



## BCC Wants You to Pay to Print

ADRIAN YLLATOPIA  
NEWS EDITOR

“In 2013, in the library alone, there were about 2,228,000 papers printed. In 2014, it was 3 million pages. On the first day of the semester alone there were 50 thousand pages printed.” Rong Wang, Assistant Director of Library Management read off these statistics during the Student Government Association’s Wednesday meeting on February 25. The week prior, the Senate was presented with a resolution from administration that would hope to charge students a fee for printing at any public location on campus.

The original resolution states: “The College is planning to submit to the Board a resolution to institute a pay-to-print on public printers. Justification: Due to rising material costs and to cut down on waste, Bergen Community College is planning to implement a pay-to-print system for all students and community members using public printers i.e. library, free time labs and resource centers. Bergen Community College is one of the few remaining community colleges in the state that did not charge students for printing.” As a result of the enormous amount of paper being wasted and the increase in material costs, the college plans to charge 10 cents per black and white page, and 25 cents for color. The college administration says this initiative will “help Bergen Community College in its institutional sustainability and resource conservation efforts.”

The resolution was read in its entirety to the Student Government Association Senate during their public meeting on Wednesday, February 18. It was presented as an initiative that appeared to be in its final phases, which brought much frustration to the room of students. The following week, Tyler Beebe, of the IT Department and Ms. Wang were invited to the SGA meeting by Ralph Choonoo, an SGA Advisor and Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs, to bring clarity to the situation.

During this meeting, Wang and Beebe explained that the initiative was brought about through the Executive

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Whether it be powerpoint notes, a late essay, or photography, BCC students rely on printers to function academically.  
Iness Rabah/The Torch

## Governor Christie: “Broken His Own Law”



Governor Christie’s public reputation has been in flux since last year’s “Bridgagate” scandal.  
Michael Bryant/Philadelphia Inquirer/MCT

SAMUEL MCLAUGHLIN  
STAFF WRITER

On Monday February 23, Superior Court Judge Mary Jacobson announced that New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has “broken his own law” after his decision to cut \$1.6 billion of funds going into the public pension system. Christie first proposed this cut in May of 2014 in hopes of preventing a \$2.7 billion shortfall that the state predicted for the fiscal 2015 year.

The courts said that the financial shortfall was “staggering,” yet they still cannot justify a reason to make a cut of \$1.6 billion. “The court cannot allow the State to

simply walk away from its financial obligations, especially when those obligations were the State’s own creation,” wrote Jacobson.

Originally, the governor was not able to access the pension fund for statewide borrowing. It was during the Christie/Whitman administration that this was made possible. Whitman began proposing ideas to build schools in poor New Jersey districts for the sake of affordable education, but the state did not have the money. Whitman got together with like-minded justices of the supreme court and managed

to gain access to the New Jersey pension system. According to Whitman, borrowing from the fund would keep from an eventual raise in taxes.

New Jersey income reported that there were no significant changes in taxes from this; however, all of that money was borrowed without voter approval. After that door was opened, former and current governors Jon Corzine and Chris Christie continued to borrow funds with no concrete evidence, suggesting that they would pay it back.

After siding with the public employees who sued the Christie administration last June, Judge Jacobson issued an order for Governor Christie to begin paying back what is owed. This rule has placed Christie in a bind, because he is now beginning to quickly move money around in order to fulfill his debt, which in turn may result in low funding for inner-city projects that the Governor has been pouring into for several years. This is giving Christie reason to worry about this having a controversial effect on his presidential campaign.

“The Governor will continue to work on a practical solution to New Jersey’s pension and health benefits problems while he appeals this decision to a higher court where we are confident the judgment of New Jersey’s elected officials will be vindicated,” said Michael Drewniak, secretary of press for Governor Christie.

Director of special counsel and policy for the AFL-CIO Union, David Silvers, stated that this decision “reinforces what should be black letter law, pension promises by government to the people who work for government are real contractual obligations that must be honored and must be funded.”

Governor Christie said to the public that he is hoping to comply with this rule using the safest of financial means. Christie is speaking out against politicians who would solve this issue by raising taxes. “We cannot tax our way out of this problem,” Christie said last Tuesday, “By putting forward new solutions to age old problems, we are creating a national model.”

# The Nature of Power: War Bill on ISIS

ZACH MCDEVITT  
LAYOUT EDITOR

In seeking to expand the United States' military presence in the Middle East, President Obama drafted an Authorized Use of Military Forces (AUMF) proposal in mid-February, looking to rally Congress' formal approval for any potential military intervention in conflicts with ISIS and "associated persons or forces".

This proposal, attempting to bridge partisan gaps and salve concerns of both Democrats and Republicans, includes strict limitations on the duration, extent, and exact nature of the military intervention, in result repealing the controversial 2002 AUMF enacted by the Bush Administration, which authorized brazen, offensive military force in Iraq and was approved by Congress upon false evidence of WMD's in the region; the controversy and aftermath of that decision, it seems, still resound throughout the walls of Washington.

In a letter sent to congressmen prior to the official AUMF proposal, Obama explained "the draft AUMF would not authorize long term, large-scale ground combat operations," going on to specify that "local forces, rather than U.S. Military forces, should be deployed to conduct such operations." The true intent of the AUMF, according to the President, is to facilitate U.S.-based aid and support, including the right to conduct rescue operations, reconnaissance and intelligence collection, equating to assistance for local forces combating ISIS. Indeed, the official language of the AUMF resolution "does not authorize the use of... armed forces in enduring offensive ground combat operations" and explicitly limits this under-

taking to three years after the joint resolution is enacted.

Although the AUMF proposal draft is ostensibly organized to limit the president's authority in total military overkill, vis-à-vis the strict imposition on time and conscious attempt to mitigate American deaths by limiting force, passages of the official text remain equivocal and unspecific, raising concern that certain articles of the resolution, if given formal approval, might easily be abused. Section 2, in which military authorization is given strict terms, calls for the right to mobilize armed forces against ISIS and "associated persons or forces"- an undefined and subjective variable which, approved as is, would permit acting executive administrations to make arbitrary decisions, that they may mobilize units against any entity in any portion of the globe arbitrarily deemed associates to ISIS. With no definition to the criteria in ascertaining an entity's "association" to ISIS, or the AUMF proposal, as is, poses a certain risk of unbalancing the power dynamic in our government.

Similarly causing backlash, the new AUMF resolution, despite repealing the 2002 congressional authorization which began the Iraq War and subsequent financial fallout, does nothing to repeal the equally - if not more - controversial 2001 AUMF, passed in the wake of the September 11 attacks, which permits the president "to use all necessary and appropriate force" against those involved in the September 11, 2001 attacks,

with negligible limitations. In the spirit, perhaps, of the recent downsizing of operations at Guantanamo Bay, Obama "remain[s] committed to working with the Congress and the American people to refine, and ultimately repeal, the 2001 AUMF," but hasn't, as of yet, taken any official action.

If Congress formally approves of the resolution, the executive office will need not legally consult the legislature on any authorizations of force related to the 2015 AUMF for two years, leaving President Obama's successor with a great power and dangerous responsibility.

The sting of last decade's warlike catastrophes, as well as the surreal horror of terrorism, is clearly still fresh in the political scene. The moral responsibility of the United States in a situation like this remains unclear to many, with a legislature and civilian population torn between certainty that ISIS must be stopped, and a pragmatism that realizes the wasteful and destructive nature of extended operations in the Middle East. "I have disagreements with the president's conduct of foreign policy," said Arizona Senator Jeff Flake (R), admitting that "we need an Authorization for the Use of Military Force. Our enemies and our allies need to know that we speak with one voice."

West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin (D), however, sees the prospect of increasing presence in Middle East in a different light: "In West Virginia, we understand the definition of insanity."



Vice President Biden, President Obama, and Secretary of State Kerry address Congress on the 2015 AUMF. President Roosevelt watches from atop a horse. Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/TNS - Photo courtesy of MCTcampus.com

## BCC: Pay to Print

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Team seeing the incredible increase of paper waste and a rise in expenses overall. One student asked if there might be a projection in how much the college would save. SGA President Laura Hoyos asked, "If this money is being used from the operating budget and now it's being paid for by the students, where is that money [that will be saved] going? Our concern is that when we ask questions about student fees and money, we don't get answers that we feel we have the right to receive access to." The response to her question was that all monies saved would then be spent on students.

Still, the question remains, are there other options? Senator Aleksandra Gavasova asked Beebe if there might be a way of providing students a limit of pages to print for a semester before requiring additional payments. Beebe responded, "It is possible, but it is a matter of being agreed upon by the Executive Team."

Of the other 18 community colleges in the state, Bergen Community College is among some of the most

expensive in tuition fees, and is currently one of seven community colleges that do not charge students a fee to print. Of the colleges that do not charge students, the college administration says that two others are considering charging students a fee. Essex Community College does not allow students to print at all. BCC students are currently charged a technology fee per semester which, according to the 2012-14 Catalog Policies, "partially defrays the cost of the development and replacement of instructional technology, including expanding and improving internet access, maintenance of academic computing labs and networks, maintenance of desktop computers and multimedia labs, and expanding distance learning opportunities for students." Members of the community, or non-students, are also currently able to come to the college and print using a "guest" card. This card has no fee attached to it. This essentially means that the fees associated with printing have been absorbed by the college up to this point.

After much discussion at both SGA meetings, a decision was made to hold the resolution, and was not on the agenda at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 3. All Student Government Association meetings are public and held every Wednesday in room S-138. The Executive Board welcomes all students to come to the meetings to find out more information on this and other initiatives which impact the student body.

**"Our concern is that when we ask questions about student fees and money, we don't get answers that we feel we have the right to receive access to."**

### Corrections to stories that appeared in previous editions of The Torch:

February, 2015: Typographic error; article entitled "Looking into the Labyrinth" was cut off; last sentence was missing words "encouragement and facilitation, without artistic compromise."

December 2014: Miscredit; Article entitled "Giving Back on Thanksgiving" was written by, and should have been attributed to, staff writer Luis Lopez Wei.



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# NEWS

## The Torch

# Hopeful Peace Between Russia and Ukraine

SAMUEL MCLAUGHLIN  
STAFF WRITER

After nearly five months of engaged warfare, pro-Russian rebels and Ukraine have signed a ceasefire. The battles began after the annexation of the Crimea peninsula led by the Russians last March. This hostile movement prompted the Ukrainian military operation to take back their cities. The Ukrainian armies were successful in driving most of the Russian rebels back to their strongholds in Donetsk and Luhansk. Even so, the Russians have made further advances in recent days.

On February 12, the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France met in Minsk, Belarus to discuss the terms of the truce agreement. They agreed that the rival sides should have two days from the start of the truce to pull back heavy weaponry from the frontlines.

The peace agreement was officially set into motion the next Saturday evening at 2200 GMT, but there is still widespread scepticism concerning its reality. There was heavy shelling in eastern Ukraine all the way up to the hour of the signing with many militia and civilian casualties. Some areas of eastern Ukraine are reporting that the ceasefire deal has been honored up to this point, yet many Ukrainian civilians are still fleeing in different directions, fearing the agreement will not be kept. There have been more than 2,600 deaths since the rebels stormed the eastern cities.

Even Ukraine's president, Petro Poroshenko, has expressed distrust in the truce deal. During a meeting with Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban, President Poroshenko said, "Unfortunately after the Minsk agreement, Russia's offensive has significantly increased. We still think that the agreement is in great danger."

The reason for this fear is due to a truce signed by Russia and Ukraine last September that was not kept. The tensions were high, and after a few skirmishes between small military factions, the firing soon returned to full scale warfare. Being the second attempt at a peace treaty, it makes sense why both sides are concerned.



After rebellion, destruction and violence in the name of national identity, Putin and Poroshenko are approaching diplomacy.  
Top: George Bridges/KRT - Bottom: Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/MCT - Photos courtesy of MCTcampus.com

On Saturday evening, reports from Ukraine were saying that the ceasefire was mostly being observed, but early Sunday morning there were reports of shelling seeming to be sent from the Russian rebels. Some areas of eastern Ukraine are claiming that there is no ceasefire at all and others are reporting things to be quiet and mostly peaceful. Military and civilian

casualties are still being reported.

President Obama gave his advice on the subject when he spoke to the leaders of Germany and Ukraine just hours before the ceasefire, stressing the need for both sides to end the violence. Russian and Ukrainian officials continue to negotiate and press for peace.

# Three Students Shot to Death Near UNC

NOURA DAKKA  
PHOTO EDITOR

Three students were killed near the campus of the University of North Carolina on Tuesday, February 10. They were gunned down by a neighbor; the police saying it stemmed from "an ongoing neighbor dispute over parking." However, the family of the victims believe it was a hate crime because they are Muslims, and it had nothing to do with a parking spot.

The victims, all shot in the head, were killed at about 2 a.m. that morning. They were identified as Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23, his wife Yusor Mohammad, 21, and her sister, Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, 19. Deah was a second-year dentistry student; his wife planned to start at the dentistry school this fall, and Razan was a student of North Carolina State University.

Craig Stephen Hicks, 46, who has turned himself in to the authorities, has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder in the fatal shootings. Hicks, wearing a prison jumpsuit, made a brief appearance that Wednesday morning in Durham County District Court, where he asked for a public defender. He was denied bail and informed that the next hearing would be held March 4, newsobserver.com reports.

Hicks' wife, Karen Diane Haggerty, told reporters that she was simply shocked and she asserts her deepest sympathy to all the victims.

Taking into consideration that Hicks' Facebook profile reads "atheist of equality," and he often set posts offensive to religion, the question must be raised as to if it really was a parking dispute. Police are examining the suspect's computer to see if they find anything indicating bias against Muslims or any intent to carry out an Islamic or religion-based attack, according to a law enforcement official briefed on the investigation, reported CNN.

Thousands gathered in Raleigh, North Carolina on Thursday that week at a prayer vigil and funeral services to honor and respect the three victims. All three were buried at the Islamic Association of Raleigh's Muslim cemetery in Wendell, North Carolina.



Deah Barakat, 23, his wife Yusor Abu-Salha, 21, and her sister, Razan Abu-Salha, 19 were killed on February 10, 2015, in Chapel Hill.  
Chris Seward/News & Observer/TS - Photo courtesy of MCTcampus.com

The incident triggered an outburst under the hashtag #MuslimsLivesMatter, which started on Twitter and soon spread all over social media. According to USA Today, Chapel Hill Police Chief Chris Blue, in a statement, called the killings a "senseless and tragic act," and said police are still probing what happened.

The suspect, Hicks, was indicted on February 16, on three counts of murder and one count of discharging a firearm in an occupied residence.



Executives and senators of the Student Government Association. President Laura Hoyos is third from the left. Jenny Gamez/The Torch

## SGA President's Letter to Students

Dear Students,

I hope you are all enjoying your Spring Semester. Even though it has been a very long and freezing winter, your Student Government Association (SGA) has been heating up some awesome initiatives for you. Here are a couple of them to warm up your day:

First of all, we are working on a proposal to create a Student Trustee position within the Board of Trustees. We currently have the representation of an Alumni Trustee, who is elected by the student body for a one-year term. Our plan is to have a current student representative alongside the Alumni Trustee. This student will sit on the board to serve as a liaison between the student body and the Board of Trustees. Senator Andrew Fenwick, Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Student Trustee Committee shares, "The student trustee position will allow the students to feel well represented." Our proposal will contain the results of a survey that we are currently distributing to the student body in all campuses. "With the survey, we hope to identify the level

of student awareness regarding the Board of Trustees and the decisions that directly impact us as students," shared Nick Scales, a senator of the SGA. This proposal was initiated by the SGA and has no affiliation with any other groups on campus. The Ad-Hoc Student Trustee Committee meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Room A-101D. All students are welcome to take part in the conversation and contribute towards the planning of this proposal. The committee expects to submit a final proposal by the beginning of April.

The SGA has also been working on a collection of new or gently used backpacks for the project, #BringBackOurGirls: Targeting Women, sponsored by the Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation at Bergen Community College. Our goal is to collect a total of 270 backpacks to represent the 270 girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria from the dorms of their high school in the town of Chibok. On March 25, as a part of Women's History Month, the Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation will co-sponsor the #BringBackOurGirls: Targeting Women Conference. This conference will include a

panel discussion about the effects of women trafficking in the U.S. and Asia. Please do not forget to mark your calendars for this very informative conference!

