are interested in donating to the food pantry, visit the Center for Health, Wellness and Personal Counseling. It is located in room HS-100. For more information call (201) 447-9257.

Sigma Chi Eta’s Big Break

Ricardo Montero-Hernandez
Co-Editor

Everyone strives to be the first at something. There is a certain kind of euphoria that comes with achieving something that has never been done before. For the first 25 inductees of Sigma Chi Eta - Alpha Mu Chapter, otherwise known as the National Communications Association, it is an honor of recognition.

Professor Jessica Fargnoli, who saw the talented students in the communications department and wanted to offer them more, a recognition for their academic achievements in communications, founded this Association. The first-ever induction ceremony was held May 1st, 2013 in the Tech Building, featuring guest speakers, family members and free brownies.

Out of the 25 inductees, 22 were present at the ceremony. 11 men and 11 women walked to receive their award, including Torch’s very own Anthony Schikler, Chair of the department of communications; Dr. William Mullaney, Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Leah Jewell, President, Science and Careers in the Higher Education Division of Pearson Education. Each of the speakers congratulated the inductees and offered advice about the career of communications, with some putting emphasis on the significance of the event. “It can be summarized with one word, WOW!” said Elin Schikler.

An appearance was made by Dean Amparo Codding, who congratulated Professor Fargnoli for her incredible effort to make Sigma Chi Eta - Alpha Mu Chapter, and of course, the inductees for their honors.

After reciting the oath in unison, the students move on to graduate school, and of course, the inductees and the participants with classical ballet performances from the World-Renowned Dance Theatre of Harlem.

In an interview, Dr. Ursula Parrish Daniels, Executive Vice President at Bergen Community College, expressed that the event was a great success, as it was attended by “members of the BCC Foundation, the greater community at large, as well as faculty, dance, faculty, and staff,” as well as “many young people from a Jersey City agency, who witnessed the best dance performance for the first time in their lives.” She continued by saying the gala “sets the stage for future events of this kind, which bring involvement for future students in arts, theatre, and dance.”

The performances at BCC spotlighted original choreography and music by the Dance Theatre of Harlem, as well as spotlighting the work of artists such as James Brown and Arnet Franklin. A meet-and-greet after the conclusion of the performances allowed guests to meet with the performers.

The proceeds of the event went to the Ciccone Theatre Fund, with the purpose of presenting the highest level of performances for Bergen students and the community. The Theatre Fund also supports the Ciccone Theatre Educational Program, which aims to provide artists and focused education programs to primary, middle and high school students in Bergen County.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem was founded in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook, able to provide children in the community with an opportunity to learn about dance and other performing arts. Since its inception, the company has performed for guests such as the President of the United States and first lady.
TEDx Conference Continued pg.1

website and library database, and lists of class cancellations, among other excellent resources.

TEDx was a huge success, and none of it could have been possible without the dedication of the event’s esteemed organizers and volunteers. Bergen’s Media Technologies department, along with multitudes of Bergen students serving as volunteers, worked tirelessly to ensure the success of each speaker and the event as a whole. Participants included students from 1-2-3 Connect, Phi Theta Kappa, the Honors Association, and other student clubs and organizations. Lunch was also provided, and included dishes brought in from students and faculty in support of the days events.

When speaking with the event’s organizer, Professor Ellen Feig, she was elated by the turnout. “The TEDx Bergen Community College was a huge success with 300 attendees throughout the day, close to 60 incredible student volunteers and a media, tech and stage crew that worked incredibly hard. From academics to guitarists, from students to social activists, the event was inspiring and exciting.”

Overall, TEDx Bergen Community College was the experience of a lifetime, and all those who were a part of it can agree; not only as entertainment, but also as living testament to the innovation, dedication, and creativity of the Bergen Community College family.
Paragraph 175
and the other victims of Nazi Germany

Nathan Fishman
Staff Writer

There were approximately 11 million people systematically eradicated during the Holocaust. Soviet POWs, German blacks, Gypsians, Catholics, Freemasons, the physically and mentally disabled, and homosexuals were targeted by the Nazis. It is not known how many homosexuals overlapped with other groups, such as Jews, as many as 1 million homosexuals experienced the Holocaust, because homosexuality was not criminalized by law. This was the focus of this year’s Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom HaShoah, a program at Bergen Community College.

The beginnings of this program stemmed from Sam Shuman, a homosexual Jew who is currently getting a dual degree from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. After that, the program was ready for Monday, April 8th, Tom HaShoah 2013.

The program was scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Over 100 people showed up to the event. The program was kicked off by members of the Hillel Club lighting candles in memory of the victims. One candle was lit for every one million people to perish in the Holocaust. Then Ethel Abrams, a former faculty member of BCC’s Technological Academics, spoke about the Holocaust. Sam Shuman spoke afterward about what it means to remember, and that led directly to the film.

The film was well-received. In the beginning of the film, a few elderly homosexuals talk about their experiences before the war. While this part was a little bit light-hearted, the tone quickly became somber, even tragic. The film began to talk of the horrors experienced by gay people during the war. As Professor Bumgardner put it, the film is “an emotional rollercoaster.” After the film, a Q&A followed.

Sam Shuman led the Q&A. This showcased the unique brand of suffering that the gay community experienced during and even after the Holocaust. Shuman mentioned that even after the Holocaust, because homosexuality was still a crime in many areas, homosexuals would be taken from the concentration camps and be put into prison. In another story, a boy did not tell his mother that he was gay, even after spending eight years in concentration camps, because of the shame and the stigma attached to homosexuality at the time.

When asked what he thought was the worst aspect of the Holocaust, Professor Bumgardner stated: “We here in America knew what was going on in Nazi Germany. We knew what was going on in the camps, and we ignored it. That is what is so unforgivable.”

Perkins Grant Matters to You

Ricardo Montero-Hernandez
Co-Editor

The Carl D. Perkins Act is up for renewal this year. Given the benefits that it has provided to all campuses of Bergen Community College, it is to be hoped that Congress will once again approve the Act. The community College is highly benefited by the Perkins Grant, giving it as a source of funding for many of BCC’s technological academics. Some of the funding goes to professional development seminars to provide career and transfer guidance and provide assistance for interpretative services in the classroom.

