



Students Will Now Pay to Print

GELBER CASTILLO
SPORTS EDITOR

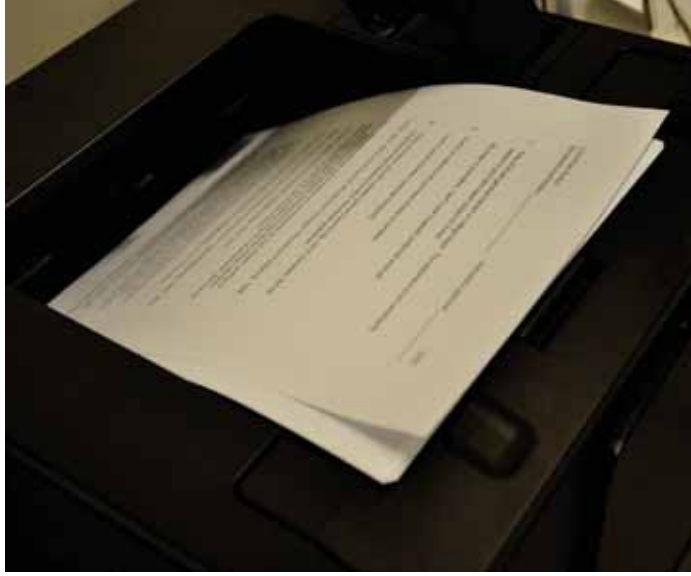
Beginning this coming spring semester, students will now pay to use the library's printing services. After much deliberation, a consensus was reached among student activists and the college's administration to allow students a free 125 page allowance before having to pay 10 cents per black and white page, 15 cents for double sided, and 25 cents per color page.

"The whole point of putting a limit is to have a happy medium where students can still be able to print for free but at the same time they can be mindful of what they're printing," said Student Government Association president Laura Zottarelli, who was in the council debating the implementation of the new printing policy since it was first proposed.

"With the copy credits provided, many students will never have to pay to make a copy," said Naydeen Gonzalez-De Jesus, Vice President of Student Affairs. "With advancements in technology and the ability to use mass storage devices such as flash drives and USB sticks, there are other options to printing as well, which many students are already using."

"We originally fought for 150," said Zottarelli after being asked about the printing limit. SGA conducted a survey, and among the 649 students surveyed, they found a correlation of 150 pages printed per student surveyed per semester.

When the printing policy was first proposed last semester, administration never granted a printing limit. President Zottarelli recalls how SGA's suggestions and amendments were ignored during the board meetings, and wanting to immediately start charging students to print, bypassing a free limit system.



Pay to print will be enacted in the Spring//Jessica Roriguez

The original proposition was sent to be voted on its implementation by the board of trustees had the several clubs and their student members of BCC not banded together to protest what they believed was an unfair policy last Spring semester.

"I wouldn't say it's unfair because we got the limit we fought for," said Zottarelli, "and we will also have change machines that's not only going to benefit the printing, but also the students taking the busses... but I don't think students will see this as a victory."

Gonzalez-De Jesus commented that, "This policy is not

intended to be a revenue generator for the college—it is to cover a fraction of consumable expenses that have significantly increased every year. Still, with the copy credits provided many students will never have to pay to make a copy."

The costs to upkeep printers, including maintenance, toner cartridges, and paper, amounted to \$200,000 to \$300,000 In the 2013 school year alone over 3 million pages were printed. Much of that was not school related and ended up in the recycling bins beside the library's printing stations.

Zottarelli, however, continues to question where the money will end up. "I asked where the money that is currently spent maintaining the printers will go to if the money from the students are going to the maintenance of the printers, and they [administration] said 'operational funds,'" she said.

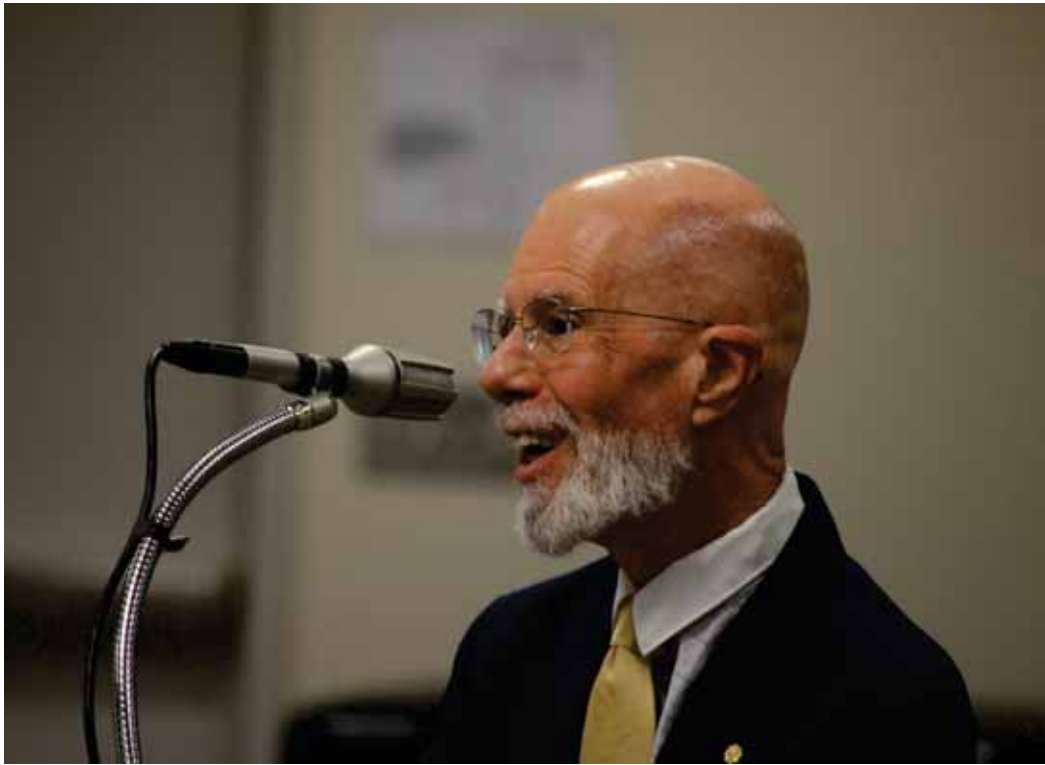
Operational funds refer to the lighting, building maintenance, janitorial services, in essence, funds that 'keep the lights on,' and which have slightly increased each school year.

Another contested topic was whether or not the technology fee within a student's tuition is already partly allocated to upkeep costs of printers.

"We were informed it doesn't cover that, it covers the maintenance of the computers, the library, etc., but it just does not cover the printers," said Zottarelli.

With the drop in registration, the lack of revenue has forced the belt to tighten throughout the school. This policy is intended to curb the costs and improve the budget. For now, there are no talks of when, or if, this policy will be repealed.

New Mission Statement Unveiled, Prof. Sadock Honored At BOT Meeting



Dr. Geoffrey Sadock speaks after being recognized for his credentials // Henry Fowler

CHRIS CARTER
STAFF WRITER

New Vision, Mission, and Values statements were approved by the Board of Trustees at the December 1 meeting.

"To inspire our community to realize a better future," will be Bergen's new mission statement that will appear throughout the school, on the website and on information packets mailed to prospective students. The new mission is brief compared to the four sentence long statement that is currently running which describes specifically what the school offers to students.

The change has already disappointed a faculty member, chemistry professor, Brant Chapman, who spoke out against the new mission statement during the meeting. "I would like to commend you all for a very

important, symbolic step you have taken. You've removed the word 'education' from the mission of this college, congratulations," said Chapman when the meeting was opened for public comment. Chairman of the Board of Trustees, E. Carter Corriston then asked if there were any further comments, of which there weren't, and called the meeting to a close.

The new mission was introduced by Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Yun K. Kim. Revisions to the old statement were recommended by the Middle States Self Study, of which Dr. Kim is a chair. She refused to comment on the subject.

Literature professor Dr. Geoffrey Sadock was honored by the Board of

"Dr. Sadock excels in areas often overlooked when accolades are handed out, those areas are collegiality and kindness," - VP of Academic Affairs, William Mullaney

Trustees and those in attendance at the meeting for winning the U.S. Professor of the Year Award for New Jersey this year. He was one out of 35 winners across the country in 35 different states in the program sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He is the first professor from Bergen to ever receive the award.

"I've always focused primarily on the students and teaching them, that is my mission from the beginning to the end," said Sadock. The professor has taught at Bergen since 1972 and is a favorite amongst students. "Dr. Sadock excels in areas often overlooked when accolades are handed out, those areas are collegiality and kindness," said Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. William Mullaney.

Dr. Sadock is as humble as he is skilled, and had doubts about pursuing such an award with all the competition in the state, as well as the fact the award usually goes to a professor from a four-year university. His colleagues pushed him to go through with the extensive application process. "I don't quite believe that all of this has happened but I'm happy," said Sadock.



