Joseph Cirilo
Contributing Writer

As part of BCC’s Latino Heritage Celebration, Isolda Peguero, National Correspondent of the New York Times, graced the Moses Family Meeting and Training Center at the Technology Building on Sep. 16 to talk to Bergen students about her life, her struggle as a Hispanic-American, and why you should never give up on anything that inspires you.

Isolda Peguero made it abundantly clear that she would not be reading from a pre-prepared speech, or even from notecards, but rather “…from the heart…” to best convey her message.
Brandon Reis
Co-Editor

With the school year now in full bloom, there has never been a more perfect time for a bit of a revolution. Whether you are a new or continuing student at BCC, you know how difficult it can be when you first arrive on campus and have little-to-no idea where anything is. Adapting to a new environment is only natural, so we do; we rely keenly on our sense of direction, the kindness of others, and even a bit of educated guessing to get to our destinations. Of course, there are the maps at specific points around campus, but having to find even those can be a problem if you’re not sure where you are to begin with. This frustrating and outdated way of life has come to be the norm for Bergen students over the year—until now. It has changed the way students will access information forever, and the best part? It was created by one of BCC’s very own students.

Jorge Rivera-Schreiber, a Computer Science major here at BCC, says his test as he shares his incredible story, his TEDx presentation, and a student project he created, simply as “FindBCCApp” over our Skype video-call. It stands for “I’m Being Connected to College App,” he says excitedly.

Arriving in the United States as an international student from Peru a little over two years ago, Jorge’s dream was and continues to be on becoming a mobile app developer. Once situated into his new environment in the States, Jorge started to pursue ways in which he could become more involved on campus. He joined the Computer Science Club and the International Student Association, both of which he ran and was elected Vice President. He also applied and was hired as a Peer Navigator for the 1-2-3 Connect First Year Experience program. Right from the start, he noticed that even though BCC was the largest community college in New Jersey, its system of providing students with information left much to be desired; and, seeing an opportunity, to combine his dream, his creativity, and his skills, to create a student project that is not only improving on one of Bergen’s biggest problems, but has also inspired the college itself to begin an official Bergen Community College App.

Having no knowledge of the programming language needed to create the application, Jorge first had to learn this language, called Objective C. Beginning in the spring of 2012, Jorge spent the next eight months developing his application, using what skills he had as well as those that he learned while continuing to study at Bergen, to implement, improve, test, and perfect his masterpiece. He conducted surveys and research on campus and discovered that students as well as faculty/staff were in need of this application. What resulted overall was an extraordinary way for BCC students to stay informed, and its creator is very happy with the project so far.

The application features full-color maps of all the main buildings on the Paramus campus, as well as information on class cancellation, campus contacts, access to the BCC mobile library, and a direct contact to the developer himself. It is currently available for the iPhone and iPad in the App Store, but will not be around for long. As the college develops the official app, ImBCCApp will be taken out of the App Store, so only those who have downloaded it beforehand will still be able to access it. An application for Android phones can also be expected in the future.

For most of us, Bergen is simply a two-year stepping-stone. We take classes, go to work, save money, and repeat; we get our degree to move on to the next leg of our journeys without ever looking back. Granted, there’s nothing wrong with that, but there is sometimes those students who go as far as to use their potential and creative energy to give something back to Bergen. Jorge Rivera-Schreiber is one such student, and he has been inspiring others to do the same. “Bergen has to keep up with technology, among other things, in order to be and continue as a competitive college, and to be appealing for students young and old who are interested in technology and science. I think that mobile-app development is important for the future of any important college or business. The current trend is to be mobile -- constant change and ease of use is what it’s all about.” We could all learn a thing from students like Jorge; instead of complaining when there is a problem, use what you know and have access to in order to create and inspire change for the good of all those around you.

TO VIEW THE ENTIRE TEDx PRESENTATION GO TO:
http://youtu.be/_Um52-fqa30

Classes Online, Why Break from The Classic?  

