

"Truth, No Matter The Cost"

The Torch

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER
IGNITING STUDENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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Learning to be a Leader

LESHAY JONES
NEWS EDITOR

Forty-three students piled onto a Coach bus in April to attend Bergen Community College's annual Leadership Weekend in Parsippany.

This special weekend is organized by the Office of Student Life and has been going on for the past 20 years. According to Greg Fenkart, Coordinator of Student Development, the purpose of the weekend is to provide an intensive yet inspirational learning experience in which students are exposed to leadership information and ideas in ways that might not occur inside the classroom.

"Students have the opportunity to interact with faculty, staff, and outside presenters in a more direct and personal way than they would in another environment," Fenkart said.

This year, the focus was on unity and leading with compassion, and was centered around a Star Wars theme, courtesy of Fenkart who is a diehard fan of the franchise.

There were many insightful presentations from BCC staff and faculty and even one from Pace University.

One of the first presentations,



Leadership weekend attendees ready to start a weekend of growth. //Thea Oh

given by Ronald McKnight, the director of MultiCultural Affairs at BCC, was on networking and building impactful relationships. In his presentation, he spoke of the importance of networking and how it is essential for leaders to be able to network effectively.

"You will not get the best

fruit of your labor if you do not know how to network," McKnight said.

There was also a presentation on civic leadership given by John Reinhardt, Coordinator of Leadership Initiatives at Pace University. In this presentation, Reinhardt

explained the importance of following your civic duty and helping the community around you and getting involved. He explained that is one of the first steps in leadership.

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Tedx Returns to BCC

ADRIANNA CARABALLO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

TEDx has once again given Bergen Community College students a reason to file into the Anna Maria Ciccone theatre.

On March 7th, between the hours of 9:00 and 4:00, BCC hosted yet another successful TEDx event. There were 3 breaks for free snacks and lunch in between the event.

TEDx usually consists of various speakers giving short motivational speeches to their audience. Oftentimes, speakers will go deep into their personal lives to convey an important message to their audience.

The theme this time was all about change. How do we make change? How does change transform us and those around us? Can change create a better world?

These are some of the questions this TEDx event hoped to answer for those struggling with forgiveness. Forgiving is one of the hardest things a person can do for themselves; it's always easier to hate but that is hardly the answer.

The event started with Rebecca Scritchfield, an author, well-being coach and mother. Her main focus was having compassion and understanding for oneself and those around you. She addressed the issue of body image and hating oneself, something especially difficult to handle as a college student.

The event ended with Nick Maccarone, an actor who has appeared on multiple popular shows like Law and Order SVU and Scandal. His talk was formed around 6 principles that can help those getting into the

entertainment industry.

In the middle were other inspiring and personal speeches delivered by the various TEDx speakers. Subjects ranged from sexual abuse to family issues to becoming successful.

Many people outside of Bergen Community College have jumped online to watch these Ted talks.

"We just found out that our videos have surpassed 6 million views, which is unprecedented for a two year college," said Ellen Rosner Feig, professor, founder and coordinator of TEDx Bergen Community College.

It is no doubt that TEDx has been a success at BCC, but how did it all start?

"TED offers licenses for "X" events which are like franchises for the larger TED organization. I applied for the TEDx license for BCC five years ago and received it which made us the first community college in the country to have a TEDx event," said Feig.

Ever since then BCC has been putting on yearly TEDx shows that have benefited students in more ways than one.

"The student volunteers really get to experience the process of doing a TEDx event, learn to work as a team, get to meet the speakers and interact with them and meet other students that they would not necessarily meet," Feig said.

Valuable lessons can be obtained both from listening to the guest speakers on stage and the hands-on experience of volunteer work.

"One of my greatest joys is watching a group of students who didn't know one another before that morning become friends," said Feig.

Creating a TEDx event is a yearlong process that takes a great amount of time and effort from both student volunteers and faculty.

"As there is no pay involved, this effort is really one of love, a love of the experience and a love of helping students expand their world. This event is an important one for the college as it puts us on the map worldwide," said Feig.



TEDx presenters lecture students. //Courtesy of Larry Hlavenka

Over 45 Bomb Threats and Incidents of Vandalism Since New Years pg. 4

no longer. It was obvious that the most glaring offender at Salem Memorial was now a potential enemy. Here, at least, he sure that the call for reform had fallen on barren ground.

On the anniversary of Anna Van Ryn's convalescence, she was transferred to a steel chair on Mike's orders. That same afternoon she found her seated in a patch of sunlight that fell through the window. She had been a sadly docile patient ever since and had not even more than her refusal to speak in mind. From that there was no mistaking her meaning. A quick lift of the head when he entered, a look of anger, a slight change in her choice of language, the liberated captive still held tight now. But conscious of the loss of Anna's freedom. "Something about your manner tells me I'm not alone," she said. "Can we postpone until I'm stronger?" "In my opinion you're strong enough now to bear the truth." In a bit word, Dr. Constance are you to be custodian? "Truth number one is obvious. You've declared your whiteness."

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NEWS

The Torch

BCC Holds Annual Art Exhibition

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA

STAFF WRITER

Bergen Community College held one of its annual art exhibitions, displaying various kinds of artwork from eleven professional artists from New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

This exhibition displays various kinds of artworks from paintings and film pieces, to handmade sculptures.

The goal of the exhibit was to provide students with a better understanding of art and the messages it brings. The artists, many of them local to the area, were more than pleased to have their work displayed to the student body.

"I really enjoy the company of the other artists that are here. I think it says something about at least a current movement in art that employs color, shape and form as vibrantly as the title says. [There's a lot of] activity and energy in the work, so I'm really glad to be a part of it," commented James Pustorino, an artist whose work is displayed at the exhibit.

The exhibit lasted from February 15 to



Professional art was displayed for everyone to view and buyers to buy. // bergen.edu

March 31 and was curated by Professor Claire McConaughy, whose teachings involve visual and fine art, along with graphic design.

McConaughy helped curate the event, which took seven months to organize and visited many art galleries in trying to pick out what pieces of artwork would be the best fit for the exhibit.

"Since I curated the exhibition [and] since I chose all of the artworks that would come together here, I had an idea that I wanted to fill the gallery with vitality," Professor McConaughy said.

Testifying to the variety present in art, the exhibition presented many events such as discussions of Gregg Biermann's video called the "Abstraction Galactica and Abstraction in Film" on March 22. They also held lunchtime movies and documentaries about the abstract artists, which included Gerhard Richter, Joan Mitchell, Agnes Martin and others.

LESHAY JONES
NEWS EDITOR

When closing his presentation, Reinhardt said, "Leadership is a process, not a position."

Bergen's very own Joli Nelson, Department Secretary of Student Life, led a discussion on leading with compassion. She had some students participate in an improvisational skit on the differences between an authoritative leader and a compassionate leader.

Philosophy and Religion Professor Peter Dlugos gave an interactive presentation on cultivating compassion through mindful presence and led the group through a guided meditation.

Ian Wolfe, Coordinator of Student Conduct & Information, gave a presentation on individual leadership and offered students a leadership quiz called, "True Colors." Students were able to find out more about who they are and how they behave as leaders.

One of the last presentations was given by Mecheline Farhat, a Criminal

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Justice professor at Bergen. Farhat, being another diehard Star Wars fan, gave students a Star Wars Leadership Style test to help students find out even more about the kind of leader that they are.

Afterwards, the student facilitators -- who were there to help the advisors get students talking and make sure they felt it was a safe space -- gave a presentation on how each of them are becoming leaders.

Surely, the Leadership weekend was a very insightful and inspiring experience for students and staff who have attended, and there was a lot that was to be taken away.

"The main takeaway I would like for students to have from the weekend is that they not only have the ability to create change and improve the world, but the responsibility to do so," Fenkart said.



Leadership weekend attendees ready to start a weekend of growth.//Thea Oh

Student Group Feeds Hungry Kids

IAN HARTMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Phi Theta Kappa, the honors society at Bergen, held a snack pack event on Friday Mar. 17.

The snack pack program was born after a teacher noticed that her students were coming into school suffering from lightheadedness and other symptoms of hunger. Without the free food provided by the school lunch program, millions of children face a “weekend of deprivation” which the snack pack program aims to eliminate.

The program provides poor children with healthy snacks that can keep them going over the weekend, despite the lack of a regular lunch. The BCC students gathered to help in the last step of the program, filling plastic bags with a variety of healthy snacks.