The Perkins Grant has provided for BCC in its whole. Some examples of equipment that has been purchased by the fund include: Smart Boards, X-Ray Equipment, EEG and Vital Signs Monitors, training ventilators, Computerized Numerical Control Lathes, Custom Design Cases, Body Composition Analyzers, computer workstations, a recording sound booth, and an ultrasound recording system. All of these purchases were made between 1998 and 2006.

The largest portion of our Fiscal Year 2013 Perkins allocation already has a destination. It will be used for a state-of-the-art Hybrid Course Smart Classroom with a Lecture Capture System, which will allow flexibility for students enrolled in the CTE programs to progress while involved off-campus internships. One hopes that this classroom could benefit students abroad as well, being able to take classes while in another country. Given today’s power of the Internet, it should be an option for this new classroom.

The Meadowlands campus is being benefited with the Perkins Grant as well. The Bailey Silverman Library Branch will use Perkins funds to purchase CTE program related printed and electronic books, and electronic readers. The Library will also receive updated media equipment for courses such as Culinary Arts, Medical Sonography and Respiratory Therapy.

The decision of what to do with this fund is a process that begins with the deans, department chairs, faculty, department advisory board members, and last but not least, the students. Once a decision is made, a Perkins request form must be forwarded to the grants office for reviewing. The request form is no simple “Money please!” card; it includes the items requested for purchase, justification of how the purchase will benefit student learning and technical skill attainment of the particular Career and Technical Education program and how that improvement will be assessed. Qualifying purchases are forwarded to the college administration. After approval by administration, a spending plan is created and forwarded Board of Trustees for authorization to submit the request to the NJ Department of Education.

The Act is named after Carl D. Perkins, a Chairman of the House Committee on Education from 1967 to 1984. The Chairman was a strong supporter of the Career and Technical Education. In 1984, Congress enacted the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education act in tribute to Chairman Perkins. It aims to increase the quality of technical education in order to help the economy. The Bill has been reauthorized twice, in 1998 and again in 2006. The Bill, otherwise known as the “Perkins Grant”, provides funding for secondary and postsecondary schools throughout the country and supports the development of academic and technical skill programs.
Although spring is still struggling to arrive in northern New Jersey, it was not too cold to go outside and celebrate Earth Day and have some ice cream.

One of the highlights of this year’s event, which took place in front of the Student Center on April 22nd, were electric vehicles, which were brought by their owners to be displayed to BCC students. The cars present were a couple of BMW ActiveEs, two Tesla Roadsters, a Tesla Model S, and a Nissan LEAF, all of which are 100 percent electric.

Tom Moloughney, the proud owner of one of the ActiveEs, is an electric vehicle advocate and a great supporter of independent and green energy. Not only is Moloughney’s car electric, but his house is run almost entirely on solar power. Because of this, he was able to say “I drive for free”, and also stated that his electric bill is always below $15 a month. The ActiveE can be fully charged in only four and a half hours, which can run approximately 100 miles. This is perfect for Moloughney, as he only drives a fraction of that distance to and from work each day, and then recharges his car at night. One of the purposes of the ActiveE is to test BMW’s technology, which it will later implement in the all-electric BMW i-series, and is not yet being mass produced.

Smaller but more powerful cars on display were the black and silver Tesla Roadsters, one of which is owned by Ian Giblin. This car, Giblin said, is a “merge between tree huggers and sports fans,” as it is fully electric and can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in only 3.7 seconds. It can drive up to 250 miles on a single charge, and was the first electric car to be able to do so. Only 2,500 were built, and was fabricated with the primary purpose of testing Tesla’s latest technologies.

The shiny white Tesla Model S was quite a surprise for those who helped to take a look at the engine. Under the hood is nothing but empty space, meaning that it might be a fantastic car for family trips, especially as its large trunk offers even more room for luggage. Best of all, the record breaking Model S can run approximately 265 miles on a single charge, meaning that it is indeed possible to drive it to the Jersey Shore! The invisible motor and batteries are all packed under the seats, as well as the electronics which power the 17 inch touch screen on the dashboard, through which everything from air conditioner to power consumption are controlled. The Nissan LEAF is a five-door hatchback electric car, which can run approximately 120 miles per charge. This car began to be produced in Japan and the United States in December 2010, and has sold over 50,000 units, as well as having won several awards around the world.

Apart from the fantastic vehicles, present at the event was a group from The BEAR Program (BEAR - Bear Education And Resources), which has the mission of protecting black bears and their habitat. Dona Arcarao, who has been with the bear protection group since 2005, said that most of the time “the reason hunters kill bears is just because they can.” For the past three years there has been an official ‘bear hunting week’ at the beginning of December, when hunters are allowed to ‘harvest’ the animals. Last year during the bear hunting week, nearly 300 bears were killed in New Jersey alone, meaning that now there are very few bears left, and that in the near future they may be in risk of extinction.

Many people also hunt because they believe that the bears are dangerous and a threat to communities. This, however, is untrue. Bears will only attack if they are provoked, and not if you are simply admiring them. According to savenjbears.com, you are “100 times more likely to be killed by a dog, 247 times more likely to be killed by lightning, 120 times more likely to be killed by a bee, 60,000 times more likely to be murdered by another human being...than to be killed by a black bear.”

The overall event was very successful and attracted the attention of a large number of students, all of whom were extremely please to find something to take their minds off finals.
Shenouda Promotes Women's Rights

Lauren Smith
Staff Writer

Since the 1800s, women in the United States have fought for equal rights, and although we have seen extreme progress since then, on the other hand, Egyptian women have only recently been able to have a taste of equality since 2008, when the Arabic culture began to take over.

Starting from the 7th century, Egypt witnessed huge changes. We started to follow Arab culture, learn Arabic language, and follow the traditions of Arabs in terms of marriage, divorce, and their beliefs,” stated Eman Shenouda, a professor as well as a Fulbright scholar.

Shenouda has traveled the world and spread knowledge about feminism in Egypt. As part of Women's History Month, she wrote an essay that was published here at BCC and shared her knowledge with us.

Feminism movements started to occur in the early 1920s but were banned due to fear. The ban was lifted in the USA while the ban was still in place in Egypt. Shenouda shares her experiences.

