



## Trustees Fire Walter, Install Interim President in Surprise Move

ADRIANNA CABARALLO  
Co-EDITOR

Michael Redmond was appointed as the college's interim president on June 27, 2017 after B. Kaye Walter was fired.

Not only were the students and faculty surprised by his appointment, but Redmond himself was as well. He was offered the job not long before the BOT meeting.

“It happened very quickly,” Redmond said.

Before this, Redmond was getting ready to settle down and retire in Delaware. That day he was planning to drive down to Delaware where he would meet his family and guests at what was planned to become his retirement home.

“It was funny that night [of the BOT meeting]. My car was packed, I was on my way to Delaware where we're planning to retire eventually. We built our retirement home down there. We had a house full of guests,” he said.

Redmond is unable to break free from BCC and does not have any real desire to do so just yet. He has a long and extensive history with BCC and has served multiple positions at the college.

Redmond started his working at Bergen Community College in 1981 as an adjunct professor. A few years later he became a lecturer and an assistant professor of Philosophy and Religion.

After that, his role at the school became more administrative. He became a dean, then the college's first CIO, Chief Information Officer. He also became the college's Executive Vice President, a position which no longer exists. One of his accomplishments was assisting in building West Hall.

In 2008 he stepped down from the Executive Vice President position to get back into the classroom. He began teaching online courses and wrote a few textbooks for his students. At that point, Redmond



Interim President Michael Redmond // Adrianna Caraballo

began to wind down his career, but the opportunity to be interim president had emerged.

“It's part of my philosophy in life, opportunities present themselves, you don't always have to go chasing them, they just seem to arise. The only choice is to take them or not,” Redmond said.

This advice should be taken to heart by students who are thinking about their future, no matter who they are or where they come from.

“What I want to say to students is: you're starting a semester, and you may be coming to the semester with all kinds of attitudes and feelings. You might be scared, you might be unsure of yourself, but make

the most of it,” Redmond said.

During his time as the president of BCC, he believes he can make a change in the right way.

“I feel like I'm doing something that can make a difference if I do my job well, so in that sense, I feel pretty lucky right now, tired but lucky,” Redmond said.

Redmond has a number of things planned; the main goal is to put the focus on students. He wants to raise more money for scholarships and create a year-long series of events for BCC's 50th anniversary. It will take a lot of planning and effort, but he wishes to celebrate the college.

The biggest change Redmond is making is

revamping the website, making it more user-friendly for students. Redmond tried to register himself as a student and found it difficult: Navigating the website, in general, was a challenge. With the fall enrollment dropping, Redmond acknowledged that something had to be done.

“I said to my staff here, we have to do a better job,” he said.

Although it will take time, currently a splash page is up and running to make navigating the website a little easier for students.

“Tell them, we know about it, we're hearing them and we're trying to do something about it,” Redmond said.

## Board Removes President, Buys Out Contract

LESHAY JONES  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On June 27, the Board of Trustees held a meeting in which they voted to fire President B. Kaye Walter. The reasoning behind her termination is unclear seeing as there was “no cause,” according to the Board.

Walter, who had served as the head of the college since 2012, said that she was “surprised” when she found out that her contract was in danger. The board voted to buy out Walter's contract, paying her 12 months of salary at around \$225,000.

“The board thanks Dr. Walter for all of her service to the college. We will begin the search for a new president immediately,” said chairwoman of the board of trustees, Carol Otis, in a prepared statement.

When Walter's contract was last renewed in May 2014, the board received a lot of backlash

from faculty members who did not agree with her style of management. Due to this, the union representatives of the faculty passed a no-confidence vote against Walter.

According to Faculty Senate chairman, Dr. Alan Kaufman, a contract with the faculty union had been settled amicably and fairly.

The board appointed Dr. Michael Redmond, a former administrator and philosophy and religion professor who has worked at the college since 1981, as the new interim president.

The board has full confidence that Dr. Redmond and the current administrators will push Bergen forward and beyond.

“We are entering an age of transition, and we will preserve what is and what always has been good about the college. To do that, we must work in tandem

and in concord,” Otis said.

After Walter's termination, Redmond was put right to work and one of his first orders of business was placing a sign over the speaker button, where one had to request admittance through the adjacent one-way-glass door, that says “Please come in.”

Over the past few months, some notable changes have been made under Redmond's administration; such as the new Bergen website splash page that is designed to make the navigation of the website easier for students.

The board is on the lookout for a new president that will help Bergen Community College continue to soar. In the meantime, Dr. Redmond must help lead the college towards greatness.



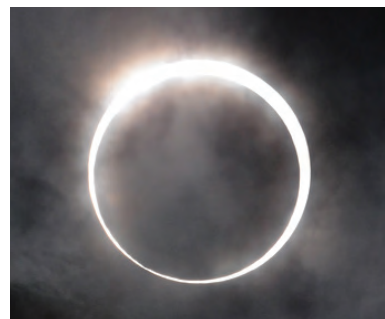
Former President B. Kaye Walter // bergen.edu



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# NEWS

## The Torch

## O.J. Simpson To Be Released from Prison

**PURNASREE SAHA**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Nine years ago O.J. Simpson was sentenced for up to 33 years of imprisonment for armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon and kidnapping in Las Vegas, NV. He's expected to go free on parole in early October of this year.

The former NFL star apologized for his role in the robbery in front of a Nevada parole board, which led to their decision to let Simpson go 24 years early.

At the age of 70, Simpson is spending his twilight years behind bars. When parole board Chairman Connie Bisbee accidentally said that Simpson was 90 years old, he laughed and said that he felt like it.

After Simpson gets released from prison around early October, he plans on returning back to his home in Florida.

O.J. (Orenthal James) Simpson, who was born in 1947 in San Francisco, California, nicknamed The Juice, was a professional athlete in the National Football League. Simpson developed rickets when he was born and had to wear braces on his legs until he was 5. In high school, Simpson played football for the Galileo Lions.

Simpson also manned both offense and defense at the City College of San Francisco from 1965 to 1966. Finally, he joined the Junior College All-American Team, where he was inducted as a running

back.

After earning an athletic scholarship, Simpson attended the University of South Carolina from 1967 to 1968. A football game between USC against UCLA in 1967 was considered to be one of Simpson's greatest performances. Although he didn't win the Heisman trophy after that season, he was in the running and eventually won the Walter Camp Award.

The following year he netted the top Heisman honors, which further rocketed him into stardom. In 1969 he was drafted to the Buffalo Bills, where he played running back for eleven seasons.

Even though Simpson fetched an annual salary of \$806,688 and was considered to be the highest paid football player of his time, he retired early due to his damaged knee. After leaving the NFL, he moved on to become a football broadcaster and an actor.

Simpson's Hollywood career began with the film "Back to the Beach" (1987). Subsequently, he starred in the trilogy "The Naked Gun" (1988, 1991, and 1994), in which he played a role as a dim-witted assistant detective.

He also showed up in TV commercials for Hertz, Monday Night Football and NFL on NBC brand.

After divorcing his wife Marguerite L. Whitley in 1967, Simpson started dating



// Wikimedia Commons

started dating a young waitress named Nicole Brown. The two got married in 1985--the year he was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Later on, Nicole complained to her friends and family members that her new husband was a physically abusive guy.

The two split seven years later. In 1994, Simpson was accused of stabbing his ex-wife and her friend Ronald Goldman. In a highly publicized trial, Simpson was charged with the murders but evaded any criminal penalties. But that wasn't Simpson's last brush with the law. During the Las Vegas robbery, he said his associates misled him and turned on him in court.

Tom Riccio was one of the people Simpson said threw him under the bus; he accepted a deal to avoid punishment.

Despite the severe sentencing, Simpson had familial and community support, stable release plans and no prior criminal convictions, all of which led to his early release. During the parole hearing, Simpson was painted as a peacemaker and model prisoner.

He said he did not make any excuses about his prior actions and apologized for the incidents that had landed him in jail. He claimed that he never wanted to hurt anyone in Las Vegas; he just needed to take back his personal things. Upon hearing the board's decision, Simpson thanked them enthusiastically.

But not everyone was so happy with the merciful reaction. As Clarence Hill Jr., a sports writer at The Star-Telegram, tweeted, "One lesson O.J. taught us: People don't change."

## Voters to Choose New Leadership in NJ

**OWEN MCCLOSKEY**  
COPY EDITOR

On November 7, New Jersey will vote in its gubernatorial election for a new governor, one to replace Republican pundit and Trump supporter Chris Christie. In yet another controversial race, the choices are split between the former Republican Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Democratic local outsider Phil Murphy.

Former Vice President Joe Biden called the New Jersey gubernatorial race the "most important" in the nation. New Jersey is riddled with endemic problems whose proposed solutions derive from local New Jersey governmental policies.

New Jersey bills could completely shift from the hardline conservative policies enacted by Christie's administration to a more progressive agenda.