Recently, the administration approached the student senate to discuss the Pay-to-Print Initiative. This initiative will require all students to pay for all the papers that they chose to print in both the library and computer labs. The student senate has been working diligently during the senate meetings to make sure that all concerns and questions are addressed. Everyone is invited to attend the senate meetings, which take place every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in Room S-138.

Please remember that the SGA is here to represent you! Feel free to stop by our office in Room A-101 or email me at [PresidentSGABCC@gmail.com](mailto:PresidentSGABCC@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Laura Hoyos

## SpaceX: Privatizing The Last Frontier

DENNIS PEARSON  
STAFF WRITER

Elon Musk, CEO, posing with the SpaceX Dragon Capsule.  
Brian van der Brug/Los Angeles Times/MCT - Photo courtesy of MCTcampus.com

The United States government has relied on the private sector and private groups to achieve their goals and open new frontiers on many occasions. But entrepreneur/engineer Elon Musk and his company, SpaceX, are taking the gradual steps to change everything.

Founded in 2002 and located in Hawthorne, California, SpaceX is a private aerospace company that designs and builds rockets and spacecrafts. They have sent commercial satellites into orbit for other companies, and NASA is currently using them to fly supplies to the International Space Station (ISS). Musk's goals for SpaceX is to lower space travel expenses and to eventually inhabit Mars.

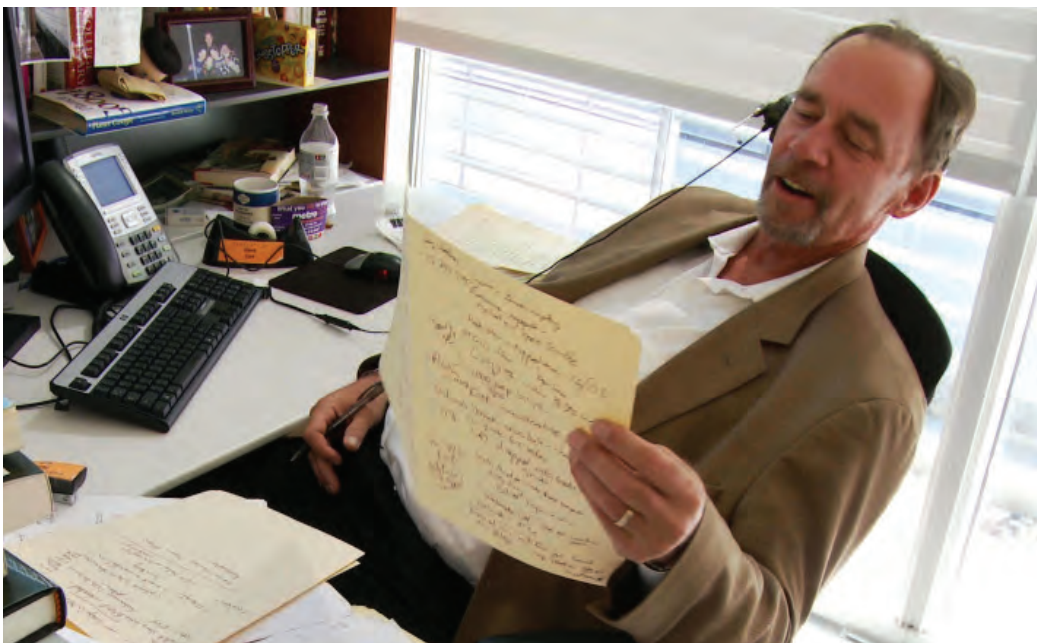
Over the years, SpaceX has made some major accomplishments that have raised global interest. In July 2009, Falcon 1's (one of their launch systems) fifth flight was the first privately built rocket to launch a commercial satellite into low Earth orbit. In 2012, their spacecraft, Dragon, was the first privately built spacecraft to ever visit the ISS and have the technological ability to send a large amount of supplies to and from the Space Station.

Although SpaceX has made some impressive feats, they still have many technological obstacles they must overcome. One challenge both SpaceX and NASA are facing is the ability to reuse rockets. Typically, once a rocket is used for launching a satellite or a spacecraft, it needs significant repairs. One of SpaceX's reusable rockets that broke significant flight records a few years ago was their Grasshopper rocket. SpaceX is working on stronger, more resistant rockets that can be reused at little to no cost. Another major problem for them would be precision landing. Landing a rocket on a large, stable surface is hard enough - but landing a rocket on smaller, less stable surfaces will be the real challenge for Musk's engineers. The third, and one of the oldest and most daunting obstacles NASA has faced and SpaceX is facing, is the factor of weight. Today, launching objects into space costs \$10,000 per pound for NASA. Supplies are always going to be needed when putting people into space, but if scientists can develop lighter, stronger materials to build rockets and spacecrafts with, it would cut launching costs tremendously. There are materials like carbon nanotubes and nanomaterials that are revolutionizing manufacturing right now.

Bryan Morales, an Accounting major, thinks "SpaceX can easily achieve their goals especially with the concept of reusable rockets." He also believes, "Space exploration should be handled through private companies alone." Gloria Lambert, a Theater major, says, "SpaceX can achieve their goals and the future of space exploration is cool but dangerous." Finally, Dr. Daniel Salerno a Professor of Composition and Literature thinks, "The private sector may never have as much influence in space exploration then NASA will." He also thinks that the private sector, NASA and the space programs of other countries such as China and Russia should all collaborate in the mutual interest in exploring space.

Whether the final frontier will be a government or privatized endeavour, or a combination of the two, the most important thing is we are working on the technologies to achieve mankind's ultimate goal of spreading across the cosmos regardless of who is in control. Only time will tell if SpaceX truly lives up to its goals, but what they have accomplished already shows that they not only walk the walk, but talk the talk.





David Carr, behind his desk at The New York Times offices.  
Film Still/Magnolia Pictures - Photo courtesy of New York Post

## David Carr Dies Suddenly at 58

INESS RABAH  
STAFF WRITER

David Carr was an American writer and New York Times journalist who passionately wrote the Media Equation column of the newspaper, which gives insight on how the media affects culture, business and government. He was the media expert with a style that is widely described as forthright, sincere and perceptive. It was February 12 when Carr collapsed in the New York Times newsroom, and was pronounced dead at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital shortly after. At 58 years-old, medical examiners ruled that he died from lung cancer and heart disease complications.

A memorial service was held the Tuesday after his death in the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in Manhattan, where his brother John recounted that he was "a unique combination of Minnesota nice and New York attitude." His three daughters, Maddie, Erin, and Meagan, tearfully spoke about their father's compassion and magnetic persona. Carl Bernstein, who did most of the reporting on the Watergate scandal, HBO star Lena Dunham and comedian Arnold Bourdain, as well as several CNN personalities attended his wake as well.

At the funeral chapel, daughter Erin Carr said, "I loved my dad, I loved him so much. I am so sad that he's not here. But, good lord, he would have loved this". Every seat was filled and there were people standing and spilling out into the halls.

Carr, originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, got his first job at Twin Cities Reader, which ignited a spark inside of him, and he later became an editor of Twin Cities in 1993. He then frequently wrote for The Atlantic Monthly and New York Magazine, and started working at the Times in 2002 as a cultural journalist. He was the first to write the Carpetbagger Blog, an awards season blog of the New York Times. He remained with the Times until his death.

In 2008, Carr released his memoir, *The Night of the Gun: A Reporter Investigates the Darkest Story of his Life--His Own*, which revealed not only hard-hitting interviews that he had conducted, but also his vigorous battle with cocaine. He recounts a dark time in his life when he was living with his drug dealer, who was also the mother of his twin daughters, and how they were taken from his custody and put in foster care. It was then that he gained the strength to get past his addiction, and was able to say that he had finally proven himself as a loving father and husband.

The New York Times Magazine relaunched their latest issue dedicating it to David Carr. The last line of the dedication reads: "His passion for journalism, his courage and his sense of mischief were — and remain — an inspiration to us all."

SHENEMAN  
PUBLIC CONTENT AGENCY

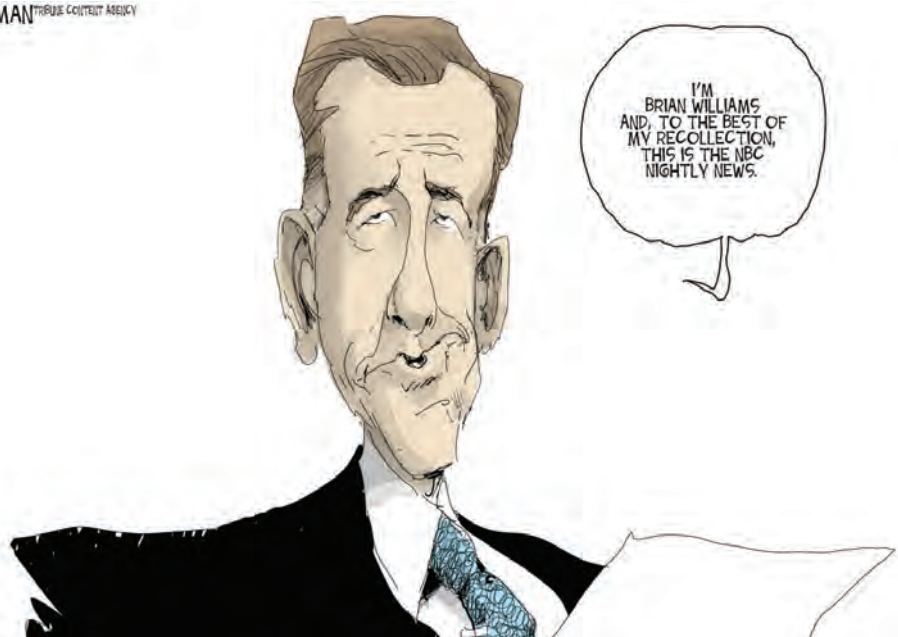


Illustration by Sheneman - image courtesy of MCTcampus.com

## NBC's Brian Williams Suspended

NOURA DAKKA  
PHOTO EDITOR

NBC News chief anchor and managing editor, Brian Williams, allegedly fabricated his story about his trip to Iraq that he covered in 2003. Williams had attended an air mission with the U.S. Army over Iraq. The objective was to be given "a glimpse of the war being fought as few have seen it," Williams reported.

Williams announced that, just before they were about to land, radio traffic clarified that the "routine is running into trouble." They were ordered to land suddenly in the desert. It was then they learned that the Chinook helicopter in front of them was hit by an RPG, fired by Iraqis in civilian clothes. Then, in 2008, he retold the story the same way in a blog post. But when Williams appeared on the Late Night Show with David Letterman, the story changed. "Two of our four helicopters were hit, including the one I was in, by ground fire, RPG and AK-47," he said. Instead of correcting himself, Williams repeated the tale this year on January 30.

One of the soldiers, Lance Reynolds, who was on that Chinook helicopter that was hit, exposed Williams on Facebook. He commented: "Sorry dude, I don't remember you being on my aircraft. I do remember you walking up an hour after we had landed to ask me what had happened. Then I remember you guys taking back off in a different flight of Chinooks from another unit heading back to Kuwait to report your 'war story' to the Nightly News. The whole time we were still stuck in Iraq trying to repair the aircraft and pulling our own security." Later on, Williams apologized for his mistake.

Stars and Stripes Magazine first broke the story. They had interviewed the soldiers involved in the event. Subsequently, the soldiers said Williams wasn't on any of the four helicopters, and he had tagged along later with a different group. However, that account has not been verified yet.

Brian Williams has been suspended for six months without pay. Lester Holt is now at the helm of NBC Nightly News since Williams left the desk on February 6.

A day later, Brian Williams posted a personal note on the NBC News website. It reads, "In the midst of a career spent covering and consuming news, it has become painfully apparent to me that I am presently too much a part of the news, due to my actions." Later, Williams adds, "As Managing Editor of NBC Nightly News, I have decided to take myself off of my daily broadcast for the next several days... Upon my return, I will continue my career-long effort to be worthy of the trust of those who place their trust in us".

## Khalil Gibran Muhammad On Mass Incarceration

KRYSTIN BRUNO  
STAFF WRITER

"We are going to take a trip to the past," Khalil Gibran Muhammad, director of the Schomburg Center for research in Black Culture said. "It is really a story of our time, it is a story of triumph and tribulation, progress and peril," he began as he honored the audience at Bergen Community College for Black History Month. Muhammad discussed the nation's focus on mass incarceration since 1960, and presented a work-inspired speech on profiling, policing and the unfinished work of racial justice.

Muhammad connected John Legend's comment at the 2015 Oscars with notions that have been made by former African-American judge A. Leon Higginbotham, former New York Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, and Fredrick Ludwig Hoffman, a Prudential Insurance employee from Newark, NJ. With a mind-opening fact, Legend said to his audience, "We live in the most incarcerated country in the world. There are more black men under correctional control today than there were under slavery in 1850."

Higginbotham said, "...[the] same old poison of racial prejudices [were] poured into new bottles even though these bottles carried labels such as 'civil protection,' 'due process,' and 'privileges and immunities.'" Ray Kelly brought forward the "stop and frisk" proposal that he defended as "reasonable criteria presented to us by the RAND Corporation, an institution that has been in existence for 100 years." The corporation exists to help determine proper decision making by using research and analysis. Kelly said, "Take a look at racial profiling; to determine if it happened, you should first look at the universe of people who are the perpetrators identified by the victims of violent crime, and in New York, that



Muhammad discusses Higginbotham's proposal on racial profiling.  
Henry Fowler/The Torch

universe comports to the racial makeup of the people being stopped." Fredrick Hoffman's proposal says, "The Irish and Italians show a percentage societally above the average, yet small when compared of that with the colored element." He continued, "Black people have a special crime problem."

In 1890, a census recorded that black people were 12 percent of the population. The amount of incarcerated blacks was up to 30 percent. Altogether, Higginbotham, Kelly, and Hoffman were introduced along with the presumption that these statistics were not about race, but about regulating public safety. Each political figure based their opinions of race, violence, incarceration and public safety on mere statistics, research and analysis. Altogether, each figure used the statistics and believed that blacks are more likely to be thieves, domestic abusers or murderers. This led to Hoffman's answer to racial profiling to be, "Why bother?" Muhammad said. He explained that public figures such as Ray Kelly were determined to set a focus on the notion of, "Black people hurt each other in their own communities, we put more police officers there and that can't be racial profiling."

Muhammad said, "Where we are today, 50 years after the triumphs of the Civil Rights Movement, is not the first post-Civil Rights Era we've been in and is not the first moment that people believed we were beyond race, [or] that we were post racial." Muhammad's audience included students, children, and sorority members, Ron McKnight - the chairman of the Black History Celebration Committee, as well as Bergen professor Ursula Parrish Daniels. Professor Daniels described Khalil Gibran Muhammad as a "man of humility" as she welcomed him to the podium.

# 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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## CORRECTIONS

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](mailto: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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@torchheadsays

# State of Emergency? We Don't Care!

**BLAIR DELONG**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Snow days are something every student wishes for. They don't have to go to class, they can make up on some school work that they've missed or even catch up on some much needed sleep. Students of Bergen Community College however, have lucked out this semester- two snow days, but a question lingers; Should we have been afforded a third? Was a mistake made to keep BCC open until noon on March 5 while New Jersey was in a state of emergency? While many professors, adjuncts and lecturers surely cancelled their own classes, the campus as a whole was open until noon, but here is the kicker, the decision to close the campus came at 11:55 a.m. Five minutes before students were to have to leave the campus and make (at the time) the dangerous ride home. Just a bit of an FYI though, even Paramus Catholic was closed, which is right across the street from campus, just let that sink in for a second.

Wednesday March 4, BCC officials made an announcement the students would know by 3 a.m of Thursday March 5 if classes were in session due to an impending storm. Now, while 3 a.m. came and passed no word was given on if the campus was to be closed for the day, but as all avenues of communications the school provides students says, "Unless you hear otherwise, you have class." While BCC officials did decide to close the campus and all events at 12 p.m. students, faculty and staff only had five minutes warning. While we all get alerts, whether it be on the BCC website, Facebook page, Twitter and even through our email and texts, what about the students and staff that were still driving in the storm to get to campus? Would the President's Executive team want us to pick up our phones in less than ideal conditions (or any conditions for that matter) and check to see if the campus is still open, I think not.

