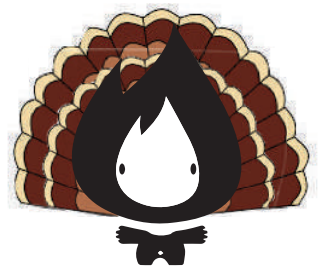


“Truth, No Matter The Cost”

The Torch

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER
IGNITING STUDENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



VOLUME 26... No.3

TORCHBCC.COM

NOVEMBER 2017

Gourmet Dining Negotiates New Contract

ADRIANNA CARABALLO
Co-EDITOR

The cafeteria service hours at all locations have been changed due to a new contract between Bergen Community College and Gourmet Dining.

The main cafeteria, Ender Hall Cafe, Bergen Pizza and Dunkin Donuts will all receive reduced hours as a result of the new contract, among other changes.

According to Rosanne Aiello, Director of Gourmet Dining, the new contract was created because of a severe lack of business.

“We were losing too much money. The school came to us and said ‘what can we do to keep you,’ and we said ‘we have to redesign everything, so that we’re not leaving,’” Aiello said.

That was the compromise between the school and Gourmet Dining to keep their services and to keep them content.

“We had to cut the hours, cut the staffing [and] create an environment where we’re not losing our shirts,” Aiello said.

This has been going on for some time, and within this year, Gourmet Dining has lost more than they gained in profit.

“In the year 2016 and 2017, we lost a lot of money, over 400 thousand dollars,” said Aiello.

Bergen Community College



Students in the main cafeteria on the second floor. // Adrianna Caraballo

is the only contract Gourmet Dining has with a community college. Aiello had stated that it is difficult to make money at a community college.

In addition to the changed hours, the Sono Mexican station has been eliminated due to it being too costly to maintain.

“Yeah, we took that out because it just wasn’t making any money. It’s very expensive to run that Sonos. It’s a lot of prep work; it needs two people to run it,” said Aiello.

Nevertheless, there are still pre-made burritos, which can be picked up, that are put under a

warming light.

As of right now, the cafeteria will not turn a student away, but when the C Fresh Market comes, that will change.

“Once the C Fresh Market comes, then the cafeteria will close every day at 2:30 p.m.,” Aiello said.

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A WW2 Veteran’s
Story*

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*Social Media
Degrades Society*

pg. 11

LEADS Program at Bergen



Students and Faculty members attending Bergen LEADS Program. // Angie Goldszmidt

PURNASREE SAHA
FEATURES EDITOR

Bergen Community College offers the College LEADS program to all BCC students.

“The main purpose of this program was to promote leadership on campus and community outreach,” said Angie Goldszmidt, Administrative Advisor of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Students with any major and without prior experience are capable of joining LEADS because they are able to learn throughout the program. Goldszmidt is the coordinator of LEADS, and the Office of Student Life helped design and promote the program for students.

Goldszmidt sent emails to all BCC students and has put it in the Bergen Daily. There were

over 40 students who completed the online application, which was due on October 6. Students had to answer short questions while filling out the application.

This program is the first class, and the college hopes to promote civic engagement and involvement with local organizations. The first seminar was on October 13, which was a mandatory orientation and included a personal reflection and leadership assessment.

“After students completed the assessment, they were able to identify their leadership strengths and complete activities on community mapping,” said Goldszmidt.

Community mapping involves reflecting and identifying different components of the county and community.

The Orientation service is also going to last the rest of the year and will provide a general overview.

During the first half of the day, LEADS was providing leadership development and community. During the second half of the day, the program was site visiting throughout the county, which involves going to different locations and meeting community leaders. The sites included Mevo’s Sustainability Farm in Mahwah, Bergen County Jail and Holy Name Hospital.

Through Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, there are going to be eight seminar sessions on Fridays from 9:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. The last day is April 27th, 2018, and it will end with a final presentation and ceremony.

Bergen LEADS is another program that is offered throughout the Bergen Volunteer Center, but this is a year long program that is offered for only professionals, not students.

Professionals could be from local banks, community organizations and other companies.

The Bergen Volunteer Center reached out to Dr. William Mullaney, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, who went through the Bergen LEADS Program and then created the College LEADS Program.

This is a hands-on experience with great potential benefits for all students. Throughout various site visits, they will learn a multitude of skills needed not only for leadership, but also for job experience as well.



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BergenStages’
Hamlet*

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Basketball Preview*

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Catalan Bid for Independence

pg. 4



Mindful Bergen Workshop

pg. 7

NEWS

The Torch

Bergen's Majors Fair Helps Students Find Calling



OWEN MCCLOSKEY
COPY EDITOR

Students learn about different majors at Bergen. // Owen McCloskey

On October 10, Bergen Community College held its fourth Majors Fair, an event dedicated to displaying the different programs that the college has to offer to its students.

The room was abuzz with eager learners, accosting the heads of assorted majors to learn more about their interests and potential future careers.

The air electrified around wide-eyed students as each thought about his or her future career. Looking around the room,

one could see the excitement around the Majors Fair, the excitement of one finding their calling.

I spoke with two of the heads of the Majors Fair, Associate Dean Jill Rivera and English Professor Amy Baldassare.

When asked about why the fair was a beneficial idea, Professor Baldassare said, "Well, it seemed that a lot of the students have questions about their major, and maybe they had chosen something that they didn't really want when they came in

or had chosen something really general."

Professor Baldassare addressed the imperativeness of being absolutely gung-ho about one's major, and stated that it's okay to switch if a major isn't exactly a certain student's cup of tea.

At the fair, there were booths for Drafting and Design, Manufacturing Technology, English, Criminal Justice, Communications, Mathematics and many more. Students spent the day poring through the myriad of majors.

Associate Dean Jill Rivera finds it important to "have a connection to what you want to do," so that a passion can coerce a greater drive to work in one's field. If students are unsure about what they want to do, they can come down to the BCC Majors Fair and attempt to find their true calling.

Bergen Community College has a multitude of programs that can draw in many potential students, and the Majors Fair is definitely a fantastic outlet for helping those who are undecided.

Gourmet Dining Negotiates New Contract

NEW HOURS:

Main Cafeteria:
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Dunkin Donuts:
Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday
7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Ender Hall Café:
Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Bergen Pizza:
Monday - Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday
7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Left: the new hours for each of the Paramus campus food service locations. Right: students and faculty in the second floor cafeteria. // Adrianna Caraballo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

The C Fresh Market is a substitute for the cafeteria and will be accessible at all times.

"It's a smart food market set up in the back of the cafeteria, and it's a bunch of vending machines that have fresh food, sandwiches, salads; it's all self-serviced," Aiello said.

SGA is not unaware of all these

changes. They personally met with Gourmet Dining, more specifically Aiello, every week last year to discuss food options and lunch specials.

"SGA really worked with me. We had a lot of meetings, and I felt [that] we really communicated well. They asked for more tofu, they asked for more vegan and we really tried to work with them and do the

best we could," she said.

SGA's current president, Sibora Peca, sees both sides of the spectrum: the needs of the students and the needs of Gourmet Dining.

"At the end of the day, even though they're Gourmet Dining, and they're at Bergen Community College, they're a business. For a business to run they need

to have customers," Peca said.

The future between Gourmet Dining and Bergen Community College is uncertain right now. As for the relationship between Gourmet Dining and SGA, Aiello hopes that their weekly meetings continue.

"I'm always willing to meet with anybody," Aiello said.

'I'm a Lucky Man:' A WW2 Veteran's Story

MARK GUCIA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Customers not only go to the Bloomfield, New Jersey Stop and Shop to shop, but also to chat with the nice elderly man who bags their groceries and leaves them with a smile on their face. This elderly man is former Staff Sergeant Bartholomeo Ficeto, or as he is locally known, Benny, 96, of Belleville, N.J.

Benny recalls his life during WW2 as if it were yesterday - what he experienced and felt during the war never left him.

"I was scared, I'll tell you the truth; I was deathly scared of every single thing I did in the army, but the lord took me back," said Benny.

Benny graduated Bellville High School in 1938 and went on to a barber school in Newark. He was drafted in 1942.

Benny was part of the United States Air Force 310th Bomb Group's 428th Bomb Squadron. He was a radio operator, radio gunner and a belly gunner for B-25 bombers. The 310th Bomb Group was established right after Pearl Harbor by President Roosevelt. The 428th bomb squadron flew missions over North Africa, Italy, Southern France, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, the Adriatic and Mediterranean.

Benny was a part of countless missions, including one that he recalls with extreme detail. The mission was to bomb a tanker with 1 million gallons of gas that was headed for Erwin Rommel to support German troops; however it was destroyed by the 310th Bomb Group.

This earned Benny an Oak Leaf Cluster Medal, which is a miniature bronze or silver twig of four oak leaves with three acorns on the stem that is authorized by the United States Armed Forces as a ribbon device for a specific set of decorations and awards in the United States Army. The mission also earned him a picture in a newspaper along with a story.

"This was a must target, a thousand, a million gallons of gas for Rommel. You gotta sink that, come hell or high water, or else you bail out, and the pilot will have to take the plane into the ship. What was that a million gallons? That tanker was a big son-of-a-bitch, you know it? I don't



Clockwise from top left: (Left) Bartholomeo Ficeto, 1943, age 22. Clipping from an unknown newspaper. (Right) Bartholomeo Ficeto, 2017, age 96. Staff Sergeant Bartholomeo Ficeto's original 428th Bomb Squadron emblem that he wore on his jacket. The Dainty Baby, Bartholomeo Ficeto's B-25 bomber, coming in for a landing. Original photographer unknown. // Photos courtesy of Bartholomeo Ficeto

know if they put the gas in the bedrooms or... Well, how would you feel? You know what was protecting that ship? A cruiser, destroyers, (and) flak barges have big guns on the sides. I have a good memory, boy; it seems like yesterday," Benny said

One of the other moments ingrained in his memory was when his squadron flew along a beach as they were returning to base from a mission.

"One day, I'll never forget that day, we're along the beach right, and we're coming home from a mission, and we're still not flying high (be)cause the fighters were after us. They had these 20 millimeters shooting, and I was looking on the beach, and I saw the shells. I was looking up, and I was like 'Holy Christ.' I told the pilot 'put more gas into it'(chuckles),"said Benny.

While reading over the death statistics of the 310th Bomb Group, which lost 439 personnel, Benny comes to terms with his own brush with death and how fate had another idea.

"May their souls rest in peace. That's a lot of planes we lost, a lot of buddies went down. That's a lot of men we lost. Can you imagine that? A lot of people, a lot of people. I'm a lucky guy," Benny recollected.

Then, Benny reflected on a somber moment from April, 1942. His plane, the Dainty Baby and the crew, consisting of Benny's two good friends that he remembers, Lieutenants Middleton and Frost, was shot down; the entire crew was lost. Benny was not on that fateful flight because of an injury he received days earlier.