A majority-Democratic state, New Jersey citizens are more enthusiastic toward liberal policies. According to random sampling polls from Quinnipiac University and Monmouth University, New Jerseyans support marijuana legalization and school reform, and oppose the proposed Republican healthcare plan by a margin of over 66 percent opposition.

Perhaps it's time for Jersey to take a break from the policies of Chris Christie, as well as enjoy a drive across the George Washington Bridge without any obstruction (Google "bridgegate").

Christie is synonymous with scandal, and a separate Monmouth University poll showed that once Christie spent a day on the beach after closing beaches and parks due to a government shutdown; Christie's NJ approval rating sunk to a borderline-laughable 15%.

Before New Jerseyans vote on such a potential shift in state political power, it is paramount that they become accustomed to the two candidates: their policies, personal backgrounds and their plans for the Garden State.

America's current political stature is akin to an MMA fight in well-pressed suits. Politicians are so consumed by

rhetoric and traditional values that many Americans are blinded by party and fail to draw information from both sides of the aisle, and many policies that politicians enact are colored by their party.

New Jersey's upcoming gubernatorial candidates, Murphy and current Lt. Gov. Guadagno, come from two different political backgrounds but still focus on similar issues, such as reforming NJ's housing crisis, the tightening of gun ownership laws, and the eradication of corruption in Trenton. However, despite their similarities in what they focus on, the candidates differ on how they are planning on fixing these issues.

On November 7, the leadership in New Jersey could be subject to a massive change, and the state of New Jersey must do their research on who could be leading them before it's time to cast the ballots.



Lt. Gov. Guadagno // Chief Warrant Officer John Edwards



Phil Murphy // Wikimedia Commons

## BCC Offers Help Managing Finances

**DAVID PEREZ**  
STAFF WRITER



The new Center for Financial Literacy next to registration, room A-121// Rebecca Karpinski

With a new semester starting and with new students coming in, it is important to know about the term "financial literacy" and all that it applies to. Thankfully, there is a Center for Financial Literacy open for all students. The center is located at One Stop in room A-121 and it is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Thursday, however, they are able to be flexible if they need be for the students.

This would be the first time an office/center like this would be available for students here at Bergen Community College.

The mission statement is on the college's website and is as follows: "The mission of the Center for Financial Literacy is to provide support for our students related to Personal Finance and Money Management thereby developing a culture of financial empowerment."

This is also backed up by an interview with Michelle Anders, Center Coordinator and Victor Anaya, The Executive Director of Finance.

"Really, we want to introduce a good basic foundation, a framework" said, Anders with regards to informing students on financial aid.

"Well, we are trying to and that is one of the challenges is to get the students

aware of the office and the resources available to them," Anaya said.

"A lot of times when high school students when they graduate they don't know about financial stuff," Anaya continued.

However, the center has also seen some faculty as well occasionally coming by, according to Anders.

The Center's coordinator, Anders, is usually be found behind the desk. Some of the things that the Center does is one-on-one appointments with students and the office is also able to be flexible for the students in evening classes for one on one appointments.

The Center has also done seminars and workshops with PTK and SGA along with workshops regarding FAFSA and identity theft that are open to the students if they wish to attend.

"Financial aid" is really an umbrella term for everything that all the money involved in getting a student can get to pay for school," said Anders.

The office is also able to help out with creating a budget for students for an entire month. They are also able to help with information on scholarships, grants and loans with regards to what they are and what they do in more detail.



# BCC Celebrates Bulldog Day

**PURNASREE SAHA**  
FEATURES EDITOR

On Tuesday, August 22, 2017, Bergen Community College held Bulldog Welcome Day for new students, athletes and family members in the student center.

According to Ian Wolf, Coordinator of Student Conduct, "The main purpose of having Bulldog Day was to help orient students with various aspects of campus life."

Students were capable of learning how to navigate through the campus and approach their first semester at BCC.

"Online orientation is going all the time and is mandatory for new students, but the on-campus orientation was an optional day for all new students," said Greg Fenkart, Coordinator of Student Development.

Students were encouraged to attend Bulldog Day through social media, e-mails, with the work of the admissions office and after they completed the online orientation.

Rafiullah Naveed and Joseph Sanchez were student staff members to get students checked in.

According to Rafiullah Naveed, "a lot of the students who are attending Bulldog Day are high school students, so I want students to make sure that college life is different from high school."

He also wanted new students to care for themselves and join clubs, which will give students information about

BCC.

"The orientation is good for students who are coming in the fall because it will give students a knowledge and understanding about where their classes are located and it's a week in advance before classes start," said Naveed.

Getting involved on campus helped Joseph Sanchez become social and improve his etiquette.

According to Joseph Sanchez, "Chances are you will never see the students again, so might as well say something."

The thing that Sanchez liked about orientation was that he likes to see new faces, meet and experience new people and learned how to handle situations.

"Bulldog Day is similar to past orientations, but the format was different due to the guest speaker," said Fenkart.

The guest speaker of the orientation was Geo Derice, who earned his Bachelor's degree in sports management from Saint John's University.

According to Geo Derice, "If you fully engage with school, college will be the time of your life."

During the lecture, Derice wanted to give students a head start and a momentum to succeed. The students were able to learn that shortcuts were "long-cuts" in disguise. Taking shortcuts will create long-cuts to students, which will lead to frustration with the college experience.

After Geo Derice's lecture, there was the "get connected" fair that brought the whole

college together and this involved all the departments and organizations such as PTK, Registration, Financial Aid, Tutoring Center and Student Life.

According to Sibora Peca, the President of SGA, "I am aware that a lot of students at BCC are having a hard time with their financials, scheduling their classes and taking care of their family, so they need a place just like home and where they could get helped."

There are also a variety of programs and services that Phi Theta Kappa offers for

new students, so the group as a chapter was encouraging new students to join the organization.

According to Marianna Maltsev, Vice President of Recruitment, "PTK, the society, offers 90 million dollars worth of scholarship and explains leadership skills that students could gain through the program."

New students are also capable of joining sports at BCC. Edgar Aguilar, the cross-country assistant coach showed the new students what sports are available during the fall semester.

Jim Bumgardner, professor of theater arts and advisor of Bergen Stages, had a conversation with new students on how they could get involved in Bergen Stages. Students do not have to be a theater major in order to participate in Bergen Stages and they had the option of being an actor or working on the stage.

Since first time students are constantly coming to BCC, it is recommended that they attend Bulldog Day because they will get an overview of what the campus is like.



Geo Derice addresses students in the Ciccone Theater // Rebecca Karpinski

## A Split Nation Comes Together In The Moon's Shadow

**REBECCA KARPINSKI**  
PHOTO EDITOR

On Monday, August 21, for the first time in nearly a century, a total solar eclipse was visible throughout the United States from Oregon to South Carolina.

A solar eclipse only occurs when the moon passes between the Sun and the Earth so that the Sun is fully or partially covered by the moon. Here in New Jersey, we viewed a partial solar eclipse with the moon only covering 80% of the sun.

This is the first total eclipse of the Sun visible in the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, since February 26, 1979. The last time a total eclipse was visible from coast to coast was on June 8, 1918.

Thousands of people, all over the nation, of all different types of ethnicities, cultures, age groups, religions and backgrounds stopped for a single moment, looked up at the sky and forgot about hate. For that short moment in time, people only focused on the sun, and not tearing each other down. For that single moment, the country was at peace.

Americans rarely come together to share a single event anymore, and when they do, usually political divisions take place. However, during the eclipse, millions of Americans set aside their differences and political standpoints to share in the wonder of a celestial event.

That's what makes all of this so special. The sun and moon don't discriminate. During a

*Thousands of people... stopped for a single moment, looked up at the sky and forgot about hate.*

*- Rebecca Karpinski*



Though not all were in the path of totality, those who were had a once in a lifetime view // Takeshi Kuboki



People used special glasses to safely view the eclipse. // Pixabay.com

solar eclipse, everything in the path of totality goes dark and anyone can look up and see the bright ring. All humans, animals, bugs and plants, Democrats and Republicans, Mets and Yankees fans, everyone no matter who they were got to see this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Yes, New Jersey citizens only got a slightly dimmer sky and not complete darkness, nor did we get a full solar eclipse, but still so many people were outside with their solar eclipse glasses that they all most likely purchased from their local 7-Eleven, bonding with complete strangers, looking up, trying to view the Great American Eclipse.

Some people in areas such as New Jersey have said that

this eclipse was a let down because they didn't get the full thing. The disappointment is understandable, but this eclipse was far from a let down.

It made people feel so small and insignificant compared to the world and universe around them and how life is so short they should enjoy the beauty around them while they still can.

To many other people, the eclipse symbolized the beginning of change; change in one's personal life or in the environment around them.