Blair DeLong
Senior Staff Writer

Bergen Community College has always been proud of the quality of the education it provides. Everyone, from the administration down to the students, have made efforts to ensure that all of it’s students educational needs have been accounted for. One of the major changes over the years has been technology and how it is used to help students learn. Now that many households have an internet connection, students can participate in a class from the comforts of their own home through BCC’s virtual classrooms using Moodle. Moodle allows students to take classes from homes that they may not have been able to, due to any one of the obstacles today’s degree-seeking students face.

Not only has distance learning become a great tool for certain classes where actual attendance isn’t needed, some classes are offered exclusively online. There are so many different reasons as to why a student would incorporate this way of learning over traditional lectures and being on the campus. Students with families to tend for, for example, and of course the ever-present need to work and pay bills. Not everyone can make it to BCC’s campus, either because classes are offered, and even night classes can pose a problem for students, especially those with small children.

Distance learning is perfect for these types of students. Ranging anywhere from single mothers who must work and care for their children but would like to advance in their careers, to twenty-somethings who work multiple part-time jobs to make ends meet. Not only can a student work and care for their families, but when night looms, they can now do their reading, homework and online discussions with other students enrolled in the same class, all without having to leave the home, office, or in some cases, the BCC Library.

Students across all backgrounds have taken advantage of this opportunity. “With my work schedule, I find it extremely hard to attend some classes during the day. At least with Moodle, I can take the classes I need for my degree online,” said Paul Kim, a General Sciences major.

This is not to say that there are advantages to being on campus too, such as a traditional classrooms not requiring an internet connection or even a computer at all, and that the Moodle system does not come without some flaws. There are times where Moodle can be taken down for maintenance and a student cannot participate in their chosen class or submit homework or papers when needed.

There is also the issue of the students’ Internet service provider that can run into problems, allowing for some glitches in the Moodle system. While no technology is safe from small problems like this, they are constantly being addressed and are thankfully becoming fewer and farther between.

As with anything in life, it is your personal choice whether or not to participate in distance learning or the traditional classroom setting; if you would like further information on the Distance Learning program offered at BCC, check out the college’s website, www.bergen.edu, and click on the Distance Learning tab. From there, you will be able to find any and all extra information that you need. Best of luck!
The 1-2-3 Connect: First Year Experience Program

Brandon Reis
Co-Editor

Over the last couple of years, BCC has been working on a grant-funded project that has now come to be known as 1-2-3 Connect: First Year Experience Program. Right from the start, the program began and has continued to be a dedicated initiative, providing first-year students who test into remedial Math and English courses the opportunity to connect with a secure network of like-minded students, faculty, staff, and administration with one major goal in mind – ensuring academic success and beyond for all who apply and embrace its principles.

In 2010, Bergen received an approved $3.2 million Title-V Grant, the purpose of which is to create and fund an intensive five-year, institution-wide program with the goal of improving student academic success and retention.

Here’s how it works: remember the placement test we all had to take when we first got accepted? Well, those scores determine whether a student is eligible. If a student receives their grade and is told they are ineligible, a Peer Mentor, explains their scores and invites them to watch a presentation given about the program. The student is then given the chance to sign up for the program or can decide against it completely. If they decide to go for it, they are given access to many advantages that other first-year students are not. Among these are one-on-one advising, registration, and class scheduling. Students are also given access to the 1-2-3 Connect team, comprised of a growing network of BCC administrators, faculty, staff, and students. During the summer, 1-2-3 Connect students are taken through a more interactive student orientation, which includes Moodle and Portal training and Q and A’s with Professors and other professionals. As part of the curriculum, students are required to take a two-part course throughout their first year (two semesters), as well as their remedial courses. These courses, dubbed Success 101 and Success Practicum respectively, involve teaching students useful skills such as time management, professional etiquette, emotional intelligence, and even leadership and career skills that are absolutely vital in today’s competitive job marketplace.

Students are also paired with a Peer Mentor, a seasoned Bergen student hired on the basis of their bright personalities, willingness to serve, and knowledge about the ins and outs of life at BCC. Students meet with their mentors on a regular basis and are given advice and tips on everything from classes, club and activities, and even personal advice. All Peer Mentors are trained in Mental Health and First Aid, only further contributing to their immediate benefit and potential for the first-year student. To top it all off, events are provided throughout the semester, ranging from picnics and sports games to resume-writing workshops, motivational speakers, and other activities that foster a more worthwhile first-experience in college.