"I cut my finger open

really badly while cleaning plexiglass. My finger was flapping. Later, it had swelled up, and the doctor was like, 'you can't fly like that.' Middleton was a great guy; (Benny looks down) he used to let me get away with anything (a smile came back to his face as he remembers his friend)," Benny said.

It is believed that war changes people in a way that they are not quite the same when they get back from combat. According to Benny, that is not the case.

It didn't change me in anyway physically (or) mentally. Believe me when I tell you. You see how I talk now? But I was deathly scared when I was flying, that I admit. And anybody say that they weren't scared; once you start taking off, you don't know if your engines are gonna cut off.

You were gonna have to bail out (and) fuel in the engine, you don't know if they gassed it up right," said Benny.

Now, in his late 90s, Benny shares how he feels about that.

"You (would) be surprised how I've aged. Well, I'm over 90, anyway, and I have all my senses. People in their 70s, 80s; they just conked out," said Benny.

So, why does Benny decide to keep working?

He said, "It keeps your mind going, your personality, you don't fall over."

Benny is happy to share his story with those who will listen. His cheerful, comical personality is infectious. There is not one person that doesn't gain from knowing Benny. His secret to longevity is kindness and laughter, something that he is in no shortage of.



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Catalonia Suffers Backlash Amidst Bid for Independence



Catalonians hope to gain independence from Spain. // Wikimedia Commons

ROBERT C. MCDERMOTT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Catalan push for independence has been stifled by the Spanish government; despite, according to the Catalan government, 90 percent of citizens favored the referendum.

On Oct. 8, Spanish police seized ballot boxes, and over 800 people and voters were injured during the supposedly illegal vote. However, the Spanish government denies most of these accusations.

If the referendum had gone through without Spanish intervention, Catalonia would be an independent nation and would separate from Spain.

Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy urges Catalanian President Carles Puigdemont to act with 'good sense' in order to keep the autonomous community a part of Spain.

"I assume the mandate of Catalonia should become an independent state in the form of a republic... I propose suspending the effects of the Declaration of Independence (in order) to undertake talks to reach an agreed solution," Puigdemont said.

A little over 2 million Catalans voted out of the 5.3 million who were eligible, meaning only 42 percent of the region's population voted on the referendum.

Having already declared independence informally, Puigdemont informed members of his Catalan Democratic Party that he will formally declare independence if Spain suspends their political autonomy.

Catalonia is an economic powerhouse that Spain can simply not afford to lose. Twenty percent of Spain's GDP comes directly from the autonomous community and could suffer greatly if they declare independence.



The Catalanian flag. // flickr.com

Besides the economy, this can affect other aspects of life in the region. The professional Spanish soccer team FC Barcelona will have the option of moving to another league should Catalonia gain its independence.

The team currently plays in the Primera Division, also known as La Liga. If independence is formally announced, Barcelona and other teams in Catalonia could choose to play in England, France or even Italy. However, the club can choose to stay in the Spanish League, and it seems more likely because they've been playing in La Liga for almost 120 years.

More importantly, there will not likely be any formal negotiations between Spain and Catalonia because both sides refuse to come to an agreement. Puigdemont has even said that he is willing to go to jail for his cause after the Spanish government threatened to send him to prison if he does declare independence.

The European Union are likely to stay away from this dispute but will be supporting the Spanish constitution, which deems this act of independence illegal.

According to CNN, Spain is set to take direct control of Catalonia under Article 155 of the Constitution. This would give Spain direct control of the region and prevent self-governing of Catalonia.

Spanish authorities arrested two leaders of the movement that were supposedly provoking Catalans to rebel against the Spanish government.

With threats coming at every angle and from both sides, and tension rising in Spain's most wealthy community, many Catalans are left wondering what will become of their future.



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DREW

Mindful Bergen Workshops

PURNASREE SAHA
FEATURES EDITOR

At Bergen Community College, Mindful Bergen workshops are offered for all students, staff and faculty members on campus.

Professor Peter Dlugos, Chairman of Philosophy and Religion and Professor Lori Talarico came up with this concept.

As a philosopher, Dlugos thought for many years about what happiness was.

“What I came up with is that the quality of one’s heart and mind are most important,” said Dlugos.

So how does one cultivate a good mind and heart? Dlugos

realized that across human history and cultures people had been teaching techniques on how to cultivate happiness.

“On a personal note, I was asking myself what is happiness, contentment and what makes a good life,” said Talarico.

As Talarico began reading, studying and meditating, she realized that this was what she had to share with her students. Talarico started to teach mindfulness practices in Success 101.

Students were benefiting by learning these techniques. Talarico shared her experiences

with staff and faculty members on campus.

Mindfulness is rooted in the Vinyasa Yoga tradition and emphasizes stillness and focused attention. Meditation and mindfulness are also being used in K-8 education, and have produced excellent results in students with learning disabilities.

“In K-8 education, it addresses behavior issues, calmness, focus and kindness and in high school settings it addresses the stresses of being a teenager, feeling anxiety and having focus,” said Talarico.

“This is the second

semester having Mindful Bergen workshops and the goal was to make a space on campus where students, staff and faculty members can learn about and practice mindfulness,” said Dlugos.

The first sessions were offered during the spring of 2017, and Professors Dlugos and Talarico plan to grow the program. Professor Richard Cella is offering the first sessions at the Lyndhurst campus this semester.

Talarico insists that it does not matter what students major in; everybody is looking for good quality of life and

mindfulness practices benefit them. Students will learn how to get centered, how to relieve stress, have better focus and how have self-compassion.

Information on Mindful Bergen sessions is available on posters around campus and announcements in the Bergen Daily. Success 101 students can use this as an out-of-class assignment.

Drop-in sessions are 30-45 minutes. Appointments are not necessary. Check the Bergen Daily for the latest schedule each semester, or email Prof. Talarico at ltalarico@bergen.edu.



Top: Students, staff, and faculty all had the opportunity to attend the Mindfulness Workshops. Bottom Left: Dr. Dlugos. Bottom Right: Professor Lori Talarico. // Rebecca Karpinski



The Use of Gun Control

pg. 10



Do I Know That Kid From High School?

pg. 11

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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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.

The Torch offices are located in Room SC-111D, 400 Paramus Road Paramus, NJ 07652-1595 201.493.5006/5007 eictorch@gmail.com

Education is Key

LESHAY JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Education is important. I mean, why else would we all be here working our behinds off in order to graduate, to move on and to live the best life that we can?

My entire life, my parents have stressed the importance of education to me. I have not always been serious about school. It wasn't until I entered high school that I started to take my education very seriously.

It seems that the older we get, the more we realize how important it is to have an education. Whether we want to believe it or not, education is one of the major keys to success.

Nowadays, it is extremely hard to get a decent job without some kind of degree. Managers and CEOs want people who know what they are doing and have experience.

We all know this deep down; otherwise, we wouldn't be here right now, struggling to pass our midterms.

A lot of people like to use the words "school" and "education" interchangeably. You've probably heard "school is important" and "education is important" in the same lecture given by your parents and teachers.



// unsplash.com

Yes, both are indeed important, but I have come to the realization that school is not for everyone. Therefore, not everyone needs school.

During my two years at Bergen Community College, I have met people who believe that they are not cut out for college. A friend of mine left Bergen to travel and she has come across some fruitful knowledge that one may not get in a classroom.

Just because she is not sitting in a three-hour biology lecture, does not mean that she is not getting an education.

With that being said, the classroom is also a very fruitful experience. We learn

new things every day, even if all of it is not applicable to our everyday lives.

Education is something that has been very important to the people of this county for a long time. There have been leaders who have tried to build the best education programs for children, especially in the public education system.

There are people who have worked extremely hard to help make the public education better for students.

It does not help that President Trump decided to appoint someone as the Secretary of Education who has never set foot in the public education system.

Betsy DeVos is currently the Secretary of Education and is already making drastic changes that arguably rids of the progress that we have made.

In September, DeVos discarded a part of the government's policy of campus sexual assault that makes it easier for someone accused of sexual assault to get away with it.

It seems to me like Trump and his administration are so focused on undoing the Obama-era, they have disregarded how their changes will affect millions of people and not necessarily for the better.

I Wear Her Pink Ribbon

AMANDA BARANDAS
ONLINE EDITOR

Pink ribbons are here, there and everywhere! October is known for frightful delights, but how many of you have noticed pink ribbons popping up between the pumpkins?

These pink ribbons are for Breast Cancer Awareness month. A few years back, I used to see pink ribbons at my high school for fundraisers and bake sales. Little did I know how much those pink ribbons would have an impact on my life and my family's.

To this day, this is one of the most devastating sentences I have ever heard: "I have cancer."

Now imagine, if you can, it coming from someone close to you. In my case it came from my mom. I was a sophomore in high school and was about to play my first varsity soccer game. I remember being so nervous, but knowing my mom was coming after her doctor's check up put my mind at ease.

When she finally showed, all was right in the world, or so I thought. I later found out that my mother was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer.

For the next few years my mother was in and out of hospitals. She got



Barandas has a tattoo honoring her mother. // First Class Photography

chemotherapy which would lead to her losing her hair; what little energy she had left was gone.

By my senior year, my mother's cancer had progressed to the point where she needed help breathing through an oxygen machine. She was able to see me graduate, and during the ceremony, I was able to

give her a rose thanking her for all she had done for me throughout high school. With everything she was going through, it was the first time I'd seen my mom smile in a long time.

My mom was able to see me start college, but, unfortunately, she passed away before New Year's Day.

I tell you my story not for your sympathy, but to connect to those who are currently in similar situations that I once was in. That is why when you see me in the hall, just know I'll be wearing my pink ribbon proudly for my mom, for you and for anyone this disease has touched. There is hope, and I want you to know, you are not alone.

Becoming One for Hispanic Heritage Month



Many nationalities were represented during Bergen's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. // Kaylee Alzamora

KAYLEE ALZAMORA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What is Hispanic heritage? For some people, it's just a month; but for many Hispanics, it's way more than that. This month we celebrate everything that it means to be a Hispanic in our culture.

To many Hispanics, this isn't something that is celebrated once a year but is appreciated and acknowledged daily. Whether it's waving our flag at a parade or wearing our country's soccer jersey, we Hispanics always find a way to show our pride of our roots and where we currently live.

At the same time, we cannot forget how uniquely diverse Hispanics are as we celebrate this special month. When it comes to being Hispanic, there are no rules. There is no special way things have to be done because every country is different, and every person is just as or even more different.

When coming to the United States, we are all put into the category of "Hispanic", as if we are all the same. However, this couldn't be more wrong. Being different and having certain special qualities is what makes

each country unique. If you go to the countries down in the Caribbean or South America, even just for a little while, you will see that each country has their own way to celebrate.

We Hispanics have many different ways of showing how unique we are and how we celebrate our culture that include our clothing, dances, dialects and foods.

Some of the ways that each country celebrates how unique they are is during the holidays during Christmas. During the Christmas season especially, each country has their own way of celebrating it.