Faculty Opposes Controversial Math Grant
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Veronica's Room
CENTERFORD
Story on pgs. 8-9



Bergen Sports Makes History
Story on pg. 16

Faculty Senate Opposes Math Grant Study



Faculty Senate Chairperson Dr. Alan Kaufman addresses faculty //Henry Fowler

GABE WANISSIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Bergen Community College Faculty Senate has voted to disapprove the First In the World math grant, citing “The administration applied for the grant without notifying the involved faculty,” for the justification.

The \$2.6 million grant awarded by the federal government is to be utilized via a collaborative study between both Bergen and Union Community colleges to research different approaches for remedial math. 750 students in Bergen and 400 students in Union were in the original proposal.

“When administration start applying for grants and not even notifying the involved faculty of the decision of the content of the grant, what administration is trying to do as far as I can see it, is take control of the curriculum,” said Chairperson of Faculty Senate, Dr. Alan Kaufman at November’s Senate meeting. The comments stemmed after faculty brought light to the statement written in the grant, “it also has the backing of our exceptional faculty,” was false.

“I assumed that they would be in support of this because it supported their efforts in remedial

education, their efforts to create programming that would benefit students, in this office we have always tried to do that very thing,” said Director of the Grants office, William Yakowicz.

After the grant was given the green light by President B. Kaye Walter in early June, the Grants Office, in collaboration with VP of Academic Affairs Dr. William Mullaney had two and a half weeks to complete the grant proposal.

“[President Walter] ordered to get this grant done in two and half weeks. We got the assignment, we collaborated with Union and we went ahead,” said Yakowicz.

“The industry standard is a minimum of three months to properly pull together a proposal with thorough research and writing, but we had much less time than that,” said Grant Writer Drorit Beckman. It is estimated that over 100 hours of work were put in over the two weeks, and that an effort to reach out to other academic deans was made during the short time. Ultimately, there would be no faculty input, yet their approval was still included in the proposal.

The math faculty further criticized the grant proposal after it cited “current teaching approaches have limited success with our students.”

The Math Faculty responded by saying that since 2011, remedial math success rates have steadily climbed with the help of the Title V grant that the college received back in 2010.

“Before the math portion of the Title V grant was sent, they were piloted with a small test group of students. It was tested so we could work out bugs and problems. It had six to eight months of work, much more than [First In the World],” said Math Professor Robert Fusco. In 2010, the Remedial Math passing rate with 1-2-3 Connect students was 60 percent. That jumped to 68 percent in 2013.

“We agreed that a lot of mistakes were made in the way the grant was submitted, but we can take a big step back and proceed very very slowly and essentially do it right,” said Dr. Mullaney. Since the Faculty senate meeting, dialogue between administration and the math faculty has occurred to rework the grant within the federal guidelines.

“An outside grant evaluator has been brought in to ensure it can work,” said Dr. Mullaney.

“We have been told by administration that we have a lot of latitude in how we want to redirect this. We met with the grant evaluator and as long as we meet the overall objective of the grant, the matter in which we get there can be quite different,” said Dr. Forsstrom.

The original plan involved having the 750 students who placed into remedial math evenly split into

three cohort groups, each with a different stipulation. One group would be placed into college level math, while being encouraged to go to tutoring, the second would be required to take a two week corequisite aid course, along with the use of ALEKS online tutoring program, and the final group going into the standard remedial course. The students would have the choice to be a part of the study.

Critics expressed concern regarding the large number of affected students, and lack of consolation for students who may fail or barely pass the college level courses; aspects of the grant, the Math faculty and administration are now actively trying to mitigate.

“We shouldn’t define success sheerly on passing. If you squeak by with C’s because you don’t have a

“We Agreed that a lot of mistakes were made in the way the grant was submitted, but we can take a big step back and proceed very very slowly and essentially do it right.”-Dr. William Mullaney

foundation that remedial can provide, how will you get your scholarships or get into your chosen schools? It would have affected long term[studies],” said Developmental Math Chair Melanie Walker. “We are not against experimentation, but there were an awful lot of concerns that needed to be addressed.”



The near unanimous vote of 45-2 was made against the grant //Henry Fowler

Caught in the Web: Heroin Addiction



DeLeon shares his testimony with those in attendance in Tec-128 //Henry Fowler

IVET ANORO
STAFF WRITER

Michael DeLeon, ex-offender and heroin addict, who lost his mother and freedom for 14 years because of his poor choices, shared his knowledge about drug addiction to raise social awareness about this topic. His speech was the opening event planned for the seminar called “Caught in the Web: Heroin Addiction” that Bergen Community College hosted on November 19.

DeLeon, now full-time dedicated to his non-profit organization: Steered Straight, tries to fight against what he says is an “epidemic.” His overwhelming testimony kept the public’s attention throughout the seminar. He sounded convincing and spoke with that special strength that only survivors have.

He claimed that it is a global problem and thus, should be solved by facing all the areas that are involved in it. That means stopping the drug advertisements on television, getting the proper treatment from doctors, or even changing our care system. “We miss the boat if we try to solve the heroin problem. Prescription drugs kill more people than heroin and cocaine,” DeLeon said.

To reveal the severity of the problem, in his discourse he provided some statistics. Last year, \$4.5 billion were spent in prescription drug advertisements, and 99 percent of the world’s hydrocodone was sold in the U.S.

Referring to the addiction treatment, DeLeon said “we don’t treat it as it deserves. We have to start talking about the ‘neck-up’ like we are talking about the ‘neck-down.’” He made clear that this is a stigmatized problem and it won’t be solved until the society recognizes addiction as a mental disease like

any other.

Meanwhile, there are more and more states legalizing medical cannabis and that only increases the problem. The taxes from the legal marijuana just help to make heroin a cheaper alternative.

The day’s events continued with the testimony of Jason Vann’s father, a BCC student who was a heroin addict. This second speech was more of a family’s point of view. Vann centered his attention on the other side, the side of the family that lives alienated to the drug world. He explored the guilt and regret, and submerged deeper in the feelings of those who had walked in his shoes.

“This couldn’t happen to me,” he thought. At the time Jason’s parents discover the addiction of their son, they did not know where it could have come from. Over the years, though, there is a hypothesis that has gained more strength. This could be the medication that Jason had to take to treat his hyperactivity. That binded with what Michael DeLeon previously pointed out about the risk of prescription medication.

Vann’s testimony was heard solemnly for the audience, but also for one of the participants in the next panel discussion, Gary, a 27-year-old who was addicted to heroin three years ago. Jason’s father’s words brought him to tears because when he was addicted he never thought he would be causing any damage to his family.

Gary, who defined himself as someone who was never able to find a language to communicate his true identity, was able to find help and get out of that black hole where we was sunk.



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Much For Food?
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NEWS

The Torch

Honoring Our Servicemen



MATTHEW MARTY
STAFF WRITER

Bergen Veterans being paid tribute on Veterans day
//Henry Fowler

Bergen Community College hosted its annual Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony to a filled student center. Various BCC veterans attended. Introducing these valiant men was the senior secretary at the office of student life, Viola Davis with Professor Mike Echols as the Master of Ceremonies.

The ceremony was focused on soldiers of the Vietnam War, but that did not mean veterans from other eras were excluded. Ceremonies began with a heartwarming poem by Sergeant Alan Hermann about the brutalities of war and how veterans were treated after our troops were sent home from the Vietnam War.

“Even our own student veterans may not realize what the college professor or the the assistant at the gym have gone through when they have served,” said Mike Echols. The ceremony then transitioned to the speakers. Professor Richard Kuiters who delivered a motivating speech about courage and how in the end, all veterans are “Brothers In Arms.”

“I remember different things about Vietnam. I try, and I think most veterans do, to remember the memories, the happy memories, the fun and camaraderie that only veterans have,” said Kuiters.

The next speaker was student veteran, Anthony Alders who told the audience

about his experiences in his four years of active duty. “I worked 12 hour days every day except for two weeks,” said Alders.

The microphone was then passed to the keynote Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Black. Black spoke about the sacrifices and legacies veterans have and will leave. “Not all veterans saw combat but they served. All veterans however saw its results and continue to see and feel how it’s impacted themselves and their fellow veterans,” said Black.

The speech concluded with an ending statement and followed by the attendees being led out to the front of the college by the color guard for the pledge of allegiance and the playing of Taps.

BCC enrolls approximately 300 students under the post-9/11 GI bill and is now recognized as a veteran friendly school by Victory Media; A rating entity that surveys thousands of institutions and creates list for military friendly schools/companies. BCC also has a Veterans Center dedicated to helping veterans reintegrate into civilian life and determine their academic goals.

BCC Renovates the Bookstore

ADRIANNA CARABALLO
STAFF WRITER

Recently, Bergen Community College has been making a number of changes that affect the school, one of those changes included a new and improved bookstore. Exactly one year ago it was decided that Follett Company (responsible of the bookstore) and Bergen Community College would put together a plan to upgrade the bookstore. That plan was put into action on November 16 and was anticipated to reopen November 23. Throughout the whole week, a crew of up to six people worked to revamp the bookstore. The new features in the bookstore include a new paint job and carpet for the entire space, a relocated Textbook Information Desk and an Online Order Pickup location.