Now while after every storm the committee that is in charge of making the decision to close the campus down, they must evaluate their policies and how they did in their reaction.

Maybe after the last two closings, the Executive Team got information from buildings and grounds on the conditions of the roads on campus and parking lots, and maybe even traffic and weather updates and enacted what they thought was the best plan of action. Every hour this committee met to evaluate the situation and deemed it safe for commuting students to make it to campus safe and attend classes. But to give everyone a five minute window to announce the school would be closing early is almost laughable.

BCC's Facebook page was inundated with questions from students asking if school was in session. Mr. Bergen, the voice of BCC on the internet said in one post, "If campus were to close you would be immediately notified through email, the schools website or through our Facebook page." As Bergen diligently answered each question, which was just a rewording of the last, in the same professional manner that he has exhibited during every storm gave the same answer but yet impatient students kept with the onslaught of questioning. Here's a tip folks. From now on, if there is no information on the Facebook page, Twitter or your email automatically assume YOU HAVE CLASS, leave Mr. Bergen alone.

In the case of the school issuing a closing with a five minute window, then by all means, take it up with BCC President, B. Kaye Walter and the committee in charge of school closings. They put everyone at risk, by the time of the notification there was already a three inch icy mix of slush, ice and snow on Paramus Road. By the end of the storm, Paramus along saw 5.9 inches of snow by 6 p.m. March 5 according to the National Weather Service. This ill advised decision to even stay open on the fifth put a lot of people at considerable risk, and while we all hope there won't be another storm, let's just hope that the right decision will be made next time and see our faculty, staff and students safe and not having to take unnecessary risks. Maybe this should be put into the committee's next evaluation.



Cars and buses waiting to brave treatorous conditions on their commute at BCC. Photo Courtesy of Deana Deo.

# Racism in America: Why Does it Persist?

**BRANDON RENO**  
STAFF WRITER

Why are we still racist? It's a common refrain to hear, "It's 20xx, and we're still doing this?" whenever some horrible piece of news scrolls across our social media or news feed. The concept of the year implying a level of social progress and racial tolerance is a relatively recent one, as if we are so far away from racism that it appears almost foreign to us. Living in the New York Metropolitan area, we take for granted many of the luxuries our (relatively) liberal life gives us. We see events in Ferguson, MO, and think, "Well that can't happen here, that's just the backward South." On the contrary, racism has been - and will continue to be - a part of our culture and our daily lives for the foreseeable future.

On July 17, 2014, Eric Garner, a black man accused of selling untaxed cigarettes on a Staten Island street corner, was killed by police officers when they attempted to subdue and arrest the man. Garner's death, caught on videotape, sparked a firestorm of debate about police brutality, particularly against minorities. Why was Garner, a man standing on a street corner, singled out? A USA Today analysis of FBI crime statistics in 2011 and 2012 showed that blacks are arrested at a markedly higher rate than whites in many pockets of the country. The same analysis of statistics showed that only 173 of 3,853 police departments around the U.S. arrested blacks at an equal

or lower rate than whites, though it should be noted that FBI statistics do not differentiate between whites and Hispanics.

The disparities are even readily apparent in liberal university towns like Madison, WI, and Berkeley, CA, where blacks are nine times more likely to be arrested than people of other races. Out of the 18 police departments researched in Bergen County, 12 of them arrest blacks at a higher rate, with Fort Lee coming in at a county high 10 times more likely to arrest blacks compared to other racial groups.

(continued on pg. 8)

**Racism has been - and will continue to be - a part of our culture and our daily lives for the foreseeable future.**

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# OPINIONS

## The Torch

# Unity In The Middle East Is Coming



Coptic Christians join with Muslim protesters in a show of unity in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt.  
Carolyn Cole/Los Angeles Times/MCT - Photo courtesy of MCTcampus.com

**GABE WANISSIAN**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Twenty-one Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Christians were beheaded by the terrorist group ISIS. The self published footage showed the clear Libyan ocean water turn into a crimson pool of innocent blood. Within hours of the video finding its way on the Internet, the Egyptian government responded by launching an airstrike on the terrorist group's stronghold in Libya.

Unprecedented, while the entire Arab world continues to sink into its own footprint over extreme nationalism and ideological disputes, an Islamic country retaliated for the deaths of its Christian citizens.

Egypt's president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi then preceded to call the executed Christians "Martyrs" and added, "The need for a United Arab force is growing and becoming more pressing every day."

Why is it such a big deal, you ask? Well it's known that the three Abrahamic religions, along with various nationalities, have been at odds with each other for over a millennium. The Crusades, Sunni and Shiite Muslim disputes, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Armenian Genocide are but a handful of situations in which religious or ethnic elitism led to the loss of countless lives.

Egypt's response has the opportunity to be the catalyst in bringing forth a newfound tolerance and acceptance of all various faiths and cultures throughout the entire Arab world.

In Syria and Iraq, tensions have existed between Kurdish and Assyrian Christian minorities for generations, with the Kurds longing for their finally realized Kurdistan nation and with the Christians being marginalized by their respective governments.

Recently, the two nations have fallen victim to ISIS, and the Christian communities that lie in their path have been decimated. Kurdish forces, such as the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Peshmerga Army, have provided homes to the deprived Christian people.

It would be naive, however, to think that this newfound acceptance for minorities is purely an act of humanitarianism. The Kurdish people recognize their opportunity to gain ground for their realized state, and Egypt president el-Sisi is following two political disasters in former presidents Hosni Mubarak and Mohamed Morsi losing the favor of the Egyptian public.

Their lucrative motives need not matter, as a generation of young Arabs are growing up and witnessing opposing belief systems defending one another.

Yes, there is still the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there are still countries in the Arab gulf that prohibit the practice of any religion besides Islam, but even Martin Luther King Jr.'s push for equality occurred during America's most segregated times.

At times it can feel naive to envision a harmonious Middle East. However, late 19th century Poet and Musician Wasif Jawhariyyeh, an Orthodox Christian native of Jerusalem, comes to mind. In his memoirs, "The Diaries of Wasif Jawhariyyeh," he describes his life in the Holy Land during the early 1900's. He would play music with Jewish, Christian and Muslim musicians alike. Jawhariyyeh studied the Bible, Quran, and Torah, and he would practice Passover and celebrate Islamic Eid's out of respect for his Jewish and Muslim peers.

This pre-Ottoman War Jerusalem was described to be the home of a sort of "hybridization" by Salim Tamari, author of "Wasif Jawhariyyeh, Popular Music and Modernity in Jerusalem." The Holy Lands brief period as a hot bed for various cultures to intertwine together created a melting pot; the very same one that gave way to the European Renaissance, and the Americas that we know today. The entire Middle East region that gave birth to modern human society can see the same feat; a fully realized civil rights movement is in the hands of the young generation of Arabs. History tends to repeat itself, so it's not a question of if its going to happen, but when.

## JOIN THE TORCH

Meetings every Tues., 12:30 p.m., SC-111C-D

# Racism in America



In the wake of a rash of police brutality cases, many wonder why blacks are inordinately targeted.  
Photos by Paul Silva - Licensed under Creative Commons



continued from pg. 6

What accounts for this gross divergence? The USA Today reporter who did the analysis, Brad Heath, spoke to NPR after publishing his findings. When asked for explanation as to why the disparity was so wide, he said, "This could be a function of disparities in economic outcomes, in education, in poverty, in all sorts of variables that are really hard to measure and really hard to correlate."

Despite research and debate, the question remains with no clear answer in sight. We all encounter racism at some point in our lives, some of us more often than others. The days of legal segregation, of public lynchings and Jim Crow, have been done away with for some time, yet segregation still remains in a multitude of forms. Voter ID laws, for instance, have the potential to disenfranchise African-American and

Latino citizens from the electoral process, according to a 2014 PBS Frontline story on voter ID laws. While some of these laws have since been ruled unconstitutional, 16 states still keep voter ID laws on the books, mostly in the South and Midwest.

Even now, subtle forms of discrimination exist. It isn't entirely uncommon to see somebody crossing the street whenever they see a black male in a hooded sweatshirt walking in their direction. Why do certain individuals do this? Is it on a case by case instance, or is it something more, something ingrained in our culture and society?

With such a vast and varied population in the U.S., it will likely never be possible to fully explain why we are like this. Like the answers to solving such discrimination, the answer for why it is there in the first place, will probably never be answered.



Those who don't listen ear-to-ear will never see eye-to-eye.  
Tania Boghossian//The Torch

## Relationships: Communication is Key

HELEN MAFINEJAD  
STAFF WRITER

Communication is an essential quality to maintain a long-lasting, loving relationship. The majority of couples fight and argue, but instead of talking calmly to one another about the problem at hand, many times the solution is to break up or just storm off.

No matter how much we may know or love our partner, we do not always know what's on their minds. Communicating clearly will avoid any misunderstandings that may hurt or anger our significant other. To communicate clearly in a relationship, each partner should think about what they want to say and how they are feeling at that moment, be clear with their message so their partner accurately understands where they're coming from, talk about what they want and feel, and share positive feelings with their partner on what they love and admire about them.

When we communicate, we can also say a lot without speaking. A change in body language, tone of voice and facial expressions all convey a message to our partner. If what we mean doesn't match our words, it is often the non-verbal communication that gets understood and accepted.

When listening to your partner, you should keep comfortable eye contact, lean toward your partner to show interest and concern, sit or stand on the same level as your partner so you avoid looking up or down at them, stay relaxed, and avoid distracting gestures such as fidgeting with a pen, looking away, or tapping your feet or fingers.

Also, when listening to your partner while he or she is talking, trying to put yourself in their shoes can help you understand why your behavior or the situation at hand may

be frustrating for them. When you're angry or upset, it is difficult to see past your side of the argument. Empathy can go a long way in solving a problem in a relationship. Emphasize that you understand how they feel and why they're upset can make your partner feel like you're really listening to them.

You may be frustrated with your spouse, but sometimes it's good to give your partner space and freedom because they are still gathering their thoughts and feelings and just want time alone. Giving them space will prevent jumping into an argument saying something one of you may regret down the line. You should let your partner finish what they have to say without jumping in and interrupting them because it will make things worse. Take note on what you wanted to address and let your partner finish what they have to say, and then you will have your turn.

When listening to your partner, you guys will not always accept or understand what the other has to say, there will be times where you don't see eye to eye. There are things you have to accept, but knowing there is a gap between your understandings on the situation will make you more receptive to what he or she has to say.

To maintain healthy communication, both partners should compliment one another, take the time to go out and do things you both love to do, and tell them things you love about them. In any healthy relationship there has to be communication, without it, it just wouldn't work.



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# RUNNING GIRLS IN GALLERY BERGEN

Two of the many individual works that constitute the Running Girls exhibition.  
Iness Rabah//The Torch

**INESS RABAH**  
STAFF WRITER



Anyone who's been to West Hall recently has wondered about the mysterious black paper silhouettes in the shape of a female figure. Running Girls, the latest exhibition open to the public in the gallery at West Hall at Bergen Community College, aims to set off an emotional and engaging reaction for the 276 schoolgirls that were kidnapped in Nigeria. Boko Haram, meaning "western education is a sin," is the extremist Islamic sect in Nigeria that kidnapped the girls.

The exhibit opened on Tuesday, February 17 with food, bowl drum playing, chanting, a dance put on by the college and the opportunity to meet the artist herself, Mary Mihelic.

The artist aims to complete a series of 53 mixed media works of art, each in the form of a girl running. "53" is significant because that's how many girls have escaped from the Boko Haram.

"I was kind of fascinated by what makes a girl run or stay," Mihelic said. "All the 53 girls that ran, got away. So I'm doing 53, one for each of the girls that escaped, not for every missing one but one for every girl that got free. So it's more of a positive thing in a way, it's more of a feminist thing, but I don't mean to critique the girls that didn't run. It's more to keep their message going now. The girls are getting forgotten in all the media too."

The artist had strong feelings of empathy since she grew up with so many Nigerian friends.

Mihelic also went on to talk a little about some of the works individually. The artist portrayed an incredible use of symbolism. For example, one of the "running girls" has the words "You Only Die Once" written in. Mihelic tells the Torch that one of the girls, when in captivity, said, "You only die once," which inspired a group of five girls to steal one of the Boko Haram cars and run away.

Another work had the words "How to be a Woman." This is because of a book written in the U.K. with this title by Caitlin Mirand and is referred to as the feminist hero of our time. Mihelic says this is "so dumb," and that these girls are the ones that represent how to be women, not that book.

## Do You "Fit" In Society?

**MELISSA PEREZ**  
STAFF WRITER

Everywhere women look, they see size 0 models all around them, but when they look in the mirror, they see something different. Society flaunts a perfect figure that is unobtainable. Seemingly flawless women who are no bigger than a size 2 are the standard of beauty. Airbrushed and photoshopped models are plastered everywhere; buses, taxis, magazines, music videos, ads and social media sites are littered with pictures of skinny girls.

These false expectations are everywhere, impacting the fashion industry tremendously. Mannequins, carved to promote false pretenses, are in every store window and wedged in every other aisle. Meanwhile, ads full of touched up models 'representing' women in brands are on practically every flat surface. The modeling industry is dominated by tall, thin women and online shopping ads, which are all posed by thin, air brushed girls. The ironic thing is, a majority of the fashion industry's customers are nothing like the models parading up and down runways and crowding magazine racks everywhere.

According to TodayIFoundout.com, the average size of women in America are between the sizes 12 and 16. A woman has hips, a bust, a bum and actual arms and legs. Her hips are not nonexistent, but women are led to believe otherwise with society's subconscious subliminal images.

The average bust size for an American woman is 36C, according to LiveScience.com. Yet, despite this, the least bought size in female retail is size 14, Cleveland.com said.

With all this propaganda brainwashing our girls and infecting our women, it is completely understandable why a woman would not reach for a size 14, especially since clothing is based on the lies retailers sell. A size 14 would not even be on must-sell floors for stores. Clothing trends are being produced for the sizes models have, not an average size like size 12. Crop tops, bodycon dresses, mini skirts, and short hemlines are not flattering for the majority of women's body types.

Full-figured women are not the only ones affected by this, but also women with athletic builds, who cannot fit their calves in skinny jeans; for this writer, working in retail has shed light on this dilemma. Some women cannot even purchase skinny jeans unless a percentage of spandex is mixed with the denim, making it a tight pair of jeggings. How is this fair? Every girl knows the feeling of squeezing into jeans, the pulling and tugging and wiggling and sucking in your stomach; it is disheartening and discouraging.

Mike Jeffries, former CEO of Hollister, Abercrombie, and Abercrombie and Fitch, leading brands in junior retail, has admitted to the media how he is personally prejudiced against teenagers who are not skinny, claiming they are fat. His clothes, which are extremely popular among teenagers, were purposely produced to run small, and were not made in sizes like extra large, and jeans only went up to size 12. Due to his discrimination to plus-sized women, he has been forced to step down. Since then, the company has made very little progress towards incorporating larger sizes. Their boyfriend jeans are avail-

able in size 16 in stores, an employee from the Abercrombie and Fitch store located in Garden State Plaza confirmed. Besides this, nothing has changed; size 14 jeans of any other fit is available online.

An interview with a mother, and Abercrombie shopper, Tiffany Vato really expressed how customers feel about the weak improvements. When asked if she feels that the store is curve friendly to average-sized girls, she gave her honest opinion. "No. Definitely not," She answered without hesitation. The next question, if she thought the brand was harmful to developing young girls and society she once again gave her honest opinion.

"Of course, because it portrays this image of women that are not real, that women are stick figures... I'm only here because my daughter loves this store," Vato opened up. Clothes are becoming tighter and tighter, so where are girls suppose to put away their natural beauty?

"According to Stores.org, \$28 billion a year of merchandise is returned to stores because of poor fit..." Fashion.About.com stated

"Now we're getting more clothes that are getting smaller. Like the new Bethany Mota clothes line are running a lot smaller than the entire store," an Aeropostale employee told The Torch.

A medium does not seem to be a medium anymore, sizes made to dress people are bias and seem intentionally small.