Now coming into its third year, the 1-2-3 Connect: First Year Experience Program has grown to become one that offers hundreds of students the opportunity to grow and progress each year, at an appropriate level and speed that almost puts students that aren’t part of the program at a disadvantage. So if you didn’t do so well on the placement test, don’t feel discouraged, it may have just been the best mistake of your life.

For more information on being eligible for the program or about becoming a Peer Mentor, contact A-126, call (201) 447-7873, or email success@bergen.edu.

Financial Aid: New Students Be Informed

Gabe Wanissian
Staff Writer

If you’ve wondered what that long line is in the hallway near past the Student Life office in the first floor of the Pitkin Center, its basically procrastination for all to see. Financial Aid gets a bad rep but fret not, this can be easily avoided if you have information to “work with” in the database if you were to ask any questions at the office. Second, if a visit to the Financial Aid office is required, make sure you bring along any potentially useful forms of paperwork or id along with you, treat this like you were visiting the DMV (We all know that feeling). Also, what may come of use is to ask questions beforehand, whether you call the office (Phone Number can be found on the schools webpage), or if you ask somebody who received/ is receiving financial aid how they got started, any qualified source could come of big help. Lastly, and most importantly, do not wait to the last minute! Not only will the long lines test your patience, but the bombardment of applications may cause your case to get lost in the shuffle, in which you may get a delayed response to your application. Where it may be too late to receive benefit for the forthcoming semester. While they may and have assisted people for previously uncovered semesters, taking advantage of this time will avoid any potential troubles. Financial Aid is not this elusive thing its made out to be as long as you stay on top of things and perform the necessary actions that are needed to get things moving ahead of time, you will get the benefit that you qualify for. Just have some patience.

Student Pass

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Using Rate My Professor: How Reliable?

Gabe Wanissian
Staff Writer

Making classes for some students can be more overwhelming than anything else during the actual semester, and for good reason: “What classes are needed for my major?” “What classes would benefit me personally?” “Will this fit into my daily schedule?” These are all fair questions to ask when making your schedule, but while some decisions need to be made on a personal level, choosing a class with a suitable professor can be one less concern when you schedule your classes through a website called RateMyProfessor. The website contains a database of reviews of various different professors in all different universities and colleges, including our very own, BCC. Reviews usually contain a short summary of the experience of having the professor along with scoring Criteria for helpfulness, clarity, and easiness (even a bonus “Hotness” indicator, not that it makes a professor any better) on a scale of 1-5. While this tool seems like a godsend, its scores shouldn’t be taken at face value, as things such as consistency, total number of reviews, and the quality of the reviews themselves could create an unfair scoring. Once delving in, you will notice that some of the reviews aren’t written from an objective point of view, as some will hate on nearly anything, and you can end up with a skewed average count the fact that the Internet always has its share of “trolls” that will give a poor score for the sheer fact that the class subject itself didn’t interest them or that they failed the class, when the quality of the professor seemed to not be the reason for their poor experience. Also, you can try always your luck at other websites, as they have so much more than simple wealth. The United States may not be ranked as one of the top 10 educations in the world, but it surely is appreciated as such in many countries, and it can be used as your economic or educational profiles, you can always try your luck at other websites, as many of them provide more than just a simple citizen of the world, and it is up to you size up to that title.

Sometimes the Grass is Greener on the Other Side

Ricardo Montero-Hernandez
Editor-in-chief

Those who have lived in the United States all their lives and have only known the world because of its cultural diversity have begun to question the importance of the rest of the planet. In a country like the United States – so vast, multidimensional, and advanced – can offer a person anything they could ever want or need… except an appealing vision of the rest of the world.

Even with the great blue passport, with the modernized transport technology available in the U.S., some still hesitate to leave the land of the free. Perhaps those individuals do not recognize the importance of seeing different countries, especially when those cultures can be found within the United States. Perhaps the media and yellow journalism about different countries have inflicted a false idea of danger into America’s mind, making Americans hesitate going somewhere else.