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As much progress as Egyptian women have seen since 1919, when women were finally given the vote and were partaking in hunger strikes, there is still a long battle ahead. With a 40-60 percentage rate of illiteracy among women in Egypt, the lack of education is enough to prevent them from obtaining their goal of equality. Women say they won’t be afraid to politically leave Egypt, the past. Following her reading, she answered questions from the large turnout that consisted of faculty members, students, and fans of Karr’s work. Curious audience members raised their hands to question the author on her writing style and her personal lifestyle.

“Women were serving in homes with an extremely discriminatory women’s responsibilities,” according to Davis.  “We hate differences and attacking based on them.  It is fear that leads to hate, and then hate leads to violence and destruction according to Davis.  “We hate the things that we fear and we want to destroy them,” Davis said on how fear negatively impacts us.

Davii’s book, as the title implies, is about his experience with the Ku Klux Klan.  He spent several years speaking with former KKK leader Roger Kelly to see his ideology was cracked after several years of talking to him.  Davis began to think about what I said, eventually it crumbled and he quit the Ku Klux Klan,” Davis said on how his words helped Kelly to see his ideology was incorrect.  The KKK has been reduced to a small number of independent groups.

Davis concluded the lecture with the message of respecting others and always listening to others’ points of view before judging them.  “Challenge them politely, not rudely or violently and ask them to clarify,” Davis encouraged.  He judged the Ku Klux Klan through careful research and gained the respect of the members.

there. “I had no idea what Mr. Kelly was going to do once he moved to California, I was advised to meet him in a hotel first,” Davis said on the incident.  “It took many years for Davis to get to know Kelly and to trust him,” Davis recalled about their initial meeting.

Their first meeting was tense, with Daryl reaching for a bible to force Kelly to prove that the bible supports the idea of racial separation and Kelly’s bodyguard reaching for his gun as he did this.  Both men heard soda cans move in a tray and assumed it was the other about to attack.  “We were ignorant because of some foreign entity.  It entered our little comfort zones and we became fearful,” Davis said about the incident.

Their chats became more relaxed as time went on, but at least he sat down and respects me,” Davis said on gaining the respect.  He never invited Davis to his house, and his views were cemented despite their time together.

The cement in his head cracked after several years of speaking to Davis.  “When he began to think about what I said, eventually it crumbled and he quit the Ku Klux Klan,” Davis said on how his words helped Kelly to see his ideology was incorrect.  The KKK has been reduced to a small number of independent groups.

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Letter from Student Government

Margarita Valdez
SGA President

Why is Student Government Association important for Bergen Community College? The SGA is focused on ensuring that students have what they need to succeed in their academic career. Every year the SGA takes the initiative to help bring proactive and responsive changes to the college in collaboration with students, faculty, and staff. Each and every event and/or project is for the benefit of the student body. The SGA is not about politics as usual, it is about the politics of positive change.

The Student Government Association believes that there are many things that can help to improve BCC, however, without student support, change will not come easily. For many years, SGA has been the primary advocacy body for students, serving as a bridge between administrators and students.

The SGA is focused on ensuring that students have what they need to succeed in their academic career. In addition, members from the SGA Executive Board have represented the students by attending Board of Trustees meetings, Faculty Senate, College Council meetings, and various search committees. As a result, we have seen an immense increase of people getting involved; not only within the SGA but also in many other community services hosted by our diverse club leaders.

Having a powerful SGA makes Bergen Community College a better institution. Students are able to have great experiences while completing their academic programs. Every year the SGA opens its doors to newcomers.

The SGA 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 these Torch articles are not necessarily those of THE TORCH. All the materials submitted to THE TORCH become property of THE TORCH.

ANTHONY SGANGA
Editor-In-Chief

The first lesson in journalism is the importance of accuracy. Above all else, a journalist’s reputation hinges on the ability to tell a story with validity. So why does it appear that the media has forgotten this? Recent events like the Boston bombings have shown a disdainful race to be the first to deliver “news,” with the facts being a secondary factor. During the 17 hour period from when the Tsarnaev brothers killed the officer Sean Collier, and the capture of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev at 7pm, reports varied widely. However, in end, only NBC’s Pete Williams proved reliable, and others, such as CNN’s John King, lost a sizeable chunk of their reputation.

Unfortunately, the bombing coverage is not an isolated case, in several of the breaking news stories of the past year, including the Sandy Hook massacre, a pattern similar was seen. First, the story breaks on Twitter, with numerous retweets by journalists thus giving credence to the original quote. Next, articles would cite those tweets and posts and lead to later retractions when the correct information was given.

For example, during the week of the bombing, both the acoustic and visual news media both reported that a suspect had been captured. Later it is revealed that the value of journalism is the responsibility of the media to act as a trusted voice that delivers the news. As the trend continues, the worth of this institution could suffer greatly. What makes poor reporting even more dangerous is how many people now depend on the internet for their news. According to Kin, nearly half of all people who followed the bombings did so through the visual media. It is also a trend that the bombing was the fifth most followed news story since 2001, only surpassed by Hurricane Katrina, the 2008 economic downturn and the 2002 D.C. sniping, makes the mistakes all the more glaring.

Previously, issues like this would only been seen during Presidential elections, when organizations would compete to be the first to announce a winner. While mistakes would happen (Dewey Defeats Truman” in 1948, tv stations calling Florida before in 2000), there were exceptions and not the rule. Today, with the rise of social media in reporting, something as erroneous as the examples above is implausible; however, the small mistakes may pose more of a problem as they are not as easy to source.

While there are certainly many pros to the use of social media in news reporting, the immediacy for one, the ethics of journalism still need to be followed. The dangers need to be equally weighed out when pondering the future of reporting. It will be a struggle of the two top values in journalism, accuracy and timeliness. Hopefully the former will take precedence.
Overzealous Parasitical Prosecutors

Public officials perpetually run rampant by abusing their authority and perceiving themselves as above the law. This atrocious behavior is habitually evident in prosecutors. They indelibly selectively appoint themselves as above the law, masquerade like government officials, and consistently engage in overzealous behavior.

Recently, New York City police officer Griffin, Valle, was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and could receive life in prison at his June 19 sentencing. The prosecution dubbed him “Cannibal cop” and persuaded the jury to convict based on his internet fetish role playing. Valle frequented chat rooms where he fantasized about kidnapping, sexually torturing, cooking and eating over 100 women.