Body standards propagated by size-labeling and mannequins are often unrealistic and difficult to attain.  
Iness Rabah//The Torch



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# FEATURES

## The Torch

### The Luck And Pride Of The Irish

JOSEPH CIRILO & SHARI FRIDMAN  
FEATURES EDITOR, STAFF WRITER

Once a year, on March 17, in Ireland, the United Kingdom, the U.S. and many countries around the world where Irish influence has spread, come together to unite for a day of festivities in celebration of the life of Saint Patrick and the culture of the Irish he influenced.

This widely popular holiday has people from all over sporting green clothing, often leading to non-stop bar hopping adventures with groups of friends. However, the significance of the holiday is in the essence of Saint Patrick's deeds in life.

In America, we see it as a celebration of our shared culture, and, overall, the observance of nationalism, pride, and love of heritage is common among all the Irish and those of Irish descent. The day brings people together with joy, laughter, beautiful, upbeat Irish music, traditional river dancing and extravagant, flashy parades.

The celebrations of this day generally involve public parades and festivals, céilithe (a traditional Gaelic social gathering, which usually involves playing Gaelic folk music and dancing), and the wearing of green attire and shamrocks. The reason why the Irish



Ever a day of celebration, revelers announce their Irish blood through green, white, and orange.  
William Gratz/Abaca Press - Photo courtesy of MCTcampus.com

are now closely attached to the three-leaved shamrocks is actually because of Saint Patrick, who introduced the idea of the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish of the time. The Christians also attend church services, and the Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol are lifted for the day, which has encouraged the holiday's tradition of alcohol consumption, which is why many modern-day college students, of Irish descent or not, go out to drink all night. Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Newfoundland, Labrador

and Montserrat. It is also widely celebrated by the Irish movement around the world; especially in Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand, and all other parts of the world at pubs.

By the early 17th century, the day was heralded by the church to be a day of feast in Patrick's honor, ascending him to sainthood, and celebrating the day his missionaries arrived on Irish soil, carrying with them the word of their Lord.

Green ribbons and shamrocks have been worn on St Patrick's Day since at least the 1680s; however, when the Order of St. Patrick, an Anglo-Irish chivalric order, was founded in 1783 it adopted blue as its color. This led to blue being associated with St. Patrick. In the 1790s, green became associated with Irish nationalism when it was used by the United Irishmen. This was a republican organization led mostly by Protestants, but with many Catholic members, who launched a rebellion in 1798 against the British rule.

(continued on pg. 15)

# MAKE YOUR NEXT CAREER MOVE

NICOLE ACOSTA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Photo courtesy of <http://www.aiche.org>

Bergen Community College presented students and faculty with a Summit Panel Discussion on the topic of 'Choosing a Career and Making Informed Decisions' on February 4. The professionals invited students to engage in conversation, sharing information such as what they wish they knew before entering their careers, how to manage stress, what to do when faced with challenges at work, and how to get ahead in the career they choose. These men and women gave unbiased, useful advice on how to succeed in the challenge of obtaining and maintaining a career. The pressure is constantly on for anyone looking to advance in the competitive working world. Fortunately, there are those who have experienced the obstacles and are willing to pass down their success stories.

The Student Center was specially reserved for the speakers at the panel. Ronald McKnight, Director of Multicultural Affairs here at BCC, was the moderator of the summit and engaged the invited guests in open-ended conversation.

"Let's talk briefly about networking, if we could get some ideas or suggestions on how it helps," said McKnight, "You have to go out into the community, you have to talk to people, you have to probably do something you're not going to get paid for...everyone can network....it's up to you to build those connections," said Gene Calderon, Career Advisor at Bergen Community College.

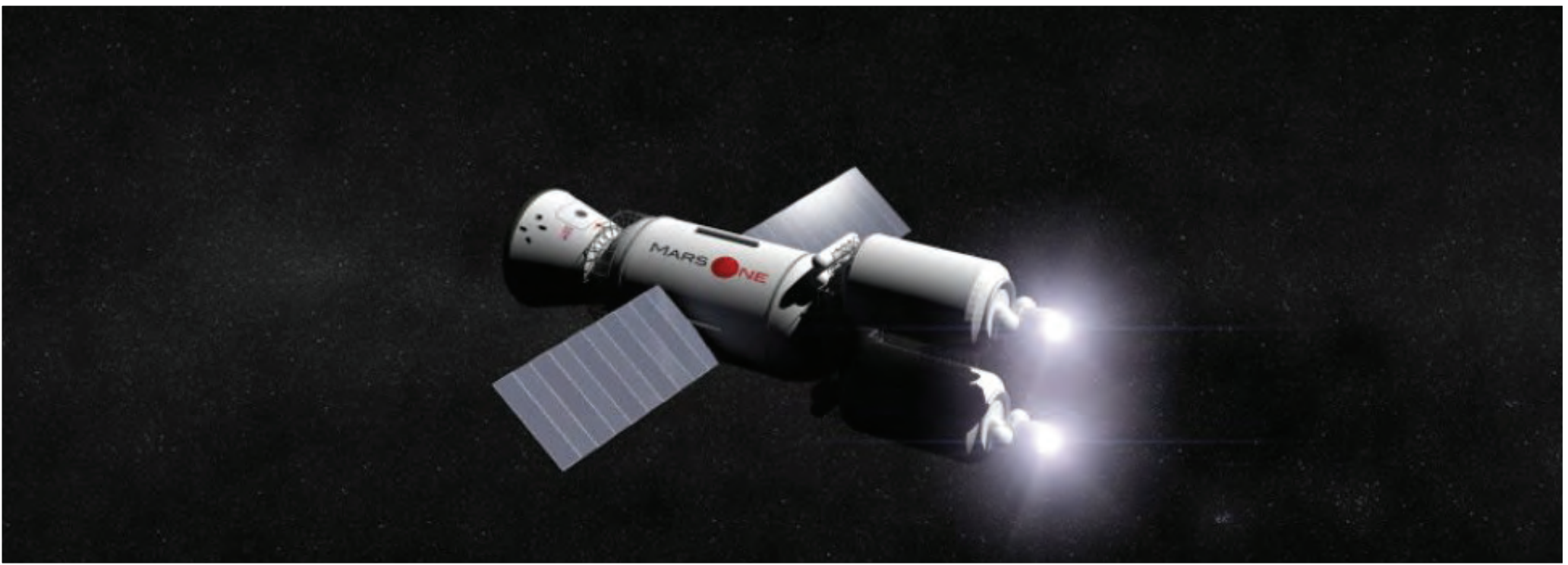
"No matter the amount of education, planning and preparation...it really comes down to who you know. There are going to be a million people that have the same training, degrees, and background that you do....so make the time to reach out to the people you want to emulate," responded anesthesiologist Tracey Straker.

Volunteering and interning were common suggestions throughout the panel as great ways to create 'your network.' "Now, we all face it every day and we'd like to know how you deal with stress," said McKnight. "As far as mechanically, in a situation having stress, I really try to focus on sticking to the basics...doing one thing at a time, I break the scenario down as best as I can and take one task at a time," answered Corethia Oates, Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley. "Prior preparation prevents poor performance, so before doing any professional work make sure you are over-prepared." said Christopher Brown, Principal Planner for the City of Hoboken. Reading, meditation, making time for yourself, getting enough rest, healthy eating habits, and exercise were among other ideas proposed by the advisors to help alleviate stress.

"What do you wish you knew, but didn't, when you first contemplated this career?" asked McKnight. Ardie Walser, Social Dean of Academic Affairs at the City College of New York said, "Experiment. Take Chances. Try to learn



as much as you can about what you want to do, and do it while you still can." Finding our focus can sometimes be the most challenging part of progress, but we are encouraged to visualize and seek inspiration. "If you're starting out in your career, make as many mistakes as you possibly can...we are so busy trying to be perfect in our career path that we don't remember that the most important thing we need to do is lighten up, be human, and learn from our mistakes," said Oates. Building up our education, networks and plans may not seem like a first concern, but the time to act on creating a better future is now.



**INESS RABAH**  
STAFF WRITER

Our resources are dwindling - plague, famine and nuclear warfare are all constant threats to life as we know it. It is possible that a meteor similar to the one that completely wiped out the dinosaurs could instantly put an end to the human population if we happen to be in its path, and there's nothing we can do about it. What alternative do we have if Earth one day becomes uninhabitable?

One organization, Mars One, a Dutch not-for-profit organization, ambitiously seeks to send individuals to live - and die - on Mars, on the notion of space exploration and human settlement on the planet. Their mission is ultimately to better understand our solar system and inspire future generations to achieve seemingly impossible feats. With today's technology, Mars One claims that it is possible to land on Mars.

However, engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) conducted an independent assessment of the technical feasibility of the Mars One mission plan, and concluded that even if they somehow land on the planet, the first human is only expected to live 68 days.

They say that 2024 is too early to have all of the equipment ready for the mission. Mars One claims that existing technology is suitable enough. However, there are situations that require technology that has not been built yet. For example, the vegetation that will feed the crew will emit unsafe levels of oxygen that will cause them to suffocate. To counteract this, they must use some device that would get rid of the excess oxygen. Such a device has not been developed for use in space yet. It is also unclear to them how the resupply system will work.

"We're not saying, black and white, Mars One is infeasible," Olivier de Weck, an MIT professor of aeronautics, astronautics and engineering systems says, "We do think it's not really feasible under the assumptions they've made. We're pointing to technologies that could be helpful to invest in with high priority, to move them along the feasibility path."

Controversy instantly flared up. Some doubt it will ever happen, while others have faith, believing this to be the greatest endeavor in all of history. The ethics of it all are also constantly in question.

The strategic plan was established in 2011. The following year, the plan was announced while giving speeches in New York and Shanghai. In 2013, they started taking applicants for the journey. After 200,000 would-be pioneers and astronauts applied, the final 100 have been chosen. Beginning in 2024, the final potential candidates will be sent, in groups of four at a time, on the trip that will take about seven months to reach Mars. Every two years, another group of four will be sent.

"We're all going to die, but it's important what you do before you die," says Alison Rigby, one of the finalists chosen for the expedition. Rigby, a 35-year-old science lab technician from the U.K., believes that the human race should be a multi-planet species to help ensure its long-term survival.

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin setting foot on the moon created an image of hope for space exploration, and Mars is another stepping stone. Since ancient water was discovered during the drilling of rocks on Mars, questions for human settlement on the planet have climaxed, as well as curiosity to whether or not lifeforms have previously existed or currently exist there. Its soil is rich in nitrogen and water, and, if treated, does contain the ability to grow plants.

Mars is very similar to the Earth in a lot of ways. Mars has weather, clouds and seasons, and the temperature on Mars - depending on where you are - can vary greatly. At the equator, it can be around 70 or 80 degrees Fahrenheit; at the poles, it'll be much colder than the Earth's.

The Red Planet cannot support human life on its own. Its conditions are undoubtedly hostile. Its atmosphere is very thin, and there is virtually no oxygen. Temperatures in most places are comparable to those of Antarctica. It also has vicious dust storms that may reach as high as the Himalayan mountains, which are so frequent, they account for the yellow-brown color in the atmosphere at the surface. It is also known to harbor greater amounts



# Mars One: A Mission to the Red Planet

of radiation than Earth. However, in spite of these concerns, Mars One states that the effect will be the same as long as the astronauts don't spend a considerable amount of time outside their habitat, which is surrounded by Martian soil to block out radiation.

"The real problem for us if we went to Mars is that the atmospheric pressure is so low that if you don't have a type of breathing apparatus, the blood gases within the body will begin to boil," said Professor John Sloan of Bergen Community College.

According to Mars One, loss of human life and cost overruns pose the biggest risks and challenges. "After more than 50 years of humans traveling from Earth to space, the risk of spaceflight is similar to that of climbing Mount Everest," the organization states. Any unforeseen problem can snowball and put lives at risk. That is why they want to take as many precautions and training simulations as possible.

Of course, with large projects such as these, the risk of unexpected costs is always there. However, this is combated to the best of their ability by using existing equipment. The budget also largely takes into account mission failures. Mars One has signed contracts with two suppliers, Paragon Space Development and Lockheed Martin, and has received letters of interest from several other aerospace companies.

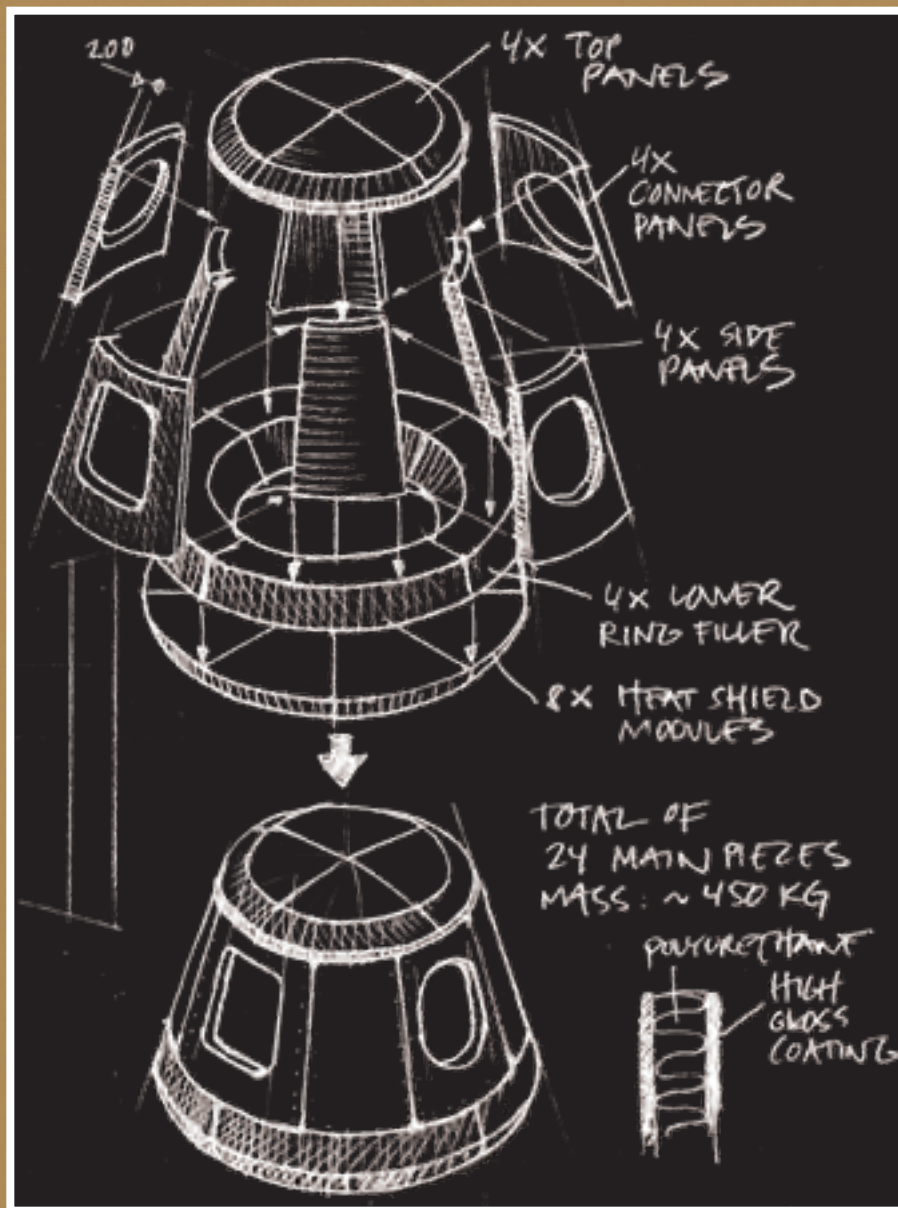
The astronauts will be kept alive as long as possible by utilizing technology. Though Mars One does not manufacture space equipment, the organization has discussed plans with major aerospace companies, such as SpaceX. Outposts for training and technological simulations will be built. The first outpost will be on a Mars-like terrain. The second will be built in an arctic desert. Two rovers will be sent to Mars to set up the habitat for the arrival of the humans.

