

“Truth, No Matter The Cost”

The Torch

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER
IGNITING STUDENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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OCTOBER 2017

Board Plans for College's 50th Anniversary

EMANUELE CALIANNO
STAFF WRITER

At the Bergen Community College Board of Trustees meeting for September, discussion and approval of the consent agenda signaled a number of changes and expansion for the school.

These changes include a renewed effort to increase enrollment and retention, celebrations for the college's semicentennial anniversary, a relocation and expansion of the Culinary Arts Program to the Hackensack campus and a newly-made agreement to keep Gourmet Dining, LLC from a mid-year interruption of services.

Shortly after the meeting began, Interim President Michael Redmond reported on enrollment, an ongoing issue for the college. Last June, enrollment for the fall showed a seven percent decrease from 2016, he said, but the gap has been reduced to about four to five percent, a figure that is not yet final considering registration for the "Late Start" fall sessions.

Redmond said further efforts were being made to improve on enrollment numbers, including a cross-departmental team had been put together to



Ender Hall was the only building in use when the College opened in 1967. // bergen.edu

consider various issues during the registration period.

The team includes staff from Registration, Admissions and Academic Advising, and have already come up with solutions to enrollment issues, according to the President.

Following the report, a video presentation on the college's 50-

year anniversary was made by Public Relations Director, Larry Hlavenka.

Hlavenka told attendees the college plans to hold a special commencement ceremony, as well as tie the occasion with other events normally held throughout the school year, such as celebrations of Women's

Heritage and Black History Month.

Hlavenka also said the college wants to use the occasion as a catalyst for growth at BCC. By gathering attention with public events highlighting the college's achievements and history. The school plans to use the anniversary as leverage for

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Hurricanes Ravage Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico

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Leading with Compassion

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Move for Success: Bergen Opens Clothing Boutique

ESMERALDA LORA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Move for Success is a resource at Bergen Community College for students who need the help to lead a successful career path. With the highly demanding expectations of landing a job after graduation, it is essential to meet the expectations required in a job interview process.

The interim president of BCC, Michael Redmond, mentioned in the ceremony of the launch for Move for Success boutique that he read in a blog online about the job market.

"The article went on to talk about the interview process and how to prepare for what you should say, and you know what one of the things they said, is make sure you dress correctly," Redmond said.

However, it is true to a degree that it is not what we wear but who we are that will determine how far we will go. Let's not deny the fact of dress code in a job interview and its importance to make good first impressions.

At Bergen Community College, students that can not afford to buy these dress outfits that job interviews look for. Move for Success, in room B-122 on the Paramus Campus, has provided one less thing to worry about going to a job interview.

Move for Success is not only a clothing boutique for students but will also hold workshops to help with resumes for interviewing process, and learning how to network in a room full of people.

Move for Success boutique is held in room B-122. Students in the fashion program will be hired to style clothes and put them together for men and women.



Bergen Community College presents the official launch of Move for success Boutique, sponsored by Cynthia A. Myer, Ridgewood Moving Services, NJ // Esmeralda Lora

Move for Success, in room B- 122 on the Paramus Campus, has provided one less thing to worry about going to a job interview.

Gaining the tools needed to be more at ease at job fairs at Bergen Community College. This clothing boutique is not only open to help students dress to impress on a job interview, but will become the support system to achieve endeavors.



The Threat of Climate Change

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Kaepernick Speaks Out

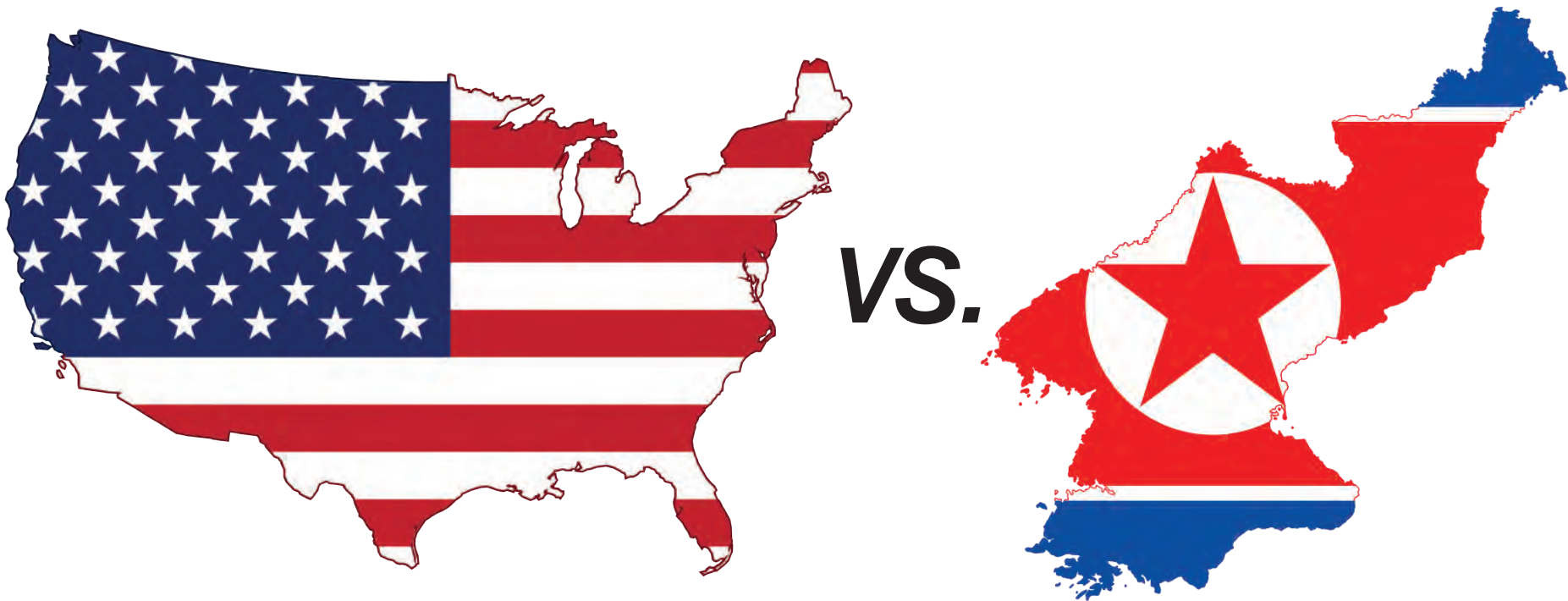
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NEWS

The Torch

North Korean Crisis Discussion Held at BCC



JEREMY NIFRAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The possibility of an American nuclear conflict with North Korea has been a hot-button issue for many Americans, and it was discussed in depth by Bergen Community College history professor Dr. Kil J. Yi, an immigrant from South Korea.

Yi detailed the long history of North Korean resentment towards the Japanese, as well as the role Russia and China played into the current conflicts being played out today.

Yi, the son of a decorated Korean War veteran, explained how important understanding these countries' historical backgrounds is to making decisions concerning the situation between President Trump and the North Korean

government.

He went on to dispel the notion that North and South Korea hold a strong hatred towards each other.

"There are 10 million separated families [between the two countries]," Yi said. "No matter how bad your brother is, there's still a piece of faith in your heart."

Despite this, Yi explained that North Korea is still a ticking time bomb that Trump refuses to stop nudging. He compared the current conflict to that of the Vietnam War, and shared his uncertainty about allied support if the United States were to engage warfare with North Korea.

"Are we certain that our allies are willing to go beyond sanctions in our 'sexy' United Nations? When push comes

to shove, would we have the backing of the international community? I'm not sure our allies would be there for us."

The ultimate question was posed by Yi near the end of the lecture: "What is to be done?"

He said the only viable solution to the messy conflict was secret diplomacy between the two nations.

"There's too much shouting going on," Yi said. "The best option is to shut up. At this point, everyone is talking too loud, and it's not helping anyone."

Yi ended the main part of his lecture with advice to the leaders of both the US and North Korea in the form of a quote from "The Godfather": "It's business, not personal."

The two nations have had an underlying conflict for many years. // Wikimedia Commons



From space, the DPRK practically disappears when seen from space. // Wikimedia Commons

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Ravage US

PURNASREE SAHA
FEATURES EDITOR

In Houston, TX, severe flooding and winds caused billions of dollars in damage to property, and took the lives of over seventy American citizens. The flooding and high winds were caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Homes and furnishings, vehicles, commercial real estate and public infrastructure were damaged from the severe flooding. Most people had to travel by boats, considering the water level had risen past street signs. The state mandated that people move to shelters in expectation of flooding. The hurricane dumped about 27 trillion gallons of water onto Houston with 53 inches of rainfall.

In many areas, trace amounts of lead were found in the floodwaters. Most people in the emergency rooms were affected by cellulitis, an infection from contaminated water that results in red and irritated skin.

Around the first week of September, after Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the inclement weather spread throughout other regions of the US.

Hurricane Irma followed in the east, and next to Irma was Hurricane Jose, which was swirling around the Atlantic and threatened some parts of the Caribbean because the winds were almost reaching 150 mph. Hurricane Jose was moving to the west and has weakened as it moved near the shore.