These bags were distributed to hungry children across the county by The Center for Food Action, a local food bank. The event, Phi Theta Kappa’s first collaboration with The CFA,

was funded by money raised during the club’s Valentine’s day bake sale.

Childhood hunger is a major issue in New Jersey, with one in seven families across the state struggling to put food on the table. In 2014, 375,000 children suffered from food insecurity in our state.

According to Agatha Rodolfa, a spokesperson for PTK, the group filled 90 snack packs that will provide nutritious food for students at schools including Grieco Elementary in Englewood and Washington Memorial Elementary in Little Ferry.

Rodolfa noted that hunger has a negative impact on students cognitive abilities, making it harder to learn.

By providing students with healthy snacks, the club hopes they can make a big difference in the lives of children at the bottom of America’s economic system.



PTK gathering food for hungry kids...// Thea Oh

Phi Theta Kappa Welcomes Spring Inductees

THEA OH
COPY EDITOR

A rush of pride and anticipation filled the air as hundreds of students, guests, and this season’s newest Phi Theta Kappa members packed into Bergen’s resounding gymnasium.

As the induction ceremony commenced, almost 300 inductees took their place within an ever-growing community of peers.

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honors organization that recognizes the achievements of students in two-year colleges. At any point in time, Bergen boasts approximately 1,000 members, who in turn represent Alpha Epsilon Phi, one of the top 30 most active chapters of PTK in the world. Amidst a student body 15,000 strong, these new inductees represent the top 5% of Bergen students.

Alumnus speaker and former PTK President David Kawash addressed the crowd with words of encouragement and advice. “Get involved right away,” he stressed, and “network, network, network!”

Meanwhile the keynote address, given by Dean of Health Professions Susan Callahan Barnard, celebrated the diversity and grit that lies within every inductee. Imbuing her address was the idea that excellence is wrought from “lessons learned”, risks taken, and plenty of hard work.

For these inductees, the challenge begins here, as being a part of PTK is no easy feat. In order to qualify for membership and moreover, to keep their status as members, students must maintain a GPA of 3.4 or higher at all times or face probation.

For those working full-time or part-time, or with children and dependants at home, this only adds to the heat.

At the same time, these new inductees will be met with open doors like never before. As part of PTK, members will learn to foster the four hallmarks of excellence: scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service.

Describing his experience within PTK since his induction last year, residing member Alex Czechowicz, notes, “Immediately, you notice you have a lot more opportunities to get social capital.” In ways big and small, he explains, there

are networking advantages that come with getting involved in an organization like PTK. “Even just walking around campus, you say ‘hi’ to people more.”

Being part of an organization that puts positive social change and student activism at the forefront of its vision comes with rewards. Members are encouraged to get involved in outreach programs, community service, and campus events, and are challenged to pursue leadership

opportunities within BCC. This semester, BCC has witnessed PTK in action during their recent blood and bone marrow registry drive, Bergen Salon session, TEDx and snack pack events, and many more programs.

Incoming members can expect a proactive community of high-reaching peers to guide them along their path through Bergen. Roida Cenomeri, a freshman international student and incoming PTK inductee, said that, although making

the cut was “double the work because [of] the language barrier—it was my first time speaking English 24/7,” she knows the her efforts will pay off in the form of leadership, community service and social opportunities.

Of the induction ceremony, she exclaimed, “I was so excited I was shaking this morning.”

Congratulations to all of Bergen’s Spring Phi Theta Kappa inductees.



Immigration Lawyer Advises BCC Students

FERNANDO VAZQUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Immigration and Nationality Lawyer David H. Nachman from Visaserve Law Group hosted an important forum for the BCCs International F1 students and the people in common.

The presentation was organized by the International Students Center's office and its staff. Nachman gave a thoughtful insight on immigration laws such as the controversial IRIRA immigration law, the confusing executive orders of President Donald Trump's travel restrictions, how to apply for a provisional waiver and whether or not it's appropriate to travel abroad.

Nachman spoke of the constant calls he has been receiving from employees of major multi-national companies worried about their status and whether they have to apply for a provisional waiver.

Nachman stated "It's been one of the most confusing years. The United States used to be an immigrant country, but now under Trump's administration, the platform was anti-immigrant."

One of Trump's controversial executive orders was the travel ban, which prohibited people from seven muslim-majority countries from entering the United States. The ban caused an uproar from the people in the U.S. and concerns from people overseas. Federal courts blocked the ban.

"For now, there's no travel ban, but tomorrow, we will never know if there will be another controversial restraining order," Nachman said.



Symbolic representation of the many lawyers willing to help. //Wikimedia Commons

Indeed, the Trump administration rolled out another travel ban in early March, which was also blocked by federal judges.

In light of the confusion surrounding non-citizens travel status; Nachman suggests that "if you done a misdemeanor, a DUI or a serious minor offense, find an immigration lawyer, whether or not to travel abroad."

According to serious reports, permanent U.S. residents are getting detained and unfortunately getting extradited to their country of origin from an offense that was on the person's record.

"If getting detained, do not sign anything and insist to see your own immigration lawyer," Nachman said.

While the country is witnessing

the most difficult and chilling times, Nachman gave wonderful advice.

"We're in a period of time where enforcement is going to get established, and scrutiny is going to step up, where telling people to be careful and make sure you're doing very well and obeying the laws and make sure to find good guidance and information," Nachman concluded.

Over 45 Bomb Threats and Incidents of Vandalism Since New Years

IAN HARTMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A wave of Anti-Semitic, racist and Islamophobic incidents have left communities across North America reeling. Ranging from bomb threats against Mosques and Jewish Community Centers. The distribution of racist and far-right propaganda on college campuses, such incidents are part of a general spike in far-right attitudes and white supremacist mobilization and militancy.

Allison Tate from Today.com reports that 54 Jewish Community Centers, most of which provide preschools for children as young as 3 years old, have been shut down due to bomb threats. New Jersey alone has seen 21 such threats as of Feb 28., according to a report by S.P Sullivan published on NJ.com. In addition, the Council on Islamic-American Relations has documented 23 incidents targeting Mosques, including bomb threats in Ohio and Cincinnati, according to Jack Jenkins at Thinkprogress.org.

In addition to threats, several incidents of vandalism have been documented. Vandals kicked over headstones at Jewish cemeteries in at least three cities. Several Mosques have also faced serious vandalism, including an arson attack on a Mosque in Tampa, Florida.

While the fire was contained by the prompt action of emergency personnel, the attack was the second incident of arson against a Mosque in Florida. The September 2016 firebombing of The Islamic Center of Fort Pierce in Orlando was investigated as a hate crime by the local sheriff's office in conjunction with the FBI, according to Al Jazeera America.

Alongside anonymous threats and lone wolf vandalism, far-right and racist organizations have stepped up public recruitment and propaganda activities. The New York Times reports that far right groups have engaged in



Vandalism shows the racist actions taking place. // Flickr

recruitment and propaganda activities at over 100 universities since the start of the semester in September.

Hackers at Vanderbilt University made several school printers churn out anti-semitic flyers, according to The Tennessean. Activists affiliated with the racist Identity Europa Organization put up "alt right" and Neo-Nazi flyers at several universities in Atlanta,

Georgia according to Atlanta Antifa, an organization that monitors hate groups.

These recruitment activities represent a concerted effort by organized hate groups to build on the momentum of the Trump campaign. Emboldened by what they understand as an endorsement by a majority of voters for an explicitly racist and nationalistic political platform, these groups are

looking to move off of online forums and into the physical world.

By using vandalism and threats against those they see standing in the way of their vision of an all white, male dominated America, these hate groups are attempting to create a climate of fear in which they can enact their program with minimal resistance.

The Muslim Ban 2.0

DAVID PEREZ
STAFF WRITER

The first Muslim ban was undeniably unsuccessful and was also shut down by the courts within a week or so of its application.

A few days after the ban was implemented, two members of Muhammad Ali's family were stopped at an airport in Florida when returning from a celebration of Black History month in Jamaica. These two family members were Muhammad Ali Jr. and his mother, Khalilah Camacho-Ali.

Khalilah was the boxer's second wife and is the mother of his four oldest children. When the two arrived at the airport in Florida on February 7 they were detained for over two hours for questioning when they were headed to the baggage claim area of the airport.

According to an interview with Democracy Now!, With Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez the two recount their encounter with immigration.

They were asked a series of questions ranging from: "What's your name?" "Where did you get it from?" "What religion are you?"