Other than the astronauts themselves, the Mars transit vehicle will be carrying rovers, as well as life support units for water, air, energy and, of course, a reasonably sized supply unit for food, spare parts and solar panels - all of which will give astronauts a fighting chance at longevity and survival. All astronauts will be wearing their Mars suits whenever they're exposed to the atmosphere to protect them. Two satellites, as well as ground stations on Earth, will be used to communicate between Mars and Earth. Due to the time delay (the time it takes for light to travel between the two planets), signals received on and sent between the two planets will take a little under 14 minutes to arrive.

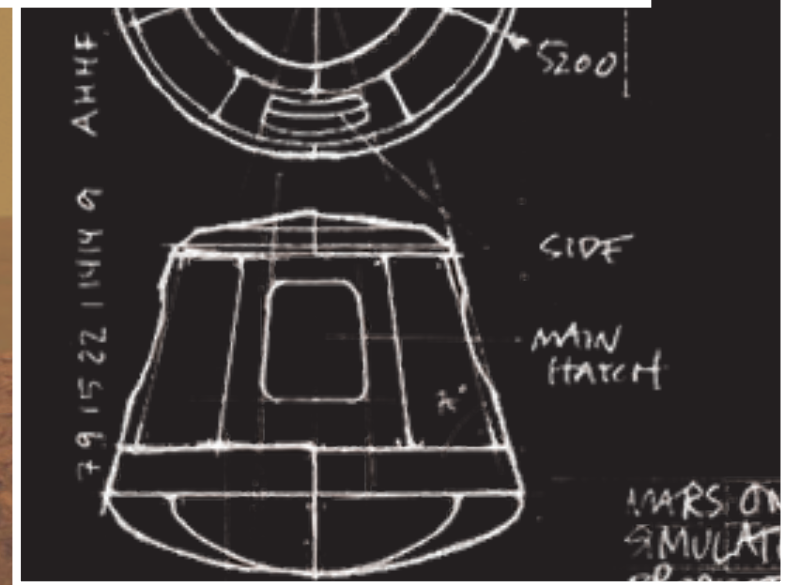
Is it ethical? The mere fact of this being a one-way trip has ignited debate. Mars One responds that a return flight is not possible at this time and with hopes of future technological advancements and it will be easier to build a rocket back once the planet is inhabited. They state that they will take every precaution to make sure the astronauts land on Mars safely, and that they will receive vigorous training to be as prepared as possible.

All the finalists are there because they choose to be, and can drop out at any moment - there will be back-up teams to replace them if need be. The astronauts will have unlimited email access to communicate with families and friends, as well as other forms of communication available. They also have the freedom to build and expand on their Mars base, and enjoy the space. "We do indeed think it is ethically conscientious to allow people to emigrate to Mars," stated Mars-One.com

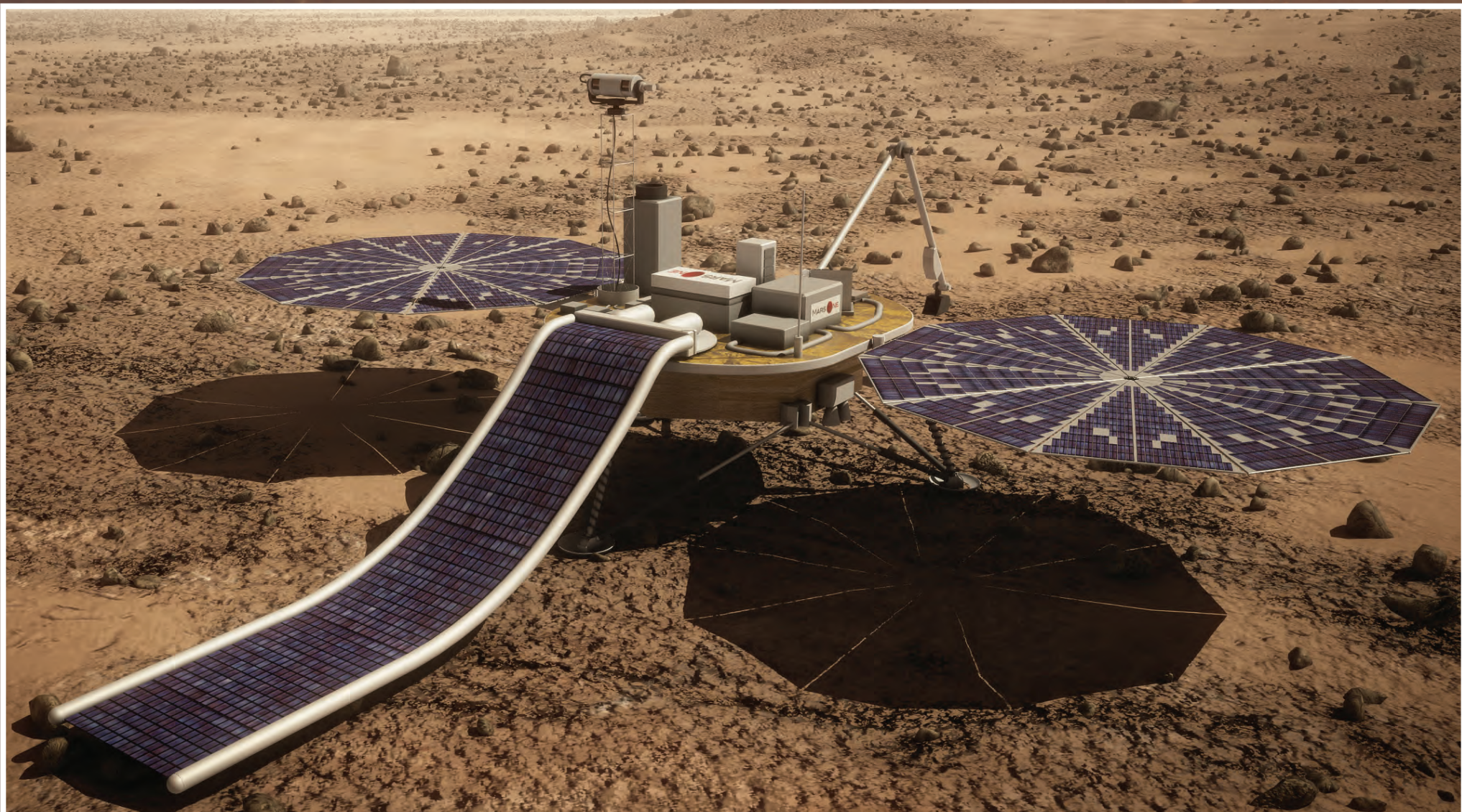
If the Mars One mission does happen in the frame of time posted, it will be broadcast and made into a TV show for the world to see. For the first time since the historic launch of Apollo 11 in 1969, when the first "giant leap for mankind" was taken by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin when they landed on the moon. Humans will strive to reach further than we may have ever dreamt possible. In our lifetime, we may be able to witness one of the great historical moments broadcast on television and computer screens around the world, as a force made up of global volunteers ascends to the heavens and ambitiously reaches for a new world to colonize; to live and die as pioneers of humanity's brilliant future.



N/A  
MASS  
FOR  
LANDING  
MODULE



Clockwise from top left:  
Shuttlecraft that will ferry astronauts through space for almost a year, toward the red planet.  
The landing module, once settled on the surface, will serve as living quarters for astronauts.  
Many landing modules arranged in a small martian community offers efficient communication.  
Landing gear and storage for rovers, scanning devices and radar technology.  
Extremely basic schematic designs of the landing module and inner pods.  
Photos courtesy of mars-one.com



# FIFTY SHADES OF GREY:

SEXY, SEDUCTIVE, ENTERTAINING ROMANCE

JOSEPH CIRILO  
FEATURES EDITOR

Following a successful opening weekend, grossing an estimated \$93 million in the U.S. and Canada and \$172 million in other territories for a worldwide estimated gross of \$266 million, as of February 16, *Fifty Shades Of Grey* has become one of the most talked about and controversial films to hit markets in recent years.

In this case, being a critic is hard: if you don't pander to a general consensus, they'll tell you you don't know any better and are too inexperienced to make a meaningful statement. Go with it, and you dig a hole further into obscurity, lost amid a sea of people more humorously lashing a film for its source material and concept, and less about its actual content.

Movies and film, though based on the same sources, are two different depictions of art. Much like trying to describe the Mona Lisa to someone through words, and actually seeing the painting for the first time is quite different; the impact completely changes when you consider how visualization and dictation alter our perception in different ways.

After begrudgingly watching the film on its opening weekend (post-Valentine's day), the 1.5 stars on Rotten Tomatoes, and the two stars that were received on IMDb, do nothing to justify just how masterfully, and tastefully executed *Fifty Shades of Grey* (the movie) is.

Prior to watching it, my reservations were about on point with everyone else's; I blindly agreed with every Tumblr post, argued for the abuse and manipulation depicted in the novel despite never having read the book, and going into the theater, that sentiment was with me when I sat down, ready for a 125-minute snore-fest.

Those expectations were soon shattered. Having read only the first chapter, I snorted my way through the ridiculous and awkward opening sequences I knew well and processed it as a joke, but soon after, the movie begins to entrance you. The gripping nature of Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan's chemistry is incredible - so much so, you find yourself unable to look away when the two are engrossed in their often romantic dance of seduction.

What of the instances of rape? Abuse? Manipulation? I fail to see an instance in which Anastasia Steele (Johnson) doesn't consent to what's being done to her, and what's more, a scene in which Christian Grey (Dornan) doesn't offer her the abundant opportunity to leave and never come back, or to stop at any time by using the safewords, "Yellow" and "Red." The film is likely far less graphic than its text counterpart, but again, these two things are separate entities of the same whole.

Not having read the full novel, I can only speculate that the movie does leave out a good portion of what might be far more lucrative reminders of such controversies.

Throughout the movie, Christian is a regular gentleman, who we soon come to realize is "fifty shades of (messed) up," through conversations about his past. He's a suave businessman and an excellent romantic partner, but under the many layers of his personality lies a damaged soul who is, only through Ana, learning to actually love more than the flesh and pleasure. As it unravels, you see his descent into the mad world of the dominant-submissive relationship he so adamantly wants Anastasia to commit to.

Christian may be a man who can afford the lap of luxury, and even insists upon Ana signing their contractual agreement to become his "submissive" and give in to a certain number of relationship stipulations that might make one cringe (like no drinking or drugs, and accepting appropriate "punishment" for breaking the rules) but, at least in the film, he's a far cry from a deranged sociopath.

Having said that, many lovers of both the novel series and the films have given reason to believe it was largely censored, omitting multiple scenes that might've made for a far more depraved erotic romance. Even with a beefy number of sex scenes and nudity, *Fifty Shades of Grey* retains a tasteful, if not masterfully artistic, depiction of two lovers; one innocently exploring the depths of depravity, the other slowly unraveling in the depths of true intimacy.

Aforementioned sex scenes, though unorthodox by movie standards, steer far from NC-17 rated erotic dramas like *Nymphomaniac*, which used prosthetic genitalia and porn-doubles to depict more believable sex on camera without becoming an X-Rated adult film.

Additionally, the movie's back and forth is somewhat humorous at times, and we get a little bit of fun, comedic relief amid the drama and suspense. Ultimately, it's far from a bad film, but seductive, romantic, sexy and taboo.



The film's stark, brooding poster.  
Photo courtesy of imdb.com

Only the final scene, in which the elevator abruptly closes as Ana, disgusted by Christian's demonstration of "punishment" (a belt to her bare bottom as she's humiliatingly posed over a bench), tells him not to touch her or to come closer, and the film simply ends. I wasn't prepared for, or satisfied with the conclusion, but suffice it to say, I'm excited to see what the director, and pairing of Dornan and Johnson, have in store for us as we go *Fifty Shades Darker* hopefully soon in 2016.



The Crusader succumbs to the Affliction System.  
Image courtesy of technobuffalo.com

## Darkest Dungeon

BLAIR DELONG  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The biggest enemy of delving dungeons isn't the reanimated skeleton of some maniac necromancer - it's fear, depression and, ultimately, madness. Indie developers Red Hook have turned the side-scrolling, turn based RPG on its head.

With many role-playing games, a portion of characters are destined to become heroes, no matter the toll that adventuring or battle takes on them. In *Darkest Dungeon*, though, your heroes are not the typical unwavering heroes of high fantasy. While they are certainly tough and capable fighters, they are also human, and respond emotionally to the horrors they encounter.

Red Hook developed the Affliction System to mirror this psychological toll on your group of heroes. As the player explores ruins and long-abandoned tombs, the group experiences stress and sustains injuries. When a character has had enough, their mental fortitude is tested.

Will your Jester turn into a masochistic maniac, bent on receiving damage and refusing to be healed? Or, will his resolve strengthen and become a beacon of hope in the group's trying hour of need? To counter the Affliction System, *Darkest Dungeon* allows the player to use a central hub area, called The Hamlet, where party members can ease the stress of battle and death at the bar with wine, women and gambling, though some of these heroes may have quirks. Some heroes, like the Crusader, will only pray at the Chapel and not partake in the pleasures of flesh or inebriants.

The team at Red Hook has made sure to make *Darkest Dungeon* something to challenge a player, a slog through madness and misadventure. The party and how it is managed is a delicate balancing act that can either bring your group of adventurers great fortune, or bury them in the muck and mire of your employer's estate.

*Darkest Dungeon* is available on the Steam distribution system for Windows and MAC OS x for \$19.99. If you're looking for a challenge, by all means, destroy your sanity and discover the *Darkest Dungeon*.

Graphic courtesy of livethegreendot.com



## Green Dot Violence Intervention

LUIS LOPEZ WEI  
STAFF WRITER

Bergen Community College's Violence Intervention Prevention center held a Bergen Leaders Bystander Training program on February 19. At the training, attendees were taught about different kinds of power-based personal violence, and what one can do to diffuse a "red dot" situation as a bystander, replacing it with a "green dot." A red dot simply represents an act of violence, while a green dot, is a bystander taking action to stop an act or potential act of violence.

There was around 40 people present at the training program, and, after taking a poll on who was there, it was found that women made up 64 percent of the room. The training ran from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and those who stayed for its entirety, received a certification.

It began with the showing of Beyonce's "I Was Here" music video. The video included powerful clips of people providing humanitarian aid all over the world and the song's message was about leaving a positive mark in the world.

Following the video, the trainer, Jessica Peacock explained that she works with survivors of sexual violence, and that the goal of Green Dot is, "looking to stop potential acts of violence in the future."

Before their 18th birthday, one in four females and one in six males have a chance of being sexually assaulted.

There are two ways to be a green dot: being proactive - learning or teaching about violence prevention; and being reactive - doing something in a potentially violent situation to stop it. For reactive green dots, there are three approaches: direct - "checking in," delegate - getting someone else or a group to intervene, or distract - divert attention away from the situation. All these methods work to diffuse red dot situations.

Graphic courtesy of from-ireland.net

## Luck And Pride Of The Irish

*continued from pg. 11*

The phrase "wearing of the green" comes from a song of the same name, which laments United Irishmen supporters being persecuted for wearing green. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the color green and its association with Saint Patrick's Day grew.

Celebration is most prominent in the United Kingdom and Ireland. In Trafalgar Square, London, celebrations have taken place since 2002, hosting an annual parade that takes place on the weekends around the 17. In 2008, the square dyed its fountains' water green for the parade.

Liverpool, said to be England's most Irish-populated city, likewise hosts one of the most lively festivities including music, and cultural celebration. Manchester follows suit with a two-week Irish festival in the days leading up to the celebration.

Even as far north as Scotland, the cities of Coatbridge and Glasgow observe and fervently celebrate the life of Saint Patrick. Glasgow, which had a spike in its population when the Irish began to immigrate to the city in the 19th century, hosts annual parades and celebrations in honor of the heritage of immigration and settlement.

And of course, some of the most colorful celebrations take place in Dublin and Downpatrick, County Down. The shortest parade in country takes place every year in Downpatrick and lasts only a brief 100 yards, traveling between the village's two pubs.

In America, every year we're reminded of our shared culture and heritage. The Irish helped build America through their immigration to New England. Our country's earliest cities were built in large by the immigrants from the Emerald Isle braving the long Atlantic seeking a better life during the great famine in their home country. Though the roots and heritage of Saint Patrick's life and deeds never carried over the pond, the spirit of the Irish is well alive in the U.S. with parades, pints of Guinness Black Lager and the exorbitant consumption of corned beef and cabbage - two foods more associated with British and Irish-American culture than authentic Irish cuisine.

