The BCCFA Says “No!” to The New Code of Conduct

BLAIR DELONG
NEWS EDITOR

Amidst controversy and the urgings of employees, including new Alumni Trustee Victoria Tahhan, the revised BCC Employee Code of Conduct was adopted by the Board of Trustees during their September meeting. During the waning months of last semester, the Board of Trustees had introduced an Employee Code of Conduct that was seen by many of the staff as vague and too obtuse in its interpretation. The Board of Trustees, under the request of several faculty members to rework the new Code to better serve all those covered under it, tabled the code reworked it to better fit what faculty members would see as more far and the wording not so vague.

The new Code of Conduct however, is under just as much fire as the old iteration. Questions were raised yet again. Associate Professor of Physics Joseph Sivo questioned a line of the Code that read, “This code also applies to members of the College community, whose host may be held accountable for the misconduct of their guests.” Sivo, who volunteers at the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust Observatory, questioned the vague nature of “may be” as he felt he could be held responsible. He was answered by Board Of Trustees Chairman E. Carter Corriston saying, “...MAY be held responsible, this doesn’t mean you will be held responsible.”

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Mullaney responded to the new Code by saying, “Based on my review of the Employee Code of Conduct, it seems in keeping with similar documents of this type from around the country. The revised Code was the result of collaboration among the employee groups and seems better for it.”

The subject is still being hotly contested though, as Associate Professor of Chemistry Brant Chapman said, “I find it ironic that the Board began its meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the swearing in of a new Board member, who swore to “uphold the Constitution of the United States. After all those formalities, they proceeded to pass a document that tramples those rights of the employees of the college. One can only assume that they have been reading far, but some more equal than others.” He continued by saying, “If you want a picture of the future...”

While faculty have been the most vocal on the new Code, several other employees of BCC have voiced their opinion as well. A source close to the administration, who agreed to comment on the Code under the promise of anonymity for fear of retaliation, said, “The wording, while vague seems like it will take certain groups collective voices away.”

The Faculty, though, had other plans in mind. In a recent Bergen Community College Faculty Association meeting, the faculty union agreed not to sign the new Code and the new Code itself will only cause more strife within an environment that many have described as toxic and chaotic.

Board of Trustees Meet for First Time This Semester

BLAIR DELONG
NEWS EDITOR

The Board of Trustees of Bergen Community College started with a few important changes to employee life on campus. The revised Employee Code of Conduct was voted on as well as the reorganization of the college’s many academic departments into a more condensed structure. Amidst controversy there was a cloud of sadness hanging over the meeting. Vice Chairman Cal Wilson unfortunately attended his last meeting as Vice Chairman; he is moving onto greener pastures in Washington DC to take up the positions of President & CEO of the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility.

Amongst this, there was even more good news to spread. In BCC President B. Kaye Walters’ report, she said, “…we have moved into the number one slot in New Jersey for Associate degree institutions.” While BCC is now top of the list, President Walter continued to say BCC was rated 48th, but has moved up to 27th nationally in graduation rates.

A new member of the BOT spoke as well. Victoria Tahhan, a recent graduate of BCC and Alumni Trustee, expressing her happiness from working with the Board of Trustees. Tahhan also reminded all those assembled at the meeting that Oct 9, 2014 the BCC Alumni Dinner will be taking place. While she did express her sadness over former Vice Chairman Wilson leaving, she spoke of her happiness on his new position and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

The new President of the Student Government Association, Laura Hoyos, took to the mic next and spoke of how excited she was about recruiting for Student Senate and helping students, new and old. She said, “…I look forward to presenting new ideas to the administration,” adding, “We will work strongly for voter registration with help from the various clubs on campus.”

A big point on the meeting’s agenda was the revised Employee Code of Conduct. Associate Professor of Physics, Joseph Sivo, was first to speak on the matter Sivo recommended removing the Code and reconsider it due to the vagueness of its wording. Professor Sivo said to the Board that they should get more input from the faculty before voting on the code.

The Faculty weren’t the only members of the audience to voice their concern over the Code however. Alumni Trustee Tahhan spoke against voting on it at all. Tahhan said, “I’m not just a figurehead, I agree the Code of Conduct is vague.” She also asked, “Where does this land in the collective bargaining agreement?” in which BCC’s lawyer John Schepisi answered, “It is non-negotiable since wages aren’t changed.”

As the meeting came to a close, the Code of Conduct was voted on by the Board and passed, with only one vote being against it, Trustee Tahhan. Chairman Corriston commented on this, assuming there was a unanimous vote saying, “In two years I’ve gotten used to everyone agreeing.”

Illustration by Ricardo Montero

OCTOBER 2014
Why Are the Departments Restructuring? No One Knows.

FELIX LYU
ONLINE EDITOR

Last year, the Board of Trustees proposed that every academic department be reorganized. The topics that were held in the September Board of Trustees meeting made it clear that this proposal would be a consolidation of departments.

Vice President of Affairs William Mullaney suggested that the school restructure its whole programming during a meeting for the academic chairs that was held last year. Mullaney handed out data sheets showing that the academic structure was obviously not in an organized fashion. Dr. Mullaney and the Academic heads handled the decision by voting for a reorganization. However, when questioned about the reorganization, an answer would never fully be given. Professor Gregg Biermann, a faculty member who raised the question as to why there is a reorganization, said, “When questioned, [Dr. Mullaney] could not explain what the academic reasons for the reorganization were — only that the Board of Trustees charged him with carrying it out.” When Biermann repeatedly requested for an actual answer, he was either shrugged off, or given a typical answer about an unknown “goal” for the school.

Biermann said, “I even asked President Walter at a Faculty Senate meeting if she could explain why the reorganization was necessary and she again referred to the will of the Board of Trustees. I told her that her response was only about power but it lacked a substantial academic basis.” Biermann continued by saying, “I told them (The Board of Trustees) that the reason for the vote of no confidence in Walter was that faculty felt they no longer had meaningful input into college decisions. The Board responded by giving President Walter a raise and extended her contract over the objections of the faculty.”

Dr. Mullaney commented on the reorganization: “The academic reorganization was the result of a year researching comparable colleges, as well as considerable feedback from the BCC faculty through open faculty forums, the Faculty Senate and the current department chair organization. The new structure is designed to serve students better by providing fewer and more cohesive departments that are easier for them to navigate. In addition, as part of the reorganization, the department chair job description was revised so as to focus more directly on helping students to succeed in their academic programs.” The open faculty forums were held four times in February.

President Kaye Walter said on the matter, “The new One Stop Shop came out of this review, as did the re-organization of the academic departments. Dr. Mullaney and Dr. Gonzalez-DeJesus, along with staff and consultants, held numerous focus groups to gain input from all stakeholders in these processes.”

Department and the office of Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino, which is believed to save the county between $90 and $200 million. The differences between the two candidates are exponential. In the ever-changing world of politics, it can be difficult for someone who is not “in the loop” to follow along with each candidate’s ideas and ideals. Although it is a nuisance, it is imperative that the student body becomes more involved in the government and the governing of the places we live, go to school and work, or face being forgotten by it.

Bergen County has a population of over 900,000 people. And out of these people, one person will be responsible for leading the executive branch of government in the county. This individual will have the power to formulate all county policy, remove and apply county positions, develop a budget and approve or veto proposed laws, ordinances and resolutions. They must also overwatch services of the county such as: criminal justice, fire, social services, department, business and economic development, natural disaster assistance and many other county-related needs.

In New Jersey, a county executive is elected every four years. On November 4th, 2014, Bergen County will elect a County Executive between two candidates. One is the Democratic ex-mayor of Paramus, James Tedesco. On the other side of the coin is a Republican, the current County Executive, Kathleen Donovan. Both candidates have extensive history with the county and are extremely qualified for the position.

James Tedesco served as mayor of the town of Paramus from 2003 until 2010. He served as an instructor at Bergen County Technical school’s HAZ-MAT section, has been a volunteer firefighter in Paramus for over 35 years and has been selected to be a member of the Board of Directors for the Red Cross of Northern New Jersey for two years. He is currently a freeholder for Bergen County.

Kathleen Donovan has previously served as County Clerk for four terms and has run for County Executive twice, winning once. She is the first woman to become County Executive New in Bergen County. She was a public defender in her hometown of Lyndhurst, New Jersey for five years, served as a member of the Environmental Quality Committee and, in 1994, was appointed Chairwoman of the Port Authority by Governor Christine Whitman.

Both candidates have education as central components in their campaigns. On September 17th, 2014, James Tedesco spoke about an education plan at Eastwick College. The proposals included: a free tutoring program for low-income elementary students, programs for students with disabilities who have turned 21 to revoke their eligibility for local school services due to their age, improvement of county bus transportation, and free train passes for college students. According to http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/, Kathleen Donovan has, as County Clerk, brought in $1 billion in revenue by creating government efficiency. She has proposed increasing the county’s contribution to Bergen Community College by an additional $800,000 to the 2014 budget.

Tedesco supports the proposal of a merger between the Bergen County Police

Running for Office: Bergen County Executive 2014

DEVIN MERCADO
STAFF WRITER

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Protecting The Student Body, One Camera At A Time

Due to security reasons, Bergen Community College is receiving a new parking lot surveillance system thanks to a $157,000 grant awarded by The Department of Homeland Security and a bid that was taken from Integrated Systems and Services Inc. in the amount of $132,000; totalling $289,000. The bidding process took a few months to approve the installation of this new system and will take a few months to begin the installation of the system.

