



## Success 101 Proposal Fails



*Adrianna Caraballo*

ADRIANNA CARABALLO  
NEWS EDITOR

Illustration by Rebecca Karpinski

IST-123 or Success 101 has been a hot topic among students as well as faculty, and was the main discussion point during the faculty senate meeting on September 20.

A new proposal was created for the course that required all students placing into EBS-011 to take it; the proposal was defeated. Success 101 is a course designed to help students with goal setting, communication skills, and personal and academic growth.

The course has not been effective among BCC students and that has been acknowledged.

“We were not making sufficient progress,” said Professor and chairperson of the faculty senate, Alan Kaufman.

According to the proposal all students placing into EBS-011, English basic skills, must take this course. The course is not required for students enrolled in certificate options, and it is recommended for other students.

This course itself is not considered an EBS course and was to stay as an IST course. IST stands for Interdisciplinary Studies which include a variety of life skills courses.

“It is not to be a basic skills course,” said professor Brian Cordell.

“We considered the various ways it could be implemented; we felt the EBS-011 students could benefit the most from it,” said Cordell.

The course was to remain a three credit, college level course. Students with an EBS-011 placement must take the Success 101 course with EBS-011 or 012 or after completing EBS-011 or 012.

Students can not register for any other classes until they register for IST-123 first. This not only sets the student back from taking other prerequisites they may need for their first semester but also fills a free elective spot.

“I’m against that. I think free electives are really important being to have some freedom. I find that sort of locked down in a way anyway,” said Professor Gregg Biermann.

Biermann was not the only one who openly voiced his opinion against the new proposal for Success 101. Cordell showed charts and graphs demonstrating the growth of a student who took Success 101 verses a student who hasn’t. There was only small difference in progression among students.

“It doesn’t seem to be very enlightening. You showed the senate the worst possible data and then have us get all excited, let’s go out and support crap data, it doesn’t make sense,” said professor Gary Porter.

He insisted that there is no real benefit of having this course.

“A pilot program where everyone has to do it and no good evidence exists, I think it’s academic robbery. I think it’s dishonesty on our part,” said Porter.

The faculty senate spent more than an hour going back and forth on the matter and putting anything else on the agenda on hold. Eventually they voted on the proposal, there were eight in favor of it, 28 opposed it, and 16 abstentions. Kaufman said that the matter will be revised in the next faculty senate meeting, and the course will be met with a new proposal.



Is Parking Too Hard?  
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Dakota Pipeline  
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## Aspiring Ramapo Students Get a New Helping Hand



KATELYN HLAD  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



BCC and Ramapo now have a pathway for students to transfer more easily //BCC and Ramapo College of New Jersey

Bergen Community College has a new helping hand on campus: Nicole Pedoto. For students interested in transferring to Ramapo College, Pedoto is an on site transfer advisor who can help with the process of transferring over credits and academic planning.

“You don’t have to guarantee going to Ramapo,” said Pedoto. “You just have to show interest, and then what I will do is take the classes that you have taken thus far at Bergen and make you a customized two to four year plan.” According to Pedoto, your credits from your associates will always transfer over, but because of certain prerequisites for majors, some classes may not transfer as completed prerequisites.

Business is usually one of the more difficult majors to transfer into. “For example, you might have taken MAT-150 statistics,” said Pedoto. “While it will count towards math, we

have a math requirement for the business school that will result in you having to take a different math at Ramapo to fill the requirement.”

Another part of Pedoto’s job here at Bergen is making sure students that are thinking of transferring to Ramapo are informed of the policies there. “There are a few different policies that change when you come to Ramapo as opposed to here,” said Pedoto. “For example, I know that you guys can take a failed course, and it replaces the grade. You can do that at Ramapo, but you can only do it two times.”

Any students that are interested in transferring to Ramapo College are welcome to contact Nicole Pedoto, as she is very eager to help Bergen Community College students move forward in their degrees and succeed. You can contact her at npedoto@bergen.edu. Her office hours are Monday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in room A118N.



History of Halloween  
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Jose Fernandez Dies at 24  
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# NEWS

## The Torch

# Don't Get E's, Get A's!

**LESHAY JONES**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many students go into college hoping to get A's and maybe a few B's here and there. However, no college student should ever want to receive the dreaded E.

Many of the students here at BCC don't know what an E grade is. In fact, in a survey asking 50 BCC students if they knew what an E grade was, only 9 of them actually knew.

A student receives an E grade when he or she does not attend a class and fails to officially withdraw before the posted deadline. An E represents an "unearned failure" and will negatively impact a student's GPA and overall transcript. This is why many professors encourage their students to attend class or withdraw on time.

With an E grade, it goes into one's GPA as a zero, but it can be changed if the student retakes the class and receives a higher grade. As with an F grade, an E will remain on the transcript, said Jill Rivera, Associate Dean of Student Success and Completion

This year, Bergen Community College has a new E Grade Policy that states that if a student stops attending a class before 60 percent is completed and he or she does not officially withdraw, the student will earn an E for that class.

An E to one faculty member may differ from that of another. According to Rivera, the policy was changed in order to set guidelines

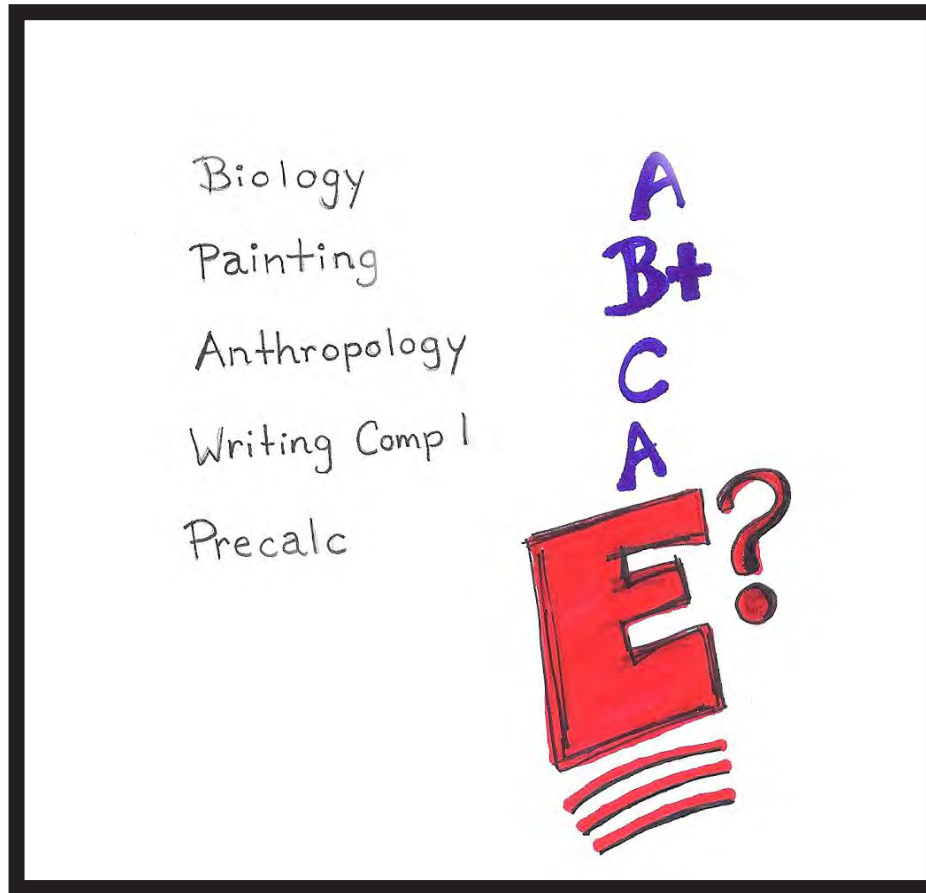


Illustration by Iness Rabah

that allow all faculty to operate consistently and fairly and to standardize the administration of the E grade.

This policy will also make the regulations at BCC more consistent with the federal regulations regarding the impact that a withdrawal will have on one's financial aid award.

Rivera said, "Federal regulations require that students who withdraw from classes before 60 percent of the semester is completed may be required to repay a portion of the financial aid awarded, so this policy seeks to standardize the federal regulations with our own."

Instead of not attending classes, it is important for students to either stick it out for the semester, or officially withdraw before it is too late. Withdrawals also go onto your transcript as a "W." However, they will not negatively affect a student's GPA as an E grade would.

According to a BCC faculty member, the policy change will be better for everyone overall. It will make the job less complicated for staff members in financial aid, academic counseling, and registration when helping students.

Essentially, this new policy will serve as a gateway for students and lessen their chances of receiving an E grade while encouraging them to withdraw on time or simply just attend class.

# The Consequences of The Dakota Access Pipeline Towards America



People protesting the pipeline //Flickr

**SIMON SHKRELI**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Infrastructure of any size or cause can create multiple effects to many, directly and indirectly involved.

The Dakota Access Pipeline Project, a project by Energy Transfer Partners, aims to create an approximate 1,172-mile, 30-inch diameter pipeline that connects the Bakken and Three Forks production areas in North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois. The purpose of this pipeline is to transport domestic oil in an easier and more beneficial matter. Supply of oil in Western North Dakota outstretches demand, meaning that the oil routing in North Dakota can be transported and used across the country

with this \$3.7 billion invested project.

According to Dakota Access Fact Sheet, which discusses the Pipeline Project in detail,

"approximately 70 percent of crude oil and petroleum products in our country are shipped by pipeline. More than two million miles of pipeline carry these and other energy products across America. The extensive pipeline network is heavily regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation for both safety and reliability and has proven to be the safest, most efficient means of transporting energy resources."

So what makes this project so controversial to the point of national impact? It isn't just the environmentally-

friendly protesters who would rather see alternate sources of energy being distributed across the country instead of crude oil. This involves the overturning of a federal ruling by the Obama Administration, a controversial arrest of a journalist, and the largest gathering of Native Americans in over 100 years.

Let's start with center of it all, the location. The Dakota Access Pipeline route, according to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, which owns and inhabits some of the land, passes through burial grounds and sacred sites. Construction, destruction, and general infrastructure around reservations and honored locations have been commonplace for Native American culture across

American history. This situation seems to be no different, but at the same time, the United States Army Corps of Engineers are actually the legal owners of the land involved with the sacred grounds, as well as this pipeline. One can see the controversy behind ownership of land that can either be used as an energy resource or honored as part of American culture and history.

Furthermore, the Dakota Access Pipeline Project also affects the Missouri River as well. With the pipeline being

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# United States and Israel Sign Record \$38 Billion Deal



**PATRICK DURAN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Wednesday, September 14, the United States and its ally, Israel, agreed to a \$38 billion deal providing Israel with military assistance over a 10-year period, marking the largest agreement to any country in history.

The two countries finalized an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), a formal agreement between two parties, this case being the United States and Israel, that establishes an official partnership.

Not carrying legal bindings and only weighing something akin to a gentleman's agreement, it seems difficult to understand how something on such a monumental scale came to fruition between two more globally influential countries in the world right now. Under new terms, Israel will now receive a figure of \$3.8 billion yearly, an increase from its now yearly \$3.1 billion yearly in a 10-year deal that ends in 2018.

According to Al Jazeera News, the agreement is known to be the largest deal ever made to an ally country in human history, with the only drawback being that Israel cannot ask for more monetary aid during this 10-year period and its monetary aid only being allowed in implementation of its military fundings.