Irma struck Florida on September 9th and 10th and caused power outages



U.S. Military aids local evacuations // FBI.gov

to several homes in the state. Irma also caused massive damage throughout the Caribbean Islands. There were about more than 30 people who died in the Caribbean Islands.

The wind, rain and storm surge were catastrophic in Florida, especially in Jacksonville. The storm resulted in severe damage to roofs, houses, windows, power lines, cars, and fallen trees.

When the power went out in Florida, most people were sweltering without air conditioning and many suffered from heat rashes and other heat related disorders. Immediately after the storm, about 99 percent of people had no electricity and by September 15th, 76 percent remained without power.

In some parts where there was flooding in Florida, it is believed that cleanup will take weeks and recovery will take months.

President Donald Trump came by to investigate the damage and met up with the storm victims and wanted to receive updates about recovery from local and state authorities. Melania Trump and Vice President Mike Pence also came and set up a tent where they gave out food to the storm victims in Naples, Florida.

According to Florida Power & Light Co., "People who are remaining on the west coast will have power restored by September 22nd due to the landfall that Irma made."

People who were staying on the east

coast were able to get back electricity a week before because there were only a few poles that fell down. It wasn't only power that was lost from Hurricane Harvey, there were roads that were flooded and piled with debris and neighborhoods that were blocked off.

Georgia also had an effect from Irma because on September 14th, 2017, there were about more than 125,000 homes and businesses that lost electricity.

It is likely that as climate change accelerates, extreme weather conditions are likely to be on the rise.

On September 20th there was another powerful hurricane that hit Puerto Rico and it is known as Hurricane Maria.

The death toll has rose to 48 after Hurricane Maria struck. This hurricane caused many Puerto Ricans to struggle without food, water and homes because it slammed ashore on the US commonwealth.

There were some people who had to fill up their buckets with water from tank trucks or from mountain streams.

About 85 percent of people lost electricity from Hurricane Maria. Most of the roads were also blocked off, many communities remained cut off and the phone service was cancelled.

With all the disasters in Puerto Rico, Paul Ryan, the House Speaker promised to provide additional funding. There was also a helicopter that provided a \$36.5 billion disaster aid package for Puerto Ricans and it was approved by Paul Ryan.

Student Conduct Holds Campus Safety Day

ALYSSA BORGES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bergen Community College had a successful Campus Safety Day on Thursday, September 14th. The event included presentations about the Student Code of Conduct, Behavioral Intervention Team and the Department of Public Safety.

The presentations also included the Core Values of Student Conduct at BCC. The

core values mentioned were integrity, fairness, respect, community and responsibility.

Academic, community and personal counselor in the Department of Student Affairs, Cristina Haedo, spoke about where one can report an incident or situation regarding a BCC student. The website where you can report them online is <http://bergen.edu/current-students/student-services-departments/student-conduct/>.

Haedo also discussed where to turn to for resources that will help involve stress, academic problems, referrals, graduation requirements and more.

The last speakers to present were two Bergen County Sheriff's officers, one of them

who attended BCC five years ago.

They brought out two of their K9's for a brief dog training show. Both dogs, Basco and Dakota, are used to search for drugs and thieves. Dakota was rescued from being thrown in a garbage dump as a puppy.

These officers had to take a bit of time off to create a bond

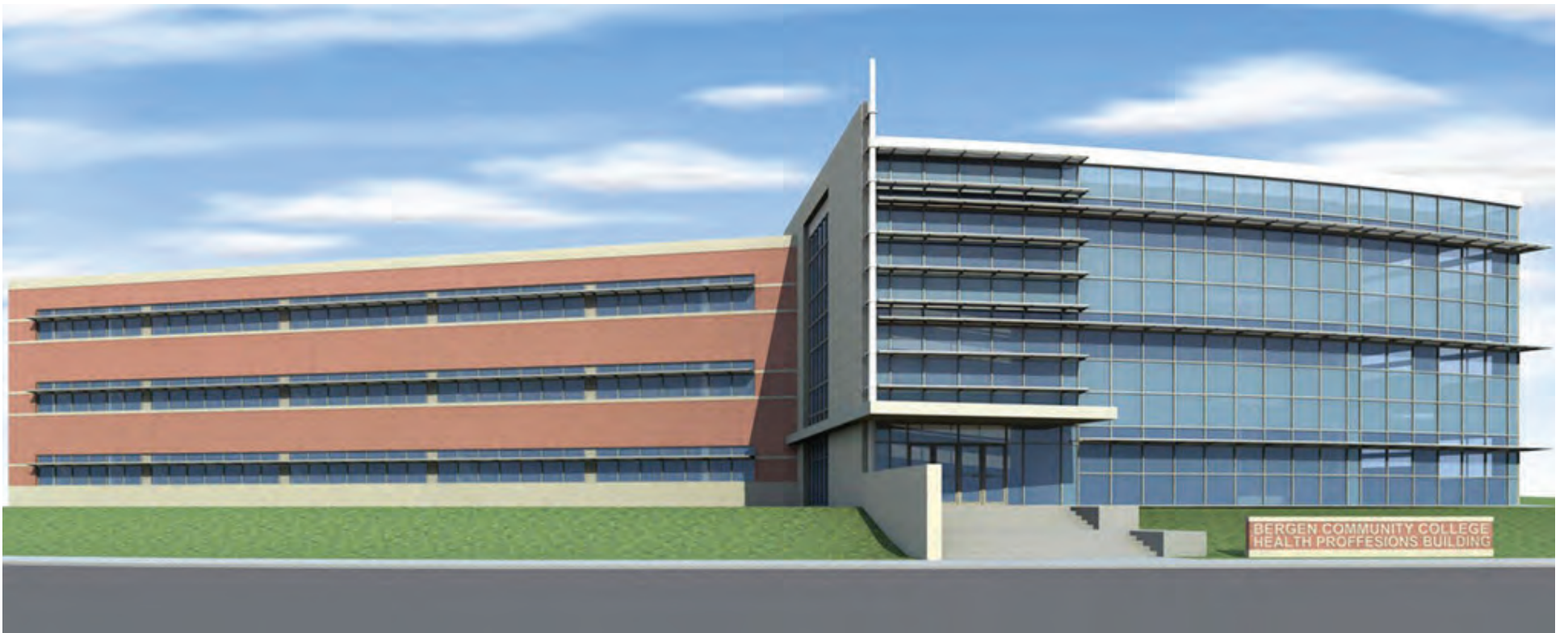
and close relationship with their K9's before putting them to work. The training show gave an overview on how these dogs know when playtime is over and when it's time for them to work.

Due to Campus Safety Day, BCC raised awareness of the campus's policies by providing step by step instructions on how to keep the campus and ourselves safe.



Public Safety Officers raised awareness about safety protocol on campus. // Rebecca Karpinski

Board of Trustees Plans for the College's Anniversary



The college has expanded tremendously since its founding in 1965. // bergen.edu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

fundraising and new projects.

"We want to plan not just for the 50-year celebration, but also for the 100-year celebration and on," he said.

Also during the meeting, the Board approved a resolution to award professional services to an architectural firm planning the relocation and expansion of the Culinary Arts Program to the Ciarco Learning Center in Hackensack. RSC Architects, the firm contracted for the plans, won a bid for \$620,245.

The Culinary Arts Program currently holds

The Board approved a resolution... planning the relocation and expansion of the Culinary Arts Program to the Ciarco Learning Center in Hackensack.

courses at Ender Hall in Paramus, the original building used by the college back in 1967, and according to the Board of Trustees, is "insufficient to meet current or future demand."

Another major resolution

approved by the Board was the amendment to the agreement between the college and Gourmet Dining, LLC, the school's food provider.

Citing substantial financial losses under the previous agreement, the

company had served a notice of termination in June, effective December 2017. After negotiations, Gourmet Dining agreed to remain under contract under a new set of terms.

The amended agreement

reduces Gourmet Dining's hours of operations, eliminates the \$130,000 guaranteed commission payment to the college and bars the company from terminating the contract during the school year.

Hours at the cafeteria have been reduced from 8:00-5:00p.m. to 2:30p.m. An employee for the company said this was due to a decline in sales.

It is not yet known if Gourmet Dining will be terminating services at the end of the school year.



Unfriend Sexual Harassment

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Internships Aid Success

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OPINIONS

The Torch

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

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CORRECTIONS

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

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PIECES

As an open public forum, The Torch welcomes guest opinion pieces and letters to the editor from any member of the Bergen Community College community. Materials should be submitted to eictorch@gmail.com or delivered to The Torch office, SC-111.

Such submissions must include the writer's name, contact information and affiliation with the college. Students should include their major; faculty and staff should include campus title or position. Opinion pieces are limited to 600 words and letters to the editor to 200 words. The Torch reserves the right to edit and to refuse publication of any submission.

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

Corrections for September:

Page 8 of the print edition, top story headline should read, "BCC Appoints New Vice President of Student Affairs" (not Academic Affairs)

Page 9, the last sentence of point 7 of Nine Ways to Survive BCC should read, "By dropping their class with this kiosk, students can add another class to fill that void, assuming the drop/add period has not ended."