If the Great American Eclipse can bring a split nation together peacefully, then it could quite possibly be the beginning of a fresh start for America.





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# OPINIONS

## The Torch

### 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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**LESHAY JONES**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every time you turn on your TV or open up the news app on your phone, nine times out of ten you will see President Donald Trump's name sprawled across the screen in big, bold letters.

I never go a day without seeing his name in my Twitter, Instagram and Facebook feed.

Trump is everywhere and he probably wouldn't have it any other way, being the reality TV star that he once was, and arguably still is.

I know you have probably heard it 101 times, but I am going to tell you for the 102nd time that the media is extremely important in this day and age.

With the constant updates on Trump, his administration and their "alternative facts", it is important for media outlets to triple-check their own facts before putting something out there.

Print media has it way worse than online outlets such



The media is a popular target for Trump's frustration and rage. // Rebecca Karpinski

as BuzzFeed, because once it is out there, there is no going back and changing it, and with things in the White House constantly changing, it can be frustrating trying to keep up.

Whenever I read or write something about Trump and

his administration, I make sure that I get a second or third source for confirmation, because we all know that this is the era of fake news. It is no secret that the President has indeed told many lies, especially during his cam-

paign, which is another factor that makes it hard to keep up with him. I don't know about you, but I constantly find myself doubting what Trump says.

In July, Trump tweeted that after he consulted with military officials, they decided to put a ban on transgender people because they did not want to be "burdened" by the medical expenses.

However, military officials said the matter had not been discussed and there was no official policy put into place. Now, I did not trust the man before this instance, however, whatever little trust I did have for him completely diminished and it made realize that I have to be even more careful and conscious of what's going on in the White House.

# SGA President's Letter

Dear Student Body,

On behalf of Student Government Association, I would like to give you a warm welcome to Bergen Community College. I am Sibora Peca and this year I am honored to serve as your Student Government President. I would describe myself as an optimistic individual who believes that every experience is a chance to leave a mark and a legacy in our community.

I know the struggle of coming as a new student to college, the struggle of finding a place to belong, the struggle of choosing a major, the struggle of finding money to pay for college and I know the struggle of attending college while you have to take care of your family.

I also know that there is a solution for all of these obstacles. I know that at Bergen, we have amazing programs and diverse resources that help us succeed. We have an amazing faculty and staff that is here to hold our hand and direct us to better opportunities. What is most amazing is that among students you see in hallways and in your class, there are incredible individuals who are full of spirit and inspiration to help you turn your time here into a life learning experience.

My main goal is to create ways to share all the necessary information that will help you throughout your journey here at Bergen. Please, do not hesitate to come visit me at



The new SGA President, Sibora Peca. // bergen.edu

semester, club meetings and different workshops. I really encourage you to join Student Government. We definitely need your contribution in our

organization to make this campus a better environment and to have a more involved student body. Please visit [bergen.edu/sga](http://bergen.edu/sga) and fill out the

online application. SGA trusts in you!

Have a wonderful semester,  
Sibora Peca



# Work That Fro

LESHAY JONES  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Once upon a time, many of the girls you saw would have straight silky hair, despite their natural texture. Many African American girls were willing to put harmful chemicals into their hair in order to give it that look.

Then one day, these women traded in their flat irons for scissors so that they could start fresh, finally noticing the harmful effects of relaxers and texturizers. Suddenly, they wanted to embrace their natural kinks and curls.

Today, natural hair is more prominent than ever, and African American women could not be more proud of their kinky curls.

If I had a dollar for every time someone called my hair “nappy,” I would be a billionaire by now. Going natural in the middle of 8th grade, when a lot of black girls were still getting perms and texturizers, I was an easy target.

Looking back, it seems like these girls were trying so hard to ignore their roots and assimilate into white American culture and because I went against the grain, I was not one of them.

At first, I only went natural because my older sister went natural and, although I would never admit this to her, I wanted to be just like her at that age. It wasn’t until I went to high school when I started to realize that my natural hair went much further than the roots on my head.

When I walked the halls at school, people didn’t even give my hair a second glance; in fact, people would compliment it.



Natural hair has become increasingly popular over the past few years. // Pixabay.com

As I went through high school, more and more girls started to go natural and I started to become more confident with my hair. I’d be lying if there weren’t times when I wanted to throw in a texturizer or put a flat iron to my hair, but these urges went away the more I fell in love with my hair.

There were still the comments about my hair being nappy but they were not coming from my African American peers anymore. My Caucasian classmates would use my hair as an insult.

Comments like, “that’s why your hair is nappy,” or questions like, “why does your hair look like that?” became constant.

However, for every comment like that, I got about five positive comments about my hair. Now, I will get girls stopping me in the halls at school and at the store asking me what I put in my hair and how I got the curls to look the way that they do. After a while those comments became jokes to me because I knew that my curls were beautiful and knowing that made me stronger and more confident.

Once upon a time, black girls with natural hair were something that was negative and considered to be ugly. Now, we couldn’t be more happy with our “nappy” heads.

# ISIS is Intangible

OWEN MCCLOSKEY  
*COPY EDITOR*

The Islamic State, IS, ISIS. The various names of the abhorrent group have unfortunately become household, and nearly everyone on Earth has a microscope on the group attributed to a slew of recent terror attacks across the globe.

Through black market oil sales, ISIS, only a year after their inception, would generate some \$1 billion through black market oil sales. Videos and accounts of captured Americans, Europeans and Syrians being beheaded were circulated online and on-the-air, CNN says.

ISIS fortunately hasn’t made headlines lately. Iraqi Security Forces and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, backed by the United States, have retaken the war-torn city of Mosul earlier this year, and Raqqa - another Iraqi stronghold formerly under ISIS control - is well on the way to being recaptured. Pockets of ISIS resistance dot the streets of Raqqa, only to be picked off block-by-block by Iraqi Security, with U.S. and British support.

ISIS seems to be on the decline. Its former territory has shrunk exponentially, and its troop numbers have dwindled significantly, but ISIS is no longer confined to the Middle East.

ISIS-affiliated soldiers had taken the city of Marawi in the Philippines, only to be nearly eradicated just a few weeks later by militaristic Filipino President Duterte’s local police - but the fact that a poisonous ideology spread intercontinentally from the Middle East and coerced a group to take arms and capture a developed city thousands of miles away is quite disheartening.

ISIS has inspired marauders around the globe to commit acts of terror; most notably in Paris two years ago, where militants orchestrated several lethal attacks around the city, including the Bataclan Theatre Massacre.

The Islamic State lacks a modern



Though a serious threat, ISIS is difficult to pinpoint and, therefore, destroy. // Wikimedia Commons

military and advanced weaponry, but their ideology can spur violence nearly anywhere there is a susceptible mind that could be warped. ISIS may have lost much of their territory in the Middle East, but any radicalized person with a weapon, no matter their geological location, could join their ranks or commit atrocities in their name.

Many analysts have drawn parallels between the ongoing Middle-Eastern conflict and the Vietnam War, and there are many parallels: the proxy war between Western and Eastern superpowers, the guerilla warfare used by native people and military intervention from further-developed nations.

New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman states, on the cusp of a Vietnam visit, ‘that the core political drama of Vietnam was an indigenous nationalist struggle against colonial rule.’

However, the religious tension and spread of the Islamic State’s ideology could prove more potent than that of the Communist sentiments propagated by the NVA. To start, governmental and theological ideals are completely averse.

In contrast to the Communist ideals of the NVA and North Vietnamese government, the Sunni-Shiite conflict is more theologically-based. This means that the conflict arose from centuries of religious strife between two oppositional sects of Islam, not solely a federally-spread ideology.

ISIS was able to control such an immense swathe of land because of the adversarial relationship between Iraq and Syria’s two main religious groups: the Sunni and Shiite Muslims. The pro-Shiite regimes of Iraq and Syria oppressed the native Sunni population for years, a population that included radicalized Sunnis who would later form the Islamic State.

Enthusiastic for any change in leadership, a faction of downtrodden Sunnis embraced ISIS ideology. After all, the al-Assad and al-Malaki

regimes were brutal toward the citizens of Iraq and Syria, citizens who were unaware that the law under the Islamic State’s caliphate would be even more vicious.

Although the pro-Shiite Iraqi and Syrian governments bombarded the population with their philosophy, ISIS was born out of oppression. While the NVA was supported heavily by the North Vietnamese Communist government, the Islamic State had been subject to war with the governments of their countries of origin. Because of this, ISIS would behave much like a separatist or rebel group, denouncing other governments without fear of sanctioning or condemnation.

The Islamic State’s system of beliefs resides within the broader scope of Islam, and its poisonous rhetoric taints the reputation of Islam as a whole. Uninformed people can be convinced that Islam as a whole spouts violence, because of the ideals of a tiny minority, but this may play into the hands of the Islamic State and those who adopt its ideals.