One problem, however, has been the preference of Israel spending its money on domestic problems

and has been a major sticking point in the deal. In addition, the use of Israeli military products will become phased out and in time (meaning implementation of Israeli resources will cease over time) and only United States military products will be funded into usage in the Israeli military.

It also includes, for the first time in the negotiations between the two powers, funding in the amount of \$5 billion for Israeli missile research and defence programs. Upon further investigation into the correlation between the amount of money used in aid towards Israel from the U.S. that the amount has been on a steady incline even after peace treaties came into being between Israel and other countries such as Jordan and Egypt. Israel seeks to repair and upgrade its aging military and prepare itself for possible conflicts with Iran, which some say may go nuclear in the coming years, against the Islamic State and the possibility of an escalation of violence over the Golan Heights.

President Obama also claims that through this deal, Iran will take longer to take a nuclear deal, although the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu claims that no matter how long the process is slowed, Iran will continue to pursue goals that wouldn't be in the best interest of the U.S. and Israel.



*This deal is a new record for the two nations //Wikimedia*



Professor Naseem Choudhury, Psychology, (left) and Professor Jeremy Teigen, Political Science, (right) teach and mentor Ramapo College students.

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# New Venue for Honors



Room S347 now holds both PTK and the Honors Association//Thea Oh

**SARAH GONZALEZ**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the new school year comes a new home for Honors Hall, which is now centrally located in room S-347 in the

Pitkin Education Building. It is acting as headquarters for complementary programs such as Phi Theta Kappa and the Judith K. Winn School of Honors. S-347 serves as a meeting point for both engaged students and staff alike. Among Bergen's many offerings,

the JKW School of Honors gives students the opportunity to study under truly dedicated and decorated scholars in highly interactive seminar-style classes kept small with a 20 student per class cap. They also have the ability to participate in juried conferences and receive an automatic membership to BCC's Honors Association.

In addition to these opportunities, by being an honors student one also gains the perk of exclusive access to Honors Hall's amenities, including a small computer lab, conference room, and a place to relax and be away from the bustle of the campus.

Although the new Honors Hall is smaller than its previous external incarnation by Paramus Road, it's hardly considered a drawback to those who frequent it. PTK Administrative Advisor, Angie Goldszmidt, whose office is located in Honors Hall, made sure to emphasize how grateful they were for the space.

With plans to expand the JKW School of Honors exponentially, Vice President of Academic Affairs, William P. Mullaney, explained how the moving of Honors Hall to S-347 is only the beginning of many changes he hopes to come in the streamlining and growth of the program.

At its previous location, Mullaney explained how professors strapped for time in between classes would choose to host advisory meetings in their offices as opposed to meeting at Honors Hall which for many was an unfeasible dash to the edge of campus and back, leaving students to make the commute instead.

Its new central location is now highly more accessible, allowing Honors Hall to function as the true connection point between staff and student body as was always intended without consideration of hindrances such as lengthy travel time, poor weather conditions, and/or mobility constraints.

Not only does the new location benefit from its increased accessibility but also its increased visibility, leading to a projected increase in student enrollment this fall. In the interest of expansion to best serve the student population, Mullaney also hopes for an increase in faculty involvement this year across fields currently underrepresented in the JKW School of Honors' class roster.

With more faculty participation, the honors program would be able to include more offerings unique to the curriculum of some of Bergen's most popular degrees in the fields of science, business, criminal justice, and math to create a more diverse, well-rounded program.

With the old Honors Hall now vacated, there are intentions of it being repurposed to serve as a classroom space for Bergen's continuing education program. This fall, Honors Hall was welcomed at its new location in S-347, and with the highly engaged and motivated staff at the helm of the Judith K. Winn School of Honors, who keep the student body's best interests in mind, it's clear that this move is only the beginning of what's to come.

## *The Consequences of The Dakota Access Pipeline Towards America* Continued from page 2

built near the major water source, any oil leak or damage to the pipe can cause catastrophic damage.

In response to the possible construction and expected start of service of this pipeline later this year, hundreds of Native Americans from different tribes across the country, have gathered collectively to protest the construction of the project as expected, but what wasn't expected was the size nor impact these protests would be. In fact, representatives from over 280 different tribes have come together to protect the sacred Native American lands.

***“Native Americans, in a perspective of American History, were the first people to be ‘stepped on’ and put aside for unfair treatment in freedom. We are looking at the events of the past, and how they brought us to the potential future in multiple situations of unfair treatment, like the construction of this pipeline in sacred grounds.”***

***-Amanda Karpinski***

The most controversial part of the protests does not come from violence towards or from Native Americans, but due to an arrest of a journalist covering the story during Labor Day weekend. Shortly after journalist Amy Goodman and her crew at “Democracy Now!” reported that the company behind the pipeline, Energy Transfer Partners, had its security guards attack Native American protesters with

dogs and pepper spray, the County of Morton, North Dakota issued an arrest warrant for Goodman for criminal trespassing. Many, including the journalists behind “Democracy Now!,” believe that this warrant for arrest was unjust and unfair, due to the fact that Goodman was only reporting a story, therefore this arrest was restricting her and other journalists' freedom of press. The Center for Constitutional Rights Legal Director Baher Azmy said, “This is clearly a violation of the First Amendment ... an attempt to repress this important political movement by silencing media coverage.”

In result to the heated protesting, on September 9, the Obama Administration overruled a federal judge's ruling and requested to halt construction. Days later, in Washington D.C., Vermont Senator and former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders protested alongside Native American Tribes outside the White House. “We cannot allow our drinking water to be poisoned so that a handful of fossil fuel companies can make even more in profits. We stand united in saying, ‘Stop the pipeline, respect Native American rights and let us move forward to transform our energy system away from fossil fuels.’”

As stated before, the main consequence of the construction of the pipeline is the location, with the Native American community, especially the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Although the distance between New Jersey and North Dakota is a little over 1500 miles, the Bergen Community College Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), is involved in the protest of the North Dakota Access Pipeline, with the main focus being the promotion of Native American culture, awareness, and history. Something that has been overlooked, undermined, and treated shamefully unequal throughout the course of American History.

We had a chance to speak with Phi Theta Kappa President, Amanda Karpinski, and found out where PTK stands on this issue, and what we as a community college can do to promote Native American society in this situation.

“We at PTK have been researching in favor of those most affected by the construction of the pipeline, Native Americans, and we have been exploring, through articles and written text, how they have been treated historically by the country. Native Americans, in a perspective of American History, were the first people to be ‘stepped on’ and put aside for unfair treatment in freedom. We are looking at the events of the past, and how they brought us to the potential future in multiple situations of unfair treatment, like the construction of this pipeline in sacred grounds.”

PTK will be looking to host information sessions on the pipeline “I believe the biggest problem with these protests is the lack of media coverage and recognition from our presidential candidates. It's a shame that no major figure in our country's election is doing anything to even mention the pipeline problem,” said Karpinski. Other initiatives that the PTK plan on acting on to promote Native American culture and the North Dakota Pipeline include investigating demonstrations in New York City about the pipeline, and volunteering at local reservations. If you're interested in participating in support of Native American culture, visit [www.bergenptk.com](http://www.bergenptk.com).



Flash Mob at Bergen  
pg. 9



Campus Safety Day  
pg. 14

# OPINIONS

The Torch

## What is The Modern Woman?



Illustration by Iness Rabah

**ADRIANNA CARABALLO**  
NEWS EDITOR

Imagine being constantly told you're not pretty or there's something wrong with you because you dislike cooking, cleaning and wearing makeup; and you happen to like treating yourself instead of letting your boyfriend treat you.

Imagine the person telling you this is your own mother. Although I've grown accustomed to hearing this sort of thing I tend to wonder if there actually is something wrong with me or if I am just ahead of my time and I belong to a new group of women, the group of modern women.

My belief originally was that a modern woman is solely independent, does not need anyone to take care of her and does not need to care about what

anyone thinks of her. This belief is not entirely true.

The Torch surveyed 50 female students at Bergen Community College ranging from the ages of 18 - 30. We asked them if they went to dinner with their boyfriend would they allow him to pay for them or would they prefer to split the bill and cover their own half.

Out of those 50 students 26 chose to have the man pay and 24 chose to pay for themselves. With a nearly split vote I've come to the conclusion that there are actually two groups of "the modern woman," not one.

When asked why they preferred to have the bill paid for them, more than one female survey respondent responded with "I want to be taken care of." On the opposite side, when asked why they

preferred to pay for themselves more than one female survey respondent said, "I'm a feminist."

There seems to be a division in the ideology of women when it comes to equality. One side prefers the old ways with being taken care of where the other side is weak. In fact, I believe myself to be wrong about some things.

Independence does not make women stronger or weaker; what it does allow her partner or even her friends to know where she stands. Being honest and open is a key attribute in what a modern woman is, whether it be for or against being looked after or not.

When it comes to appearances it's all about preferences. There is no right or wrong way; however, a modern

woman is comfortable no matter what she's wearing. It could be a beautiful crisp dress or an old wrinkly cartoon tee-shirt; It doesn't matter as long as it makes her happy.

Being yourself is what being a modern woman is all about. Many years ago women were forced into gender roles but now that is disappearing. If a woman likes to cook and clean that's great, but if one does not and prefers to work instead and buy bad tasting Chinese food on the way home from work, that's also great.

One can not be the other, you can not expect them to conform to each other's ways. All women are Individual and all do what they are most comfortable with. It's okay to think differently. Not all women think the same, and if they did, the world would be one boring place.

## Better Place for Gamers?

**JOSE RODRIQUEZ**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you have ever eaten in Bergen Community's cafeteria, you are aware of a certain group of students who sit in back tables of the cafe. They are known for bringing card games, board games, hand held video games, even TVs and full consoles for their video games.

They sit and enjoy their lunch while they get together and play their games. Now, many of the students who aren't part of this clique, find the "Gamers" very annoying and obnoxious.

"I didn't mind them at first," says a student at Bergen, "But then they just kept on screaming and just kind of annoying. They also take up like four tables in the back." People find this obnoxious because sometimes, the gamers get excited and yell and express their joy.

While, yes they can be a little loud, they have every right to be. Think back to your high school years. High school was a very judgmental place. During high school, if you weren't an athlete or one of the pretty girls, you were not "cool." Now imagine you showing the slightest interest to it to the outside world, and getting judged for it.

You are labeled as a freak for caring for something that you believed was generally the coolest thing in the world. I know, because I was one of them. Now, I'm not saying I spent my four years of high school being bullied and laughed at; and I'm not saying the gamers at BCC did either. We know nothing about them; that's my point.



Two students caught up in an intense game of Yugioh//  
Justin Ramirez

Who are we to judge them if we don't know their story? Plus, they aren't hurting anybody. We are currently in what I like to call, "The Age Of Geeks." Right now, being interested in comic books and tabletop games is what's considered cool.

When I walked into the Cafeteria for the first time and saw the gamers playing "Super Smash Brothers" on their Wii, I was taken aback by excitement. When I approached the table,

I saw Dungeons and Dragons, Magic The Gathering, and more sprawled out around the table. For those of you who don't speak geek, these are very intense strategic/role playing games.

"I wasn't aware that people thought we were being obnoxious," said Jose Conception, a freshman here at Bergen Community College. "These [gamers] have actually convinced some of my friends who aren't going to any school this semester to potentially come to Bergen because they [the gamers] are so chill," said Conception.