Leading with Compassion

LESHAY JONES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Believe it or not, it is not easy to be a leader, especially in a world filled with followers. None of us want to work for somebody, but the cold, hard truth is that about nine out of ten of us will.

It is not because one lacks the potential; it's not because one is not good enough. It is more so because people choose to settle in life.

About 70 percent of people in the United States hate their jobs, and I can't help but wonder why. Is it the pay? Is it the workload? Is it the conditions? Or is it the leadership?

What if it is the leadership of these companies that is causing the employees to want to rip the hair out of their heads every ten minutes?

I think it is safe to say that many people have dealt with the type of person that will not change their mind no matter what, whether it be a boss, professor, friend or family member.

They are the type of person with no compassion or empathy, no matter what life throws your way.

Think about it this way: you have a final paper that is 30 percent of your grade due at midnight on the dot, no exceptions. However, your mom goes into labor at 11:45 and you miss your deadline.

The next day you meet up



Leadership takes just as much compassion as it does strength // Lisa L. Weidmeier via flickr.com

with your professor -- because they don't have an office because they are an adjunct -- to explain your situation but they are not budging as it was clearly stated that no late assignments would be accepted. Due to something that was totally out of your hands, you end up with a D in the course.

Another scenario: you have a mandatory staff meeting on the same same day as your daughter's high school graduation and your boss tells you that if you miss the meeting, you will be penalized.

Now, rules are set into

place for a reason, to keep things in order. However, one thing that I've learned about life is that it doesn't care about the rules and basically moves on its own accord without any regard for anyone or anything. A compassionate leader understands that.

A lot of the time, society views compassion as weakness when the fact of the matter is, being compassionate makes you a strong and effective leader.

Sometimes, once people find out about your kindness, they take it for granted and try to use it for their benefit.

I have had this happen to me plenty of times. People will try to use you and walk all over you. This is why compassion can be considered weak.

However, there is a difference between compassion and poor leadership.

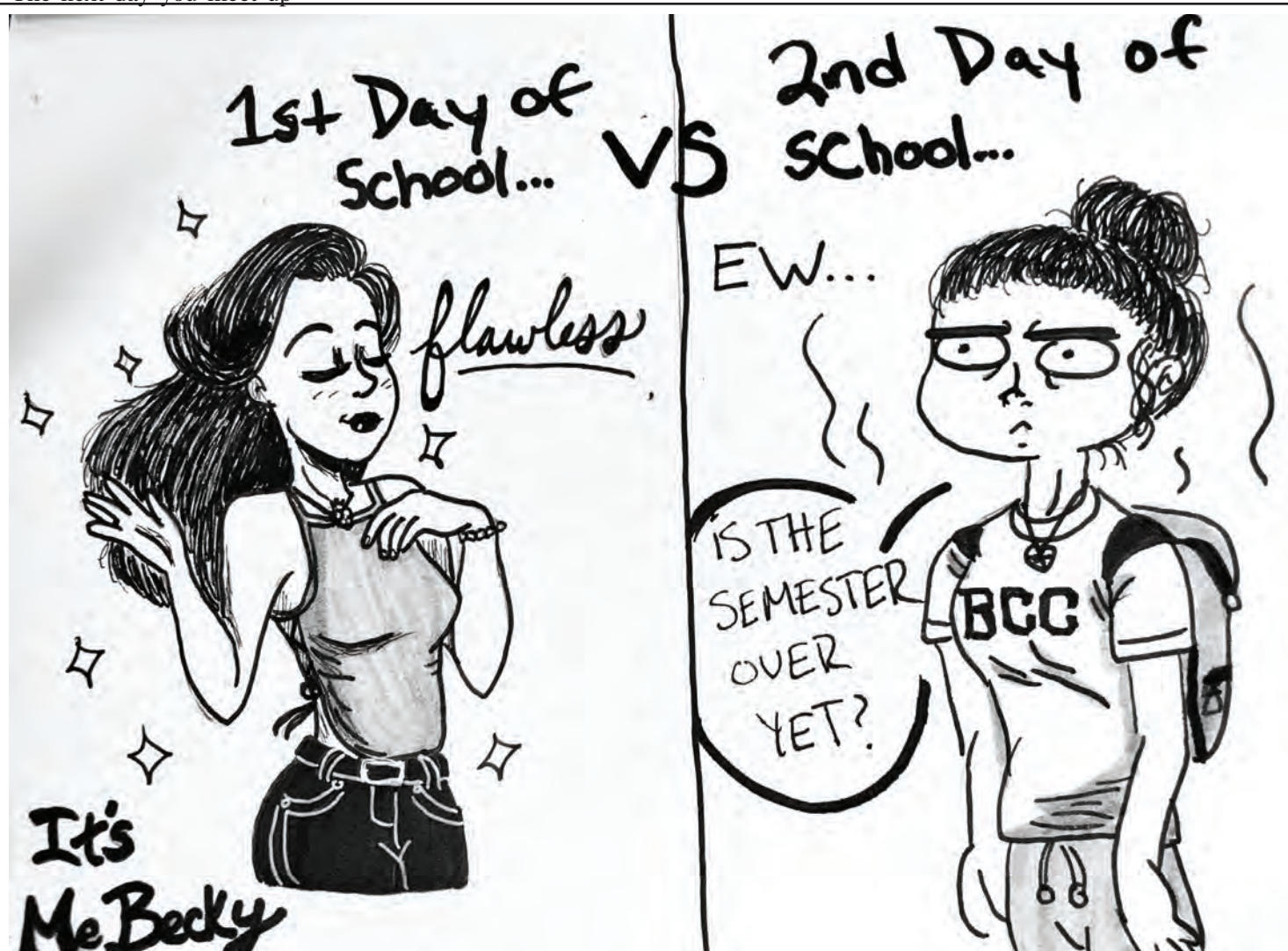
I am not telling you to let your students hand in papers late all the time, nor am I telling you to let your employee miss a meeting because of a bad hangover. What I am saying is to be aware of a situation where empathy is needed.

Human beings, just like most of the species on this planet, need leadership. Without it, everything would be absolute chaos. I know that there is no such thing as a perfect leader, seeing as none of are perfect (although some think that they are).

I also know that not everything goes as plan in this messed up thing that we call life. It is important for our leaders to know this because they are building our future leaders.

In all honesty, the U.S. does not have the most compassionate leaders and that is why our country is the way that is today with all of the hatred and inequality.

It is up to the future leaders, us Bergen Community College students, to help shape the world into the place that we want it to be. And it all starts with leading with compassion.



// Rebecca Karpinski

Conservatism Holds Strong Amidst Growing Diveristity

EMANUELE CALIANNO
STAFF WRITER

In Oakland, NJ, the town I live in, Donald Trump won the election with about 55 percent of the vote.

Northwestern Bergen County is a Republican stronghold in a predominantly blue area, and a look at the area's demographics will make that obvious: it has long been a center of Italian, German and Irish families, traditionally conservative groups, with so little diversity that the only minorities seen in town were usually on their way to the local DMV.

Until recently, at the last census, the demographics of Oakland showed a negligible percentage of non-whites, but today the area is seeing an influx of immigrant families, most of them Latino.

They account for around 600 people, or 5 percent of the population, and live and work mostly in the town's business district, finding cheap rent and walking proximity to local businesses, where it is hard not to find several POC employed. If only in the small radius of the downtown area, the Hispanic workforce easily outnumbers the white demographic.

More and more immigrant families, predominantly Mexican, are venturing out of the downtown area into detached houses, and among the schoolchildren, there is (relatively) far more diversity in their faces than when I attended the same school.

The same shift has been taking place for even longer in bordering towns such as Pompton Lakes, where the Hispanic community is twice that of Oakland, and which saw its size double from one census to the next.

Yet despite this, both towns decided to join their neighboring municipalities in their support of President Trump.

In Pompton Lakes, for example, Mexican storefronts along the main street are quickly replacing old failing

shops, and Spanish can be heard almost as much as English. But as one ventures out into the backstreets, it becomes another place entirely. Lawns are adorned with signs supporting Trump and the "Blue Lives Matter" movement, and a few daring ones proudly fly Confederate flags out of their pickup truck.

At the coffee shop where I work, regulars make it a daily occasion to discuss politics and praise the President's agenda, particularly his stance on immigration.

Which is nothing short of expected, were it not for the two Hispanics serving them at the counter, whom they consider good friends from decades of service.

Over the past months, I've made note of several interactions with outspoken conservatives at work. On one occasion, a woman came into my workplace praising Trump's Muslim travel ban in an almost religious way, as if the messiah had come.

Another regular was caught by two coworkers getting apprehended by

security at the mall for yelling at an American-born Muslim woman with children in hand for holding up the line, telling her to "leave the country and go blow yourself up."

A young dishwasher at the shop praised my work ethic, saying we needed people like me to get rid of "these lazy illegals" stealing money from Americans.