So, next time you're heading out this holiday (and are of age), raise a glass and drink to the culture that helped built America.

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# The Rebirth of Film

ROGER S. ECHEGOYEN  
STAFF WRITER

As the theater dims the auditorium lights, a light from the back of the room illuminates the screen at the front of the room. This silent cue signifies the beginning of the movie. One thing that has been removed from this experience is the sound of the projector rolling. If you didn't know what made that sound, it was the film stock going through the projector. Film has been replaced by digital entirely; from the process of filming a movie on a set to the moment a projectionist places a removable hard drive into the projector. What happened to film? Well, it would be nearly obsolete if it weren't for some directors that still chose film over digital.

The start of digital filmmaking lies with George Lucas challenging the medium by using digital cameras to shoot "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace." Lucas felt that film was becoming a cumbersome commodity, and if successful, digital cameras will replace film cameras for good. Lucas's experiment was a success, with the production companies wanting a resource that would be efficient and cheap. Film stocks are, and were, expensive.

The price for a single canister of 35MM film stock is \$863, according to Kodak's website, this excludes the rental price of a film camera.

The length of the average film stock is 1000 inches, which can roughly capture about 11 minutes of footage. Compare that to the price of a digital RED camera (which includes the hard drive to store footage), which could range from \$200-300 for a single-day shoot. Also, filming on a digital cameras does not have a time constraint, which would mean less time switching film canisters when it runs out, and more time to improve scenes.

Slowly, major motion picture companies started to replace film gear with digital gear. Film companies started to pay large multiplexes to install digital film projectors in their theaters. The use of digital projectors also cuts the need for a projectionist. A projectionist is a skill worker that knows how to operate and fix a projector. With a digital projector, any high school kid could be employed to work in the projection room by pressing play on a computer.

Companies like Kodak and Fujifilm went into bankruptcy in the late 2000s as digital filmmaking had become the norm for motion pictures. A small group of directors like Martin Scorsese (Taxi Driver, Goodfellas, Inception), Christopher Nolan (Interstellar, Inception), and Paul Thomas Anderson (Boogie Nights, There Will Be Blood) banded together to preserve film, however.

The argument against digital films is that there's a possibility of it being deleted and lost when stored onto a Cloud, but film stocks can be stored in a warehouse, and restored if damaged. Another complaint is the over saturation of color on a digital film. If you watch a new film, take notice of the colors. Most of the time, there could be a saturation of blue, green or orange that completely engulfs the frame. Wherein film has a more delicate process to get the right lighting to achieve the right color palette on screen.

Recently, six major film companies have signed an agreement with Kodak to incorporate film stocks into their movies: Mission Impossible 5, Star Wars VII, and Superman Vs. Batman will be shot on film according to Variety. This could be the rebirth of film as we know it, and hopefully, it will stay.

*The 35 mm films the Apache Drive-in's 40-year-old projector can show are increasingly difficult to obtain.  
Amy Gleich/Cronkite News Service/MCT - Photo courtesy of MCTcampus.com*

## The Comedians of Black History Month

KRYSTIN BRUNO  
STAFF WRITER

A small audience joined comedians Jerrold Benford, Henry Cummings, Seymour Swan, and Gordon Baker-Bone to end Black History Month with a laugh. Jerrold Benford took the stage starting with, "Wow, more sound than people." The audience laughed with Benford when he could not remember how to shovel snow if there was no shovel. "Oh, that's right, my son," he said. The 35-year-old comedian kept the audience entertained as he laughed with them about his marriage and kids. Benford and his wife are expecting a baby girl.

With two years of experience as a comedian, Henry Cummings talked about his six kids and kept the crowd laughing when he talked about his daughter meeting boys. "You have to scare them," he said. Little did he know when he met "Joshua," he was 6 foot 4 inches tall and 240 pounds. "He scared me," Cummings joked.

Christopher Lambert took the stage as he asked the audience, "What should I tell you about myself?" Lambert has an office job and received his theater degree in Chicago. "Just follow your dreams," Lambert said. He joked about meeting his childhood hero, Spike Lee, in 2008. Lambert presented Spike Lee his résumé and got a laugh from the crowd when he said, "That was seven years ago and I haven't heard from him since. That's why I'm here tonight. Moral of the story is never meet your heroes."

*Gordon Baker-Bone, Headliner Seymour Swan, and Jerrold Benford kept the audience in continuous laughter.*



*Henry Fowler/The Torch*

Headliner Seymour Swan, 54 years old, took the stage as the final comedian. He started with his disappointment in the Super Bowl and aggravation with the cold weather. Swan asked the audience if they like New Jersey and he got an applause. He joked about the \$14 toll New Jersey residents have to pay to cross the George Washington Bridge. "Think about it, that should be our motto right? Come happy, come hating, you ain't getting out without that 14," Swan joked.

Everyone was able to laugh with the comedians as they joked about their children, wives, and the weather. Each of them even joked about the alleged controversy with Bill Cosby. Each comedian kept the audience laughing and thanked them for their support during Black History Month.

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# Artists of BCC, Poets' Edition: Kristine Gaal



Zach McDevitt/The Torch

**ZACH MCDEVITT**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Seventeen thousand souls - give or take - tarry in Bergen Community College's old walls, and seventeen thousand of them have lives that stretch beyond academia. Some are heroic, storied athletes, some labor over a blank canvas, and some, like Kristine Gaal, place pen to paper to compose poetry that - in a quickly overpopulating artistic universe - manages to stand out.

Gaal writes with considerable musicality, a quality often lost to this age of deconstructed poetic form, where the disjunctive, rather than conjunctive, is celebrated.

Gaal does not shy away from contemporary norms, however, but augments them - allowing rhyme, assonance and tactile imagery to flourish along with experimental stanzaic formats.

"I like poetry for its indirectness," Gaal told me, over scalding coffee in the Cyber Café on a bleak Monday morning, "It can be as complex or simple as you want it to be". Indeed, in pieces like *As the Old Adage Goes*, she affects an honest reverence for self-reflection through natural imagery, as might a young Dylan Thomas, while boldly using indentations to represent discord, interrupting the poem as would sounds interrupt thoughts.

Attributing her creative voice to her experiences in BCC's American Sign Language class, Gaal explained, with a mixture of levity and gravity in her voice, "Being exposed to the deaf community has changed me. I realized that I've taken completely for granted all that I can hear, and lost sight of what's been right in front of me," confessing that "ASL has forced me to fine tune my writing voice, bringing me closer to my truths as a person and a poet".

When asked why she chose to embrace writing - in hindsight, a frustratingly open ended question - Gaal answered, "[Writing is] very cathartic for me, not unlike a therapy session." Her work follows suit; in poems like *For Now*, she captures a moment of exceptional vulnerability through intimate, palpable imagery, as well as soft and sensual vowels and rhymes evoking a sense of physical harmony between characters, reflects this idea of catharsis, of bearing the soul, of inward-seeking, fearless honesty.

Leaving the café, parting ways as unique individuals to attend our respective classes as run-of-the-mill students, I felt as if the conversation was unnaturally abrupted; so, I asked Gaal about when in the day she was most inspired to compose. "I'd rather write at night," she told me. "Night is for intellectuals who can't sleep," I retorted, to which she cut in: "your words, not mine."

Gaal, who continues to write, is pursuing an associates' degree in General Theater Arts, and can be seen acting in Bergenstages' upcoming production of *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, opening April 10th, 2015.

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**"Being exposed to the deaf community has changed me. I realized that I've taken completely for granted all that I can hear, and lost sight of what's been right in front of me."**

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## *As the Old Adage Goes* by Kristine Gaal

*Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song*

The sight of the sun  
the heat of its rays , would be enough to make me forget  
about the birds that chirp before it's even fully risen

The smell of the salt, wind tossed hair, the dimming reflection of the horizon on the water gritty sand caked to sandals, and feet, and knees distract from the sound of the waves crash on shore

The scent of the flowers as they bloom in spring the Earth plays her song on the lawn, through petals and grass blades, dew on the buds, the trellis of roses floods and cascades, carrying mother nature's sweet serenade

If sound did not exist  
filling in the space distractingly  
what would we really  
be able to see?

Lend me your ears; I'm distracted by mine  
a filtered reality, sounds the guise  
concealing all of the intricacies  
with humming, nothing, birds and bees  
can't see the forest through the whistling trees

---

## *For Now* by Kristine Gaal

You call me fun, I say it's my charm  
the sunrise emphasizes our bodies  
that roll like tides in the sea of sheets  
mixed sweat uniting, a harmony of salty and sweet,  
and then our hips meet, like the sand awaiting the tide  
your lips again find mine

You said you were drawn to me  
a connection my body agrees  
the salt drips from your flesh onto mine.  
We roll over, the sensation of our bodies intertwined

I call you beautiful, unclothed I feel the same.  
Heaving chests collect the morning dew from our bodies and

I recall your words "I'll hurt you" yet refused to hear it,  
and in return I said "I love you," because for now I really mean it.

# ABILITIES, NOT DISABILITIES

ALYSSA BLUNDO

STAFF WRITER

Turning Point is a program for young adults with intellectual disabilities who are looking to continue their education. These adults must be between the ages of 18 and 30 years old. Those who wish to apply must complete an admissions application, and are required to meet the Turning Point eligibility criteria before being taken into consideration. Because of the limited space for all applicants, only 10 to 15 students will be selected. There are three areas this program offers: academic, vocational and social. Each Turning Point student also receives an iPad for their class work, a mentor to help with homework, and an on-campus internship. They also must take one elective offered by the college per semester.

When asked about the classes and courses of the Turning Point Program, Donna Collins, the program's assistant, said, "Each student has to take Turning Point classes that are given by two Bergen professors which includes: math, personal finance, advocacy/social thinking and career education. Also, each student needs to take one elective that's given by the college, and it is their responsibility to pick out the elective they wish to take."

There are different opportunities to work at various on-campus internships. It is a part of the curriculum for students in this program and it is required. A few internship options are Green Team, Housekeeping, Mailroom, Athletics Department, Child Care and office work for Continuing Education, Educational Opportunities Fund, and International Student Center.

When asked about her experience working at her on-campus internship, Evelyn Munoz, a freshman at Bergen Community College and Turning Point student, said, "I work at EOF, Educational Opportunities Fund, as a secretary, doing what is asked of me. We help students who have problems with dropping out of classes."

Another aspect of the Turning Point Program is social development and being able to participate in clubs and activities. There are very interesting clubs, some of which include Animal Care Club, Dance Club, The Torch newspaper, Italian Club, Fashion At Bergen, and many more. Every student in this program gets to experience college campus activities.

When asked about experiences with different clubs, Corinne Sakala, another freshman at Bergen and Turning Point student, said, "This year, I am a part of the Campus Connections Club, which started on February 5th, and last semester, I joined the Dance Club. It was really fun. I also get a lot of exercise, which is really good."

It is also beneficial to have mentors who help out with homework and class work. They are there to help with academic work without giving the answers. They are not just there to help the students learn, but are also to serve as a role model.

Jacqueline Sheriff, a Turning Point mentor, told me about what it means to be a mentor. "A mentor is someone who has an influential impact and helps guide the students in the right direction. Mentoring is enjoyable because you get to see changes, positive changes that happened and interaction between students and mentors and the relationships that are made to reach their achievements and goals."



Front Row: Joan Connelly, Alyssa Blundo  
Middle Row: Krystle Barnes, Kim Von Ende, Evelyn Munoz  
Back Row: Daigo Yamada, Joe Schnabel, Alex Scheck

Iness Rabah//The Torch

## CAN YOU GET A DEGREE IN TWO YEARS?

NOURA DAKKA

PHOTO EDITOR

The answer is simple, yes you can. You can even do it in a year. But, the real question you should ask yourself is, should you? It is true that Bergen Community College is a two year college, though graduating in two and a-half years won't hurt. As a matter of fact, it's the best way to do it. You might all be thinking, how much can one extra semester change? More than you think.

First, you have a little more time to finish your program. Most majors have a long program that will take a while to finish, even if you're taking four to five classes per semester. Instead of putting too much pressure on yourself to finish in two years, add an extra semester and relax. Former student Ricardo Montero, who graduated after the Fall 2014 semester said "Yes, and it is also possible to die from stress," when asked if it's possible to graduate in just two years. It took him two and a-half years to finish. A student shouldn't have to go through all that stress and pressure to graduate. You already have so many humanities classes that have nothing to do with your major, don't try to kill yourself to get your degree.

BCC students should also consider taking summer classes to speed up the process. That way, you can assure to earn your degree in two and a-half years, and you won't miss the whole summer either. "It's 6 weeks starts end of May ends early July ... 15 weeks of work into 6," said Natalie Khatchadourian, a BCC student who also graduated in the Fall of 2014. It might sound dreadful, but on the contrary, it's just like your Fall or Spring semester. Most students end up taking Summer classes and end up finishing earlier. Plus, it helps those of which who are hassling with financial issues. If you can't afford to finish early enough, arrange your classes for Fall, Spring, Summer, and even Winter semester if you have to. Don't cram too many classes into one semester. "I did the bare minimum at Bergen, four classes. Most people take five, and I failed two classes. I was able to graduate in two and a-half years," said former student, Jessie Castellanos.

In the end, it's all a matter of how many classes you take and what you want. If you want to go through a lot of stress to graduate in just two years, then that's up to you. But, if you're planning to go on with an extra semester, then don't hesitate, the choice is in your favor. It all depends on the student really. "If I can finish it anyone can," added Khatchadourian.



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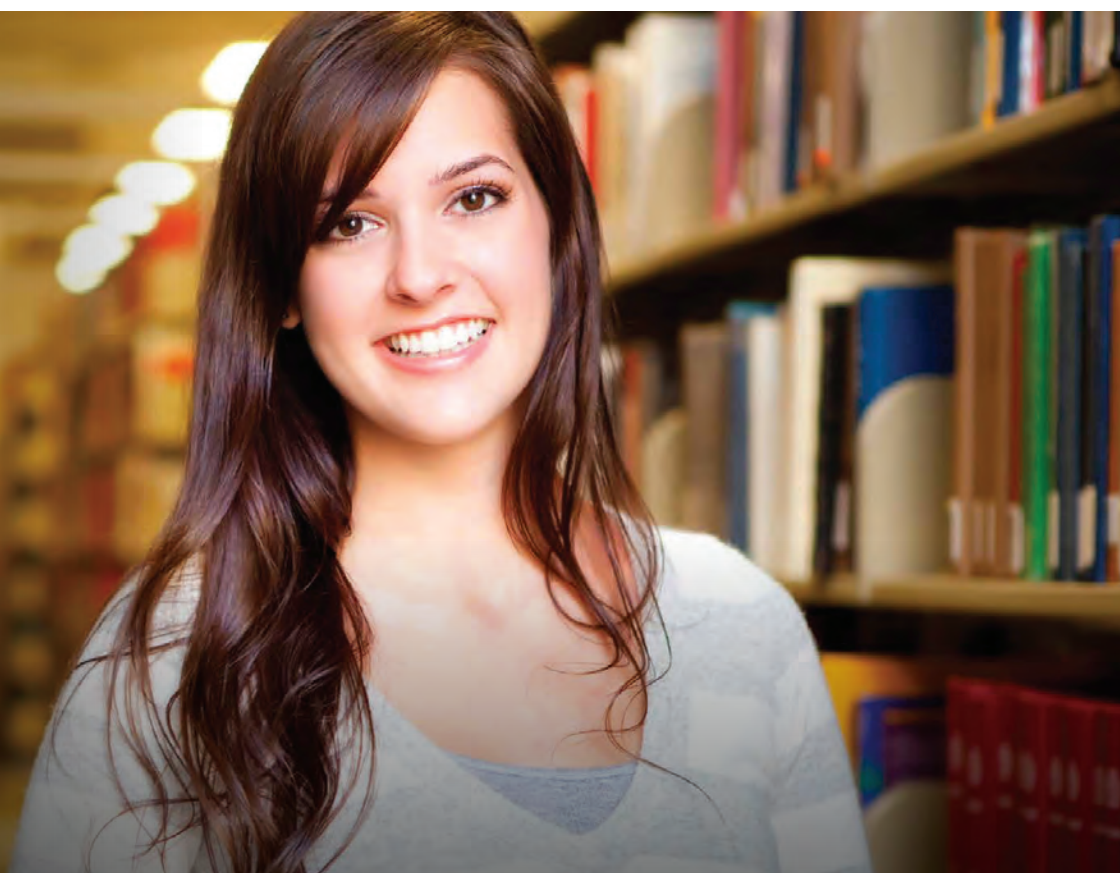
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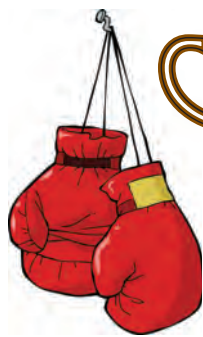
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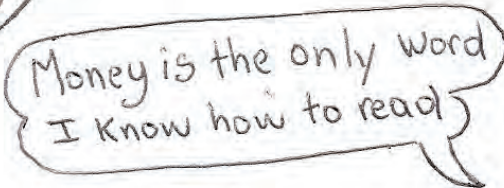
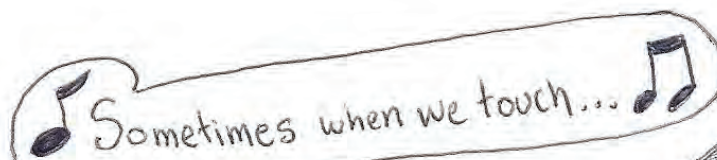
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# CAPTAIN'S CORNER: BOXING IS A JOKE



**GABE WANISSIAN**  
SPORTS EDITOR



Gabe "Captain Black" Wanissian holding back the two megastar fighters until May 2.  
Illustration by Jessica Rodriguez

Hello ladies and gents, Captain Black is on the scene to deliver yet another cold, hard truth that will have boxing fanboys suffering from chronic butthurt. So word has gotten out - the Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather fight is finally happening on May 2, and the boxing world is reacting like a sexually deprived high schooler getting a Facebook comment from Bae; except they are about to find out that it was an obligatory happy birthday post, and come May 3, they will feel yet again forever alone.