Muhammad Ali Jr. responded accordingly telling them that he got his name from his parents and that he was Muslim. After this, they took him to a room and then proceeded to ask him the same questions even though he is an American citizen.

Since he was with his mother they were separated and then told that they would see each other on the other side.

While in the other room Khalilah asked why this was happening and if her papers were in order, the response she received was, "we just want to ask you a few questions that's all."

When asked if this has ever happened in the past, Muhammad said that this was the first time this has ever happened to him.

He explained how he went to Manchester, England a year ago and had no problems whatsoever. His mother then added that she had come from Paris, France two weeks prior to the event at the airport, she was alone



Child holds a sign in protest toward the ban. //Flickr

and no one had bothered her at all.

Chris Mancini, their Immigration Attorney and a United States Prosecutor of nearly 10 years, said, "This is the type of thing customs, border patrol does when they want to develop a profile."

With this in mind, a new Muslim ban is being rolled out; this time the signing of the executive order was much quieter than its predecessor.

One of those differences between the new and old ban is that it has six majority-Muslim countries instead of seven, Iran now excluded.

There also have been changes to those who can and cannot enter the country. The exemptions for religious minorities was also removed, meaning

that the order doesn't have a religious test for Muslims due to the fact that is unconstitutional.

This ban still applies to non-visa holders but does not apply to multi-entry visa and valid visa holders.

Some of the things that have come over from the last ban are the refugee resettlement program being banned for 120 days and the travel ban for citizens of some countries are in effect for 90 days. Overall, this new Muslim ban is a watered-down version of the original.

There are other challenges to the new ban and this comes from Hawaii and Washington; Washington has 12 states in support of their challenge. Hawaii's Attorney General claimed in a legal document known as a "legal

filings" that the new Muslim ban would harm Hawaii's educational institutions, private business and discriminate against families with relatives overseas.

In an interview he stated that this was the same policy "dressed up differently" according to an article by The New York Times.

He went on to say that the ban brings back memories of anti-Asian-American discrimination. These would include the Chinese Exclusion Act and the Internment of Japanese Americans during WW2.

However, it is unknown if this challenge to the President's revised executive order can halt it.

The New Front...In Syria?

DAVID PEREZ
STAFF WRITER

Northern Syria could be seeing more of the American Flag soon if the early plans that the U.S. military has drawn up get approved.

This approval would come from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and President Trump and the details of the plan would come from Gen. Joseph Votel, the head of U.S. Central Command, according to The Washington Post. This could potentially double the amount of troops in Syria overall if this were approved.

According to the article "U.S. Army Rangers have been sent to the city of Manbij, west of Raqqa to deter Russian, Turkish and Syrian opposition forces all operating in the area," this could potentially lead to more confrontations with other militaries that are operating in the region.

In addition to this, a Marine artillery battery has come under fire according to a defense

official with direct knowledge of their operations in the area. The Marine Artillery battery was deployed with the goal in mind of supporting the siege of Raqqa, ISIS's capital, when it happens.

There are 500 special operation forces along with the Syrian Democratic Forces and an additional 250 Rangers and 200 Marines.

New troops would have to come from somewhere, and this would come from "a flotilla of ships loaded with 2,200 Marines that is now steaming toward the region — and the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, from which 2,500 troops are headed to



Soldiers march in a group. // Wikimedia Commons

Kuwait" The Washington Post's article said.

This is more of a hands on approach to the situation in Syria. There would

also be a plan B so to speak in this matter. This plan B would be potentially pushing US forces into direct fire and into combat. These forces could also

be supplied by United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The Torch

THE TORCH, a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the College Media Association, is the official student newspaper of Bergen Community College. The purpose of THE TORCH is to report on the events at BCC and the local community, and to offer the BCC community a forum for expression. The opinions expressed in THE TORCH are not necessarily those of THE TORCH. All the materials submitted to THE TORCH become property of THE TORCH.

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

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PIECES

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

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The Un-United States

ADRIANNA CARABALLO
Editor In Chief

From the minute Donald Trump was elected president of the United States, the country split into two. This is not even about Democrats and Republicans, nor liberals and conservatives. This is about Trump supporters and non-Trump supporters.

Things are not getting any better since nothing is being done to unite the people. Trump has not made any efforts to soothe the concerns of those that may not agree with his ideals.

"Trump does what he wants and if you don't like it, then too bad"—that's the attitude that is being displayed on a daily basis. Trump is losing his supporters and he's not gaining any new ones, yet the supporters lost aren't running to the other side.

What is occurring is reminiscent of a sports game: neither side wants to abandon the team they've devoted their

time rooting for. More than anything, no one wants to feel like they made the wrong decision, so they defend their choice to the death.

However, it would be unfair to dump all of the issues the United States is facing onto Trump. He contributes greatly to it, but he certainly didn't start it. The people of the U.S. have freedom of speech and opinions always clash.

We are vulnerable right now because we are divided. The only thing powerful enough to demolish the United States is itself, and we've already taken dangerous steps in that direction.

I urge you to stop talking and listen to the opposition even if you disagree with everything they are saying. Understanding the other person will drastically reduce conflict and create a new sense of unity. Only then can we put down our protest signs and red baseball caps and move forward, together as one nation.



Protesters hold up signs. //unsplash.com

NJPF Wins

Torch Editor-in-Chief Adrianna Caraballo won first-place awards in News Writing and Enterprise/Investigative Reporting, and former Co-Editors-in-Chief George Guerra and Iness Rabah placed first in Editorial Writing.

The Torch won second-place awards in Feature Writing, Biography/Personality Profile, Arts & Entertainment/Critical Writing, Enterprise/Investigative Reporting, Photography, and Layout & Design. Third place awards were for General Excellence and Biography/Personality Profile.



Some of the winners. From left to right: Rebecca Karpinski, Adam Grassani, Genesis Fuentes, Alyssa Blundo, and Torch advisor Prof. Lew Wheaton // Rebecca Karpinski

SGA Letter



SGA President David DeLizio// Jonathan Orozco

Dear Student Body,

I hope that everyone has had a great academic year so far. In this month's letter, I'd like to give everyone some advice, tips and locations of services that you can all use to your own benefit. I also seek to ensure that you all learn from my mistakes and the mistakes of others rather than repeating them yourselves.

The first and most important thing is registration. Registration for Fall classes begins April 1st online and April 10th in person at the Academic Advising Center in

Room A-118 while the classes themselves begin in September. One of the mistakes that I made coming in to Bergen my first semester was, I waited until the end of August to come in and register for classes. As many of you probably know, from doing exactly what I did before, there are 3 hour waiting lines to register in the few days before classes begin. Then you have to go to the Bursar and/or Financial aid office and wait another 2 hours on lines. The whole process is a headache that many of us here have gone through before.

Here is my advice to you. Register for classes early. Start your registration process in April or May. The second time around when I registered, I went during May and finished the entire process in about 30 minutes. This is because there is almost nobody in the school during the summer months and therefore, there are no lines to wait on. Work smarter, not harder!

Next, for those of you who might be confused about what you want to do with your lives, Bergen offers free personality tests at the Advising Center in Room A-118. All you need to do is go there and ask to take it!

Another tip that I'd like

to share with you all, that I learned from experience, is how to be more efficient with your day. At Bergen, there are campus wide 75 minute time slots for classes with 15 minute breaks in between. For example, the first class runs from 8:00am-9:15am, the second from 9:30am - 10:45am, the third 11:00am-12:15pm, so on and so forth. What ends up happening is, everyone who leaves Bergen after their classes are over for the day does so at the same exact times, right after their classes are over. For those of you who have sat in the daily traffic jam leaving the parking lot, and then venture through the nightmare known as Paramus Road, I offer a strategy that I use to be more efficient.

Rather than waiting in traffic wasting time for 15 minutes trying to escape the parking lot, use those 15 minutes after class to go to the library and touch up on some of the things you aren't sure about in your classes. By the time you're done, the traffic will be gone, everyone will be in their classes already and you can freely leave with no problems. The beauty of it all is that you'll end up getting home around the same time

anyway because all you would be doing otherwise is sitting in traffic getting annoyed. I tested this out myself and I got home only 4 minutes later than I normally would. 15 minutes of studying for a 4 minute tradeoff is a great deal.

I sincerely hope that these tips will help you in your journey here at Bergen. With that being said, if you have any tips, tricks or strategies that you've come up with, e-mail me at SGAPresident@my.bergen.edu that way I can share them with the rest of the student body.