When I presented to Jose that people recommended that gamers should get their own room instead of using the cafeteria, he had this to say. "We don't take up so much space. I would actually understand people's argument if we actually took up a lot [of room]." Just like me, Jose doesn't take offense when he hears the terms, "Nerd," or "Geek." "When I hear the word, 'nerd' I think of my people. People like myself who play video game and has a personality that actually extends then just hanging with friends. The word, 'Geek' or 'Nerd' is no longer an insult."

So after hearing both sides of the debate, I think the Gamers should get their own room, but not because people find them annoying. It should be because they should have a place to just chill out, play games, and just have fun. "If you don't like somebody hobbies, but doesn't bother anybody, then why do you care so much," said Conception.

# La Esquina Latina: Los Dos Partidos Buscando El Voto Latino (Y Los Dos No Invitados!)



**FERNANDO VAZQUEZ**  
STAFF WRITER

Las elecciones estarán en forma, en el primer martes de Noviembre de cada año. Esta vez, las elecciones presidenciales y lo esencial, las elecciones gubernamentales, las elecciones legislativas, entre otros elecciones, medidas electorales o locales. Tristemente, el voto latino no convence en ningún candidato presidencial.

Hace ocho años, las elecciones del 2008 y 2012, el voto latino fue la clave y el amuleto de la suerte para el partido Demócrata y para el presidente Barack Obama por su mandato de ocho años. En 2008, la comunidad latina votó por los demócratas Barack Obama y Joe Biden sobre los republicanos John McCain y Sarah Palin por un margen de más de

dos a uno en la elección presidencial republicano Donald Trump por un margen por 48 puntos, según la encuesta de salida de Edison Media Research, publicado por la CNN. En las elecciones presidenciales están la candidata demócrata, la senadora y ex-secretaria de estado, Hillary Clinton, y el candidato del partido republicano y empresario Donald Trump. También, entre dos candidatos no expuestos como los dos principales partidos, la política Jill Stein por del partido verde, y el ex-gobernador del estado de Nuevo México, Gary Johnson por del partido libertario. Están tambien en las urnas electorales.

Las encuestas populares de la y cadenas televisoras hispanas, favorece a la candidata demócrata Hillary Clinton entre el candidato del partido

deportaciones, el estatus legal, la ayuda de los refugiados de la violencia en Latinoamérica, si habrá paz en el país, como poner el orden de los refugiados Sirios, y entre otros serios temas. Tristemente, estos debates son como un circo, el moderador le da el favoritismo, uno contra ataca y el otro no sabe responder o uno culpa a otro. Hay tantas preguntas y miles de respuestas. ¿Si la ex-senadora Clinton sera mi Presidente confiamos su sinceridad para que sea la primera presidenta del país? ¿Si el empresario Trump sera la burla nacional? ¿Porque no están los otros dos candidatos del partido verde y el partido libertario en los debates presidenciales? Hay muchas preguntas decir, solamente en los debates no consistía en ninguna tema sobre el DACA, las los candidatos de nuestra elección.

## Op-Ed: Is Attending College a Luxury?

**FERNANDO VAZQUEZ**  
STAFF WRITER

You may think of this as your story, "Finally! Graduation day! I made it! Stepping on the stage to accept my diploma, shaking the hands of the directors from college I haven't seen or knew existed since I attended the college. Each step on the stage will reflect on the hard work, the struggle, the sleepless nights, from blood, sweat and tears, just to come here on the stage.

Feeling happy, thinking "I made it!" Until I take a seat and say to myself "Now, What's next?" While the tradition of the finished ceremony, with a diploma on hand, will give me the key to my career, in my right hand is huge debt or the savings that is used to pay for my education. According to the Boston Globe "The College Debt crisis is even worse than you think. Since the student loans are approaching more than \$1.2 trillion." While the student loans are approaching with billions of dollars of debt, finding a job is scarce. When I graduated from High School years ago, my reflections on college were nice and simple. Easy classes, everything simple and free. Now, that I'm attending college, it's been the opposite. Having my responsibilities and my school work and "due dates" to juggle.

According to Forbes magazine, "Education costs have soared over the past few decades, leaving many potential students out in the cold." The cost of a college degree in the United States has increased so much that comparing and contrasting the price inflation of consumer goods, medical expenses and food. Bloomberg magazine stated "The cost of obtaining a college degree in the U.S. has soared twofold over the past three decades," which is a sign that the educational system is in need of reform, according to lawmakers in both parties.



Even in June, the house of representatives proposed lowering college costs are in need to be priority for the whole country.

I had interview very intelligent people at the Student Center, some after my class. Sadly, the people I had spoken with, came from the lower and middle class ranges, working in two jobs and young men and women attending college while doing their military service. Each person, they talked about their goals, their prospects, their point of view, and their dreams. The conversations were melancholic, humorous, and

with the hopes of "not giving up." Genna M, a single parent, "At first, I was not able to survive!" She stated about her sacrifices as a single parent. "When, my child was born! I became responsible, and mature. Working in two jobs! Just to survive and take care of my child." Robert C., a student and veteran, "I had to join the army or something, not because of the interest of fighting for my country, but for attending college. My parents and I come from a working class background, even if I attended Bergen before I enlisted, it was not even accessible for my pocket."

# The Torch

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

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## CORRECTIONS

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

## EDITORIAL AND OPINION PIECES

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

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# Who's Still Supporting Trump?



**TRUMP**  
MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

Top: //Flickr  
Bottom: //Wikimedia

**GEORGE GUERRA AND INESS RABAH**  
*CO-EDITORS IN CHIEF*

This has been one of the best rated election cycles in television history, and we're kidding ourselves if we say it's for any reason other than Donald Trump. "The Donald" has been making waves since his campaign began, a campaign we're not convinced wasn't just a really bad joke that got way out of hand. Trump's campaign has been plagued by one scandal after another and this would not be so alarming if not for the fact that

he maintained momentum for so long.

Trump's currently fallen behind in the polls due to his recently publicized vulgarity, but it begs the question; Why did it take this long, and what does that say about so many Americans? Prior to this, Trump has openly stated that he believes Mexico is sending criminals and rapists to America. He has stated that he wishes to seize Iraq's oil, and that in not paying his taxes, he's been "smart." As of the most recent debate Trump has even heavily implied that should he lose the election, he will not accept those results. It doesn't bode well that through all this Trump has maintained a strong body of support. The support remains for multiple reasons, none of which are to the overall benefit of the American people.

One reason for Trump's continued support is that there are people who genuinely agree with the statements he's making and that is nothing short of alarming. To think that there is a portion of the nation's people that feel that such xenophobic, racist, and misogynistic comments resonate with them is genuinely scary and as a nation we should feel obligated to look at this election, and look inward at what it says about the American identity.

Another reason for Trump's continued support is an issue inherent to our two-party system, in which a portion of the population will vote Republican no matter what. These people may have fundamental issues with Donald Trump, but still feel a deep sense of loyalty to their party and will vote for whoever the party nominates. This is a more defensible stance, but speaks to the major flaws in a two-party system that drives the country to divide itself not on the issues, but on side of the aisle their candidate stands on.

The last reason we'll briefly explore for Donald Trump's continued support is the portion of his supporters that just want to vote for anyone who isn't Hillary Clinton. To those people we can only ask that they take a good hard look at why they are so opposed to Clinton and if a Trump presidency is truly the trade off they want to make to stop her. If they can settle that with themselves and their consciences, more power to them.

It's easy for young people to become disillusioned with the political system, and for many college students, this will be the first presidential election they vote in. It's crucial that they remember that their vote matters, and that in this election especially it may have a profound effect on their well-being, the well-being of others, and the future and legacy of this nation.

## “Never Stop Chasing Success”

Dear Student Body,

I hope that everyone is enjoying their time so far at BCC. As the school year goes on, I'd like to offer you all some words of guidance and encouragement.

The one thing that I cannot stress enough, is to recognize just how important what you are doing now is for the rest of your lives. I ask that you recognize the importance of getting a strong GPA. I ask that you not just think for today, but work towards setting yourself up for success in the future.

Remember, for those of you who are transferring to a different school or are seeking to work immediately after Bergen, your future schools and employers are going to be examining your GPA and your record very closely. A high GPA here leads to getting into a great school. A great school with a high GPA leads to getting a high paying job.

I promise you this, the work that you put in now WILL pay off in the future. Being successful in life can be compared to growing a tree. Every time you make the harder choice to study instead of party, the tree gets watered. Every time you take good notes, the tree gets watered. Every quiz and exam that you do well on, the tree gets watered. Continue on with good behavior over the course of your life, and your tree of success will be incredibly strong.

Making harder choices now leads to an easier life in your future. Making easier choices now leads to a harder life in your future. This is one of life's greatest truths.

With that being said, I encourage you to take charge of your life. Recognize that you are absolutely 100% in control of your future and only you can determine the type of life that you want to live. Never take no for an answer. Never let the critics discourage you. Never stop chasing success.

Sincerely,  
SGA President David DeLizio



SGA President David DeLizio//Jonathan Orozco

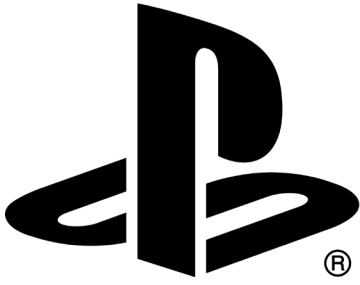
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First Place Awards  
Society of Professional Journalists: Breaking News Editorial, Editorial Writing, Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper







Playstation 4 Pro  
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Men's Soccer  
Looks to Repeat  
as Regional  
Champions  
pg. 20



# FEATURES

## The Torch

# VOTER REGISTRATION FLASH MOB TAKES BERGEN BY SURPRISE

**LUIS PAGAN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On September 27 2016, the usual bustling Student Center of Bergen Community College was interrupted by a mob. Fortunately, it was not a mob armed with torches and pitchforks. Instead this mob consisted of dancers adorned with the patriotic colors of America, all stomping their feet and clapping their hands in rhythmic unison. Of course this random choreography would confuse many of our students until everybody realized this display of movement was a flash mob dedicated to raising awareness of National Voting Day.

Leading the flash mob was Nikki Manx and her partner Allison. Nikki Manx is the artistic director and choreographer of The Nikki Manx's Dance Project, a Bergen County non-profit professional modern dance company that presents cause driven issues of social justice.

When interviewed about the reason behind the flash mob Nikki had replied proudly "We were brought out today to celebrate National Voters Registration Day". Further into the interview we find out that the artistic director was contacted by Bergen Community College's own English Basic Skill professor Anne Marie Prendergast, who had approached Ms. Manx during



People took part of a massive flash mob to get people to register to vote//Jonathan Orozco

the dance company's presentation on solar energy during an event on Earth Day in Hillsdale.

Along with Professor Prendergast, other professors from the English Basic Skills Department, such as Professor Laurie Lieberman, had assisted and danced in the flash mob, along with their own student volunteers. The students met with the dance company twice to learn the choreography, along with their visit the students were also given a video of the dance so they could practice in their spare time.

Accompanying the dance choreographers was a musician, STATiC, who orchestrated the beat that was performed by the students. Derrick Gore, who is a family friend of Professor Prendergast, had written lyrics to coincide with the music. The endeavor was also paired with The League Of Women Voters who, with their time on campus, had encouraged many of the other students passing by to register to vote.

With the combined effort of Nikki Manx's Dance Company, The English Basic Skills Professors and their students, the lyrics of Derrick Gore, all tied with STATiC's beats, the performance was perfectly executed and received well by the student population.

