Turning Point Program Gets $2.4M

A federal grant has been awarded to the college on October 19 to expand its Turning Point program geared towards adults with cognitive impairments. The $2.4 million award, officially titled Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities 2, or "TPSID 2," is the second time BCC has received the award - the first being in 2010, which kick started the program.

This grant will help students that would otherwise not have an opportunity to continue their education with their peers and help them to join the workforce," said BCC President B. Kyle Walker at a news conference at the college's Student Center.

The two year program has enrolled 100 students thus far, and aids 15 students a year ranging from ages 18 to 30; a demographic that U.S. Senator Robert Menendez states is frequently overlooked for students with special needs.

"Too often, we work with those who have disabilities when they are young with an early intervention to an inclusive education and an individualized attention program, but that falls apart when they age out of our system," said Senator Menendez at the conference.

Bergen is one of 250 schools nationwide to have such programs aiding special needs students, and was one of the only eight schools that received the second TPSID grant out of the original 27 colleges back in 2010.

A focus on aiding with academics, as well as vocational abilities, peer mentoring, and hands on work that is utilized to aid the student gaining independence, said Director of Office of Specialized Services (OSS) Tracy Rand.

Rand also directs the Turning Point program. She is also joined by Karen Kozlowicz and Donna Collins who are the coordinator and assistant respectively.

"Any typical college student has the ability to choose so they can plan their career, a student with a disability should be no different," said Rand to THE TORCH.

While OSS aids all students who show an intellectual need on campus, the program is a competitive affair that goes to students who show willingness to participate after a series of interviews.

Several key clubs and organizations on campus have partnered up with Turning Point to give the participants a chance to get involved on campus. Bergen’s STEM Club has worked with Turning Point students with several scientific projects, including a winter workshop at the college’s Student Center.

“They have been learning the basics of physics, how to take calculations down, and how that is going to be incorporated into a real world scenario,” said Nicolette Filipino, one of four STEM students working with Turning Point.

“I really enjoy being in Turning Point. It’s where I met a lot of friends, joined clubs, and have had opportunities I never thought I would have had,” said Alyssa Blundo, a Turning Point participant. Blundo has also gotten involved with The Torch, The Fashion Club, and expects to graduate after the Spring 2016 semester.

The Dark Truth Behind Thanksgiving
story on pg. 14

Wrestling Legends Take Over Bergen
story on pg. 12-13

Anthony Anderson visits BCC
story on pg. 3

Behind the Bulldog
story on pg. 15

New FAFSA Plan Will Aid College Students

A new plan has been announced by the Obama administration to make changes to FAFSA that will be effective in October 2016.

“The President will announce a new initiative to allow students and families to apply for financial aid earlier – starting in October as the college application process gets underway – rather than in January," as article off the White House’s official website explains. “Learning about aid eligibility options much earlier in the college application and decision process will allow students and families to determine the true cost of attending college – taking available financial aid into account – and make more informed decisions.”

Students will not have to wait for their most recent tax information in order to fill out their form for FAFSA. Instead, they will be able to use tax information from the year before.

Now even more than before, for those with low to middle incomes, college can be seen as a more viable option, rather than a financial burden.

John J. Cuttle, a Sociology professor at Bergen Community College, agrees that these modifications are beneficial for future students: “They made these changes to FAFSA so that high school seniors can now get a better handle on what they can afford which will then channel them into certain colleges rather than graduating and then perhaps hitting a roadblock, and becoming discouraged."

“I think it’s much better, because it gives people more of a chance,” said Flor Alvarado, a student revisiting BCC’s educational opportunities. She spoke about how her experience with applying for FAFSA was much easier than with students years before. Even so she believes that this will help newcomers with their choices.

According to information released by the White House, it is estimated that about 2 million students are enrolled in college without applying for aid, regardless of their eligibility. This does not include the students who did not enroll for college because they did not know aid was even available. With major debt or a lack of proper education, finding an income one could live on becomes all the more difficult.

“People have said that in today’s world a Bachelor’s degree is what a High School Degree used to be. Any changes to student financial aid that can help students plan better so that they wind up continuing their education, I think is a wonderful thing,” said Alvarado.

“Any typical college student has the ability to choose so they can plan their career, a student with a disability should be no different.”

- Tracy Rand

TATIANA NAUMOVSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Truth, No Matter The Cost"
UN Rep. Speaks on the Link Between Education and Poverty

CHRIS CARTER

Pansy Tun Thein, who has worked for the UN for close to 40 years specializing in population crises, gave an inspiring speech on the linkage between poverty and education at Bergen Community College on October 14.

"Education is like a golden pot that can never be stolen from you at anytime," said Thein who now works as coordinator of the Local Resource Centre of Myanmar, speaking of an old Myanmar saying. She explained that in impoverished countries like Myanmar, education is the only way to escape poverty. "We will never be able to eradicate poverty without quality education for everybody," she added, elaborating that once someone is educated and has the ability to join the workforce and start earning, it is almost impossible for them to go back into poverty.

The problems of sexual slavery are rampant in areas like Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. These women are often sold to men in China, used as reproductive machines and then returned to their place of origin.

"I,200 women agents were arrested this year," said Thein. "1,200 women have been returned from China alone in the year 2014," she added.

Many children in developing countries like Myanmar cannot afford to go to school because they must earn money to support their family. This is how violations of human rights such as human trafficking occur. People in these developing countries are approached and promised large earnings and are then tricked into being placed into human trafficking rings.

If children have knowledge of what is happening around them and the ability to think critically, many problems that stem from poverty can be prevented. Thein explained that in Myanmar, many schools practice rote learning. This often means students will have to memorize an entire textbook and regurgitate it back to the teacher. Therefore they are not prepared for future jobs or aware of how to properly navigate education and poverty.

continued on pg. 6

Public Safety Holds Orientation for Students

BRENDAN DALY

Several Public Safety officers and Bergen County cops discussed safety for Bergen Community College’s campus. After a few years of hiatus, Public Safety Day returned to Bergen on October 15. The activity took no longer than a few hours but included a movie from homeland security, an open question portion where students were allowed to ask any questions they want to either Public Safety or the county cops, and a demonstration of the K-9 unit.

The event kicked off with introductions of Lieutenant Edward Zingg, the head of Public Safety for Bergen, and Julie Bhatt, the coordinator of Student Conduct and Student Information. After the introductions were made, Lieutenant Zingg showed the surveillance video of the Columbine shooting, which was the first instance of a school mass shooting in the United States in 1999. The three showings of the video “Run, Hide, Fight!” was shown; a video made by homeland security was also shown, detailing what you should do if you find yourself in an active shooter situation.

A student who remained anonymous, asked whether or not Bergen is considered a “gun-free zone”, as recent shootings on military bases and schools across the country have sparked the debate of gun-free zones. Lieutenant Zingg took the question saying that yes, in fact Bergen Community College is a gun free zone, and that it will stay that way because we have the Bergen County cops right on campus here. Another student asked a question on whether or not metal detectors will be put into place at Bergen. Zingg answered “You have to realize...this building is very large, probably 40 doors within our building [Pikun]. Once you put metal detectors by doors, you have to restrict entry doors to the building, that would mean we would want people to come through this [Pikun]’s main entrance, and to not have those other doors accessed. It would take an awful amount of personnel stationed at every door...” The general consensus of the crowd was that they were unhappy with the answer that Zingg gave.

After the questions, there was a quick five minute intermission followed by the introduction of the K-9 unit. The cop who was presenting the K-9 unit first discussed the rigorous training program that they have to go through, not only for the cop but also for the dogs. On average the cop and dog spend 30 weeks together before even leaving training. Then the attack dog, a massive black German Shepherd named K-9 Bosco was brought out. Bosco was told to attack the cop wearing a protective sleeve so the dog would not hurt him. After the cop played with Bosco for a few seconds, the bomb sniffing dog was shown off where a police officer laid some gunpowder under the chair and then let the dog sniff out the powder. Within seconds the dog found the powder and sat to wait for his reward.

Overall, the renewal of Public Safety Day at Bergen garnered a crowd large enough that it filled the entire Student Center and taught many students what they did not know about public safety.

College Fair Provides Direction For Students

MATHEW MARTY

The college hosted its annual college fair On Wednesday October 14, located in the Student Center. Many universities ranging from Rider University to Rutgers Newark hosted tables, with each representative hoping to gain a new transfer. “In general, community colleges play a vital role in today’s society and give people who don’t come from a middle class family a leg up,” said English Language Literature Professor Robert Shepard.

It is a well known fact that Bergen Community College is the number one school in New Jersey for Associate’s degrees and students who finish their two years and obtain an Associate’s degree usually transfer to four year universities which explains why so many representatives from different universities attended.

Each table thoroughly explained what programs, scholarships, and opportunities their institutions had to offer while handing out packets of information with each representative being incredibly enthusiastic about their respective college.

“Today’s a chance to give a little exposure to the student’s in terms of what’s offered like majors, scholarships, and what is required as a transfer,” a Rider University representative said. Many Bergen students attended the fair and were looking for colleges that could suit their academic wants and needs. “I hope to do well in my classes and transfer to either NJIT or Rutgers,” said Bergen student “Daniel Gledenbran.”

These representatives also had plenty of advice for their potential future transfers “Do as well as you can in the classroom because each school’s scholarship programs are tied to your GPA,” says a representative from Rider University. “If you’re getting close to finishing that associate’s degree, definitely finish it up especially if you are going to a school in New Jersey because there is a state law where if you transfer to a New Jersey school, your credits will 100 percent transfer,” said the Rutgers Newark representative.

Students gather information on potential schools for life after Bergen at the College Fair. Wll Adams/Lopez Wei
BCC’s Newsletter and News Program Named One of Best in the Nation

GELBER CASTILLO

The college’s Public Relations department was awarded for publishing top quality work by the National Council on Meeting and Public Relations (NCMPR). The council gave the school District I Medallion Award for its newsletter “Inside Bergen” and for the 30 minute news television program, “Studio Bergen.”