When I pointed out that I worked far less hours than the Hispanics at work, and that I too am an immigrant who had once lived here illegally, I expected him to change his opinion. But my white skin and flawless accent shielded me from negativity in his eyes. Yet for all the conservative frenzy, the Latinos in the area seem to pay little mind to it.

As my neighbor Cesar told me, "My boss voted Trump and said he'd like to replace us with white workers, but if every Mexican he hires quit their job tomorrow, the business would close. We're not going anywhere."

Day after day, the Hispanic residents in town go about with a quiet resilience that astounds me, some of them working up to 80 hours a week, and even manage to make jokes about Trump and his followers, my favorite coming from my manager at work.

"If Trump wants to build a wall, he has to give us back California and Texas, then he can build whatever he wants and stay out. Make Mexico Great Again!"

In the face of thinly veiled racism and hostility, they focus on nothing except working and improving their lives. White residents will keep blurting out their nationalism, flags will keep flying and red hats will still show up around town.

But the Latinos of Oakland have no time waste. There's an American Dream to chase.



As the reality of American demographics change, so do perceptions. // flickr.com

Issues Facing Latino-Americans

KAYLEE ALZAMORA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What is it like moving from your home country to a completely different one for the better of your family?

What about living in a country that you barely know and having the president of that country do everything against not only you, but your whole race?

It's not easy grabbing your things and leaving a place you have lived your whole life to start a new one somewhere else, especially when you have someone like Trump as the president.

Many of us may think, "well if the situation is so bad here, why stay?"

The answer is simple: it's not that easy. Most of the time, people come to this country because things are worse in their own.

This past summer I traveled to Peru to visit family and you wouldn't believe the amount of people from Venezuela I saw there trying to make a living, but why?

They aren't doing it because they want to go and visit Peru and see how it is or just for the heck of it. They are doing it because things in Venezuela are getting worse every day and their only solution is to grab their things and go.

Same goes for here in the U.S. Many immigrants do not come to this country for the luxury of being here, but because they have no other choice. That's what many people don't see.

People don't realize that this is an immigrant made country. Many of the people you see walking around today have family that immigrated to this country, or they themselves are immigrants with their US citizenship or residency.

Just look at you and me; go look down your family tree and you will most likely see a family member that



The current political climate poses threats to Latino-Americans. // flickr.com

immigrated to this country a while back.

Most times, it's our own parents that come to this country as immigrants to give us a better future one we could have never had in their country.

Just because we didn't suffer through it and we didn't feel the pain doesn't mean we should ignore it.

People are struggling and suffering

to stay in this country to give their families, their kids, a better future and in some cases these people are our own family members.

I have a cousin who was a valedictorian in her high school, but her parents and her are immigrants, while her two younger sisters are US citizens.

"It's petrifying to think that I, and many other Hispanic immigrants, can

be taken out of this country whenever after so many years here building life and building families," she said.

Why should they have to go through so much pain and suffering because they wanted something better not only for them, but for their families.

If wanting the best for your family is a good thing, why should they be punished?

Unfriend Sexual Harassment

KAIDEN CILENTO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sexual harassment occurs when an individual makes unwanted sexual advances or obscene remarks. Usually this takes place in the workplace, or in social or professional situations. However, sexual harassment is no longer an incident that only takes place in real life - it is now only a like and comment away.

Sexual harassment has many different forms; from inappropriate touching and comments, to unwanted and explicit photos. Sexual harassment is not only an act that takes place when walking down the street or waiting in line for coffee, it occurs at many different times and in many different places.

Whether online or in real life the harasser strikes fear into their victim. The only difference is that in real life, the victim knows what their attacker looks like and possibly who they are, whereas online the assailant may be anonymous.

Unfortunately, victims of online sexual harassment are often brushed aside and their harassers do not face any type of consequence, no matter how much distress their victim has faced.

According to a study conducted at Ramapo College, victims of sexual harassment face the possibility of suffering life long psychological effects, which include but are not limited to anxiety, depression, migraines, sleep disorders such as insomnia, eating



Historically a problem in the workplace, sexual harassment has gone digital in the twenty first century. // U.S. Army, Photo by Timothy Hale

disorders, nausea, lowered self-esteem and sexual dysfunction. They may also experience work-related issues ranging from job loss, decreased morale, a decrease in job satisfaction to irreparable damage and isolation from coworkers.

In today's society only those who

are sexually harassing others in person face consequences, whereas online harassers do not.

In addition to the psychological effects of both sexual harassment online and in real life, student victims of sexual harassment may feel pressured to drop a class, change their

major or minor and experience physical and psychological distress.

Overall, sexual harassment causes a tense and unproductive working and learning environment. Now imagine being sexually harassed and your assailant faces no consequences.

Climate Change: A Real and Immediate Threat



Photograph from the People's Climate March, raising awareness about climate change. // unsplash.com

KRISTINA CRAIG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The existence of climate change has long been a topic of debate, but it really shouldn't be. The evidence supporting the existence of climate change is overwhelming.

NASA has found data showing that the global temperature of the Earth has been rising since the 20th century, and that 95 percent of this global warming is due to human activity.

An excessive amount of greenhouse gases are being released into the atmosphere by us. These gases have trapped in extra heat, which has caused glaciers and ice sheets to start melting, our oceans to become warmer and more acidic and extreme weather events to become even more intense.

The Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that the global temperature of the Earth could rise anywhere from 2.5, to ten degrees fahrenheit over the next century. For the entire global temperature of the Earth, this would be massive change with serious consequences.

What would happen if we let climate change progress? First, we would see a greater increase in hurricanes like Harvey and Irma. The warmer atmosphere and oceans would become a breeding ground for powerful storms.

The hotter it gets, the more dangerous these hurricanes become. On the opposite end of the spectrum, there will be places that will get no rain at all, becoming dangerously hot and dry.

Recently, just outside of Portland,

Oregon, a huge wildfire set ablaze a large portion of forestation. The flames were massive, hard to control and quickly engulfed huge sections of the forest. The intensity of this fire was increased by climate change.

The New York Times spoke to meteorologists, and they confirmed that Oregon has been unusually dry, having seen little rain. This lack of moisture allowed the fire to become as massive as it did, and this unusual dryness was brought on by climate change.

Across the entire world, anybody living at or below sea level will find themselves slowly submerged in water. As glaciers continue to melt, they will add more water to our oceans.

This will cause the sea levels to rise, which will slowly submerge all places

bordering the sea, and any place at or below sea level. We can already see the effects of this happening in the Solomon Islands, located near Australia.

As of 2016, five islands there have been almost completely submerged. The habitable land on these islands has vanished, and the families living on them have been forced to move. The effects of climate change happening now are severe, and the effects to come will be even more so.

So why are there people who still don't believe in climate change? Renowned scientific organizations like NASA have continually shared the data they've gathered, supporting that climate change will only continue to get worse, and we can already see their predictions starting to come true.

So why do our current political leaders still act like this is a problem they can choose to ignore? Even our current president, Donald Trump, is a climate change denier.

Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Accords; he's employed people who have direct ties to companies who hurt the environment, like Rex Tillerson; he's supported projects like the Dakota Access pipeline, a project that tramples over indigenous people's rights as well as environmental rights and has continually stated that climate change is a "hoax", sometimes going as far to say it's "created by and for the Chinese".

Why aren't we taking the necessary steps to alleviate the effects of climate change?

Other countries are already shifting to renewable forms of energy. For example, Sweden is aiming to become completely free of fossil fuels, Denmark gathers almost 40 percent of its electricity via wind energy, and about 78 percent of Germany's electricity comes from forms of renewable energy.

Why doesn't the U.S. follow in these countries footsteps? America is a great and powerful country, we should be the ones who are leading the way.

Right now, the only people who can make a positive difference is us. We can make change by educating ourselves, and then making our voices heard. That is the best thing we can possibly do.

LESHAY JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Shade Ranges Matter

Makeup has always been a huge factor in the world of beauty and fashion and today it seems to be more prominent than ever.

A lot of people wear makeup when they want their face to stick out and brighten up their skin. However, makeup companies put a whole new meaning to “brightening up the skin” for people with darker skin tones.

I, along with a lot of those with darker skin, feel as though these makeup companies are failing to realize that there are people out there who are darker than “caramel” or “tan.”

It’s as if they forget that black people exist and that they too wear makeup. They don’t realize that they are missing out on a huge market of people with beautiful dark skin.

Granted, a lot of companies have expanded their shade ranges over the past decade, the ranges are still not as well rounded as it should be.

I consider myself a woman with darker skin; however, I am far from the darkest shade out there. There are brands that will stop at my skin color and label it “deep dark” and have a girl with lighter skin than Jennifer Lopez labeled as “dark.”

Let us not forget about all of the various undertones of a person’s skin. Some brands fail to look at skin tones as a rainbow and forget that there colors aside from light, tan and dark. For some reason, a lot of makeup companies think that all black people are red and I leave the house looking like Clifford the big red dog. There are people out there that have yellow and neutral undertones.