The system is wireless and will be located in all locations of all parking lots around campus. According to Lieutenant of Public Safety Ed Zingg, via e-mail, said, “For security reasons, we do not divulge how the system works or location of the cameras.” Zingg said, the cameras will be checked constantly.

After asking if there was a specific reason to adding this system to our campus Zingg’s response was that they are simply put in for security reasons. Zingg said, “It is for monitoring all areas. If an incident has to be investigated, we can review through our recording system.”

Zingg said the new system was not in response to a report last January, later found to be false, of armed people on campus. “Just trying to be as safe as possible on campus,” he said.

Coming into play in the next couple of months, these cameras will begin to work and observe the areas of all parking lots around the Paramus Bergen Community College campus. Hopefully the new addition of cameras and the larger amount of Public Safety members around campus will keep our campus a calm and welcoming environment.

― NOMI EIJKENAAR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To think that until 13 years ago September 11th was just an average day like any other is mind boggling. Now, that day is ingrained in all Americans of all ages. It is a day that will never be forgotten and will always be felt as strongly as that first year in 2001. On September 11, 2014, Bergen Community College held a memorial ceremony in remembrance. The ceremony took place in the Student Center and was held by the Center for Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation and also by the Office of Student Life.

The first speaker was Dr. Naydeen Gonzalez DeJesus, Vice President of Student Affairs. Dr. Gonzalez De-Jesus spoke about forgiveness and how she chose to remember 9/11. She said, “I choose to honor those who are still alive and through their courage have taught us to forgive.”; an important statement since there are many survivors who have had to live on without family members and friends who passed the same day that they survived. These are survivors who didn’t just watch these terrible acts on TV, but were right there in the midst of it all. Dr. Gonzalez De-Jesus made it a point to remember them as well.

The second speaker was Professor Thomas LaPointe who is the Co-Director of the Center for Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation. Professor LaPointe spoke about his experience on September 11th. He explained how he had seen the towers on fire and then crumbled within minutes right before his eyes. He told the audience how he thought it was such a shame because those towers were so beautiful. He hadn’t realized the countless lives that were just lost in that moment. As he spoke about the rest of the day he kept going back to the idea that it was a very hard concept to grasp. He expressed how surreal it was to think that in an instance so many lives were lost, that two planes had hit the Twin Towers, it was incredibly difficult to realize the magnitude of the situation. Professor LaPointe also explained how 9/11 has left a gap. He said, “We are all still stuck in the gap, we exist here for the purpose to remember the fallen and survivors.”

Dean of Student Life and Judicial Affairs Nestor Melendez closed the ceremony with some short but powerful final words. He said, “We are where we are today thanks to the brave men and women.” His last statement was, “remember and appreciate the gift we’ve been given.”

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The Torch was able to get a word with Professor LaPointe after the ceremony. When asked what has stuck with him the most about September 11th, he responded with a moving statement. He explained how 9/11 is difficult to think about, explain and understand; it’s something that’s very hard to grasp. He said, “September is a month, 11 is a day. It’s a time. That tells us that there’s a before and an after. That means there was a break, time has broken. All we can do is remember and relive it, we’re stuck doing it over and over again. All we can do to honor those who passed and who have suffered is to remember them and September 11th for them.”
Russia - The Phantom Menace

GRZEGORZ KOCIUBINSKI

Turmoil continues since protesters brought down pro-Moscow President Viktor Yanukovych nearly seven months ago, and Russia is now hinting towards closing airspace over Ukraine.

Even since Yanukovych stepped down, the fighting has continued. Almost a month ago, Russia attempted to send assistance to the region and the afflicted areas, as well as sending a convoy of trucks to the border under the disguise of humanitarian aid. The Kyiv government refused to let the supplies in, under the belief that the convoy of 280 trucks were actually a hidden attempt to smuggle supplies into Ukraine for the separatists. According to The Guardian, the trucks were hastily-repaired military vehicles. Along with that, there was a video on YouTube showing soldiers standing next to the convoy with a missile launcher parked across the road; the video later disappeared.

Along with these subtle coincidences, Russia did not benefit credibility due to a photo tweeted by a Russian journalist moving along with the convoy, which placed the position of the convoy in the Rostov region of Ukraine. If the convoy had entered Ukraine from that region of the border, tensions would have most likely been inflamed, as the rebel-controlled border crossings lie between the Rostov and a neighboring region. On Friday, August 22nd, just under a third of the trucks entered Ukraine territory without “clearance or participation of the International Red Cross,” or agreement of the Ukrainian government. State Security Chief Valentyn Nalivaichenko responded to the entrance with, “We consider this a direct invasion by Russia of Ukraine.” Russia gave its own statement on the entry, saying that it was tired of waiting on Ukraine for allowing the convoy entrance with, “We consider this a direct invasion by Russia of Ukraine.” Russia gave its own statement on the entry, saying that it was tired of waiting on Ukraine for allowing the convoy entrance without “clearance or participation of the International Red Cross,” or agreement of the Ukrainian government.

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Dangers Of Journalism Abroad

Ryan Boyette works with Yassin Hassen in an interview with a rebel in Sudan’s Nuba Mountains. Boyette started the Nuba Reports website in 2011 and recruited Hassen to join as a citizen journalist.

JOSEPH CIRILO

When it comes to breaking down the most dangerous jobs in the world, few would tell you there comes a hefty risk in being a reporter. Most of the job may be done in climate controlled offices painted by the cold blue light of an LED-lit monitor, cracking away at countless hours of research and fact-checking, but the backbone of the operation comes from the men and women in the field deriving the critical information we use to construct objective opinion and outlook on the world.

Across the border in Mexico, journalists face the siege from both organized crime and abusive government authorities. El Sit newspaper in Acapulco was one such news outlet that had to implement various precautions in order to deal with the threats they received on a daily basis, especially as the National Army and Marine Corps continues its fight against drug cartels. Protecting their staffing is an important, though almost fruitless cause.

While objective reporting bleeds the kind of information needed to create a more informed public, the risk you undertake in doing so is staggering, and the results aren’t always well received. Ultimately, journalism is one of the rare career choices toward a future in which we can protect those brave few storytellers who go to dig the truth of the world for us.

Syria in particular has become realized as one of the most dangerous places in the world for members of the media, underscored by the recent executions of James Foley and Steven Sotloff. The Wall Street Journal reported that several dozens of reporters have been kidnapped in recent years and as many as 20 are currently still being held overseas. The Committee to Protect Journalists says these facts are unprecedented.

The reason we don’t hear about it is because we observe a media blackout, largely refraining from publishing information about such abductions to avoid disrupting negotiations to free the captives. Keeping information from the public at large is said to be the best approach as anything else could put lives at risk, but as the public might well imagine, being kept in the dark also strains the credibility of a trustworthy relationship, even if the measure is to protect the people who are trying to bring the truth of the world to them.

Soldiers have almost always been accompanied by reporters, dating back to the early 20th century when news journalists and photographers were largely censored about which materials they were allowed to publicize. Information deemed too “sensitive” for public consumption may still linger in the edges in between what we know of reporting during war time, and what was only seen by the people who were there.

But for the reporters riding along with military units to record the events, bond with the real men and women on the front lines fighting, there is still a large degree of danger they must contend with, regardless of how much of it the public is aware of.

Although body armor is normally issued with bold white letters reading “MEDIA” across the chest, it hasn’t stopped the deaths of many good reporters who were caught up in the right place at the wrong time. As much as we try to look toward a future in which we can protect those brave few storytellers who go to dig deeper and bring back the truth, that their community, and by extension, the global community, may be informed, the deadly nature of this job is not likely to change.
When someone is denied the option to do something, one considers their right in this society, the usual result is a grueling ordeal in the judicial system. Going through the court system usually involves a lot of money, mudslinging, and more likely than not ends up turning into a public circus. Change is not always guaranteed. A human rights complaint was filed by transgendered student Tracey Wilson last winter when she requested permission to wear a female uniform and have access to female bathrooms in her Catholic school, located in Vancouver, Canada, and was told “no.” At the time of the lawsuit, Doug Lauson, superintendent of the Independent Catholic School Board of Vancouver said, “The position of the Catholic church is that...you live your life in the sex that God gave you.”

To the Wilson family, the issue was personal. Lauson continued to say that the point of a Catholic school is to follow and support the Catholic doctrine and that, while researchers have attempted to find out more on the medical side of transgendered youth, they have not been led to any definite, concrete conclusions. The data collected by researchers proved to be a double-edged sword on whether or not allowing the child show the gender they desire is negative to their wellbeing. Lauson states that some children choose to revert their decision in later age, transitioning back to their birth gender. One fact that has no ambiguity of which side it sits on is that 40 percent of transgender children and teens will attempt suicide.

The Wilsons moved Tracey to a public school after filing a complaint, which has since then been resolved by the school board with their new policy. The policy, released by the archdiocese, states that student’s needs will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but could theoretically allow students to use their preferred name, uniform, pronoun, and washroom or be given their own private washroom.

One key note that must be stressed is that the policy puts heavy emphasis on gender ‘expression.’ The teachings of Catholicism state that people cannot change their gender or sexual identity, which in turn, leads to the policy stating that the school cannot help or accommodate a student who wishes to revert their decision in later age, transitioning back to their birth gender. The teachings of Catholicism state that people cannot change their gender or sexual identity, which in turn, leads to the policy stating that the school cannot help or accommodate a student who wishes to revert their decision in later age, transitioning back to their birth gender.