“There’s a lot of people that put in a lot of time and effort to make these things award-winning,” said Managing Director of Public Relations Larry Hlavencek Jr. “You don’t set out to win awards. You just set out to do the best job you can.”

BCC developed a strategic plan to better communication and publicity between the internal and external communities in 2013. The newsletter and the TV show were direct products of the college’s plan.

“There’s a lot that goes on in the college,” said Hlavencek. “Trying to pull little things from every one of those areas can be a challenge sometimes, but that’s our area, to make sure we’re promoting and publicizing the good work everyone is doing here.”

Hlavencek, who is responsible for what editorial content is published, says that, “we try and focus on what’s going on in the college. Students are foremost, what they’re doing, how they’re achieving success, and what faculty is doing are some things the newsletter tries to condense in four pages. There’s no shortage of events happening in Bergen.”

In the nation’s eight regions, Delaware Technical Community College and Bergen Community College were the sole winners of the silver medalion awards in the country’s northeast region. There is no gold award.

NCMPR, and its affiliate American Association of Community Colleges, represent more than 1,200 two-year degree-granting institutions.

“Earning that award is pretty significant when you consider the number and caliber of the institutions in the Northeast,” Hlavencek said.

Actor Anthony Anderson & BCC Teach Smart Money

GABE WANISSIAN

“Unfortunately, we are spending what we don’t have. So we need to learn to prioritize, and educate the youth on what are true necessities,” said actor Anthony Anderson in an address to the youth from the NJ-NJ area. The speech given by the creator of ABC’s “Black-ish” was part of the “Youth Financial Literacy Workshop: Moguls In the Making” event held at Bergen Community College’s Technology building on October 10.

Several hundred attendees consisting of parents, and youth groups ages 7-18 attended several workshops in classrooms that would encourage “all of the parameters of financial literacy to be understood by the African American youth, but also all young people,” said Assistant to the President Dr. Ursulas Daniels. “You can never start too early.”

Throughout the event, speakers such as CEO of World of Money, Sabrina Lamb shed some light on the importance of families having discussions about financial responsibility. “Your families are a business, there’s money coming in and money going out. If it’s not discussed, then that ‘business’ won’t run smoothly,” said Lamb.

Lamb then addressed the concern that African American youth need to learn wise spending. According to a Nielsen survey in 2015, African Americans will be spending $1.3 trillion in the next year, a statistic that Lamb felt is being spent mostly on material goods rather than long term investments. “[Smart money] is something that we all need to talk about and address with our kids,” said Anderson.

Henry Fowler

“[Smart money] is something that we all need to talk about and address with our kids.”

For the 7 to 12-year-old group, a more interactive workshop lead by Canitl Hunt, focused on the importance of using proper body language to embody confidence. Children around the classroom then named several things that they consider to be material goods, and necessities that serve greater value.

For the parent workshop led by Sabrina Lamb, she expressed the importance of having weekly meetings with their kids on what can and cannot be afforded is important. “There is no need to lie to them, we need to respect them by being truthful so they understand the value of money early,” said Lamb.

“The presentation was a great way to promote responsible finances,” said Turner Masser, a 16-year-old student from Clarksstown South High School. “Unfortunately, the school system isn’t educating us on the value of responsible budgeting, responsible credit and debit card use or paying taxes, so these events provide that,” he added.

In the United States, Financial Education has been on the wishlist for many educators. Changes to programs are harder to come by in the U.S. as schools are governed at the state level. In contrast, the United Kingdom and Australia began implementing the subject K-12 in 2013.

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Terror Attack Turns Peace Rally into Bloodbath, Riot Police Attack Survivors

Survivor From Ankara Bombing Shares His Account

JANKAT DEYER CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Republic of Turkey was subject to the most devastating terrorist attack in its entire history earlier this month. During a peace rally to call for an end of Turkish-Kurdish segregation on October 10, two suicide bombers managed to kill more than 100 people. In the chaos following the destruction, instead of emergency medical intervention, there was police intervention with tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannons.

In order to understand the racial conflicts that continue to bloody the eastern regions of Anatolia an examination into the earlier years of the republic is necessary.

The conflicts took on a structured form in 1974 as the Turkey-PKK (Kurdistan Workers’ Party) dispute began after the founding of the PKK. After an insurgency period, a solution process was initiated in 2013, until the Islamic State stormed into Iraq and Syria seemingly overnight;esignifying the autonomous Kurdish state in Northern Iraq and Syria.

All of this led up to the events of 2015, when the Turkish government attacked the Kurdish forces fighting ISIS. Shortly after this, in the national elections held in June 2015, the Peoples Democratic Party (HDP) has passed the bar and gained entry into the parliament, putting an end to the decade-long Justice and Development Party (AKP) rule and forced a coalition. The HDP consists mainly of Kurdish autonomy advocates, but simultaneously representing all forms of minorities such as religious minorities, the LGBT, and all of the ethnic identities within Turkey as well as ideas like socialism, feminism, and anti-nationalism. Naturally, they have been under attack since their founding.

The July 2015 Suruç Bombing was one such attack when the youth organization members who were giving a press statement about their goal to help rebuild the town of Kobani were attacked by an IS suicide bomber, leaving 33 dead and 104 injured. This attack was the trigger for the re-ignition of the PKK insurgency against the AKP government who remained inactive in response to the attack. Events of this insurgency would ultimately culminate in the peace rally which became known as the Ankara bombing of October 10, 2015.

Haydar Bektas was a participant of the peace rally, and a survivor of the bombing who interviewed with the Torch. "The rally was organized for the labor force, for peace, and for democracy. I participated because I wanted to reiterate the message of peace, as did everyone else," Bektas said. He was one of the few who survived unscathed, at least physically.

Bektas' sureness did not waver when considering the possible perpetrators of the attack. "It is clear as day that the perpetrator of this attack is the AKP government," he said. "Two suicide bombers detonated in the country's capital and in an area no more than three kilometers distance from all the centers of bureaucracy; it is virtually impossible for this to happen without the knowledge of the central intelligence."

On his recollection of the events and his experience and emotions during the attack, he said: "When the first bomb exploded, I could not deduce that it was a suicide bomber, but thought it was a noise bomb. When the second one blew up five meters behind me two seconds later, I thought there were bombers everywhere and that they were going to kill everyone. If I hadn't gotten down on the ground after the first bomb and waited for the second one, I might not have been here today. My friends were dying next to me, and I went to help them as I sprang to my feet."

"Not 10 minutes after the explosions, the riot police squads appeared next to us. It was very quiet before the explosions, and unusually, there were no cops. The fact that they showed up right after the bombing is another point of discussion, as if they knew ahead of time," Bektas said. "They shot tear-gas canisters at those who were trying to help the wounded; they shot at them with rubber bullets. As we tried to carry our wounded friend Korkmaz, they began charging us, but later stopped, if we weren't stuck inside that gas, much fewer people would have died including our friend Korkmaz."

Bektas lost 16 ‘comrades’ that day such as Sekmen, Korkmaz, Ali Deniz, Elif, Dilan, and Turan. Also, many of them were wounded including those who lost legs, suffered horrible burns, and those who had their internal organs ruptured. He is resilient to have survived.

Bektas ended with his thoughts on the fact that the biggest terrorist attack of the nation’s history happened in the middle of the nation’s capital, in broad daylight; and what this means for Turkey’s current state and its future: "This situation shows us that AKP and Erdogan are so blinded by power and ambition, that in order not to lose it, they will not shy away from committing within the capital what they had been committing in the east before. They realize that they are on a path with no return. They are desperate and they are fluttering their last," and adds "I fear dark days yet await us."
Celebrations of Indigenous People’s Day

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA

Every year on the second Monday of October, Columbus Day is celebrated throughout the country, but not everyone is on board with what the Indigenous people call the man behind the genocide. Some cities and schools across the country are honoring the Natives before them. This year, people are recognizing the second Monday in October as Indigenous People’s Day, building on efforts to change people’s focus and recognize the history and contributions of the first explorer, Columbus Day. Columbus Day is one of America’s most celebrated holidays - 23 states recognize it as a paid holiday for state workers. This new shift is a part to clarify the Italian explorer’s role in discovering the new world. In 1992, Berkeley, California was the first city to adopt the Indigenous People’s Day, with efforts to correct the misperception of Columbus discovering the banks of the New World. A resolution, on August 9, 1994, by the United Nations General Assembly established International Day of the World’s Indigenous People. For the first time this year, nine cities, including Albuquerque, New Mexico, Portland, Oregon, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Olympia, Washington, will be celebrating Indigenous People’s Day. With mixed success, the Indigenous activists made a push in dozens of cities in recent months to get local leaders to officially recognize the holiday. For many years, the Native Americans have felt that they were overshadowed by the constant honoring of Christopher Columbus along with the parade and pageantry accompanying it. Overlooking a history of colonialism, enslavement, discrimination, and forced evictions of land, upon the Italian explorer’s arrival in 1492. Supporters of Columbus Day say the holiday celebrates the centuries of exchange culture between North America and Europe, and honor the iconoclast and his Italian-Americans, a group that has endured its own share of discrimination. For the remaining Native communities, Indigenous Peoples Day means a lot. We actually have something,” said Nick Estes of Albuquerque, who is coordinating a celebration Monday after the City Council recently issued a proclamation. Of the 300 million Native Americans in the United States, only 2 percent are of Native American descent. Over time, a number of Native American tribal members have moved from their reservations to urban areas across the country. With this shift of Indigenous people making the move to cities, cities are more inclined to find resolutions.

First Pro-Independence Parliament in Catalonia

IVET ANORO

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After the secessionist election on September 27, Catalonia has proven its determination. 72 out of the 135 seats in the parliament are represented for the two pro-independence parties, 36 belong to the two forces against the secession, and 26 seats are occupied for two parties in favor of a significant change but not as radical as the independence.