The “There is nothing out there for me that I cannot find here” ideology is thought to be formed at a young age. A few World History classes are required at schools, young students are not as a rest of the world as they should be; American History. On the other hand, is a requirement for almost 9 years of education. This can and American history, the sense of importance about other countries and the student can fail to see the opportunities available outside of the States, all because of ethnocentrism taught by ignorant adults.

I personally know why it is wise to find opportunities elsewhere. I am a Colombian immigrant who arrived in the United States at eleven years old. I went to public school from seventh to twelfth grade and completed my first semester at Bergen Community College by the age of 17. Then summer came, and I decided to go to Colombia until September 2nd, just to see what kind of person the country of Colombia would now see me as.

After eight years of absence from my homeland, I was practically a tourist in my own country. Upon arriving, the way I was treated was automatically noticeable. Simply for having an American high school degree, I was offered a job as a translator for a prestigious college, with a pay that promptly made me forget what minimum wage meant. Strolling into a college that is only a dream for most Colombians, I spoke with aDean and was immediately guaranteed a job.

For a while I thought this strange and sudden behavior was a bit pathetic. I did not like being treated better than usual just because I came from the outside; I did not feel worthy of special treatment. Initially when I myself am Colombian. Eventually I realized that the treatment was not due to my American residence, but because of my American education. The simple fact that I had an American high school degree made others around me think that I was admirable and worthy of respect.

I, a simple immigrant with a high school diploma and a respectable man with a prominent future in Colombia. Overall, this experience has made me develop a plan for my future. I will finish my education in the United States and move out of the country, preferably to South America, and take my college credits with me through the avalanche of opportunities that present themselves for a bilingual American graduate. I am Colombian; imagine how well an American-born professional can do if they simply having a degree in English.

Even if you do not have a degree or did not graduate, you will do better in other countries, proven by simple math. Given whatever currency is used in your destination, chances are that the dollar is worth more except maybe in Europe. The dollar is worth two Colombian pesos, which means that whatever amount of money you bring with you will automatically be doubled. American minimum wage is more than enough to have a comfortable and stable life elsewhere, and you will not have to worry about struggling to make it.

The United States may not be ranked as one of the top 10 educations in the world, but it surely is appreciated as such in many countries, and it can be used as your economic or educational profiles, you can always try your luck at other websites, as many of them provide more than just a simple citizen of the world, and it is up to you size up to that title.
Learn the skills you need to advance your career while you serve your country. It’s all possible in the Army Reserve. You’ll earn a salary and money for your education while you gain the kind of strength that helps you stand out. There’s strong. Then there’s Army Strong. Learn more at goarmy.com/reserve

To learn more about the Army Reserve near you, visit us online at goarmy.com/t554

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The Bergen Gallery, BCC’s on-campus art gallery, will be presenting an art exhibition starting October 1, 2013 featuring artwork inspired by last year’s Super Storm Sandy, and will run through December 4. The exhibits will feature unique art styles, from photographs and paintings to sculptures. Superstorm Sandy affected many students at Bergen Community College in one way or another, so this gallery will certainly hit close to home.

Co-Curator Suzaan Boettger, author of Art and the Landscape of the Sixties, said that Marriott Sheldon, a fellow Co-Curator, chose the artwork to be featured for the exhibit by having pieces be sent in across the community along with statements about the work and their significance. These statements will be on display along with the pieces so that the general public can more clearly understand what the artists wish to convey.

Not only will the exhibit feature artists such as Greg Brophy and Adam Farcus, but also Susannah Sayler and Edward Morris, otherwise known as the Canary Project; focusing mainly on environmental issues through their art. On October 15, 2013, there will be a reception gala at the gallery. This event will give the public, students included, a chance to meet the people behind some of the pieces on display. Also featured will be a panel discussion with the artists on Tuesday October 22 from 12:20-1:40 p.m. Both events will be free of charge and are a can’t-miss for students interested in art or the creative process.