No evidence was presented that any of the women he was accused of plotting to kill were harmed, or even if any actual preparatory plans were carried out.

The prosecutor put forth a visit to a college friend made by the officer, his wife and baby as an example of surveillance of an innocent victim. This high profile case was clearly government “grand standing”. This was a set up and the defendants were selectively not prosecuted as they do not represent a prize conviction as does the NYPD officer. Clearly, Valle or “Girlmeat Hunter”, was his internet handle, is disturbed and should not be an officer of the law. Police officers have a code of moral conduct and must pass psychological reviews.

Take his badge based on these sick fantasies. This is thought prosecution and represents a violation of his 1st Amendment rights. The jury convicted on emotion, not law.

On July 5, 2011, a jury of her peers found Casey Anthony not guilty of first-degree murder, aggravated manslaughter of a child, and aggravated child abuse. Undoubtedly, many hearts dropped over the death of that innocent child, yet the jury followed to the letter the judge’s instructions and passed down a justified verdict, no matter how emotionally trying it was.

Everyone agrees that this woman had some hand in the demise of that child and should be in prison or put to death. The prosecution holds a legal duty to only indict on charges for which they hold supporting evidence. The delay in discovering the child’s body clearly hampered the government’s case.

Taking that into consideration the prosecutor should have indicted her on conspiracy to commit murder. With her chloroform Google searches and evading inquiries on the child’s whereabouts for a month a conspiracy charge was a sure thing. Incurring extensive jail time. Instead Assistant State Attorney Jeff Ashton decided to undertake a strategy of media assassination for person fame and attempted to convict based on Casey’s appalling behavior. Whereas, we all unanimously acquiesce this fact, fortunately idiocy is not a crime. Defense attorney Jose Baez did not win this case, the prosecution lost it.

Appropriately, instead of utilizing this case as a springboard to inflame and higher political office, he was justifiably dismissed from his positions and now is most likely the Orange County, Florida dog catcher.

These cases attest to runaway government intrusion into our lives. Query how many times you have extolled, “I would like to kill that person”, as a figure of speech. The Valle conviction sets precedent for indictment of such speech. It could be you next! Habitually, overbearing laws which continually infringe on our rights and limit our freedoms. It is every American’s duty to hold them accountable to a “Line in the sand”. Take notice, once that line is blurred, the parasites will never concede, there then is regrettably no going back.
One graduation, five different stories. Bergen Community College is home to 17,000 backgrounds and stories, and a select few will be leaving us on May 18th. I interviewed four students and asked them to tell me about their Bergen experience, what it was like starting, and what it is like to be finally able to graduate or transfer. From the moment a student steps onto the campus to the moment we receive our diplomas, we have an impact on everything we interact with, everyone we meet, and every class we take. We leave them with an impression that could last a second or a lifetime. In turn, they all shape us into the person that we will be when we succeed in the future.

by: Ricardo Montero

Noor Sharaf

Noor is a 25-year-old Syrian woman majoring in general studies. With a self-Middle Eastern accent, she speaks of faraway lands and of her life at BCC. She graduated in 2007 at an unsanctioned high school in Saudi Arabia and went on for a year to a private university in Syria to study pharmacy. Eventually, Noor and her family decided to come to the west. “I came at the end of 2007 and started Spring 2008.” Like any other foreign student, she took some time to adjust to the new culture before she continued her schooling. Ms. Sharaf came to the United States with her family. “Some people say that it’s easy because you’re not alone,” she said. But you still have to cope by yourself at some point in time, and that is when strong-willed people like Ms. Sharaf are tested. When there is a language and culture barrier, every obstacle is harder to overcome. “I took English as a second language first, but I didn’t do that well because everything was so new for me and it was really hard.”

Noor makes an emphasis on how different everything became and how suddenly everything changed. “I enjoyed the system, even the way that they give you tests and quizzes is different.”

Over time, there is so multiple choice, it’s all writing.”

Semester by semester, things change for the better. Speaking and writing English became easier with time, and grades went up the alphabet with less effort. She has been attending BCC for four years now. The reason she came to BCC was because her aunt told her that Bergen Community College is the best community college in New Jersey, or at least it is. “The Harvard of Community Colleges.” She works on campus as a receptionist at the tutoring center, so you can stop by to say “hi.”

The thing about Bergen Community College that impressed her the most was the meditation room. Given the current situation in Syria, praying is looked at with district. Noor likes the religious acceptance, the books in the meditation room, and how no one will question the faith that you are practicing. “I have many friends from different countries and I didn’t have that opportunity before.” She also enjoys the diversity and social aspect of Bergen because, honestly, who doesn’t like bumping into people and getting invited to different cultures?

Ms. Sharaf wants to transfer to Montclair State University and become a multimedia artist.

Kelly Mesa

Kelly is a 25-year-old business administration major at Bergen. She is transferred to New York College in order to pursue her Bachelor’s degree. She had her first child when she was 19 years old and she is currently working as a part-time student assistant at Bergen. Ms. Mesa is looking forward to the opportunity to transfer to New York College to pursue her degree in Business Administration. She is known for her hard work and dedication to her studies.

With a passion in hand and west coast music coming from the distance, Kelly Mesa, a 22-year-old business administration major told me her story.

Ms. Mesa, a woman of Columbian background, came to Bergen for many reasons. First of all, it gave her the time to figure out where she wanted to go. “I came here because tuition is cheaper, and I didn’t know exactly what school I wanted to go to, so I decided to at least get my associate degree, so I came here because it was closer to home and it gave me more time to decide what school,” she said. She came with the goal of transferring, which gave her the time to decide where she wanted to end up, and get some general education out of the way in the meantime. Kelly came to Bergen so she could have more time for thinking, but she also used it as a time for doing.

The thing that she likes most about BCC is the people. “If you don’t talk to anyone, nobody is going to talk to you,” she said. She believes that new students should come out of their comfort zone, get involved, and meet new people. Something that she would change about BCC is that she wishes that there were dormitories. A bit of a long shot with today’s economy, but nice.

Two years have passed since she came to this side of Panama, and Kelly will soon be transferring, much like many others. Ms. Mesa wishes to go to LIM College in New York, a college focused on the business side of fashion. Her goals are to work in management somewhere in the difficult fashion industry. “There are so many things that I could do with that, I could be a buyer, a merchandise, a designer,” she said.