With this political map, Catalonia is still deciding which is going to be the way to move towards independence. From Madrid, though, this absolute majority does not seem to be enough to legitimize what has been called “The process.” Mariano Rajoy, President of Spain, has vowed to use the full power of the country’s judiciary system to block any move towards independence. Whereas the Catalan President, Mas, the Vice President and the Counselor of Education have been accused of holding a referendum considered illegal from the Spanish government. They were accused for the crimes of corruption, disobedience, misappropriation and theft.

BCC engineering student Patrick Duran, follows this issue closely due to his Spanish roots. Even though he advocates for the union of Spain, he believes that both, Spanish and Catalan Governments should try to resolve this problem as soon as possible through negotiations. Despite his own opinion, Duran understands the causes of the secessionist movement. “From years of oppression under the dictatorship of Francisco Franco (in which various traditions of the local language were banned), and of increasing corruption in the Spanish government, it can be seen that the Catalans want no part in it and would see it fit to create their own government and nation.”

“They [the Catalans] seem very rigid and do not want to negotiate anything regarding their secession,” said Duran. What will happen from now can only be solved in office.

Department of Justice to Release Nonviolent Drug Offenders

BRENDAN DALY

Thousands of people serving jail time for federal drug offenses will be released early according to a new change. The United States Sentencing Committee - a committee responsible for deciding the criteria for sentencing in federal cases - voted to reduce the punishments for nonviolent drug offenses.

The changes will be retroactive, allowing people who are currently incarcerated for harsh drug crime punishments to be allowed an early release. The newly passed law is called “Drug Minus Two” which means the new change allows for most criminal drug offenses to be dropped two levels from the original conviction. Federal sentencing guidelines use a numeric system to judge the severity of the crime. Whether a gun was used, the defendant’s possible role in a drug organization, the defendant’s criminal history and the type of crime committed are all taken into consideration. On average, about two years are being removed from sentences.

The committee heard from the U.S. attorney general Eric H. Holder Jr., federal judges and over 80,000 letters from the public all asking for the change to be put in place.

The releases will take place through the end of October until early November with an estimated 6,000 inmates to be released as the first step. But in order to be released, the inmates have to petition a judge who will then decide whether or not the inmate should be given the reduction. While most of the inmates petitioning the judges are being granted their early release, some are being denied. Members of infamous drug-using associations are being denied their release because of their affiliation with the organizations. The vast majority will be quickly moved to halfway houses to help them merge back into society. However, over a third of the offenders are illegal immigrants who will be deported after their release. The majority of the people who will be affected by this change were convicted during the height of the drug war in the 80s and the 90s.

Along with the Sentencing Committee’s change, the Department of Justice has warned all prosecutors to no longer charge nonviolent drug offenders with mandatory sentences if they do not have any connection to gangs or other kinds of drug based organizations.

This rule change will affect over an estimated 46,000 people of the 100,000 currently incarcerated for drug offenses in the United States. The goal of this rule change was to help reduce the number of people and amount of spending by U.S. prisons. Since the beginning of the drug war on U.S. soil in 1980, the amount of spending done by the federal prison system has increased by 800 percent, accounting for $27 billion of the Department of Justice’s budget. Currently there is a problem of overcrowding in prisons throughout the U.S. and with the new advent of less stringent punishments for drug offenders, the prisons may become less crowded by 50,000 in just a few years.

The change is not being welcomed everywhere. Some prosecutors have raised concerns with allowing that many criminals back into the general populace, will begin to tear the crime rate even more so than it is currently. But studies have been completed saying that a person who completed their sentence versus someone who was let out early has no affect on whether or not they relapse into criminal behavior.
U.N. Rep Cont’d From Pg.2

Panny Tun Thein, who has worked for the UN for close to 40 years specializing in population crises, gave an inspiring speech on the linkage between poverty and education at Bergen Community College on October 14.

“Education is like a golden pot that can never be stolen from you at anytime,” said Thein who now works as coordinator of the Local Resource Centre of Myanmar, speaking of an old Myanmar saying. She explained that in impoverished countries like Myanmar, education is the only way to escape poverty. “We will never be able to eradicate poverty without quality education for everybody,” she added, elaborating that once someone is educated and has the ability to join the workforce and start earning, it is almost impossible for them to go back into poverty.

The problem of sexual slavery is rampant in areas like Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. These women are often sold to men in China, used as reproductive machines and then returned to their place of origin. About 500 human trafficking agents were arrested this year,” said Thein. “1,200 women have been returned from China alone in the year 2014,” she added.

Many children in developing countries like Myanmar cannot afford to go to school because they must earn money to support their family. This is how violations of human rights such as human trafficking occur. People in these developing countries are approached and promised large earnings and are then tricked into being placed human trafficking rings.

If children have knowledge of what is happening around them and the ability to think critically, many problems that stem from poverty can be prevented. They explained that in Myanmar, many schools practice rote learning. This often means students will have to memorize an entire textbook and regurgitate it back to the teacher, therefore they are not prepared for future jobs or aware of how to properly navigate through many of the problems they face as members of a developing country.

Theyin discussed the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) project currently being worked on by the UN. The project started in 2002 with a target date of this year and works to achieve 8 specific goals to help developing countries. These 8 goals are to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, to achieve universal primary education, to promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and global partnership for development. It has been funded by donations from international governments, groups, and the private sector.

Unfortunately, most of these goals have not been met in Myanmar and similar developing countries. The program is ending this year and the UN is replacing it with the Sustainable Development Goals program. This new program builds on the MDG and is an even more ambitious endeavor with 17 specific goals to be reached by the year 2030.

These goals are to achieve no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, justice and strong institutions and partnerships for the goals.

Radiating the sentiment that we have it much better here at Bergen than where she grew up in Myanmar, Thein urged students to take advantage of their higher education and secure the career they wish to pursue. She explained that the goal of education for the student is to join the workforce and contribute to the economic growth of their country. Only then will we be able to “boost productivity and open doors for new jobs,” Thein said.

Anthony Anderson Teaches Smart Money

continued from page 3

“Since it’s not taught in classrooms, it starts in the home. It’s not exciting, but it’s something that we all need to talk about and address with ourselves and with the young people,” said Anderson in an interview with The Torch.

Anderson, a Compton native, shared that his financial blunders with credit cards at a young age helped him to raise his two kids on a better path. “There was no money in my pocket back then. There was just piece of plastic,” remembered Anderson. “Then I thought, ‘You mean I can go into a store with this plastic card and walk out with stuff?’ Wow! But they didn’t explain to me that I had to pay that all back,” he said to the youth attendees.

“So kids, don’t overestimate responsible credit use.”

Corrections from October 2015

For the “Dear Students: Question Everything” article on Page 10, The statement “B. Kaye Walter held a meeting during this summer with the registration department about not being able to register students due to insufficient funding” was incorrect. Walter was not present during the meeting in the summer.

On Page 2, Dean of Student Conduct and Student Life, Dean Rachel Lerner-Cohick’s last name was misspelled.

WHERE TRANSFER STUDENTS FINISH STRONG

When you transfer to Montclair State University, your credits are easily applied to your choice of over 300 academic programs. No matter what your goals, interests and passions, you can pursue them here. As a student, you’ll have full access to our worldwide network of alumni, robust internship programs and on-campus resources.

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IT’S ALL HERE.
La Esquina Latina: Generación 2.0 - La Nueva ola deHispanohablantes

FLORENCIA LLOSAS

Los Estados Unidos se han convertido en el "crisol de razas" del mundo, mezclando más culturas y personas que cualquier otro país desde que fueron fundados. La tendencia de muchos de los inmigrantes hispanohablantes recién llegados es absorber las nuevas culturas y tradiciones mientras se acometen a las propias por miedo a perder el pedacito de hogar que trajeron con siglo.

Sin embargo, los niños que crean con ellos tienden a abandonar esa herencia cultural de sus padres con el tiempo y, según dicen las estadísticas, también en poco probable pasar el idioma y las tradiciones de padres a hijos.

"I haven’t known Spanish in over 14 years" (no he sabido español en más de 14 años), comenta Carmelo de Jesús, un estudiante de la facultad de Bergen de ascendencia puertorriqueña.

"I grew up in a white neighborhood, I don’t see or speak with my Spanish speaking family, and all of my friends just speak English. I didn’t find it necessary to learn Spanish" (yo crecí en un barrio blanco, no veo ni hablo con mi familia de habla española, y todos mis amigos sólo hablan inglés... No me pareció necesario aprender español), añade De Jesús.

Los hispanos nacidos en Estados Unidos superan en número a los hispanos nacidos en el extranjero por casi el doble -35.000.000 a 19.000.000, y forman la parte más creciente de la población hispana de la nación(65%), según la información más reciente recogida por el Centro de Investigación Pew. "But, even though the number of Spanish speakers is projected to grow, among Hispanics, the share that speak Spanish is projected to fall (from about 75% now, to 66% in 2020)" (pero, a pesar de que se prevé que el número de hablantes del español crecerá, entre los hispanos, la proporción que habla español descenderá del 75% actual a 66% para el 2020), agregó Marcos Hugo López, director de Investigación Hispánica en el Centro Pew.

Al analizar la información dada, tiene sentido debajo de que los latinos y latinas de primera generación se les enseñó desde pequeños que dependen de ellos. Pueden continuar con su idioma nativo y enriquecer su español básico o simplemente renunciar al idioma para reforzar su inglés.

Cuando se les preguntó a varios estudiantes de Bergen por qué decidieron dejar de aprenderlo, muchos comentaron que en el momento en el cual tomaron la decisión, no lo veían futuro "We kinda didn’t want to learn the language, we felt it was unnecessary" (no queríamos aprender el idioma, nos pareció que era innecesario), comenta De Jesús en las elecciones hechas por él y su hermana.

Esta tendencia no ha hecho más que aumentar con la nueva ola de inmigrantes latinos que llegan al país. Estados como Carolina del Norte, están recibiendo miles de residentes mexicanos. Precisamente la población procedente de México, es considerada como una de las más grandes y siente la necesidad de dejar de lado la más grande para otra diferente.