“One of the most noticeable differences will be the overall atmosphere,” said Bookstore Manager, David Bourdette. The bookstore’s appearance has been changed but looks are not the only motivation for his renovation. Convenience and progression are two major motivators behind this project.



A look into the renovated Bookstore//Jessica Rodriguez

“We are looking to achieve a number of different things through the scope of our renovation – all of which will greatly benefit our shoppers,” Bourdette said.

While keeping the holidays and the new upcoming semester in mind, Bourette added

“Many of these changes were designed to increase the level of service we are able to provide to those community members, especially when thinking about our busiest times of the year.”

The new Online Order Pickup was specifically designed with convenience

for students. The Online Order Pickup location was moved to a newly renovated room that is a few doors down the hall from the store. This room is now dedicated to picking up ordered materials online through the Bergen Community College store website. The students will receive an email alert letting

them know their order is ready for pickup. By picking up their materials there, those students are able to skip the long lines outside of our store at the start of the semester, allowing students to save time. In addition to that, the Textbook Information Desk was moved to the front of the store now allowing students to ask the bookstore associates any questions they have right up front when they get there. Adding to all that they are planning on upgrading many of the fixtures on their sales floor.

“Many of these changes were designed to increase the level of service we are able to provide to those community members.”

“This provides us with a lot of flexibility in merchandising our sales floor...With that additional flexibility, we are able to stock even more inventory of the Bergen Bulldog apparel and gifts that we all love,” Bourette said.

Jewish Involvement in the Civil Rights Movement



Rabbi Engelmayer speaks at a discussion about Jews and the Civil Rights Movement held by BCC's Hillel Club//The Torch

CAROLINA ESTRADA
STAFF WRITER

Bergen Community College's Hillel sponsored a discussion about Jews and the Civil Rights Movement with invited guest speaker, Rabbi Shammai Engelmayer, on November 12. In modern times, Jews and Black people themselves do not know that Jews have always been prominent members in the battle for civil rights in the U.S. and are also one of the most discriminated groups of people after black americans.

Starting off talking about his own experience as a young jewish

student, Rabbi Engelmayer got a great job opportunity at a big corporate law firm as a law librarian for the summer.

"I had a wonderful time," he said. After summer ended, he was taken in permanently, but in September, he asked for the rest of the Friday afternoon off because it was Kippur, a Jewish holiday. And when he came back on the next monday his manager told him he was fired. When he asked why, he was told, "We don't actually hire your kind here." And one year later, the same thing happened to his future sister-in-law at a banking job she had because they eventually found out she was jewish.

Proving his point, "We're not white, period...The hatred of the Jew and the hatred of the Black have gone hand in hand in this country for a very long time." Whiteness to many is defined as white Christians. In this way of defining whiteness, according to Rabbi Engelmayer, a Jew is no more white than someone who is an African American, Hispanic American or Asian American.

Jews have been involved in the Civil Rights Movement since the beginning. An example mentioned was Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Who, if you see in the popular Selma March photos, was in the front row with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., next to Dr. Ralph Abernathy. But this has been in excluded or not mentioned in mainstream culture like in Selma which came out in 2014, where there are also no Jews really seen or properly represented throughout the film. But Rabbi Heschel wasn't just some random Jew that showed up in the march, he was a very close friend and ally to Dr. King and was very active in the civil rights movement.

They were so close that, "Reverend King called him my Rabbi," Engelmayer said. Engelmayer said the film ignored all Jewish roles in the Civil Rights Movement.

"It's upsetting because Blacks and Jews today both ignore our shared history in the struggle in the civil rights."

During this era, there were many signs of anti-semitism. Leo Frank, a Jew, was falsely accused of murdering and raping a 13 year-old-girl. This prompted anti-semitism attacks and he eventually was publicly lynched by a mob. Among the mob were government officials and no one was convicted in his murder despite an entire town witnessing his death. Others store signs throughout history had "No Jews, Blacks, or Catholics allowed; No Jews, Blacks, or Women allowed; No Jews, Blacks, or dogs allowed; No Jews, Blacks, or Orientals allowed."

Jews were so involved that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a civil rights organization, was partly founded in 1909 by Jews who also helped to fund it. Among them was Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, and he was Founder of the Rosenwald Fund, who donated millions of dollars in support to the education of African-American children from the rural south.

Jews were so active in the movement that in the 1960s, nearly half of the civil rights lawyers were Jewish. Many Jewish lives were lost during the civil rights marches and protests. Rabbi Engelmayer did recognize that the Civil Rights Movement worked a lot faster for the jews than for black people.

"Not because the white world likes us better than they like black people, but because as I said earlier, we can pass for white, blacks can't pass for white," he said.

Presently, the Jewish and Black relationship isn't as strong as it once was, but Black and Jewish people still fight for a common cause and still have a common enemy.

"We cannot allow ourselves to forget that. We dare not forget that and while we're at it, do not let others of any color influence us, forget that."



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*Bergen Gets Filled With
PRIDE pg. 9*



*The Force Awakens...
Fanboys pg.13*

OPINIONS

The Torch

The Trouble with Political Correctness

LAURA DOMÍNGUEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Political Correctness (PC) has infiltrated my daily life to the point where I find myself doubting and restructuring sentences before I talk, sometimes even to friends. I understand that we, as people, have things that we hate to hear or that we find offensive. But as politically correct as someone can publicly be, let's not forget how unlikely it is that they express themselves in this socially accepted manner at all times. I don't know about you, but I would rather talk and be talked to frankly. I prefer to listen to people express themselves freely--even when I find their opinion distasteful--than to never hear a disagreeable word come out of anyone's mouth because they are too worried about receiving backlash for lack of public correctness.

"PC Nazis" both actively and passively bully and shame people into speaking in a way that does not offend anyone, but do they realize that some people are simply rude in nature? Yes, some people will be offended, and they have the right to, but in my experience, more often than not I have been met with phrases such as "it doesn't bother me" than visible outrage over a supposedly derogatory word.

The point I am so desperately trying to make is that if what we want is to live in a society where people are educated enough to know not to communicate using potentially hurtful words or expressions, we are not achieving that goal by fundamentally censoring each

other into strict verbal blandness.

Maybe, we ought to take a second to relax, and take a step back into impartiality before getting all worked up over someone using a word we do not like. Maybe we would realize they did not mean it in a strategically and sincerely hateful way. No, I am not excusing hate speech, but I am making a case for those with not enough self-control to check themselves before shouting out (or typing up) words in anger. How many times have we told our loved ones rude things we

genuinely do not feel solely due to a lapse in judgement or a moment of hot-headedness? How many times have public figures come under fire for using an offensive word, even when they did not use it in an offensive way?

I have a penchant for believing that if we, collectively and individually, would confront a politically incorrect person specifically, and dig deeper to find the root of their personal reasoning, then we could learn something about each other and make a difference. Until that day, it is important to know that ordering

people to talk a specific way is not the way to make progress. Neither is being offended for things that are not pertinent to our lives; contrary to popular belief, this does not mean you're showing solidarity, it just means you're uptight.

Each person should be able to stand up for themselves when they hear something that deeply bothers or offends them. And those of us who see where they're coming from, should be able to stand up in their defense, as well. If we can't do that, then maybe there's just no reason to

"PC Nazis' both actively and passively bully and shame people into speaking in a way that does not offend anyone."

Is Free Speech being hindered by Today's "PC"?!//imgur



President's Letter: Keep Pushing Through!

Dear Student Body,

It has been a rocky semester for us all. Nonetheless, it is now our checkpoint indicating we are halfway through the school year! As finals season approaches, I want to remind everyone to get good rest and take care of themselves while cramming in those last couple of papers or reaching for that 'A.' School may come first, but your health is just as important. Keep an eye out for a couple of de-stressor events hosted by BCC's Student Activities Board.

SGA's Executive Assistant, Erika S. Campo, will be facilitating an Internship Workshop this month. Many students are unaware of opportunities provided to them through internships. This workshop will be focused on explaining why it is important and how to find potential internships through our college services and outside sources. Stay tuned for dates and times which are soon to come.

If you are interested in becoming a part of SGA, but were not able to apply and be a senator, join some of our committees. The committees focus on different areas around the college and even work with college formed committees to assure communication between the students, administrators, faculty, and staff. The committees we have are as follows: Academic Affairs, Athletics, Auxiliary Services, Black & Latino, Diversity, Environmental, Hackensack, Lyndhurst, NJ Transit, Public Relations, Scholarship, Technology and Volunteer. Justice applications are also out, so you can also be a part of our Judiciary branch.

To receive more information about these opportunities, please stop by our office, A-101. Our doors are always open even if it's for a simple question. If you have a hard time finding someone to speak to in the office, contact our email, studentgovernment@bergen.edu or my email which is president@bergensga.com. We value all your suggestions; your input is necessary so that we can put your ideas into action. Remember, we represent you and your voice! I wish everyone a happy holidays and hope you enjoy the break!