Have a great rest of the day and good luck with your educational journey!

Sincerely,
President David DeLizio

NJPF
NEW JERSEY
PRESS FOUNDATION

First Place Awards: Editorial Writing, News Writing, Enterprise/Investigative Reporting 2016-2017
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GOOD MOVE.

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DREW

Contemporary Color Makes It To The Stage And The Big Screen!



REBECCA KARPINSKI
Photo Editor

Color guard is "the best kept secret on earth" claims *Contemporary Color* founder David Byrne. Singer/songwriter Byrne created this event, co-commissioned by the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Toronto's Luminato Festival, and with support from Winter Guard International Sport of the Arts (WGI).

Contemporary Color was a performance event and now a major motion picture inspired by the artistic stylings of color guard, also known and dubbed as "the sport of the arts."

Consisting of ten 20 to 40 members, color guards from both the United States and Canada, *Contemporary Color*, alongside an extraordinary arrangement of musical talent all performing together live, was held during the summer of 2015 at Brooklyn's Barclays Center and Toronto's Air Canada Centre and was released in theaters on March 1, 2017.

The ensembles that performed in *Contemporary Color* hailed from as close as New Jersey's own Somerville, to as far away as Kitchener-Waterloo in Canada. The event featured performances by Emanon with Tune-Yards, Alter Ego with Nico Muhly and Ira Glass, Mechanicsburg Area High School with How To Dress Well, Field of View with St. Vin-

cent, Les Eclipses with David Byrne, The Brigadiers Zola Jesus, Shenendehowa High School with Lucius, Black Watch with Devonte Hynes, Ventures with Nelly Furtado and Somerville High School with Money Mark and Ad-Rock.

The concept to start *Contemporary Color* was started by a high school simply asking Byrne for permission to use his music for their winter guard program.

Byrne gave them permission and didn't charge them for the music because he

saw that they were just a high school organization.

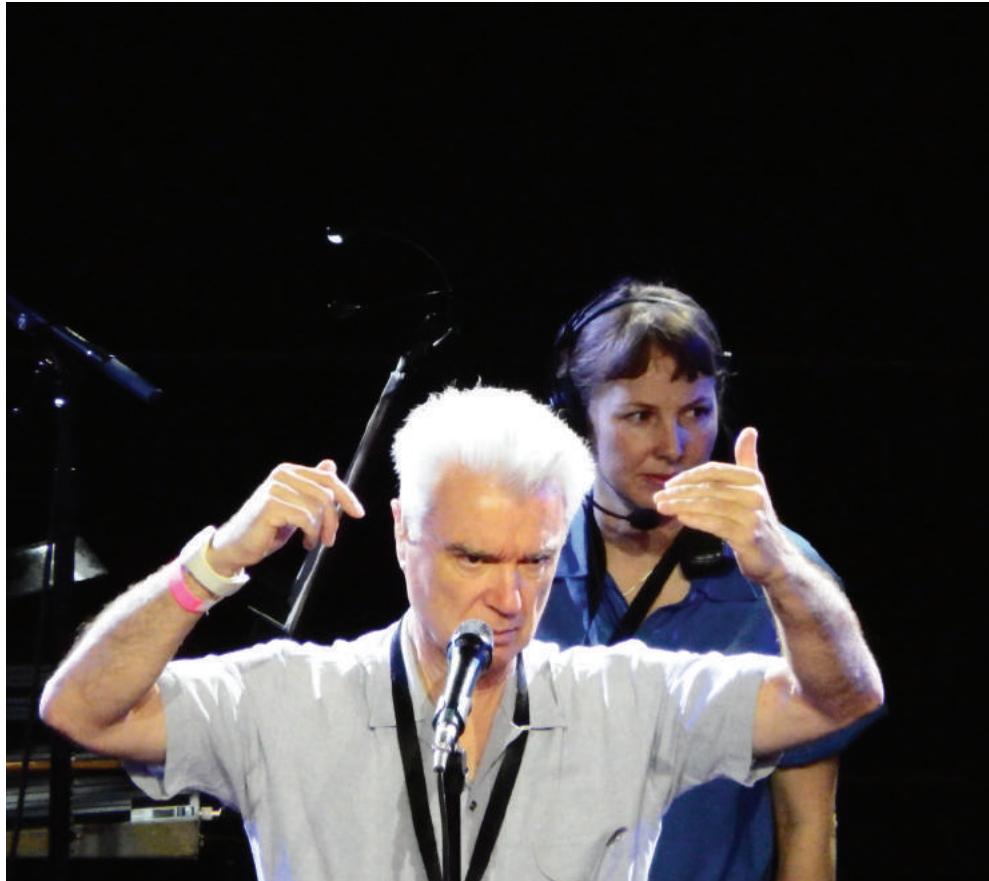
He asked only for a favor: that they show him a video of their

championship performance.

Months passed and Byrne completely forgot about this color guard until he received in the mail their video of their world championship performance held in Dayton, Ohio. Upon viewing the performance, Byrne was blown away by the spectacle he saw these young performers creating with flags, rifles and sabres, and wanted to get involved.

"I started watching it and my jaw dropped," Byrne said when describing watching color guard for the first time. "My first thought was 'what the hell is going on out there! Look at this!' This is amazing creativity out there and really very interesting and we don't know anything about this. Then I thought; 'what if

I loved the film and loved the way they edited and cropped different clips to make everything more appealing to an audience who wouldn't fully understand color guard," said Alter Ego World cast



I put this [color guard] together with live music?"

And thus the idea to create a documentary about color guard was created and led to the start of *Contemporary Color*.

"I had no idea what it [*Contemporary Color*] was at first," said Black Watch World cast member Todd Watson, "but once I found out, I thought it was an amazing idea."

Normally, indoor color guard performances are supplied with previously recorded background tracks.

"Performing to live music is nothing new for most WGI level performers, thanks to marching band or drum corps," said Emanon World cast member Paige MacKay. "However, adjusting the count structure of the show to fit our new piece of music, ensuring that we were all able to adjust our choreography to different tempos in case the artist wasn't metronomic in her beat... that was the sort of thing we had to work on."

Contemporary Color first premiered on the big screen at the 2016 Tribeca film festival in New York City from April 13 through April 24, 2016 but many of the performers got to view the finished product for the very first time the day before the film was released.

"I loved the film and loved the way they edited and cropped different clips to make everything more appealing to an audience who wouldn't fully understand color guard," said Alter Ego World cast

member Dustin Juers. "They introduced color guard to the viewers very well, and still made the sport and activity heartfelt and intriguing."

The color guards who participated in *Contemporary Color* were contacted by WGI first.

"I believe WGI was part of the initial selection process for *Contemporary Color*," said The Brigadiers director Christian Delmotte. "We were asked and upon our excited YES we started receiving information from the producers. There was quite a bit of logistics and scheduling on their part to get 10 teams and 10 artists moving. We had a different experience because our artist backed out in the middle."

When asked about the sudden change in the artist's decision to do *Contemporary Color* first premiered on the big screen at the 2016 Tribeca film festival in New York City from April 13 through April 24, 2016 but many of the performers got to view the finished product for the very first time the day before the film was released.

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member Dustin Juers. "They introduced color guard to the viewers very well, and still made the sport and activity heartfelt and intriguing."

"If there was a second *Contemporary Color*, I wouldn't even question doing it again." Said Juers about the subject. "Like, I would have to say yes! I would march another winter season if it meant doing *Contemporary Color* again."

Contemporary Color is currently showing in select theaters all across the United States and Canada and you can also pre-order the film on their website at www.contemporarycolor.com.



"If there was a second *Contemporary Color*, I wouldn't even question doing it again."

-Dustin Juers
Alter Ego World cast member

A series of mesmerizing spectacles brought to life in *Contemporary Color*. //Courtesy of the members of Alter Ego, Black Watch, and the Brigadiers





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Selena Quintanilla Remembered 22 Years Later pg. 13

OPINIONS

The Torch

Be Proud Of Who You Are

ADRIANNA CARABALLO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"You're Donald Trump" were the words that were shouted at my father while walking down the street in New York city recently. Why so? He looks nothing like Donald Trump, other than the fact that he is white. My father was a victim of reverse racism.

I also know the feeling all too well. When I was eight-years-old I went to a mostly hispanic school in Queens, New York, PS19, also known as Dutch-Kills.

While there, I was ostracized by both teachers and students. One teacher in particular would not give me cookies if I didn't complete my homework or answer a question correctly. My parents confronted her on the matter and her response to them was, that she was hard on me because she expected more out of me since I was white too.