"In North Carolina right now, Spanish is a 'new' language where immigrant children experience shame for speaking Spanish, and many children pretend not to speak or even understand the language" (en Carolina del Norte en este momento, el Español es una lengua "nueva" por eso, a los niños inmigrantes les da vergüenza hablarlo, y muchos niños no saben hablar o incluso no entenderlo), informa Philip M.Carter, profesor adjunto de la Universidad de Florida, después de realizar un censo en el estado. Por la información obtenida, parece ser que NC se ha convertido en el estado con la población latina de más rápido crecimiento ya que pasó de 76.726 habitantes en 1990 a 378.963 en 2000.

"This is not in the third generation, but in what we call generation 1.5, the young children who come with their parents from abroad (esto no viene de la tercera generación, sino de la que llamamos generación 1.5, que consiste en el pequeño de los hijos que vienen con sus padres del extranjero)." Muchos argumentan que estas cosas no están sucediendo en todo el país, sólo en las esquinas solitarias donde ser hispano es visto como algo malo, donde la ignorancia de la mayoría asusta a los residentes hispanos y eso les hace negar sus orígenes. Y, sin embargo, en esta nueva ola revolucionaria que la generación del milenio está experimentando, los hombres y mujeres Latinoamericanos de todo el país siguen sin ser representados correctamente. Esto se puede ver cada vez que el hombre latino es caracterizado como el pobre jardinero de tez broncada o bien, cada vez que a una mujer latina no se le paga lo que merece. Según los últimos datos obtenidos por el U.S Census Bureau, la brecha salarial más grande ocurre cuando se compara a mujeres Latinas con hombres americanos de ascendencia caucásica, a quienes le pagan un 54% más de lo que le pagan a las mujeres hispanas.

Estos son sólo algunos ejemplos que explican por qué nuestra generación está reduciendo las celebraciones de nuestras tradiciones y dejando atrás lo que nos hace únicos; la exclusión voluntaria de la cultura por miedo a ser visto como la "miles historica" o el "Otro", mientras que las americanas toman nuestra cultura de cuales y limpios perfectamente delicados y son vistas como reinas del glamour o ‘fashion Gurus’.

I will definitely teach them [my future children] Spanish... I’ll teach them about our Mexican culture because I don’t want it to disappear. I want my culture to live on for generations (definitivamente voy a enseñarles [a mis futuros hijos] Español... voy a enseñarles acerca de nuestra cultura mexicana porque no quiero que desaparezca. Quiero que mi cultura viva por generaciones." Afirma con orgullo Zaira Carrasco, una estudiante estadounidense de Bergen con padres mexicanos.

Ya que no podemos cambiar el idioma que se habla en las casas, seamos por lo menos la generación que cambia la mentalidad hacia nuestra cultura, luchemos por nuestros derechos y alentemos a otros latinos a unirse a nosotros aquí en esta nación, sin el temor de ser bloqueados detrás de un muro gigante.

Expliquemos de forma racional y con paciencia a todos estos norte-americanos que nuestros feriados y celebraciones tradicionales no serán nunca más objeto de burla ni un chiste con sombreros y tequilería. Háganmos saber que nuestro idioma es más que una buena oportunidad de negocios y lo más importante, que todos pertenecemos a la misma comunidad a pesar de ser tan diversos en color, facciones y tamaño—desde la persona más blanca y europea, a los más mestizos que reducen los rasgos nativos de su país en toda su excelencia, y finalmente de los que no saben ni pinta de ingles, al profesional en gramática y literatura americana.
Dear Bergen: You Saved My Life

For some reason, the mid-semester blues that comes from ceaselessly grinding away at work and school has evaporated me. Instead, I find myself feeling thankful as I reflect on my nearly three year odyssey that has been spent at this college. I should not be in the position I am in today. I grew up in an unstable household with financial catastrophe always around the corner, and as I graduated highschool with the skin of my teeth, I went into Bergen in 2012 completely directionless.

What would my major be? What was I interested in? Which classes do I need? Did I fill out my FAFSA? The misguided 18-year-old me was filled with “smart ideas,” but lacked any will or ambition to see them through. I would end up dropping my Fall 2012 semester due to my disinterest in the collegiate world.

I had begun to resent the idea of getting into debt, and potentially studying something that would not benefit me or interest me. I was so cynical that it would make George Carlin blush. But it dawned on me, I need college to guide me into becoming the strongest version of myself. I was not capable of just “figuring it out,” so I had agreed to return for Spring 2013, not for the piece of paper you receive at the end, but to use college as a tool to find my calling.

I scoured to find something that was of interest. I did not care about “will it get me a job?” I just simply needed something to get me in the door. Theatre had become my sanctuary.

Aside from a few plays in middle school, I had very little experience, but simply taking the class Basic Acting Techniques opened the floodgates that lead to performing in several plays at Bergen. It was a Godsend, as performing on stage helped me shed my crusty jaded attitude, and I had felt more alive than I had ever been. Focusing in classes suddenly was not a chore anymore, as I now had a reason to perform well academically.

In the wake of becoming more involved on campus, I had also gotten a job in Room A-118, Office Center for Student Success. The checks I received biweekly were nice, but my coworkers and counselors eagerness to help students with academic issues and share their knowledge was invaluable. Helping students — especially during late summer months — taught valuable lessons with having patience, and putting people’s priorities first, even if it gave me a grey hair or two.

The final piece of the puzzle that had been placed for me was when my fascination in current events gravitated me towards The Torch. My best friend was Editor-in-Chief at the time, and frequently encouraged me to write for the paper. Occasional articles turned into several, and several turned into being on the paper’s editorial board for over a year. I had realized that I got great enjoyment from bringing a spotlight on both great tales, or grave atrocities to inform the masses. Journalism quenched that thirst for me so much so that I changed my major, and became Editor-In-Chief.

All of these stepping stones provided me with an opportunity to both rise and fall, make life lasting friendships and connections, and develop a sense of character that was nothing but an empty void before I entered the halls of this institution.

By no means have I figured out all the answers to life, but had my stubbornness won over three years ago, I am certain that I would have continued to wonder, and not have angst.

So in telling my story, I say to that student who feels pressured to come to college — I understand where you are coming from. But I urge you, to please take advantage of this opportunity to attend this place and explore all avenues that are available to you. You owe it to yourself to fully realize your potential and leave Bergen Community College as an extraordinary individual.


What is Our Obsession with Apple Really Saying?

By Shannon Vani

iPhones, iPads, iPods, the list goes on and on. It is no secret that Apple products are extremely popular this year. The high priced electronics and accessories are in high demand. On September 28, Apple’s CEO, Tim Cook announced that the iPhone 6s set a new sales record. Apple sold over 13 million iPhone 6s models in just 3 days after it was launched. The lengths that people will go to just to get their hands on the latest Apple device is crazy. According to CNN, a woman in San Diego sat at a robot to stand in line for the iPhone 6s for her over in Palo Alto, California back in September when the phone was just coming out. The idea that someone would go through that much trouble is incredible. That itself proves that customers will do whatever it takes to make sure they have the newest Apple products. People do not realize the unnecessary obsession that has developed for Apple’s never ending line of advanced electronics.

Keeping up with this image though, will cost you. Consumers continued on pg. 9

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 RCC and the local community, and to offer the RCC 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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A missile that was dropped brought death and destruction in its path, leaving the remaining innocent survivors fearfully staring into the sulfur-filled skies. That horrific scenario happens all too often in the Middle East, and it incidentally describes the aftermath of both Russia’s and U.S. missile strikes in the war-torn region. The key word there being “both,” as we seemingly forgot that America also has blood on its hands.

After Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the first round of airstrikes into Syria on September 30, The United States media and its politicians went into a condemning hysteria. “The attacks are highly irresponsible,” said Hawaiian Democratic Representative Tulsi Gabbard on a September 30 CNN broadcast. Even more ironic was the U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter describing the attacks as “Unprofessional military behavior,” during a NATO conference.

By no means am I saying that the airstrikes are ethical, as 90 percent of their missile strikes – which violated Turkish airspace – have not been aimed at The Islamic State strongholds, but rather “moderate rebel groups.” The media has depicted factions such as al-Nusra Front and the Free Syrian Army (FSA) as “freedom fighters” and that the Russian strikes is preventing the Syrian people escaping the grasp of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad

But as with many conflicts, painting things black and white never works, especially not Middle Eastern conflict. For starters, let’s not forget that al-Nusra Front is the sole al-Qaeda representative in Syria, and maintains an “amicable” relationship with ISIS. The FSA has also enacted a barbaric form of Sharia Law.

Apple Obsession

continued from pg. 8

are paying hundreds of dollars for these advanced products, but do they really know what spending all that money is doing? It is feeding into the phenomenon that is Apple. The fact that these sales are going up is giving the idea that even though these products are expensive and sometimes unnecessary, people will buy them anyway. The amount of money Apple makes off of its customers is unbelievable. According to Apple in 2015 this further, Apple has made about $49.6 billion.
It’s costing $49.6 billion to tell the world and these prominent companies, no matter what the price, we will find a way to buy these devices even if we don’t really need them. There is no denying that the technology is highly advanced and not to mention convenient, but it is not always necessary. If you own a functional Macbook laptop that is only a year old, do you really need to buy the next one that is released? Paying all that money for something you do not require just to be able to say that you have the latest model is absurd. The world is spreading the message to big corporate companies like Apple that as long as they keep coming up with newer products, the public will continue to buy them.

Here at Bergen County Community College, Apple is a popular brand. Some of our classrooms contain Mac desktop computers installed with all the required applications students need to help advance their education.

then of course there are many students that walk around with iPhones, and are seen all around the school working on their Macbook laptops. It seems Apple is all the rage on our campus. Students are giving such positive feedback on how they feel about their Apple products and the Mac computers our campus provides. I spoke with Professor Alan Estrin about what he thought and this is what he had to say, “Apple stuff is great, I mean I have an iPhone and an iPad. I will admit though that there is a craziness for it. I always want the newest iPhone; the technology is just so cool. It’s also great that some classrooms have Apple computers. It gives us more to work with.”