Whether we want to believe it or not, we still live in a society where lighter skin is more associated with beauty



Many people have a hard time finding a makeup shade that matches their skin. // Wikimedia Commons

than darker skin. Maybe makeup brands are stuck in time and racism snuck into makeup market. Maybe they still think that people with darker skin don’t wear makeup.

Now there are companies out there that market their makeup to those with darker skin, like Black Opal, and I highly recommend that people buy from these black owned businesses.

However, sometimes these companies can be hard to come across, or they only sell their product online and it becomes harder to color match. Some companies also only offer their darker shades online and sell their lighter shades in store.

I should not have to go out of my way to find a makeup brand for my skintone. I should be able to go into the makeup section at Target, just like everyone else, and find my shade sitting right there.

Now, there are bigger department stores such as Ulta and Sephora that sell these brands in bulk. However, it feels like every time I go to buy a product, they are sold out of my shade, or the shade that I think I am and will never find out because they NEVER have it.

Despite all of this, its seems as if our prayers have been answered with the new Fenty Beauty line by Rihanna, doing what every other makeup brand seemingly refused to do. Rihanna’s new line features 40, yes, you read that right, 40 different foundation shades.

Rihanna has opened a whole new door in the makeup industry, opening the eyes of other beauty companies and informing them of a huge market that consists of thousands of people.

Things have definitely gotten better, but the beauty industry still has a long way to go in becoming inclusive of people of all different shades.

Walking in Nature Benefits Mental Health



// unsplash.com

DANITA RUIZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ever want to just get away and clear your mind? Ever think about nature walks? I know not a lot of people are the nature walk types, but instead of being cramped up in your room, playing videos games, get off of your butt, go outside enjoy the fresh air and being alive.

Upset about a breakup, bad grades, a bad month or even a bad year? Then go do something about it, clear your mind. Go sit under a gazebo or even a tree. Just be within nature and study if

you have to. Why not? It’s quiet and peaceful. Give yourself some time to catch your breath and hear yourself think.

Students at BCC are running around, going to class, stressing about that test or quiz, overwhelming themselves. During that ten minute break, you have time to hear yourself think and give yourself time to breathe.

Take a walk around campus, just relax and look around you. Look at the world around you or even read your

textbook and stimulate your mind. Nature is a part of us, it’s within us, so why not embrace it?

There are a couple of trail sites in New Jersey and one is not far from BCC: a county park located in Saddle Brook, NJ. There is a tree as a bridge to walk across or even sit down and look at the sunset and the water flow underneath your feet.

Walk through some trails and see what you can find, let the nature within you come to the surface. Listen to the

birds as they sing their song and sit on the peak of the trees, with the sun glazing through the trees.

So at the end of the day, if you need some time to yourself, or a good study place, I suggest you go to Saddle Brook County Park or another park nearby and enjoy life while you still can, take chances, try new things and, most importantly, expand you knowledge whenever you possibly can.



*RuPaul's Drag
Con*

pg. 15

*100 Years Since
Revolution*

pg. 14



FEATURES

The Torch

Age Diversity On Campus

LIZBETH LAGE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When you hear the word “diversity,” the first thing that comes to your mind is race, but people tend to forget that diversity includes different races, colors and ages. At Bergen Community College, diversity ranges in numbers with our students.

The least common type of diversity that people tend to pay close attention involves the age diversity amongst students on campus. We have many people every year that register for the semester again after twenty years or more of taking a break from their studies.

There are students that have long had families established and have already purchased their first home or their first car, but have felt that something was incomplete without their studies.

A thirty-nine-year-old Bergen Community College student by the name of Johany Kaplan first came to this country in 1990, but she did not



Bergen serves a variety of age groups. // army.mil

know English. A few years later, she graduated from Hudson Community College with an associates in Public Administration, but lost touch with her studies when she was offered a job at a bank that would challenge her mother tongue.

As time passed, Johany married and started a family. She had a schedule that would make it difficult to go back to school, but after fifteen years, Johany has finally decided to enroll into school to be better in English and to get her degree in social work.

Johany said, “I was missing something in my life, and that’s exactly what I was missing because I have the family, I have the house, but I didn’t have my studies.”

During fall of 2017, Johany, along with many students like her, are hoping to meet their expectations this year to improve and remind them that an education not only serves as a tool for making money, but, for many, it’s a fulfillment in their everyday lives.

Benefits of Community College

ANDREA RUIZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many years ago students and parents thought that community college wasn’t the best choice to be studying and earning an associate’s degree. We are now in 2017 and about 41 percent of undergraduate students attend community colleges. Think about the benefits of applying to a community college.

Going to a community college before achieving your bachelor’s degree at an expensive four year college/ university will save you at least half of that money.

Throughout the two years of the community college, tuition, fees and financial aid will save students at least half of the money or even more when attending a community college. Not only does community college offer financial aid, but a payment plan as well.

Payment plans help students pay every three months, while they are attending school. These opportunities help students financially as well as being able to save and not having to deal with debt.

In order to graduate you have to complete the requirements that are based on your program evaluation. What’s very good about community college is that when you receive your degree, you’ll be able to transfer it.

Students should earn as much as they can. As a student at Bergen, it is important to take as many classes as you can, in order to receive all the credits that you need to graduate.

Just know when transferring and having all the credits that are required, you can put to your mind that those are the classes that you need for your major. It will make the process much faster.

Students don’t know what they want to study after they finish high school. Community college can help show you what you’ll want to partake



Community College can provide many advantages. // Rebecca Karpinski

in. Anything that you’ll be interested in and would want that to be your major is when you think before, “is what you want to major in?” Something that I’ll be doing for the rest of my life.

Bergen has a wide variety of programs that you may be interested in. As mentioned before about saving money, you’ll be saving more with the classes and still earn credits.

Not having the perfect grades in high school is okay. The greatest benefit

of going to a community college is that they accept your grades.

Going to a community college can help boost up your GPA. Many students from Bergen have had low GPA’s and with boosting up their GPA, they have been accepted to NYU, Columbia and Harvard.

It’s amazing when a student works hard and sees their results at the end. Boosting up your GPA can help with requirements at a four year college and it shows that you truly care about your

education and what you want to do in your future.

Although community college doesn’t offer dorming, that doesn’t mean you won’t be able to live with your parents nor find an apartment. Dorming can cost a lot of money, but living at home saves you a lot of money.

With all these benefits of community college, take a second and consider if a community college might be the best choice for you.

It: A “Floating” Movie Review

JULIANA OLEKSY
News Editor

“It” is the movie that everyone has been buzzing about and referencing since the original film. The remake of the 1980s Stephen King novel adds a modern twist to the infamous horror antagonist, Pennywise.

The original Pennywise, played by Tim Curry, offers a juvenile take on the killer clown, while the modern Pennywise, played by Bill Skarsgard, presents a darker clown. This difference in Pennywise is contributed by modern technology, which plays the biggest part in the modern film.

The use of modern technology allows the director and writer to add horror around each corner that appeals to our generation. The original movie was absolutely terrifying to the generation that first watched It.

However, rewatching the film after all of the modern technology now available, takes away from the initial horror of the 1990s mini series for the same generation that first watched It.

Technology has affected our ability to be scared by horror movies, and could be the reason why there are so many changes in the new movie with character backstories, characterization and small plot changes.

In the modern movie of “It,” some of the characters’ backstories are different from those in the book and original mini series. These changes are calculated to go along with the other minor changes made along the way.

The most significant change would have to be the setting from the original being set in the 1950s and the modern movie being fully set in the 1980s. Some differences in backstories include the deaths of both parents of a protagonist, the change of Henry’s dad’s occupation, and the historian role being taken away from Mike.

The characters of Beverly, Mike and Stan undergo some major characterization changes. Beverly is given a reputation of being “easy” and plays a damsel in distress role towards the end of the movie.

Mike lives with his grandfather, is homeschooled and works in the meat industry. Stan goes from being a devoted boy scout in the original to preparing for his bar mitzva as the Orthodox Rabbi’s son in the modern film.

The love triangle between Ben, Beverly and Bill is still prominently underlying throughout the film. However, the change that I like is that the relationship between Georgie and Bill is featured more in-depth, which creates the main framework for the film.

You are able to feel Bill’s pain and see more of the brotherly love between the two siblings. Going along with the relationship theme of the movie, the Losers Club’s friendship is more defined in the modern film.

Pennywise is most known for his different forms that shift throughout the film, especially the spider-form. Well, you might as well throw out any expectations you have on what forms Pennywise will take because all of the original forms are replaced with CGI created forms to scare a modern audience.

I’m not going to complain about the CGI because I feel that the modern technological effects adds to the horror aspect of the movie, but these minor differences change the plot of the movie. Other small differences include kidnappings of one of the protagonists and added deaths of some minor characters.

Although the novel and mini series’ most significant scenes may be portrayed differently, the motif of the red balloon and the phrase “They all float down here” still stay in tact.

However, the changes throughout the film still made me question what will happen with the It franchise in the future because the new movie creates some unknowns compared to the



The new movie (above) is a remake of the original 1990 mini series (below, both based on Stephen King’s 1986 novel. // Warner Brothers Pictures, Warner Brothers Television, respectively

original film and book.