Sincerely,
Laura Zottarelli



SGA President Laura Zottarelli
//Genesis Fuentes

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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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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Dear Bergen: Don't Let Our Graduation be Hollow

GABE WANISSIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I can't help but hold a feeling of disappointment as I view the brand new Mission Statement of the College. "To inspire our community to realize a better future," is now the college's mission, and while it is now easier on the eyes compared to the former 71-word statement, the removal of the word "educate" saddens me. However, it would be hard pressed to deny that the vagueness of the statement is exactly what reflects the internal mindset of the institution: place a fresh new layer of paint on on a rusting surface.

To further understand this philosophy, think back to 2011, when former College President Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan was still at the helm. "Bergen will commit to doubling our graduates by 2020," said President Ryan in a Paramus Post news story.

This wishful statement was made months before being fired by the board, after faculty began to resent his actions of hiring administrative personnel without proper sanctioning and spending college money lavishly on dinners with politicians, instead of long-term planning for student success.

Ryan pushed to get graduation numbers up by making graduation an opt-out process. Whereas formerly, a student would have to initiate the process, students with enough credits would be "graduated" in the system automatically. As well, course waivers became increasingly common for students who struggled with classes that were needed to graduate, according to a longtime faculty member. Fast forward to today, these processes are still used. While there is nothing inherently wrong with simplifying the process, the College celebrates the increased graduation numbers as if a new level of excellence has been reached for the student.

In reality, all "We are One" did was make for a killer slogan and become a form of damage control to ignore underlying issues within the college. Yes, the line of students during commencement will now be the longest in Bergen's history. But things such as atrocious faculty-administrative communication, easy passing, contractless professors, declining enrollment, and fired lecturers makes me feel cheated, and makes graduation feel slighted.

We have work to do, and according to a 2015 extensive



Questions grow as graduation approaches // Jessica Rodriguez

research study done by Wallethub comparing 670 Community Colleges in the U.S., BCC was a middle-tier school. The study, which used 17 key measurements such as cost of in-state tuition and student-faculty ratio, found that Bergen ranked 186th in Career Outcomes rank, 319th in Education Outcomes rank, and 447th in Classroom Experience rank.

A step in the right direction has been made, however. After a Faculty Senate vote came out in a landslide 45-2 opposition to the \$2.6 million federal "First In the World" Math grant protocols (which involved a study putting remedial students directly into college level Math), there seems to be a sort of cohesion between administration and the Math department to rework the grant. It's a shame that it took such an extreme outcry against something made with zero input from the Math department, and put 500 students at risk of failing, but it is something. Perhaps maybe, just maybe, the doors have been open for there to be productive conversation. Dialogue that involves all parties on campus to discuss how to improve the student experience is needed.

The Racism Within Presidential Candidates



JOHN CALIXTE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Who will be discriminated next? // Imgur

Current presidential candidates as well as former presidents have made derogatory remarks in the past that came off as racist statements. Once said, things cannot be taken back. On Tuesday June 16, Donald Trump made a bold statement during his presidential candidacy announcement, in New York. Trump said, "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're sending people that have lots of problems. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists."

Singling Mexicans out and stating that they are all rapists and drug traffickers to degrade the people and paint them in this way, is racist. FBI statistics clearly shows us that people of all cultures and descents are guilty and of accused of both crimes not just Latino Americans.

"I would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of this nation. I absolutely would not agree with that," said Ben Carson on NBC News. Carson still stood by his comments the next day.

It is tough to comprehend why one would even say something so obscene. With comments such as this, it would be absurd to see either candidate become the next president.

Sadly, the people of America have already heard racist statements by someone who was in office. In 1912, Former United States President, Woodrow Wilson, once said "Segregation is not a humiliation, but a benefit, and ought to be so regarded by you gentlemen." So if Trump is elected for president, history repeats itself, and we, the people, will only be moving backwards. Do we really want to go back to a time where segregation existed? We have fought for decades and many people were incarcerated and beaten to death. Going back to that time would mean that our fight for equality was meaningless

Recently, presidential candidates Ben Carson and Donald Trump both have made a request for secret service protection, according to CNN. There is a possibility that, Carson and Trump need some sort of protection due to the racist comments that they uttered. According to Carson, he does not need protection from the Secret Service.

"I don't feel the need for it, quite frankly. But the Secret Service thinks that I need it. So, you know, it is what it is," noted by Carson. Trump states "Personally, I think if Obama

"With comments such as this, it would be absurd to see [Carson] or [Trump] become the next president."

were doing as well as me, he would've had Secret Service [earlier]. I have by far the biggest crowds," he added. President Barack Obama was the only presidential candidate to have the luxury of having protection before being elected having those twenty months before being elected.

Carson and Trump have already made racist rants in the past, many people have been offended by this and without protection who can tell how the victims will react. Thousands upon thousands of individuals in America are forced to face much adversity because of racism. The last thing this country needs is more a racism, electing someone who is racist to run this country will only escalate racism in the United States. According to NY Daily News, Trump uttered that he is the least racist person on the planet. Many would find this ridiculous statement to be amusing, exactly how amusing it is to see him and Carson be presidential candidates.



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Bergenstages Enters Veronica's Room



GABE WANISSIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anticipation grew within the intimate confines of Ender Hall Lab Theatre as Ira Levin's "Veronica's Room" delivered its sinister tale to the audience. Long time director Mary Clifford brought together a group of young actors that took the crowd on a two hour, hair raising roller coaster ride.

It's not hard to envision the show having such a gripping tale, as Levin - who also wrote thriller classics such as "Rosemary's Baby" and "Deathtrap" - is masterful at the art of twists and turns, and Bergenstages rendition evoked that sense of terror faithfully.

The story's initial premise is simple. Taking place a half an hour's drive from Boston in 1973, A young woman out on a date with a man she has just met, is stopped by an elderly Irish couple and asked to do an unusual favor for them. Are these kindly, soft-spoken people the gentle, caring folk they seem to be, or is something more malicious at work?

The young woman (played by Veronica Vitale) is almost as naive of the couple's intentions as the audience in the beginning of the show. "She loves life, she's amazed by everything, and enjoys being with new people and is such a social character," said Vitale, but as she and the audience grows in their suspicions, so to does Vitale's character. "It's really amazing to play somebody like that," Vitale added.

The show maintains a fast pace throughout, and the first act is predominantly used to set up the premise and build up the characters for the wildly raucous and disturbing second half. Those who were looking for cheap jump scares would be sorely disappointed, as this is a psychological horror story through and through.

"This is a complete departure from what I do," said Brendan Schlenker, who played the young man. A freshman straight out of Indian Hills High School in Oakland, the dark tone was new for Schlenker. "I've never done a serious role before, except Legally Blonde," he joked.

But Veronica's Room steers clear of even the most subtlest of humor, with plot elements hinting at incest, murder, necrophilia and stark insanity, the show was some of the boldest and edgiest work seen on a Bergen stage. Gasps in the crowd rang throughout the show, and even a loud "This is crazy!" remark could be heard. The actors had the audience in the palm of their hands.

The show takes place in a Victorian household in the 70s that has seemingly been untouched since the 1930s, leading to generational collision throughout the show. This theme of duality is further strengthened by the set design, lighting, accents and soundtrack all working in unison to transport the viewer into the very room itself.

The Man (played by Russell Holland) and The Woman (played by Rebecca Czarnogursky) provided exceptional performances, as the actors pull off a seamless character shift in the second half.

It is this second half alone that made it worth the price of admission, as all the story pieces reveal themselves in masterful fashion. Very rarely does a horror story translate well on stage, but Bergen students outdid themselves by being able to scare the Bulldog out of us all.



The Cast of Veronicas Room on their final performance night in front of a sell out crowd //Henry Fowler



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Social Media's Wake Up Call pg.12

Bergen Basketball Tips Off pg. 15



FEATURES

The Torch

Are We **Paying** Too Much For Food?

LUCIA RUBI GODOY
STAFF WRITER

For many students, eating on campus is the only option. Whether it is because they don't have enough time to make homemade food, want to grab lunch outside between classes or they do not drive and have no other option, students choose either Bergen Pizza or the cafeteria as their preferred places to get food.

Some students live far and work at school. They spend many hours at school, so if they were to bring lunch, they still end up buying at least one meal at school.

"I try to bring food from home," said student Santos Garcia, who lives in Passaic and works at the front desk of student life. "I buy food at school around four times a week, and the money I spend varies depending on whether I buy food in the cafeteria or at the pizza place, and on how many times a day I buy food. I can spend up to \$15 in one day when I get breakfast." Garcia has been a student at Bergen since the spring semester of 2013.

"I buy food at school around three or four times a week," said Patrick Duran, an engineering student in his third year at Bergen. "I usually eat at Bergen Pizza and spend five dollars or six dollars."

Students whose commute is easier or who spend less time on campus avoid spending money on food at all costs.

"I try to bring food from home, but



Overpriced food causes financial burden for BCC students. // Jessica Rodriguez

"I'll buy food at school maybe once every two or three weeks," said Chris Yanni, a history student who is in his third year. "When I do, I usually spend around \$3."

Despite spending as little as possible on actual meals, many students buy coffee, donuts, or sandwiches from Dunkin Donuts on a daily basis. The money adds up.