These "labels" on children are unfair and need to be stopped. No child is better than another because of their skin color. And then, there is bullying, ridicule and name calling. Why are children subjected to that?

Discrimination
Discrimination is the prejudicial treatment of one person or group based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or other characteristics. Discrimination can lead to unequal opportunities and outcomes for certain groups of people. It can occur in various settings, such as the workplace, education, housing, and public accommodations.

Being Bi-Racial is not always easy.. //The Blue Diamond Gallery

Any sort of racism is mindless and primitive. Haven't we've moved past this? Sadly, no. Society needs to learn to embrace other cultures and ethnicities, not just in the United States but around the world in order to progress.

People who are bi-racial, a massive part of the population, feel the brunt of this hatred. You don't quite fit in with one side and you don't quite fit in with the other.

I am Puerto Rican, Irish and Colombian, but all people see is the Irish side of me that makes my skin white. There was a time when the Irish were not even considered white, but no longer. I, and many others who are bi-racial, should be proud of all their sides instead of trying to be accepted by one or the other.

Do I consider myself to be Hispanic? Yes. Do I consider myself to be Irish? Also yes, and that's okay because that's what I am. Be proud of who you are.

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Living with Siblings

LESHAY JONES
NEWS EDITOR

Living with siblings is a complete train wreck. Take it from someone who has two siblings and is smack in the middle.

For most of my life, I have been the middle child in my family and trust me, it is just as traumatizing as it sounds. From growing up with siblings, this is my basic understanding of how the "sibling chain" works.

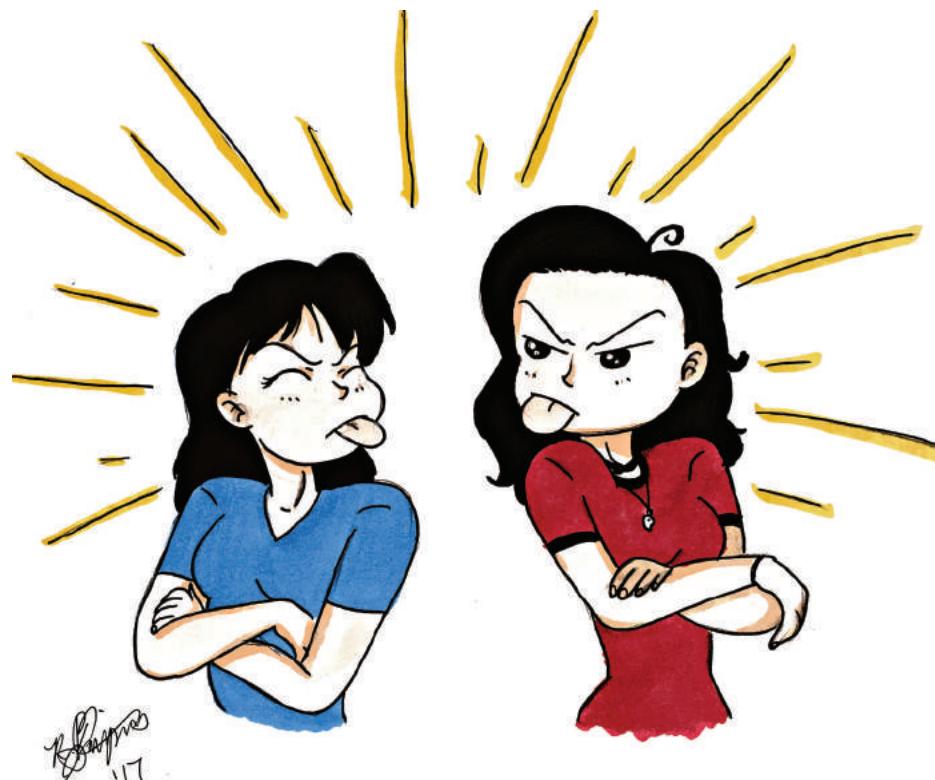
The first born, aka the queen/king: The first born has it worst in the sense that they have a lot to live up to. When you are the first born your parents have extremely high expectations in regards to your grades, maturity and overall behavior.

However, the oldest is also the one who calls the shots when your parents aren't around. They are automatically left in charge when mom and dad decide to go out and try to relive the thrill they felt before they had kids. My older sister is the queen of the house, or so she likes to think.

The youngest, aka the spoiled brat: The youngest probably has it best, considering the fact that they can practically get away with murder. When you're the youngest, you are more than likely the apple of your parents' eyes, their precious little baby.

I like to think of the youngest as the demon child that can do no wrong and can get whatever they want, just by batting their little demon eyelashes at your parents right after torturing you. My little brother is the epitome of this: cute and sweet on the outside, pure evil on the inside.

The middle child, aka the ghost: Have you ever wished you were invisible? Just wish to become a middle



You can't live with them, but you can't live without siblings. // Rebecca Karpinski

child. Being the middle child is almost exactly like being invisible. I remember times where my older sister would be out with my mom, my little brother would be out with my dad and I, well, I was stuck cooking in the kitchen with grandma.

Being invisible, I mean the middle child, has its perks. Number one is that no one ever really wonders where you are. I can shut myself in my room for a full 24 hours and have no one bother me. Middle children are also sometimes considered the "peacekeepers" of the siblings but in my experience, that's a load of nonsense.

Now, with every group of siblings comes competition; it's like living in the wild and each of you is a different species hunting the same antelope. You may not feel like you compete, but trust me, you do, from who is the best at UNO to whom is mom's favorite,

My siblings and I are extremely competitive and none of us really likes to admit it. There were times when we used to fight over who loved mom or dad more, and trust me, those fights can turn brutal.

Despite the middle-child syndrome that I have extensively suffered from, living with siblings isn't all that bad and it definitely has its perks.

For one, you get lifetime best friends. For me, no matter how much we argue and fuss, we've got each other's backs, we can tell each other almost anything and more than anything else, we love each other.

More Than Melancholy

NICK COWLING
Staff Writer

"Snap out of it." "Smile more." "There are a lot of people who have it worse." These phrases share the common misunderstanding of the incredibly difficult subject that is mental health.

Physically intangible but consisting of serious circumstances, illness of the mind is a silent and pervasive disease still in its infancy of understanding. Many of the symptoms associated with a mental illness begin to boil during the end of adolescence and into adulthood.

It's a frightening and confusing development that many sufferers will find problematic to share. I was 18 years old when I suffered my first bout of crushing depression that I could not explain. Months later, I had an adverse reaction to an anti-depressant medication and it put me into a hyper-agitated state of mania that kept me running at a maximum speed for days on end.

I was to learn my diagnosis of bipolar disorder that changed my life forever. Self-harm, suicidal ideation and hospitalizations have all been part of my existence in the last few years. My knuckles and arms still bear the scars, a permanent reminder of my strife.

Medication has aided me greatly but not without its downsides and side-effects. I experience tremors and I often have difficulty with memory and concentration. A tradeoff, but a worthy one.

My story is not unique, nor is it special—far from it. I've been through clinical group therapy sessions with a variety of people who have experienced everything from social anxiety to attempted efforts to kill themselves to paranoid schizophrenia. All of us shared a common goal and that was to get better, to understand why we experience what we feel.

no longer. It was obvious that the most glaring offender at New Salem Memorial was now a potential enemy. Here, at least, he was sure that his plea for reform had fallen on barren ground.

On the fifth day of Anna Van Ryn's convalescence, she was transferred to a wheel chair on Mike's orders. That same afternoon, he found her seated in a patch of sunlight that fell through the open window. She had been a sadly docile patient. His resignation had troubled him even more than her refusal to speak his mind on his visits. Today there was no mistaking her new alertness. Like the quick lift of her head when he entered, the spots of color on her cheeks suggested the liberated captive still hesitant on the prison doorsill, but conscious for the first time of his freedom.

"Something about your manner tells me I'm not a threat," she said. "Can we postpone until I'm stronger?"

"In my opinion, you're strong enough now to hear the truth."

"Truth's a big word, Dr. Constant. Are you a terrible custodian?"

"Truth number one is obvious. You've decided recovery is worthwhile."

Billy '17
Capozzi

Art showing what it is like to live with a mental illness. // Courtesy of Billy Capozzi

The point I wish to get across to anyone reading this piece, who find their mind taking them to unexplainable places that they don't understand, is to realize that there are victories that can be accomplished in this ever-present battle.