I would have to say that although all of the kids played their characters phenomenally, Finn Wolfhard steals the show with his quick wit and humor as Richie Tozier. Even though the modern Pennywise is significantly different from the 1990s version, the horror element was still present to the extent that Pennywise is uncomfortable to watch.

I also like how the underlying

theme of the difference between adults and children is present throughout the film with the adults seeming useless when it comes to helping. This could be a set up for the next movie, where the Loser’s Club are adults in our modern world.

Yes, the very end of the movie hints to us another It movie by flashing “Chapter 1” in addition to the title It.

The movie critics at Rotten Tomatoes gave the movie a rating

of eighty-five percent, which is significantly high for their rating system, and the audience rating on Rotten Tomatoes is 88 percent.

I would recommend this movie if you like horror that keeps you on the edge of your seat. On the other hand, please don’t watch this movie if you’re expecting the original It movie and book because your expectations will not be fulfilled.

The Sun Shines on CancerCare Walk at College

Carl Phillip
Contributing Writer

On Sunday, September 24, 2017 Bergen Community College held CancerCare's annual walk/run event for hope.

The event registration started at 7:45am, and the opening ceremony was from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The 5K Walk/Run for hope began at 10:30 a.m. and the children's fun Run started at 10:45 a.m. It was a hot 92 degree day with clear skies and the sun shining on us all.

CancerCare provides free service including emotional and financial support via online or in-person to all, such as cancer patients and their families. The organization is looking to raise \$125,000 for patients and their families.

Erica Lebensberg, who is the director of special events and has been involved with CancerCare 30 years now, is glad to say that CancerCare gives a chance to all who have been touched by cancer. Erica wanted to inform all whom who need to know that the services are free to patients, caregivers, to people of all ages, bereaved and all diagnosis.

Eisai was a sponsor at the cancer walk/run event, and their mission is to give back to the community and patients. They conduct fundraising through the year to give to CancerCare.

They have been donating for the past ten years if you are interested in donating and giving back contact Susan Streater, the senior training coordinator at Eisai at the number 201-746-2540.

Fellow Bergen community college student Will Theilmeier of Hillsdale, New Jersey who attended the walk/run said, "As a Bergen Community College student here in my second year, it is a convenient location for it to be held here at the Paramus campus. The event is time worthy and it's very good to turnout and support great causes."

Will's younger brother 17-year-old Myron Theilmeier was eager to share his story. In 2013, the guys lost their father Thomas to cancer. Myron is very fond of the healing hearts camp his fondest memory he recalls is waking up at 6am in the morning talking to cowboy Nick (Nick Valvano's name at the camp) about the difference between a mule and a hinny.

At the raffle ticket table, Frank Semmel of Hawthorne, NJ said he enjoyed himself and it was his first time attending.

The run and the weather was enough of a challenge, similar to what it is to be a patient battling cancer or a family member dealing with the effects Frank was sporting a Hoff's hearts and soles t-shirt.

Ariana Parmese, who is CancerCare's regional coordinator, is instrumental in the healing heart camp. She described CancerCare as a wonderful organization that the community needs know about.

"More people need to know about CancerCare services such as bereavement groups, individual counseling and the wig program which is for women going through cancer treatment and are losing their hair or have lost it already," Parmese said.

The service allows them to be able to schedule an hour long wig appointment and take home a wig free of charge. She states the it was a gorgeous day and she could not have ask for a better day. You can call 1-8000-813-4673 or the Ridgewood NJ office at 201-444-6630 to reach Ariana Parmese.

Kathy Nugent, the director of Regional Programs at CancerCare, has been involved with CancerCare for over 35 years. She states in all her years, she has seen the organization grow to be a national organization.

"It was a great turnout by their over 500 walkers/runners," Nugent said.

Some of the volunteers that were there was Nick "Cowboy Nick" Valvano and his wife Claire Grainger-Valvano. Nick also volunteers at the walk/run event and also other various one such as the healing hearts camp Malibu ranch in Milford, Pennsylvania.

In attendance was Joey's Keeper named after Johanna Garcia-Jerez, who lived 08/01/77 - 08/10/17. Her husband Domingo Jerez and brother Joaquin Garcia were just a few names that made up the big group of fund-raising for a good cause. Johanna worked for Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield for in the financial department at the company for 16 years.

She passed away at 40; she was a dedicated sister, friend, wife and mother of two. Her son Marcus is 7 years-old and her daughter Kayla 11 years-old. She was an independent beachbody coach.

"In her short life you could tell how many lives she touched by the support our family has received. We were blessed to shared so many great moments with her and her legacy will forever live on. #joeykeepers," said Johanna's brother Joaquin Garcia.

Johanna's husband Domingo wanted all to know "I feel that people should realize being in a career helps especially in situations like losing a loved one."

Photographs by
Amanda Barandas

Destiny 2, A New Journey Awaits

MARK GUCIA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Destiny 2 is the next installment of Bungie’s 10-year plan involving Destiny and it is available for PlayStation 4, Xbox One and PC.

The game introduces a new alien race called the Red Legion, a group known to never surrender and for their brutal war tactics. With their first appearance, they destroy The Last City, Earth’s only civilization, and send its inhabitants into involuntary exile.

The old alien enemies: The Fallen, Hive and Vex have a new look and devilish appeal.

The overall game play has not changed much, so the controls still feel the same, which for a first-person shooter, the game handles well. New abilities give the player a chance to mix and match different moves and powers to fit their play style.

Raids and Nightfall missions are being revamped, with a system that allows for matchmaking, something that excluded some players from completing end game content in the first game. The matchmaking process is as follows: players looking to join others will be randomly selected and put into groups seeking out one or two players.

Player vs. Player, has been reworked to a 4-on-4 matchup, this leads to faster action and less time being paired with players.

A new weapon system allows two spots for main weapons; one for heavy weapons that gives an opportunity to



Cover of Destiny 2 // flickr.com

double up on main weapons that players find appealing.

Destiny 2 is a game that is sure to hold a players interest. New worlds, with amazing detail, has players travel to places where people are desperately hanging on to any ray of hope that they can find. New characters with witty and lovable personalities add flavor, and create a more story- based game. This was something that critics felt the first game lacked.

The soundtrack is beautifully uncanny, strings and operatic voices flood the senses. Coupled with adrenaline rushing rock music during different areas of play, and boss battles. This is all designed to make the player feel, both at ease, and ready to fight at a moments notice.

In place of repeating the same patrol missions as the first game, there are patrols, however, they seem to impact your reality and the enemies that you encounter.

You will travel to a new sector of Earth, called the European Dead Zone, and the new worlds are Titan, Io and Nessus. Titan and Io are moons of the outer planets and Nessus is a creation of Bungie. New worlds, new adventures and new gear await those willing to go in search of them.

Destiny 2 is a redemption story. From the ashes of the triumphs from the first game, new heroes will rise and “Become legend,” Destiny’s slogan for the franchise.

Entertainers Set Fall Fashion Trends

CARL PHILLIP
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The fall semester has officially started, which means the classrooms and hallways are full of different kinds of trends and fashion.

The various types of appearances - comfy, casual, business and trendy - are all seen, from dad’s hats to business suits. Sweatpants and a T-shirt is one way of approaching the day, in contrast to a dress and heels for women.

There are many things that were introduced in 2017, including fashion and clothing brands. Technology and internet made social expression more

accessible. Today in society, there are various new clothing brands and other small business designers that sell their own makeup and upcoming brands.

The first day of school usually marks the annual “dress-to-impress” outfits. Some outfit choices are more laid-back due to their fashion choice during the fall semester.

Music, entertainment and fashion is emerging in the same path market-wise. Kanye West’s creative director, Virgil Abloh, and rap and fashion collective A\$AP Mob’s A\$AP Bari both have spanned the upcoming

generations to be more fashion forward and create their own unique brands.

This has spilled into this “dad hat” era where all you need is an embroidery sewing machine. Students are here for their education and their style speaks to the masses with comfort, style and their voice to the world.

For many, fashion is their voice and outlet, and it doesn’t hurt the fact that you can make an impression on the people.

In current trends and entertainment, the famous rapper Drake has collaborated with NBA legend Michael

Jordan’s own brand, creating Jordan sneakers bearing his own brand logo. This was an achievement based on how vital to the sport and entertainment industry Michael Jordan has been.

If fashion was to capture this moment in time, you would have entertainers building their brands and sharing ideas that involve collaborating and shaping the culture for decades to come. With that being said, what currently walks through our school classrooms are a reflection of today’s society thinkers and innovators.



Rappers Kanye West and Drake remain important trendsetters and designers. // Wikimedia Commons, flickr.com, respectively

Hoboken Terminal Renovations Postponed

PURNASREE SAHA
FEATURES EDITOR

More than a year after a train crash at the Hoboken Terminal, repairs won't be completed for two more years and commuters are still being affected. NJ Transit, PATH, Hudson-Bergen Light Rail and the NY Waterway Ferry service were temporarily suspended after the crash. According to the article "Hoboken Terminal Crash Repairs won't be done until 2019," on New Jersey website(nj.com) construction could be completed in the third quarter of 2019.