The fact that acts of terror could be caused by radicalized people on different continents shows that the Islamic State’s rhetoric is unlike others in that it can produce violence in the form of religious retribution. After all, few Vietnamese soldiers truly killed in the name of Communism, rather, they fought against what they thought was colonialism.

Although the Islamic State despises the cultural ideals of Western nations, it’s easier to spread a crusade against heresy than one against governmental differences.

Weapons alone will not destroy ISIS. The United States and its allies can bomb the Islamic State all they want; but ISIS is intangible. ISIS is no longer an army, but an idea, and the idea must be quelled before more bloodshed occurs.



REBECCA KARPINSKI  
PHOTO EDITOR

Every day that you choose to go on living in this world of suffering is another chance to affect someone’s life in a positive way. Your life story has the potential to be a tale of victory, however, it may be difficult.

No matter how weak, sad, scared and angry you feel, the fact of the matter is that deep down within you is the ability to channel the same amount of negative energy toward positivity. Negative emotions require you to use more strength because suffering equals strength. The world is full of people who are suffering, but you know what? It is also full of people who are overcoming it.

You are stronger than you know. How do I know? I have always been plagued by demons of self-hate. I am still tormented by the ruthlessness of my own self-degradation every single day, but I choose to use it as motivation.

I channel that anger and use that energy to keep on working towards the goals that I want to achieve. I get pissed off and work harder to prove myself and everyone who doubts me.

I’ve decided that there are only two types of people in this world: those who decide their own destiny, and those who let others and external situations decide what their destiny will be like.

The only type of people who will try to control how you feel about yourself are the people who can be controlled. This is why they try to drag you down. Why? It’s because they are stagnant.

Those kind of people do not want to see anyone rise because when you rise above them in your life and start making the progress in ways that make you happy, they have no choice but to look up to see you. They also know that the higher you rise, the smaller they look in your eyes.

In a study conducted by Emory

University, the study shows that the rate of suicide is between .5 and 7.5 per 100,000 among college students. The study also states that suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people aged 25 to 34 and the third-leading cause of death among people aged 15 to 24.

Also in that research, they found that groups that are particularly at risk for reflection and attempt are male, white, and under the age of 21.

This research also states shows that 1/10 college students have made a plan for suicide. Suicidal thoughts, making plans for suicide, and suicide attempt are higher among adults aged 18 to 25 than among adults over the age of 26 and longterm thoughts of attempting suicide are reported to occur among 5 percent of graduate students and 18 percent of undergraduates.

In all honesty, I could go into sage mode and hit you with enough philosophical quotes from history’s most prolific thinkers. I could fill up a book with quotes to try and inspire you to keep fighting for the amazing destiny that is waiting for you. However, you will only keep fighting if you never give up and always believe in yourself.

What it all really boils down to is one simple truth: that you are valuable because you possess the ability to affect the lives of others in a positive way. You are you - and you are alive.

Just like I am attempting to do for you right now through this article as I fight to see through tear filled eyes to type these words from my heart to you that I feel so passionately about. Everyone is fighting a battle. No one is really that happy, but we all desperately want to be.

Regardless of the mood that you are in, it is not that difficult to just be nice to people for no reason. You never know

just how close to the edge someone is just to giving up. One simple act of kindness and just general common courtesy, like holding the door open for someone with a smile and wishing them a nice day, can change someone’s disposition.

This is just one simple thing that could make someone smile for a second, turn someone’s entire day around, give them a moment of solace and grant them a bit of hope and optimism that they might not have had before you came along and did something nice.

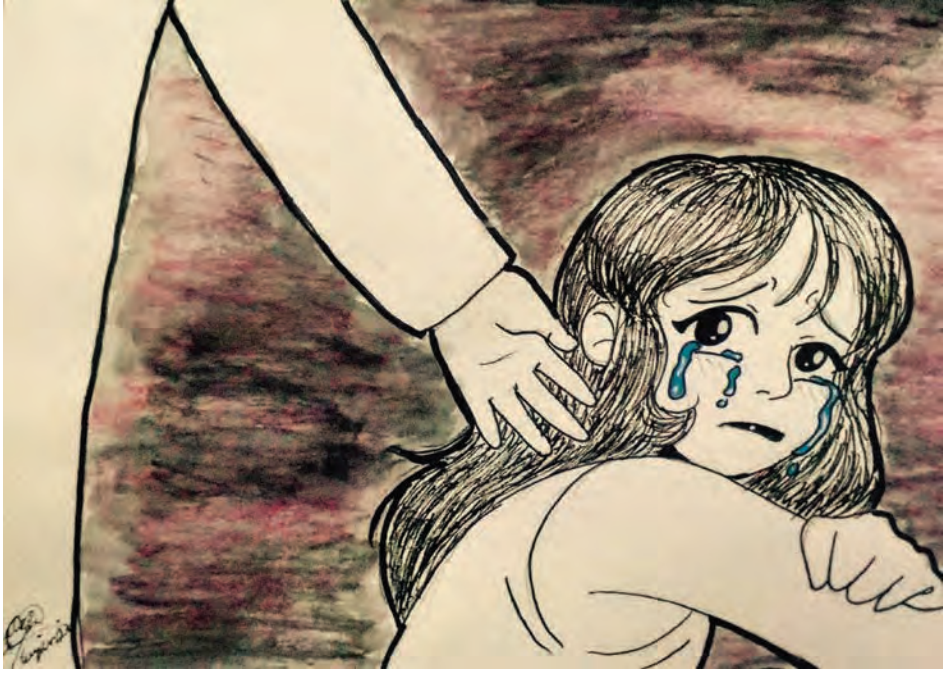
I don’t see any reason why I should ever pass an opportunity to do that for others. That reason alone is one of the main reasons why, no matter how messed up my life has been in the past, I will never give up on my opportunity to be alive so that I can affect the lives of others in positive ways.

If you really need someone to talk

to and vent all of your emotions out of your system, I highly recommend visiting Bergen’s personal counselors. I’ve been to the counselors many times and they really are very helpful. Everything you say to your personal counselor is 100% confidential. What you say in that office stays in that office.

They are located in the Center For Health, Wellness, and Personal Counseling, HS-100, in the Pitkin Learning Center of the Main College campus. You can make appointments by walking into the office or calling 201-447-9257. Walk-in appointments are also available. Also, personal counseling is free for all students.

You are not worthless nor unimportant. Your life is precious to humanity. We need you to overcome your hardships to provide inspiration to others who are also ready to give up.



You are never alone. // Rebecca Karpinski

# The Casualties of Capitalism

CHARLIE LEPPERT  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Fundamentalism, in all of its forms, is a poison. Any worldview that excludes interpretation or difference destroys any hope of progress, and often dooms itself by ignoring the context in which the individual functions.

For example, I am a socialist. I believe that, in an industrialized society, private control over production is not a necessity to innovation or efficiency.

However, I am not currently advocating for a socialist revolution; I understand that the political and economic climate of the United States, both historic and current, would make this impossible right now. I understand that just because I hold a certain set of beliefs does not mean that, at this precise moment in history, my ideas are right for everyone. I have plenty of room in my world view for others’ perspectives, and a healthy consideration for the zeitgeist.

I am certain that many Americans, if not most, would agree with me that a belief that makes no room for the ideas of others or for the milieu is dangerous at best. It is shocking, then, how comfortable Americans are accepting of a fundamentalist capitalist belief. The concept that the free market must be preserved in its “purest form,” with the least intervention possible, is a popular one in the United States.

However, no economic system is infallible, and the failings of capitalism have become quite lethal in some cases.

The growing gap between poor and rich Americans has created a strained, shrinking middle class, many of whom were hit especially hard by the 2008 economic crash. These growing impoverished populations struggle to find health care, a situation exacerbated by a lack of access to healthy food and labor which puts them at high risk for injury. These high risk jobs, on the other hand, have seen little-to-

no raise increases in decades, despite skyrocketing inflation and an ever-ballooning cost of living.

Rising costs of education perpetuate this plight; college degrees are required in order to find jobs with living wages, but these degrees are prohibitively expensive for most.

Of course, the free market has its benefits, and there are certainly those who are untouched by our nation’s current economic hardships. However, the basic American beliefs of empathy and equality with which I was raised implore me to reject any system that would allow people to starve, suffer and perish for the sake of profit. If America is truly the land of the free and the home of the brave, then we cannot value the interest of the few over the survival of the many.

It is critical that we realize the destruction capitalism has caused and accept the need for reform before it is too late. If left to devolve any further, America’s “free market” could consume countless more lives. Though the complete overthrow of capitalism is hardly on the horizon for the United States, it is imperative that reforms are made to protect Americans from the toxicity of fundamentalist capitalism.

It is time to reclaim our compassion and our sense of community to become a nation that places people over profit, protecting the good of the whole over the interest of the few.