The new policy synerizes well with Vancouver schools’ new LGBTTQ+ policy, which has recently been put in as well. Under the heading “Names and Pronouns”, it states, “Trans students will be addressed by the names and pronouns [they] prefer to use.” The policy works to fit with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer, and questioning students by creating three new pronouns as well, replacing both the feminine and masculine terms with xem, xe, and xyr, pronounced zem, ze, and zur. Mike Lombards, vice chairman of the Vancouver Board of Education said that this new policy was made “to create a safe learning environment for every child,” and will allow children of any and all sexual orientations “to learn and thrive.” In defense of that line, under the “Leadership” section of the policy, it reads that “staff will not refer students to programs or services that attempt to change a student’s sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The Wilson family said, “The position of the Catholic church is that...you live your life in the sex that God gave you.” 

With the recent policy additions, Vancouver is spearheading the LGBTTQ+ movement so far, being the first area in North America, and the world itself to institute such changes. Only time can tell if these changes shall stick for the better.
In what could marginally be called a landslide victory, a pro-union decision was finalized after 32 counts of the vote in the Scottish Independence Referendum held on September 18, 2014.

Four million Scottish citizens from ages 16 and up were asked to lend their hand in deciding Scotland’s future, should the country stay a part of the 307-year-old union that culminates into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or break away and set the stage for their growth as an independent nation.

The decision largely underscored a number of issues with Scottish nationals, not the least of which had to do with the usage and exportation of the North Sea oil which many Scottish citizens agreed belonged to Scotland.

Statistically, 84.6 percent of the some four million who were able to vote cast their votes for one meaning that the results were obviously not as close as the opinion polls had been predicting up to voting day. “That is not uncommon in these referendums where people are being asked to make a big change. They often draw back at the last minute,” he said.

Scotland has officially voted “No Thanks” in the Independence Referendum that would have changed the course of Scottish history and broken up the union they’ve shared with England and Wales for the past 300 years. 

If you’ve ever fallen into the Internet’s underbelly known as 4chan, you have an idea of the content posted on a daily basis. The “shock post” site had people up in arms over leaked nude photos and racy videos of well-known celebrities on August 31, 2014. Accompanied by the arm’s of “anonymous” posters, an unknown hacker was able to break through the digital barriers of Apple’s iCloud data storing service.

As the pictures began leaking in groups through 4chan, news caught around the web with sites such as Reddit, Facebook, and Twitter. Many of the leaked photos amongst the web. Some of the exposed celebrities consist of Jennifer Lawrence, Kate Upton, and Kirsten Dunst. These women along with a reported 100 other recognizable stars had their iCloud accounts hacked as arms over leaked nude photos and racey videos of well-known celebrities.

Dundee received by far the most “yes” votes with 57.4 percent, followed in step by West Dunbartonshire and Glasgow, which holds an electorate of half a million.

In the aftermath, the FBI is currently investigating Christopher Chaney. After pleading guilty to computer hacking, Chaney was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The army of “anonymous” posters, an unknown hacker who leaked the “hole in the wall” of security in their iCloud data storing service.

On September 28, 2014, Bergen Community College received a $15 million grant that will go to a training program that will help create jobs in the future. The federal government funded this amount of money to the college because it is the lead in a consortium of 12 two-year colleges. The New Jersey Health Professions Pathways to Regional Excellence Project (NJ-PREP) consortium is expected to train 5,000 individuals in the next 4 years. Twenty-six of the 71 grantees in the program, Bergen was awarded the fourth-highest award.

“We are the lead institution of the NJ-PREP consortium in New Jersey, because of our work in the healthcare industry and because we have a lot of partnerships in the Bergen County healthcare system. President B. Kaye Walter said. “This money is going as a grant for the workforce training in the healthcare industry and it’s all going into the students, between teachers, faculty, and etc.” she added.

BCC Receives $15 Million Grant From DC

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FELIX LYU

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12 two-year schools that are being led is as follows: Brookdale Community College, County College of Morris, Essex County College, Hudson County Community College, Mercer Community College, Middlesex County College, Ocean County College, Passaic County Community College, Raritan Valley Community College, Sussex County Community College and Union County College. The groups that have been a part of the NJ-PREP consortium are the local workforce investment board, hospitals, and commercial employers.
ROVING REPORTER

If Happiness was the National Currency, What Would Make you Rich?

JIMMY FENMORE
“What would make me rich is having a family and being able to provide for them.”

ANTHONY VELASQUEZ
“Doing what you want in life without any regrets would make me rich - like not going to work for money, but going forward just because I would be happy to do it every day.”

EVA KUPI
“If people stopped fighting. But no, actually, I think it would be if everyone got an education.”

ALFREDO BAUTISTA
“I guess a fulfilled life would make you rich. To me, I find happiness in helping other people. So, as long as I keep helping other people and they return the favor, I would get rich that way.”

ISA ELDOUGHI
“If happiness was the currency, I think that respect and understanding would make me very rich.”

DAMIEN BRITO
“I guess it would be food. I love food. It could make you happy even on a sad day. There have been plenty of times where I’ve been sad or pissed off and I go to McDonald’s and order a cheeseburger. Just having finer foods, like lobster and caviar pizza.”

Religious Tolerance in Burma and Bergen

To provide for them.”

What would make me rich is having a family and being able to provide for them.”

“What would make me rich is having a family and being able to provide for them.”

I am Rich that way.”

“I would be happy to do it every day.”

Charlotte Bennett Schoen, the Chair for Peace and Conflict Resolution for the Rotary Club, began her work in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) by linking up with a Non Governmental Organization called Smile located in the former Myanmar’s capital, Yangon. The NGO’s director Myo Win’s willingness to reestablish the Rotary’s presence in Yangon along with grants sent with enthusiasm and passion brought forth by Bergen’s own students. The Rotary Chair stated, “[I] see differences in clothing and language, some food and architecture. But it is amazingly similar when you are living across the world - what people want for their families and their children is just the same.”

Along with the photos showing the different religious sects in Myanmar (most notably the photo between a Christian priest, Muslim sheikh, and Buddhist monk), the town of Methala saw the Buddhist on Muslim killings escalate to catastrophic rates. In response, peace initiatives sprung up from various Non-Governmental Groups (including NGOs that Charlotte was responsible for) to get the word out to the otherwise uninformed public.

Usage of eye opening material with books such as “Half of The Sky,” and the riveting best-seller “I Am Malala” along with the film “The Lady,” gave an in depth look on the injustices committed towards a group of people from the eyes of a survivor. Charlotte’s goal was to inspire participants to share the same vision that peace builders such as Dr. Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi famously fulfilled. “What can you do? What will you do? Who do you know that shows personal courage?” These are the thoughts Charlotte hoped to conjure up in the public’s mind.

In May 2014 Charlotte helped bring FAITHSPACE to the city of Yangon, while considerably more peaceful and developed compared to its inland counterpart, it still maintained ethnic tension between various religious sects.

According to Charlotte, Yangon’s youth gravitated to the various forms of religious beliefs in Myanmar as “Half of The Sky,” and the riveting best-seller “I Am Malala” along with the film “The Lady,” gave an in depth look on the injustices committed towards a group of people from the eyes of a survivor. Charlotte’s goal was to inspire participants to share the same vision that peace builders such as Dr. Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi famously fulfilled. “What can you do? What will you do? Who do you know that shows personal courage?” These are the thoughts Charlotte hoped to conjure up in the public’s mind.

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The Only Time The Red Zone Is a Bad Place To Be

NOMI EIJKENAAR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A never ending news story, the one about a missing girl. Haven’t we all heard enough of those? Is there a way to prevent so many women and girls from disappearing? It is our duty to understand the dangers out there and prevent the disappearance of more females.

Regardless of sounding sexist, it is a fact that women will forever be easier to attack, rape, kidnap, and simply disappear with. In the world we live in today it is a must to understand the importance of never finding yourself alone.

This time of year is called the “Red Zone.” According to nytimes.com, the Red Zone is “a period of vulnerability for sexual assaults, beginning when freshmen first walk onto campus until Thanksgiving break.” During this time of year many new students begin their experience as a college student. It is difficult to believe, but according to rainn.org, the nation’s largest anti-sexual assault organization, every two minutes an American is sexually abused, 237,868 Americans are sexually abused every year. According to whitehouse.gov, one in five women attending college in the United States have been raped, almost 22 million women.

As a college student and as an individual in general, whether you are a male or female, it is important to remember this number and attempt to avoid anything that could lead you to become an “incehrome” (Article 32).

In recent days, it was found that an 18-year-old University of Virginia student, Hannah Graham, went missing. According to ABCNews.go.com, Graham left her apartment and went to dinner with her friends around 9:30 p.m. She had left the restaurant around midnight and went to an off-campus party. At 12:46 a.m. she was seen on surveillance cameras walking into an Irish pub and was then seen running towards a mall at 1:00 a.m. No one was following her; she then realized she was lost and texted her friends at 1:20 a.m. telling them she was lost. Ever since then she has been missing.

A man was seen following her after leaving the pub; he noticed she was stumbling and hid behind a tree. He then kept following her and was seen on cameras doing so for a few more minutes. The man claims to have walked behind her trying to help her because he noticed a man earlier in the night putting his hands on Hannah.