The attached ticketing office, passenger concourse roof and other mechanical and electrical infrastructure were severely damaged from the train crash. Track 5 was closed due to the train crash, and passengers had to take buses and PATH trains by walking through the waiting room outside of the station.

Len Resto, New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers, thought that new commuters will be confused in finding their way around in the Hoboken Terminal.

Professor Thomas La Pointe of the English Department at Bergen Community College, commutes from Hoboken. For two weeks following the crash, La Pointe's commute was disrupted but soon returned to normal.

"The train that I used to take to Hoboken in the morning was cancelled, but some trains were still okay after the incident happened," said La Pointe.

Lapointe had to take the NJ Transit 175 bus from BCC to Ridgewood to catch the train to Secaucus. From there he took the shuttle from Secaucus to Jersey City and transferred to the light rail to Hoboken.

"Construction is still in progress on the train platform, which is outside



Commuters have been waiting to return to normal commutes for some time. The main waiting areas of the station (above) were unaffected by the crash. // Wikimedia Commons



The aftermath of the crash, prior to any repairs. // Wikimedia Commons

the Hoboken Station, in a minor way and it does not affect the train schedule anymore," said La Pointe.

During the summer, Penn Station resembled what you'd think Hell would look like. A quarter of Penn Station was also closed during the summer for repairs to faulty signals and tracks which rerouted an additional 16,000 passengers to Hoboken Terminal.

It was predicted that passengers who were commuting from Hoboken Terminal will get a steep discount. The officials at the Long Island Rail Road then said that the agency was not capable of giving the passengers discount during construction.

The PATH was almost overflowing and the Hoboken Terminal was packed with commuters. There were rush hours to Hoboken which allowed passengers to switch to trains that were operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey or to ferries.

A Man Against Hollywood

TREVOR GIOIA
STAFF WRITER

On October 5th, the New York Times dropped a bombshell of allegations against Harvey Weinstein based on evidence of sexual assault that was given to them.

The sexual allegations against him range from small to major sexual assault. The New York Times article on Weinstein had actress Ashley Judd and Rose McGowan come forward about their encounters with Weinstein.

They went on to talk about the times he told them that he would make them a career if they did sexual things.

"I appreciate the way I've behaved with colleagues in the past has caused a lot of pain," Weinstein said in a statement to the press.

The company that Harvey Weinstein created, The Weinstein Company, produced some of the most classic films such as pulp fiction and Gangs of New York.

On October 6th, the Weinstein company said it was taking these allegations against Weinstein "really seriously". Harvey Weinstein's lawyer stated, that he will proceed with suing the New York Times and its parent company for the article.

On October 8th, Harvey Weinstein was removed from the board of his own production company. His own production company doesn't want to associate it with him.

As the following days went on more people stepped forward about Weinstein and other events that happened.

On October 9th, actress Romola Garai said she felt violated when she was invited by Harvey Weinstein. New Yorker magazine claimed that 13 women have been sexually exploited by Harvey Weinstein. Two actresses stated that back in the early 1990's that Weinstein was sexually exploiting them.

Weinstein was dropped from the Producers Guild of America,



Weinstein , a highly influential figure in Hollywood, has been removed from several powerful positions as a result of the scandal. // flickr.com

the Academy of Arts and Sciences. Many associations have taken action against Harvey Weinstein to show that Hollywood is changing.

Back in 2005, during a Pamela Anderson roast, Comedy Central asked Courtney Love if she had any advice for young actors.

She said, "if Harvey Weinstein asks you to a private party at the Four Seasons hotel, don't go."

October Marks 100 Year Anniversary of Bolshevik Revolution

IAN HARTMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This month marks the centennial of The Russian October Revolution, when an alliance of far-left political parties led by the Bolsheviks overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky in a nearly bloodless coup.

Over the past 100 years, the revolution and its aftermath have become ground zero for debates about social change, collective political action and revolution itself.

Critics point to the horrors of Stalinism as the inevitable outcome of a foolhardy attempt to transform human nature, while proponents admit to the ultimate failure of the Bolshevik project while also pointing out that much good also came from the storming of The Winter Palace.

The Bolshevik-led uprising was the second revolution to shake Russia in 1917. Nine months earlier, the February Revolution had deposed the Tsar and set up a provisional government which was composed of moderate socialists and liberal intellectuals in power.

From the moment of its formation, The provisional government was locked in a situation of “dual power” with The Soviets (council or committee in English) were elected assemblies of representatives of soldiers, workers and peasants that had originally appeared in the failed 1905 Revolution. The Soviets carried a democratic legitimacy that the self-selected provisional government lacked.

Initially, the moderate socialist leadership of the Soviets agreed to support the provisional government insofar as it advanced the cause of the revolution.

However the far left, most notably The Bolsheviks, believed that the “craven bourgeois” who dominated the PG would never go far enough. Most damningly, The Provisional Government refused to sign a separate peace with The Central Powers.

The masses of Russia were incredibly war weary, especially the rank and file of the Red Army. Soldiers’ committees had arisen that acted as a counter power to the authority of the aristocratic officers class.

The Bolsheviks were able to harness these feelings of discontent and anger with two slogans “All Power to The Soviets” and “Peace, Land and Bread.” “Land” referred to demands among the serfs and peasants for the breaking up of the big feudal estates among those who actually worked them while “bread” simply referred to the starvation that prevailed all of Russia.

Between February and October, the Bolsheviks engaged in an intensive propaganda war among the urban workers and the army to convince them that only a Soviet government could finish the revolution.

Finally, after months of failed insurrections, Tsarist coup attempts and repression, they succeeded in gaining a majority in the Soviets for their program.

The Bolshevik strategy assumed that by taking power in Russia would spark a European socialist revolution.

Marxist theory stated that only advanced capitalist countries, where the organized working class made up a majority of the population, could successfully implement the socialism (defined as a society where the workers democratically planned production and the focus of industry was meeting human needs)

Industrialized Germany, where the Marxist Social Democratic Party acted as “a state within a state,” which involved running labor unions, worker’s education societies and controlling a vast media empire.

This was supposed to be where the revolution was to kick off, not backwards, peasant-dominated Russia.



Protests in the streets of Petrograd, now St. Petersburg, during the Bolshevik Revolution, 1917. // flickr.com

However, while October did kick off a wave of socialist and national liberation uprisings from China to Ireland, none were able to take power.

With the world’s revolutionary wave receding, the degeneration of the democratic Soviet state into a bureaucratic dictatorship began.

Stalin was able to become the absolute ruler of The Russian state and Communist International after a brutal, factional struggle between his Center Bloc, Leon Trotsky’s Left Opposition and Nikolai Bukharin’s Right Opposition.

The degeneration of the revolutionary state and international communist movement was complete when The Soviet dominated Spanish Communist Party worked to crush the anarchist inspired Spanish Revolution of 1936-37.

After the fall of The Berlin Wall in 1990, capitalists around the world celebrated their triumph over communism. However, 20 years on it seems that the celebrations were premature.

Global climate change, born out of capitalism’s need for constant growth on a finite planet, threatens us with an extinction event of such magnitude the only comparison is the end of the dinosaurs.

Automation, which under socialism would represent the liberation of humanity from drudgery, seems poised to drive millions into out of the productive process altogether. The answer of our rulers to these threats appears to be bigger prisons, higher walls and more militarized police.

German Marxist theorist Rosa Luxemburg warned that the choice facing humanity in 1917 was “socialism or barbarism” it now appears that we face the choice between socialism and apocalypse.

The Violence Intervention Prevention Center,
Office of Multicultural Affairs, Center for Peace Justice and
Reconciliation, P.R.I.D.E. Club, Center for Student Success, Office
of Student Life & Center for Hope and Safety proudly present:

THE **FOURTH** ANNUAL TRANSGENDER AWARENESS DAY Breaking Barriers

A day of events dedicated to our transgender
population and all who want to understand.

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. • TEC-128

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Welcome Remarks
Jennifer Migliorino-Reyes, Dean for Student
Support Services

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Keynote Presentation with Jennifer Long
“My Name is Jennifer Long”

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Keynote Presentation with Abby Stein
“TRANSitions”

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Panel with Jennifer Long as Moderator

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Assemblyman Tim Eustace “Call to Action”

Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

Space is limited. To reserve your attendance, please RSVP at
Professor Shari Franschman, sfranschman@bergen.edu, (201) 689-7064.

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A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Internships Aid Success

KATARZYNA ZURAWSKA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During the summer, there are many students who look for internships to get experience between semesters, but why talk about it now in fall?

There are many places that have very long recruiting process. Some companies require sending applications in late fall, even for an internship that starts in June.

Remember that you should prepare your portfolio before and work on your resume ahead. Applying for an internship is the same as applying for a job, only few can get the position.

Bergen Community College has a lot of helpful services, that help students prepare for a future internship/job. One of such services is the Career Center, which is located in A-123.