Ms. Mesa currently has two jobs; she is a hostess at a restaurant, and another at the mall as a key holder. Kelly hopes to obtain a Master’s degree, and work in New York, “The fashion capital of the world” with a steady job and income.

Valedictorian

With a peace sign knotted on her hat that can only be matched by Ms. Nesbitt, a 25-year-old Geriatric nurse, Sunny attended Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, but never graduated.

She moved to New York City to attend college for six years. “I was a musician... and then after I stopped playing in a band, I moved to New York City. I attended SUNY at Stony Brook, but after that I went back to New York City. I had a job in a nursing home and I hated myself enough to decide to go to school.” Sunny has attended BCC for three years and was elected the valedictorian.

“I knew that I couldn’t get going if I didn’t get an education,” Sunny said. “I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed it.” Sunny came to Bergen because of the personalized education she was getting at Stony Brook.

When she began, Sunny was thought that as a community college student, she would never get into a school like SUNY, but she was wrong. “I got into SUNY at Stony Brook because I applied for it,” Sunny said. “I didn’t think I would get in, but I did.” The hard work has paid off.

Colin  Johnson, Bergen Community College’s School of Social Work major in Political Science with a minor in Psychology.

The future, Sunny and her peers are going to be in medical school, or perhaps become professors in America and influence the world. Ms. Nesbitt’s GPA is 4.0, top notch university. To the question “How do you keep up your GPA?” Sunny responded, “I enjoy studying.”

Ms. Nesbitt is currently 35 years old, a member of the Valedictorians. Among all the women, she is the only one to have a degree in Geriatric nursing. “I want to be a nurse, a teacher, a musician, and a writer. I want to be able to do everything. I want to be able to do it all.” Sunny said. “I want to be able to do it all.” Sunny said.
A wide-shouldered Jamaican man by the name of Mahlik Davis, soon to be getting a communications degree, shared his story.

He graduated from Tualatin High School in 2010 and seemed very positive and optimistic about his future. He worked with a theater student group in high school before deciding to go to college. He was one of the first students that his parents knew who was going to college. He was very excited about the opportunity.

His parents were very supportive of his decision to go to college. They encouraged him to pursue his dream and to work hard to get a good job. They were proud of him and his accomplishments. He was grateful for their support and guidance.

The school he attended was a private university. He was one of the first students to go to college and he was very excited about the opportunity. He was one of the first students that his parents knew who was going to college. He was very excited about the opportunity.

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CREATIVE CORNER

Chirp, Chirp

a poem by J. Aragon

Chirp, chirp is all I hear
some beautiful sounds to my mellow ears
distant sounds my brain can’t comprehend
I want to know what they say
the words they speak, coming out of those long breaks
maybe it’s ‘hey look at me, I am kinda sexy!’ or
do they sing their love to the ones they had an eye on?
do some girls like to play hard to get and while
the rumors they tell, yet no one seems to care.
all we see is two birds fly away and land on a pole a few feet away.

chirp , chirp is all we hear
chirp, chirp is all I hear.

Chirp, chirp, is all I hear
spring is here.

another love story, that went unknown.
whole world saw it, yet no one knows.
the things they say behind your ear	others play opposite
spring is here!

some beautiful sounds to my mellow ears
distant sounds my brain can’t comprehend
I want to know what they say
the words they speak, coming out of those long breaks
maybe it’s ‘hey look at me, I am kinda sexy!’ or
do they sing their love to the ones they had an eye on?

EMOTIONS
Regardless of how well planned or thought out it might be, one thing you can’t anticipate is how you’re going to feel. Having a threesome can cause a range of emotions, including embarrassment, feelings of inadequacy, and jealousy. Even the most confident person can feel any one of these emotions when seeing their partner pleasing someone else. This can lead to insecurity and mistrust.

THE AFTERMATH
Although it might feel good while it’s going on, think about how you will feel after it’s over. In the next couple of days, you might begin to doubt your partner. You might wonder if they have spoken to the third party behind your back, if they began to develop feelings for them or if they are still sexually satisfied with you. Whether they admit or deny either, you could be left doubting your partner.

THE FUTURE
Is it possible for our relationship to go back to normal after having a threesome? This is the most important question to ask yourself and your partner. Threesomes can change a relationship forever. Your partner might want to continue this in the future and you might not feel the same way, just remember, relationships can be complicated from the beginning so adding another person into the mix will only complicate things more. Sometimes fantasies are better left in your head or fulfilled when you’re single, not during a committed relationship.

My Job Here is Done.

Erica Diaz
Staff Writer

If you’re in a committed relationship and thinking about bringing a third person in your bedroom, think twice. Having a threesome with the person you love might not be as easy as you think. There are consequences to every decision you make in a relationship. Believe it or not, sometimes what you think might fulfill a fantasy or help your relationship, can lead to it’s demise. Here are some things to consider before indulging in a ménage à trois.

READERS, HATERS, AND ADMIRERS, rejoice and or cry, as I would like to inform you that this is my last sex column before I graduate. During this time I’ve been asked to be quoted for a research paper a peer was doing in a psychology class, received hate mail and have been the cause of disapproving post-its in faculty mailboxes. Like sex, it’s been fun, educational and awkward. I thought I would share some noteable previous stories and feedback from the fans and haters.

Starting with the latest one, “Period Sex Sex Period.” I was quite surprised with the loud and quick feedback about sex or lack thereof during menstruation. Students even approached the SGA about this article. It also resulted in the advisor to The Torch receiving a post-it with a negative note and a “frowny face.” Regardless of the negative feedback, I did get praise for doing the legwork to obtain students’ quotes about their preference on this topic along with bringing this topic up. I’ll take sticks of frowny faced post-its of upset people about the article and still be glad that they read it.

About a year ago, I did a piece entitled “Hooking Up is Replacing Traditional Relationships.” This ignited my first hate e-mail. In the article I spoke of the cultural age of “hooking-up,” citing and quoting various reputable sources. A reader who shall remain anonymous made points against this, stating “The transmission of STDs which can lead to death, cancer, sterility, and, at the least, distressing lifelong physical discomfort...A thought of the sexual instinct from its procreative and unitive functions into an ephemeral pleasurable activity.”