That night was the last time anyone has seen or heard of Hannah, she has been missing since September 13, 2014.

The story might sound ridiculous to you, or you might even say “well, she was being stupid for walking around alone,” but in reality, have you ever walked alone at night? Do you think you will at some point or another?

The key to staying safe is not staying in every night, avoiding parties, and being locked inside. It is the capability of understanding the importance of never walking alone. It is a helpful tip everyone should follow, especially women and girls.

It is too easy for someone to just pick you up and take you away. We are too accessible walking alone, it is a must to always walk with a partner and never find yourself on your own.

Don’t be naive and say “but it won’t happen to me.” Life is a mystery, don’t let it swallow you in. Realize that you are in control of your actions, the places and people you choose to surround yourself with, and the way you view life. Remember, it might sound cheesy, but we only live once. Make smart decisions and don’t let yourself end up in a dangerous situation; surround yourself with friends, and never forget it could be you next time.

Response: Truth About Gaza

To The Editor:

In a recent Torch article on the Israeli-Hamas conflict, I was struck by the author’s presumption that Israel and Hamas are equally at fault for the past summer’s conflict and the blame he places on Israel for not doing more to prevent civilian casualties. Yet, a closer examination shows the deep disparities between the combatants.

First, Israel never escalated matters. Airstrikes only began following a sharp increase in rockets being fired from Gaza, and the ground assault only occurred following an attempt by Hamas militants to cross into Israel - during a ceasefire, no less – via tunnel. The September piece’s author paradoxically suggests that Israel should have immediately engaged with the full force of a ground invasion, yet at the same time, he is criticizing Israel for continuing the conflict.

Even once the conflict began, Israel took extraordinary measures to minimize civilian casualties: phone call, leaflet, or firefiercer warnings up to fifteen minutes ahead of an attack to warn civilians to get clear of Hamas weapon caches. In contrast, Hamas ordered civilians to act as human shields to prevent airstrikes or drive up casualty rates. Even when ceasefire were definitively violated and mortars continued to fall on Israel, Hamas still enshrines hatred into their fundamental charter with calls to slaughter Jews (Article 7), classical anti-Semitic myths (Article 22), and references to “revenge” as a term to be applied to those who dare criticize (Article 32).

This conflict can only end when there are no more calls to fire rockets at civilians or wage crusades against innocent populations. Only then can the wounds of the past truly begin to heal and allow peace to flourish again.

Michael Itvin.
Why Does Anyone Support Israel?

ERIC LEIDERMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As someone born and raised in the United States, the values of freedom and equality for all pulse through my veins. I believe in democracy. I believe in women's rights, gay rights and protection of minorities. These values are Israel's values. All freethinkers should be able to see that Israel is a nonpartisan issue. Israel is a moral issue. Israel is a tiny nation, with just over 8 million people (roughly the same size and population as New Jersey), surrounded by a chorus of enemies who call for her destruction. Israel stands for life over death; for coexistence over hate. It is your turn to show that threats, terror attacks, rockets, intimidation, lies, will not stop us from supporting freedom — of all. Today, more than ever, it is crucial that we stand up for freedom over oppression. Supporting Israel is not only the right thing to do, but the American thing to do. Agreeing to the two-state solution may help bring us closer to the end of conflict; hopefully one day soon, Israelis and Palestinians will peacefully live side by side. Even now, after yet another war, Israel still yearns for peace.

As a Jewish person, I understand the importance for all people to have a home of their own. The Land of Israel, which is the historic homeland of the Jewish people, today hosts an ethnically diverse country which stands for peace and justice for all. Today, due to the end of World War II, the Jewish communities in France (Europe's largest), with a population of roughly 500,000, no longer feel comfortable living in cities like Paris. According to the Jewish Telegraph Agency, 2014 has had the highest number of immigrants from France to Israel. However, the unrest is not localized to Western Europe. The Jewish Agency for Israel, a non-government organization, has set up a new branch in Ukraine to help the 9 million Jewish refugees. Israeli assistance is not limited to helping world Jewry. Across the Middle East, churches are burning, and Christians and Muslims are being massacred for their beliefs. Israel is the only country in that region where not only are all holy sites protected, but the Christian population is growing. I support Israel because I care about history; I support Israel because I care about the future. Israel is the only country in the Middle East to protect all peoples, their religious and cultural sites, of all ethnicities, faiths, and traditions.

There is no debate. Israel deserves to thrive like all other countries: in peace and security. Israel's fight is our fight; Israel fights freedom's fight. Israel's war is the world's war. Now is not the time to forget. Israel needs you: speak up, get involved, do something, promise Israel to future generations. It is your turn to show that threats, terror attacks, rockets, intimidation, lies, will not stop us from supporting freedom — from supporting Israel.

BLAIR DELONG
news editor

Not everyone on this planet has the chance to vote, but guess what folks, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE! And to the members of generation Y, that have registered in Bergen County, I tip my hat to you. “I have watched the voters registration and I am very proud of our students. They want to have their voices heard,” said BCC President B. Kaye Walters. You are among a select and special few that are actually completing a civic duty, that I, personally, take very seriously.

We stand at a slippery precipice, ladies and gentlemen: on November 11, 2014 the race for Bergen County Executive will be decided. It is finally time to be heard. Let your voices be heard. Now, I am not here to tell you who to vote for, but I feel as though my words have fallen flat at every chance of journalistic integrity I’ve ever had. I am, however, telling you to read the stories we have in this issue to become informed on who the candidates are for County Executive. Get to know them, get yourself acquainted with their proposed ideas on what they want to do for Bergen County. This election hits close to home for us at BCC.

Did you folks know that the County Executive selects the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and in turn the Chairman and the rest of the Board select the president of the school as well? I’ve been harping on this for quite some time. Changes need to be made. I’ve sung loud, yelled, screamed and tried to cause an avalanche but I feel as though my words have fallen flat at student’s feet. How many times must I say this? We are the majority, we have control here, not the administration. We can control who runs things with the correct and informed choice.

As I said before, here we are, on the ragged line. Who do you vote for? Why do you vote for them? Why am I going to vote at all? These questions can only be answered by you, and if you don’t want to speak up and make yourself known, if you want to continue to be a number without meaning, by all means, continue to be just another statistic that has no meaning. Frag out.

Bergen Gets Exotic

Rally in support of Israel held on July 28, 2014. Eric Leiderman // The Torch

OPINIONS

The Torch

OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2

Why Does Anyone Support Israel?

Uncle Blair: Are You A Meaningless Number?
Crowdfunding has become a popular method for many different people and companies to create and distribute a product or service. The use of websites such as Kickstarter, Indiegogo and GoFundMe has become a tool in which people can support anything from movies and games, to gadgets and people’s lunch. The new form of purchasing sought after items is one that has me torn. I often find myself debating if, as it stands, crowdfunding is safe and morally sound for consumers.

Traditionally, any person who has an idea for a product would seek out the philanthropic support of investors. If these investors thought the idea was profitable, they would take the risk, and in turn garner a percentage of the company and its profits. When potential investors do not believe there is enough market to gain a return on their money, they will not invest. This is when people turn to crowdfunding. Crowdfunding is different from the traditional methods of venture capital. Anyone can now take on the risk of supporting an idea someone has. However, spending the money upfront does not make you an investor. You simply become a consumer, buying the idea in hopes you will receive the product. The person or company builds a brand, product or service using the capital from backers, who do not reap the financial benefits. These “supporters” are to receive the item they backed, based on the tier/amount they chose, and be done with it. If the creator roes on to be successful, there will never be compensation to those who helped the product into existence.

The risk that the normal consumer takes on, when choosing to support a crowdfunding campaign is certainly prevalent. For example, once the project is funded, and the money is transferred, Kickstarter takes no responsibility for anything that happens. The sites Terms of Use page, explains that they do not handle any disputes with backers and projects. You are on your own when backing a project. Nobody is looking out for your interest, and nobody oversees what your money is being used for. There are already lawsuits as a result of creators not keeping their word, and it is all on the shoulders of backers to seek legal action towards fraudulent Kickstarter accounts. The act of backing a project binds you into a legal agreement with the creator.

I can’t help but feel that this is taking advantage of the mass consumer. The creators of these projects take on no risk. The backers put money in, which helps pay for everything needed for the project, such as salaries and other expenses. Then when the product is done, backers receive the product (free), plus some other minor add-ins depending on the amount invested. Afterwards, when the product is sold to the mass public and makes massive profits, the company makes one-hundred percent of that return, because they don’t have to pay out to the people who adopted the risk to make it happen.

For example, the creator of Veronica Mars, Rob Thomas, recently used Kickstarter to fund a movie for the adored series. This is someone who works in the entertainment industry, and has connections. Yet he could not get anyone to help make this movie happen? Whether he could or not, the campaign made over $5 million, about $3 million over the estimated goal. After all is said and done, the movie was made using other people’s money, so all the profit gained in theatre tickets and Blu-ray sales led to 100 percent profit.

Crowdfunding is certainly not a cesspool of corruption and villainy, and some people really put the platform to great use. In fact, numerous different industries have benefited greatly from the crowdsourcing method. Smaller video game companies for example have been able to create games that no publisher would touch (looking at you Shovel Knight). I do not think that crowdfunding is a negative thing. In fact, the platform has allowed many games, movies and comics I love come to fruition. It is more that I struggle to agree with someone taking on all of the risk with their own funds, and someone getting all the rewards.