In Peru, Christmas is celebrated by eating turkey, fruitcake and drinking hot chocolate. When it hits midnight everyone goes outside to shoot fireworks up in the air and to hug their neighbors.

In Dominican Republic, it's celebrated differently; they celebrate it by eating pulled pork instead of turkey. They also don't give out gifts Christmas Day rather they wait until Kings Day, which is January 6, to exchange gifts.

Not every Hispanic country celebrates the holidays the same but when the come to the U.S. it's mostly celebrated the same.

With the exception of food, all Hispanics here in the U.S. stay up until midnight on the 24th to exchange gifts and celebrate with family. However, depending on where you're from, you will still add a touch of your customs to your celebration.

Because we aren't always fortunate living in our homelands, many Hispanics come to the U.S. to make a living and to have a better life. These people aren't as close to their roots or culture, but if you're Hispanic, you know that doesn't stop us.

Some of the biggest restaurants in the US today are owned by Hispanics, and we have award shows to celebrate our Hispanic actors and musicians; just because we aren't in our homelands, doesn't mean we stop showing pride.

The pride and joy we have for our culture has been passed down from generation to generation. Many uprising Spanish singers come from

Hispanic families who passed down their love for their country to their kids.

Many of the people you see protesting in the streets, fighting for Hispanic rights are young Hispanic kids who were born in the U.S. but are fighting for their and their parents' rights to celebrate their culture here.

The U.S. being such a diverse country helps unite all these Hispanic countries into one. Here in the U.S., it isn't about individual countries but a large, united one.

Where in your homeland, you can't appreciate the other Hispanic cultures, but here you can. Here in the U.S., we are all brought together as one and can celebrate with our neighboring countries.

One of the many places that this unification is enforced is here at Bergen Community College, where we celebrate what it means to be Hispanic.

With such a diverse group of students, BCC is sure to celebrate the month that means so much to many Hispanics.

BCC has been displaying the Hispanic flags and has been holding multiple events, where both Hispanic students and students of all other nationalities can come to celebrate Hispanic heritage.

There are multiple ways that we as Hispanics can come together to unite. The most recent examples are the hurricane in Puerto Rico and the earthquake in Mexico.

This was devastating for both countries and for people both living in and out of the countries. Today, some people are still trying to communicate with their families from Puerto Rico. This pain was not only shared by Puerto Ricans and Mexicans but also by every Hispanic living in the U.S.

Donation centers were put up to help out these countries, telethons were made to gather up money to help out these people and Hispanics from all over the U.S. came together to help out these countries that were in need.

Living in the US really helps you to appreciate other people's cultures and to come together as one. It helps you see things not as an individual but as a group.

Now, I can tell you more sure than ever that we Hispanics are united as one. We are our culture, we are one and we are Hispanic heritage.

Nobody Likes Nuclear Winter: Trump and Kim's War of Words

OWEN MCCLOSKEY
COPY EDITOR

Kim Jong-Un, the North Korean dictator with a short fuse, is quickly alienating adversaries and allies alike with recent hydrogen bomb tests and caustic language towards United States President Donald Trump.

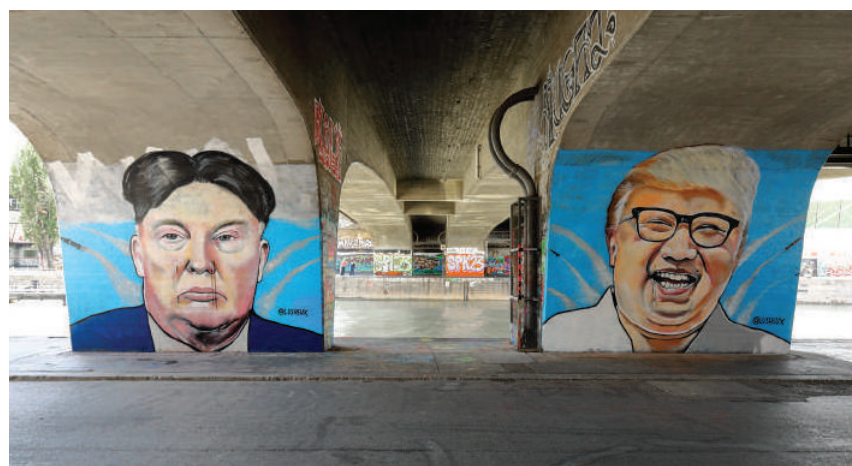
Trump and Kim have been going at it on Twitter like a recently separated teen couple; although the scenario gets a lot more apocryphal when the angry teenagers have thermonuclear weapons.

What will happen when two men who have access to the most destructive weapons created by mankind fight on Twitter like high schoolers?

The geopolitical landscape of 2017 is proving to be quite volatile amidst rising tensions between the United States and North Korea. A hung four-decade-long ceasefire has suspended the countries in a state of paranoia, accentuated by an arms race and a cold proxy war with countries like Russia, China and socially democratic Europe cutting into the fray.

NPR's Bill Chappel reports that North Korean Foreign Minister, Ri Yong Ho, amounted Trump's anti-North Korean tweets to a "declaration of war," continuing that North Korea will "shoot down U.S. bombers" who stray into the range of North Korean anti-aircraft.

However, let's be realistic here;



Graffiti depicting Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump. // Wikimedia Commons

North Korea wouldn't dare attack the United States. As a mutual trade partner of China and bearer of the world's largest military, the United States would be a terrible strategic target.

However, with no way of winning a land war, and the possibility of thermonuclear war bringing the possibility of the end of humanity, why does Kim Jong-Un insist on building up the North Korean military?

Kil J. Yi is a decorated Bergen Community College world history professor, with B.S. and M.A. degrees from the State University of New York at Albany, and Ph.D. degree from

Rutgers. Yi describes the Kim regime of North Korea as a "family enterprise," and not necessarily a completely ideological dictatorship, meaning that the Kim family wants to completely consolidate their power.

Simply put by Yi, Kim Jong-Un's father, Kim Jong-Il, saw what happens when dictatorial regimes give up their nukes. Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled by the United States in 2003, and Muammar Qaddafi's in 2011, both of them shortly after they dismantled their nuclear weapons.

There is a reason Kim Jong-Un prioritizes military budgets over feeding and clothing his people; if

there were no nukes in North Korea, the United States would topple Kim Jong-Un's regime in less than a few months. He knows he needs to keep his nukes for leverage, despite unsettling the majority of his geographic neighbors.

Yi believes that the North Korean people are "try(ing) to show the superiority of their (my) socialist system," and are desperate for any solace from shame.

Many North Koreans believe in the Kim regime after Kim Jong-Un's grandfather, Kim Il-Sung, eradicated the Japanese presence from the region after World War II. This is why Kim Jong-Un will not stop spending money on his nuclear weapons and keeping his people subjugated.

He has a prestigious bloodline to continue and enormous shoes to fill in the wake of his ancestors.

Trump and Kim Jong-Un can fire spitballs at each other all day and night, and Kim can have as many nukes as he wants. However, the most indispensable thing to Kim Jong-Un is his regime, and he can't have such a regime if he engages in war with the United States.

Let these two tubby tyrants sling their mud; there will be no war with North Korea anytime soon. Any sort of modern warfare between large powers will devolve into thermonuclear conflict, and no one wants a nuclear winter.

Smoking Ban is Ineffective

DANITA RUIZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hello, fellow Bergen Community College smokers, I'd like to talk about the "smoking ban" that has no purpose to us smokers.

BCC banned smoking on campus about two years ago, and personally, I think it's ridiculous. We all know that once you get out of class, you're going to grab a lighter and smoke away, not thinking twice about the smoking policy.

When BCC made the decision to have a smoke free campus, the administrators were only considering the non-smoking students and staff, not us who smoke. Instead, they should have implemented smoking areas, so that we can smoke our bogeys and non-smokers are not affected.

Having a smoking policy doesn't really make a difference because I know that at the end of the day, if I want a cigarette, I'm going to smoke one without a care in the world about what anyone else thinks.

I know I'm not the only one who feels this way. If you're a student or staff member at BCC that does not smoke, I understand your concern about your health. Nonetheless, if you see someone smoking on campus, are you really going to say something to them, or are you just going to walk the other way?

There's no point in getting upset about your health because if smoking really bothers you, then you would just

walk the other way. We smokers know the consequences of smoking, but we don't care.

Therefore, next time you get upset about being near someone smoking, remember that it is an addiction, and

if you don't want to be near it, then simply stay away from it and move on with your day. // Pixabay



The Use of Gun Control



The debate over gun rights and control has been going on for years. // Wikimedia Commons

KAIDEN CILENTO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There have been individual states that have attempted to have absolute gun control laws. For example, back in 1976, Washington D.C. passed a law that banned regular citizens from owning guns, leaving only police officers to carry firearms.

For the people who already owned guns, they were allowed to keep them only if the guns were disassembled or trigger-locked. However, trigger locks

were allowed to be removed if the owner had received permission from the D.C. Police, which was rare.

The gun ban did not go as smoothly as one would think. According to Prosecutor Jeffrey Shapiro, the annual homicide rate increased. In 1976, the number of annual murders in the United States was 188, but by 1988, they had risen to 364.

Unfortunately, it did not stop there,

and by 1993, the rate increased to 454 murders. Since then, the gun ban was struck down by the Supreme Court in the District of Columbia v. Heller case.

Homicides steadily decreased after the gun ban ended to 88 yearly murders in 2012. Shapiro had admitted to there being other factors involved with the decline in homicides. It can clearly be seen that lifting the gun ban did not result in a rise in murders but instead a

decrease in them.

Also, there was an enforcement of gun control to only those who legally obtain their guns. This is not completely beneficial being that not all firearms are legally purchased, according to The Daily Wire.

The Second Amendment in the Constitution states, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

That being said, all citizens have the right to possess and to carry their firearms with the proper licensing. Taking away guns is against the constitutional rights of the citizens.

Plus, it can be argued that by creating a more controlled gun policy, the types of mass killings would have to be more creative because not all killings are gun related. Gun control will possibly limit the number of mass shootings, but it will not stop all forms of violence or bloodshed.

There have been plenty of mass killings and acts of violence or discrimination in the past with no affiliation with guns.

A perfect example of this would be 9/11. The first two planes struck both of the Twin Towers in the World Trade Center, a third hit the Pentagon and the fourth was downed in a field in Pennsylvania before it could reach its intended target in Washington D.C.

Another example would be one that occurred before the 9/11 attack. The single deadliest, non-natural disaster in American history occurred on November 18, 1978 in Guyana. The People's Temple cult leader Jim Jones ordered 912 men, women and children, who mostly were American, to drink grape-flavored fruit punch that had been laced with cyanide and Valium.

The point is that it does not matter how strict the gun control laws in a nation are. The strictness will not stop or decrease murder rates; people will just be smarter and more creative.

It will not be a cure for all the violence that occurs on a daily basis. These laws may cut back in the number of mass shootings but certainly not the number of murders or mass killings.