Sandwiches at Bergen Pizza, Subway and The Wrap Stand in the cafeteria cost between \$5 and \$7, a slice of plain pizza is \$2 A cup of soda is \$2 and a cup of water is \$0.25. If a student spends that amount every day, it comes up to around \$50 a week. The school's private food service, Gourmet Dining, charges 20 cents for a utensil if you have not bought any food.

Although there is not much difference between eating at the food court in Garden State Plaza and eating at school, students can argue that there are not that many choices, and most of the food they sell is fast food.

According to "Community College Students and Federal Student Financial Aid: A Primer" by Jolanta Juskiewicz, 57 percent of students in public two year schools receive some kind of financial aid. Many community college students are nontraditional students and are often working one or more jobs while going to school to help support their families.

If a student spends \$5 on food and \$2.50 on drinks everyday, it can come up to around \$50 a week

If students spend more than two years at Bergen, the money they spend on food can add up to thousands. Besides, out-of-county students have a higher tuition cost. For somebody like Santos Garcia, who not only has spent over two years in Bergen and is a nontraditional student, but also lives outside of Bergen County, buying food on campus is an investment. Students can end up paying two classes worth of money on food alone.

Armenian Genocide Remembered

GEORGE R. GUERRA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

2015 marks the centennial of the Armenian genocide. Bergen Community College remembered this tragedy with, "Preventing Genocide: Centennial of Ottoman Turkish Genocide of Armenians and Other Christian Minorities," an evening of discussion to honor the Armenian Genocide. The event included a screening of Dr. Michael Hagopian's *The River Ran Red*, followed by cultural dance routines performed by the Hamazkayin, NJ Nayiri Dance Ensemble, and culminating in a brief presentation by Dr. Ani Kalayjian on preventing genocide and healing cultural trauma. The event was brought to a close by musician Michael Uzatmacyan playing songs in traditional Armenian stylings on an Oud.

The River Ran Red proved to be a powerful and moving documentary; a testament to Dr. Hagopian's efforts to collect eyewitness testimonies of the genocide over the course of several decades. It highlighted the dehumanization of the Armenian people, and had an almost palpable effect on the audience. Scenes depicted an eyewitness speaking of being forced to exhume the corpses of celebrities in his village and urinate on them, and another eyewitness speaking of a cruel game their captors would play in which they placed bets on the gender of fetuses before splitting pregnant women neck to navel, caused many audience members to visibly recoil, and lent Hagopian's work further gravitas.

One man interviewed in the documentary did not know his birthplace, or even what his parents

had named him, having grown up knowing very little about his culture, and nothing about his family. The film ends on a somber note, with a shot of the titular Euphrates River, where 250,000 bodies of the estimated 1,500,000 Armenians that were killed in the genocide were found. Hagopian almost seems to be imploring his audience to action; that the memory of Armenian culture may be forever preserved, and that it is never forgotten that 100 years ago a river ran red with the blood of his people.

A short question and answer session was supposed to follow the screening, but had to be cut short due to time constraints, leading to the next portion of the evening, a celebration of Armenian Culture through traditional dances performed by the Nayiri Dance Ensemble, the great-grandchildren of those who survived the genocide. Many of the dancers appeared to be under the age of fifteen, reinforcing the idea of promoting and preserving Armenian Heritage through the youth of the culture.

"After four generations here, they have come back to their culture. They sing, and dance, and participate in Armenian activities, including cultural activities which keeps them close to their people, and it's the rebirth of our nation," said the director of the dance group when asked about the performers.

When the dancers had concluded their performance, Dr. Ani Kalayjian began her presentation in regards to the prevention of

genocide. She touched upon the generational transmission of genocide, and emphasized that the best way to cope was to strive to create peace in everyone's hearts. She also discussed the progressive work done by monthly programs focusing on healing generational wounds and empowerment, and discussed the negative impact of trauma and denialism, specifically in regards to Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Kalayjian also highlighted the dangers posed by horizontal violence, or as she eloquently put it "crabs in a bucket syndrome," a Southern turn of phrase she appropriated due to the imagery it evokes of a crab just barely making it clear of the bucket before being yanked down by another trying to make its way out.

She closed with remarks on the "emotional inheritance" of the descendants of genocide survivors and working through the trauma of the past. It was then that Michael Uzatmacyan took the stage, and the dulcet and traditional tones of his oud (accompanied by light percussion), served to close out the evening and provide a soundtrack to the audience's gradual departure. Many of whom had feelings that could be summed up by the comments of event attendee, Kamil Tomczyk who said, "I think I'm leaving [as] a more informed and culturally connected person than I was when I arrived."

Cultural dance routines performed by Hamazkayin NJ Nayiri Dance Ensemble during an evening to remember and honor the Armenian Genocide. // Ari Lopez Wei

Bergen Gets Filled With PRIDE



MELISSA SAENZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The fourth annual PRIDE Prom also had a "ethnic attire" theme for attendees // Ari Lopez Wei

Bergen PRIDE hosts its annual PRIDE Prom for its fourth year in a row, exceeding not only the club's expectations, but those of every individual who went. This year's theme was diversity and the participation was indeed diverse.

The club initially thought that only members would show up, but in the end, students from various clubs, sexual orientations and ethnicities came in and partied the night away. This year, over 100 students showed up giving a new name to the club.

"This event was the perfect representation of the acronym of PRIDE which is people recognizing individuals, diversity, and equality," said, Kyree Callis, A Bergen PRIDE eboard alumni and student.

"It was a day to let loose because people don't always get to dress however they want and be who they want, it was a little safe place for them to party," said PRIDE President, Nafi Korkmaz.

A perfect example would be Justina Rodriguez, a current 3rd year student

at Bergen, who said "It was a lot of fun, a break from any kind of heteronormative/cis normative conventions I could just be who I am around other people doing the same. It was especially refreshing to feel the community of it all".

The experience was extremely refreshing, as people normally who look unhappy in the halls everyday actually having smiles for once and being so open about themselves; some of them didn't even stop dancing on the dance floor.

"It was also a great event to meet so many new people. I met so many new people that made the experience even better," said Vice President Taylor Rango.

The outcome was too good to be true; they didn't have to make major changes except for more vegetarian options for food and more promotions for the next upcoming prom. For the meat eaters, the finger food made it hard to stop eating.

The music they put encouraged people to be comfortable with themselves, love one another for each other's differences, dance an incredible amount.

Korean BBQ, Easy on the Tongue, Hard on the Wallet



ARI LOPEZ WEI
FEATURES EDITOR

Torch members enjoy meal at Seoul Galbi down the street//Ari Lopez Wei

Bulgogi Dolpan-Bibimbap, duck grill and Miyeokguk, these are not food items that are commonly known amongst most Americans. At the Korean restaurant Seoul Galbi, however, you will certainly find these things.

The restaurant reopened as Seoul Galbi after an 18-month hiatus. Since then, it has improved - but at a cost. On the food review site Yelp, Pine Hill, categorized as Korean and Japanese cuisine, had a rating of three out of five stars at the time of its closing and the price range was from \$11 to \$30. Now Seoul Galbi, categorized as Korean BBQ, has a rating of four out of five stars, but the price range is \$31 to \$60, double that of Pine Hill.

Korean food consists of a slew of different flavors. When you order an entree, it comes with a variety of different vegetables including, but not limited to, lettuce, kimchi (spiced radish), sprouts, eggplant, and cabbage. They are complemented with different types of sauces, all in small dishes.

If you order one of the BBQ or grilled dishes, the meat is cooked right in front of you on a grill in the table, in this case, duck grill. The grill plate is prepared before sliced pieces of duck are brought to the table after the

vegetable and sauce plates are laid out. The duck only takes a couple of minutes to grill and it is quite an experience to see your food cooked right in front of you.

To complement the duck, miyeokguk soup with seaweed, fried dumplings and bulgogi dolpan-bibimbap (assorted vegetables and marinated sirloin beef over steamed rice in hot stone pan) are options that go nicely. Those who are extra daring use chopsticks to eat the meal, but some people might like to play it safe and use a fork or a spoon.

For two people, the meal is satisfying. You experience an array of flavors that are different from your typical American meal, and there is not one thing that tastes bad. All the food feels fresh and the aroma is also pleasant. It all makes for a relaxing experience.

However, the downfall of Seoul Galbi is the cost. Being so close to Bergen Community College, it is a convenient spot for students to go eat, but prices for food at the school are already high, for students. At a price range of \$31 to \$60, this is out of the question for most students here.

If you're willing to spend the money, this place is worth the experience at least once, but this is not a place students can afford to frequent.

ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS ADDICTED TO COFFEE?

LUCIA RUBI GODOY
STAFF WRITER

Having a cup of coffee helps many people start off the morning. However, many students rely on three or four to stay awake the whole day.

The average cup of coffee is of 16 ounces (approx. 480 mL) and contains between 150 and 300 milligrams of caffeine.

When asked, many students admitted that coffee is consumed in an attempt to restore the energy wasted on all-nighters.

"Like many college students, I don't get a lot of sleep," said Gabe Wanissian. "I try to make up for the lack of sleep by drinking copious amounts of caffeine."