The inspiration for the exhibit was the one year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy: “My Co-Curator, Marriott Sheldon and I, both members of the Gallery of Bergen Advisory Committee, each were thinking of organizing an exhibition promoting consciousness of climate change,” said Professor Boettger. With climate change being such a large topic today, this is a relevant way to bring attention to this sensitive subject while also creating exposure for local artists and their works as well.

Blair DeLong
Senior Staff Writer

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Sandy: artists respond to a future superstorm

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School is here again, and it's time to put away your daisy dukes and crop tops, ladies. This new school year means lots of new things, most importantly new clothes to wear during the season. Girls can start up this semester by rocking some of their favorite clothing items — yes, even that old cardigan that you've been keeping for months! Gallery and Betsey Johnson advises, "Go to school looking like you! Feel comfortable, confident, and happy."

Girls, this school year we get a full variety of fashionable looks to consider. Starting with trends from the runway; bold 60's style prints, 90's inspired denim pieces, and layered looks are what's in this season. There's something to consider for those who love wearing black or muted colors as well, which consists of adding bold pops of color or a fun print that can change any outfit into the fall season easily and effectively.

Do you want to add more life to a plain outfit? If yes, then adding accessories to your outfit is definitely a must this school year. Whether it's a piece of jewelry like some bold bracelets, a vintage necklace, or even a unique pair of shoes! Any piece that you choose will give that final touch to your outfit and make it 100% fashionable.

Guys, getting rid of your hoodies are a must this season! You want to be presentable for school, but not too professional. Why not try layering a graphic tee with a plaid shirt and pairing it with a straight or slim jean? This works great for fall and will make you feel comfortable and clean. You don't want to look like you just rolled out of bed. Here at Bergen we see a huge variety of fashionable choices made by students. At the end of the day, the best choice is whatever makes you feel happy with yourself.

Nathan Fishman
Ad Manager

Gael Weissman
Staff Writer

There were many hit songs this summer. Between "Can't Stop Us" by Miley Cyrus, "Ramone Babes" by Dragons, and even "Clarity" by Zedd, this summer's soundtrack was amazing. Whether at a long day at work, relaxing at the beach, or doing homework during BCC's summer semesters, this was surely a good season for pop music. However, among even the best of soundtracks, there are standouts, and this summer's standouts were definitely "Same Love," "Get Lucky," and "Blurred Lines."

Starting with the third best song this season, "Same Love" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, this is a hit of a serious track. Released as part of Macklemore's and Ryan Lewis' team-up album "The Heist," this song took off alongside "Thrift Shop" and "Can't Hold Us." While Macklemore made it mainstream for his simpler catchy songs, "Same Love" saw the Seattle MC show some of his lyrical storytelling by supporting LGBT Rights, while shedding light on the blatant homophobia in the rap community. With the growing support of LGBT Rights, this song found a receptive audience by addressing an important issue while throwing down a beat anybody could appreciate. "Get Lucky," by Daft Punk featuring Pharrell Williams is an electronic song married to a nostalgic 80’s club hit record, and is about a party where girls stay up for fun, and guys stay up to "get lucky." Daft Punk pushed out an album since 2005, and it is a relief that they stayed true to their original sound. Easily the dance track of the summer, you probably heard this if you went to a club or house party. Pharrell not only helped with this song, but was also part of the trio involved with making the number one song this summer: "Blurred Lines."

"Blurred Lines" is what happens when Robin Thicke, T.I. and Pharrell Williams come together to create what many call the summer anthem of 2013, and with good reason. This song has hit the top of the charts for months, and is Robin Thicke's first #1 hit single. This song has made Robin Thicke the main of the summer, appearing on talk-shows such as "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon." In between Youtube banning the music video for objectionable content and raunchy lyrics, the song developed a certain amount of notoriety. Regardless, this song, a catchy, upbeat tune, rightfully deserves the title of "Song of the Summer."