Do I Know That Kid From High School?



RYAN BLAKE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I'm sure this title popped out at you because most college kids can relate. Unless you went to school very far away from home, there's a good chance you've had this awkward experience:

Imagine you're walking in the hallway with your earphones in, not wanting to be disturbed. From a distance, you see a guy you know from high school that you've barely talked with. The only time the two of you communicated was during a sophomore year English class, when you were forced to work together in a group project.

When you see him now, you both lock eyes, look away and look back at each other for recognition. The second round of eye contact is the worst. You're immediately like "oh no, this is not good."

You can't turn back now because that'd be bad. Those 10 seconds after the second round of eye contact can feel like a solid 30 minutes.

The awkward tension between you and your acquaintance is strong; you can feel it on the back of your neck.

There are a few options you can take in this type of situation, such as a simple dap up and saying "what's

good." The problem with this option is that you might have to actually talk to the person, and both of you do not want that.

You both know you didn't say more than five words to each other in high school, so speaking now would be fake. The conversation would be awkward, and you both would be trying to slip out of that conversation, as if you're being strangled by a giant poisonous snake.

Interacting with the other person is not my favorite option. My go-to strategy is to keep my head down and to keep walking as if the other person doesn't exist. Some people might say "OMG, that's so anti-social" or "what's wrong with a simple 'hi'."

Do not say "hi", or else you're stuck for the rest of the year and must acknowledge them every time you see them.

Trust me, it's best for the both of you if you both do the "head down and act like you've never seen each other before" move. Then, you won't have to worry, "Ugh, I'm going to have to say 'hello' on my way to Sociology."

If you say "hi" a few times, it gets more and more awkward to the point that you start to take a different route to class. If this happens to you, take my advice and keep your head down and act like they're not even there.

Illustration by Edriel Fimbres

Shuttle Schedule Runs Amok

JULIANA OLEKSY
NEWS EDITOR

Anticipating a shuttle shouldn't generate so much anxiety. While waiting for the shuttle, words of apprehension float along the line. Why so much calamity over a shuttle?

A recent problem that has arisen is that there are times that the shuttle has not been showing up when scheduled. This situation happened on Thursday, Nov. 2. The 4:45 p.m. shuttle didn't show up until a little after 6 p.m., leaving students waiting in line outside for hours. There was no alert given to those waiting that the shuttle wasn't coming. Some students resulted in splitting an Uber to get home, which is costly. What about the students who can't afford for the shuttle not to show up, or those who can't get to work or class due to a lack of shuttle?

In addition, the afternoon shuttles going from Paramus to the Meadowlands never have enough seats. Therefore, a simple shuttle line becomes the Hunger Games, and the line wasn't even implemented until recently.

Those who want to be guaranteed a seat on the shuttle race to the line at least 45 minutes in advance. Bergen recently added a sign to signify where the line starts, so the seats are distributed on first-come-first-serve basis. However, during some shuttle times, the line means nothing to those willing to run and cut to get on first.

Sometimes, as people walk to the shuttle line, they count the number of people waiting in line, so they know what number they are on line. The shuttle only has twenty seats, so knowing your number guarantees that you're supposed to have a spot on the

shuttle. Watching people cut in front, lowers the chances of getting a seat on the shuttle. If you're someone who cuts the line, your actions affect others. What makes you better than anyone else?

Another issue is that the drivers don't always make sure that the line stays intact. If no one is monitoring the line, then there's the opportunity for people to be disrespectful and to do whatever they want. Francesca Monterrosa told me, "People still go around the line when the bus pulls up (to the original bus stop, as opposed to the new sign)."

If a driver doesn't take the time to attempt to control the line, then chaos may occur. Unfortunately, this is not an exaggeration. It a norm that no one ever has any right to put their hands on anyone else. The result of an uncontrolled line is people gathering in the street and running towards the bus, bumping their way to the front. Is being first really that important? Frank Argyelan reported to me, "Drivers need to be aware of the lines, and (the) public safety office should be out here, so there's no shoving and cutting. Someone almost scraped her knee because someone pushed her."

This is a problem that must be monitored physically because people are willing to go to desperate measures to get a seat on the shuttle. Some suggestions of solutions, after talking to multiple people about the issue, are for public safety to keep a watchful eye in case a driver doesn't, more shuttles to be circulated every half-hour instead of every hour or for the shuttles to be larger in the afternoons instead of the morning.



Students wait in extensive lines for shuttles. // Juliana Oleksy

Social Media Degrades Society

JULIANA OLEKSY
NEWS EDITOR

Social media dominates our society, creating a way for everyone to know every single detail about everyone else.

In a single post, both good and bad news is shared. Scrolling through Instagram or Facebook, there's news of deaths of family members and pets, and there's news of births of babies. Seeing posts like this, how do we respond?

Social media has made it easy by providing us a "like" button. Facebook even allows you to transition emotional responses through the push of a button, such as laughter or sadness.

Therefore, we as a society have replaced communication with "likes," which let people know that we have seen their post. That's all the like button really represents in our minds.

Messages like "happy birthday," "congratulations" and "I'm sorry for your loss" are all gone because we are simply too dependent on a button to transmit that for us. However, it is not the same thing.

No one looks at the notification of your "like" and feels the same amount of support. It's not the same as taking the time out of your day to reach out to your friend to convey the message.

No wonder why so many people have issues in relationships and friendships; social media has caused a total degradation in communication. We all complain about modern-day dating, yet still participate in social media flirting rituals.

For example, we "like" people's photos whom we have feelings for and get excited when the "like" is reciprocated. Have we really devalued ourselves to "likes?" Whatever happened to the real pursuit where people ask other people out on dates, and they talk instead of snapchatting?

We also are so ready to disown a friend who doesn't "like" our latest

selfie. How can we be so apt to throw away a friendship because of a "like" on a picture, which won't even matter in a week? Social media does have great benefits to it, but we have been conditioned as a society to let interactions on it dictate and control our relationships with other people and ourselves.

As a result of a single "like," you

can destroy your whole happiness by overthinking the amount of likes you get and who likes your pictures.

We place such high value on how we are perceived on social media when we hold so much worth than that. You are way more than the likes and comments on your latest selfie.



Social media is more prevalent, and more distracting, than ever. // flickr.com

“To Hold a Mirror Up to Nature:” BergenStages’ Hamlet



CHARLIE LEPPERT
LAYOUT EDITOR

At 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 27, people filed in to the Bergen Stages Black Box Lab Theater for the very first showing of this fall's production, *Hamlet*.

The immersive nature of theater created an interesting blend of modern and classical theater, playing into the motifs of theater and deception in the play itself. The scant furnishings on stage centered plot and character, while the staging was cleverly utilized.

For example, a portion of the stage was pulled to the center and opened into Ophelia's grave, and the Ghost of Old Hamlet appeared behind a curtain in one of the four entrances to the theater. For their part, the actors were also able to avoid blocking off audience members, engaging each surrounding side of the theater.

The actors were, on the whole, very natural in their delivery, and seemed very comfortable in their roles and with the language. Much of the stage direction and acting choices added to the characters beyond dialogue.

Matthew Rella as Horatio, Angelina Aragona as Queen Gertrude and Kristina Craig as Ophelia all created depth and complexity in their characters through their choices.

Craig's depiction of Ophelia was poignant but not forced, showing the slow destruction of Ophelia's psyche through the neglect of her loved ones.

Dakota Librescu's depiction of Hamlet was stunningly raw and vengeful. Unlike the usual depiction of the eponymous character as morose and brooding, Librescu's Hamlet is filled with rage over his father's death and jealousy over his mother's new relationship, impassioned without being melodramatic.

Even the less impressive aspects of the show did not dampen the emotional impact. Although Michael Rovito's Old Hamlet felt at times one-dimensional, the passion and fury of his performance was impressive and effective.

Similarly, Joshua Noel Pak's Laertes' could sometimes appear overdone, but his emotion and delivery were impressive, especially considering that this is his very first show with BergenStages.

All the actors did commendable work, especially considering the four substitutions made from the original casting. The most notable of these substitutions would be Graham Frye as Claudius, who was cast in the role just a week and a half before the show began.

Overall, the passion, hard work and talent of everyone involved in this production created an immersive and exhilarating theater experience, taking the viewer into the emotional complexity and beauty of this classic tragedy.



Clockwise: Craig's Ophelia and Pak's Laertes, the aftermath of the final duel, Queen Gertrude and Claudius, Hamlet with Yorick's skull, Ophelia learning of her father's death, Polonius discussing Hamlet with Claudius, Hamlet and Laertes' duel. // Amanda Barandas



Harry Styles Charms Radio City

pg. 18

Are Selfies the New Autograph?

pg. 21



FEATURES

The Torch

Bergen Library Introduces New System

KATARZYNA ZURAWSKA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WorldCat Discovery Search is a new interface that is used by the Sidney Silverman Library at Bergen Community College.

The system is the first step toward consolidated searching and is combined from previous searches that are available on the library's website, students still can use it as they used it before.

"Students can select which database to use, limit their search by library, format, database, author, year, language and topic," said Lynn Schott one of librarians.

By using the advanced search tool, students can narrow down their search to precisely what they are looking for.

While searching for materials, users can meet obstacles and use "Search Help," which is an explanation on how to use the system. The instructions are written in easy language. There is also online chat with the librarian. The chat is a very convenient tool, however some answers seem to be created by the machine.

Library users can also request books from other libraries through WorldCat Discovery. There is interlibrary loan available and students can request books in multiple languages to which the library bought access.

The current search results list is bigger than the previous system because WorldCat Discovery searches more libraries, although it doesn't work



Students use a variety of resources provided by BCC's library. // Katarzyna Zurawska

faster. Everything depends on the day, time and the number of people who are using it at a certain moment.

Online searching can lead users to paper books as possible sources, which

means students still have the possibility to look in the books to find out what's there. Online search does not eliminate the use or need for physical books. Not every book and its content is available

online as an e-book or on the free web.

Still, the WorldCat Discovery system doesn't have access to all library collection of books, articles and more, but it is in progress.

Adopt, Don't Shop

JULIANA OLEKSY
NEWS EDITOR

November is National Adoption Month, a time of the year to increase awareness of adopting children and pets. The type of adoption most associated with the month is child adoption, however, there's another type of adoption that needs awareness as well: animal adoption.