After explaining the impression this obsession gives off to Apple, I asked what students thought spending all that money on Apple gadgets meant; “I think it means we’ll spend money on anything that is Apple; people will buy it just to keep up with the trend. I guess I’m a hypocrite, though, I mean I have a bunch of Apple stuff too,” chuckled student Sarah Vasquez as she explained her opinion on the subject.

As you can see, BCC’s very own students give into the lure of the Apple brand, but next time you are spending all this money on the latest accessories, think about what it is saying to the company. To you it is a few hundred dollars, to the world it is a widespread
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Do Your Friends Add or Take Away From You?

MELISSA PEREZ

In college, you are starting over as an individual without your graduating class and often without many of your friends, and the first sign of friendship is more than comforting. Jumping at the first friendly face in class is not necessarily the best decision for your college career. Getting past that friendly face, and seemingly charming personality can end in a toxic relationship with a person who takes more from your life than they add. The Torch sat with Dr. Jacqueline Behn, Department Head of Social Sciences for her professional consultation on signs of a toxic friend.

“A toxic person to me is someone who is very negative, who tries to undermine your self-esteem, and that can be done in a number of ways,” Behn defined. A few of these signs are lack of support, verbal and nonverbal. “By telling you verbally, ‘you can’t do something’ ‘you’re stupid’, they call you names. It’s the nonverbal messages that are also important. The verbal, and the nonverbal have to match,” Behn elaborated.

A friendship is just another form of a relationship, in that the relationship is more than just inside jokes, and convenience. A friend supports you without question by being there for you, and encouraging you, even if it is just a word of support or a smile. Being friends with a person who points out your shortcomings instead of helping you, or pokes and prods at you, is not a healthy relationship. “It is always easy to find someone who tells you that you can’t do something,” Behn said.

Other signs of a toxic friend are the complete opposite of negativity; charm can sometimes be an attribute of a toxic friend. In premature stages of friendship, the first impression can be the most misleading. This behavior is recognized as “friend stage” behavior, associated with “backstage” behavior, which is the nature of how one truly acts when no one is around.

“It is hard to make predictions because sometimes the personality that one shows you upon first impression, we psychologists call it ‘friend stage’ behavior - is ultimately not the real personality. Someone who needs to be in control, who does repetitive acts, might have a little OCD; someone who is very demanding, not flexible,” Behn said. “You see someone who is really nice, and you don’t expect it (backstage behavior). Sometimes the actual behavior that seems totally opposite of what you’re really getting is what you first see. That would be really not obvious,” Behn stated.

“When you have the confidence that you are a good person, and you would like to be with good people, surround yourself with good people, that is the first step. We can’t always control what someone else does,” Behn advises.

For those individuals who find themselves in these situations, Behn recommends to not be afraid to step away from the situation of unstable drama that dampen the spirit. By addressing them, that ceases the escalation, and a pathway to find healthier relationships.

“Surround yourself with good people, that is the first step” - Dr Jacqueline Behn

Forum Educates Students About Voting

LUCIA RUBI GODAY

It is important for Americans to be aware of the importance of voting. The NAACP chapter at Bergen Community College held its Third Annual Voter Education Forum this semester. The chapter invited a panel of community serving individuals to educate students about the importance of voting.

The panel was moderated by Jorge Ivan Gomez Wel, founder of the BCC NAACP Chapter and the NAACP President of the New Jersey State Youth and College Division. The three speakers invited were Bergen County Clerk John S. Hogan, Army Veteran and former Morristown NAACP chapter President Keith Boddin, and Director of AI Puerta and Latino Promise at Fairleigh Dickinson University Fernando Alonso.

During the open forum held on Tuesday, October 23, topics such as the importance of voting, the involvement of younger people in politics and elections, and voting by mail were discussed. The students and public in general were taught that it is important to register on time; at the latest, 21 days before the election day. Elections are usually held during the first week of November. Some of the ideas brought up was the possibility of implementing online voting. “The next generations of people are going to be extremely busy, but they want to get involved and we gotta find a way to get them involved,” said Fernando Alonso. “I think that some kind of either online registration or online voting is the future,” he added. Despite the benefits and commodities that voting online would bring, Keith Boddin expressed that, “voting in person is very symbolic,” since it has given many people who didn’t always have the right to vote a way to show the accomplishment and use of their right. Although online registration is still just an idea, there is a more convenient way of voting than going to the polls, and that is voting by mail. This is something that anybody who is registered to vote can do.

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A Pinfall For A Cause!

WWE/ECW Stars Dreamer & Nunzio Join Fundraiser Wrestling to Aid Bergen Veterans

GABE WANSIANNUS & ADRIAN YLLATOPA

"I'm not a professional wrestler. But being a huge fan, when The L&P Express said 'come manage us', I said 'let's go' and just fell into place," said Eichols with a giant grin.

Eichols would later slam their opponent's manager into the ring apron, which set the 450 spectators into a frenzy. However, the partnership between the L&P Express, Professional Wrestling and the RCC Veterans committee wasn't all for the spectacle or for the profit, but for a greater cause.

"We first heard the story of a RCC veteran not being able to make their rent for the month, and when we heard that story, we dropped everything and just went out there," said Eichols. With the proceeds going to the aid of RCC veterans, Eichols added, "I don't think it could have been planned better than the way it happened tonight."

That planning included a collection of local professionals and WWE/ECW stars, such as Tommy Dreamer, Nunzio, Tony Mamaluke, and Steve Corino.

"Aside from seeing me, he has an amateur wrestling background and has been wrestling for seven years," Steve Corino proudly stated. "Do you think that makes a difference in your performance?" Eichols asked.

"For a villainous persona effortlessly cutting from growing up seeing his father Steve Corino do the same thing."

"The best guy, so if they're yelling their heads off at him, don't let 'em get to you. Bad guy, that's I have done a good job," said Colby Corino. His father vowed cylindrical eyes at the crowd and his opponent, Garden State native Glenn Ulrich.

"I'm happy with the crowd and their reception," said Tommy Dreamer.

"I'm happy with the crowd and their reception," said Tommy Dreamer.

"I'm happy with the crowd and their reception," said Tommy Dreamer.

For Dreamer, entertaining the fans is large enough to fill into his love of stepping in the squared circle, but he recognizes that for many wrestlers are larger than life heroes, large enough to save one.

"I was talking to a guy today on Twitter who told me he used to do a drug addict and that he wanted to kill himself," the fan said that during those dark times, wrestling had been his escape from his personal struggles. "I saw him on my phone screen, so I texted him back."

"I'm going to hold off until next week because I want to see how it happens to this guy," Dreamer said. "Well, if you don't think about changing the world, but for too many people, we want a lot to talk about.

That chance to positively impact people's lives just as we've been to make things better, which is something Dreamer takes very seriously.

"This is a man and a woman who give their lives to defend what we do, and hundreds of people can watch on a show helping them. Awesome. What a great night!"
The Thanksgiving Day Massacre and the First Macy’s Day Parade

MELISSA PEREZ

Thanksgiving is a holiday of traditions: the Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade, a turkey meal, and Thursday night football. But why does every American baste turkeys for supper? Why does Macy’s department store have a parade? What is Thanksgiving really?

On the fourth Thursday of November, every American sits down for a family dinner in respect to the first Thanksgiving meal that is believed to have been between peaceful pilgrims and Native Americans. In schools, it is taught incorrectly that the first Thanksgiving meal was the brainchild of Puritan Governor William Bradford. The narrative goes a little something like this: In 1621, after a declaration of a bountiful fall harvest, being at peace with their Wampanoag Native American neighbors, and in worship of the Judeo-Christian God, they held a meal to bring themselves and the Natives together.

In Canada, their version of Thanksgiving contradicts the first Pilgrim’s holiday. Their turkey day is a celebration of English explorer Sir Martin Frobisher, on the second Monday of October. Frobisher held a feast in the 16th century. For Canadians, this feast is their first Thanksgiving, as stated on the Huffington Post.

In actuality, Thanksgiving was nothing of the sort. In 1637, Puritan John Winthrop Sr., one of the founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, created Thanksgiving as a celebration of the safe homescoming of hunters. The hunters returned to their English settlement with their kills, and slaughtered 700 Pequot Native Americans. While it is not very popular, 378 years later, Native Americans still gather at the sight to mourn each Pequot man, woman, and child brutally murdered on the original Thanksgiving.

Centuries later, people are carving turkeys due to the letters and statements of English settlers, Edward Winslow and Governor William Bradford (who is believed to be the creator of Thanksgiving) about the Puritans butchering turkeys. One of the largest Thanksgiving celebrations, the Macy’s Day Parade, was not originally about a turkey dinner of thanks. The first Macy’s parade in 1924 was due to their achievement of being the largest retail store, and they originally threw a Christmas themed parade. The extravagance and sheer wonderment of the parade made it a tradition in New York, that soon became a national event.

Tossing around the pigskin on Thanksgiving is as traditional as having turkey for dinner, and the tradition was first established since the 19th century. Ivy league universities, Yale and Princeton, were the first to play a football game against each other on the Thanksgiving day. Over a decade after President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday, The holiday became an important milestone in the intercollegiate football industry, intensifying rivalries between teams. By 1920, when the NFL was introduced, the tradition of Thanksgiving football was strong, infectious, and became a spectacle for the NFL.

Americans continue to celebrate Thanksgiving based on an incorrect notion of what the holiday is really about, similar to how Columbus day is also incorrectly taught. It’s important to learn the truth about these holidays we Americans celebrate, and continue to educate ourselves.

Juggling School and Work Tensions

SHANNON YAN

In today’s world, college is getting more and more expensive and many students are independent. They are no longer relying on their parents to provide for them; they take care of themselves financially. For this reason, students are not only attending school, but are taking on jobs to pay their expenses as well. Studies show that 82 percent of college students are holding down some type of job. Although most students need to maintain a job to pay their way through school, it can be difficult managing them both.

Students at Bergen Community College agree that being in school full-time and having a job can be stressful. Student Caroline Solek is a full-time student who also maintains a job said, “I feel like having a job while going to school can be overwhelming but necessary because it gives you the opportunity to develop time management skills and responsibility.” Although it has its benefits, students do find it to be tricky to attend school and work at the same time.