Boxing sucks, and it has for over a decade now. I always say that boxing died on June 8, 2002, when the overhyped Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson match ended with Tyson on his back in the eighth round for the knockout. It was the end of an era, so to speak, as both legendary fighters' careers were on their last legs.

It didn't help that boxing was already smelling like a decaying walker: 1990s classic bouts between Riddick Bowe and "please don't eat my ear Mike" Evander Holyfield; Oscar De La Hoya and Shane Mosley

fighters were becoming a thing of the past.

It should not be a problem though, I mean the days of Rocky Marciano and Sonny Liston were followed by Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier epics a generation later, so we'll SURELY have new fighters leading the way... Right?

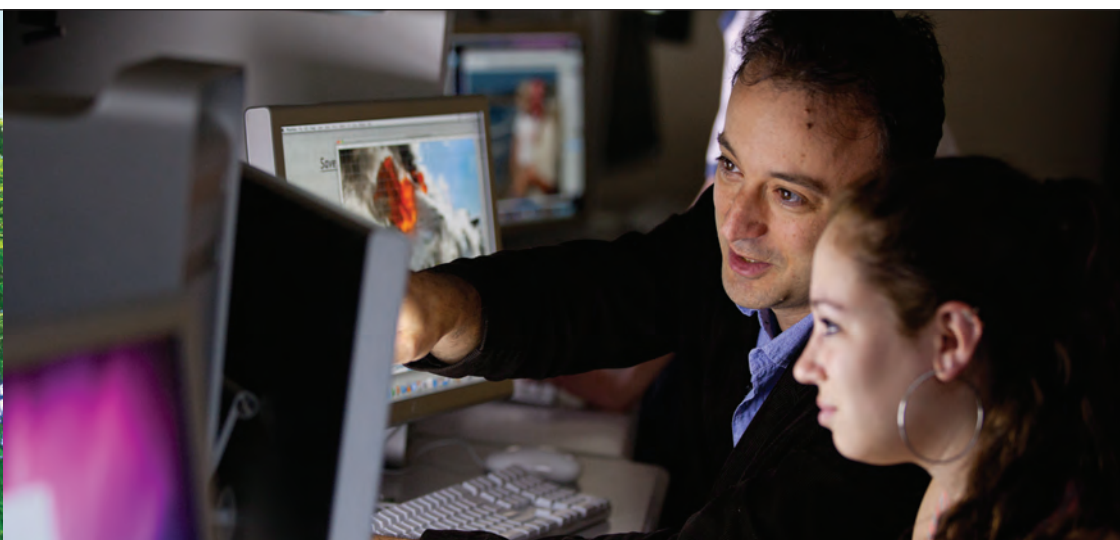
Well, not if promoters Don King and Bob Arum could help it; the two boxing promoters milked the prizefighting industry more than Activision milked the Call of Duty franchise. No, seriously, the Troll Doll haired King-once convicted for second-degree murder- was sued by almost every fighter he represented and Arum's refusal to do business with Mayweather Promotions was the main reason we almost never got the Pacman-Mayweather showdown in the first place.

Then, to make matters worse, the hot new neighbor called the UFC moved right in next to the struggling couple. The hip, badass counterpart made boxing resemble the uncool uncle at every dinner party

with outdated jokes. It also did what modern boxing failed to do: provide an ENTIRE matchup-card filled with "holy-s\*\*t" moments. Why watch Mayweather rack up points for 12 rounds when I can watch Anderson Silva kick someone's head in?

To be fair, there are still a respectable amount of great fighters in boxing - they just aren't going to make the cover of Wheaties Cereal anytime soon. The box office draw is missing, and the crooks who book the shows have made a killing at everyone else's expense.

At this rate, boxing will merely become a good way for single mothers to get in shape, and for gym idiots to shadow box in between their sets. Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating. Here IS a serious reality: If Rocky Balboa wasn't a thing yet, and the movie script was written today, I'm willing to bet you Mayweather's undefeated streak that the movie would have taken place in the octagon instead - and Apollo Creed would have lost via submission.



Jonathan Lipkin, Professor of Digital Media, working with a Ramapo College student on a digital film project.

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# TRACK TEAM'S POTENTIAL TO MAKE HISTORY

GABE WANISSIAN

SPORTS EDITOR

The sheet of snow that covers the running track hasn't prevented the Bergen Track and Field team from continuing their preparation for success. The weight room facility located underneath the school gymnasium in room G-034 has been the stomping grounds for the squad during the offseason as they work on all aspects of their game. Head coach Erica Czujko feels that preparation sooner rather than later produces results.

"Winners are made during the season, but champions are made during the offseason," Czujko said. Now in her fifth season as head coach, the former Bergen student athlete shares an optimistic, yet no-nonsense approach that has prepared Track athletes for the big step from high school to collegiate competition.

A harsh reality for some, Czujko sees it as an opportunity for the student athletes to cope with growing pains and progress into top of the line performers, adding that "the standards are a lot higher [in college], and if they want to get into a [Division One] school they got to put in a lot of work. It's not high school, you may not be the best anymore."

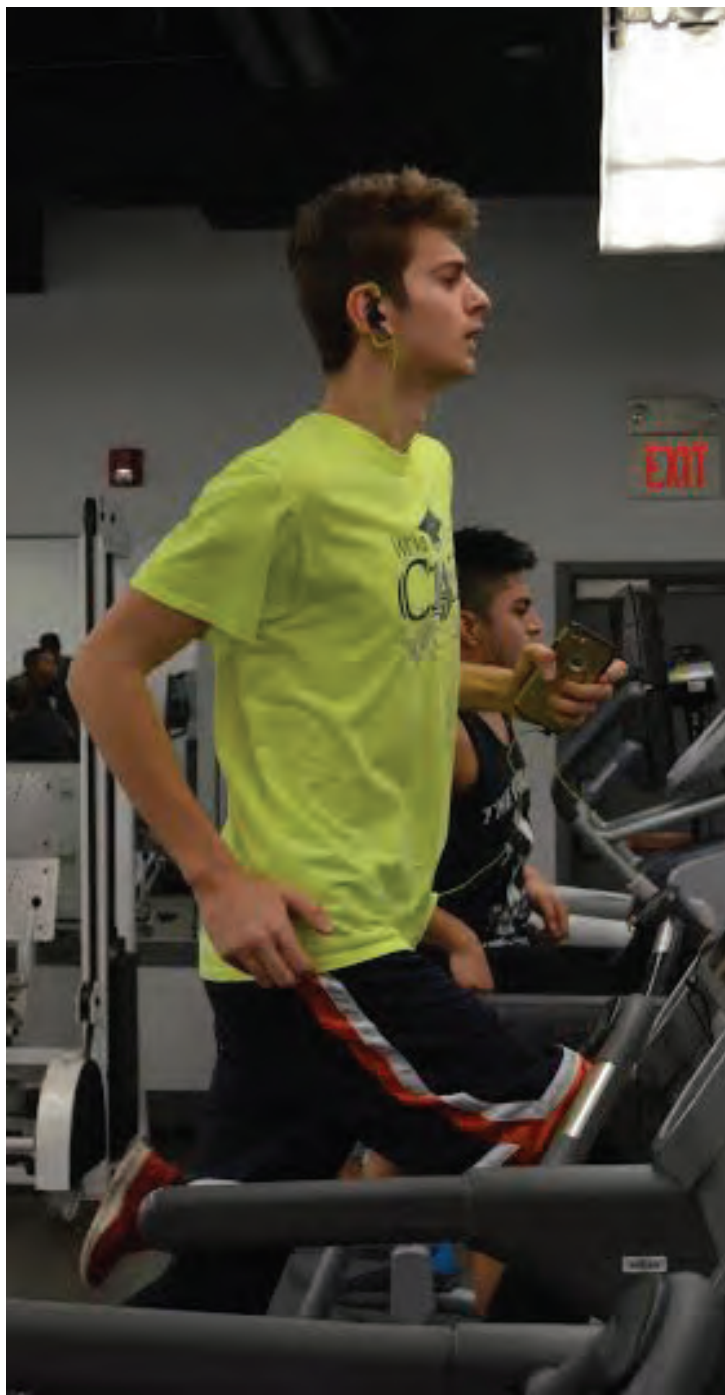
While the team is predominantly freshmen, runner Simon Shkreli and thrower Garrett Pynn have emerged from the pack, donning the titles as captains for their respective squads. "It is a step up from high school for sure, but I'm looking forward to it. I like the feel of competition," said Pynn.

"In all honesty, we are very underrated compared to the other sports. We can be one of the best track and field teams in history," said Shkreli.

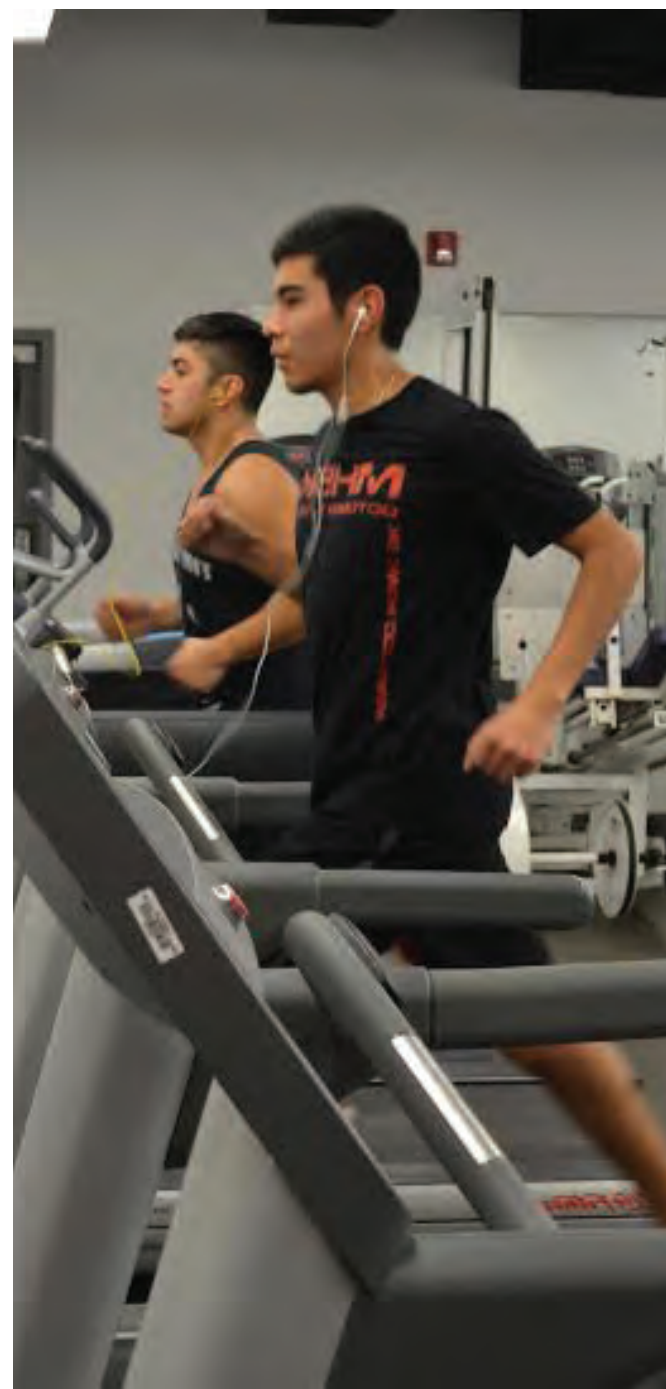
The season will take place from March till May, with the coveted NJCAA Division III nationals spanning from May 7 to the 11. The expectations are high, but many are recognizing their talent.

Athletic director Jorge Hernandez shares great optimism for the upcoming season, saying, "Track and field is going to be phenomenal this year. We have never had this type of participation and talent."

Czujko has seen plenty of success in her team during her time as head coach, with around 50 percent of the roster usually making it to nationals on a yearly basis. This year however, she recognizes that the group this year can do something special, saying, "This year, I want everybody to go."



Members of the track team, hard at work training for the spring.  
Henry Fowler/The Torch



Center: Brodeur announces his retirement from the NHL at age 42. Jeff Curry/Getty Images  
On the sides: Martin Brodeur in action during various NJ Devils Games. Chuck Myers/MCT



## NHL Legend Martin Brodeur Retires

ADRIAN YLLATOPA & ADAM GRASSANI

NEWS EDITOR, STAFF WRITER

After an illustrious 21-year NHL career, New Jersey Devils' future Hall of Fame goaltender Martin Brodeur announced his retirement on January 27 as a member of the St. Louis Blues organization. Brodeur will become a member of the St. Louis Blues front office as senior advisor to Blues general manager Doug Armstrong.

"This is a great day for me," Brodeur said, "I'm excited to start a new chapter of my hockey career. This is something I've been thinking about for a long time."

"I'm committed to stay here through the end of the season -- hopefully as long as we can, that's for sure," Brodeur told the New York Times, referring to St. Louis. "There's no commitment that I'll go back to New Jersey or stay in St. Louis. I just want to make sure I'm going to enjoy what I'm going to do, and I'll make a decision when it's time."

"Marty is a very loyal guy in both ways," Lamoriello said, according to the New York Post. "They gave him an opportunity to play. There are a lot of things going through his mind right now. He'll be back with the Devils."

Growing up in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Brodeur grew up a Montreal Canadiens fan. In the 1990 NHL Entry Draft, he was selected 20th overall by the New Jersey Devils. Martin Brodeur's NHL career began during the 1993-1994 season. During that season, he captured the Calder Memorial Trophy for top rookie of the year, finishing second in goals against average and fourth in save percentage. He played a major role in the Devils getting the second best record in the league, despite losing in the 1994 Eastern Conference Finals against the Devils' arch rivals, the New York Rangers, with

the notorious Stephane Matteau wraparound goal.

The next season would be a completely different story. The Devils once again made the playoffs, finishing fifth in the Eastern Conference. Despite this, Brodeur was determined to extinguish the ghost of the 1994 Eastern Conference Finals. He led New Jersey all the way to the Stanley Cup Final, where they swept the heavily favored Detroit Red Wings in four games.