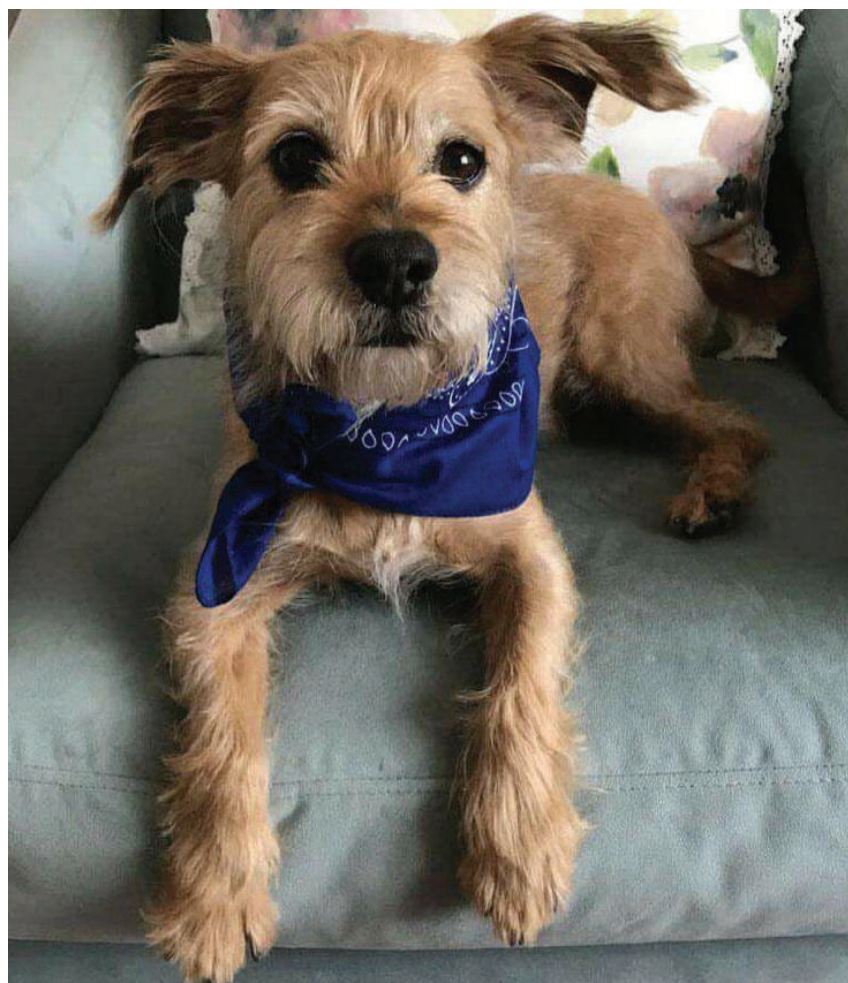
Nowadays, it's so easy to buy a pedigree puppy. I mean, how many times have you been at the Garden State Plaza and have been mesmerized by the puppies in the puppy store's windows? I know I have been totally taken by the cuteness of the puppies. Also, the windows of the shop are always crowded.

As cute as puppies may be, what about the dogs, cats and bunnies stuck in the shelter? Anyone who rescues an animal from a shelter will tell you how special they are compared to animals that are bought.

It's almost as if these animals know that they were hand-selected to be a part of the family that they're adopted into. The love and loyalty that exudes from these animals is so genuine because they know what it's like to be alone.

My Teddy, whom my family rescued from the Clifton Friends of the Shelter, was a part of my family for 10 years. He was an integral part of our family until he recently passed.

I've never met a dog like him in my life, and perhaps, I never will again. When my family first adopted him, he was cautious, but after a while, he warmed up to us and loved to the point that I'm sure he would've done anything for our family.



Many animals are up for adoption. // Juliana Oleksy

There are a ton of benefits to adopting over shopping. For college students, cost-analysis is a huge factor when making any decision, let alone adoption. I recently interviewed the director of the Clifton Friends of the Shelter director Evelyn Ackley, who was just a volunteer when we rescued Teddy, about the debate of adopting versus shopping. I'm going to be focusing on dogs in particular for this article's purpose.

"It is \$200 to adopt a dog who is fixed, vaccinated, microchipped, heartworm tested, frontlined and dewormed at a minimum. When needed, we also cover groomings, dentals and cherry eye repair. We lose anywhere from \$100 to a lot more than that on each dog we place. Our goal is to send out adoptable dogs in the best health we can to give them greater odds of a happy life in their new forever home. All of our guests leave with a goodie bag that generally includes food, toys, collar and a leash," Ackley said.

According to forbes.com, a puppy bought from a breeder or shop ranges from \$500 to \$3,000. Notice how big of a price difference this is compared to a rescued dog!

Another factor to point out is the care and details the shelter puts into the adoptions. The shelter is even willing to lose money because they believe in their cause. If you have any further questions or interest, please call the Clifton Friends of the Shelter at (973) 470-5936.

Bladerunner 2049: Pushing Boundaries of Sci-Fi.



Ryan Gosling as Officer K in Blade Runner 2049. // flickr.com

TREVOR GIOIA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The film Blade Runner 2049 dares to ask what it means to be human, in the modern age we live in.

This film is a sequel to the cult classic Blade Runner from 1982, which is about a cop hunting down robots, also known as “replicants.” The year 2049 is a thriving world, but there are many people who can afford to live off the world. A new breed of replicants has just come to obey and not rebel, made by the Wallace corporation.

Blade Runner 2049, takes place 35 years after the original and with Ryan Gosling’s character Officer K, who is current blade runner on the LAPD. A

blade runner is someone who hunts down rogue replicates, which are prohibited in this universe.

This new sequel is directed by Dennis Villeneuve who gave us films such as; Arrival, Prisoners and Sicario. He makes a film that is building on the world of blade runner while giving some new visuals.

“New but not forgotten,” sums the tone of Blade Runner 2049, which is that of a run down city and a world trying to survive.

Blade Runner 2049, is a film that definitely is in the run for my favorite film of the year. The film has a great cast; with Harrison Ford, Ryan Gosling,

Jared Leto and few newcomers who actually held their own.

Blade Runner 2049, pushed a really good script by Hampton Fancher and Michael Green. Fancher wrote the original blade runner film with this feeling like it but at the same time bringing a new flair to it.

I would say the film is not for everyone. It is only for people who enjoyed the first film or want a really insane morality movie almost like ‘Westworld.’

The film is three hours long with beautiful visuals and a great story that science fiction fans will love. One the best scenes is when you first meet

Officer K, and he flies over a solar power farm with a gray sky.

The way this film was done amazed me on how they mixed CGI and particle effects. It’s definitely makes a world that is believable in its future. This is all thanks to great set builders and Roger Deakins, but blade runner does have a big problem. It is the runtime and how slow movie feels at certain points with only a few action set pieces.

So for that, I give this movie a 4.5 out of 5. It’s a film that is perfect, but has one major problem for some people and that is the runtime.

NBA 2K18 Game Review

KEMRICK PETREE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

2K Games Inc., which produces many games from NBA 2K and even WWE 2K, have consistently kept their audience happy. They have always produced some of the best-selling games.

With NBA 2K18 out in stores now and the NBA season about to begin, the new 2K sports game sets its players off in a whole new world in this year’s edition.

Due to the addition of every NBA’s team All-Time, players can get the chance to play with each of the franchise’s greatest players and many more of the best teams in NBA history. This includes the most recently high-powered 2014-15 Golden State Warriors and the powerhouse in the 2011-2012 Miami Heat.

With all of the trades and signings that went on this off season in the league, 2K18’s gameplay from the player’s movements to the player’s tendencies is the most accurate that I have ever seen in 2K.

2K18 allows the player to engage in real-life activities this year, such as walking to the barbershop so that your player can change their hairstyles. Also, walking to Foot Locker to get a new pair of sneakers to either look

good on the court or to just look nice on the street.

Within past NBA2K games, the

player would be able to experience many new features. This includes playing in high school and deciding

on a college to meeting up with their friends online to play in a virtual park and even competing with their own created teams.

This year though, in 2K18, even with them getting rid of the feature of high school and college, the 2K developers allow more cut scenes and have even included real life up-to-date media and social trends.

The 2K MyCareer takes players into the life of DJ who is a former college basketball star, who decided to leave the game to jump into the life of music then later gaining interest again.

MyCareer mode allows you to pick your favorite team and become scouted by them, instead of past versions where the player has to go through the drafting aspect and play well.








By the NBA changing up their jerseys and with the new partnership with Nike, the updated look around the league gives the NBA and the game a great new image which can possibly be one of the best that 2K fans have experienced yet.

IGN gave the new game a 8.4/10 which was lower than 2K17 and 2K16, and those have had many mixed reviews.



// Wikimedia Commons

Dual Admission to Six Universities

College/University	Contact	Office	Contact Info & Availability
 BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY	Erica James	A118	Erica.james@bellevue.edu (201) 879-1143 Monday - Friday
 FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY	Almida Hernandez	A126	Ahernandez9@bergen.edu (201)-493-4088 Monday - Friday
 MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY	Zabdi Medel	A126	msupromise@montclair.edu Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays
 RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY	Nicole Pedoto	A126	npedoto@bergen.edu (201)-879-7532 Mondays & Thursdays
 RUTGERS	Coming 2018	TBD	TBD
 Saint Peter's UNIVERSITY	Pamela DeLeon	Student Center /A118	pdeleon@saintpeters.edu (201) 761-7105 Tuesdays & Wednesdays
 WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY	Tyler Schreckenstein	A126	Schreckensteint@wpunj.edu Tuesdays & Wednesdays

YOO RA KIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Transferring to a four-year institution after BCC can seem like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be.

Students who plan on attending FDU, Ramapo, NJIT, St. Peter's, Montclair or William Paterson once they receive their Associate's Degree, can breathe a sigh of relief with the following program.

As long as a 3.5 GPA is maintained and the individual in question graduates from BCC, admission into the

mentioned colleges is practically guaranteed. In fact, the school was even recognized by the NJ State Legislature for the excellent program.

The BCC-FDU Scholars Program has been around since 2014. When Bergen alumni choose to transfer to FDU, they are eligible to receive a reduction on their housing costs and tuition.

"The number of transfers to FDU increased, which provided incentive for other colleges to hop on board," Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr.

William Mullaney said.

In order to ensure that students have consistent access to information regarding these six universities, it is required that each of the schools must have a regular presence on campus. That is why visiting two times a week won't make the cut.

In order to encourage a regular presence on school grounds, there will eventually be an area in the Center for Student Success reserved for this very purpose.

According to Dr. Mullaney, the

// bergen.edu

section will most likely be referred to as Transfer Central. Students will be able to come to Transfer Central to acquire all the necessary information they need to have a smooth transfer.

"This program creates a sense of security in your mind," said Dr. Mullaney.

Instead of worrying about whether or not they will be accepted, students can be assured of their acceptance to these universities as long as they meet the minimal criteria.

The Boston Girl Book Review

YOO RA KIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant is about a Jewish woman born in the nineteenth Century relaying her life story to her granddaughter.

Diamant establishes a warm, relaxed tone in the opening paragraph: "I'm flattered you want to interview me," Addie says. "And when did I ever say no to my favorite grandchild?"