On average, students work about 19 hours per week, but others work up to more than 20 hours a week. Some students even maintain full-time jobs. The problem is, too many hours of work will result in negative consequences. A total of 75 percent of American university professors noted that taking on too many hours of work while attending school can cause high levels of stress and anxiety. With that, it is less likely that students will even complete their degrees. Although taking on a job does build character, overworking your schedule can affect your academic career and produce a negative outcome. To be able to work and attend school, one must find an equal balance. Once a common ground is found, it is possible to maintain a job and successfully continue with your education.
Saulo Garcia’s “En La USA Me Quedé! (...and I got screwed!)”

Colombian harpist and Bergen Community College Alumnus Enki Bello along with Colombian humorist, writer, and comedian Saulo Garcia performed a show at The Ciconne Theatre on October 23.

In the opening act, Enki Bello and her band (drummer and DJ) made her unique and beautiful interpretations with her electric harp enlighten the main event. Bello performed four traditional Colombian folk songs from the coast and the mountain regions, along with two famous Colombian “top 40” songs, Shakira’s “No string’s attach” and Los Diablitos “La caminones de la vida!” As Bello mentioned to the audience “I want this beautiful and traditional music to be cherished and heard by the young people, but with a twist of the young sound.”

Enki Bello started the fire in the pit while Saulo Garcia’s monologue, En La USA Me Quedé continued with six funny and interesting acts with 10 to 20 second breaks. It begins with his first character, a “handsome” guy begins singing and then, explains to the audience the hardships he faced while coming from Columbia and starting all over again in the U.S. Without knowing the serious issues he faced getting adjusted to the U.S., for instance, learning a new language which lead to relatable and comical mistakes and pronunciations.

As Garcia’s character had funny moments when he stated “I’m afraid to even pronounce “Beach” in English!” (Translation: it had a deeper message underneath. From the failed dream’s he faced in Colombia to the roller coaster ride of becoming a U.S. citizen, the show depicts his struggles. In the second act, while Garcia mentions his strange journey on becoming a U.S. citizen, by his scary, but funny moments and his unhappiness; Garcia made the audience participate, to tell their stories about their hardships and goals they faced when coming to the U.S., why they decided to stay, and how they became a U.S. resident.

One of many interesting acts of this fun play was about this peculiar and funny looking character, a barrio guy of one of many working class neighborhoods from Medellin, Colombia. He explains what he has seen and witnessed while working for a rich family. As the comedian humorously remarked how they were more preoccupied by their appearance and showing off their material goods, yet never being satisfied. In this wonderful play, it made some people in the audience reflect and remember through situations immigrating to the United States. While Garcia is Colombian, it was relatable to all who have ever felt like an outsider to something at one point in life.
Between the Lines of BCC's African Art Exhibit

SHANNON VANI
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

African art is often not recognized for what it really is. What most people don’t realize is that there is actually a lot more behind the piece than what meets the eye. Back in February of this year, the exhibit “Encoded Messages: Reading African Art,” opened in the atrium of the Sidney Silverman Library here at Bergen Community College. The exhibit celebrates African American Heritage Month with textiles and sculptures from the African Art Museum of the Society for African Missions in Ternany on display. This exhibit helps us to understand that African objects are usually adorned with encoded messages. Everything from the color and surface condition, to the form and shape of a piece is put there for a purpose.

Professor Charles Bordogna actually studied these very pieces and the symbolism of African art and textiles. He explained that in traditional Sub-Saharan Africa, the patterns on objects often indicate one’s cultural group or one’s rank in a male or female association. One of the artifacts here in our library, the Yoma Mask, is a mask associated with males of the culture who are transitioning from boys to men. The mask represents a beast, such as a crocodile, that devours the young boys and returns them as men with a new name and practically a new identity. That is just one of the symbolic pieces we have here in our library.

Professor Bordogna explained to The Torch the importance of this exhibit and encourages students to take the time to appreciate the works. If you look more closely, you begin to understand that the traditional African cultures were fairly complex,” said Bordogna.

They had ways of dealing with birth, death, disease, afflictions and challenges. They had ways of transferring knowledge in order to exist in sometimes a very harsh type of climate,” he added. Students can take a lot away from the exhibit and really begin to understand the meanings behind each piece and pattern.

The African Art: Encoded Messages, reflect values, beliefs, and identity. One can detect symbolic patterns and forms of communication if they look closely into the artwork. Professor Bordogna continued on to explain a few of the popular artifacts including the Ladder from Dogon, Mali, the Salf Keita Soccer Player, figure sculpture in Mali by a Baule Carver; and the Paka Eggunu ancestor mask from Toruba, Nigeria.

“I have felt passionate about this since I was about 30 years old when I discovered African art. I just found it very interesting that in a culture that did not have, by and large books, they used sculptures to convey concepts and ideas to maintain a continuity of knowledge from one generation to another generation,” said Bordogna.

This whole exhibit is a perfect example of how beauty truly is in the eye of the beholder. One may see one thing while others see something completely different. These artifacts are here to teach us that there is so much more then you may see, all you have to do is step back and take a closer look.

BEHIND BENNY THE BULLDOGG

JESSICA RODRIGUEZ
PHOTO EDITOR

Sporting events, ceremonies, open houses, you name it; Benny the Bulldog is there energizing the crowd and bringing school spirit. For those who are unfamiliar with Benny the Bulldog, he’s the school’s beloved mascot. His duty is to make everyone smile, which is impossible to miss since he stands at a whopping 6 feet 6 inches tall. Being that Benny is so popular with the students and faculty, he draws a lot of attention and questions. After an interview with the Bulldog himself, it turns out there’s a lot more that goes into being Benny than meets the eye.

Behind Benny are three different students, one of which performs the job most frequently and is the Bulldog that The Torch was able to speak with but who would like to remain anonymous. This group of students meets every week to plan the days and times that Benny will go to events. They make sure that Benny has a great time, but also makes sure that he is safe.

Benny enjoys the nice weather as he scoops up the sun on campus. //Jessica Rodriguez

Benny enjoys the nice weather as he scoops up the sun on campus. //Jessica Rodriguez
ADRIANNA CARABALLO

A taste of Broadway was recently brought to Bergen Community College. The Ciccone Theatre hosted an evening of American musicals of the 21st century, which they called Broadway Today.

The purpose of the event, was to raise funds for the Paul Walter Scholarship, which is for students who have proven their skills in the performing arts. All the proceeds from the production went toward the scholarship.

The Broadway Today production which took place on October 15 included a montage of songs with very different attitudes from various famous musicals. Outside the theatre, the production was highly anticipated. Broadway enthusiast Christine Cesare expressed why she was so eager to see the production.

"There’s a singer, I believe her name is Melissa McDermott. She has a fantastic voice."

McDermott certainly lived up to this praise with her performance in Next to Normal with the song, “Everything else”, a quick but emotional performance that pleased the crowd. Other gems of the night included Sally Ann Tumac Sistoric, who sang “Popular” from the song Wicked, Charly Conklin, who performed “The Final Countdown” in Rock of Ages and lastly Jennifer Hughes, who moved the audience with the song “Still Hurting.”

Other memorable performances included Spring Awakening, which contained an emotional and intimate duet of the song “Word of Your Body”, executed by Jessica Rodriguez and Anthony Fox. This particular performance incorporated a graceful dance choreographed by Lynn Needle. The performance of the song “Satisfied” from Once, also possessed an alluring dance performance choreographed by the same person.

As enjoyable as the overall production was, it had a rough start. In the very first performance, “21 Guns” from the musical American Idiot, there was a problem with the audio and the production had to be stopped due to technical difficulties. The technicians worked to fix the problem quickly but the real hero of the show was director Sony Tiwari.

Tiwari saved the show from the death of silence with humor and quick wit. He interacted with the audience to make them feel more comfortable while the audio was fixed. The issue was handled with style and grace and the production went on.

The Ciccone Theatre was filled with Broadway music performed by students and professionals.

THE TORCH VOLUME 24 ISSUE 3 | NOVEMBER 2015

A BCC PRESENCE AT
HACU CONFERENCE

LUCIA RUBI GODOY

Every fall semester, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities holds its annual conference for students in Miami, Florida. Six of Bergen Community College’s Hispanic leaders were chosen to represent the school at this year’s conference. Julie LeDuc, Brandon Liviano, Jeffrey Batista, Michelle Correa, Erika Campos, and Tatiana Lopez were accompanied by chaperone Kelion Best to the HACU Conference.

“The first day of the conference, we had a discussion about financial advice, from one of the professionals, a workshop on how to manage the money, how to save up for loans, how to be able to accomplish our majors and how to apply that to our daily lives,” said Tatiana Lopez, President of Bergen’s Latino American Student Association (LASA). She added that the workshops offered during the conference are not only helping students accomplish their majors, but applies information to their daily lives.

Other workshops taught students how to take advantage of financial aid, apply for jobs, plan for early retirement, and how to apply their majors to different fields other than just the evident, specific ones.

“Bergen is one of the Hispanic serving institutes, aside from 76 other ones and 15 schools in California,” said Michelle Correa, Vice-president of Student Government Association. “When I went [to HACU], I realized that every student was either in a leadership role, like student government, or president of a small committee,” she added.

Two of the main conference sponsors were Univision and Rutgers Newark, and they both encouraged students to bring their resumes and network. Other schools from around the countries also attended and offered information to interested prospective students.

“The workshop I really enjoyed was how to manage your budget,” said Correa. The workshop taught students about different apps that help them manage their money better.

Despite the usefulness of the conference for Hispanic students, it was not promoted well, which resulted in there being little student interest. “It wasn’t promoted at all,” said Michelle Correa. She explained that she was not aware of the conference until Dean of Student Affairs and SGA advisor, Rachel Lerner-Cohucci, approached her and invited her to represent the school at the conference.

On the right, Tatiana Lopez, President of LASA. On the left, Michelle Correa, Vice-President of SGA. // Laci Ari Lopez Wax
ROVING REPORTER: "WHAT DOES THE DREAM MEAN TO YOU?"