With the introduction of this new means of purchasing a product comes all this controversy and minutia. I have no doubt in my mind that the platform is here to stay and will continue to evolve as it grows. Though everyone who believes in the platform must be vocal on helping it grow. We should never see large companies using this platform as a way to make even more money off of the consumer. Crowdfunding sites have a place in the market as it stands, but we have to make sure it is never abused and it remains morally sound for the public at large.
The Animal Care Club started the semester off with a bang by inviting Nature Nick and his animal friends to the Student Center. The event was run and hosted by the club president, Alex Nuñez. The Care Club had existed at Bergen for a while but no one really knew what it was about. 

The Exotic Animal Show was the newly renamed club’s first opportunity to get more students’ attention. The Student Center began to fill up well before the 12:30 p.m. start time. Seats in the front of the Student Center were taken the moment they were placed, and soon after there was standing room only. Students that attended got a close-up look at animals normally only seen at zoos. The most
Bergen gets exotic!

Popular animals shown were: Lulu the kangaroo, Tarzan the adorable but jealous squirrel monkey, and Cheesecake the stunning albino Burmese python. With each animal, Nature Nick also presented a slew of interesting information including the fact that owls, despite their association with wisdom, are actually one of the lesser intelligent animals. Each of the animals were trained with positive reinforcement. Meaning they were never punished for doing the wrong thing, instead they are simply rewarded for doing the desired behavior. Nick demonstrated the system quite well when he brought out his squirrel monkey, Tarzan. Nick “hid” a marshmallow in his pocket so that Tarzan “couldn’t get to it” when he was released. Of course, Tarzan knew exactly where to go for his favorite treat and how to get a smile out of the audience members. The Torch was able to meet with Nature Nick after the event ended to ask him a few questions. He’d always loved animals as a child and researched how to obtain the licenses to care for them. When asked what he did with the baby animals once they became too big to participate in the show with him, Nick answered, “I usually pick animals that can still do the show fully grown, but the others go back to the zoo.”

For cases like Lulu, the baby kangaroo, the animals go back to the zoo they were born in. They get to live full lives and usually participate in the zoo’s breeding program. These breeding programs play a vital role in the conservation of many species. This event was a unique experience that will certainly be remembered in the minds of all who attended. During the interview with Alex, the club president, the Torch’s own Jessica Rodriguez, chimed in with something that caught my attention. She said she’d asked her friends from other schools in the area if they had ever had an event like this; logically the answer was no, “But Bergen said yes!” Bergen showed how open minded and committed it is; committed to giving students the best experience during their time here, and open minded enough to allow such an extraordinary event to occur. The club’s president did mention that this will not be the only event of the year for them, but for now he would prefer future plans to remain a mystery. Looks like we’ll just have to wait and see what great events are to come!

Clockwise from left: “Tarzan” the squirrel monkey, “Brutus” the alligator, the unnamed porcupine, “Lulu” the kangaroo, crowd of curious onlookers at the Student Center, the unnamed owl and “Cheesecake” the Albino Burmese Python. Jessica Rodriguez/The Torch

“Nature” Nick & his exotic animals came to the Student Center, and things got wild real quick.
You Can Play All of That?

Why is there a grown man singing “Let it Go” from Disney’s Frozen, in the Student Center? Well, because you asked him to. “Let it Go” was one of the many songs that musician Gary Johnson performed, along with songs like Stacy’s Mom, Thousand Miles, and even some Backstreet Boys to name a few. Johnson came to Bergen on September 10, 2014, and the performance began at 12:30 p.m.

Gary Johnson performs at different schools as a live looping artist. For those that don’t know what that means, essentially he is a one man band. He’ll sit down and play multiple different melodies and beats and then he’ll play them back simultaneously to create the song desired. All of this is done with multiple pedals and buttons to which he knows like the back of his hand. That is due to the fact that he’s been doing this for about 15 years. Johnson began looping when he was a little kid, back when the looping pedals were actually echo pedals.

Johnson’s performance is unique in the sense that he doesn’t go to a school with a set list knowing everything that’s going to happen. On the contrary, he has no idea what songs he’ll be playing. At the beginning of the show Johnson gave out his cell phone number and asked audience members to send him requests for songs. If he knew the song or could figure it out, then he’d play it. The audience really enjoyed this aspect and were floored when he picked their songs.

With this system, a connection was made between the audience and Johnson which is actually his favorite part. In an interview with Johnson after the show, he expressed how he enjoys entertaining people and how through these cellphone requests, he is able to really interact with the audience. After the show he sent a message to everyone who sent in a request thanking them for doing so and for being a great audience, something that the average musician does not do and is not really able to do. Thus, setting Johnson apart from the rest even further.

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We’ve all heard the stories. A faceless man with impossibly long arms and legs doggedly follows your every step, always in the shadows or in the corner of your eye. While he may look different depending on who is telling the story, in the end, he is the harbinger of your death. Your death does have a name though, and it is Slenderman.

After being birthed as an Internet meme on Somethingawful.com by user Eric Knudsen, Slender Man has captured the imagination of popular culture. From Halloween costumes to comic book convention cosplay, Slender Man can now be seen fully instead of out of the corner of your eye.

Slender: The Eight Pages was released in June of 2012 by developer Parsec Productions but still hasn’t lost its scare factor. Seeing that Halloween is coming up, why not give yourself a quick jump start on the scares with Slender.

Being in the first person perspective, your objective is to collect eight pages located in different areas of a forest while avoiding Slender Man. Your only weapon, if you can call it that, is a flashlight that will eventually die if left on for too long. While the player can jog, they will become tired and wheeze if they jog for too long. The player can also sprint, but sprinting will deplete the stamina meter permanently leaving you less energy to work with to get away from Slender Man and retrieve the pages.

Slender: The Eight Pages relies exclusively on jump scares. Sometimes when a player turns around there he will stand and a loud discordant piano slam will be heard, or just the paranoia of thinking that the next time you turn around Slender will be standing there, waiting for you.

The quote from the very first Slender Man picture that appeared under the photo described the abduction of a group of children said, “We don’t want to go, we didn’t want to kill them, but its persistent silence and outstretched arms horrified and comforted us at the same time... Can you stay out of Slender’s reach?"

#IRLBook: “IN REAL LIFE”

Everyone should be familiar with the MTV series “Catfish: The TV Show” hosted by Nev Schulman. For those who don’t know what a “catfish” is, a catfish is someone who makes fake social profiles to deceive people for personal and specific reasons. Recently, Nev Schulman published a book called “In Real Life.” In the beginning, Nev talks a little about his personal life. He also includes the types of catfish, their motivations, and why people fall for them; even how to identify a catfish. What’s scary is that you might be a victim yourself and you don’t even know it.

The book really teaches readers a lot about people, in general, because we are all catfish. Even though we might not be doing it online, in our daily life we are; we try to be something we aren’t. Nev also shares in his book the crazy amount of emails he received after the documentary. It’s like he became the official therapist for online dupe encounters. People would even stop him in the street to tell their story.

“In Real Life” sheds light on a very important issue people all over the world are tackling. We are more concerned about our online life than we are about our social life. We spend too much time posting, editing and liking photos on social networks. While they are called “social” networks, on the contrary they don’t keep us social. We prefer chatting online rather than actually interacting in person. Nev explains how to live and love online. Nev believes there are guidelines and rules to such relationships, and you can find that in the second part of his book.

So what else is there to expect from the book? A self-confidence boost, yes. Nev is determined to convince everyone that they are awesome. He says it loud and clear in “In Real Life”.

What’s enjoyable about “In Real Life” is how Nev uses his episode stories as examples to clear the picture. He’s not just saying it, he’s proving it. Nev having experienced the catfish situation makes the book more credible. So it’s not just some person giving random advice, Nev knows what he’s talking about.

“In Real Life” is a book worth reading. It exposes the digital age scams and tricks, helping you avoid “catfish”. It’s good to hear other people’s mistakes so you can evade them yourself. Plus, Nev has a great sense of humor, you’ll surely have fun reading “In Real Life.”
NYFW 2014: I Didn’t Know You Could Wear That?

DOMENICA PAZMINO

Layout Editor

All fashion lovers know that when the first week of September is here, their favorite week of the month has arrived, the famous Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week New York. New York Fashion Week is held every February and September of the year, usually lasting for 7 days, bringing the newest spring and summer 2015 fashion collections to their passionate buyers and the public. Designers showcase their newest and best upcoming designs for the new seasons, bringing the most unique and creative pieces to life, available for us, the public, to wear. NYFW is one of the five most fashionable weeks in the world, the others include those in Paris, Milan, Berlin, and London.

It all starts when you arrive to the Lincoln Center at the Mercedes-Benz Theater where designers such as Carolina Herrera, Vivienne Tam and many more present their new astonishing work. Once you start walking those stairs, you can feel the environment change into a complete new fashion world; people wearing absolutely the most unique creative, and classic clothes that you will only find in the fashion capital of the world, which is NYC. All around are photographers snapping pictures of you here and there, fashion bloggers posing for their photographers, and the public including famous celebrities, artists, and fashionistas from all over the world. You get indulged in this fashion world and do not worry about fitting in because here it is all about standing out.