Emanuele Calianno
Staff Writer

With classes starting and things picking up the pace, it’s only a matter of time before we all start to fall prey to the timeless problems plaguing us students. With everything from deadlines and exams to the dreaded freshman 15, it’s enough to drive most people to the edge quickly. What is worse is that every year, students resort to ineffective and even unhealthy methods to deal with things. This semester, instead of the usual Xanax/ sleepwalking pills/gallations of coffee cocktail, why not try a good old fashioned orgasm? According to WebMD, sexual stimulation has been proven time and time again to have incredible medical benefits, improving your life and health. Many of these benefits are closely related to young adults, having sex is a versatile and amazing remedy to our troubles. Orgasms release a myriad of hormones into the body which do a wide array of wonders to your body. This includes relieving stress, anxiety and fear right before those important deadlines.

One of these hormones, known as Oxytocin, is an incredible sleeping pill, helping us get more much needed sleep. Oxytocin also raises endorphin levels, helping to reduce headaches, illness, even PMS symptoms; eternal sworn enemies of anyone trying to get anything done. As if it weren't enough, having sex regularly has been linked with higher levels of antibodies, which boost your immune system and keep you from missing important lectures and exams, due to illness. All that movement also counts as enjoyable cardio, and one of the most fun ways to keep that freshman 15 at bay, but it’s not over.

Sex raises self-esteem, mood, improves menstrual health, and increases attention span. At the risk of going on forever, let's agree that sex is the most powerful medicine in nature, and write ourselves a long prescription of it to help us get that degree we're all after. Sex also helps slow down aging, improves blood pressure, and reduces risk of prostate and breast cancer. Make sure to keep filling that prescription well after you've reached graduation.

Features
Domenica Pazmino
Staff Writer

Back to school fashion at Bergen Community College - Tania Boghosian // The Torch

Drugs, and even "Clarity" by Zedd, this summer's soundtrack was amazing. Whether at a long day at work, relaxing at the beach, or doing homework during BCC's summer semesters, this was surely a good season for pop music. However, among even the best of soundtracks, there are standouts, and this summer's standouts were definitely "Same Love," "Get Lucky," and "Blurred Lines."

Starting with the third best song this season, "Same Love" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, this is a hit of a serious track. Released as part of Macklemore's and Ryan Lewis' team-up album "The Heist," this song took off alongside "Thrift Shop" and "Can't Hold Us." While Macklemore made it mainstream for his simpler catchy songs, “Same Love” saw the Seattle MC show some of his lyrical storytelling by supporting LGBT Rights, while shedding light on the blatant homophobia in the rap community. With the growing support of LGBT Rights, this song found a receptive audience by addressing an important issue while throwing down a beat anybody could appreciate. "Get Lucky," by Daft Punk featuring Pharrell Williams is an electronic song married to a nostalgic 80’s club hit record, and is about a party where girls stay up for fun, and guys stay up to "get lucky." Daft Punk pushed out an album since 2005, and it is a relief that they stayed true to their original sound. Easily the dance track of the summer, you probably heard this if you went to a club or house party. Pharrell not only helped with this song, but was also part of the trio involved with making the number one song this summer: "Blurred Lines."

"Blurred Lines" is what happens when Robin Thicke, T.I. and Pharrell Williams come together to create what many call the summer anthem of 2013, and with good reason. This song has hit the top of the charts for months, and is Robin Thicke's first #1 hit single. This song has made Robin Thicke the main of the summer, appearing on talk-shows such as "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon." In between Youtube banning the music video for objectionable content and raunchy lyrics, the song developed a certain amount of notoriety. Regardless, this song, a catchy, upbeat tune, rightfully deserves the title of "Song of the Summer."

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With classes starting and things picking up the pace, it’s only a matter of time before we all start to fall prey to the timeless problems plaguing us students. With everything from deadlines and exams to the dreaded freshman 15, it’s enough to drive most people to the edge quickly. What is worse is that every year, students resort to ineffective and even unhealthy methods to deal with things. This semester, instead of the usual Xanax/sleeping pills/gallations of coffee cocktail, why not try a good old fashioned orgasm? According to WebMD, sexual stimulation has been proven time and time again to have incredible medical benefits, improving your life and health. Many of these benefits are closely related to young adults, having sex is a versatile and amazing remedy to our troubles. Orgasms release a myriad of hormones into the body which do a wide array of wonders to your body. This includes relieving stress, anxiety and fear right before those important deadlines.