I understand my topics can be edgy and controversial, but I always keep in mind to back them up with reliable facts. Despite everything, this article pushed this reader to write me a rather lengthy e-mail which I hold near and dear to me.

Maybe that is what I’ve always strived for in the end -- to push the envelope. Sometimes I didn’t push it as far as I was tempted, since certain topics have never seen print, such as “Best Places to have Sex on Campus.” But in the end the frowny faced post-its, hate e-mails and praise are what kept me writing. Knowing that it was being read and that sometimes it got a reaction out of people: some negative, some positive, but still a reaction. I’ll end it as far as I was tempted from Dr. Ruth Westheimer: “When it comes to sex, the most important distinction is the ones between the ears.”

Nita Lim
Layout Editor

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Ever since the dawn of MySpace, I have always felt that there was something slightly off about personalizing my identity online. Sure, I had control of everything I wanted the world to know about me: the music I listen to, the food I will probably lose my mind over if its existence is nullified, the friends I interact with the most—in short, I revealed bits and pieces of my personality that I felt has glorified who I was as an individual. And in retrospect, that online identity was just an illusion, and it will forever be a figment of my own conception because those are only partial truths of who I am.

Referring to MySpace would probably make me sound like an old bat since it is unquestionably outdated and Tom has been booted out by Mark Zuckerberg a while ago—heck, there is even a film about Zuckerberg and how he has founded his kingdom. Let’s face it, MySpace is faintly curdling into an obsolete social media website but that does not impede the ever-roaring, ego-driven online identities that has bled over into Facebook. The difference is that Zuckerberg just tweaked a few buttons to change the layout and adjusted his target audience to appeal to everyone (from tweens to grannies). Even infants breathing in their first gulp of air in this generation are inevitably exposed to Facebook and they do not even know that someone—most likely their mother—is snapping photos of their half-naked bodies and posting them online.

But way before MySpace or Facebook, I had adults to fire my ego. Growing up with the western attitude, I have always been led to believe that I am “special” and that I will do “great things”. No one really told me what these grandiose aspirations would be and at the age of 7, I cared more about the well-being of my PlayStation console and picking-up tropical blossoms from yard to yard for hours long. Maybe I have slightly pondered about being a paleontologist because of Spielberg’s Jurassic Park or thought about becoming a writer because of the countless R.L. Stine books I’ve guzzled with my pretend-laser vision eyes. The truth is: my childhood is made up of a lot of vague declarations from adults that socially and psychologically shaped me to feel that I am irreplaceable and inimitable. I barely recall sharing at institutions, and I largely learned portioning my possessions because I was involuntarily required by my environment to share since I have two brothers and we are all 1.5 years apart. I only picked up fragmented lessons from adults.

You see, it is not only me waddling in these waters. It is this generation. We are Generation Y or more widely known as the Millennial—ooh, I already feel special. The Western ideal has concerned itself to make each and every one of us to feel significant as a kid because society believed it in their guts that if we were coerced into thinking that we have always been unique, then we would grow-up as fully-functioning members of society, as young men and women cultivating our talents to fulfill the capitalist belief. Although there seems to be an elephant in the room, this generation is in a Catch-22. Millennials are made to feel that the world is in the palm of their hands due to their exceptional nature, but this social enforcement has also led many to take on the idea that the world spoon-feeds and accommodates—which is awfully false—thus preventing them from being active members of society.

This attitude is why instant gratification is reimbursed in current social media, especially on Twitter and Facebook. Just take a gander at Facebook statuses: someone is always complaining, someone is highlighting an accomplishment, someone is being arrogant, or someone is challenging a personal statement for the sake of arguing. The list goes on. Facebook makes us feel important and yes, it feels pretty darn good for our ego, but is feeling important really more important than the importance of our existence as human beings?
Expense. By drinking tap water, you can save thousands of dollars per year. If you buy bottles from the aquafina machines on campus, you are spending over $3 times more per gallon than gas! Reusable water bottles as well as water filters are good investments, and they are inexpensive. There are reusable bottles with a built-in filter. Bottled water is also extremely bad for the environment. Emissions from trucks that transport water bottle across the country emit CO2 which contributes highly to global warming. Furthermore, 90% of plastic water bottles do not get recycled. There are reusable bottles with a built-in filter. Bottled water is also extremely bad for the environment. Emissions from trucks that transport water bottle across the country emit CO2 which contributes highly to global warming. Furthermore, 90% of plastic water bottles do not get recycled.

On campus, the Take Back the Tap campaign goals are to encourage students to stop using bottled water, ban the bottle from being sold on campus, and install water filters on water fountains on campus. If you have any questions, would like to get involved, or sign the pledge to drink tap water, come to the environmental club on Wednesdays at 12:30 in room C321 or email Brenda Criepenburg at bgcriepenburg@me.bergen.edu.

Extra option: "Don't feel bad about doing nothing. Pandas don't do shit and look how great they are."
-Unknown

7 Quotes to Get You Through the Finals

1. "Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'"  
-Mary Anne Radmacher

2. "An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backward. When life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means it's going to launch you into something great. So just focus, and keep aiming."
-Unknown

3. "Be kind for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."
-Unknown

4. "Be the best version of you."
-Unknown

5. "I can't tell you the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everyone."
-Ed Sheeran

6. "What matters most is how well you walk through the fire."
-Charles Bukowski

7. "Motivation will almost always beat mere talent."
-Norman. R. Augustine

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Brenda Criepenburg
Editor-in-Chief

Bergen Community College is taking back the tap! Take Back the Tap is a campaign by the food and water watch encouraging students to choose tap water over bottled water. Do you ask "Why?" Bottled water is bad for the environment and bad for your wallet! Many students are not aware of the consequences that plastic bottles pose on our lives. Because we live in such a highly populated area, our water is tested several times a day, and it is not bad for you, like many people think. Bottled water companies are selling a product that is virtually free! 40% of bottled water is tap water that they get from municipal water supplies (where our tap water comes from), and they filter, package, and sell to people like you for an incredible profit. Why buy this water when you have safe water running from your tap? Bottled water is an unnecessary expense. By drinking tap water, you can save thousands of dollars per year. If you buy bottles from the aquafina machines on campus, you are spending over 3 times more per gallon than gas! Reusable water bottles as well as water filters are good investments, and they are inexpensive. There are reusable bottles with a built-in filter. Bottled water is also extremely bad for the environment. Emissions from trucks that transport water bottle across the country emit CO2 which contributes highly to global warming. Furthermore, 90% of plastic water bottles do not get recycled.