Capitalism poses a threat. // Rebecca Karpinski

# Side Effects: Munchies

BRIYA GARDNER  
AD MANAGER

So I know you’re probably reading this right now thinking, “what can this article tell me about weed that I don’t already know?” Well you’ll be surprised by what comes next.

Cannabis, better known to the public as marijuana or weed, has made its groundbreaking return to the main stage, and this time - it’s legally recreational.

The first state to make weed legal medically was California in 1996 under Proposition 215. This proposition simply states that anyone who lives in California with an illness can engage in the use of marijuana if their physician deems it beneficial. California then went on to make the use of recreational weed legal in 2016.

Since then, many states seemed to have followed California’s lead, New Jersey being one of them but with very strict laws.

In New Jersey the patient must suffer from at least one of the following in order to be eligible:

- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Terminal Cancer
- Muscular Dystrophy

What many people don’t know is that weed does more than give a sensational high. It can help with settling many other illnesses.



Medical Marijuana has become increasingly popular and legally accessible in recent years. // Wikimedia Commons



Negative connotations still persist, despite medical benefits.// pixabay.com

In 2012, CNN reported on a story about six-year-old, Jayden David, who had violent seizures regularly. Jayden couldn’t walk, eat solid foods or take a bath as most children do. Jayden began taking a liquid form of weed and his seizures stopped. He does everything a young child loves to do like playing at the park and swimming with his friends.

As mentioned before the way, Jayden David took it was as a liquid. Weed can also be found in many other forms as well.

It can be baked into cookies and brownies which is recognized as “edibles.” It can even be cooked into food. There are over twenty-five Youtube channels dedicated to teaching you how to cook with weed.

Weed can also be found in oil form, wax form, hash, kief and shatter. There is also the “traditional” way by rolling into a “blunt” or a “joint.” What’s the difference you ask?

Well, blunts are cigar paper that weed is rolled into and joints are regular rolling paper which can be described as “thinner” and “flimsier” than cigar paper.

Although weed is controversial here in the US, many people don’t realize its beneficial properties. Weed isn’t a cure for anything but it is the first step to the cure.



# Gene Manipulation: A Moral Standpoint

OWEN MCCLOSKEY

COPY EDITOR

Every Internet user - which, I assume, pretty much includes everyone - has seen hilariously-edited photoshops of outlandish creatures on the side of their browser, usually accompanied by a flashing banner that might read something along the lines of: has science gone too far?

Humanity has accomplished some remarkable achievements, but genetically crossbreeding a chicken with a fish or reviving a fossilized creature aren't things crossed off of our bucket list.

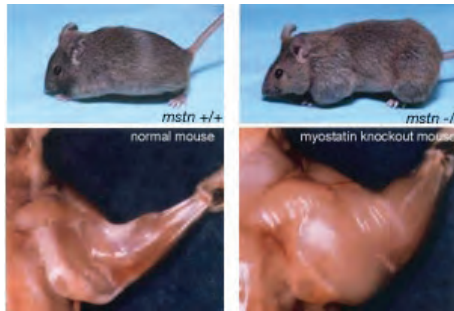
However, competition in agriculture and an exploding demand for food due to a booming population have led to farmers creating doing some abominable experiments in the field of genetics.

The image above might look photoshopped, but this widely circulated picture was taken in 2010 and depicts an actual breed of cattle known as the Belgian Blue, whose ancestors from the 1850s were crossbred generationally in an upper region of Belgium. The cattle are still being crossbred today, according to the Animal Science Department of Oklahoma State University, and in the Province of Liege in Belgium by Professor Hanset of the AI Center.

The females of this breed can reach over 1,000 pounds and the males can reach a staggering 1,700 lbs - or just short of a ton.

According to The Cold Springs Laboratory Press, a science editorial, the growth of these cows are caused by the disruption of a gene called myostatin, which is done through a meticulous style of crossbreeding. Myostatin regulates muscle growth, and makes sure one's body keeps the building of proteins in check.

The Cold Springs Lab ran an



"Knockout" mice, a product of the "double-muscling" gene manipulation using myostatin disruption. // ergo-log.com

experiment that affected the myostatin of lab mice, creating a breed dubbed "myostatin knockout mice".

The success of the experiments made it clear that suppressing myostatin across a number of species can lead to an extreme development in muscle growth.

But doesn't this cause these bovines and mice (don't worry lab mice, you're not forgotten) an immense amount of pain and reduced quality of life?

Although the breeding of these cows and bulls may seem a bankable venture, the repercussions on the livestock are horrific.

PETA correspondent, Angela Henderson, reports that the Belgian Blue cattle have serious difficulty with pregnancy due to their size, and the animals nearly always require C-sections to deliver their offspring. The calves may have a number of birth defects, including enlarged tongues, which obstructs nursing.

They may also suffer from cardio-respiratory, bone, and joint problems. Usually, these gargantuan animals die prematurely.

Belgian Blues aren't the only animals that are tampered with. Everything from chickens, sheep and pigs to carp and silkworms are genetically modified to prevent

diseases and improve their agricultural output.

There are even reports of featherless chicken which are bred in Tel Aviv, Israel. These chickens suffer from reduced mating and susceptibility to cold temperatures.

Naturally, a philosophy sets in: do the obvious moral objections of putting livestock through these deplorable conditions outweigh the benefits of having a larger and more lucrative livestock industry?

GMO-tinkering with vegetables obviously has its own issues regarding bacterial strengthening and pesticide use, but crossbreeding animals poses an entirely separate set of moral issues.

Past the point of the morality, double-muscling could pose some economic problems. The shortened lifespan of these Belgian cattle could render them useless, not to mention the problems regarding the birth of the livestock. The issues with the upkeep of these enormous cattle may not even be worth the continuation of their breeding.

However, there are arguments on the side of selective breeding of cattle. The world population will reach 10 billion by 2050, and starting in 2005, National Geographic found that half of the Earth's surface is already dedicated to agriculture. With space running out and not enough food for the growing population, perhaps GMO modification is an adept response to the impending population boom.

It might be impossible for humanity to produce enough food for its growing population without the use of genetic modification because the capacity for farmland in the world is almost diminished.

Could genetic modification save humanity? Is the cost of ruining the natural ecosystem of Earth worth the potential for further survival?

Perhaps researchers should focus on other ways to create sustainable food sources without causing a grief-stricken life for these animals, and the selective breeding of livestock may backfire if their genomes are changed to a fatal extent.



The Belgian Blue bull, also a product of "double muscling" gene manipulation. // Wikimedia Commons

## Immigration, behind the curtain

ADRIANNA CARABALLO

Co-EDITOR



A mural protesting discriminatory immigration policies// Mary Anne Enriquez

I've finally done it; I've found a worse place to be than the Department of Motor Vehicles: the office of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. In this place, cell phones, food and drink are not permitted.

The air is stiff and somber and many of the immigrants waiting are looking down like they have done something wrong.

It is not the ideal place to spend my Friday, but I went to support a family member of mine. Although I was rather uncomfortable, all was fine until my family member went into biometrics and I went in with her.

I sat down next to her and my father came and sat down as well. Soon, a worker asked my father in a rather curt tone, "Why are you here?" It pretty much went downhill from there as my

father argued with the employee.

We were not supposed to be in biometrics, however, my father wouldn't allow the man to get away with being rude.

"Sir, you're hurting my feelings," my father said. He caused the room to chuckle, breaking them out of that somber mood. He carried on and my father and I were escorted out of the area.

"What are they going to do? Send me back to Ohio?" my father said to me, reassuring me that they could not do anything since we were U.S citizens. It is my strong belief that my father did what all those other people wanted to do: put the rude worker in his place.

I don't see why people need to feel fearful or why they need to be handled in a rough manner. Respect is not exclusive to those who hold U.S. citizenships. It is hard to believe that a country made up of immigrants has such hostility towards them.

Now more than ever America is lashing out on immigrants, blaming them for taking jobs and crime. This belief is enforced by the current leader of the country, President Donald Trump.

Trump has faced much backlash for his anti-immigrant ideas, but many Americans still support him in his effort to build a wall and deport illegal immigrants. Immigrants are not the source of evil that Trump believes them to be.

Most are struggling families or single mothers with children. When I was in USCIS I saw many single mothers with children.

I urge you to educate yourselves on immigrants, who are they and what their purpose is. I would also urge you to treat them with the same respect you would give any human being.

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*Broadway Meets  
Bluegrass  
pg. 10*

*Conspiracy  
Theories  
pg. 11*



# FEATURES

## The Torch

### BCC APPOINTS NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

**PURNASREE SAHA**  
FEATURES EDITOR

On June 19, 2017, Dr. Waldon Joseph Hagan became Vice President of Student Affairs at Bergen Community College.

Prior to coming to Bergen, Hagan served as Vice President of Student Development and Success at Mt. Hood Community College in Oregon. Hagan earned a Bachelor's degree in English at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette.