Matthew Vitale, 23  
Major: Music  
“It means focusing on realizing your accomplishments. I want to become a major rockstar, so I need to keep practicing my musical rudiments. Also, you just can’t do it alone, you may need some help along the way. Whatever it takes.”

Shruti Kaur, 20  
Major: General Ed  
“It means to be able to make people smile. That’s why I want to be a nurse. I hate seeing people struggling.”

Lella Monessar, 21  
Major: Biology  
“It means to make your family proud and make myself happy. Becoming a doctor is what will get me there, especially since nobody else in my family has finished college.”

Chris Farinas, 19  
Major: Criminal Justice  
“It’s about being proud about what you do at the end of the day. I have always wanted to be a police officer. So I need to get my classes done, and look for classes online. It’s about taking steps.”

Chris Yanni, 21  
Major: History  
“It means to go somewhere and actually make something out of yourself, and to not waste time. I want to be a curator at a museum, and I want to work hard to get that.”

Isaiah Powell, 18  
Major: Graphic Design  
“It’s using any means to get your end. You may not need college, or graduating, because my dream of being a professional dancer are steps needed outside college. But college can help you to get there.”
ACROSS
1) Poker player's play  
6) Paul of "Ant-Man"  
10) Tilly of Hollywood  
13) Capable of causing nightmares  
14) The "op." of "op. cit"  
16) Powerful primate  
17) Dangerous states of affairs  
19) Any relative  
20) "___ a Grecian Urn"  
21) Each  
23) "How dumb of me!"  
26) Set ablaze  
27) ___ donna  
28) Devout petition  
30) Tribal leader's realm  
33) Any number  
34) Angora and merino  
35) Segment of history  
36) Aahs' kin  
37) Like this puzzle's theme?

38) B&B relatives  
39) "A Midsummer Night's Dream" extra  
40) Kind of pasta  
41) Applied oneself to  
42) Kelp and others  
44) Countable  
45) Well-manicured things  
46) "Cheers" bartender  
47) Beatty of "Deliverance"  
48) Many oil millionaires  
50) Diver's device  
52) Pick (with "for")  
53) Composers' milieu, once  
58) Air-pump meas.  
59) Truth fluid?  
60) Feudal vassal  
61) Cooped-up creature  
62) Radioactive energy units  
63) Does' beaus

DOWN
1) Wager  
2) Hawaiian prop  
3) Large beverage vessel  
4) Generic dog name  
5) Cattle rancher's enclosure  
6) Sci-fi droid  
7) "Once ___ a time..."  
8) Michael Nader's "Dynasty" role  
9) In a gloomy way  
10) Create slight progress  
11) Long, awe-inspiring film  
12) Hereditary item  
15) Catches sight of  
18) Horse controller  
22) Ethan Hunt's org.  
23) Birdbrains  
24) Brooks Robinson was one  
25) Pretentious  
27) Bell's ringing success  
29) Bro's counterpart  
30) Directs the steering of a ship (Var.)  
31) Showily adorned  
32) Like sailboats  
34) Twists and turns  
37) Even more itsy-bitsy  
38) Charged particle  
40) Lapwings  
41) Pivoting gizmos  
43) Bankroll, e.g.  
44) Goat-man deity  
46) Rip-offs  
48) Frosh, in a year  
49) Area under a semidome  
50) Potato in slang  
51) Got off the plane, e.g.  
54) Gun org.  
55) Pasture  
56) Breakfast staple  
57) "OK!"

Courtesy of FreeDailyCrosswords.com
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Questions? Visit Almida Hernandez, FDU’s on-site advisor, Monday-Friday at the Pitkin Education Center, Room A126
alherman@fdu.edu or BCC-FDUScholars@fdu.edu
201-493-4088
Until Dawn was a fabled game three years in the making. For a while, gamers believed Until Dawn would never come out, but to their surprise it was released just this year on August 25. The highly anticipated game was labeled as an interactive drama, horror, survival video game, however, it would be better described as an interactive thriller.

The “horror” in the game is eerie, but not so frightening for anyone over the age of 12. If you are the type of person who does not want to get scared off of their couch, this game is the perfect range of scary for you.

The plot consists of eight friends returning to the isolated mountain lodge exactly one year after the death of their two friends Hannah and Beth. The two girls were the sisters of the character Josh, who orchestrated the annual lodge hangout. Quickly, things turn ominous. Until Dawn simulates real life with the idea of choice, and the choices the player makes determines who lives and who dies. In the game they call this system the “butterfly effect.” Following the “butterfly effect” system, Until Dawn contains 200 possible endings.

The game is also personalized to match the fears of the player during the psychological assessment, making it feel much more real. These features, and the absolutely beautiful graphics and voice acting really show how much effort and thought was put into the game. As commendable as these features are, Until Dawn got lost in its aesthetics.

Until Dawn attempted to make the game look very cinematic, which would be perfectly fine; were it a movie. When playing the game, the camera angles are constantly moving. Controlling the player feels awkward and unnatural. The cinematic feel is not something that is specific to Until Dawn, it is a growing trend in newer video games. As important as aesthetics are, game creators should think more along the lines of “should we,” rather than “can we?” The game play of Until Dawn would have been much more smooth if it had been kept in a third person perspective. The Torch gives this game a 7/10.

Voting Forum continued from pg. 11

“You don’t have a reason to vote by mail,” said John Hogan, because up until a few years ago, a voter wanting to vote by mail had to explain to the government why they wished to vote by mail.

“The one thing we have problems with people registering to vote, is they think that it’s going to make them sign up for jury duty,” said Clerk Hogan. Contrary to popular belief, one is not signed up for jury duty when registered to vote, people are automatically signed up for jury duty when they get their driver’s license.

Another important topic discussed was the importance and weight of registering to vote for local elections. “I have lost elections by a handful of votes,” admitted Clerk Hogan, when talking about the common misconception that people have of their votes “not counting.” “The Mayor and Council decide all the things that are closest to you,” said Fernando Alonso.

“The most important message transmitted to the students was to stay involved, and stay educated about what’s going on, even for the students who are not exactly “into politics,” since the people who don’t know, or don’t care about what is going on will miss some opportunities. “You could be walking around knowing that you don’t know what’s going on. But what’s really bad is when other people know that you don’t know what’s going on,” said Bodden. The people who do want to vote are the ones who make decisions for everyone else.

“Our government is a form of government where you have to participate. If you don’t participate, our government fails to exist,” said Hogan. Although the audience was engaged and asked significant questions, one of the issues presented was the location of the room and timing of the forum, which prevented many people from attending the panel discussion.

“Next year is going to be 2016, we have the presidential elections, we might even do what we did the first year and do it in the Student Center to bring more people,” said Mr. Gomez Wei when asked what was a way to improve the rate of attendance of the event. One of the main goals of the NAACP is to educate and engage voters and with such important elections coming up, the power that voting gives citizens, can not be undermined.

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JOIN THE TORCH
Meetings every Tues., 12:30 p.m., SC-111C-D
YADIELINNE ROMAN

Berger’s very own volleyball team fought hard this semester. With only two losses this time around, the Ladies are definitely brought pride into Berger. Ending their season in the regional finals, the team brought home the runner-up trophy.

“We’re very proud of how we did, because when we started we didn’t believe we would go this far. We beat Ocean County, they were first in conference but we beat them in regionals,” said Nadia Vaso, team captain and setter.

The ladies have gotten through one of the nicest Octobers by far. They kicked off the month with a sweet victory against Raritan Valley (25-8,25-12,25-12). The next few games the girls played were games for regionals and all of them, including the one non regionals game on October 7 game against Bronx Community College (25-16,25-6,25-16), opened the door to the regionals. On October 10, they went up against Rowan College at Gloucester Country in a regional game and came out victorious (25-20,25-21,25-14,25-22), having them finish with a record of 15-2.

The girls got a double package when they went up against Brookdale on October 13 (25-21,27-25,19-25,25-20), then again on October 20 for their Quarter-Finals Region XIX Tournament (24-26,25-17,22-25,25-16,16-14). Ending the season on a strong 17-2 record.

The seeding chart put Berger in the third seed for the Region XIX Semifinals start up on October 24, going up against Ocean Community College for the first semifinal game. The five brutal games ended with a 26-24,23-25,22-25,25-23,13-13 Berger victory, and the only team left to face for the regional title was Northampton.

“We faced Ocean in the semifinals and they fought hard to go to the finals,” said Vaso. “We beat them in five sets. I feel like the team could have done better, it should not have been a five set game, we could’ve probably beat them in three sets... we came out of that five set game tired, and then we immediately had to face Northampton.”

Northampton waited with a 23-6 season and three regional championship victories behind them. Berger entered the court with a 15 game winning streak behind them. In last year’s regionals, Northampton sent Berger home after a first round match.

The battle, however, ended with a clear 25-14,25-12,25-18 Berger loss. After one of their most successful seasons, Berger ended their season in Northampton’s court. They did, however, complete their goal to “get there and do well there,” as Vaso said last September.

“We’re happy we beat Ocean. We got to the finals, which is amazing, and next year the team will have a better chance at beating Northampton. It’s always going to be a tough competition,” said Vaso.

CREDITS: The transfer dictionary shows which of your credits will transfer to UMass Lowell: uml.edu/transferdictionary

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WOMEN’S SOCCER WRAP-UP SEASON

LUCIA RUBI GODDY

THE TORCH

The Torch” Crop by Nicole Pinto

As the semester approaches an end, BCC’s women’s soccer team regular season comes to an end, and regionals are around the corner.

During the season, the team proved to be taking the season as a do-or-die situation, and they either won or lost their games with at least three goals of difference in each game. They began the season with a tied match and two losses against Dominican University (0-9), Herkimer County Community College (0-5) and Geneseo Community College (8-0) respectively. They picked up their scores with three wins in September against Broome Community College (4-0), Manhattan Community College (6-0), Raritan Valley (4-0) and Bucks (6-1). However, during the month of October, their scores plummet and they only had one win against Northampton (6-3) in the whole month.