What's often forgotten is that caffeine is addictive, and after consuming it regularly for a period of time, it becomes a habit. Students have also mentioned that they drink coffee more because they are used to it as opposed to actually needing it.

"I would say I have a cup of black coffee just to start my day," said student Alexandra Mora.

"It's kind of like a ritual," said Wanissian. "You get so used to having that cup of coffee or tea in your hand, it is almost like you don't know any other way."

In search for energy, people also opt for drinks with more moderate amounts of caffeine like tea. Another



How important is it to have that cup of coffee before class? // Jessica Rodriguez

choice is energy drinks, which have around the same proportion of caffeine than beverages with coffee, but more sugar.

"I drink a lot of tea," said Cankat Deyer. "I drink like 10 or 20 glasses a day."

According to a blog written by San Diego State University, recent data from the National Coffee Association suggests that 51 percent of Americans are regular coffee drinkers, and their average comes out to around three 8oz. cups per day. This average does not include soft beverages, which

may not have as much caffeine as coffee, but contain large amounts of sugar. A 21 oz. of Coca-Cola has 39 milligrams of caffeine in it, compared to an 8 ounce cup of coffee, which has 95 milligrams of caffeine in it.

Rosanne Aiello, the Director of Food Service at Gourmet Dining, stated that the sales for caffeine drinks is approximately \$1,600 per day, including coffee, energy drinks and Starbucks cans both in the cafeteria, and in Ender Hall. Sodas are counted in a separate category because they are not divided into caffeinated and decaffeinated. Gourmet Dining sells

approximately 400 bottles and soft drinks per day. This is only counting the Paramus campus of Bergen Community College, without counting any of the sales in the Meadowlands or the Hackensack campuses. Including the sales of the other two campuses should bring the average to at least \$3,000 for caffeinated drinks per day being sold to students.

"I'd probably have like three of these [16 ounce cups] per day," said student Patrick Harrison. "When I run, I have Gu." Gu is a natural energy drink usually consumed while training or performing sports that contains 20 milligrams of caffeine.

When asked what his opinion is on caffeine, biology Professor G. Ventre said that: "caffeine is a natural stimulant, and it's very effective. I'm not a doctor, but it's certainly possible that too much caffeine could make people somewhat anxious, or possibly addicted to caffeine."

According to Mayo Clinic, consuming up to 400 milligrams of coffee (the content of around four medium caffeinated drinks) per day is safe, but a significantly heavier intake of caffeine may cause unpleasant side effects as insomnia, nervousness, restlessness, irritability, upsetting of the stomach, fast heartbeat and/or muscle tremors.

Coffee can be beneficial, but as with everything, it has to be consumed responsibly.

JOIN THE TORCH
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FEAR THAT FOLLOWS : WHY WE LOVE HORROR FLICKS

TATIANA NAUMOVSKI

STAFF WRITER

Whether it is a Bump in the Night or a full-out Poltergeist, horror movies have always strived to be the thing that keeps their audiences up at night. These tales of terror hardly stay the same though, as the inspiration for these films seem to be more linked to the time period that they appeared than one might think.

“What scared people in the 20s, what scared people in the ‘30s, what scared people in the ‘50s and what scare people now are different,” said Gregg Biermann, a cinema professor at Bergen Community College who specializes in the horror genre.

The monsters that lurk within the screen are manifestations of the fears of that period of time. For instance, Dracula, the infamous blood sucker of the 18th century, was the personified fear of foreigners. Frankenstein’s monster mirrored people’s fear and lack of understanding of the new advancements in science and technology when it was first created.

Film has become a new outlet for these fears. “[Especially] in the ‘50s and ‘60s, when people were very conscious of the idea of nuclear weapons,” said Greg Fenkart, an employee at Bergen who has researched the subject. Such ideas gave rise to movies like The Blob, The Fly, and The Thing, as well as many other creature features.

“The Red Scare” brought about a few terrors of its own, Fenkart states, “Things like Invasion of the Body Snatchers and anything where you don’t trust your neighbors is believed to be related to the communists...”

One might be wondering, though, what is today’s big scare? Both Biermann and Fenkart believe that the focus today is specifically on zombies and the apocalypse. Television shows like The Walking Dead and movies like The Hunger Games and The Maze Runner showcase how the issue of Global Warming has become a more recognized threat. What do we do when civilization ends? What do we do when the odds are stacked against us? For some people, these



Perhaps society has created our need for being Spooked//imgur

are real questions they constantly ask themselves, much like the families presented in the show Domsday Preppers who put in a considerable amount of time and money into their state-of-the-art safe havens to protect themselves from the end of the world.

Fenkart has his own theory when it comes to the popularity of zombies.

“Zombies are sort of the ultimate, faceless mass and we live in a society that is very ‘Look at me!’ in social media and things like that,” Fenkart said.

With all these constant reminders of what scares us, one might wonder why they are there. Why do people like being scared so much?

“Well, I think a lot of it has to do with adrenaline,” Bierman said. “There is an adrenaline in watching these things, and on the other hand

it might be schadenfreude, a pleasure derived by someone from another person’s misfortune. Hitchcock was quite shocked and dismayed at the level of sadism in the audience, especially teen audiences for Psycho.”

Slasher films and those with torture came to mind as he spoke. But what really makes horror films tempting to watch is that whoever is watching is safe. “Sometimes it’s ways to work through fears you have in a safe environment, kinda like how roller coasters are terrifying but ultimately, for the most part you are safe. It’s the illusion of danger, it’s the illusion of being in these horrible experiences and knowing that you are safe. It’s kinda cathartic,” Fenkart said, “Any kind of film that can elicit an emotional response is what people like, whether it’s happy, sad, scared and fear is a powerful one.”

Social Media’s Wake Up Call



IVET ANORO
STAFF WRITER

“Social Media Is Not Real Life”
//imgur

With over 700,000 followers on Instagram, and thousands of likes on every picture, she still felt lonely and disconnected from the ones she loved.

To face this struggle, the 19-year-old social media star, Essena O’Neill quit social media with the intent of letting everybody know how fake her online life was. Instead of closing her Instagram account, she changed her name into “Social Media Is Not Real Life” and recaptioned some of her pictures to shed light on all the times she had to spend to make her pictures look spontaneous and natural.

Regarding her life and her feelings, O’Neill said, “I am the girl that had it ‘all,’ and I want to tell you that having it ‘all’ in social media means absolutely nothing to your real life.”

She is not the only person who shares these sentiments. Since last August, the successful supermodel, Cara Delevingne announced she wouldn’t be accepting more modeling jobs because the fashion industry made her feel sick.

The detractors though, came swiftly. They said that she wasn’t looking for anything but more attention, that this was nothing more than a brilliant move towards self-promotion.

Whether she did it on purpose or not, the truth is that these “it girls” are admired by a considerable number of teens and young adults that want to become like them – or at least what they think they are. The majority of these fans ignore how time consuming and hard it is to look like one of these social media stars.

In a society led more and more by external and immediate gratification, it is not surprising that young people develop addiction to technology and depression.

As a matter of fact, according to a research done by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, eight percent of 12-17 year-olds in the United States experienced at least one major depressive disorder in the past year. Media plays an important role in this issue. A study from the National Institutes of Health concludes that the medias portrayal of body image and the “ideal” life creates unrealistic expectations for teenagers, disrupting their “normal identity development” and leading to depression.

In addition, Dr. Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University, says that rising rates of depression are partly the result of a culture that promotes narcissism through social media usage.

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THE FORCE AWAKENS... FANBOYS



Students show off their Star Wars merchandise in excitement for the upcoming movie. //Catherine Canillas

KATHERINE CANILLAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Friday December 18, the date is saved by Star Wars fans that have anxiously waited 10 years since the last episode, *Revenge of the Sith* (2005). How have faithful followers and surely soon-to-be new generational fans come to prepare for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*?

Luckily, BCC has some pretty serious fanboys that were pleased to share their intellect and how they have been handling all the anticipation so far.

Proud fans, Alex Maria and Eric Joseph, were the go-to people, happy enough to share what they think.

Joseph is so thrilled that he can feel the sensation throughout his body, "I'm so excited... I'm like shaking... I'm also excited about the director [J. J. Abrams] because he directed the newer *Star Trek* films, which I like because they felt like *Star Wars* and we got

somebody who loves *Star Wars* and is finally making a *Star Wars* movie. So I feel like it's probably going to have more of a feel of the original films than with the prequels."

Maria relates, "I'm excited too, I'm recently getting into it now... Because I do know the films and I have somewhat grew up with them, but now I'm revisiting them."

Fans everywhere are going crazy for new and old characters like the Scavenger Rey, portrayed by Daisy Ridley; the return of Harrison Ford, of course, as the brave Han Solo; the fierce General Leia Organa played by Carrie Fisher; Anthony Daniels who plays C-3PO in all films including cartoon series, and various other recognizable characters.