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Nathan Fishman
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 23rd, the "School of Rock" concert was held. The Student Center was filled with enthusiastic students who just wanted to hear some music. With a nice atmosphere and an enthusiastic crowd, the concert was a huge success.

Professor Sony Tiwari and his students organized this concert. The purpose of this concert was to inspire interest in music, seeing as summer break is only a few weeks away. They wanted students who are going on break for two months to think about something to do over the summer.

The concert had several performers. The first performer was Jay Micken. The second performer was Nic Rael. Both are music instructors at School of Rock in Tenafly. In between the performers, Professor Tiwari raffled away prizes.

To that end, Professor Tiwari said that he feels the most valuable thing that could arise from this concert is "students having the initiative to know what they want and get it done."
THE ONE TO WATCH


JOIN US

TRANSFER DAY

MAY 13, 2013
9:00 AM–7:00 PM

Bring your transcripts and have your application fee waived.
As the end of the semester approaches, registration for the next semester begins. Some of you will have the option of choosing day or night classes. How will you know which option is right for you? Although it may seem difficult, trying to decide what time to take classes is easier than you think. Take a look at some simple differences between day and night classes.

When registering for classes during the day, you will notice a difference in class selection. It is likely there will be more classes available with a wider variety of professors. This will give you a better chance of finding a class that best fits your schedule along with a professor you prefer. Also, when choosing to go to school during the day, the earlier you start, the quicker you will finish. This will give you time to relax, hang out with your friends and attend other campus activities.

One of the differences you will notice during night classes is the amount of students on campus. The college is much busier during the day and can seem somewhat chaotic. There are a lot less people at night, which creates a more quiet and peaceful atmosphere. Also, night classes are likely to consist of older students who take their classes seriously and are considered more mature. Another benefit is the relaxed environment. Most professors assume their students work during the day so they tend to be more laid back and lenient with their students. The workload might be somewhat lighter and you’ll have a better chance of being let out early.

Ultimately, it depends on the type of student you are and your schedule. If you can, try both and see what works for you. It won’t be long before you notice the differences and it will be easier to make a decision about the time of day that suits you best.

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7 Tips from Former BCC Graduates

So spring is here and you’re going to be graduating soon. The paperwork is filed, all of your credits are in order, you’ve invited family and friends to see you graduate. All that’s left is to get your degree and get out. But what’s next? Here are 7 tips from former graduates about what to expect from life after Bergen.

By Jeff Carbone

1. “Seek out people who seem to have a better handle on life than you do, learn from them.” - Ben Friedman

2. “This has always been true, but it’s never been truer. Most of what you can learn happens outside of the classroom.” - Daniel Von Kannon

3. “If you’re going to a four year school, make sure all of your credits are going to transfer. Especially if you’re going into a specialized major.” - Denise Feinberg

4. “If you’re not sure it’s what you want to do, think about it before you go back to school. It’s not the only option you have.” - Zev Feinberg

5. “Do what you’re passionate about. Even if it doesn’t make you money. Find a way to make ends meet, but always find time for your passion.” - Moshe Azizzollahoff

6. “Know what you want to study before you decide. I didn’t really learn what it meant to be a forensic scientist until I was up to my eyeballs in really complex math. Always read ahead to find out if your interests really interest you.” - Nick Kanderis

7. “Eat and Sleep—because you’ll die if you don’t. Seriously though, play. Let yourself relax and enjoy every now and then. Stress is never a kind companion.” - Brendon Miel
According to research cited in the Wall Street Journal, frequent gaming can improve everything from decision-making processes to your ability to multitask.
Mafia Mobsters In New Jersey

The Boss Always Sits In The Back is a story written by John D'Amore. It's a narrative about honor, gang violence, and suspense. There's an underlying message in this novel on how to overcome a lifestyle you once lived. Jon was born in Jersey, or as he would say “right next the heart of New York City.” Jon had two relatives that were connected to the mafia: his deceased father Carmine, and his now deceased cousin Jerry. They lived the mafia life and Jon didn’t want to be a part of it, but was forced by his family members to do things he wasn’t proud of. His passion wasn’t to join in his family’s footsteps; instead he wanted to become a musician.

In the year of 1975 was when it all started for Jon. On his 22nd birthday he was invited to Vegas by his godfather. While he was there he got involved in a casino scam that took millions from the casinos in Vegas. After leaving the city and when the scam was exposed, Jon and his mafia family gained national, mostly negative, exposure. They completely changed the gambling laws in Nevada. After this all came to a halt Jon went on to continue his music career and moved to California. He focused on music, screenwriting, ghost writings and eventually wrote his own novel, which is called The Boss. It has been years in the making and now it's finally ready for people to read and understand what it truly was like back in Vegas during the 70’s. This story is humorous, exciting, and suspenseful. It’s all about the demise of the mafia mobsters that ran New Jersey.

It's all true, and it's told by someone who actually lived it! It’s a must read!
Pygmalion from Bergen Stages

A Treat To See

Before we begin this review, it’s important that you understand that this review is based on the preview of “Pygmalion” on Bergen Stages. Therefore, any faults may have been corrected by the time the play officially releases.

In “Pygmalion” Henry Higgins is a renowned professor of phonetics, capable of discerning a person’s place of birth by listening to how they speak. On a bet, he takes in Eliza Doolittle, a poor flower girl with a cockney accent and attempts to transform her from an ill mannered cretin into a duchess all the while giving little thought of what’s to come of her once the experiment is over.

If I had one gripe with the play, it was with the sound effects in the play’s first act. The first act, which takes place during a thunderstorm, was nearly impossible to follow. While I would never criticize a play for adding an extra layer of sound for sophistication, the levels at which the sound effects were being played was far too loud. Not helping this matter were the accents. Much like Professor Higgins, “Pygmalion” employs a variety of accents which initially took some getting used to. While my ear adjusted quickly enough once the rain stopped, the initial lines were lost between raindrops and what few snatches of conversation that could be made out. But once again this play was reviewed during a preview, and hopefully the crew will have worked out this particular kink by opening day.