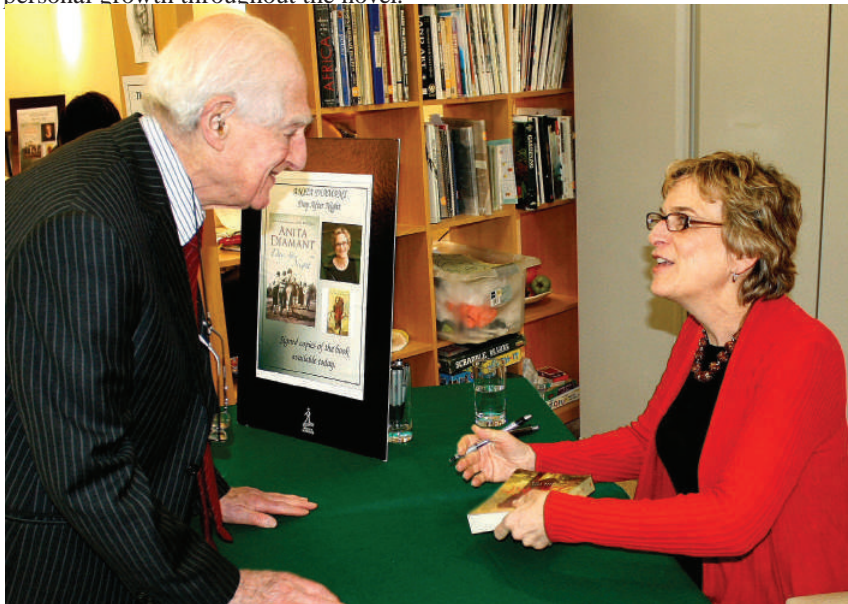
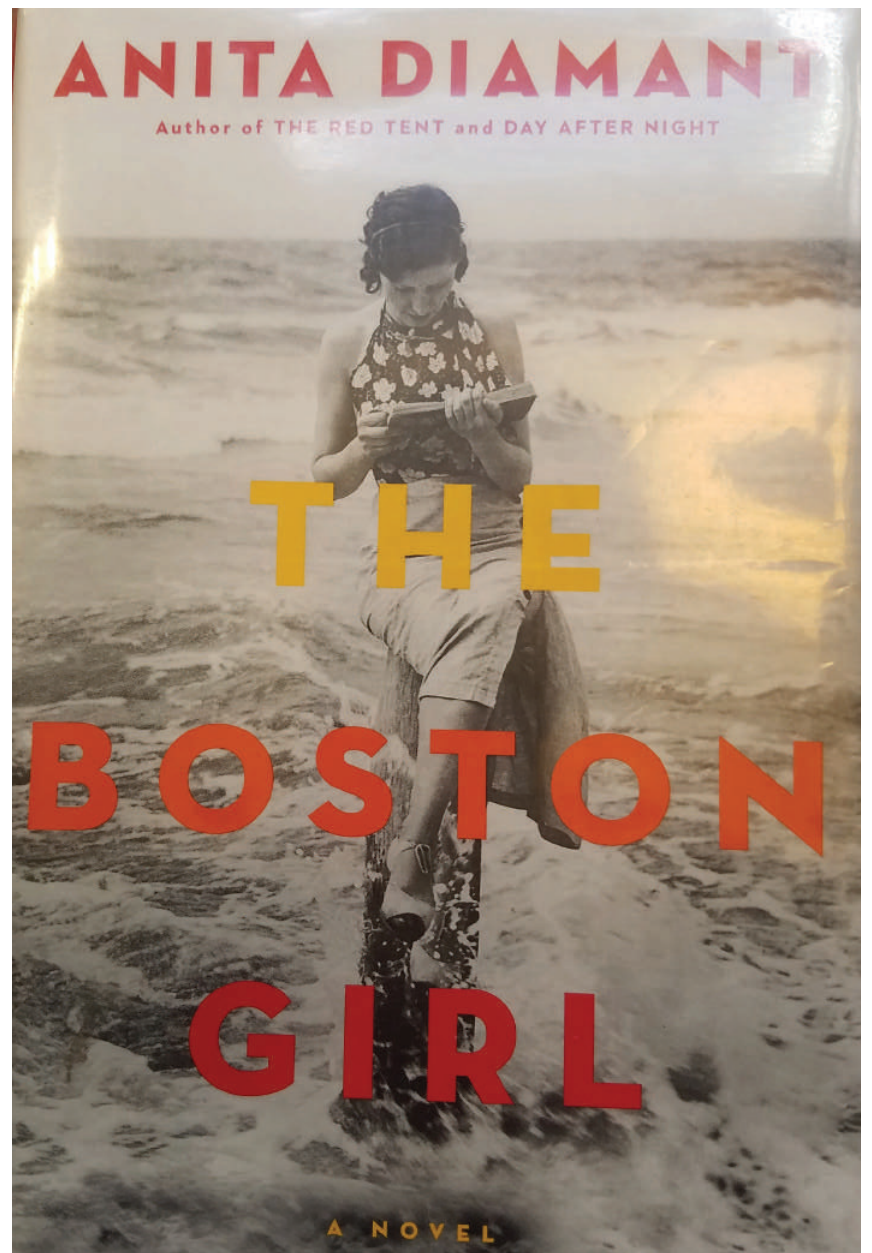
Addie was born in 1895 to Russian immigrants, the only member of her family born in the States. Addie's older sister, Betty, mortifies their parents by living on her own as a saleswoman at Filene's, and Addie disobeys by attending high school and becoming a member of the reading club at Boston's settlement house.

It is there she learns of a sanctuary called Rockport Lodge where young ladies go to work on their skills. The settlement house's leader, Miss Chevalier, helps Addie develop personal growth throughout the novel.

During her first trip to Rockport Lodge, Addie makes lifelong friendships with other striving working-class girls, specifically Filomena, whose dalliance with a married artist shows the pros and cons of the new independence women are claiming.

Addie's story goes on for a couple decades, highlighting somewhat mundane events: the funerals of two nephews in the 1918 flu epidemic, an unsuccessful courtship with a PTSD-diagnosed war veteran, and a run-in with a violent alcohol distributor.

Her ambitious goals involve her evolution as a secretary to a newspaper writer. Addie eventually meets her future husband, Aaron Metsky, and a brief conclusion of the years beyond 1931 informs the readers that Addie found a career as a social worker and educator.



Author Anita Diamant speaking to readers at a book signing. // Wikimedia Commons

// Yoo Ra Kim

Why I Chose Bergen Community College and NJ Stars

JULIANA OLEKSY
NEWS EDITOR

I wanted to go Bergen on the NJ Stars scholarship, despite comments that were made to me about going to Bergen Community College.

Unfortunately, most people don't even know the great opportunity the NJ Stars Program gives to students, because schools either discourage the program or don't share students' information about the scholarship because of the stigma formed around community colleges.

For those who are unfamiliar with the program, NJ Stars is a scholarship that covers the tuition for an Associate's degree in a student's home county community college for those who are in the top 15 percent of their high school class at the end of either junior or senior year. For more information, please go to njstars.net.

Even if you're not a part of New Jersey Stars, Bergen allows you to get your money's worth on an education. No matter where you attend your first two years of college, every single person follows a core curriculum of general education courses that are required before choosing an official major.

In addition, some of our professors also teach at universities, so you're also getting the same teachers who are teaching the same core classes.

Another factor that influenced my decision to go to Bergen is that I feel that Bergen is a very student-centered institution. BCC allows students to make a more flexible schedule, which may ease students into the swing of college life and may even help students who work in addition to attending school.

Also, our school is staffed with advisors and professors who can readily assist with the transition into Bergen and the transfer onto the next step.

Another thing I love about Bergen is that the class sizes tend to be more personal than in four-year schools. Most



Many come to Bergen because of its relative affordability. // bergen.edu

lectures at Bergen include 36 students, but four-year schools can contain fifty students in a single lecture.

A smaller amount of students in a classroom allows professors and students to interact on a personal level, leading to a more personalized learning experience.

Professors have an easier time learning who their students are and can more readily give them any assistance that they may need in a class. There's also the possibility of seeing a classmate

in a different class or any of the many clubs or events that Bergen offers.

Despite any negativity received, coming to BCC is one of the best decisions I have ever made. I also feel that coming here helped me with my transition to college.

During my first year, I attended the Meadowlands campus and had great professors who gave me tools on how to do well and learn. The professors I have had so far really cared about their students and took the time to even give

the students different opportunities to succeed and further themselves.

I feel that Bergen is the stepping stone into the world of college academia. Now, I have personalized learning experiences through Bergen's lower class ratios, while saving money (compared to the tuition of four-year colleges and universities). Hopefully, in the future, the negative stigma attached to schools such as Bergen can be erased.



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Harry Styles Charms Radio City



Harry Styles performing at Radio City Music Hall. // Alyssa Borges

ALYSSA BORGES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Hello, New York City. My name is Harry, I'm from England," the 23-year-old Brit says to his sold out crowd after his silhouette appeared on a millennial pink curtain drop with flower petals on it as he started off with "Ever Since New York."

Wearing a burgundy brocade custom made Gucci suit, Harry Styles proved he was a rockstar at the Radio City Music Hall on Thursday, September 28.

"My job for the next hour and a little bit is to entertain you. Your job is to have as much fun you could possibly have, so please sing, dance, do whatever it is that will make you happy," said Styles. Without a doubt, that is what Styles and the crowd accomplished.

During the second song, "Sweet Creature," the fans raised up pink butterfly-shaped cut-outs as part of a fan project while the venue lit up from cell phone flashlights.

Styles amped up the atmosphere and the crowd as he put his guitar down and began his upbeat tunes, starting with the raging rock riffy tune, "Only Angel." Striding, skipping and dancing across the stage, he grabs a pride flag from a fan along the front row and parades it along the stage, which makes the crowd scream as loud as ever.

"I do apologize, I have ten songs," Styles jokes before saying he'll try and be creative, making sure that everyone has fun.

During this speech he continues interacting with the crowd by asking who's from New York and out of town. When a fan in the front row says she's from New Jersey, he then quips that Jersey isn't out of town enough and looks for something further away.

Keeping his promise in being creative and making up for his ten songs, he goes back to his One Direction roots by performing their first single, "What Makes You Beautiful," with a rockier and unique twist to his version.

He surprised the audience with another throwback from his 1D days by performing his sped-up, rocky tweaked version of "Story of My Life" making the crowd go even crazier. Styles also added in a cover of a song that he wrote and gave to Ariana Grande, "Just a

Little Bit of Your Heart," giving Kings of Leon vibes to his version.

During another brief speech in between songs, Styles urges the audience, mostly in their late teens and early or their late 20's, to "embrace a stranger," and made sure the crowd did so. He then urged them to "Please do the same outside," which doesn't go against his motto printed on his tour merchandise, "Treat People With Kindness."

While moving on to his most upbeat tune, "Kiwi," he stops in the middle of the song due to the lack of energy.

"You were good, I need you to be better and I promise you we will do it as many times as it takes." The second time was a success as it was performed all the way through until the end.