Team captain Ashley Baitz and player Bianca Torales talked to The Torch about the pros and cons of the season.

"Last year we had a more technical team. We had more skill in the team last year. This year we had a lot of new incoming girls. We had a lot of injuries and that made us suffer a little bit," said Torales.

Although the team did not have as much skill as last year’s, the interviewed players admitted that there was an improvement in the relationships between all the players.

"Compared to last season, I feel like we were more whole as a team," said Baitz. "We had more trust with each other, and on and off the field. I felt like we were very close. [We were] like a family," she added.

When asked what the team was doing to improve the results of the next season, the players’ answer was that the team needed practice and dedication.

"Definitely, aside from individual skill work, we have to work together as a team entirely," said Baitz. "Each player has their own skills, but when we come together on the field, it’s kind of tough. I feel like if we have more time to practice longer sessions, or start earlier, we’ll do better on the field," she added.

"We need a lot more dedication coming from the players," Torales said.

With a clear perspective of improvement and defined goals, the Bergen Bulldogs are ready to go to the regional tournament.
Hockey Musings: Adidas, the NHL, and Me

ADRIAN YLLATOPA

Hockey fans, forget everything you know about jerseys. This summer, Adidas and the National Hockey League reached an agreement on a jersey manufacturer deal estimated to be worth about $70 million, according to a source telling TSN. It will be double what the NHL already receives from their partnership with Reebok, owned by Adidas. That’s about the same amount of money a first liner in his prime will get on a long term deal during free agency. Not bad.

“The NHL is experiencing tremendous growth across the board, and we’re excited to help the league continue this momentum,” said Michael Rossi, president of Adidas Canada to The Hockey News.

Mr. Rossi, when you say “continue this momentum,” I approach that statement with caution and weariness.

Traditionalists, such as myself, pray to never see a legendary jersey such as the Montreal Canadiens’ or the Chicago Blackhawks become altered to an ugly coast version of what are two of the most recognizable and historic hockey sweaters of all time. Adidas’ college football jerseys have become a more form-fitting version than their previous versions, that being something that may very well come to the ice come next season.

But hoping that all 30 NHL team jerseys will be left untouched is nothing more than wishful thinking. The second it became public knowledge that the Winnipeg Jets would be returning to the league in 2011, their owners would have to have been sniffing glue if they didn’t come up with a new jersey scheme, different from what the Jets of yesteryear wore in the 80s and 90s. Money talks. Same should go for Adidas and their new toys of 30 NHL sweaters.

This partnership may also open the door for eventual ads to be included on jerseys. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman has been quoted to have said he is in “no rush” for ads on jerseys and he would have to be brought in “kicking and screaming.” No other of the big four professional sports leagues in North America have ads on their uniforms.

With ads taking nearly every single crevice on an NHL rink, it seems like the last place left on the ice would be on a Philadelphia Flyers jersey (brought to you by Comcast), a New York Rangers jersey (brought to you by Citibank), or an Arizona Coyotes jersey (brought to you by just about anybody who will pick up that phone).

Some hockey fans see the inclusion of ads as nearly inevitable, but a battle worth fighting for.

As trendy and hip as these new jerseys may seem, unfortunately, I am lead to believe any eventual slaps to faces of historic franchise’s will be forgotten in time, much like the introduction of the Reebok Edge uniform system in the ’97-’08 season. Some used the occasion to roll out a new set of home and aways, with some that eventually did go away or overstayed their presence in the league. St. Louis Blues’ “piping” scheme on their jerseys will not be missed, and the Dallas Stars’ alternate kind-of-basketball-kinda-hockey “jersey” was something to barbeque on a summer day.

For your sake, keep an open before anything else is revealed. Until then, let’s enjoy what we have while we can.

FIFA President Suspended, Faces 5 Year Ban

GELBER CASTILLO

SPORTS EDITOR

Around FIFA, things have gone from bad to worse. A five year suspension is possible for president Sepp Blatter and UEFA president Michel Platini, who are currently on a 90-day suspension according to a report in Germany.

Both were suspended by the FIFA’s ethics committee over “corrupt and disloyal” payments made to Blatter to Platini in 2011, which they claimed was a “gentleman’s agreement.” What Platini did years before is now coming back to haunt him, and somehow the investigation has found something that both Blatter and Platini will be in further trouble.

If both Blatter and Platini are given five-year bans, it would have huge consequences and will shift the landscape of FIFA. Last year, when the short-term suspensions weren’t bad enough, having a suspension lasting for years have been unthinkable.

Even with the corruption scandal still at hand and the investigation sorting it out, major figures such as Blatter and Platini being given five-year bans seemed highly unlikely. A FIFA executive committee did announce that an emergency meeting was held a week after the suspension.

If their ban goes into effect, Blatter and Platini would appeal the decision by taking it to the to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

However, without an airtight case on Blatter and Platini, no positive results will be presented to them.

The Attorney General of Switzerland suggested that the investigation of corruption within FIFA could take up to five years.

Realistically, in all big investigations, longer than five years is bad,” Michael Lauter said in an interview on SRF Radio. “It always depends on how the parties to the investigations work with the attorney general.”

An investigation is also taking in account on the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cup in Russia and Qatar, since both countries have a bad record on human rights. So far, no proof has been given if they were involved with corruption. But if they were then the consequences would be on a diplomatic and
**Cross Country Brings Home Gold**

**Coach Dedovitch Talks About Coaching**

In competition against all the collegiate teams in Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Bergen emerged victorious as the men’s cross country regional champions. After a 34 year wait, the men brought home the third first place trophy in Bergen history.

This year, the men’s team ranked sixth among all two-year colleges in the nation, a significant leap from last year where they were ranked 10th. These achievements were in part due to Deana Dedovitch revamping the cross country program during her two years as head coach.

“Till them all the time, be a smart runner, not a good runner,” Coach Dedovitch said. “Because a good runner doesn’t know what they’re doing, they just try running as hard as they can. A smart runner analyzes the course and realizes what they have to do throughout the course.”

Aside from teaching her runners how to analyze the course, Dedovitch’s strenuous training curriculum has prepared them for the grueling demands cross country running forces on the body.

Dedovitch’s drills not only consist of bicycle and speed workouts, but also makes use of the sands in Darlington Park for leg strengthening training. Perhaps the most challenging were the training sessions at Cardiac Hill, where her runners learned that its namessake comes from the laborious exertion to overcome the sloping terrain. At the regional championship, the terrain was completely flat. When asked how this year’s collection differed from last year’s, Coach Dedovitch was quick to answer, “The dedication of the new runners.”

Aside from vigorous training, the runners needed to be committed enough to find what Dedovitch calls “the kick.” It is needed in the last stretch where other runners stand between you and the finish line. “You have to see those three people in front of you and say ‘I have to pass them,’” Coach Dedovitch said.

Coach Dedovitch makes beating one’s best time a key part in her training, as shedding off precious minutes and seconds is the name of the game.

This dedication comes from mental maturing process the runners undergo as they transition from high school to college-level running.

“You see a change of heart. They come from high school, but you see them take cross country more seriously,” Dedovitch said.

Although the men may have won the championship, the women’s cross country team underwent the same physical demands in the regionals and qualified alongside the men to run in the nationals.

Dedovitch also brought life to the women’s team. Last year the lack of recognizable talent hardly made the women’s cross country team a worthy or cohesive team.

“I didn’t have a women’s team last year and I wanted them to make a name for themselves,” Coach Dedovitch said. “They [other teams] felt like Bergen’s program is a joke, maybe because our program hasn’t been as strong as it should have been the last couple of years. People didn’t think of us as a threat last year.”

This year the women not only qualified for nationals, but also ranked 8th in the nation.

With the women making themselves a force to be reckoned with, and the men ending the championship drought.

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**MEN’S SOCCER MAKES THE PLAYOFFS**

**MELISSA PEREZ  STAFF WRITER**

45 scored goals and counting, the men’s soccer team have kicked their way into the regional playoffs. Second in their division (Division III), the team has earned a solid lead above the other teams, and did not have to undergo the first round of playoffs.

Every grueling practice and every demanding game has been devoted to their goal of reaching regionals.

“From the beginning our objective was to win the regional tournament,” forward Terrance Savill proudly stated. “We feel very confident we can accomplish the goal.”

Their season thus far has been a victorious one, with thirteen wins and only three losses. The team has been demolishing opponents this season since their season opener in September-[2-0]. The Bulldogs kicked off their month long winning streak on October 4 against Rockefeller Community College-[1-0], a personal favorite game of co-captain Matthew Gimelli.

“It was a one-nothing game, it was very close, and we played pretty good that day,” Gimelli commented.

The victory tour continued to Middlesex County College-[4-1], Morris Community College-[4-3], Globe Tech-[3-2], Rowan Gloucester-[6-0], and Westchester-[5-0]. This season has been one of the best season for BCC men’s soccer in years.

Despite all these wins the Bulldogs refuse to allow their ego to get the best of them. They continue to give it their all in each individual practice, and try their hardest in every match. During practice players meticulously practice footwork, and grow in teamwork with each game.

“We’re playing better as a team [this year], we’re playing a lot quicker… I want to play Sussex and Brookdale again, hopefully we’ll play Union on Wednesday. If we go nationals – when we go nationals – I want to play Camden,” Gimelli stated confidently, having full faith that his team that they will reach that goal.

With the way the season is going, the chances that the team can win playoffs and go to nationals are high. Although, with all this confidence ensured with great scores, Coach Freddy Herrera refuses to let his guard down.

“Everyone one is working hard, and we all want it. So, I don’t think there is an easy team,” said Coach Herrera. key player for the team like she is.

Kneppel also mentioned that they did not give their strongest performance at the Herkimer Tournament, but later stated that, “this win is encouraging for everyone of my teammates and I, and towards the beginning of the new season.” This win has undoubtably removed the bitter taste of defeat from their last tournament participation.

Matt Kneppel #11 makes a pass during a midseason game vs Northampton. [Press Herald]