Once inside, you are welcomed into the most amazing environment. People from all over the world are walking around, people are snapping pictures of you, offering you beverages, magazines, and food, fun activities including photo booths and glitter stickers surround you while you wait for your fashion show to start, making you feel extremely special. When the fashion show begins you walk into the runway where designers showcase their new collections by some of the most popular supermodels of the world including Alessandra Ambrosio, Miranda Kerr, Chanel Iman and more. I was lucky to be invited to the Art Institutes fashion show, in which young and new designers presented their new modern, unique designs leaving the public ecstatic. The show lasted for about 20 minutes, and when it was the closing time all designers walked the runway with their respective model and design for the public to admire, and applaud to their work.

You will see designs which you probably thought you would never be able to wear, at the same time you grab those ideas so you could add some of that to your own wardrobe, because fashion is all about adding your own, unique piece of style.

It was truly one of the best experiences, opening up your world to new ideas and networking with people in the fashion world is an opportunity of a lifetime. Seeing the talent of such amazing young designers which possess an enormous amount of talent, and sharing it with passionate people around you was wonderful. If you ever have the opportunity to attend NYFW, take it and enjoy every single moment of it, it will open new doors for you, and bring up millions of new fashion ideas, which you later on will be able to apply into your own wardrobe and style.

The Maze Runner: Another Typical Movie?

NOURA DAKKA

Staff Writer

From a young adult novel to the big screens in theaters, The Maze Runner has kept everybody waiting anxiously for its release. Although it was director Wes Ball’s first feature film, he made the right character choice to bring the book to life. Thomas, played by MTV’s Teen Wolf star Dylan O’Brien, wakes up to find himself in a community of boys after his memory has been erased. Soon, Thomas finds out the boys have been trapped in a maze with no known escape. With the help of his fellow “runners” Newt (Thomas Sangster), Minho (Ki-Hong Lee), Alby (Aml Ameen), and many more, Thomas delves into the treacherous depths of the maze in search of an escape.

With Hunger Games: Mockingjay part one coming out soon and Divergent being criticized as “archetypal”, where will The Maze Runner stand? Though the movie was pretty amusing and it was easy to connect with the characters, it didn’t bring much of expected action. The more suspense a movie creates, the more it capture it’s audience. The Maze Runner trailer had more suspense than the actual film. The movie was predictable, nothing really seemed to surprise, except the ending which was probably the most intriguing part of the film. It had the audience in complete awe, especially for those who didn’t read the book.

The story itself is fascinating. It’s a post-apocalyptic fiction with a plot twist. One you read one book, you have to read them all. But, of course, you can’t compare the book to its movie. Books always win, they have more detail, suspense, and a palpable sense. Books force us to use our complete imagination, adding a level of excitement a movie will never create.

There were barely fifteen people at AMC Theater in Garden State Plaza Mall when I went to watch The Maze Runner. During the film, the audience was laughing out loud to a couple of hilarious scenes, other than that it was complete silence. However, the sound effects were outstanding, and felt realistic. After the film ended, I asked a number of people what they thought about the movie and I got the same answers, “It was okay.” From a scale of 1 to 10, they rated it exactly a 7. Compared to The Hunger Games, people said they were looking forward to it more than The Scorch Trials (Maze Runner Series #2).

For future reference, AMC Theaters have a student discount on Thursdays. Bring your student ID and you will get about a 20% discount on your ticket.
I Know What You Are Thinking

Finished each others sentences, attempting to call someone and receive a call from them right as you dial their number, sensing something is wrong with someone without even talking to them, all of these are examples of telepathy. According to dictionary.com, telepathy is the "communication between minds by some means other than sensory perception." As believed by most, we all experience telepathy if we notice it or not.

While completely blindfolded and blocking out all sound, Dr. Michael Berg sat in a laboratory of the University of Strasbourg in France and thought as hard as possible. On March 28, 2014, for an hour long experience, Berg was attempting to communicate with Dr. Alejandro Riera from a city in India without using any of the human senses, all that was being used was the power of the mind.

According to dailymail.co.uk, the experience was very complex. It involved powerful computers, robots, and a skull-cap worn by Riera which measured the electrical currents in his brain. The process started when Riera, nearly 5,000 miles away from Berg, was imagining himself creating a series of horizontal or vertical movements. By repeating the patterns, he was able to execute two different movements which were sent from his cap to the computers. The machine was translating those patterns into the figure 1, or 0. The figures were used to create a code which slowly built up to the formation of letters.

The letters used in the experiment were H and C. In an attempt to communicate to Berg the words 'hold' and 'ciao', it took them a half hour of intense thinking to complete the words in patterns of 1 and 0.

When the words were formed, they were transported through the cap worn on Riera's head to the computer used and were then emailed to the laboratory in France. Dr. Berg and two other 'receivers' were completely blindfolded and connected to a machine. The machine took the messages from Riera and sent them to the part of the brain responsible for sight. The pulses created an experience within Berg and the other two 'receivers', they were able to see the numbers 1 and 0 which created a pattern, the pattern helped them identify the words 'hold' and 'ciao'. It took a half hour for Berg to process the pulses into the numbers which were then converted into the words.

Even though it took a very long time to transport only two words, it was proven to be possible. People believe that, in the future, this technique could be improved and used in our society. Some have been suggesting of this being used in court, or by police officers. Will anything stay private? Or will we never be able to keep our thoughts to ourselves anymore?

NOMI EUKENAAR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Bigger, The Better: iPhone 6 Makes Public Release

As if Apple wasn’t already ruling the technological age of today, the release of the iPhone 6 made its way to shelves on September 19th. You couldn’t find an Apple Store anywhere in the world that didn’t have a crowd of people waiting to get their hands on the new iPhone.

Apple unveiled the next generation of mobile phones only 10 days prior at a press event in Cupertino, California. The press event also marked Apple’s first step into the “smartwatch” world with an introduction to the Apple Watch. Early reports have already penned this release as the highest-selling Apple product yet. Pre-order sales for the new iPhones exceeded over 4 million in just 24 hours of availability.

The initial speaker at the September 9 event, CEO Tim Cook said, “They are without a doubt, the best iPhones we’ve ever done, and I hope you’ll agree, these are the best phones you have ever seen.”

A physical change to the iPhone 6 Plus is the signature top-right sleep button that everyone has grown accustomed to. It now resides on the right hand side of the phone in order to avoid using two hands on the large phone. As the phones get larger, the thinner they get, too. The iPhone 6 is 6.9 millimeters thin, but to make up its length in size, the iPhone 6 Plus is 7.1 millimeters wide. With more room to play around with, the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus have a 1080p display. Similar to the iPad’s dual-pane layout screen, both phones’ home screens will adjust to the phone being horizontal or vertical. Both iPhones will be preloaded with iOS 8, what seems to be an improvement over the predecessor software system, iOS 7.

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Features

Michelle Perez//The Torch

six months of hard work and an open call with 60 vegans. Animals are actually referred to by scholars as this to our college community, art professor and curator Dr. Suzaan Boettger says, “To share with the audience to share stories, jokes, and readings covering human-animal relations. While not everyone enjoys the open mic, which allowed those from the college community new perspectives about the position of animals in society, and how humans’ relations to them, are changing. More and more people are vegetarians, if not vegans. Animals are actually referred to by scholars interested in this subject as ‘nonhumans.’ After nearly six months of hard work and an open call with 60 messages such as “STOP” or “SLOW DOWN.” The elements of heating prevent the accumulation of snow and ice and keep the asphalt from cracking.

Dr. Odaet Cheung sits among folding solar panels at SolM solar in Concord, North Carolina. The company has been hit by the government shutdown and sequestration as it supplies solar panels to the military. Courtesy of MCTcampus.com

Google, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Disney. All are extremely successful companies that all started in someone’s garage. Now, another brilliant technological break-through has emerged, solar powered roadways.

Unless you’ve been living in a cave for several decades, you know that global warming is an increasingly huge problem. If you haven’t heard of solar powered roadways yet, prepare to be blown away by a potentially dramatic step forward for climate change efforts.

Scott Brusaw, an inventor and engineer from Idaho, and his wife Julie Brusaw debuted the concept of solar roadways in 2010. The Brusaw’s received $560,000 from the U.S. Federal Highway Administration to develop their company “Solar Roadways” and build a prototype parking lot. They’ve also received $2 million from crowd-funding and celebrity recognition.

The concept is this: each hexagonal panel contains solar cells to store energy, LED lights, and heating elements. The LED lights can spell out any message or create a visual display. The heating elements prevent the accumulation of snow and ice and keep the asphalt from cracking. Brusaw believes that if we covered asphalt and concrete surfaces with solar panels, we would generate over three times the amount of energy we use as a nation. We’d be using energy that is clean and renewable instead of coal. Also, the energy emitted from these panels can charge electric cars. Of course, with everything there is always skepticism that needs to be addressed. There is the question of durability. “The panels have passed load testing for vehicles weighing up to 125 tons without breakdown.”

The panels are certainly durable. They have also been tested for slipperiness. “Our textured surface has been traction tested and can pop a vehicle traveling 79.5 mph on a wet surface in the required amount of distance,” Brusaw adds. All of course, after hearing about all this, you’re likely, “What’s the catch?” The answer is simple: money. Of course it’s not going to be cheap. These panels are different from regular solar panels so it isn’t all speculation. It is important to weigh pros and cons for having solar roadways and to keep an open mind.