One of these hormones, known as Oxytocin, is an incredible sleeping pill, helping us get more much needed sleep. Oxytocin also raises endorphin levels, helping to reduce headaches, illness, even PMS symptoms; eternal sworn enemies of anyone trying to get anything done. As if it weren't enough, having sex regularly has been linked with higher levels of antibodies, which boost your immune system and keep you from missing important lectures and exams, due to illness. All that movement also counts as enjoyable cardio, and one of the most fun ways to keep that freshman 15 at bay, but it’s not over.

Sex raises self-esteem, mood, improves menstrual health, and increases attention span. At the risk of going on forever, let's agree that sex is the most powerful medicine in nature, and write ourselves a long prescription of it to help us get that degree we're all after. Sex also helps slow down aging, improves blood pressure, and reduces risk of prostate and breast cancer. Make sure to keep filling that prescription well after you've reached graduation.
What would college be like if we all had to wear IDs everywhere?

Valerie Battista // The Torch

Blair DeLong
Senior Staff Writer

At the end of the day, the deciding question should be: Do I want something simple or something more customizable? The choice is inevitably yours to make, so be sure to think about what you need in a phone before you make your choice based solely on how it looks.
The end is nigh! This is the overall mood towards Edgar Wright’s latest installment of The Cornetto Trilogy with fellow chums, Simon Pegg and Nick Frost: “The World’s End.” They first started the trilogy with the zombie romantic comedy “Shaun of the Dead,” and later proceeded with the over-the-top action flick, “Hot Fuzz.” Now, with “The World’s End,” this oddball trilogy concludes the way they started: a group of everyday men battling against extreme odds.

Gary King (Pegg) is a man trying to relive a time of his life that he felt truly happy, when as younger men he and his friends embarked on “The Golden Mile,” a pub crawl that would require them to go to twelve pubs, and drink one pint. They failed “The Golden Mile” by the time they reached Pub #9. Gary decides to gather up his old crew on the anniversary of their first attempt, and finally accomplish “The Golden Mile.”

Gary rounds up his old mates by harassing them at their jobs, and asks them to join him for the pub crawl. His friends are: Andy (Frost), Oliver (Martin Freeman), Peter (Eddie Marsan), and Steven (Paddy Considíse). They reach the town of Newtown Haven, where they lived in their youth and where the pub crawl is located. They are joined by Oliver’s sister, Sam (Rosamund Pike). They start to notice that the town has changed. Those familiar with the first two entries of the Cornetto Trilogy will love the hijinks in store. For those who are experiencing the Wright, Pegg, Frost collaboration for the first time, the same hijinks may feel like a sharp left turn.

Many of the jokes within the film will remind many viewers of the deadpan comedy style from series like Monty Python or The Office (UK). While the film had me laughing, and thrilled me with every minute, the conclusion left me disappointed. It seemed rushed, but with a film that tries to integrate an alien invasion with a drinking competition, no wonder the ending felt sloppy and haphazard.

Overall, The World’s End is an enjoyable and fun film to watch with your mates, and a perfect film to conclude the oddball trilogy concludes the way they started: a group of everyday men battling against extreme odds.

The developers of the game gave the characters life, from the first clues you find, you hear your sister’s voice narrating them, connecting you emotionally to her almost instantly. As if you are reading her diary, you are in the characters mind, trying to understand her and trying to find something that will point you to her location.

The artwork was fantastic; the real-life references, the house feeling as if it was calling out to you, and the fact that the game is set in the 90’s, and feels like it too. An interesting addition, this was done since emails and cell phones would have caused a scenario like this to be easily resolved. You are left with notes, cassette tapes, pictures, answering machines, and questionable items to try to fit together what is going on.

Although short, this game is worth every penny you spend. A must play 9.5 out of 10.
When it comes to football, New York’s pride and joy, the Giants and the Jets are sometimes New York’s reason for grief as well. Week 3 is coming soon, so an analysis of how each team has fared the first two weeks would be wise. The Giants and the Jets are 0-2-0 and 1-1-0, respectively. The Jets have experienced these first few games with a defense that are able to keep the New England Patriots; luckily for them, so were the Patriots, but could not offensively overcome them for a win. The Jets have a great deal of potential, and with a defense that are able to keep the game close throughout, all they need is a more organized and aggressive offense.