As an undergraduate, Hagan started working in student affairs as a resident assistant in 1987, so he has been in the student affairs field for 30 years. In addition, Hagan was highly involved in several student organizations/activities, including sports and the Greek letter charity group, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Hagan went on to earn both a MS in counseling and then a Ph.D. in educational research and psychology from the University of Memphis.

"It's exciting because I get to work with a wonderfully talented group of professionals in advancing the mission of the college: student access, persistence, and success," Hagan said.

He jokingly adds that BCC likes him so much that they are allowing him to serve as BCC's Title IX

*"I get to work... advancing the mission of the college: student access, persistence, and success."*

Coordinator, a role he has held at other higher education institutions.

Hagan and his team also work continually on creating a student-centered culture. As the VPSA, he provides leadership to the offices of Admissions, Student Activities,

Registrar, One-Stop, Enrollment Management, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Athletics and Veterans Affairs.

Essentially, as VPSA, Hagan focuses on providing executive-level leadership for programming, policy

development, human resources, facilities, fiscal resource management, strategic planning, oversight and coordination.

"Staying organized and managing my time wisely are big challenges. So much goes on in a day and a week—meeting with various people, departments, and divisions at the college to keep things operating smoothly. All these activities demand that I stay organized and carve out time to do the work that will well position the College for meeting its goals and objectives," Hagan said.

On any given day, Hagan might be in a meeting providing leadership and guidance for the development and implementation of high quality and student-centered approaches to support student success or collaborating with Academic Affairs to support student learning or championing student-centered decision making throughout the institution.

Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Waldon Joseph Hagan does a lot and it is good to know that his philosophy is to put students first always so that we will have a campus culture dedicated to helping students meet their goals and realize their dreams.



Waldon Hagan, the new Vice President of Student Affairs // Waldon Hagan

### The Life of Chester Bennington, Linkin Park Legend

**PURNASREE SAHA**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Chester Bennington, who was the lead singer and songwriter of the band Linkin Park, committed suicide on July 20th, 2017 at the age of 41. He hung himself in his home in Palos Verdes Estates, California, just two months after his best friend, Chris Cornell, also committed suicide. He leaves behind his wife Talinda Ann Bentley and his six children.

Bennington was born in Phoenix, Arizona on March 20, 1976. His death shocked and saddened many people around the world.

"Shortly after 9am in the morning, we were notified by law enforcement of a death," Brian Elias, chief of operations for the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner, said.

It was Bennington's feeling of loneliness and experiences that led him to become a multi-platinum American rock singer. His father was a police detective and his mother was a nurse, and they got divorced when Bennington was 11 years old.

After Bennington's parents were separated, he was sexually abused, and eventually, he became addicted to drugs. He began abusing cocaine, marijuana, alcohol, opium and methamphetamine.

At age 17, Bennington's mother found out about his habits and refused to let him leave the house. Many of his fellow high school students also bullied him for looking skinny and different, which further led to feelings of isolation.

Before becoming a professional singer, Bennington worked part-time at Burger King just to earn a living. Meanwhile, he read poetry, wrote songs and drew to feed his artistic solace.

In 1993, he joined the band Sean Dowdell and His Friend and later Grey Daze and recorded three albums.



Bennington performs at the O2 Arena in London // Wikipedia

Bennington's first marriage was with Samantha Marie Olit in 1996. Two years after tying the knot with Olit, he decided to leave Grey Daze because of Jeff Smith, the vice-president of A&R at Zomba Music.

He allowed Bennington to audition as a lead singer for the group Linkin Park. In 2000, Linkin Park released a debut album known as Hybrid Theory, which achieved a lot of success and was considered to be the best selling album of the year.

Meteora, released under Warner Bros, was a Linkin Park's next album in 2003. It was launched to No.1 in the U.S. charts and No.2 in Australia right after it was released. The hit song "Numb" was found on this album.

In 2005, Bennington created a new a rock band named Dead by Sunrise. Their songs did not sync well with Linkin Park's style, but they were well-written and were considered to be successful. Bennington then released the album "Out Of Ashes" in 2009 with Dead by Sunrise.

In the year he founded the new band, Bennington split up with Olit and married Playboy model Talinda Bentley.

Regarding his divorce from Olit, Bennington said during an interview in 2009, "The difficult part was losing all my money, starting my life over and having to pay the person I didn't want to be around in the first place."

A Thousand Suns, which was

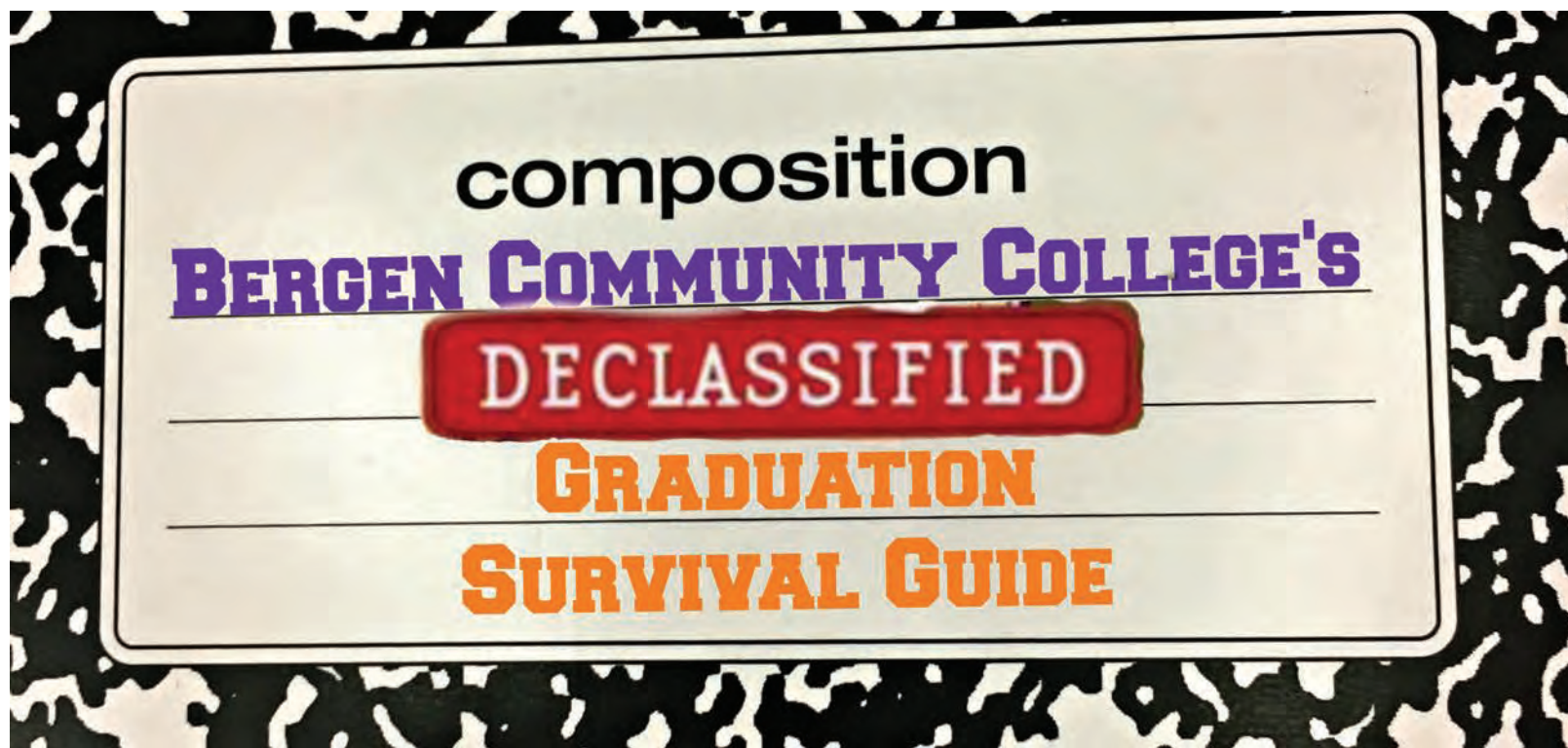
released in 2010, was Linkin Park's fourth album and it received many positive reviews. Once again, Bennington took the lead of vocals and lyrics. This album was multi-concept because it highlighted the pretexts nuclear warfare.

After singing for Linkin Park, Bennington stopped drinking and taking drugs for a stretch. He even dabbled in Hollywood, playing roles in films such as Saw 3D.

Bennington's final public work was One More Light with Linkin Park this past May. The band was scheduled to go on tour, but concerts were cancelled as news of Bennington's suicide trickled through the music world.



# NINE WAYS TO SURVIVE BCC



ALYSSA BLUNDO  
STAFF WRITER

*Navigating college can be a difficult and stressful experience// Rebecca Karpinski*

College can be exciting to many students, but it can also be scary for those who are not familiar with the campus. By using these nine steps, students don't have to worry; they will have everything that they need to help them tackle their first year of college with ease.