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RIDGEWOOD ENCOURAGES BCC TO REGISTER TO VOTE

**CHRISTOPHER MOLINA**  
STAFF WRITER

With the presidential race heating up, Americans are flocking to register themselves to vote in this year's presidential election. Like every election, it will decide the outcome of the country's future. With a wide range of issues going from the economy from foreign relations to the economy and more; that would be the reason why the sudden influx of new voters across the country. And like every presidential race, every vote matters. At Bergen Community College the League of Women Voters of Ridgewood are playing a huge role in that.

"We register voters. That is our job," said Patricia Infantino, CO-voters' service chair of the League of Voter Women's Club. "We want people to vote. We're political and we just register voters, and then we want people to vote."

The league is a nonpartisan political organization informing and working to increase understanding of major public policy



Two members of Ridgewood's League of Women Voters came to BCC to get people to register//Facebook

issues and influencing public policy through education and advocacy. Since its establishment in 1962, the league hasn't supported or opposed any candidate of any party. They also operate on a non-profit, voluntary basis. It's work is financed by dues and contributions from members and the general public. Membership is open to all citizens of voting age.

For months the election has been a topic on people's minds young and old. The league has been very influential in their bid to get people registered to vote, that stretches across the state of New Jersey. The reaction by many of the students have been positive, shown by the number of students that came out to register.

"The enthusiasm that young people have for registering. Today they seem really interested, so I'm thrilled about people at this school wanting to vote," said Patricia Infantino. Many people are involved in the organization, Ranging from the former mayor of Ridgewood, to the average citizen.

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

# CancerCare Walk/Run 2016



INESS RABAH  
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

September 25 was a beautiful sunny day for the CancerCare walk that took place on the Bergen Community College Campus. There were 155 people who participated in the 5K race and over 500 participants involved altogether, whether in the fun run, as volunteers, or even just there in support of the cause. Not everyone there was a native New Jerseyan. Some people were there from as far as Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The event schedule went as follows: the 5K walk/run which was the main event, a fun run for all the kids, a hoola hoop competition for kids and adults alike, an awards ceremony. Students from Indian Hills high school, Ridgewood High School, and BCC's very own Summer Intensive Program, were all volunteers who helped people sign up and made sure there was water ready for thirsty runners when they crossed the finish line. There was an overwhelming feeling of care and positivity in the atmosphere, and a tight bonding experience as individuals were able to relate to one another through their experiences.

"I volunteered because CancerCare helped me when I had cancer," said Connie Wallace who is a five-year survivor of Stage 1 breast cancer, and was helping by managing a table with free bagels and coffee for all guests. The organization helped her with some of her co-pays for treatments and transportation. "Cancer is extremely expensive. People don't realize financially what it does to you. You shouldn't have to worry about your bills while you're fighting for your life, but you do."

There was one tent set up that gave away what they called "Albums of Hope." They're these small photo albums filled with uplifting pictures and quotes that hope to help anyone that is going through a rough patch. All pages are also customizable so that anyone can replace the previous picture and quotes with their own photos and messages.



Tony Kharitonov was the first person to cross the finish line. When asked why he was there, he replied "I saw that there were a bunch of races around, and this looked like a good race to run and support the great charity." He laughed saying, "I didn't really expect to win, but that's a bonus."

Narin Bhatia of the Weichert Group of Oradell said the course was simply "fantastic". "This is my second year I did it last year. FYI I'm 82 years old."

According to Project Manager Katie Crahenbuhl, the course for the CancerCare run is designed almost a year in advance. Her job is to manage staff, while Robert Barwick, who is the Race Director for the event, is in charge of designing the race course, and making sure that the course is set up correctly, it is clear, and organized.

Seemingly everyone that was at the event either battled cancer or know someone close to them who had/had cancer. "My dad is actually dying of cancer right now so this is personal," said runner Harriet Harvey, who had previously joked that she was there because she had nothing better to do. "He's going into hospice soon, he doesn't want treatment anymore so we're just going to keep him comfortable."

"Many members of my family have had cancer. I'm here in support of them. My youngest sister had cancer 22 years ago, and she's very much alive. After she had cancer, she became a teacher and it's a struggle, but she's alive. I just lost an aunt, 85 years old, to skin cancer," explained runner Jorge Quintana. One thing that was very apparent at the event was that everyone knows somebody who has gone through the struggle.

Runner Heather Jacob said, "We believe in the support. If you meet a cancer survivor or a friend of the family, you make a connection for life."

A really great thing that Cancer Care does is it holds a local support group for all spouses of people who have died of cancer. The group is called Tomorrow's Hopefuls and they meet monthly in Ridgewood, NJ. "We all lost our spouses and we actually felt like there was no hope, so to hold onto tomorrow's hopefuls gives us hope. The group definitely helps, it's amazing. We're all going to a play next month. We get together in each other's homes. It helps us move on," says Regina Giordano.

She also thought the course was fabulous, and the event loving with everyone cheering each other on. "I wish I knew none of these people because that means my husband would still be here," Giordana said. Unfortunately, she is right. She managed to sum up the entire CancerCare event perfectly with one word. Bittersweet.



82-year-old Narin Bhatia of Weichert Realtors in Oradell  
//All photos: Jonathan Orozco



# Hackensack Campus Open House

**JONATHAN OROZCO**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you stopped by BCC's Open House, you would have been greeted by face painting, book giveaways and even some traditional Irish step dancing. On October 1st, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bergen Community College's Hackensack campus had success participating in Hackensacks Street Fair. The purpose of participating in Saturday's activities were to show potential new students or even current BCC students who had not yet been to the Hackensack campus that although they have their own flavor, such as being right off of main street where students can enjoy the local cuisine, they're able to serve their students in

every capacity that another BCC Campus may. They were also very eager to show off their partnerships with community organizations such as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, America's Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) and Project Literacy. SBDC in particular has created a very strong relationship with the college where their highly trained and qualified staff are providing services for businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.

"The entrepreneurial skills that you learn at the (SBDC) transfer very readily to an employer," said Vincent J. Vicari, Regional Director of the Bergen SBDC. "If you read articles about many companies history and growth there is



something called Intrapreneurship. When a new hire comes in with an ability to understand the big picture market view of what's being done and how to change things to address external market forces they are good intrapreneurs in a company that is looking to develop."

On any given day you'll find both floors of the Hackensack campus running with English as a Second Language (ESL), High School Equivalency (HSE) and a variety of credit courses that you can find at any of the other BCC campuses. These classes are taken by a very diverse student population coming from many different countries and backgrounds. The campus also offers fully trained staff on site to help with the registration process and any other assistance a student may

need. One such program, which was actually reenacted two years ago after the campus noticed that there was a huge need to help the adult students with their daily responsibilities, is their Summer Program. This program focuses on children who have come from other countries and do not have an understanding of the English language, and has been a huge proponent towards the success of both the adult student and the child who will be starting school in the fall.

"Both of the girls that we had this summer were brand new to the country and had very little understanding of the English language," said Amy Roberto, Summer Camp Teacher. "By the end of the summer they felt comfortable speaking with their peers and teachers about some



BCC's Hackensack campus held an open house// Jonathan Orozco of the many things they would like to learn more about the encounter in school."

Hackensack Campus or any of Overall, the Open House their partners feel free to stop by was a success in showcasing one 355 Main Street or call them at of Bergen Community College's 201-489-1551. unique campuses. If you would

## Greyhound Day: From Racetrack to Rescue Home

**THEA OH**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Standing over three feet tall, with long lean legs, streamlined physique, and a big heart built to pump hard and fast, greyhounds are made for running. In just six strides, they can reach explosive hurtles topping 40 miles per hour, a feat rivaled only by the cheetah.

It is precisely for their speed that greyhounds are sought for profit. Though greyhound racing, a once-booming gambling sport, has fallen out of popularity amidst controversy over animal welfare, tracks continue to hold games and retire dogs by the hundreds each year. These discarded hounds have no place to go. This is where nonprofit greyhound protection agencies like the Greyhound Friends of New Jersey, who has rehomed thousands of greyhounds since the 1980s, come into play.

On Greyhound Adoption Day, brought annually to Bergen Community College by the GFNJ, the Student Life Center was home to a pack of these former athletes. Looking at the dozen or so gentle giants lounging at ease, the word pastoral comes to mind; there is zero trace of the ferocity of the racetrack, even if you squinted. Students were welcome to interact with the dogs, learn more about the life of these greyhounds, and especially, to adopt one of their own.

Event volunteers remark that, though dogs are arriving at their shelters in overall better condition than they were a decade ago,



Just a couple of the precious greyhounds that were up for adoption//Thea Oh



the struggle continues. Animals frequently sustain injuries on the job, such as broken legs, nails, and teeth, and patchwork medical care means this can be fatal. Those that do not make the cut as track dogs are routinely killed, or made available to greyhound protection agencies such as Grey2K and GFNJ.

Once retired greyhounds are taken into the GFNJ boarding kennel, they are first "bathed, wormed, treated for ticks and given heartworm preventative." Then, the dogs are actively integrated to life beyond the track. Sammie, a cream colored girl, has come to love kids though her visits to children's hospitals. Orson, a jet black male, with his patience and universal blood type, is a regular blood donor. Shyer dogs like Annie Oakley are taken through socialization programs, where dogs meet prisoners to foster the social skills needed to thrive in domestic life.

A prevailing misconception about the breed is that, because they are trained to compete in high tension sports from the time they are two to five; they are hyperactive by nature. That's why, as GFNJ volunteer Patricia Horan stressed, "meet-and-greets" like these are especially instrumental in raising awareness for the approachable character of these canines. In the industry they are nicknamed "45-mile-per-hour couch potatoes."

Those looking to adopt a greyhound can take a personality and lifestyle test to find the greyhound that is the best fit for their home. As Horan explained, the same qualities that prepare greyhounds for the sport, for instance, responsiveness to training, patience, and ability to get along with others, make them great household companions.

# Bergen Community College 2016 Volunteer Fair Recap

**PURNASREE SAHA**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Wednesday, September 28, 2016, Bergen Community College held its annual volunteer fair at the student center. According to Chris Matthews, "This was the tenth time the volunteer fair took place at BCC."



The reason of having the annual volunteer fair is to allow the opportunity for students to have access to community partners that will provide service learning opportunities and internships. To draw an emphasis on the volunteer fair, which differs from the job fair, the volunteer fair provides nonprofits and charity for the community and experience for the students.

Students are not required to have a particular experience or a major to perform the volunteer jobs. One example is the Sexual Assault Center in Bergen County that offers a twenty-four hour hotline which people contact immediately in regards to issues related to sexual assault. According to clothesline facilitator Anthony Torres, "When students enter the volunteer experience, they will be trained for the hotline." To further their volunteer experience, students who want to exceed will be sent to the hospital which they will be involved with the victims. The center also offers

pre-counseling for men, women, and significant others. The whole purpose of this center is to educate the community and raise awareness.

Another volunteer experience offered is Hospice & Palliative Care Compassus, which focuses on business administrative and healthcare opportunities. According to volunteer coordinator Kim Urquhart, "There is free hospice training that is provided for students prior to starting the experience." The care compassus also involves visiting end of life patients.

Furthermore, another volunteer experience provides reliable consistent help to senior citizens. The name of the agency is Visiting Homemaker Bergen County otherwise known as the Cheer Program. According to program directors Christina Martinez and Michelle Ogden, "We need volunteers who are capable of working two hours once a week." Volunteers have to perform many tasks for the senior citizens such as shopping and picking up prescription. Therefore, the volunteers are considered to be friendly helpers. Seniors are prevented from leaving their home and are kept independent. A volunteer check is also done while entering the job and it is done by the agency which costs \$42.00.

