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“Truth, No Matter The Cost”

Success 101 Proposal Fails

“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 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 revisied in the next faculty senate meeting, and the course will be met with a new proposal.

Aspiring Ramapo Students Get a New Helping Hand

“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.

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 MAT150 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,” 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.

Is Parking Too Hard?

History of Halloween

Jose Fernandez Dies at 24

Dakota Pipeline

Is Parking Too Hard?

History of Halloween

Jose Fernandez Dies at 24
NEWS

Don’t Get E’s, Get A’s!

LESHEY 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 officially 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 of the semester 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 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 only affects those who are truly not attending classes.

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.

Continued on page 6
Bergen Community College and Fairleigh Dickinson University are partnering to offer you a more affordable path to a bachelor’s degree. Graduate with your associate’s degree from BCC, and you will be eligible to transfer to a FDU bachelor’s program at a significant tuition discount. Benefits include:

- 40% tuition reduction for undergraduate programs, which may also be applicable to some master’s degrees at FDU
- Additional grants may be available for resident students, NJSTARS and students graduating with a 3.5+ GPA

Questions? Visit Almida Hernandez, FDU’s on-site advisor, Monday-Friday at the Pitkin Education Center, Room A126 
alhernan@fdu.edu or BCC-FDUScholars@fdu.edu
201-493-4088

fdu.edu/bcc-fdu
United States and Israel Sign Record $38 Billion Deal

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 funding.

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 defense 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
New Venue for Honors

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 KSU 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 unfearable dash to the edge of campus and back, leaving students to make the commute instead.

New Venue for Honors

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

“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 arrest was 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, 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.bergenpkn.com.
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.

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 prefers to be independent, but neither side is weak. In fact, I believe myself to be correct. I believe it’s all about preferences. There is no way that women are the same and all do what they are most comfortable with. It’s okay to think differently. Not all women think the same, and if they are 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 do all what they are most comfortable with. It’s okay to think differently. Not all women think the same, and if they are 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.

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

Op-Ed: Is Attending College a Luxury?
Who’s Still Supporting Trump?

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 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
VOTER REGISTRATION FLASH MOB TAKES BERGEN BY SURPRISE

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, the students have been positive, shown by the number of students that came out to register.

League of Women Voters of Ridgewood Encourages BCC to Register to Vote

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 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. 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
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 included a 5K race which was the main event, a fun run for all the kids, a hula 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. "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’ve done the CancerCare run. My first year I didn’t win anything but this year I’m going to try hard.”

According to Project Manager Katie Czhernicbili, 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 so it is clear, and organized.

"Seriously everyone that was at the event either battled cancer or know someone close to them who had/has 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 hope can give 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 mend our souls,” 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.
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 been done and how to change things to address external market forces they are good intrapreneurs in a company that is ripe 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 reinaugured 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 of the many things they would like to learn more about the encounter in school.”

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

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 hurdles 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 door or so gentle giants lounging at ease, the word pastoral comes to mind; there is zero trace of the ferocity of the racetrack, everything平静。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, 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

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 Anthony Torres, "When students enter the volunteer experience, they will be trained for the hotline." 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 director 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 Ajajbe, "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."

Georges, located 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. Its 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
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 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 of the event 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.

LAWRENCE FRANK
COPY EDITOR

Is Parking Too Hard?

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.”

“Ender and walking the rest. I’ve just learned to get here earlier.” when asked what she thinks the campus can do to make it to class before you’re late.

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

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

After a long wait, the day of the dead is making its yearly appearance. We are so deceived 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 as a joker, a fun-loving clown, or a more dark and unusual character like 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 Celtics 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 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 Celtics 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 in excitement, while avoiding the smack of the gong.

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 “Spoonerat” a Frank Sinatra impersonating spoon, “Amazing Amy” an 80-year old contortionist, and “Chips Fadden” 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.

The cast of the new Gong Show Live! // http://www.gongshowlive.net

Fresh from their successful Off-Broadway production, our very own Anna Maria Ciccone Theater opened its own “Gong Show Live!” on September 16 and 17. The show’s premise was to feature attention-grabbing acts that entertain the audience while avoiding the smack of the gong. The show starred Ray Ellin as the host along with his chatty audience emcee while avoiding the smack of the gong. The cast 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.

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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 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 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.
Kingsglaive Final Fantasy XV: A New Era For Video Game Movies?

ADAM GRASSANI

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 vise 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. Kingsglaive was 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. 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 Niflheim. Lucis is the home of the world’s last divine crystal, which has magical powers desperately coveted by Niflheim. 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 Niflheim to end the war. However, by accepting the treaty, Lucis relinquishes control of all land to Niflheim with the exception of Insomnia. Furthermore, Regis’ 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, throughout the events of the movie, he learns and enforces the theme of Kingsglaive Final Fantasy XV, putting the needs of the future before yourself.

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. It introduced itself 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. Everyone either got blu ray or bought them online.

The VHS is now headed to the technological graveyard, where many other technological items have gone such as the fat SD TVs, 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 may only be a matter of time before we see DVDs go next.

The Death of VHS

BRYAN SUAREZ

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 capture a great movie, as well as capture great memories of family, friends, and special moments.

This form of recording and capturing videos started 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.
Faith of NFL Players for Commissioner Goodell Is Fading

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 Roger 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. There is not much 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.

ADAM GRASSANI
SPORTS 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 year.

MLB Playoff Races Heating Up

With the summer dying down, the playoffs are heating up! The Major League Baseball Playoffs will be one for the ages. 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.

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’s career as a 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 face off this fall.

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Starting of at the very top, we have the Chicago Cubs, having already clinched the NL Central with a 99-64 record. While Chicago has the best record in the National 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 their respective leagues. The Chicago 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 their respective leagues. The Chicago Cubs are the favorites to win the World Series this year and capture their first title in over a century.

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Jose Fernandez Dies in Boating Accident at Age 24

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 was known to take many boat trips with 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 a baby to her. The color of the icing was pink. The Marlins cancelled that day’s game against the Atlanta Braves, and took buses to Fernandez’s family and friends was held on Wednesday, September 28 at St. Brendan’s Church in Miami. Arias was four months pregnant. Thousands attended a public memorial at Marlins Park. Many signed a namebook. The baseball community continues to mourn his tragic death.
Men’s Soccer Looks To Repeat as Regional Champs: Win Home Opener 5-2

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, 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 show them a new way of doing things. They learn.” said Herrera. “They understand that this game is not just a game of soccer.”

Coach Herrera’s biggest expectation for the team is to continue 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.”

North Carolina Stripped of Championship Games

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 it’s 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 looses 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 hothed 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.