You need to speak up. You need to take initiative. It's scary, I know, but to wallow in misery is a recipe for dangerous actions and a life of burden. Utilize your resources: family, friends, a professor, or colleague. Set appointments with doctors and therapists.

Cultivating inner strength is taxing,

but it's invaluable and your best instrument to adequately prepare for periods of depression or anxiety or hallucinations or any symptom across the spectrum.

To those reading without a disorder: There is an obligation to educate yourself for the betterment of your loved ones. You would never tell a diabetic to simply "get over" their condition, so why would you do it when it comes to someone's brain? Never invalidate a person's struggle simply because you don't understand. We need your support, not scorn.

There is no magic pill. There is no grand epiphany where everything succeeding it becomes perfect. The struggle of mental illness is a life-long war with peaks and valleys. There are times to be adamant, and what better time to fight than when you're facing feelings of worthlessness and fear. It doesn't have to be a one-man march, though.

Reach out. Someone will extend their hand for you to grasp and when they do, pay it forward. Someone may need it more than you realize.



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FEATURES

The Torch

Bergenstages: OH COWARD!

REBECCA KARPINSKI
Photo Editor

Bergenstages performed Oh, Coward! this past February and March in the Ender Hall Theatre Lab. Oh, Coward! was an extremely witty and fun musical showcasing the work of the late Noël Coward under the direction of Professor Jim Bumgardner and musical direction of Jess Abrams.

Oh, Coward!, was devised by Roderick Cook and contained music and lyrics by Noël Coward. The musical featured songs such as, 'London Pride,' 'Chase Me, Charlie,' 'Mrs. Worthington,' 'If Love Were All,' 'Dance Little Lady,' 'Why Do the Wrong People Travel,' and 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen.'

The performance was a sharp 34 song-set musical that was brilliantly performed by eight very talented young cast members: four men and four women. The production was performed by Bergen's own Angelina Aragona, Emily D'Onofrio, Kevin W. Bergen, Matthew Rella, Sarah Klausner, and Wally Villanueva.

The performance was outstanding in every way. They had a very beautiful set that made the very limited spacing they had for this production feel much bigger. The direction, lighting, and costumes were all wonderful and it all worked to perfection.

The musical is filled so much



Shots of the Oh Coward performance. //Courtesy of Jim Bumgardner

young amazing talent, great staging, acting, and upbeat music that had audience members dancing in our seats and definitely put a smile on our faces.

The cast superbly performed many of Coward's most beloved song and it's kept the visions, voices and magic of a classic playwright alive on today's stage as well as in the hearts of the audience.

Beautifully directed and choreographed by Professor Bumgardner, under the skillful musical direction of Jess Abrams, and further enhanced by perfect period costumes, accents, and an imaginatively inspired set, the audience is propelled back in time to a visually rich and exciting place.

Oh Coward! was an extremely witty and fun musical...

Holi 2017: Carnival of Colors

PURNASREE SAHA
Contributing Writer

On Phalguni, the day after full moon in early March, many throughout areas of India, Nepal, Pakistan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and South Asia celebrate the festival Holi.

Holi is the festival of colors and happiness, and is meant to represent the triumph of good over evil. The main purpose of the Holi festival is to welcome the beginning of spring, share compassion with others and to honor the Hindu god Vishnu.

This festival has spread throughout Europe and North America. In India, Holi is celebrated for two days: Dhuleti and Holika.

On the day of Dhuleti, Hindus gather together and light up a bonfire to practice religious rituals. They also sing and dance.

Holika is the day during which people, youth and adults throw colored and scented powder solutions known as gulal powder at others, which causes their clothings and skin to get messy. Many adults also smear the colored powders on others' faces. Children also throw water-filled balloons and use water guns to throw color at others during Holi.

Holi could be played on open streets and parks, and outside of buildings and temples. Many people laugh or gossip and like to dance to music provided by a DJ while they are playing Holi. At the end of Holi, people wash up and change into clean clothes to visit their family and friends.

Although the actual date of the Holi festival was on March 12, 2017,



The joy of celebrating and participating in Holi. // Purnasree Saha

the Mahwah Hindu Samaj Mandir, located in Mahwah, NJ, held its annual Holi celebration on March 25, 2017. The word mandir represents temple for Hindus.

This celebration was open to all children and people of different cultures and religions. People were publicly encouraged to attend the festival through social media, and through posters hung up and handed out by priests.

At the beginning of the celebration, many children were entertained by fun events such as arts and crafts, henna tattoos, face painting, bouncy rides, balloons and a magic show. Adults were able to volunteer, sponsor and contribute to these events. If adults wanted to volunteer they had to contact carnival@hindusamajmandir.org. There were also performances done by children and youths on stage.

Various food stalls at the festival served South Indian vegetarian foods and sweets such as dosa, samosas, chaat, pani puri, and gulab jamun. Mango lassi, pizza, and soda was also served at the festival. There were also vendors where people were selling various types of jewelry, bags, and clothings such as saris, salwars, kurtis, and long skirts.

As people started to gather around and throw colored and scented powder at others, the festival drew to a close.

Holi Festival is different from, but similar to, the Diwali Mela in many ways. Holi and Diwali Mela are related because they both include entertainment for children, dance performances on stage, food stalls with South Indian vegetarian foods, and vendors with various jewelry, clothings, and bags.

The differences between these

two festivals are that Holi involves throwing colored and scented powders at each other in the beginning of spring, whereas Diwali involves dancing and playing with Dandiya sticks in an event called Garba in mid-October.

Since the Holi festival is free and occurs once a year, people of different religions and cultures should attend it the upcoming year due to the fun entertainment.

Bergen Community College usually holds an annual Holi festival in March, but due to a lack of entertainment, Roshan Patel, Vice President of SAATH told The Torch, "There was no South Asian club this semester. Therefore, if anybody is interested in attending the Holi festival every year, they could find out on social media or google where and when it is happening."

SELENA QUINTANILLA REMEMBERED 22 YEARS LATER

REBECCA KARPINSKI
Photo Editor

It's been 22 years this March 31 since the Tejano superstar Selena Quintanilla-Perez was tragically shot and killed and 20 years since the "Selena" biopic starring Jennifer Lopez was released in theaters across the country. Known as the "Queen of Tejano Music," Selena was a beloved Latin recording artist who was killed by the president of her fan club, Yolanda Saldivar.

Selena Quintanilla was born on April 16, 1971, in Lake Jackson, Texas. Around the age of 9 or 10, Selena became the lead singer of her family's band, Selena Y Los Dinos. The band consisted of her older brother A.B. on the bass guitar and her older sister Suzette on the drums. Her father, Abraham, a former member of the old doo-wop group "The Dinos," managed and produced the young band. The band's first performances were in Papagayos, the Quintanilla family restaurant in Lake Jackson, Texas.

Selena grew up speaking English as her native language, but her father taught her to sing in Spanish so she could resonate with the Latino audience. She learned the lyrics phonetically at first, and eventually learned to speak Spanish fluently.

Soon the family restaurant fell apart due to bankruptcy and the Quintanilla family went bankrupt. The family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas where they piled into an old bus with all their musical equipment.

They played everywhere they could, on streets, and at weddings, but soon all the hard work paid off. Selena recorded her first album in 1984 under the Freddie label.

Because Selena was getting even more popular by the day and the traveling to perform was interfering with school, Abraham pulled her out of school when she was just in the 8th grade. Even though she was not attending school anymore, Selena earned a high school degree from a correspondence school in Chicago.

In 1988, two more Selena albums were released, Preciosa and Dulce Amor, but it was in 1989 when Selena got her big break. That year, she signed with Capitol/EMI Latin label.

By this time, Selena's concerts were drawing thousands of people and her band was expanding. Pete Astudillo joined Selena Y Los Dinos. A.B., who was already writing most of Selena's songs, joined Pete and wrote songs for Selena such as her most iconic song "Como La Flor". Pete stayed with the band for 4 years but left in 1993 to go solo.

In 1988, Selena met a guitarist by the name of Chris Perez. The Quintanilla family hired him to be in the band in 1990. On April 3, 1992, Selena married Chris Perez.

In 1990, a fan approached Abraham with the idea of starting a fan club. Her name was Yolanda Saldivar and her wish was granted. She was often referred to as Selena's biggest fan. Yolanda became a very close friend of Selena's, but later on, one of her worst enemies.

In February of 1995, Selena sold out the Houston Astrodome with her last concert for the Houston Livestock and Rodeo. A record attendance for any Tejana.