Likewise, students are able to volunteer at the Newark International Airport. According to assistant program manager Christian Havens, "People should have customer service and problem solving skills in order to perform this job and it mostly involves being around people." Examples of duties are walking travelers to the terminal, or looking for their family or gate. Volunteers are thereby known as Travelers Aid. There is also a business center in the airport in which volunteers will be able to print out information for the passengers. The timing of the volunteering position is flexible to student's schedule, so college students are capable of volunteering in the summer only. A majority of retired seniors also volunteer at the airport.

Moreover the Violence Intervention Prevention Center, which is located on campus, provides students with leadership skills. According to Green Dot coordinator Deborah Ajagbe, "Students participate in the five hour green dot training which

will help students develop social, leadership, and communication skills and this will help promote the green dot, the VIP, and resources on campus." When there are conversations taking place in the center, ideas are made based on how to change culture and prevent violence.

The Departments of Parks & Recreation Internships, which is located in Ridgewood allows students to work both indoors and outdoors with youths and senior citizens. According to Rich Brooks and Gwenn Hauck, "Students will be able to find out what career is right for them and benefit the community." This job will be good for students who desire to help others. Community service is offered to the senior citizens and this includes exercise classes, field trips, and games and for youths there are arts,



various classes and just mixers which are like parties.

Lastly, the Bergen Volunteer Center celebrated its 50th anniversary and they work with BCC to put up the volunteer fair every year. According to director of community engagement Debbie, "The Bergen Volunteer Center is the link to the community and helps the college bring in non-profit organizations that need volunteer support."

*Dozens of local volunteer organizations came to BCC for the fair// Iness Rabah*

## Sabeeha Rehman Visits BCC

**GEORGE R. GUERRA**  
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF



On October 1, Sabeeha Rehman, author of "Threading my Prayer Rug" visited Bergen Community College. She came to give the students in Professor Ilene Singh's Saturday class advice on how to write a memoir and writing tips in general, while also discussing the personal experiences she'd had in publishing her memoir and completing a substantial piece of writing.

Rehman's book is about her journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim, a journey that was both literal and figurative; spiritual and emotional. In her book, Rehman also discusses Muslim culture from an anecdotal perspective, in ways that could also resonate with non-Muslims. This was done with the intention of providing a personal and relatable story of a Muslim woman that might alter certain modern perceptions of Muslim culture. Rehman herself is a leader within her own Muslim community and has promoted multiple interfaith collaborations.

Rehman discusses her initial impressions as a newlywed immigrant in the United States, and the ways in which New York City was dramatically different from Pakistan. It was initially intimidating and impersonal. When she arrived, Rehman found herself in an environment in which Muslim culture was not as prevalent, and as such began to lose touch with her religion. It's importance was reinforced to her when her children were born and she felt it was important to raise them Muslim, and to do that she needed to educate herself in her faith, a process that is described in the book.

One of Rehman's goals in writing the book is to "broaden perspectives" regarding Muslim people and Muslim culture in America. When asked about her feelings towards the portrayal of Muslims in the media today, she described it as "unfortunate." Muslims are frequently portrayed as terrorists and savages, a stereotype that is patently untrue. With each terrorist attack committed by a radical muslim, the stereotype is further perpetuated. Rehman went on to state that it was an unfortunate truth that when she sees news reports about a terrorist attack, one of the first thoughts to cross her mind is "I hope it's not a Muslim."

**"I hope it's not a Muslim."  
-Sabeeha Rehman**



*Bottom: Rehman in Ilene Singh's class. //Lary Hlavenka*

# Campus Safety Day Keeps Bergen Safe

**ANDREW KIM**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Campus Safety Day was held on Sept. 22 in the student center at the main campus. Needless to say, safety needs is one of the indispensable things in life. As a matter of fact, since September 11, 2001, many have become more conscious of our personal



A Bergen County Sheriff speaking during Campus Safety Day// Jonathan Orozco

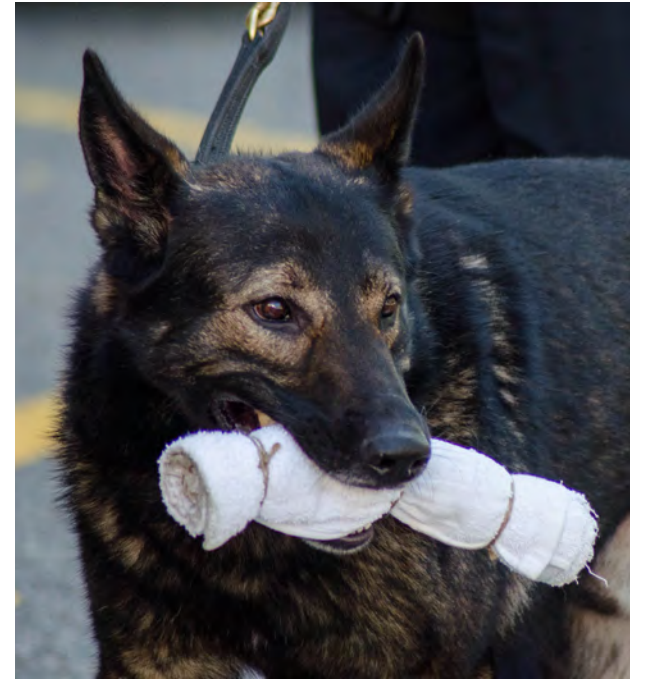
safety and have experienced increased scrutiny at international airports and other significant buildings. Furthermore, through the Virginia Tech shooting which occurred on April 16, 2007 on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, we have no choice but to acknowledge that the campus's status as a safety zone has weakened. As they say human beings tend to forget easily. We have the tendency to think of safety as an inefficient process or excessive procedure.

Even if the event is meaningful for us and all students were informed by campus email, most of students did not know it, unfortunately. In order to prepare this article, several students took part in a short survey. The results showed that many students did not know what Campus Safety Day was.

Luckily, with the host's efforts and the advantage of external environment, that is good venue, comfortable sofas, and refreshments provided, there were enough participants to open it. The host was able to attract students with various ways. For example, there were showing a video, a banner, an exhibition and uploading moving images on the homepage. One might think that the event's highlight was the video of the shooting on campus. Even though it was not real but a reenactment, it impressed all attendees and its message was simple and effective. So I could remember that the message was "Run, Hide, and Fight" against the criminal with gun.

Lastly, the host's efforts of holding the event are to be appreciated, because many students may have

had similar experiences. Although there are many hardships, such an event will be held continually and more students will try to attend it. Safety is not other's assignment but ours, and there are many difficulties to solve and cope with not only the staff but also students together. Hopefully more people will have the concern about it and students say "Thank you" to the person in charge of Campus Safety.



One of the K-9 units was present during the presentation// Jonathan Orozco

## Is Parking Too Hard?

**LAWRENCE FRANK**  
COPY EDITOR

If you're commuting to Bergen in your car then you have without a doubt, felt the frustration of finding a parking spot. You can spend a significant amount of time circling the lot only to do it again. This is especially frustrating if you're a student coming from the Lyndhurst campus or work and have a small time window to make it to class before you're late.

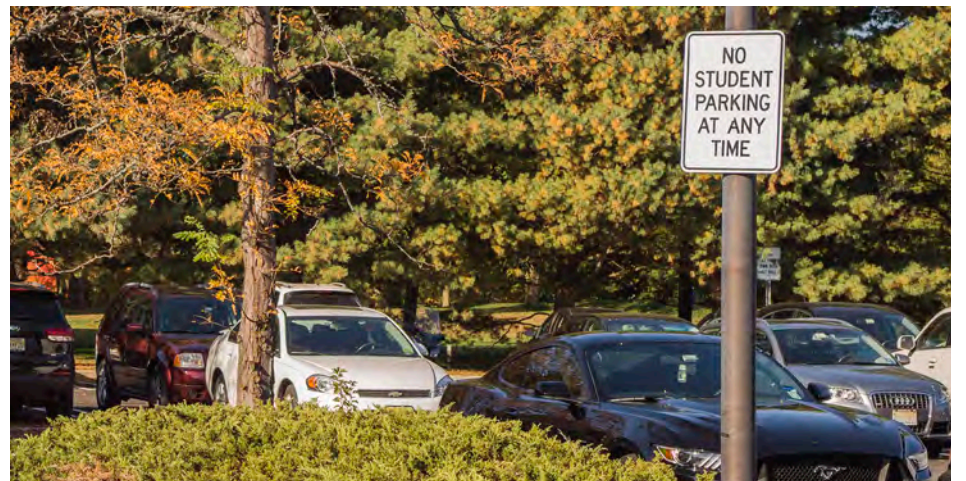
"Yeah, it's pretty bad," said July, a student and aspiring doctor at Bergen. "You know, sometimes I'll get lucky and catch someone pulling out but I usually spend a while looking for a spot close to the campus here but end up parking by Ender and walking the rest. I've just learned to get here earlier." when asked what she thinks the campus can do to make parking more efficient, she said, "Is there chance we can buy up some of that golf course?"

There are a few solutions you can

take to avoid the parking situation all together. For instance, find out if a bus near you can take you to Bergen. Taking the bus has its advantages over driving a car, such as its safety. It's also a good way to study on the way to school. According to AAA, driving a sedan in 2016 can run people an average of \$0.57 per mile, including insurance and maintenance, which makes bus transit cheaper in most cases. Who knows, maybe you'll have a meaningful conversation with a fellow student on the way.

Another fix is carpooling. If you can have someone give you a ride to school, you should take advantage of it. The more people carpooling and taking the bus, the more parking will be available.

Bergen could also build another level to the parking garage. Montclair State University has multiple parking



Does BCC have enough parking to handle its ever growing population//Jonathan Orozco

floors in its garage for their 50,000 students. While it might sound like a no-brainer to do this, BCC will have to hop through a sea of red tape and town codes to get this approved. Even then, it will cost millions, which will undoubtedly raise tuitions.

Nevertheless, it's something that Bergen could consider.



# The History of Halloween

TANEASHA BRAVO

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After a long wait, the day of the dead is making its yearly appearance. We are so deluded by the idea of Halloween with the terrifying images of visible ghosts stalking along abandoned areas as zombies rise from the dead and run rampant, followed by hideous creatures threatening the safety of many, that some of us fail to recognize how this wonderful holiday made its way into American culture. Rest assured, these strange creatures do not exist and will not chase you out of town.

Halloween is the one day of the year where any individual can dress up as any other character, individual, or creation of their own. We're satisfied in the idea of dressing up and filling our stomachs with the sweet, sour, and savory flavors of all the candy that will fall into our possession as we scream out the words, "Trick-or-treat." Now with Halloween just around the corner, it is time to begin the tale of how it all came to be.

Long ago, in a land far far away, the Celts inhabited the lands of Europe. Instead of having the vast amount of holidays like the United States, (albeit most are unnecessary) the Celtic people divided their year by four major holidays. So, just picture having Christmas four times a year, although some of the holidays might be a bit more spooky. Does it not sound amazing? Instead of beginning on January 1st as we are familiar with, the commencement of each year would begin on November 1st. It was still considered to be winter and because of the cold, it was not odd to see your neighbor moving their herd of cattle onto other pastures.