Joseph shares his thoughts on the new actors, "I think they're nice people [the actors] ... from interviews, their

story continued on pg. 14

A Leader Begins With You

LUCIA RUBI GODOY
STAFF WRITER

"Leadership Starts At the End of Your Comfort Zone" was the theme for Leadership Development Day this year. It began at the Gravity Vault in Upper Saddle River, and ended with a presentation by guest speaker, Jon Vroman at the Bergen Community College Lyndhurst campus on November 7. 32 students participated in this very exciting event that left every single participant wanting more.

The first step toward leadership is to challenge oneself. Without challenges, people don't grow.



Overcoming challenges and adversity forces people to get out of their comfort zone. Challenges presented at Leadership Day definitely pushed Sarah Casanova out of her comfort zone. Casanova, a freshman at Bergen Community College, was one of the day's participants who rock climbed at the Gravity Vault, blindfolded. When asked about rock climbing blindfolded, Casanova explained her experience.

"It was just as exhilarating as rock climbing except you don't know where everything is, so you only have to rely on touching the walls and hearing the person behind you, especially a friend like Eika Campo," Casanova said. Campo is a sophomore at Bergen Community College who also attended Leadership Development Day.

There are many qualities that come with that feeling.

"Leaders have qualities of champions, winners, and people who want to succeed," said Robert Mansmann, a sophomore at Bergen Community College who attended Leadership Development Day as well.

A very successful leader and founder of the Front Row Foundation, Jon Vroman, spoke and gave a hands-on experience that was very exciting, yet informative. The Front Row Foundation was formed 10 years ago in the Philadelphia area with help from family and friends. It is a charity which helps people suffering from life-threatening illnesses to be able to see a live event of their dreams and have a front row experience.

"Being in the front row is leading, because when you take a front row seat and you stand up to give



(Left) Natalia and Samuel posing after Rockclimbing (Right) Greg Fenkart and Rachel Lerner-Colucci enjoying the activities of Leadership Day //Noemie Brossoux-Coutard

a standing ovation, everyone can see you and be inspired by that. So, that just means being in the front row shows that you are exposed and vulnerable and people can see what you are doing, so if you are having a great time in the front row, you affect everyone behind you," said Vroman when asked about how leadership and Front Row molded together.

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70th Annual Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Induction Ceremony

CHRIS CARTER
STAFF WRITER

The gym was filled to capacity on a mild November evening for the 70th annual Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony.

Several speakers from the Bergen staff and Phi Theta Kappa program were in attendance to welcome the new wave of honor students. Through the program, new inductees are offered a chance to "overcome circumstances, become stronger individuals, and gain real life experiences as a scholar," said Alpha Epsilon Phi Chapter President, Natalia Gonzalez.

Phi Theta Kappa is the official honor society for two-year colleges across the country. Those inducted on this night are in the top five percent of Bergen students academically.

The program's mission is to recognize and encourage academic achievement of two-year college students and also to provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programs.

"Being a part of Phi Theta Kappa is like being part of a family," said alumni speaker, Arielle Patrice, as she described how comfortable she feels to be part of this network of intellectuals.

Through the program, students are offered large scholarships to top universities in the area, such as New York University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Rutgers, though scholarships to almost every 4-year university across the country are also available. Transferring students are encouraged

to find the best fitting school that offers the highest opportunity of success in their field.

"Service to others is one of the greatest qualities individuals can exhibit," said B. Kaye Walter, Bergen Community College President. The program offers a wide variety of character-building community service programs around the clock for students to get involved and reach out to the community despite their busy schedules as honor students.

When the time for the induction ceremony arrived, those in the audience were asked to refrain from applause until the end of the ceremony. Many proud relatives could not hold back their whistles, cheers and claps for their loved one as they began to embark on their journey for success.



Students celebrate their induction into Phi Theta Kappa //Facebook

The Force Awakens... Fanboys

Continued from pg. 12

attitude, like John Boyega plays one of the new characters. He just seems so into it, like he's so excited about it," he says as Maria nods her head in agreement. "So I feel that's the attitude that we need, they have a lot of passion."

Excitement is also being met with some doubt as well, as Joseph expresses differing feelings about whether he thinks the movie will turn out to be all it's hyped up to be, or not, "well I'm hoping that it's not bad, obviously," he says. But he wants to prepare for the worst in case it is bad, "I have all this excitement and [what if] it just doesn't turn out right?"

To Phil Contrino, a box-office analyst, it's second nature to him to know how well the film will be, he predicts that, "it's in the same spot as Avatar, which played and played. Force Awakens will hit \$1 billion without blinking."

If it's really good, it could cross \$2 billion," he told the Hollywood Reporter according to CINEMABLEND.

"My biggest complaint on the hype: too many trailers and commercials. Three trailers were fine, but now that

there are so many commercials revealing so much footage, I feel like we're going to know the entire movie," Joseph said.

The Torch asked, has this sensation been overhyped by the audience and production? "I think there is a lot of overhype because it is the first film in 10 years... But then again it is well deserved, it's Star Wars..." said Alex.

"Force Awakens will hit \$1 billion without blinking. If it's really good, it could cross \$2 billion."

- Phil Contrino box office analyst

The placement of the movie was smart because we can correlate the wholesome film with the joyous holiday season. Star Wars: The Force Awakens is a feature film for the family to lighten spirits and will bring people together for the holiday season, and undoubtedly, will end 2015 with a bang.

Leadership Day

Continued from pg. 12

This is related to the main idea for Vroman's book, "Living College Life in the Front Row." The actual idea of the book is about stepping up and acting with courage in your life by refusing to be a spectator in the back. Being in the back row, and watching from afar isn't what people really like, but it is the people that live a front row life who can help those behind them lift up their spirits and help them enjoy the experience that is unfolding in front of their eyes.



"Climb the Mountain Of Life" - Brandon McCartney//Noemie Brossoux-Coutard

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The NFL In The U.K.?

Continued from pg. 16

in 2007. It's debatable whether or not the roles are reversed with the English. In half-billion investment was fruitful, as the great spiral of irony and fate, the league instituted the London games colonial behemoth hath becometh the to satisfy their overseas audience - with colonized.

great results.

But will American football international spotlight, we can expect ever reach the international heights of the sport to be taken into heights only basketball, where half of the NBA's website traffic in 2007 came from Asia, or even baseball, where 246 foreign-born players were on opening day rosters that same year?

Perhaps it's too soon to say. The English exported cricket to India back when colonialism was in fashion, and it's now the most popular sport in the Indian subcontinent. But now the

If American football does reach the international spotlight, we can expect the new breed of athletes would be able to take it to, and we should probably change the name.

"Does England even care about American football?"

Sports Section Continued Below

DEVILS BUILDING QUICKLY, CONTRARY TO NHL PATTERNS

The near future is now the present, and the team is coming together quicker than expected.

CHRISTOPHER KASPEROWICZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Losing General Manager Lou Lamoriello and hiring John Hynes, a first year coach, out of the AHL was not what most fans thought would be the answer for rebuilding the New Jersey Devils. But it turns out so far it's exactly what the Devils needed. Obviously, the season is young, but the Devils have played a great sample of teams, beating the Blackhawks twice in six days, at home and in Chicago, but also handing over a victory to the bottom-of-the-conference Columbus Blue Jackets. Also beating the rival New York Rangers at the Garden was a shock, considering New York is one of the best teams in the league.

The deterioration of the Devils started way back when the team lost two of the best players the organization had seen in decades: Ilya Kovalchuk and Zach Parise. The departure of Kovalchuk via early retirement came as a shock to the NHL, let alone the New Jersey Devils, who were tricked into believing they finally had an all-star forward. The departure of Parise via the free agent market came as less of a shock, considering he went home to Minnesota, but certainly still a wallop to the teams hope for the near future. And the cherry on top was the dismissal of Martin Brodeur, the guaranteed Hall of Fame goaltender, who signed with the St. Louis Blues in the 2014-15 season, only to play seven games and add three wins to his record. Brodeur's retirement, however, was inevitable regardless of the color of his sweater, finally leaving the game at the age of 42.

The near future is now the present, and the team is coming together quicker than expected, and quicker than most teams in the league rebuild. The NHL has teams that are great and teams that are not. Five teams have won more than one Stanley Cup over the last twenty years. Combined, those five teams have won fourteen championships, leaving only six other teams with just one each. These numbers just go to show how patchy championship-level skill is in the NHL.

On the contrary, teams can also play poorly for long stretches of time. Four teams have never been to a Stanley Cup, six teams have been there but have never won,



Veteran Mike Cammalleri taking the ice during a preseason game.//imgur

and five teams have taken only one championship. Although the Devils' last Stanley Cup victory was in 2003, they have appeared in the playoffs six years in a row, only to miss it once, right before making it all the way back to the Cup where they lost it in six to the Los Angeles Kings, their first championship in franchise history. Now, after becoming a team that hasn't made the playoffs since the 2011-2012 season, they are showing they can be in that 'sweet sixteen' once again.

Over the last two seasons, the Devils have

landed two goal scorers in Kyle Palmieri and Mike Cammalleri, both of which have added offense in the surprising start. Along with players like Travis Zajac, who's been a constant goal scorer, and Cory Schneider in net, the team is finally putting together a good looking roster again.