## 1. Utilize Campus Resources:

There are various types of resources on campus that can help students tremendously in the academic world of college. The library is a perfect place where students can study, relax, and work on their assignments. It is open on Monday through Friday from 7:40 a.m. to 10:40 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the Fall and Spring semester. The library can be found on the second floor around the corner from the cafeteria and straight ahead if taking the elevator by the public safety desk.

Next, The Cerullo Learning Assistance Center is one of the top tutoring centers in the country, which provides one on one tutoring to guide students in any subject, but students need to schedule an appointment to use it. The Writing Center and the Math and Science Walk in Center also provide one-on-one tutoring, but no appointments have to be scheduled.

Lastly, the Testing Center is where students with accommodations can receive extra time on an exam. In order to enter the testing center on the first day or any day they desire, students need to sign a form stating that they should adhere to the rules and responsibilities of the Testing Center. The testing center is located in Room S127, right across from the gymnasium.

## 2. Accommodations:

Accommodations help students with disabilities, so they can take their classes with ease. Students are able to take extra time on an exam in any subject and have calculator usage for their math classes. To get accommodations, the Office of Specialized Services in Room L-115 sends out email notifications with a sheet attached, which would allow students to print out and sign. This will help the students accommodate toward their classes and be able to learn the same classwork as the other students surrounding them, but with assistance from these resources.

## 3. Take a Study Break:

If students are doing difficult assignments for their classes on campus, taking a study break is crucial for them. If students feel overwhelmed, they should stop by the cafeteria, which is located on the second floor after exiting the elevator or by taking the stairs by the registration windows which is past the Student Center. Other food establishments are Dunkin Donuts and Bergen Pizza, which can be found in the Student Center to the right after entering the doors of the main building.

## 4. Getting Involved:

College may be all about work, but it can also be fun by getting involved in numerous clubs and organizations on campus. Students can join: Bergen PRIDE, Alpha & Omega Club, Environmental Club, F- WORD Club, Anime Club, The Torch Student

Newspaper, Softball, and many other clubs and organizations. As students participate in these activities on Campus, they can build friendships, expand their knowledge on an issue in our community, participate in bake sales, and fun trips, or even look for a possible career choice.

## 5. Show School Spirit:

College is the best place to show off school spirit. Attending events on campus such as: sports games, plays, workshops or even helping a club raise money by buying a baked good can help students get their self out there. It is also a great way to break the ice with others who share the same common goal.

## 6. Be Prepared:

When looking for school materials, go the Bookstore, which is located past the registration desk. Students can find textbooks, pens, pencils, post-its and other items that they may need for their classes. They can also buy t-shirts, sweatshirts, or sweatpants that are comfortable and supports their school.

## 7. Dropping Classes:

If there is a class that is too hard for students or if they are in danger of failing, then they can drop that class by going to the kiosk outside of Room A-118. There, they can select the Add/Drop Classes tab button and then put in their student ID number and phone number. Students will then receive a ticket with a wait time and the section they have searched for. By dropping their class with this kiosk, they can add

another class to fill that void.

## 8. Are Students Lost? We can Help:

It is normal to get lost on a big campus during their first year of college. However, with assistance from the Information Desk, which is located in the Student Center by the doors of the main building, informed students will direct students to any location inside or outside the Campus. Other ways students can get guidance would be to ask other students on Campus, Public Safet or their classmates. Lastly, they can check the nearest map of the Campus on any of the three floors of BCC.

## 9. Get to Know BCC Shuttle:

For students who take the shuttle to and from the Campus, it is a free service that allows them to travel Monday through Friday that picks up and drops off in front of the Pitkin Education Center. Though, this service is available for current students, they can see the shuttle through the doors of the Pitkin Building and check the schedule of the BCC shuttle. The schedule is found on the BCC website and in front of the Information Desk. As the year progresses, students will be able to ride this shuttle to and from the Campus.

By using these steps during the first year of college, it will help students become successful at BCC and help create many experiences throughout the year. Good luck, study well and have fun.



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[info.njit.edu/transfer](http://info.njit.edu/transfer)

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# Broadway Meets Bluegrass at B. B. Kings



**REBECCA KARPINSKI**  
PHOTO EDITOR

On July 23rd and 24th, London's very own West End and Broadway actor Ramin Karimloo married the captivating show tunes of Broadway with the sweet beckonings of bluegrass music at B. B. King's Blues Club and Grill.

Known as one of the most formidable talents in the theater world, Karimloo was known for his portrayal of leading roles such as Prisoner 24601, Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* (which granted him a Tony nomination in the 2014 Broadway revival), as the Viscount Raoul Vicomte de Changy and as the Phantom in *Phantom of the Opera*.

Karimloo was hand-picked by Andrew Lloyd Webber himself to play the iconic lead role again in his sequel to *The Phantom of the Opera*; *Love*

Never Dies when it was showing in London's West End. He is currently starring on Broadway as the antagonist, Gleb Vagonov, in *Anastasia*.

At Karimloo's B. B. King's performance, he performed a wide arrangement of various songs from Broadway classics such as "Bring Him Home" from *Les Misérables*, and "Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin'" from *Oklahoma* along with some original songs such as "Broken", "She Is Loved (Wings)" and "Traveller's Eyes".

"I was honestly shocked at the impact and the amount of emotion in his voice," said audience member and theater lover Kayla Drozdowski, "he turned classic Broadway show tunes into folk-like songs. I loved every minute of it."

Karimloo was bitten by the acting bug when he was a twelve-year-old while living in Peterborough, Canada when he attended a school field trip with his school to see *Phantom of the Opera* in Toronto starring Colm Wilkinson, who later became his biggest inspiration.

Karimloo originally did not want to see the musical, however, he viewed this field trip as a day off from school.

As Karimloo grew up, he was very much into country music. His family didn't grow up on Disney films or musical theatre. Still to this day Karimloo has not seen the *Wizard of Oz*. While his peers would listen to pop music, hip hop and rock and roll, Karimloo would prefer to listen to Johnny Cash, Tracy Chapman and

Kenny Rogers.

He loved the emotion in their voices and how there was a story and life behind all their music. Karimloo felt the same way with the music from *Phantom of the Opera* and even thought it would be interesting to combine the two unique sounds together and create what he and previous *Phantom* co-star Hadley Fraser called "Broadgrass" music.

Karimloo is not the stereotypical guy you would picture being a Broadway actor with his sleeve tattoo, Harley-Davidson motorcycle and his love for mixed martial arts and cage fighting. He is one hell of a show man who will make any audience fall head over heels in love with him and his captivating, powerful voice.



Ramin Karimloo performs at B.B. King's with band members Jessie Linden, Matthew Harvey, Nick Pini, and Andy Collopy. // Rebecca Karpinski



# Conspiracy Theories Popular, Though Bizarre

**BRIYA GARDNER**  
AD MANAGER

A conspiracy theory” is defined as a theory which explains an event that is the result of a plot from a covert group or an organization. Many people across the globe who truly believe in these theories are known to be “conspiracy theorists.”

At the top of the list for most popular conspiracy theories in most recent years is the Mandela Effect. This theory has been popping up all over social media.

The name comes from many people who think that Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa, died during the ‘80s when he was a prisoner, but in reality, he died on Dec. 5, 2013.

The theory he created is basically defined as people who remember only one thing, when in reality, their memory is “wrong”.

Here are a few things that people remember while being one way when it is really another: “Oscar Meyer” is really “Oscar Mayer,” “Chic-fil-A” is really “Chick-fil-A,” “The Berenstein Bears” is in fact “The Berenstain Bears,” “Sex in the City” is actually “Sex and the City” and there has never been a peanut butter called “Jiffy”.

These are just a few among the long list of items that people remember but had never existed.

There is another conspiracy theory concerning one of the biggest and saddest events in American history - the September 11th attacks. As history explains it, 9/11 was known to be a terrorist attack, but conspiracy theorists think otherwise.

One theory behind 9/11 is that President Bush and his administration were behind the attacks to secure oil reserves. Another theory was that the

owners of the buildings conducted the attacks to collect insurance money.

Some believe that the Illuminati was behind all of this. The Illuminati is a conspiracy theory in and of itself.

An overwhelming amount of people around the world believe that there is a more powerful government than their own that controls the entire

world.

The Illuminati is supposed to be an “elite organization” which is made up of world leaders, artists, business authorities and other influential people.

Some of the most famous in the world are known to be apart of this organization like Beyonce and her family, Lady Gaga, Nicki Minaj

and others. Many say that the U.S. government is under control of the Illuminati.

It even said that during the 2016 elections Hillary Clinton became ill from pneumonia and then died. She was replaced with a body double that the Illuminati created for her.