During this time, the Celtic people had a festival called Samhain where they believed the souls of the deceased would rise once more. The gathering of fruits



Halloween has a very mysterious past //Rebecca Karpinski

and vegetables would take place along with the sacrificing of animals in order to guide these lost souls and honor the dead. It's understandable; take some time to grab some tissues and cry for those poor squirrels.

Christian missionaries began to invade Europe and carried out a strong desire to eliminate holidays such as Samhain. Pope Gregory I, proposed a solution to convert the Celtic people by having missionaries place an emphasis on Christ whenever the natives would worship a specific item important to their own culture. The transaction doesn't seem as subtle as the Pope was attempting to make it seem, but we'll give the Pope an "A" for his effort.

The Christians believed that the Celtic's own perspective on the supernatural was a gift from the big red man himself; they believed the Devil took a big part in the holiday of Halloween and would brand some of the older religious Celts as witches, even though these were all mere rumors and superstitions at the time. We took many ideas from the Celts such as the custom of wearing costumes and going from door to door with the intention of stuffing our faces with candy, but instead of the act being known as trick-or-treating, it was deemed mumming.

Eventually, November 1st, became known as All Saints Day, which was also referred to as All

Hallows, considering the entire festivity was meant to purify the souls of the dead. However, it was on October 31st, where the Celts decided to celebrate most of their events. Eventually, All Hallows Eve took the name of Hallow Evening which was then rectified again to become Halloween. With all of this information, hopefully trick-or-treaters have a gist of an idea as to why we celebrate a festivity that makes some of our hearts pump out of our chests. Now, this tale is complete. Be safe on Halloween, always remember to stay with a group of people late at night, do not divulge in too much gluttony, and do not forget that the spirits are always watching!

## The Gong Show: The Good, the Gonzo, and the Gonged!



STEPHANIE CRUZ

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The cast of the new Gong Show// <http://www.gongshowlive.net>

Fresh from their successful Off-Broadway production, our very own Anna Maria Ciccone Theater opened its stage to "The Gong Show Live!" on September 16 and 17. The show's premise was to feature attention-grabbing acts that entertain the audience and the judges while avoiding the smack of the gong.

The show starred Ray Ellin as the host, who channeled such great energy and enthusiastic vibe. Also part of the outrageous cast were Chuck Nice, Leslie Gold, and Brian Scott McFadden. They star as the hilarious

panel of judges who offered comical feedback scores to the performers. To set the bar for a dynamic and lively evening, The Gong Show 10 Orchestra band played a variety of songs from the 70s and 80s, like The Knight Rider official theme song, that fans quickly recognized. The set design was as splendid and colorful. It along with the cast were able to transport the audience back to the era of pure and silly comedy with a modern twist.

The Gong Show was a cultural milestone that aired between 1976 to 1981 and paved the way to modern-

day talent competitions like America's Got Talent and The X Factor. Critically acclaimed as "jaw droppingly hilarious", the live recreation of the classic 70s show is professionally directed and is not an amateur talent contest unlike its original counterpart. The production of The Gong Show Live actually features New Jersey talents as well as from Saturday Night Live, America's Got Talent and So You Think You Can Dance. Some of the eccentric and interesting acts included "Spoonatra" a Frank Sinatra impersonating spoon, "Amazing Amy" an 80-year old contortionist, and "Chips

Cooney" a magician whose magic tricks amazes nobody yet drives the crowd hysterical.

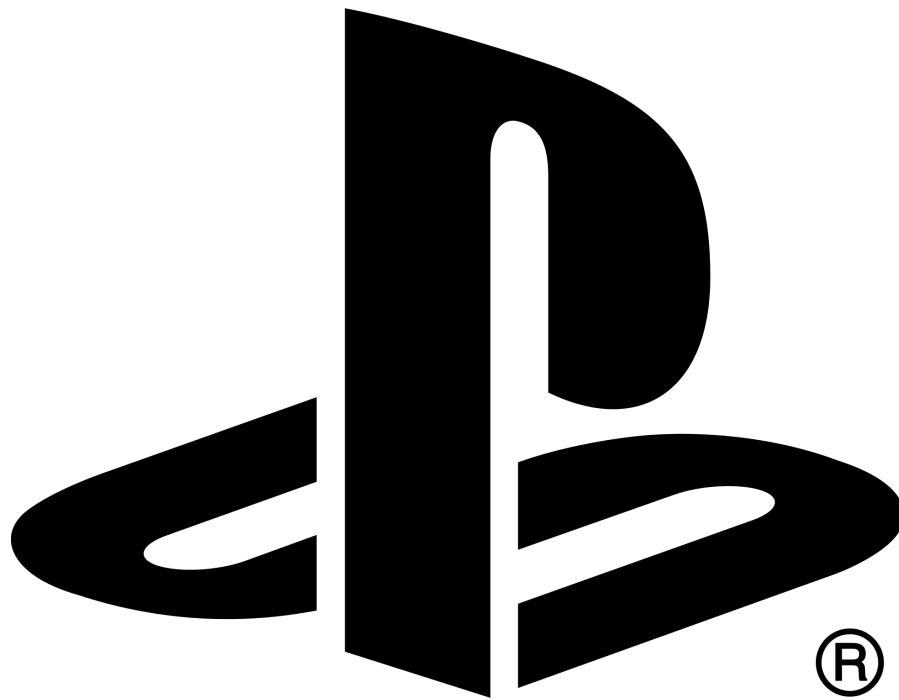
Everyone evidently had a great time as the theater echoed with laughter thanks to the crazy antics of the performers. It doesn't matter if you were a fan of the show during its peak or just looking for some mindless enjoyment, The Gong Show Live! is an amusing tribute to one of television history's classic shows. No wonder the show had a strong audience-obsessed foundation in its theatrical adaptation. It's even better live and up close.

# Playstation 4 Pro and Slim Versions Announced

**JORDAN MATOS**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On September 7th, 2016, Sony held a conference centered on the PlayStation 4; they announced two new models of the eighth generation video game console. The first is the PlayStation 4 Slim, which is priced at \$299.99, which is the same price for an original PS4 currently. For a console marketed as “slim” it’s not really all that slim. According to IGN’s review, the console is “only half an inch shorter and one inch narrower than it’s big brother.” compared to the Xbox One S where they trimmed the fat of the console. Performance wise it’s a typical PS4, except that it’s not as loud when it comes to using disc based media. Unfortunately for headphone users to hear the game without disturbing anyone around, you’re out of luck as the slim removes the optical port to use headphones. Though all aside the console is what it is and is currently available for \$299.99.

Now we come to the big announcement; the PlayStation 4 Pro. The Pro is a revamp of the PS4 with 4K support and high dynamic range; the graphics are more vibrant. The system also upgrades its GPU by 2 fold all the while with a future firmware update



*The mega-tech company announces two new platforms//Flickr*

gives games old and new; like Uncharted 4 and Days Gone, so original PS4 owners don’t have to worry about a thing as this firmware update can upgrade the PS4 from 1080p to HDR. One drawback, however, is the fact that the Pro doesn’t support 4K Blu-Ray. The PlayStation Pro will be available November 10th, for \$399.99.

While Sony’s Conference was great bringing more hope on the future of the PS4, but there are some quirks with the conference. The PS4 Slim and Pro were revealed at the same time, and while these consoles will likely sell like crazy, it’s a questionable decision to reveal 2 different versions of a console. Sony made 2 versions of the PS4 one that’s “slim” and one that supports 4K and HDR; why not just do what Microsoft did with the Xbox One s and Project Scorpio? The Slim is just an inch short version of the PS4, why not just make a legitimate small version of the PS4 that can support 4K and HDR, all the while adding in the 4K Blu-Ray compatibility.

Nevertheless, it is undeniable that many gamers out there are excited for Sony’s brand new console; it will be an interesting experience for consumers to get a hands on experience on how the PlayStation 4 Pro sets itself apart from it’s predecessor.

## Have iPhones Gotten Repetitive?

**DAVID PEREZ**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The iPhone is one of those things that comes out each year and is essentially the same thing. This year yet again there are those that will pitch their tents at the Apple store in NYC for two days straight just to get a phone that is generally the same but only has a few more features than the version from last year. With this in mind, it begs the question: is the iPhone is becoming a little repetitive with its yearly releases? Since 2007, Apple’s face of their business has come out with either new innovations or added in features that enhance the experience overall. With each new iteration, more features are added such as a better camera, faster processing power, bigger screen, and a fingerprint scanner of all things. Unfortunately, the only saving grace for the iPhone at this point is the advances in technology that comes out with each one.

For example in 2009 when the iPhone 3GS came out it had the new and fascinating ability of cut, copy, and

paste text while the last two didn’t have that feature at all. In 2010 the 4 had HD video recording while in 2012, the 5 had map apps that allowed turn-by-turn 3D navigation while the iPhone 4 didn’t. Take into consideration that the 4S came out in 2011 and came out with the iMessage application, along with Apple’s famous digital assistant, Siri. Like previously stated each iPhone has come out with many new features that differentiate it from the previous version that has come before it. With features like that and new wireless earbuds coming off the assembly lines there is another question that must be asked. Is Apple making this move to charge a consumer base that would normally buy their phones in a heartbeat an extra \$150 for wireless earbuds?

This may be coming off as pessimistic but seeing that this is one of the iPhones that they’re coming out with without the assistance of Steve Jobs, there is a slim chance that they’ll come up with a few new innovations without him.



*A photo comparing the most recent iPhone models//Flickr*

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## Corrections from September 2016 edition

On the front page, in the Health Professions story, Dean Susan Barnard was mistakenly spelled as “Banard.” In the same article, “gold bond” should instead be “G.O. bond” standing for General Obligations. Staff writer Leshay Jones’ first name was misspelled as “Lashay” on pages 11, 13 and 14. Tristan Anderson’s first name was misspelled as “Tristen” on page 7. In the titled “Study Abroad Program Gets a Facelift,” International Student Counselor Amparo Coddling was instead addressed as a Dean, which is incorrect.

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# Kingsglaive Final Fantasy XV: A New ERA For Video Game Movies?

ADAM GRASSANI  
FEATURES EDITOR

The movie and video game industries have a notorious reputation for not mixing well together. We all know the many movie games that are launched around the same time as the movie as an obvious cash grab; thus very few turn out to be of good quality. The same can be said for movies based on games. Creating a movie based on a video game and vice versa is a recipe for disaster. That was, until Square Enix changed that with the release of the CGI movie, Kingsglaive Final Fantasy XV.

As the title implies, Kingsglaive is based on the upcoming video game Final Fantasy XV, which is scheduled to release this November, 29th for Playstation 4 and Xbox One. The movie was developed by Square Enix and directed by Takeshi Nozue. It was produced by Hajime Tabata, who is also the director of the game. Sony Pictures Home Entertainment distributed the film worldwide, while Stage 6 Films distributed across the United States and Aniplex handled Japanese distribution. The movie released in Japanese theaters July 9, 2016 while it released in select U.S. theaters August 19, 2016. It released on Blu-Ray and DVD October 4, 2016.

One of the biggest reasons why Kingsglaive can be considered a new era for movies based on games is the cast, most notably Aaron Paul from Breaking Bad, Sean Bean from The Lord of the Rings, and Lena Headey from Game of Thrones.



*Kingsglaive may mark the new era for videogames//Flickr*

With so many popular actors, Kingsglaive has what can be considered an all-star cast.