Solar Roadways: The Sun Paves the Way

INESS RABAH CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“My art gives voice to the billions of animals who live, suffer, and die in factory farms and laboratories,” wrote Michelle Walters under her paintings exhibited in West Hall’s art gallery. Walters is one of the many artists shown in the exhibit titled “Pets, Beasts & Dinner: Relations Between Human and Animal Creatures.”

When asked about the intent of bringing an exhibit such as this to our college community, art professor and curator Dr. Suzaan Boettger says, “To share with the college community new perspectives about the position of animals in society, and how humanities’ relations to them, are changing. More and more people are vegetarians, if not vegans. Animals are actually referred to by scholars interested in this subject as ‘nonhumans.’ After nearly six months of hard work and an open call with 60 responses, the opening reception was held on Tuesday, September 16th at 6 p.m., welcoming faculty members, staff, and students to explore the relationship between humanity and animals.

Sculptrist Barbara Fiore was in attendance and mentioned that she uses “humor and playfulness to make people contemplate their own point of view.” While not all enjoy heavily entrenched emotion in art, there are some lighthearted pieces as well as the alternative and interactive. At 6:30 p.m., faculty, staff and students enjoyed the open mic, which allowed those from the audience to share stories, jokes, and readings covering the topic of human-animal relations.

Dean Amparo Codding, Professor Brian Cordell and others spoke during the event while artists and observers mingled between artwork. Department Chair Adam Goodell read a piece of the epic “The Odyssey,” then said, “Animals take companionship really seriously, and people should too.” Gallery manager, Timothy Blank, was said by Boettger to have been “instrumental to the success of this show.” Others she thanked included the Public Relations Department, Visual Arts department secretary, Chad Gregg, Biermann, and Dean Codding.

Along with the sculpture, photographs, paintings, and speakers there was work from video artist Lindsey Garcia who has two separate videos on display exploring, “why people eat animals” and the idea that “some days you’re the hunter and some you are the hunted.” One video was an ode to the video vixen while the other explores the life of a working woman in cycle with the life of a chicken. With herself as the model for both pieces, she explained how she was “trying to understand why people eat animals.”

The overall atmosphere was added by music played by student Michael Svechin on the piano. The exhibit is open until October 31st and is free for all to view and enjoy. (Select artists’ work can be viewed on the following websites: HarrietSobieGoldstein.info, BarbaraFiore.com, lindseygarcia.com)

Michelle Perez//The Torch
CALL IT A COMEBACK

ERIK GAVILANES STAFF WRITER

When I ask Cory Nyberg how many vinyl albums he has, he says, “I have a half million records in storage.” Nyberg is a vendor at The Greater New Jersey Record & CD Extravaganza held at the Raritan Center in Edison, NJ on September 14, 2014, and today he has roughly ten thousand of those records up for sale. He is one of fifteen vendors at the convention where one can find CDs, memorabilia, books, magazines, DVDs of live concerts and much more from the last sixty years of popular music.

Well into an age when music is available at an instant, about a hundred patrons make their way from around the tri-state area to sift through boxes of old records. From running his own record store to helping organize the convention, Nyberg has seen a rise and fall in vinyl’s popularity over twenty five years in the business, which he says is seeing a rise once again, “It’s all about the packaging,” Nyberg says. “People have heard the same songs from their favorite artists already, but you have these guys that need to fill out their collection, to get that rare or limited pressing. I have regulars that have been coming back to see me for years.”

While a large majority of the patrons are collectors trying to find the music from their favorite artists, there are certainly some younger faces in the crowd. Steven Dios, 27, is a musician that appreciates the medium for its quality. “I’m a drummer, so when I listen to a song, I’m trying to pick out the individual components of it. It’s not as easy with the digital stuff.” Dio, who says he has roughly ten thousand records up for sale. While a large majority of the patrons are collectors trying to find the music from their favorite artists, there are certainly some younger faces in the crowd. Steven Dios, 27, is a musician that appreciates the medium for its quality. “I’m a drummer, so when I listen to a song, I’m trying to pick out the individual components of it. It’s not as easy with the digital stuff.”

W’s, F’s, and E’s...WTF?!

BLAIR DELONG NEWS EDITOR

Cleaning For A Reason was started by Debbie Sardone, owner of Buckets & Bows Maid service in Lewisville, TX. Sardone, said she had taken a phone call from a prospective client and after providing a price estimate for the house cleaning, the woman on the other end of the phone said, “I won’t be able to afford that now, I’m undergoing cancer treatment.” and hung up. Without a phone number to contact the woman again and make arrangements, Debbie decided no woman undergoing cancer treatment would ever be turned down by her business; they would receive free service.

In 2005, at a national cleaning industry convention, Debbie told her story to other maid service owners through her passion and conviction, she shared her idea that these women are undergoing the physical, emotional and financial burdens of cancer treatment and should be the ones that need professional housecleaning services the most.

Through this idea, what Debbie describes as “an onslaught” of cleaning business owners began expressing their interest in support. When Sardone returned to Texas after that convention, she registered Cleaning For A Reason as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, a not-for-profit website, since 2006. Cleaning For A Reason has helped women with cancer receive the gift of over $4.5 million dollars worth of free house cleaning from approximately 1,100 maid service partners.

Rena of Pleasant Hills, CA said, “I want to thank the wonderful, polite maids who came and cleaned for me. They did a wonderful, thorough job, and I am so grateful. This is the third time, and I have 90 years old and really needed help with cleansings. Whoever thought of this program, I want to thank them for this wonderful service.” There are many other testimonials at cleaningforareason.org to show the gratitude of women who are facing the most stressful and frightening part of their life.

Since October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, it’s a moment to remember how a little help you can lend a hand to someone that could use a little extra help. Be it around the house, or just a simple conversation could change a woman’s feelings of the day. I don’t know about you, but I was brought up on the idea of helping yourself by helping others. Let Cleaning For A Reason be a lesson, something small can help in a way you would never comprehend.

W’s, F’s, and E’s...WTF?!

HECTOR TORRES NEWS EDITOR

What could be worse than an F? Why do I have an F on my transcripts? What does the W stand for? Many of these questions are being asked, leaving fellow students at Bergen confused or unaware of the effects of these letters on their transcripts. The Torch had the opportunity to interview a few students at Bergen. Out of the ten students, only one knew what the letters stood for. Other students answered, “I’m guessing it’s for expelled or exempt?” or “I’ve been here for two semesters and have never heard of this.” So what are they? As we all know an F is obtained if the student is doing poorly and not working to potential. According to BCC grading policy, a D or lower is considered the failing grade. But that all depends on the professor. So let’s just say a student is not doing so great in a class and they’ve missed the opportunity of the add/drop period. A student is given a second chance to withdraw from the course. Withdrawing from a course will have no effect on your GPA, thus meaning that the failing grade is now gone. However, if the withdrawal process is not completed correctly, there are consequences. Here’s an example, if a student fails to notify his or her professor, and they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life.

But, there are ways to get all of this fixed. With an F, there is a possibility to retake a course. If a student manages to score high, an A or an A+ would be a. But, there are ways to get all of this fixed. With an F, there is a possibility to retake a course. If a student manages to score high, an A or an A+ would be a. But, there are ways to get all of this fixed. With an F, there is a possibility to retake a course. If a student manages to score high, an A or an A+ would be a. But, there are ways to get all of this fixed. With an F, there is a possibility to retake a course. If a student manages to score high, an A or an A+ would be a. But, there are ways to get all of this fixed. With an F, there is a possibility to retake a course. If a student manages to score high, an A or an A+ would be a.

If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life. If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life. If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life. If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life. If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life. If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life. If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life. If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life. If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life. If they failed to attend class, they will get what we like to call the horrible E. This is worse than receiving an F, reason being, that an E stays on a college transcripts for life.
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Friday Night Lights Out

Why is it such a big deal? Because it isn’t? Dan Diamond, Forbes writer, notes “NFL players nationally.” 

Players, compared to our estimated 21 percent all offenses...domestic violence accounts for 48 percent of arrests for violent crimes among NFL players, compared to our estimated 21 percent nationally.

Where does this culture of aggression and violence come from and how is the NFL handling it? Dan Diamond, Forbes writer, notes “NFL players suffer repeated blows to the head every Sunday. A star player ...will get tackled hundreds of times every year. And there is evidence to suggest that all those hits to the brain may increase the propensity to commit domestic violence.” Though it cannot all be biological. According to the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney, many batters learn violent behavior that becomes more severe over time.

A new six-game suspension was imposed for first time offenders, leaving more serious consequences for repeat offenders. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell addressed the public on Friday, September 19th, asking the NFL to follow the country’s policies on handling domestic abuse by February, saying, “I am not satisfied with the way we handled it... I made a mistake.” He continued to say how dissatisfied he was with the process and conclusion in dealing with Ray Rice.

Is the culture of the NFL one of secrecy and misogyny? Why do different people receive different punishments for the same crime? Unfortunately, it took a video camera for the NFL to admit fault and to set precedent that was well overdue. The argument between fans seems to be somewhere between, “It’s just because he’s a celebrity that they are punishing him.” What the story of Ray Rice, and his team treat each case of abuse will affect the millions of fans who sit in the stands every year.

For adults and the young men and women who love football to make fundamental change. However, can argue the fact that the way the NFL handles this situation can and will set precedent for other groups to do the same. The territory that Roger Goodell and his team treat each case of abuse will affect the many young boys and girls who look up to the NFL as models to follow.