Brodeur was known for his puck handling abilities. He was so good playing the puck, the league created a new rule, drawing a trapezoid at the sides of the goal net, forbidding goaltenders to have possession of the puck within the boundaries of the lines. Many suspect this rule was made to contain Brodeur, and therefore is known as "The Brodeur Rule".

Brodeur would then go on to have a record breaking career. During his 21 years in the league, he became the NHL's all time leader in wins and shutouts, with 691 and 125 respectively. He's won a total of five Jennings Trophies, four Vezina Trophies, and three Stanley Cup Championships in 1995, 2000, and 2003.

In the 2014 offseason, Brodeur would not re-sign with the Devils, becoming a free agent until last December when he signed with the St. Louis Blues in relief of their two injured goaltenders. He went on to play seven games, finishing with a 3-3-0 record.

The retired life has proved to be more relaxed for Brodeur. When asked about how he feels about the game watching from the press box, he told NHL.com, "Less stressful, that's for sure".



The fabulous lady Bulldogs preparing for the upcoming season in the gymnasium.  
Noura Dakka/The Torch

# FROM PUP TO BULLDOG

SARAH BRADING  
STAFF WRITER

While the snow melts and we practice indoors for the first few practices of the season, we go through, the most nerve wracking practices of them all. When the first day arrives, anxiety can get the best of you, especially if it is your first year playing at a college level. But when you are instantly brought into a welcoming atmosphere, it can put the jitters at ease. Eventually, adrenaline overcomes the nerves, and it turns into fuel for motivation.

Coming into a college sport for the first time, expectations and assumptions are all one can rely on until the experience of playing becomes a reality. One can expect it to be a simple practice in which no preparation in the offseason is needed, or that the entire practice will be filled with countless drills. With personal experience, offseason practice is not a necessity - but it is highly recommended if you do not want to be out of breath after only the warm-ups.

When it came to softball, this several-day process has consisted of conditioning, basic fielding and batting practice. A five-minute jog around the gym starts off practice, followed by dynamic and static stretching. For an average day of practice, you can expect to endure at least 45 minutes of conditioning, followed by soft toss, batting practice, and fielding. Having about half of practice filled with conditioning is not the easiest element, but by using it as something positive, one

can test their limits whilst improving their cardio.

During these first 45 minutes, players will encounter miniature hurdles which involve players jumping over them and hoping over on one foot, running drills that include suicides, and many other workouts.

Fielding practice is when fundamental techniques are repeated; fielding a ball, throwing it to the base, backhand and correctly positioning your feet. This is also the time when pitchers and catchers go on to do their warm-ups and eventually go into full-motion pitching.

Batting practices mainly consisted of different stations being set up, which split the team into small groups of two. One station involved players kneeling on one knee while swinging the bat with their top hand and hitting the ball of the tee and then switching to their bottom hand to continue the process. The next station involved your partner bouncing a tennis ball, and hitting the ball into the divider. The last two stations were bunting and hitting pitches off of the machine. All these stations help to improve batting stances, swinging technique, and knowing when to start the swing itself.

After making the team, it is a constant struggle of putting your all onto the field and pushing yourself to do better; opening day never seems so close.



## MENS' BASEBALL 2015 SCHEDULE

### March

Date	Opponent	Location	Event	Time	Result	Scores
Sun 15	Myrtle Beach Spring Trip Mohawk Valley CC	A	Single	6:00pm	Win	8-1
Mon 16	Myrtle Beach Spring Trip Lackawanna College	A	Single	3:00 pm	Loss	3-0
Mon 16	Triton CC	A	Single	6:00pm	Win	6-3
Tues 17	Myrtle Beach Spring Trip CC Morris	A	Single	9:00 am	Loss	10-2
Tues 17	Myrtle Beach Spring Trip Mohawk Valley CC	A	Single	3:00 pm	Loss	14-4
Wed 18	Myrtle Beach Spring Trip Bunker Hill CC	A	Single	12:30 pm	Win	14-10
Thurs 19	Myrtle Beach Spring Trip College of So. Maryland	A	Single	9:00 am		
Thurs 19	Myrtle Beach Spring Trip Bunker Hill CC	A	Single	11:30 pm		
Tues, 24	Raritan Valley CC	A	Single	3:00pm		
Thurs, 26	Middlesex CC	A	Single	3:30pm		
Sat, 28	ASA CC	Home	DH	12:00pm		
Sat, 29	Cumberland CC	A	DH	12:00pm		
Tues, 31	Union CC	Home	Single	3:30pm		

### April

Date	Opponent	Location	Event	Time
Wed, 1	Sussex Co. CC	Home	Single	3:30pm
Fri, 3	Bucks CC	Away	DH	2:00pm
Sat, 4	Lehigh Carbon CC	Home	DH	12:00pm
Tues, 7	Brookdale CC	Away	Single	3:30pm
Thurs, 9	Raritan Valley CC	Home	Single	3:00pm
Sat, 11	Rowan College at Gloucester County	Home	DH	12:00pm
Tue, 14	Middlesex CC	Home	Single	3:30pm
Wed, 16	Westchester CC	Home	Single	3:30pm
Sat, 18	Ocean CC	Home	DH	12:00pm
Sun, 19	Luzerne CC	Away	DH	12:00pm
Tues, 21	Brookdale CC	Home	Single	3:30pm
Sat, 26	Camden CC	Home	DH	12:00pm
Sun, 26	Atlantic Cape CC	Home	DH	12:00pm
Tue, 28	Union CC	Away	Single	3:30pm
Wed, 29	Sussex CC	Away	Single	3:30pm

## WOMENS' SOFTBALL 2015 SCHEDULE

### March

Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Event
Sat, 21	Cumberland CC	Away	12:00	Double Header
Sun, 22	Atlantic Cape CC	Away	12:00	Double Header
Tues, 24	Union CC	Home	4:00	Double Header
Thurs, 26	Northampton Community College	Home	4:00	Double Header
Sat, 28	Middlesex County College	Home	12:00	Double Header
Sun, 29	Camden County College	Home	12:00	Double Header
Tues, 31	Ocean County College	Away	3:30	Double Header

### April

Thur, 2	Brookdale CC	Home	4:00	Double Header
Sat, 4	Luzerne County Community College	Away	12:00	Double Header
Mon, 6	Raritan Valley CC (Club)	Home	3:30	Double Header
Sat, 11	Rowan College at Gloucester County	Away	12:00	Double Header
Sun, 12	Montgomery Co, Community College	Away	12:00	Double Header
Sat, 18	Lehigh Carbon CC (Club)	Home	12:00	Double Header
Sun, 19	Sussex County Community College	Away	12:00	Double Header
25-26	Reg.19 DIII Tourn (1st Round @ higher Seed)			

continued from pg. 24

and he got upset," he added. After emotions cooled the next day, Quinteros apologized to Raphael, the freshman guard explains that he understood the coaches motives. "If he was a malicious guy there would be no comment, but I'm sure he had my best interest at hand," he said.

The team ended up winning 79-60, but it would be the final game Quinteros would coach for the team this season. The following practice, a tear-ridden Quinteros would announce to the team that he was planning on resigning.

Doug Palmadessa, who earned Second Team All-Garden State Athletic Conference after leading the team in scoring on the season, described the announcement as being a shock to the entire roster, saying, "I was speechless, it was an awkward feeling, for him to tell us now he can't coach us? The guy we worked our butts off for?" The loss of Quinteros also impacted guard John Agurto deeply, who credits Quinteros with convincing him to continue his education. "He got me to come back. I was out of school for three years. At first I didn't want to come back here but he pushed me to," he said.

Quinteros' original decision to step down would change however, as he maintains that he was not given a fair chance to explain his side of the story, saying, "I never got a chance to make things right." The former coach added, "I want to apologize to everyone, I know it was a mistake, and I'm embarrassed. I just wish that I was able to make things right with administration and with the student body."

Quinteros also said that since he had refused to resign, his contract would be terminated. He added, "I still haven't gotten anything in writing [from Human Resources]."

When asked about the status of Quinteros, Athletic Director Jorge Hernandez responded, "It was something that was between the team, [Quinteros] and the athletic department. He put a great team together and he handed it to [Interim Coach Peter Jablonski]." Bergen's executive assistant to the president, Ursula Daniels, who was in attendance to see the incident, said communication between the players and Human Resources on the subject of the code of conduct is needed. "I am encouraging a conversation between [Director of Human Resources Jim Miller] and the team in regard to college policy," she said.

Conversation with the players did continue, and Athletic Director Hernandez explained to the team that a season cut short was not out of the realm of possibility if the team showed signs of waving the white flag, with Hernandez explaining, "If [players] aren't showing up to practices or games, it hurts the team and the school." Prior to Quinteros' absence, the team record was 13-7 which placed them first in their division and second in the conference. However, Bergen would then suffer three straight defeats at the hands of Rowan College (83-73), Sussex Community College (79-75), and Ocean Community College (97-91).

A few wins down the stretch did grant them a playoff berth (an impressive victory over Atlantic Cape Community College with the score of 100-54), showing some life prior to going into the playoffs as the sixth seed in their conference.

Interim Coach Jablonski, who led them into the playoffs, was well received by the players, appreciating his style of approach. "[Jablonski] is great, he was like coach Quinteros' other side, he has a great mind for basketball and he gets his point across in his own unique way," Raphael said.

The season would shortly come to an end, however: While they won the first playoff bout against Cumberland CC (84-71), the Bulldogs failed to build on the victory in their loss to Middlesex. "There was still that missing piece, we never prepared for Middlesex," said Acosta after the game.

With the majority of the roster being second-year players, there's a good chance that much of the roster won't be around next season, leaving plenty of gaps for a new batch of players. Whether the team decides to stick with Jablonski as head coach, or if they go the alternate route also remains an open-ended question; there may be a different breed of Bulldog come next season.

## BASKETBALL CONTROVERSY



The Bulldogs basketball team showing solidarity in a match against Middlesex. Claudette Alcober/IHigh - Photo courtesy of ihigh.com

**The loss of Quinteros also impacted guard John Agurto deeply, who credits Quinteros with convincing him to continue his education. "He got me to come back I was out of school for 3 years. At first I didn't wanna come back here, but he pushed me to," he said.**



Members of the Spring 2015 Bergen Bulldogs softball team. Noura Dakka/The Torch

## SOFTBALL NEARS THE FAST PITCH

MELISSA PEREZ  
STAFF WRITER

The women of the Bergen softball team are gearing up for the upcoming season - and each practice is full of conditioning and sweat.

Tryouts began earlier in the semester on January 26th, and Coach Mallorie Gilbride and Assistant Coach Jolynn DiLenno have selected their team for the season.

"I love my team, It's a great group of girls. We have a lot of incoming freshmen who seem really determined to play. They have come off very good programs and they seem like they really want to make a difference here at Bergen," Coach Gilbride said while overseeing her girls train during practice.

The team totals 13 female students and despite being new and foreign to each other, the team clicked instantly and is gelling well. Contrary to the stereotypical tension that exists within a sport team, the atmosphere around the group was very loose, working together and encouraging one another. Right off the bat they ran laps in groups, with Coach Gilbride following along every step of the way. Gilbride jumps the same hurdles as the girls, goes through the same conditioning and demonstrates proper pitching and batting. "I think my team is great this year. We look really good, we get along on and

off the field and you need chemistry to produce on the field," said Brianne Tunick, 2nd baseman and sophomore at Bergen.

Their upcoming season is sure to be eventful and the long practices every day are readying the team to play against their top rivals. The team is eager with anticipation, and every practice the girls are itching to play on the field. Their goals for the season is to reach and surpass their achievements from their last season, reaching .500 [winning percentage], making them eligible for the playoffs. "We want to make playoffs, and be one of the top four teams of NJCAA Region XIX. It is a very, very big competitive region. So we are really hoping to stay where we are, if not improve," Coach Gilbride said.

The team is most excited to face off against their top competitors Brookdale and Middlesex as well as keeping an eye out for Gloucester. The first day of play is a doubleheader and is scheduled for March 21 verses Cumberland. The game is away but they will surely come back to Bergen with a victory, hitting off what is sure to be an eventful spring season.



# SPORTS



Left: Sheldon Raphael prepares for a free throw. Above: Interim Coach Peter Jablonski talks game plan before bout vs. Middlesex. Claudette Alcober/IHigh - Photos Courtesy of ihigh.com

## CONTROVERSY AS BASKETBALL SEASON ENDS

GABE WANISSIAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's basketball team was not the same after the loss of Carlos Quinteros as head coach. The nine consecutive free throws scored by Middlesex at the end of their heartbreaking 76-72 loss in the Division III Quarterfinals was an unfitting conclusion. The fiery Bulldogs that were hell-bent on bringing Bergen Basketball their first national title in history saw their aspirations extinguished after off-the-court controversies got in the way of Bergen and the trophy.

"We wanted to win, but there was something

missing. We subconsciously lost a step. We weren't as consistent as we were earlier in the season," said Sophomore Guard Ruben Acosta after the team's elimination.

Many in and around the team felt that it was the absence of Quinteros, the former basketball coach for two seasons, that led to the group's misstep.

On January 29, during the final minutes of a home game versus Passaic County Community College, player Sheldon Raphael and then-coach Quinteros got into an altercation, which various reports from both the players and people in attendance at the game described as

relatively one-sided, with Quinteros shouting at Raphael on the sidelines.

Quinteros was audibly heard telling Raphael "You suck," which caused feelings of discomfort around the gymnasium.

"I wasn't having a good game, I wasn't focused," said Raphael in regards to the incident. "I made mistakes that coach wasn't too fond of, I wouldn't look at him and

(continued on pg. 23)

## THE WINTER THAW OF BERGEN BASEBALL

GELBER CASTILLO  
STAFF WRITER

The scoreboard and hat-on-the-bat wait, expectantly, for the snow to melt and Bulldog cleats to once again rough up the diamond. Zach McDevitt/The Torch

Bergen Baseball anticipates the promising start of a new season. February 28 marks the start of another 30-game season, only this time it's packed with double-headers and rivalry games. In interviews conducted with several players in between their preseason drills, their vision of a deep run into the playoffs was not their arrogance blinding them; it was optimism paving the road ahead.

Sweat beaded down their foreheads, as only seconds ago they were relentlessly at work, practicing their pitching and hitting, among various exercises. When asked what they were training for, Anthony Urdaneta, team captain and first baseman, said, "To win."

This team, however, is not the same as last season. Finishing 17-16, there was much room for improvement in their roster. "It's a different group of guys," said Urdaneta, "Basically our entire team left from last year, we have a couple returners but just three position players are returners, and four returning pitchers." Currently, their team is predominantly composed of new recruits.

But this did not daunt him. Urdaneta made sure to express his trust in his surrounding teammates' capabilities.

Dan O'Neill, shortstop, also said, "Our practices are a lot more intense." Despite their unassumingness, one couldn't ignore the air of bravado characteristic in a ready athlete. Overconfidence has let slip many an athlete, but these players counted on one another to keep each other up.

"That's what a team is," said Matt Van Ripper, Bergen's star pitcher, "That's how you win games: trust and being one with each other." Kevin Brito, third baseman, also commented, "We just want to take it one day at a time, making sure that everyone is doing their job... and that everybody's ready to go."

Presiding as the Alpha Bulldog is a man Brito describes as being "on top of us since day one; expects nothing but greatness from us." He has already broken two records during his three-season head coaching



run. The first, winning an unprecedented 26 wins in his first year. The most recent was setting a record with an 8-game win streak last season. Despite all this, head coach, Steven Mimms, remained straightforward and sensible.

Coach Mimms' training focuses on having his players know how to compete. "Obviously that's the goal, to win a game," said coach Mimms, "But right now we train these guys to compete... We should be able to compete with the top teams in the country..." When asked whether there was a chance to make it to the playoffs, he did not allow the question to finish before responding with an absolute, "Absolutely."

He acknowledged the fact that his roster was a little empty last season, which couldn't alleviate his 3 starters that were injured. However, his ranks are now plentiful, with coach Mimms realizing that his roster has newfound depth.

"Bergen Baseball's heading in the right direction," said Van Ripper, just before heading back into practice, "We've been better every year ever since coach Mimms has been here." With a proven head coach at the helm and a ready arsenal of players, one can already picture the Bulldogs dominating the field. "We're overall a better team than last year," said coach Mimms, "This is possibly one of the best teams I've ever coached."