Even though these conspiracy theories may seem a little bizarre and outrageous, they are believed by many people around the world. You never know what is true and what isn’t. Stay woke.

*Many say that the U.S. government is under control of the Illuminati.*



*However bizarre, conspiracy theories remain very popular. // Viemo*

## Anime in America Culture

**DAVID PEREZ**  
STAFF WRITER

Anime in America is huge right now. Netflix released a live-action adaptation of the popular anime, Death Note, on August 25th. Also in the works is the live-action adaptation of Fullmetal Alchemist which is releasing in Japan on December 1st of this year.

On top of new anime TV shows, there have been multiple movies released in the past that had their source material in anime, such as Ghost in the Shell and Dragon Ball Z, both of which have seen American releases.

Some of these releases are seen as classics, especially the shows. The very first few shows that I watched as a kid were anime. There were some shows which were around in the 90’s and some that were new, such as Fullmetal Alchemist, but I didn’t watch the latter until my senior year of high school. Fullmetal Alchemist saw its first shows in 2003 and then a reboot in 2010.

I also remember watching Naruto and Dragon Ball Z, which was around grade school. Dragon Ball would have more of an impact for me in high school. What do I mean by this? Some people who were into athletics in school were heavily into Dragon Ball Z, and would regularly argue over who would beat whom in a hypothetical fight.

Other times, they would wonder who would be which character in the show, and they agreed I would be Mr. Satan. Other than DC and the Transformers series, these were their obsessions.

There was even a time where one of my classmates and his friend were dressed up as Goku and Vegeta from the Dragonball series. Now it seems that it has come to be a normal thing in America to watch anime, and even stores like Hot Topic allow you to buy anime related t-shirts.



*Many American anime trends blend styles of art and genres of entertainment. Above is a mash-up of Disney princesses with popular Anime series, Sailor Moon. // flickr.com*



*Popular Anime character, Koro Sensei // Jessica Karpinski*





# The Torch

# SPORTS



## Drum Corps: Marching Music's Major League

REBECCA KARPINSKI  
PHOTO EDITOR

On Saturday night, August 12th, in Lucas Oil Stadium, the Blue Devils from Concord, California won their 18th World Championship title at the Drum Corps International World Championships with a final score of 98.658.

Drum Corps is a musical marching ensemble consisting of only brass instruments, percussion instruments, synthesizers and color guard. It's like marching band's major league, but without woodwinds.

Finishing in second place after the Blue Devils was Santa Clara Vanguard from Santa Clara, California at 97.6 and Carolina Crown from Fort Mill; South Carolina was third with 96.575.

The Cavaliers from Rosemont, Illinois slipped right past the Bluecoats from Canton, Ohio at fourth place. The Bluecoats finished fifth with a score of 95.163 that was just off their season high.

Rounding out of the top 12 corps were the Boston Crusaders from Boston, Massachusetts at 6th place, the Cadets from Allentown, Pennsylvania at 7th place, the Blue Knights from Denver, Colorado at 8th place, Phantom Regiment from Rockford, Illinois, at 9th place, the Bluestars from La Crosse, Wisconsin in 10th place; the Crossmen

from San Antonio, Texas, in 11th place and finally the Madison Scouts from Madison Wisconsin, in 12th place.

A record crowd of 23,342 people who saw the finals all claimed the Blue Devils incorporated everything that it meant to be a performer in the Drum Corps activity with them starting out their show with traditional Drum Corps drill and rifle choreography.

The same could be said for the Bluecoats, who took first place at several other competitions this season and often were within a point or so of the other top corps.

In July, the Bluecoats and Blue Devils met for the first time this season, with the Blue Devils prevailing by 1.15 points.

The Blue Devils also won special caption awards for best visuals and best overall effects. Santa Clara Vanguard won for best percussion and best color guard. Carolina Crown won for best brass performance.

After the DCI season ends, people anticipate the final competitions of the Drum Corps Associates circuit.

DCA is often compared to DCI, the DCA is a weekend only commitment until September, whereas the DCI tours all summer long until mid August.

In the open class DCA circuit is



Drum Corps teams from all over the country competed for glory. // Chris Maher

the sister corps of the DCI 10x World Champion Cadets, The Cadets2 from Allentown, Pennsylvania who are also the current reigning 2016 DCA World Champions.

Also marching in the circuit is the 14x DCA World Champion Reading Buccaneers from Reading, Pennsylvania who currently have the most DCA wins in DCA history.

Competing in the open class category are The Hawthorne Caballeros, Fusion Core, The Bushwhackers, The White Sabers, Minnesota Brass, Sunrisers, Connecticut Hurricanes,

The New York Skyliners, Atlanta CV, Carolina Gold and all the way from the United Kingdom, The Kidsgrove Scouts.

And even though the DCI season is not over yet, it's sure going to be as exciting as the season progresses. Who will be on top? Will Cadets2 remain reigning champions or will the Buccaneers steal the crown back? Will Cadets2 win best guard for the third year in a row or will Fusion Core nab the caption? Only time will tell for the Marching Music's Major League.

## BCC Men's Soccer Coach hired by FC DALLAS

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA  
SPORTS EDITOR

Many people from Bergen Community College, including its sports department, are proud to know that Freddy Herrera, Head Men's Soccer Coach, was hired in late May to be the video analyst for a Major League Soccer team, FC Dallas.

Coach Herrera left Bergen after back-to-back Region XIX titles, confident that he left the soccer team in a much better state than ever before. Herrera was head coach for four years at BCC, his career record was at an impactful one with a 46-28-3 record.

In the postseason, Herrera led in wins with a record of 6-4 in the NJCAA National Soccer Tournament. As a former Bulldog and an All-Region XIX student-athlete himself, Coach Herrera has made it his mission to get Bergen its first Region XIX Soccer championship title in 50 years.

In 2015 that mission was completed, when they won the region title by penalty kicks. But that desire to win a Region title didn't go away, he and the program then demonstrated that wasn't going to be enough, and with that he won Bergen's its first title for the second year in a row.

With the back-to-back region titles, Herrera helped earned Bergen men's soccer team national recognition in the Top Ten NJCAA DIII ranking polls.

"It was great having a passionate coach who handled everything professionally," said former player Nikola Nikoloski.

Much of the success came from the style of coaching he brought to the field.

"His coaching style is professional. We would make adjustments to our style of play when we needed to and we would work hard," said Nikoloski.

Those in Bergen Community

*"It was great having a passionate coach who handled everything professionally."*

*-Nikola Nikoloski*

College's Athletic Department congratulate Herrera on his hire and wish their bright alumnus the best of luck as he moves up the professional coaching ladder.

He graduated from the National Soccer Coaches Association of Argentina in 2014 with a professional soccer coach degree. Herrera held an assistant coaching job before beginning his managerial career in 2014 with Bergen Community College of New Jersey. As he moves up the coaching ladder many people here at Bergen aren't going to forget the progress made during his tenure. Despite that, the program will continue their progress on and off the field.



Coach Herrera will be greatly missed. // bergencbulldogs.com

## BCC Men's Soccer Season Update

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA  
SPORTS EDITOR



Head coach Giovanni Soto // bergencbulldogs.com

It's always a challenge for sports teams who have rookies on the majority of their rosters. It can sometimes be challenging to teach new players the style of the game at the college level.

On the Bergen men's soccer team there are fifteen rookies, as compared to the seven veterans. Head Coach Giovanni Soto, along with his players, are determined push forward in their season.

The first two weeks of practice has been progressive for the sophomores coming in because they're all accustomed to the system. For the freshmen,

"It's a little bit different but they been grasping the idea," said Head Coach Giovanni Soto.

Many of the freshmen are shaken by the challenges ahead, especially the kind of challenges that occur when adjusting to a different environment

compared to high school.

"When you're facing many players with college-level experience and the game is much faster, it's different, but you know you get along with the teammates quick, you get to know them [and] they're cool so we have good chemistry going on," said freshman Joyce Alias.

For every team, a coach understands that chemistry is vital in the development of its players and the team as a whole.

"The team has some type of chemistry in terms of how we play, that they understand their responsibilities as soon as we get off the van to play," said Coach Soto.

Soto also stressed challenges many of the freshman are still facing with much of what will be waiting for them this upcoming season,

"[There are] a lot of things that we are gonna have to teach mostly the freshman because they're new to the program but in terms of play definitely a lot of the tactical portion we already went over with the sophomores from last year, so they already know," said Soto, "so for the freshman it's a whole new program for them; they come with their own types of ideas of the game and we just have to try to gel all of those ideas into one idea so that the team has chemistry."

Many of the players are looking forward for the season as well as developing as a team. A lot of the attention is going to be on the captain to be the sort of leader that many expect, and at the same time leading the team into the season.

"It's a good feeling you know, we have a good team and hopefully we can do well," said captain Kamar Newell. Leading his team implies pressure, the kind of pressure that every captain must face.

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