These two New York teams have had rough start to the season. The Giants are struggling all around, not being able to maintain their stamina defensively, and their offense not being able to complete plays and instead throwing interceptions.

The Giants need work all around. Their defense does relatively well and can hold back and shut down the opposing team, but like we saw during the Bronco match up, it let up enough in the second half for the Broncos to comfortably cruise to a win. Focusing on the game against the Broncos, the Giants offense seems to need work. 17 rushing yards over 7 carries with a 2.4-yard average, the running backs seemed to be shut down as soon as they touched the ball. Although the Broncos defense was impressive, Eli Manning seems to have lost his accuracy and ability to make plays when it counts most over the past few years. During the Cowboys matchup, he threw a painful 6 interceptions -- more than the infamous Tony Romo. One would have thought he would have learned his lesson when he threw 4 more during against Denver. 28 successful passes of 49 attempted, which even for a player as high a caliber as Eli Manning, is weak. The receivers, namely Victor Cruz, were doing well in the beginning, but after the 1st half started dropping a large portion of the passes. This is a team that needs to focus, work all-around on their game, and play like a team that has won 2 Super Bowls in the past 7 years. The Jets defense is phenomenal; They are able to block, provide tight coverage, and shut down plays until the very end, impressive plays, but also reminded us that he is still a rookie. Getting out of the pocket and getting demolished, not knowing when to get rid of the ball, and not seeing wide-open receivers were just some of his mistakes. Receivers did well statistically but seem to have the same butterfingers syndrome the Giants have, and rushing was not up to par for either game. The Jets got sloppy against the New England Patriots; luckily for them, so were the Patriots, but could not offensively overcome them for a win. The Jets have a great deal of potential, and with a defense that are able to keep the game close throughout, all they need is a more organized and aggressive offense.

The Jets, although strong when it comes to defense, has one of the worst offenses in the NFL. QBs, receivers, and running backs all need work. Overall, we still have many weeks to see how these two teams change tactics to overcome this hump they have experienced these first few weeks. Expect these two very promising teams to shake this off, for our sakes at least!

It seems as though humans are finally beginning to put an end to the resistance against human nature; not being stuck in conservative mindsets and choosing instead to progress. One of the most natural things, in fact, is for humans to evolve and ideally move forward towards understanding our environment, each other, and ourselves. Is it safe to suggest, then, that taking steps in the direction of human equality seems only right? For us as the human race, to accept who we are and who others are is a step in doing exactly that.

Jason Collins is an NBA center and first currently active athlete in major American sports to announce that he is gay. With fear of potentially facing ridicule and losing opportunities in his career, he stood up and declared “I’m gay”. Surprisingly enough, across the nation most of America and its back “and we still love you.” We may not all have used these exact words, but the overall support received from the human race, to accept who we are and most importantly, his fans, expressed this without a doubt.

This is extremely significant because it allows others to follow in his footsteps, which they have. WWE Superstar Darren Young is yet another courageous male athlete to announce that he is a homosexual. While waiting for his luggage in an airport carousel, he was asked by a cameraman, “Do you think a gay athlete can make it in the WWE?” Young’s response: “Absolutely look at me, you know? I’m a WWE Superstar and to be honest with you, I’ll tell you right now, I’m gay. And I’m happy. I’m very happy.” The cameraman was in shock. Young continued, “ I don’t think it matters. Does it matter? Does it matter to you? Does it change what you think about me?” Wise words from a very wise man; we must ask all of ourselves these questions if we have not already: Does it matter? Does it matter to you? Does being homosexual really affect an athlete’s performance? Does someone’s sexual orientation really change the way you see your fellow humans, your friends, and your family? At the expense of not being able to be yourself or find what makes you happy? What drives us to be uncomfortable with this issue, really? When it all comes down to it, we are all human; all made of the same things, and America’s response to this issue has certainly shown us taking a step in a more forward-thinking direction.