As the night neared its end, Styles started his four song encore with a cover of Fleetwood Mac's "The Chain." Touching as many fans' hands as he could, he ran along the stage, up to the side staircase of the venue during the bridge of the song, getting closer to the fans in the balcony.

Styles began to close the show with his debut solo single, "Sign of the Times," but then hints another song as a result to the crowds, upsetting tone to the night coming to an end.

After performing his breakout single, he mentions one more thing before he goes saying he would regret it if he doesn't.

"New York is where Columbia Records is based and this is the label that I'm with. There's a lot of people from my label that I like very much before I start. I'd like to thank them for being with me tonight, but I would like to tell you, I suggested that "Kiwi" was the next single [rather than latest single, "Two Ghosts"] ... and I'd just like to suggest it a little more. "I guess if we play it again..."

With that, Styles closes his set with the fan-favorite track, "Kiwi," the third and last time making the crowd even more hyped than the first two times.

Could third times charm peer pressure Columbia Records into making "Kiwi" a single once and for all?

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Dia De Los Muertos

ANDREA RUIZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Día De Los Muertos, also known as the Day of the Dead in English, is widely celebrated in Mexico.

Although the holiday is celebrated in the month of Halloween and includes many unique costumes and images, people are supposed to think that it's just Mexicans celebrating Halloween when clearly, it is more than that.

Día De Los Muertos is a two day holiday. On the first day, families take time to remember the children who have passed, and the second day is the remembrance of the adults.

The importance of this holiday is that families are able to communicate with the ones who have passed away and vice versa. Family members leave food, drinks, belongings and calaveras for ofrendas (offerings).

Celebrating the holiday includes music, dancing and parades all over Mexico. Usually, Mexico never celebrates having a parade for Día De Los Muertos.

Día De Los Muertos was not known by many people, and wasn't celebrated in some parts of Mexico. What hispanics do celebrate is Cinco de Mayo and other holidays.

Although, it's not about the dressing up or wearing costumes. Día De Los Muertos is being able to be with our loved ones, especially the ones who have passed away. You could also enjoy your life and not feel sorrow about their deaths.



Illustration by Edriel Fimbres

High-End Theater Brings Ultimate Movie Experience



AMC also owns the theater at the Garden State Plaza. // Wikimedia Commons

ALYSSA BORGES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Shops at Riverside Square in Hackensack, NJ recently opened up their first dine-in theater. The relatively new AMC Dine-In Shops at Riverside 9 is an upscale, modern and spacious movie theater which gives movie-goers the ultimate movie experience.

The experience begins upon the entry of the extremely bright theater with touch screens, which will allow movie-goers to buy and print out their tickets as well as being able to select their seats. When selecting your seat, make sure to sit in the correct seat that you were assigned to. When movie-

goers arrive, they can also take a look at its modern yet classy light fixtures.

As for the food, there is a very nice selection that ranges from chicken wings to sushi. Other food options include flatbreads such as caprese and favorites such as chicken quesadillas. There is also salads, sandwiches and burgers. All these items cost around \$20.00. For dessert, there are doughnuts, milkshakes and brownie sundaes and they cost around \$8.00.

These food items can be found on the AMC Dine-In Shops at Riverside 9's website. Even though this theater's online menu is extensive, the menu at

the theater is limited, so that means not every food item is being displayed.

Besides all the food items that this theater offers, they also provide extra perks for every movie-goer.

These perks include an overstuffed bar of endless drink options, a lounge area for relaxation, personally delivered food by the theater's servers, reclining seats and movable tables with cup holders. It also has brightly lit large numbers that indicate what location the movie is being played in.

Even though there were many fantastic, extra perks that would make every person who comes to this theater

feel pampered, the only downside to AMC Dine-In Shops at Riverside 9 is parking.

Parking seems to be a challenge for moviegoers. To park in the parking lot near the theater, one would have to park in the far back around the corner from the newly, renovated Cheesecake Factory.

Though the parking is a challenge, overall this theater has lots to offer and it is certainly worth it if you enjoy basking in upscale dining and movie watching.

Do You Have a Story To Tell?



The Torch and The Labyrinth Literary Magazine want to hear it.

One winner will be chosen for publication in the December edition of The Torch from those who enter a story, poem, personal narrative, or other creative work. Submit your story, poem, or narrative to bcclabyrinth@gmail.com in form of a word document with the title "LastName 12/17 Torch Entry." Poems may be up to 30 lines, prose works should not exceed 500 words. Feel free to e-mail bcclabyrinth@gmail.com for more details.

Child Development Center

LESHAY JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Bergen Community College has many useful resources for students and faculty to utilize. One of the more hidden resources is the Child Development Center (CDC) located over in Ender Hall on the main campus.

The CDC is a laboratory preschool that was founded in 1982 by Dr. Ursula Parrish Daniels who is currently the Executive Assistant to the President of BCC.

The center is open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 11 months a year, and serves as a host of many resources for not only the staff and students, but also the Bergen community.

It provides a safe and educational space for children while their parents are off in class or at work. The parents are also welcomed to participate in the activities and events that they plan throughout the week.

In order to enroll your child, you must complete the application process and pay all required tuition fees. Tuition is discounted for those who are affiliated with BCC.

The children are separated into two classes depending on their age and all of their lessons are theme based. Everyday the staff make sure that



The Child Development Center provides many services for children. // Leshay Jones

the children are getting the quality education that they need, and parents do not have to worry about them while they taking care of business.

"People tell us all the time that

they would not be able to go to school and work if it weren't for the center," Sally Dionisio Director of the Child Development Center said.

Dionisio has been with the CDC

ever since its founding in 1982 and could not love it more.

"The best part is watching the children grow. This is a place where they learn about themselves and develop a love for learning. This is where it starts," Dionisio said.

The CDC serves as much more than a preschool for the children of the community. It also helps students gain experience by volunteering through service learning.

The nursing and dental hygiene students go in periodically to give the children a lesson on personal hygiene and health, while education students get hands on experience with them.

Student teachers from other colleges have the opportunity to teach the children lessons in order to get their degree. For their final, the students must give a full lesson for the entire morning.

"Once they finish their coursework, they will be able to get hired and teach a full class and make an impact on other children," Group Teacher Shylah Oldano said.

The Child Development Center has helped to shape the lives of thousands of children over the past 35 years and continues to aspire thousands of BCC students.

Are Selfies the New Autograph?

REBECCA KARPINSKI
PHOTO EDITOR

Is the physical autograph dying at the hands of our smartphones? Before the smartphone with a front facing camera was introduced, the way people proved that they met their most favorite celebrity was with a handwritten signature on a piece of paper. Now fans often take a selfie with their favorite celebrity.

In more recent years, the autograph has morphed into the selfie. Many people are coming in contact with their favorite icons and heroes now pull out their phones and walk away with selfies instead of signatures.

The presence of iPads and iPhones as well in a huge decline in cursive writing has played a role in the death of the autograph. Fans at sporting events, concerts, etc., often favor impersonal

selfies to an autograph.

For years now, young fans have developed a personal attachment to a signed piece of equipment from their favorite sports player, a signed Playbill from their favorite Broadway actor or a signed CD from their favorite singer.

Our small items of unforgettable times are no more stored in actual memory boxes for us to gaze at individually over time. Those moments are now made available for the public in an effort to craft our own image and show how amazing, exciting and cool our lives really are.

A selfie with RuPaul's Drag Race queen Alexis Michele at the Javits Center or Broadway actor Ramin Karimloo at the Broadhurst Theatre in NYC will get much more positive reinforcement

than just showing someone a scribbled signature whenever you happen to see them.

We value these coincidental moments because they provide content we can share with people online all around the world, who we really don't even know but yet consider them "followers".

It's as if our memories don't actually exist or never actually happened unless we see it happening first through our phone screens. Those digitized memories must be posted to multiple social media accounts to make them official.

Media has transformed so fast and dramatically it appears to have changed the way we process our memories.

Sure, that selfie you took with Kevin

Jonas you ran into while shopping at the Willowbrook Mall last week might last much longer than a scribble he made on the nearest clothing store receipt, but it does come at a price.

Rather than living in the experience, our first priority is to separate ourselves from that moment, whip out our iPhones and post a selfie online of our chance encounter.

We have become accustomed to appreciate our memories only when they are all over social media on fake walls.

As a result, technology is not only changing how we view the experience of chance meetings, it's also impacting how we remember it. The selfie is the modern day autograph.



Karpinski pictured with Alexis Michelle (top left) and Ramin Karimloo (top right). Illustration of Karimloo and Karpinski meeting. // Rebecca Karpinski

Bergen Wrestling Continues to Grow

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA
SPORTS EDITOR

With the winter season rapidly approaching, many sports teams are preparing for the challenges ahead for this season, and no other team feels the same way than the wrestling team.

With a history of success on the mat, the Bergen wrestling team would like to continue that streak this season. With practice already underway and a highly-talented driven wrestling team, many are looking forward for this upcoming season.

One of the reasons for the hype is the team chemistry. This means that individuals suppress their personal

ambitions in order to advance the group's goals.

"I believe the team chemistry is really good; we're trying to base our program off of having an open relationship with the coaches and student athletes so we could work together objectively to the goal of winning the region," said Assistant Coach Michael Fenner.

As for the wrestlers, team building is what drives them to become better.

"It's great, [and] it's more than a brotherhood. The wrestling team is amazing; they really make you work

like crazy, but it pays off," said wrestler Ariel Salazar.

Returning veterans from last season are Luke Bonn and Christopher Rosario, both of whom were national qualifiers from last season.

With the additional ten new guys on the roster, all of whom have stepped up to plate and have shown a lot of promise to the coaches and their fellow teammates.

As far as challenges go, many feel they are still a lot of things that can be improved but won't know for sure until the start of the season on November

4th. Despite that, many of the wrestlers believe that their on the right track with their weight and nutrition.

Another positive aspect would be that there are no major injuries affecting the team including their grades, which are important to every student athlete.

"I'm pretty sure that all my wrestlers are doing well in class. I've talked to them every day to see, about how they are doing [and] how their progress is. I've reached out to their teachers to make sure that they know who they are and that we're on the same page," said Head Coach Christopher Disanto.



Members of the wrestling team perfecting their skills in practice. // Stephen Giordano

2017 Major League Baseball Season Wrap Up

KEMRICK PETREE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the MLB Postseason in session and the League Championship series underway, we see the remaining four teams competing for a World Series appearance.

The remaining four teams, the Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago Cubs, New York Yankees and the Houston Astros, await what two teams will play for one of the biggest championships in major league sports.

The 2017 MLB season, which had many fans and viewers electrified from this year's young stars to the powerful hitting of the veterans, brought the game of baseball back once again with an explosive dynamic.

Whether it being the Houston Astros, who possibly may have one of the greatest offensive teams in MLB history, or the New York Yankees, who finally were able to get back to the League Championships after just making the Wild Card again. Many teams have shown their dominance around the league.