Also in February, trouble started with the Selena Fan Club. Fans

were complaining that they weren't receiving their packets they paid for. The Quintanilla family confronted Yolanda, who by this time, was also manager of the boutiques. Money also started to turn up missing from the Selena Etc. account. Yolanda was stealing from them.

On March 12, 1995, Selena fired Yolanda. On March 30, Selena went to where Yolanda was staying in Corpus Christi, Texas at a Days Inn Motel, to get the missing paperwork. When Selena and Chris got home that night, they found out that some of the papers were still missing.

Early the next morning, Selena got up and went to face Yolanda again. There Yolanda told her she had been raped in Monterey, Mexico and needed to go to the hospital. Being the kind person that Selena was, she took her. After about an hour, Selena and Yolanda returned to the motel and argued, where Selena told her that she just couldn't be trusted anymore.

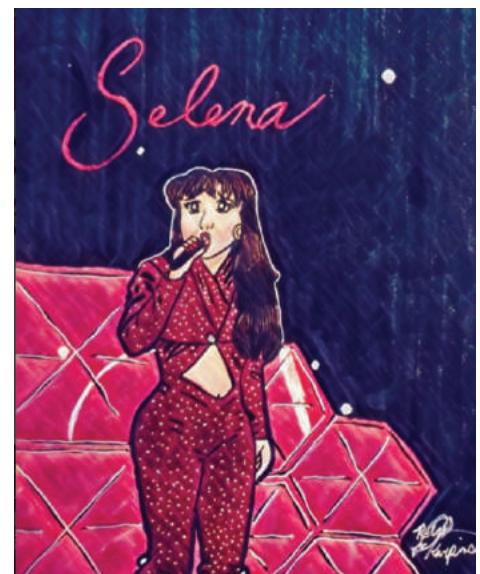
At 11:48 a.m., Yolanda took out a gun and fired at Selena. The bullet struck her in her right shoulder. With all her strength, Selena ran towards the lobby to get help. She collapsed on the floor as the clerk called 911. Soon an ambulance came to take Selena to the hospital where she was pronounced dead at 1:09 p.m.

News of Selena's death spread all over the world like wildfire. Selena fans mourned the loss of their queen, the queen of Tejano music.

The tragic death of Selena created a reaction within the Latino community that can be compared to the deaths of Elvis Presley and John Lennon.

An enormously popular singer in Latino communities across North

America, her music crossed cultural boundaries to touch the lives of young and old women. A flamboyant, sexy stage performer, sometimes hailed as the Latina Madonna, Selena was nonetheless considered a role model for so many people to this day 22 years later.



Selena in her amazing outfits and positive energy. //Rebecca Karpinski

*...her music
crossed cultural
boundaries...*



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NHL Playoff Preview

NICK COWLING
STAFF WRITER

The NHL playoffs are upon us and the battle for Lord Stanley's Cup witnesses its latest iteration starting this April.

A massive change was made before the 2013-14 season creating a new method regarding how teams play each other in a postseason, which caused much confusion. What was once a very simple playoff seeding bracket for the league, a radical change was made to the format to allow for stronger rivalries within the Western and Eastern conference teams. To bring understanding to this relatively new system, an explanatory preview of its machinations will be presented. Each matchup throughout the postseason consists of a best of seven games series with the higher seeded team allowed home ice.

There are two divisions within each conference. The Atlantic and Metropolitan divisions make up the East while the West consists of the Pacific and Central divisions. Each conference also holds two wildcard spots for teams falling just short of their division's top three placements creating a total of eight playoff teams for both conferences.

The seeding is noticeably a bit more complicated from the previous method. The two division winners will play one of the two wild card teams. The leader with the most points accumulated that season will play the wild card team with the fewest points. Naturally, the 2nd leading team will play the wildcard team with the higher point total. This leaves the other four teams to battle out for advancement. The second and third ranked teams in a division will play each other. The first team to achieve four wins in a series will move on to the following round of the playoffs. The previous system re-seeded the teams while this new one maintains a strict structure.

Eight teams from each conference will remain for the division final. All four division finals consist of two teams, the winner between the division leader and the wild card matchup, and the winner between the 2nd and 3rd seeded teams in each division. The victor of each series will advance to their Conference's respective final. Only four teams are left at this point. The winner of the following series is considered to have won the West or East and is awarded a title for this

accomplishment. The West is given the Clarence S. Campbell Bowl and the East is given the Prince of Wales Trophy.

While these honors are grounds for a sturdy sense of accomplishment, the true prize lies in the final round between each conference winner, The Stanley Cup Final. The Final is one of the most exciting championships in all of sports. The process to achieve the Cup is a war of attrition and the blood and flesh shed to attain it is worthy of admiration.

Each individual player on a winning team will find their name engraved onto the Cup assuring a permanent reminder of their success. Hall of Fame coach Fred Shero expressed one of the most famous quotes in hockey when he said to the 1974 Philadelphia Flyers before a Cup final game, "Win today and we walk together forever." Teams will dissolve and players will move on in their careers, but the unity of victory will bind them together in a poetic display of sports lore.



Chicago Blackhawks players celebrating a Stanley Cup victory. //http://power97.cms.socastsrm.com/

New York Knicks Experiment Gone Wrong?

ANTHONY KHELIL
SPORTS EDITOR

On Sunday, March 6th, Madison Square Garden decided to perform an experiment as the New York Knicks faced off against the Golden State Warriors. MSG experimented by playing no sound during warmups or any stoppages of play in the first half of Sunday's game. In what has so far been a disastrous season for the Knicks it seems odd they would attempt such a thing, especially at this point in the season.

The silence the absence of sound provided did not seem to be an appropriate setting for an NBA basketball game, let alone one that was being nationally televised. Knicks budding star forward Kristaps Porzingis said, "I Didn't like it," after the 112-105 loss to the Warriors.

During most of the pregame, a message was shown on the overhead video board saying that the first half would include no video, music or in game entertainment so the fans could, "experience the game in its purest form."

"It felt like an open gym kind of," Warriors All-Star shooting guard said after the game. Golden States power forward, Draymond Green was not much of a fan of the idea either. "That was pathetic. It was ridiculous. It changed the flow of the game. It changed everything," he said. "You advance things in the world to make it better," Green added. "You don't go back to what's bad. Computers can do anything for us. It's like going back to paper. Why would you do that? It was

ridiculous."

There are many rumors as to why the Knicks would experiment with such an idea, especially on the night of a nationally televised game. Some say that it was a result of many of the older season ticket holders who complained the games were too loud, others believe it was because there was a malfunction with arena equipment and the experiment was used as a cover up. Whatever the real reason may be, many of the players as well as the fans found it to be a hard adjustment, as all players and fans of the game have grown so accustomed to in game entertainment.

I was able to speak to a few Bergen Community college students who follow basketball to get their thoughts on the so-called experiment.

Richard Rodriguez, a sophomore at BCC majoring in education, and long time Knicks fan did not appreciate the silence, he said, "The in game entertainment is what can sometimes dictate the momentum of the game. It was hard to watch, and hard to get excited for." Gianfranco Vaccaro, a Political Science major in his second year at Bergen Community college said, "I hope no team tries this again."

There were not many fans of MSG's so called first half experiment, and it will be interesting to see if other teams try this new idea. As for the Knicks, instead of focusing on the "game in its purest form," they should be focusing on making a run for the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference.



Stadium filled with fans listening to the bouncing of the ball and the squeaking of the sneakers. // staticflickr.com

What will 2017 have in store?