Another thing that sets Kingsglaive apart from other video game movies is its plot. While many of these movies are just based on their respective games and nothing more, the plot of Kingsglaive is parallel to the game itself. The Kingdom of Lucis is at war with the empire of Nifelheim. Lucis is the home of the world's last divine crystal, which has magical powers desperately coveted by Nifelheim. However, the crystal has the power to create a magical wall over Insomnia, the crown city of Lucis, keeping the kingdom safe.

In the movie, the current king of Lucis, King Regis Lucis Caelum (voiced

by Sean Bean), receives a peace treaty offer from Nifelheim to end the war. However, by accepting the treaty, Lucis relinquishes control of all land to Nifelheim with the exception of Insomnia. Furthermore, Regis's son and the protagonist of Final Fantasy XV, Prince Noctis Lucis Caelum, must marry princess of Tenebrae, Lady Lunafreya "Luna" Nox Fleuret (voiced by Lena Headey). Regis thus sends Noctis and friends out of Insomnia for the wedding.

This is what makes Kingsglaive Final Fantasy XV unique compared to other video game movies; while the game focuses on Noctis, the movie focuses on the events that happen back in Insomnia while he's away. This makes Kingsglaive very important

to the story of Final Fantasy XV and therefore, a must watch before you play the game.

Looking at the characters, Regis is shown to be a wise and strategic ruler, and is not afraid to make controversial decisions. Luna also shares some of the same character traits; she brings a royal authority to the table. Lastly, the movie stars Nyx Ulric (voiced by Aaron Paul) as the protagonist. Nyx is a member of the Kingsglaive, an elite military unit fighting for Lucis wielding the powers of the royal family. Nyx is shown to be very proud, not willing to flee battle even when necessary. Most of all, through the events of the movie, he learns and enforces the theme of Kingsglaive Final Fantasy XV, putting

the needs of the future before yourself.

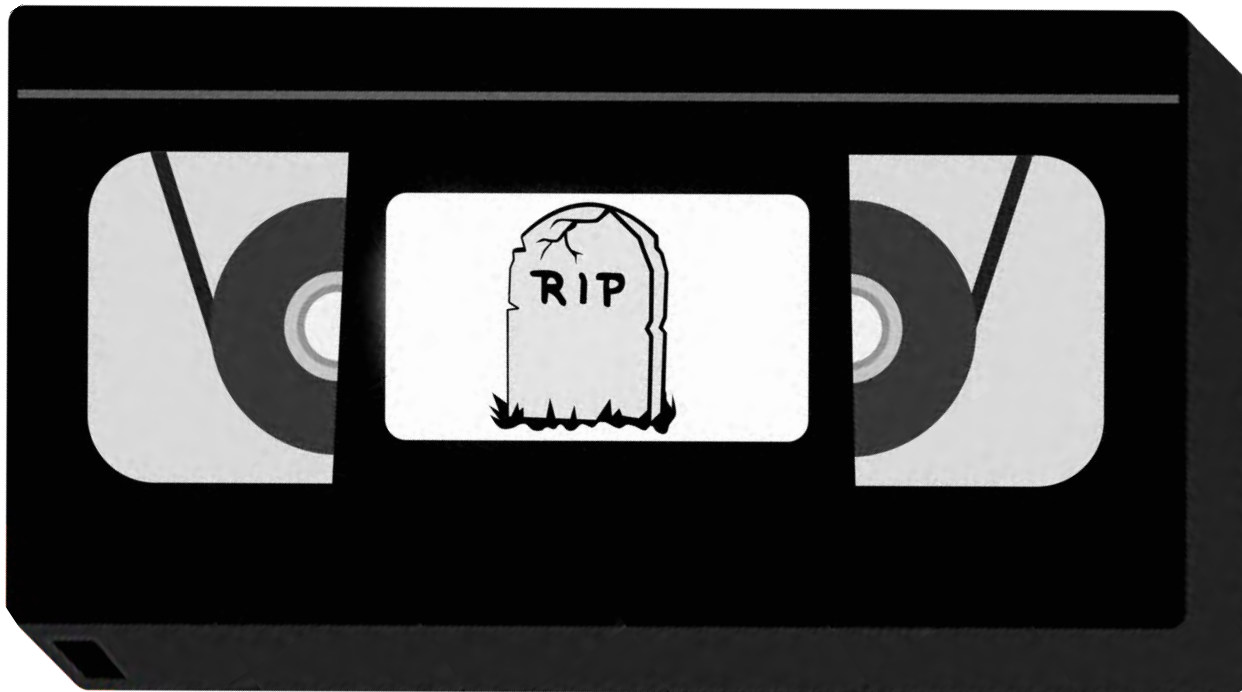
"Blood, sweat, and tears went into this," said Aaron Paul. "I just very happy to lend my voice to this incredible complex character. Nix I mean he definitely comes from a rough past. But with that said, he's the hero. I'm not used to playing those type of characters."

What is considered the best part of the movie however, is its visuals. While it is CGI, it looks so realistic that you can barely tell the difference. The setting is also of note, as this is a world that mixes modern times with a feel that is both foreign and familiar. It also combines realism and fantasy. The action scenes are truly impressive as well, especially the use of magic. You'll never take your eyes off the screen.

"The visuals in Kingsglaive; they're pretty awesome," said Lena Headey. "And it's all motion capture. So I'm voicing somebody else's face, somebody else's body, they're moments. And so it's something new for me."

With its incredible visuals, a plot with actual importance to the game it's based on, and an all-star cast, Kingsglaive Final Fantasy XV isn't one of your typical cash grab video game movies; it brings so much more to the table and hopefully will influence other video game movies in the future.

## The Death of VHS



*//Graphic by Genesis Fuentes*

BRYAN SUAREZ  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As decades pass, technology gets better and better. With technology improving, visuals, such as videos, improve as well. Videos are very important to us, as they provide lots of entertainment. Videos and films both help capture a great movie, as well as capture great memories of family, friends, and special moments.

This form of recording and capturing videos started off in the 1970's. VHS first came around in Japan in 1976, and then the United States in 1977. The 1970's was when the VHS was introduced to people; they were used for both movies and creating videos of events at home.

When playing a VHS you needed a VCR.

Without a VCR you had no way of playing your VHS tape. The first VCR to come out was the Victor HR-3300, and was introduced by the president of JVC (JVC was another form of recording that came prior to VHS) in Japan on Sep. 9, 1976.

VHS was very prominent for more than two decades, largely because it was the only form of video recording. Even with that, it did provide a huge step in the field of cinema and being able to capture and play special events. However, its main competition arrived when the DVD came into existence. Japan introduced it in 1996 and the United States in 1997. DVD was no longer a cassette, it was in disk form, and this was what began the fall of the VHS.

The DVD was then followed by Blu-Ray discs,

which were the same concept as DVD, but the quality was extremely better. In the end, the Blu-Ray was what killed off the VHS, as everyone either got blu ray or bought them online.

The VHS is now headed to the technological graveyard, where many different types of technological items have gone such as the fat SD TV's, walkman players, and even dvd players. Possibly the last VCR-maker, Japanese electronic company, Funai Electric, said that they would stop making VCR's in August.

The downfall of VHS and VCRs were bound to happen. Technology is constantly improving and forms of tape and quality improves as well. It may only be a matter of time before we see DVDs go next.



# FAITH OF NFL PLAYERS FOR COMMISSIONER GOODSELL IS FADING



Roger Goodell speaking at an event//Wikimedia

**ANTHONY KHELIL**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Earlier this NFL season, a representative from each NFL team have warned their respective organizations to prepare for a strike. Could there be any clearer sign that players are losing confidence and faith in commissioner Goodell? Over the last few years, Goodell has faced many issues from Ray Rice to Adrian Peterson, steroids, under inflated footballs and so on; and still too often the players and we, as fans, do not know what the penalty for a particular act is, or even if there is one, until after the fact. The NFL players association is not happy with the way Goodell handles a players discipline, and believe that these decisions need to be given to a neutral party.

Former NFL player and current ESPN NFL analyst Ryan Clark commented, "When you've been in those meetings and you've been through labor negotiations, and you see how Roger Goodell and the owners feel about the players, the things that were said to the players during this time, you develop a hate -- you really do."

It is almost as if Roger Goodell is taking the power granted to him from the collective bargaining agreement signed in 2011 and throwing it in the faces of current NFL players. Goodell ruined the career of defensive tackle and former New Orleans Saint, Anthony Hargrove, because the NFL failed to admit their wrongdoing during the Bountygate scandal. In addition Tom Brady who is one week away from returning from a four week suspension

because Goodell had to save face with the NFL owners after spending millions of their dollars on a tainted investigation. Most recently Goodell has threatened four current NFL stars including James Harrison and Clay Matthews to a suspension if they do not adhere to his drug test requests. Goodell has the ability to determine whether or not a player has performed "conduct detrimental," under his judgement, to the league and can suspend the player as he wishes, with few exceptions.

Goodell is flexing, and wants the NFL players to succumb to his power and command. The next Collective bargaining negotiation in 2021 will be an interesting one. NFL fans, expect another lockout as the players will be looking to fight back.

## MLB PLAYOFF RACES HEATING UP

**ADAM GRASSANI**  
FEATURES EDITOR

It's October, which means the MLB Playoffs are right around the corner and several teams are in a dogfight for a spot. Whether by clinching their division or forced to go for the wild card. It's because of tight races like these that late September and October will always be a baseball fan's favorite time of the year.

Starting of at the very top, we have the Chicago Cubs, having already clinched the NL Central with a 99-56, the best in the majors. The Cubs have achieved this success through the dominance of their pitching; they have the two MLB leaders in Earned Run Average (ERA) in Kyle Hendricks with 2.06 and Jon Lester with 2.36 and three of the top 10 with Jake Arrieta. Add that with Aroldis Chapman whom the Cubs acquired from the New York Yankees at the trade deadline and you have a recipe for the MLB's best team ERA at 3.11, a whole .33 ahead of the second best Nationals at 3.44. There is little doubt that the Cubs are the favorites to win the World Series this year and capture their first title in over a century.

Moving over into the American League, the AL East leading Boston Red Sox and AL West leading Texas Rangers have both clinched a playoff spot, both are currently tied for the best record in the American League at 92-64. While Chicago has the best pitching staff in the league, the Red Sox have the best lineup; they lead the league in batting average, hitting .285, as well as OPS with .351. They are also eighth in home runs with 203, and first in runs scored with 858. However, the biggest story of the Red Sox season is undeniably David Ortiz, whose



With the summer dying down, the playoffs are heating up//flickr

final season is also turning out to be his best, hitting .318 with 37 bombs. With a lineup of him, Hanley Ramirez, Dustin Pedroia, Xander Bogaerts, and Mookie Betts, Boston will seek to bring Big Papi one last title before he hangs it up. The Rangers look to be a forced to be reckoned, especially with their

deadline acquisitions of Carlos Beltran and Jonathan Lucroy, both of whom have had major impacts on propelling the Rangers into the playoffs. They rank fifth in runs scored with 739. However, their pitching is suspect, as their only ranked 22nd in total ERA with 4.38.

Other teams to watch out for are the

Washington Nationals. They lead the NL East with a 90-64 record despite a down season from Bryce Harper, the reigning MVP. The AL Central leading Cleveland Indians might be the most interesting team, as they are Top 10 in both runs scored and runs allowed, fourth and seventh respectively. Cleveland can beat you with the bat and the glove which gives them a big advantage going forward.