Domestic abuse affects millions of people annually, and guilty tells not only on the batterers, but the bystander who fails to act as well. Nolan continued, “...topics like domestic violence and racism are so prevalent today, and it’s time for women to have a seat at the table to make a difference.”

How does the issue of domestic violence in sports affect the millions of fans who sit in the stands every year?

Mary McCarthy once said, “In violence, we forget who we are.” We have all heard the story or some remnant of it. On a single night in February, the then engaged, Ray Rice not only punched his bride-to-be in the face during an elevator ride in an Atlantic City casino, but he knocked her unconscious and dragged her limp body from the elevator. Simply put, it has been a brutal few weeks for former Baltimore Raven running back Ray Rice as well as several others involved in domestic violence disputes in their recent past.

Was it such a big deal? Because it isn’t? only one NFL player who has been caught in recent months beating on their significant other or ‘loved’ ones and then been allowed to continue playing. According to the USA Today database: Ray McDonald, Chris Cook, Tony McDaniel, Kevin Mays and Frostee Rucker have all been arrested for domestic violence or related charges since 2005. That is a whopping total of 12 football players in the last 9 years who are still playing in the NFL after being arrested for physical abuse against a partner. One in four women are victims of domestic abuse, and the majority do not report it.

Sports writer, Benjamin Morris, researched the statistics on domestic violence for NFL players and the national average and concluded “there are 83 domestic violence arrests, making it by far the NFL’s worst category — with a relative arrest rate of 55.4 percent...That 55.4 percent is more than four times worse than the league’s arrest rate for all offenses...domestic violence accounts for 48 percent of arrests for violent crimes among NFL players, compared to our estimated 21 percent nationally.”

Where does this culture of aggression and violence come from and how is the NFL handling it? Dan Diamond, Forbes writer, notes “NFL players suffer repeated blows to the head every Sunday. A star player ...will get tackled hundreds of times every year. And there is evidence to suggest that all those hits to the brain may increase the propensity to commit domestic violence.” Though it cannot all be biological. According to the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney, many batters learn violent behavior that becomes more severe over time.

A new six-game suspension was imposed for first time offenders, leaving more serious consequences for repeat offenders. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell addressed the public on Friday, September 19th, asking the NFL to follow the country’s policies on handling domestic abuse by February, saying, “I am not satisfied with the way we handled it... I made a mistake.” He continued to say how dissatisfied he was with the process and conclusion in dealing with Ray Rice.

Is the culture of the NFL one of secrecy and misogyny? Why do different people receive different punishments for the same crime? Unfortunately, it took a video camera for the NFL to admit fault and to set precedent that was well overdue. The argument between fans seems to be somewhere between, “It’s just because he’s a celebrity that they are punishing him.” What the story of Ray Rice, and his team treat each case of abuse will affect the millions of fans who sit in the stands every year.

For adults and the young men and women who love football to make fundamental change. However, can argue the fact that the way the NFL handles this situation can and will set precedent for other groups to do the same. The territory that Roger Goodell and his team treat each case of abuse will affect the many young boys and girls who look up to the NFL as models to follow.

Domestic abuse affects millions of people annually, and guilty tells not only on the batterers, but the bystander who fails to act as well. Nolan continued, “...topics like domestic violence and racism are so prevalent today, and it’s time for women to have a seat at the table to make a difference.”
O Captain, My Captain: A Retrospective of Derek Jeter

CLIFFORD BOAN

Number 2: Derek Jeter. Leader, legend, even hero are a few of the words that have become almost synonymous with the name. A New York Yankee his whole career; his 20 seasons in pinstripes is longest of any previous Bronx Bomber, just one over Mariano Rivera, and two over Yogi Berra and Mickey Mantle. For some Yankee fans (including many College students here at Bergen), next season will be the first in which they will see the ballclub Jeterless. Just as well, nobody will be wearing a number below 11, as Jeter’s #2 has been retired.

June 1, 1992, Derek Jeter was drafted 8th overall in the MLB amateur draft by the New York Yankees as an 18-year-old, straight out of high school. He had played in the minors for a few years before making his major league debut in 1995. He didn’t start to play regularly until the following season, in which he not only won the Rookie of the Year award, but played all the way into the playoffs and helped the franchise’s 23rd World Series Trophy that very season.

Jeter is one of the best contact hitters to play the game. Sitting just under 3500 hits all time, he has the 6th most of any player ever. He was a cornerstone to the Yankees offense, with his signature opposite-field hitting that helped him acquire 6 Silver Slugger awards - his most recent being in 2012. His last at-bat at Yankee Stadium was an opposite-field, walk-off single to cap off a very emotional game.

Jeter has also been an icon on the defense. His 23 game hitting streak in 2004 brought us moments such as the 2001 ALDS “Push off” and the 2012 ALCS “Foul Tip” that he hit his 3,000th hit. The veteran shortstop is a defensive player that has brought many a饭菜 to the table, and is not one to allow anyone to score in critical situations. He is a true leader on and off the field and is known to take the jabs when he needs to in order to refocus his efforts towards all aspects of his life. The busy schedule of a student athlete - look no further - Jonathan Maher is here to shed a little light.

6 a.m. : I wake up, shower and pack my uniform for the game. Once I’m packed and ready for class, I cook and eat breakfast. Usually on game day I have a few eggs, a protein shake and a few breakfast bars that I eat in the car on the way to Bergen.

7 a.m. : I leave for Bergen

8 a.m. : Classes start and as the day goes on it gets harder and harder to focus. To succeed in class you need to be awake and alert, but when your mind is trying to wander off and think about the game, the day goes by very slow.

9:30 a.m. : I have a short break between classes but it’s straight to the library to do work because I know I won’t be back home till around 9 tonight and I still have class work to do.

12:30 p.m. : My classes are done for the day and I have to run to the cafeteria to get a quick bite of food before I run off to the locker room because we leave for the game at 1.

1 p.m. : I get on the bus with my team and listen to my music on the way to the game. Trying to stay focused for so long is hard, but I know the more I concentrate on what I am going to have to do later the better I will play.

3 p.m. : Warm-ups start and its all business from here on out.

3:30 p.m. : Kick Off

5:30 p.m. : Game is done and we’re back on the bus going home. If we won, it’s a great bus ride with plenty of laughing and joking on the way to eat. If not, everyone’s quiet and just wants to get home quickly.

6 p.m. : Win or lose, we stop by a restaurant on the way home and get some food. If we won, its a good dinner but if not one is in the mood for talking.

8 p.m. : I get back to Bergen and head home for the night.

9:30 p.m. : I am back home, showered and ready for bed, but unfortunately I’ve been busy all day so I still have work around the house and work that I need to get done for my classes.

6 a.m. : Alarm goes off and I begin my next day for class.

As the gameday bleeds into the next, the central defender refocuses his efforts towards all aspects of his life. The busy schedule of a student athlete is not one for the faint of heart - but for Jonathan Maher - it fuels him even more to perform at an elite level.
Soccer Teams On a Roll

YAIDELISSE ROMAN
STAFF WRITER

Anti

No need for the recording on this one: Louis Isner’s words stuck like the ball to his hands as he crashes the boards. You see his frame and it’s easy to understand why he’s one of the players fighting for rebounds against the opposition. Every bit of 6’5, he has the body of a center at the JUCO level, but it may be surprising to some that he fancies himself a facilitator.

While surprising at first, after sitting with him for about 30 minutes, it’s easy to see why he enjoys setting his teammates up; he seems selfless in the way he speaks. Not at all arrogant, he is instead confident in the way he handles himself on the court. After a vicious block or beautiful bounce pass, he won’t get in your face because as he put it, “I’m not a big rah rah guy.” He acts like he’s been there before.

His favorite player is Jamal Crawford simply because, “I like the way he carries himself. He’s been in the league for over 10 years, will drop 40 or 50 on you and won’t say a word.” Isner doesn’t care for the spotlight, only the game which he has been playing since age twelve. What began as an escape from the perils of home life led him to JUCO basketball, contributing on a team he feels as an escape from the perils of home life led him to JUCO basketball, contributing on a team he feels

have been times where all of his outside problems have been in his head during games. This was intriguing in that most players are never this candid in regards to outside distraction. Isner felt no need for dishonesty, and opened up about how issues off the court began to affect him in game performance. While some turn bitter from hardships, Isner preferred to use words such as “tougher” and “stronger” to rationalize his situations and how they have made him a better individual both on and off the court. He gave himself a rating of 85 in NBA 2K when asked to do so, modest yet understandable when he goes into detail about how his stamina could use a bit of work. “The easy thing is saying it, the harder thing is really trying to stay in shape,” displays a man who realizes his work ethic is key. Hopefully that talent, work ethic and overall selflessness leads him to his goals of a four year college and a contract from a team overseas. While some turn bitter from hardships, Isner states, “We’re looking really good...we’re gonna be like men” insinuating that this team has a veteran feel to it, despite the fact that many of them are new to the JUCO scene.

As Isner rattled off the ages of various players: a 23 year old, a 22 year old and himself being 24, one can easily tell that this roster has years of experience on the court that he feels will translate into wins.

Isner remained intriguing throughout the half hour discussion, briefly explaining his battle with asthma, his struggles growing up in his youth and the fascinating yet honest proclamation that there