Outside of those minor annoyances “Pygmalion” was truly a treat to see. The script was witty and engaging. The use of voice recordings during set changes not only helped to add exposition but also aided in keeping the audience immersed in the play. All in all “Pygmalion” was a truly an enjoyable experience.

A New Drug for the iPod Generation

Bergen Community College - Forget LSD, peyote, and crystal meth and say hello to binaural beats. With the birth of the digital age comes the birth of a digital drug. Imagine a drug that only lasts for a fixed time with no hangover, crash or even anxiety about failing a drug test. Binaural beats might be the future of designer drugs.

We have a company called iDoser to thank for this. Simply put, binaural beats are two different tones played simultaneously to produce a perceived tone inside the head, in order to alter brainwaves. This is called brain entrainment.

In an interview conducted by Shock Magazine, iDoser founder Nick Ashton explains, “We strive to offer safe and effective experiences with no side effect.”

These experiences range from hallucinogenics to prescription painkillers.

SIMULATED EXPERIENCES
Binaural Brainwave Modification

In a case study that was conducted on eight healthy adults, the data that was collected over 60 days came back positive. This means that not only were the participants reacting to the Binaural beats but they were actually influencing these people in a positive way. So, not only could this new digital drug form an illicit experience based on illegal narcotics but also mimic an antidepressant or painkiller without the subsequent addiction.

According to the iDoser website, the digital experience of peyote was their proof-of-concept dose. Nick Ashton said, “Users see an 83% effective rate”. While this might hold true, there are many detractors to this alleged safe alternative. Skeptoid.com mentions another study done in 2008 at Hofstra University that played two different binaural beats and a control sound to patients with high blood pressure. According to the study there was no difference. With any new technology more tests and studies need to be done before the full effects of this drug are known.

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BCC Tennis Team to the NATIONALS

Ricardo Montero-Hernandez
Co-Editor

The Bergen male tennis teams are en route to the national tournament in Texas. Coach Sal Guillen and his team are leaving to the Lone Star State on Saturday and strive to win the national title against some of the best college tennis teams in the country.

The team won the challenging 2011 Region XIX Championship on May 4th, which marks the second time ever in which the Bergen tennis team has won this title, the first time was in 2005. Coach Guillen, who will win the Coach of the Year award again this year, is the first Hispanic Head Coach in the history of BCC.

Following a 9-2 record at the end of the regular season, the team went on to the tournament against #1 seeded Gloucester County College (10-0), which is the team culprit of the 2 losses that BCC had during regular season. After a dramatic victory, the team was able to beat Gloucester CC in two sets (5-3) and (6-4).

In 2005, the team versed 24 teams at the national tournament, finalizing in the tournament in 7th place. Coach Guillen is very optimistic about his team this year, “They are a great team, very smart and very obedient,” said Coach Guillen. “The team is a brick, a rock, nobody will break the team.”

Although there is an optimistic air following the team to Texas Tournament, it is notable that some of these teams have all year round to practice, while the northern teams like BCC have to await during the winter, and begin practicing again in February. Nevertheless, Coach Guillen disregards this slight advantage and exclaims “My team has better technique.”

If the BCC’s Male Tennis team wins this national title, it will be the first time in history that it has done so, along with the realization from possible students that may regard BCC as a holder of national recognitions.

Let the Road to the NBA Championship Begin

Karim G. Daif
Sports Editor

April’s showers bring May flowers; and the NBA playoffs that rock of fireworks smoke, sweat, and tough grind out basketball games. As the road to the 2013 NBA Championship begins, the playoffs get underway with some of the greatest East Coast Basketball the Tri-State has seen in quite some time.

While the Miami Heat are undoubtedly the favorites to win it all, as they are the reigning champions and don’t look like they’ve missed a step, the New York Knicks are using that very thought as fuel to feed their playoff fire. With veterans that know what it takes to win, the Knicks showed they could win the ‘ugly’ ones too. Final score in game one versus the Pacers series, the Knicks won 85-78 and showed their defensive muscle against one of the best offensive teams the NBA has to offer.

Although Boston lost one game, they are the toughest lower seed in the playoffs and it will be no easy task to bring them down, even without their star point guard Rajon Rondo. The Brooklyn Nets took a stand in their first home playoff game with a 25 point runaway victory, defeating the Chicago Bulls but never showing control in game two, and have temporarily lost home court advantage by losing in disappointing fashion 90-82 in front of their disgruntled home crowd. Deron Williams had a career playoff low 8 points and have their fans thinking the worst.

The first round is chalk full of great games, but in all reality, the Miami Heat will be at the Eastern Conference finish line waiting for their opponent; and fans are excited and can’t wait to watch. “It’s sick. The Eastern Conference Finals might be better than the actual Championship series is. The Nets are legit and so are the Knicks and there’s no way anybody from the West is beating the Heat,” said die hard Nets fan Ibrahim Ayyad who has been watching the Knicks play the Pacers in the semi-finals of the NBA Playoffs.

Knicks play the Pacers in the semi-finals of the NBA Playoffs

Anticipation for the World Cup Begins Now!

Roger Echegoyen
Staff Writer

The 2014 World Cup qualifications began to commence and as nations are going head to head for a spot in the World Cup, which will be held in Brazil, teams will be on the look-out for the USA national team and how they are progressing.

For starters, 2010 World Cup champion Spain, is actually in top form during these qualifications. They’re on the top of the ranking list with 1538 points. Luckily for Spain, if they win the qualifications or not, they don’t need to worry about being disqualified due to their current reign as champion of the previous World Cup.

The following nine teams which need to keep their stance in the qualification games are also seen as definite contenders entering the World Cup. These teams are Germany, with a total of 1428 points, Argentina with a total of 1292 points, Croatia with a total of 1163 points, Portugal with a total of 1154 points, England with a total of 1135 points, Italy with a total of 1117 points, The Netherlands with a total of 1095, and Ecuador with a total of 1056 points.

Our national team isn’t doing quite well during these qualifications; they’re in the 28th position with a grand total of 779 points. With a bit of progress, our national team may pick up the pace and start excelling in these qualifications. The next match that our national team will be playing is on July 6 against Jamaica. Until then, let’s gear up on USA soccer shirts and root for the home team. The road to the World Cup begins now.