The Minnesota Twins made history in becoming the first team to make the playoffs one year after losing 100 games; the Cleveland Indians are making another run at the World



Aaron Judge warming up for batting practice. // Eric Enfemero via Wikimedia Commons

Series after last year's lost to Chicago. Bryce Harper and the Washington Nationals, who looked to break their

With the powerhouse hitting of sluggers such as Giancarlo Stanton of the Miami Marlin and Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees who both surpassed the 50 home run mark, with Judge setting the record for most hits by a rookie with 52 and Stanton hitting 59.

But Judge was not the only rookie who had a phenomenal first year. Cody Bellinger of the Los Angeles Dodgers also broke out and had one of the best starts to his rookie season.

With the regular season wrapped up and the postseason in motion, the race for Most Valuable Player in the American League is interesting with Jose Altuve of the Houston Astros who stands at 5 feet 6 inches (.340 BA, .410 OBP, 32 SB, 24 HR, 84 RBI) and Aaron Judge who stands at 6 feet 7 inches, (.284 BA, .422 OBP, 52 HR, 154 Run, 114 RBI) the two matchups once again in this seasons ALCS.

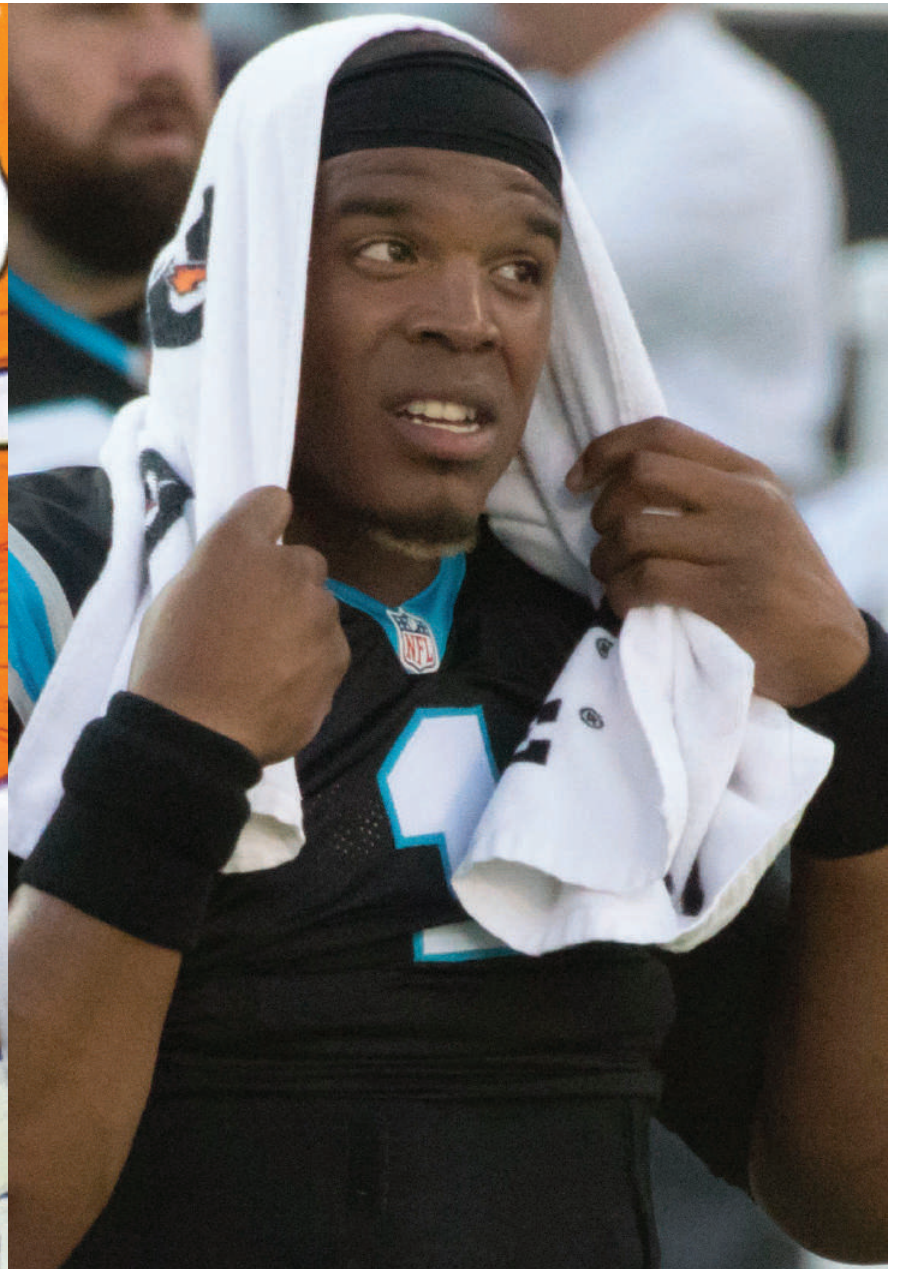
Whereas the National League front runners include Giancarlo Stanton (.281 BA, 59 HR, 132 RBI, .631 SLG), Paul Goldschmidt of the Arizona Diamondbacks (.297 BA, 36 HR, .422 OBP) and Nolan Arenado of the Colorado Rockies (37 HR, 130 RBI, .586 SLG) who also may be seen as the best defensive player this season.

streak of losing in the divisional series once again with ace Max Scherzer, who posted 268 strikeouts.

Women and Sexism in the NFL



Former Offensive Lineman John Moffitt. // Wikimedia Commons



Cam Newton awaiting the offensive possession on the sideline. // Wikimedia Commons

KEMRICK PETREE CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton received backlash following an interview with reporter Jourdan Rodrigue, where Newton said, "it's funny to hear a female talk about routes."

Newton caused a lot of tension between himself and the Panthers organization on October 4. Rodrigue had confronted Newton after the conference, but Newton did not apologize for the comments that he made. A day after making those remarks, Newton did apologize in a video.

"After careful thought, I understand that my word choice was extremely degrading and disrespectful to women. And to be honest, that was not my intention. If you are a person who took offense to what I said, I sincerely apologize to you," Newton said.

Rodrigue has had much experience with covering the ins-and-outs of the team's offense, where she has been covering them for more than a year now and working with Penn State football in the past.

Over the years, NFL athletes have been showing very little respect for women, which has caused many domestic violence cases as well.

They include cases with athletes, such as New York Giants former kicker Josh Brown, where the abuse and domestic violence were being covered up. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Giants owner John K. Mara were suspected, once the Giants re-signed him after two domestic violence cases run ins according to Sports Illustrated.

During the offseason, San Francisco 49ers announced that Katie

Sowers was being hired as an assistant coach for the 2017 season. This made her the second woman in NFL history to hold a full-time NFL coaching position, and the NFL's first openly gay coach.

Jennifer Welter, who was hired by the Arizona Cardinals back in 2015 as an Intern Assistant Coach for the preseason made a huge impact on the league, which technically made her the first female coach in NFL history.

Welter responded to Newton's comments on FOX Business.

Kennedy said, "I won't stand up for what he said, it's obviously wrong."

She also went on to make comments about the other players in the league of their respect for her.

"Those guys [NFL players] saw me actually as more of an insider and more similar to them and being alike than different because they knew how hard it was for me to get there. They were really actually excited and supportive," said Kennedy. "Though that comment [Newton's remark] is something we have to look at and address, I would say that it is the exception, not the rule, at least in my experiences."

Former offensive lineman John Moffitt went on to stand behind Newton and his comments though, saying "it was funny because women 'don't know football,'" which he posted on Facebook.

Moffitt later went on to say, "Women don't know football -- most guys barely do," which he posted on Facebook.

"Stop coming into male spaces and demanding respect...guys care about the substance of things not the appearance," Moffitt said.

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The Torch

SPORTS



2017 BCC Men's Basketball Preview

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA
SPORTS EDITOR

Since October 2, Bergen Community College's men's basketball team has been working on their skills in time for the first game of the season on November 2nd.

Many hours have been spent on the court, working on communication, technique and team building. Something that Head Coach Donald "Ozzie" Osbourne has been looking forward to since his hire last spring.

Over these past couple of weeks, many of the players have been training in a very competitive environment, something that coach Osbourne believes will be helpful in the season.

"They're working hard, learning a new system, learning how to play basketball in multiple ways and not just one dimensional. A lot of them never played this style of basketball that we're playing here, so it's learning for everyone," said Coach Osbourne.

Out of all the players on the roster, only a few played last season; four sophomores played last year and the rest of them are all rookies, some are freshman and some are transfers. The coaches are working with each and every player in order to improve, and with each and every practice, Coach Osbourne has been stressing to take everything into account on the court.

"[I'm] trying to teach them how to



Jafet Lamouth playing for the Bergen Bulldogs last season. // bergencbulldogs.com

better communicate on both ends of the floor, stressing to them about the little things and taking plays off and doing this the right way all the time," said Osbourne.

But with things improving on the court, challenges still lie ahead of the team, including keeping players off of any major injuries and getting their grades in order. Coach Osbourne even had to have one of his players to be sent home because of class absence.

"We're sending a message; you're here for your academics; you're here to be a better person, a better student, and then the ice cream on the cake is that you get the chance to play basketball," said Osbourne.

Team chemistry is important in every sport; it's what helps drive a team to improve on and off the field.

"We mesh together very well, [and] we all knew each other before the season started," said Point Guard Robin Williams III.

With the regular season close by, many of the players are interested in putting everything on the line each and every game.

"We just got to play together as a team, play hard every game as if it's our last," said Williams.

Women's Basketball to Begin

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA
SPORTS EDITOR

For the women's basketball team, practice is already underway with many faces coming back from last season, as well as new faces that are coming in. A lot of work is going into each and every practice making sure that this upcoming season will go in Bergen's favor.

Many women on the team have been working both on and off the court by improving on their skills, communication and most of all trust.

"So far, it's going really well. The four of us are coming back from last year, so we're already used to playing with each other, and then the girls that have started have been practicing really well with us too," said Captain Grace Dannibal.

Each practice is a chance for every player to improve on her skills before the start of the season.

"Definitely defensively I want to be better because I know it's something that we have to work on, and communicating with my teammates also," said Dannibal.

Despite the player to player challenges, Head Coach Tracy Green feels that having spent nine seasons as the head coach, she is confident in her ability to send her team in the right direction, by learning from their mistakes last season.

"The girls who were sophomores last year did not realize how good they can be. We turned around and we beat some pretty good teams towards the end of the season, and I think that kind of got them pretty excited for what we can do this year," said Coach Green.



Practice has already started for the upcoming season. // Stephen Giordano

One of the challenges that the coach is facing is not having enough of her players to come out to practice in time regarding problems facing off the court.

"One of the major challenges for

right now is the number of girls that we have; we always have a tough time because the girls always want to say that we have to work, [and] they always have to concentrate on their studies; so sometime it's hard to get them to

commit," said Coach Green.

However, the staff and players are willing to work through it out in order get the necessary improvement in their skill as a basketball player.

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