Looking at Bergen's New York teams, despite a heroic run from the New York Yankees after selling at the trade deadline, lead by rookie catcher Gary Sanchez's surge into the majors; their playoff hopes all but ended after being swept by Boston on the road. The AL Wild Card comes down to the Baltimore Orioles, Toronto Blue Jays, and Detroit Tigers. The Orioles and Blue Jays have a great amount power in their lineups and they are the two leading teams in home runs, 244 and 216 respectively.

Moving on to the National League side, the New York Mets have made quite a comeback. After going through the middle of the season with a weak lineup, third worst in both runs scored and batting average to be exact, they've still managed to earn themselves a spot in the NL Wild Card Race with the St Louis Cardinals and the San Francisco Giants, the latter whom has gone ice cold since the trading deadline. The Mets pitching staff has been the exact opposite of its offense, as it is ranked third in both ERA and runs allowed.

With the Chicago Cubs, Washington Nationals, Cleveland Indians, and Texas Rangers all looking to end severe World Series title droughts, one thing is for sure; the 2016 MLB Playoffs will be one for the ages.

# LADY BULLDOGS FACE A TOUGH TEST AHEAD



Female Bulldog attempting to steal the ball//Justin Ramirez

**CHAYANNE MIRANDA**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The lady Bulldogs, entered September 22nd's contest against Middlesex Community College, winless with a record of (0-3.) Middlesex (2-1-1) is also coming off from a loss to Brookdale, but Bergen definitely seemed to be the underdog in this contest. Bergen played a strong first half as Victoria Lemanski and Emily Marziano

had great opportunities to score, however, Middlesex combatted the Lady's Bulldog good offensive start by playing outstanding defense. Bergen conceded two goals in the first half, and found themselves down 2-0 at the end of the first half. First goal came from Middlesex's Casey Baylis at the 23rd minute and shortly after, her teammate Ciara Alston scored at the 35th minute.

Middlesex came out of the

first half, optimistic with their 2-0 lead and looked to increase it. As the second half commences, Middlesex scored four additional goals, to shutout Bergen 6-0 as six different Middlesex players scored. Both teams played well, but Bergen's loss extended their losing streak to four. The third goal Middlesex scored was at the 51st minute by Melissa Ciaccio as she broke away from Bergen's defense. Middlesex's fourth goal came from Mackenzie Muscarella at the 65th minute, which she scored from outside the box, stretching their lead to 4-0 against Bergen. Shortly after the fourth goal, frustrations began to kick in, as Victoria Lemanski and Casey Baylis exchange words. The fifth goal from Middlesex was scored by Nicole Raub. Middlesex's last goal came when Gianna Sortiza, scored right after Bergen had a key player sustain an injury. Coach Di ienno of the Lady Bulldogs had this to say regarding the injury, "Unfortunately, Marisol, who was actually injured more towards the middle of the game, has suffered a sprained ankle after being stepped on after she fell. She will not be playing in the next few matches, but she is rehabbing her injury as fast as she can. She is doing everything in her power to get back out there because the heart that that girl has, even being the youngest on the team, is greater than most females I have coached! We miss her tremendous skill on the field, but she is always there to cheer

us on!"

After the game I was able to speak to coach Di ienno. When asked about the game, Di ienno said, "I thought that the game vs. Middlesex was overly aggressive. We are usually neck and neck with a team like Middlesex and they took full advantage of our injured roster. As the game went on, we had less and less players on the field and our girls held their own considering we were playing 8 vs 11 at one point. The best part of our team is that we never give up. Yes, we are done players, yes, we are down in score, but they are friends on and off the field and that makes for a fun experience every time they play." I went on to how she kept the players motivated after struggling and she said, "Honestly, keeping them motivated is their doing. I let them know the situation and that they have more love for each other than any of the teams I have ever coached. Once I tell them what they are doing right and wrong on the field, we talk about how they must motivate each other. They usually get in a small huddle themselves and pick each other up. It is easy to get down when having a losing record, but the way they are after or when they get in the vans after a hard game, laughing and joking, it shows me that they know this is just a game and they work as hard as they can - but the friendships they build will last far longer than the joys of a win or, especially, the sting of defeat!"

## Jose Fernandez Dies in Boating Accident at Age 24



Jose Fernandez showing off his usual smile//flickr

**INESS RABAH**  
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Miami Marlins ace, Jose Fernandez died at the young age of 24 in a boating accident on September 25, 2016. The 32-foot boat was traveling at full speed when it struck rocks and flipped over killing Fernandez and two others in Florida. Lorenzo Veloz, an official of the Florida Wildlife Commission concluded that Fernandez died from trauma due to the impact of the crash and not from drowning. Debris from the boat was found and reported to the Coast Guard at 3 a.m., and a team of eight divers was sent to recover the bodies shortly after on that pivotal Sunday.

Fernandez was known to take many boat trips with his friends. Alcohol and illicit drugs were not found near the scene and do not seem to be a factor in the crash. Names of the other two people that were killed with Fernandez have not been released as of yet, due to pending notification from the families.

Fernandez's death occurred only five days after he announced that his girlfriend, Maria Arias was

pregnant with his first child. A heart-wrenching video showing Fernandez's girlfriend revealing the sex of the baby to him went viral. It shows her having a cake brought out and having him cut the cake. The color of the icing in the middle would reveal if the baby would be a girl or a boy. He jumps up and claps with a huge smile and tears in his eyes saying "I knew it!" The color of the icing was pink.

The Marlins cancelled that day's game against the Atlanta Braves, and took buses to Fernandez's mother's house to offer their condolences. "I'm still waiting to wake up from this nightmare. I lost my brother today and can't quite comprehend it. The shock is overwhelming. What he meant to me, our team, the city of Miami, Cuba & everyone else in the world that his enthusiasm/heart has touched can never be replaced. I can't fathom what his family is going through because We, as his extended family are a wreck. I gave him the nickname Niño because he was just a young boy Amongst men, yet those men could barely compete with him. He had his own level, one that was changing the game. EXTRAORDINARY, as

a person before the player. Yet still just a kid, who's joy lit up the stadium more than lights could. A kid whose time came too soon. One that I will miss & never forget. Rest In Peace Niño, Jose Fernandez." Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton paid tribute to his former teammate via Instagram post.

Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz was seen in tears during a moment of silence, and said, "I don't have the words to describe the pain I feel."

A memorial for Fernandez's family and friends was held on Wednesday, September 28 at St. Brendan's Church in Miami. Arias made her first public appearance since his death, at his memorial. She was dressed in black with a prominent baby bump and did not speak. Arias is four months pregnant. Thousands attended a public memorial at Marlins Park. Many signed a wall with Fernandez's number 16 painted on it, and displayed flowers and Cuban flags to honor him. The baseball community continues to mourn his tragic death.



# SPORTS



## Men's Soccer Looks To Repeat as Regional Champs: Win Home Opener 5-2



**ADAM GRASSANI**  
FEATURES EDITOR

With the beginning of another year at Bergen Community College comes the start of yet another season for the men's soccer team. The Soccer Bulldogs are looking for the same success they had last season and to repeat as Region XIX champions. While last season may have been special, men's soccer coach Fredy Herrera has moved on.

"Last year is last year," said Herrera. "I can tell you that it was a great season for us, for the school. (For the) first time ever, we won the region. But at this point, it means nothing. Last year was last year. Great for experience. But now we try to build. New players, new team, shape it up and try to do as good or even better than last year. That's basically what we're looking for."

Along with the Region XIX championship, Coach Herrera also won the region's coach of the year award.

Furthermore, Bergen forward Malick Stewart took home the Region XIX Player of the Year, the first in Bergen history. Stewart was tied for ninth in the entire nation in goals scored with 22. The team went 14-5-1 last season, the 14 wins setting the school record, along with breaking their record for most shutouts in a season with 10.

"We did good. We had a rough beginning last year; we lost a couple of games," said Coach Herrera. "But what we try to do is to show them a new way to play. Forcing them to think basically, when they play soccer. It takes time for them to understand it, by now we can probably say that they're getting the idea of it little by little. Same thing happened last year so we're trying to do the same or even better this year."

As great as the Soccer Bulldogs 2015 season was, it's in the past, and on September 1st, the team played its home opener against Rockland. The team struggled early on in the game, failing to capitalize on legitimate

scoring opportunities. On the other hand, Rockland capitalized when they got their chances, and 20 minutes into the game, Bergen found themselves down 2-1.

However, our Bulldogs wouldn't go down without a fight. With 7:35 left in the first half, they scored off a defensive rebound to tie the game up. Then at the five minute mark, they would score on a goal kick. They scored again 20 seconds later to head into halftime with a 4-2 lead. Bergen's defensive play improved as well, limiting Rockland's scoring chances and making impressive stops, including one dead in front of the goal in what looked like a sure goal for Rockland with 10:30 left in the first half. Combine this defensive play continuing in the second half and an insurance goal and you get a 5-2 win for the Bulldogs.

"That's what we basically try to do. We play as a team," said Coach Herrera. "Fix defensive play because sometimes we tend to go too much. But

we definitely are a team that likes to attack. The guys are trained. They train every day. They train to do that, to fix the problems that the games bring. First 20 minutes they were a little shaky but they took the time to read the game and start to fix it little by little, getting better."

As of this writing, the men's soccer team has opened up their season with a 1-2 record. They now go on a road trip to face Ulster County on September 3rd and Brookdale on September 6th before returning home on September 10th to face Ocean County. Above all, Coach Herrera's biggest expectation for the team is to continue learning the game of soccer.

"They learn," said Herrera. "They understand that this game is not just trying to score. It's a lot of things that involve the game; I want them to lead Bergen Community College with the idea of being able to play at another level. That's my major expectation as the players grow up and get better."



*Mens soccer team is preparing to make lightning strike/flickr*

## North Carolina Stripped of Championship Games

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A recent law adopted in North Carolina has the college basketball world of famous teams, like the Duke Blue Devils in a frenzy. The Bill, known as "HB2", requires that transgender persons only use the bathroom corresponding to the official gender that the person was born with. The Bill also excludes "sexual orientation" & "gender" from anti-discrimination laws already on the books.

In the world of basketball, Duke Basketball Coach; Mike Krzyzewski, is extremely furious about the law, and its impact on his schedule. He called the law and its implications "embarrassing" back in July while coaching the U.S.A. Men's Olympic Basketball Team. Many teams in all of college sports will not travel to the state of North Carolina for Tournaments this year, they perceive the law as discriminatory. For example, Albany basketball will not play in this year's Hall of Fame game in November. New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo, won't allow government funded trips to North Carolina. Albany would have played Duke in that tournament. Critics and commentators will have plenty to talk

about if Duke loses its famous "home-court-advantage" from the potential domino effect of HB2.

Many coaches have spoken out against the law and it could even have its effect felt in the NBA as the 2017 NBA All Star Game which was scheduled to be played in Charlotte, North Carolina, will now be played in New Orleans. The NBA commissioner Adam Silver decided to pull the showcase event but hopes to reschedule it for 2019. The economic loss this will bring Charlotte will be a significant one, as the event draws large numbers of tourists and dollars.

The issue of transgender bathrooms has been elevated to the level of national discourse. As an anti-discrimination issue and this bill in North Carolina reveals how hotbed social issues have tentacles with consequences-intended or not.

So we are left to ponder the big question: is political correctness coming to a bathroom near you? Only time will tell. One thing is for sure, a lot of taxpayer money will be spent as this one gets flushed through courts all over the land.