The new coach and the new General Manager, Ray Shero, who previously belonged to Pittsburgh, seem to be a great fit for Jersey's team. After a strong 10-7-1 start over the first 18 games, a playoff berth is certainly not out of the question.

BULLDOGS LOSE TO BRONX BRONCOS, BOUNCE BACK 4-2 FOR NOVEMBER

MATTHEW MARTY

STAFF WRITER

BCC had its winter Basketball opener November 10, vs Bronx Community College. The Bulldogs had high hopes for this game but in the end they were trampled by the Broncos. Many starting players were new additions to the team.

#15 Tyler Thomas, #33 McKay LeDuke, #32 Maurice Mills, #24 Jesus Mendoza, #55 Quincy Waithe, #11 Matthew Ospala, #13 Kyle Hioki, #12 Alex Gil, #51 Dahne Menzel, #3 Mark Veras, and #34 Issacar Albert were all welcomed to the roster with open arms.

Along with new players comes a new coach. Bobbie Morgan was appointed head coach on August 6.

"The transition to head coach has been very smooth, Jorge Hernandez is a great Athletic Director and he has made my transition very seamless," said Coach Morgan.

The Bronx Broncos started off with a four point lead, but The Bulldogs struck back with a vengeance in the name of Matthew Ospala.

However, the Broncos knew how to counter with Richard Gethers gathering multiple points. The last



five minutes of quarter one consisted of multiple defensive errors, which resulted in The Broncos gaining an eight point lead, finishing the first quarter ending 37-45.

The start of the second quarter, the bulldogs started off with a turnover. The Broncos took advantage of this and scored from this turnover.

This was an ominous foreshadowing of what was to happen the rest of game as the Bulldogs defense was constantly penetrated with the Broncos holding the lead the rest of the quarter and with Jatton Pierce Bias taking over the game.

The second quarter ended with the Bulldogs losing 102-84, performing abysmally compared to the first quarter.

"No transition defense, we couldn't stay in front of their guards. The guards were very good and we couldn't really get into our offense sets as they were very disruptive," said Coach Morgan.

All in all, considering all the new changes to the roster, adjustment is what the Bulldogs need to do and that is something that can definitely be accomplished.

(Left) Team points leader Doug Palmadessa makes a shot vs Bronx
(Center) Kyle Hioki goes for a layup against Bronx
(Right) Doug Palmadessa sets up for a pass
//Ari Lopez Wei

Women's Basketball I: The Lady Bulldogs Step Up their Game

LUCIA ROBI GODOY

STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team lost 57-40 to Bronx Community College on the November 10 home opener. Being the first home game of the season, the Lady Bulldogs did not set a good precedent for the season.

After having defeated Raritan Valley in the preseason, the team seems to have had a streak of bad luck, this being the third consecutive game that they lost at home. This is not the most positive prospect, considering that they lost two out of three games, and the season has just begun.

The first half of the game against the Bronx Broncos was underlined by a severe deficit in points, and a plague of fouls. The lack of communication among the girls proved to be a severe problem. The same play was repeated many times without success; on the Bergen offense, the same two players passed the ball back and forth until they felt they had a clear shot. This play didn't work and they only really started scoring when the players began passing to each other.

Because of the bad start, the team benched down were not as encouraging to the members on the court as Bronx. The other team never stopped chanting and shouting instructions to teammates. Both of the men's basketball teams, the Bulldogs and the Broncos, showed up to support their female counterparts.

"We had a tough start. We started off with two losses," said



Danaisia King Attempts to make a pass against Bronx CC? Ari Lopez Wei

Lexi Raffa, one of the three team captains. "As time goes on, we are getting it together," seconded Quran Manlove, another one of the captains.

"It was a bit of a struggle because it was hard to get at least 10 players on the floor for practice," said coach Tracey Green, after being asked about the major difficulty the team faced at the beginning of the season. "I have people who were playing soccer, people who were running cross country, people who play volleyball; so while they are in season,

we are also in season," she explained.

The team has also received many additions. "I think we definitely have the potential to be a better team this year," expressed Green. "I have a couple of really good players back from last year, and I've added in some freshmen who are very promising; we've made a lot of improvement in just a couple of games," she added.

However, not all has been bitter for the Lady Bulldogs, and after the defeat against Bronx, the team won against the Community

College of Philadelphia in an away game, and against Queensborough. The team suffered two losses in the last two games of November against Cumberland and Ocean.

"One main thing we have really been working on is our boxing out," said coach Green. "A lot of [other teams] don't box out on a regular basis, so we have really been focusing on that because rebounding is going to be really important for us in order to hold down other teams from getting second and third shots at the basket," she explained.

"I think we definitely have the potential to be a better team this year"

-Head Coach Tracy Green

When asked what the main focus of improvement is for the season, Lexi Raffa answered that the team needs to "do everything we can to benefit everyone. Not focusing on yourself, but focusing on the whole team."

"Being positive about everything we do," added Manlove. "We are gonna win," said Manlove confidently.

"One of our strengths, I think is our speed; we have some really quick players," stated coach Green.



SPORTS



BERGEN GOES TO NATIONALS, MEN'S SOCCER WINS FIRST REGIONAL TITLE IN ITS HISTORY

ADAM GRASSANI
STAFF WRITER

It's been a semester of nothing but success for Bergen sports, specifically the men's soccer team and both the men's and women's cross country teams. The men's soccer team won the Region XIX championship with a 2-2 penalty kick victory over Sussex County Community College to earn themselves a trip to the NJCAA National Finals. This is the first time the men's soccer team has won the regional title in BCC history.

Unfortunately for the men's soccer team, their trip to the Nationals didn't go exactly as planned. They got shutout in both games they played 2-0, the first to Nassau Community College and the next to Montgomery Community College.

However, this shouldn't erase the accomplishments the men's soccer team won. They set multiple school records this season. Along with this being their first region XIX championship, they had the most wins they've ever had with 15, as



Soccer Team celebrates the Region XIX Championship for the first time in school history//Claudette Alcobar

well as the most shutouts with 10. Both Malik Stewart and Coach Freddy Herrera took home personal hardware. Herrera won Region XIX coach of the year, while Stewart won player of the year, respectively. Stewart's play of the year award is the first in BCC history.

The men's Soccer team wasn't the only Bergen team that showed up in the NJCAA Nationals this year though. Both the men's and women's cross country teams went to Nationals as well, with the men finishing in 10th place overall.

Aneudy Nunez was the leading runner on the team, finishing in 27th place with a time of 29:27:04. The women's team did just as well, finishing 13th place overall. Yanibell Paca lead the team, finishing 21st place in 20:37.

For the men, the 10th place finish was the best since placing 8th in 2012. For the women, the finish was the the strongest placing in 13 years, when they finished 8th in 2002.



The Women XC team pose before their meet at Stanley Park in Westfield, MA//Claudette Alcobar



The Men XC team squares up before the starting pistol goes off at nationals //Claudette Alcobar

Will The NFL Touchdown in the UK?



GELBER CASTILLO
SPORTS EDITOR

This expansion plan is looking like a Hail Mary attempt.//Jessica Rodriguez

The NFL's ambitious design to export American football to England is one that will either flop or remodel the sport. If the London-based franchise that the NFL wants to create becomes a reality, what will happen to the great all-American staple sport if reaches the international level?

Actually, does England even care about American football?

The NFL thinks so. They boast a 13.8 million viewership among the English, with 12 million self-proclaimed American football fans. But this statistic, according to Aaron Gordon of Vice, is skewed.

That amount of viewership would constitute as

18.7 percent of the country, which, compared to the 23 percent of the population that watched the 2014 World Cup England-Italy match, has Gordon asking, "Are we really to believe the NFL is only slightly less popular in the U.K. than the English National Team?"

All 3 games held in London in 2014, however, sold out. The NFL also sold 34,000 three-game ticket packages that year. There is undeniable interest in the sport, especially when one compares the fact that the average Premier League attendance rate was at around a staggering 92 percent.

But let's acknowledge the fact that soccer is cemented in English culture. One only has to look up YouTube videos of their chants to see just how

much more passionate the English are about soccer - or football - than Americans are about American football.

To think that the ardent fans of the 20 soccer clubs could be more interested in a sport that rolls into town a handful of times every year and one they can only watch in the ungodly hours of the night due to time zone differences the rest of the year is absurd.

Let's talk in more relatable terms. The Germany-Argentina 2014 World Cup Final was the most watched soccer game in the U.S., but has the sport's popularity outmatched that of football's?

The World Cup was a unique spectacle, one that Americans gladly enjoyed, but one the mainstream wouldn't partake in that same fever in any other circumstance. The NFL's London games are in a similar position; they're flashy exhibitions, not as a sport that's sustainable in the state the NFL claims it currently exists.

It's like when you wish that one guy a happy birthday at his legendary birthday parties but would never speak any other day of the year.

The Soccer vs American Football debate that anyone can find raging in every open field in the U.S. was never argued across the pond in England, because it was drowned out by the deafening roar soccer - or football - chants.

But the NFL is relentless. They sunk \$400-\$500 million on the now defunct NFL Europe project

Read more about the NFL's plan to expand into Europe on pg.12