ANTHONY KHELIL
SPORTS EDITOR

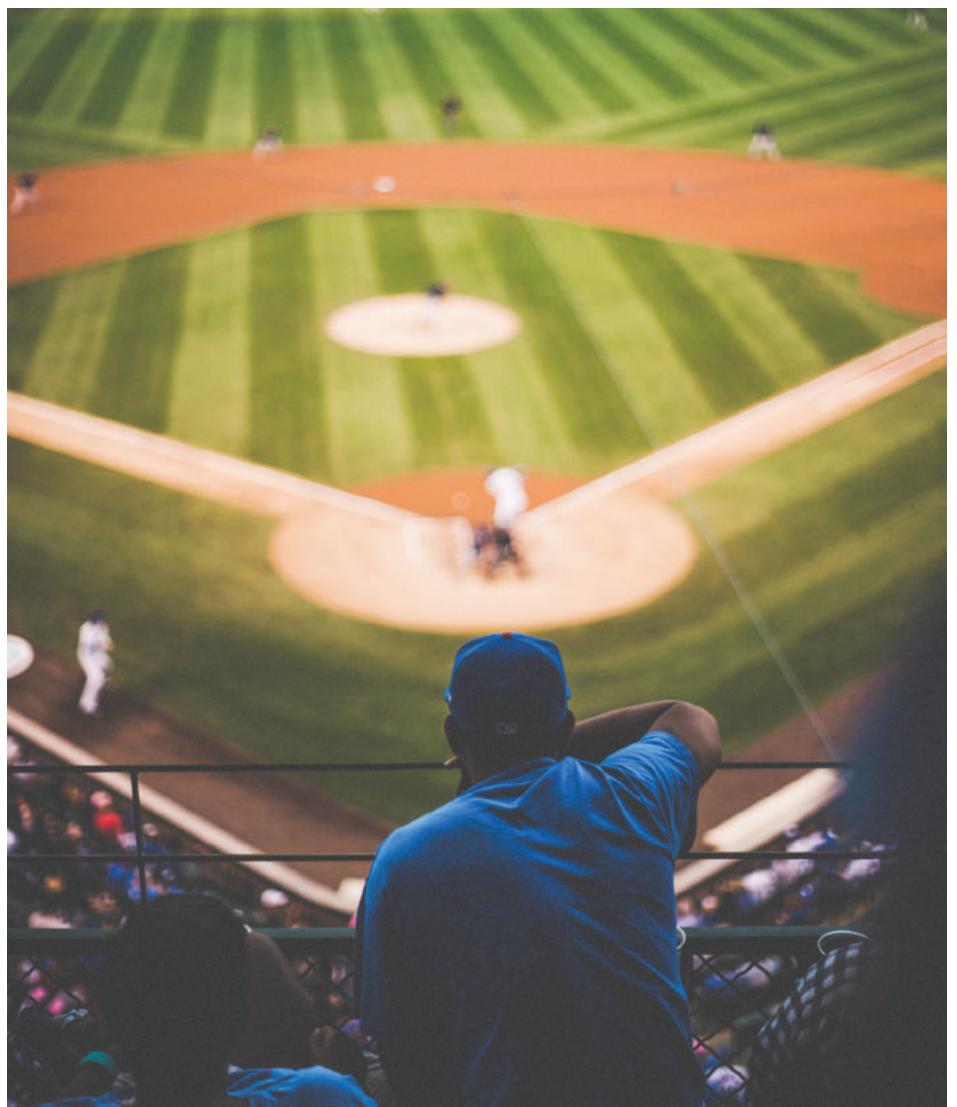
In 2016, The Chicago Cubs finally broke the curse of the Billy goat, capturing their first World Series championship in 108 years. After losing key pieces from their championship team such as Aroldis Chapman and Dexter Fowler, the Chicago Cubs are still among the league's elite, and widely considered to be favorites to take home yet another championship. The question everyone's asking is, who will dethrone the mighty Cubs?

The defending American League champions, the Cleveland Indians, look even stronger, with the acquisition of slugger Edwin Encarnacion and a healthy starting rotation, the Indians look to once again be contenders in the A.L. The Boston Red Sox will likely make it back to October once again, and look primed for a great run with the offseason trade acquisition of star pitcher Chris Sale from the White Sox, adding to an already deep rotation. The Texas Rangers who also made it to the playoffs last season certainly look like they will be back, keeping their star studded lineup intact over the offseason and having Cy Young caliber pitcher Yu Darvish for a full season.

The National League will be very interesting this upcoming MLB season. The Los Angeles Dodgers look to make it back to the playoffs again after retaining all three of their major free agents this offseason, Kenley Jansen, Rich Hill and Justin Turner. The Washington Nationals look for Bryce Harper to regain his MVP form, and hope Trea Turner continues his development. The San Francisco Giants will look to bounce back from not making the World Series in an even year since 2010. The New York Mets

whose playoff appearance was short lived after reaching the World Series in 2015, retained their MVP Yoenis Cespedes and look to finally show off their rotation stock piled with young flame throwing arms. The St. Louis Cardinals, who missed the playoffs the previous season look to make a deep run into October with their balanced roster consisting of veterans such as newly acquired Dexter Fowler and up and coming stars such as Randal Grichuk.

The 2017 Major League season will certainly be a roller coaster of a ride. Fans anticipating the start of the season, can look forward to opening day, April 1st, where many of their questions will finally be answered. There will be many teams who surprise, like the New York Yankees, a team in transition, building for the future. Will the infusion of youth spark a playoff run? Or possibly the Milwaukee Brewers who are stockpiling young talent. The Detroit Tigers and Kansas City Royals both have many question marks but have a chance to contend. The Royals, a small market team, will be facing a tough decision at the trade deadline, as the core of their team are all in the last years of their contracts, and they will not have the funds to resign all of them. If it seems like they are out of contention will they begin a fire sale? The Toronto Blue Jays, even with the loss of Edwin Encarnacion, will look to slug their way into the playoffs. With all the offseason drama involving star center fielder and team captain Andrew McCutchen keep the Pittsburgh Pirates from contention? Will the Chicago White Sox continue to deal major league talent, in route



The world of baseball excited for the season. //unsplash.com

to strengthening their minor league system? What team will underachieve and who will this year's cinderella team be? April 1st will be the start to answering all these questions. Major

League baseball is finally back and will certainly have something special in store.



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SPORTS



Bergen Community College's Own Makes ALL GSAC Team

ANTHONY KHELIL
SPORTS EDITOR

On Monday, March 6th, the All-Garden State Athletic Conference Division III women's basketball team was announced, and on the list of honorees was one of Bergen Community College's own Cherie Smedile. Smedile, who serves as a combo guard for our Lady Bulldogs, earns a spot on this list as a freshman.

Smedile started all 28 of the Lady Bulldog's games and was a workhorse for her team, leading the team in minutes played with 38.4 mpg. Smedile averaged nearly 21 points per game along with 8.1 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game. She also provided a presence on the defensive end, averaging two steals and one block per game. Cherie Smedile did it all for the lady Bulldogs, stuffing the stat sheet for her team, providing one of the few bright spots for the Bulldogs this season.

Smedile is an education major formally from Saddle Brook, New Jersey, where she played shooting guard for her high school, leading them to a 17-8 record in her senior season. Throughout her high school career, Smedile earned many awards such as Honorable mention all league in the 2012-2013 season, Second team all league in the 2013-2014 season and First team all league, as well as honorable mention all county in the 2014-2015 season. Maybe the greatest of all her feats, in her senior season, Smedile racked up her 1000th point in a win against Palisades Park in February of 2016.

Smedile has proven to be a valuable asset to the Bergen Bulldogs success down the line. She now can add first team ALL GSAC to her list of accolades.



Cherie Smedile posing for the bulldogs. //BergenCCbulldogs.com

Bergen's Upcoming Track Season

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA
STAFF WRITER

As the spring semester continues, the many sports teams at Bergen Community College are preparing themselves for the upcoming 2017 spring season. Of these sports, one team to focus on is Bergen's track and field team.

Since October, the team along with head coach Erika Czjiko and first year assistant coach Deana Dedovitch have been preparing for the upcoming season. Both the athletes and coaches are eager to make their mark on this season and believe that this year's team has a lot of potential.

The team will have their first meet on Saturday, March 25th, in West Chester, Pennsylvania at West Chester University. "They are ready to get on the track and shows us what their made right now," said Coach Czjiko.

The track and field program has a history of success through every season, such as defeating bigger schools and having many of their athletes participate in Nationals, and they look to repeat that this season.

Assistant coach Dedovitch, who's also the head coach of the Women's Cross country team, is getting used to the transition to assistant coach. "It's extremely different from cross country, just because there are so many skills to work on and they're all different, but different is a good thing so I'm good for the [spring] season," said Dedovitch.

Last season's assistant coach Angel Solias left the program at BCC to become the head coach of his own high



Student jumping into next season. //bergenccbulldogs.com

school track team. The team continued that season without a replacement. Despite what could have been a major distraction, the team and the head coach were able to perform well during the season and have some of their athletes compete in nationals.

Bergen's track and field team does not have many returnees. This season brings only four athletes from last season. This year's team includes 21 newcomers, 15 of whom participated in cross country. However, the head coach sees it as a good sign, as it brings

more skill to a program that has so few veterans. "Just because you get more time to practice with them and more time to work on technique and form," said Czjiko.

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