Career Consultants help students find adequate internships and write a cover letter/resume. They also help young people manage their courses which are required for their major.

For example, The Museum of Modern Art is offering an internship in Spring 2018. There are a variety of departments that start in January, but the application deadline is October 15, 2017.



Internships provide insight and hands-on experience into career paths. // unsplash.com

According to www.moma.org, the internship takes twelve weeks and it pays \$3,300 of stipend. But one of MOMA's requirements is availability which is three days per week.

Another internship example is in the Women's Sport Medicine Center Hospital for Special Surgery, which takes eight weeks. The internship starts in June, however, applications are due on February 17. Applicants have to have completed two years of college in the medical field.

According to www.hss.edu, interns are paid a stipend of \$1500. There are also internships in Engineering and Architecture at The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that offers twelve weeks of paid in the summer, but the application deadline is in February.

According to www.panynj.gov, the interns have to be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program for the upcoming school semester.

As you can see, students have many options, but every internship has limited places and to get there, you have to stick out from the other applicants. So don't wait, and start working on your career right now.

RuPaul's Drag Con Sashays into Javits Center



Sasha Velour (pictured) and other performers met fans. // Rebecca Karpinski

REBECCA KARPINSKI
PHOTO EDITOR

If drag is your religion, then RuPaul's Drag Con is the pilgrimage you need to take. Held at the NYC Jacob Javits Center on September 9-10, RPDC came to NYC for the very first time.

Regular tickets for the whole weekend were \$50, and the VIP package was \$100 extra. That VIP badge got you into the convention a half an hour before standard ticket holders on Saturday and Sunday, to the front of a lot of queens' booths, the front of all panel lines and into Ru's keynote speech first.

One of the downfalls to this event was that you have stand in line for a

LONG time. One of the things people love most about drag is the huge, amazingly diverse group of people it brings together to celebrate it. But sometimes you forget that not only would most of those people be at the convention, they would be gagging to meet exactly the same queens that you do!

The most popular queens like Sasha Velour, Trixie Mattel and most of the recent Season 9 queens, had the longest lines – some people stood there for over three hours. You quickly need to make decisions about what's important – do I need to tell Alexis Michele that her final runway look was

sickening, or is Todrick Hall's panel something I absolutely cannot miss?

Once you get to the front of the line, almost all the queens have a rule that you must buy a piece of merch from their booth before you meet them. You might start the day strong, but once you're there, suddenly you'll find yourself unable to imagine life without a Sasha Velour t-shirt or an Alexis Michelle's Subwayfish snapback.

Meeting RuPaul is obviously one of the biggest draws to the convention. To meet Mama Ru herself you have two options – autograph (\$45) or photo op (\$60, but you can have two people in the photo so grab a friend and split the

cost!). There were two allocated times for autographs and two for photos per day.

The entire weekend was full of love and acceptance. So many hearts were so incredibly full, not only from meeting respected people doing what they do best, admire and love, but from being able to spend time in an environment where fear didn't exist.

The feeling of being able to say, do and wear anything you wanted was unbelievably elevating – we were all accepted, all supported and all loved.

The Screams, Terror and Shock: The DNA of Haunted Houses

TREVOR GIOIA
STAFF WRITER

The history of haunted houses as Halloween attractions is quite unique and comes from various places.

An article from The American Haunts website, "History of Haunted Houses," written by Bekah McKendry, said "The first part of haunted houses actually goes back to the 1800s with John Pepper's ghost, which fascinated and terrified people. The 1800's also saw a new attraction called a wax museum which messed up people's sense of realism."

Going to the 1900s the traveling carnival introduced the freak show and oddities. These horrified customers thought that things such as freaks were real.

The family owned carnival introduced the dark ride and fun houses during this time as well. The first haunted attraction was an actual horror show called 'Orton and Spooner Ghost House', which was like a magic show and horror stage show with the use of blood to shock the audience.

In 1969, the opening of the much-loved Disneyland ride, 'Haunted Mansion', was a smash hit. The 'Haunted Mansion' was important to haunted house history and yes, because this was the first time to connect technology and magic tricks to create the ride. The way people move around the mansion is by riding a vehicle.

It used an old, original haunted



Haunted houses terrorize and delight attendees in equal measure. // Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons; illustrated by Rebecca Karpinski

mansion that used a pepper ghost in the scene which included the dancing ghost and the pipe organ. The technology in the haunted mansion also pushed for technology that was based on haunted houses later on.

In the 1970s, there were many haunted houses that were seen around Halloween. It was usually made by young people for giving money to charities. Two people by the names of Jim Gould and Tom Hilligoss, who came from a history of making haunted houses, put together a company that would make, sell, and have special effects and other things that would make up a modern haunted house.

As the years went on, the haunted houses improved and there were few new types of haunted attractions that were made.

They are now hayrides, mazes and virtual haunted houses that can be found at most modern theme parks around halloween. Did you know that world's longest walk through haunted house is in Fort Worth, TX and it is called 'The Cutting Edge.'

All of these people and places make up what the modern haunted house is like the Haunted mansion with its use of a dark ride and pepper's ghost technique. The Orton and Spooner ghost house, which modern haunted houses owe the blood filled scenes to this stage show.

Halloween Happiness

ALYSSA BORGES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Halloween is the the most horrifying holiday of the year. Bergen Community College will be closed on Halloween due to Day of Development, so take advantage and celebrate the holiday right on October 31st!

Now if you're a Halloween fanatic, you should try celebrating it all of October. Here's a list of some of the top scariest local attractions and even haunted locations to visit throughout the month.

Six Flags Great Adventure's Fright Fest is a great trip in October, especially if you want to visit a haunted house in one day! According to the Six Flags website, there is no easygoing stroll during Fright Fest.

There are zombies and ghosts that are spread throughout the streets and they hide in every corner waiting to greet you, so stay aware. There is a total of eight haunted attractions in the amusement park where you'll be blindsided by the darkness and not knowing what's lurking around the corner.

These attractions will try to include a bit of every individual's worst fear, so be prepared. This year, Six Flags has also just added "Lake of the Lady Cemetery". This new attraction is inspired by the legend of a bride who was cursed by the Jersey Devil.

She apparently drowned in Jackson's Great Lake and has haunted it for about 200 years. This year, the lakefront will be transformed into a graveyard where guests can walk through, if they dare, and try to catch a glimpse of the ghost of the lady wearing a white dress while walking.

The park will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and other days from 5:30 p.m. to Midnight. Check the sixflags website for more information about the Halloween filled amusement park.

Fortunately for Halloween lovers in New Jersey, there are books and websites dedicated to actual haunted areas and overall creepy things in our state to check out.

These books and websites are also known as Weird N.J. Some of the well known locations in these books are Clinton Road, also known as "The Most Haunted Road of America," which is located in West Milford, NJ



Illustration of trick-or-treaters by Edriel Fimbres

and Passaic County, NJ. The time to actually experience the long road of pure horror is late at night due to the pure darkness.

Also beware of random cars that are parked along the road and anything unordinary as this road is a gathering spot for the KKK and Satanist groups. The Devil's Tree in Mountain Rd, Basking Ridge, NJ.

According to Weird N.J., "Supposedly anyone who tries to cut down the tree comes to an end untimely, as it is now cursed."

They also state that, "its trunk has been severely scarred by axes and chainsaws, some wounds appearing to be quite old. Why no one has yet been successful in toppling the timber we cannot say for sure. Nor do we know

what has become of those who have tried."

There is a sign by the tree that states "Park Closed ½ Hour After Sunset. Violators Will Be Prosecuted."

Some other creepy haunted spots are The Gates of Hell in Clifton, Passaic County, NJ and The Jersey Devil which is in Pine Barrens, NJ. Beware of the negative energy that could be attached to certain locations if you plan on visiting them.

Take a trip to the theaters and watch the most anticipated horror films at the moment. Enjoyed The Conjuring? Watch Annabelle: The Creation, which is directed by David F. Sandberg as it is the Conjuring universe.

It's also one to watch if you like films based on true events and this is

based on an actual possessed Raggedy Ann doll.

The film based on Stephen King's 1986 novel, "It", directed by Andy Muschietti, is about a group of bullied children that unite when a shapeshifting demon that takes the appearance of a clown and begins terrorizing them.

Since BCC students have off the day of Halloween, dress up and take a trip to the city for the New York City's 44th Annual Village Halloween Parade. Only those in costume are welcome to march and they must line up on 6th Avenue at Canal Street between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The parade will be from 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. It will also appear on television from 8pm to 9:30 p.m.

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

Roseblood: The Thorn in my Side

REBECCA KARPINSKI

PHOTO EDITOR

Roseblood, written by A.G. Howard, is a modern day spin on Gaston Leroux's gothic tale of unrequited love turned to madness, The Phantom of the Opera. Roseblood was so poor in its execution that it actually seemed to be good. The book takes itself so seriously that it's just hilarious to laugh at.

The characters, plot, setting and romance were all wrong. Every single detail of the book was also wrong and failed on every possible level. Obviously big spoilers ahead, but who really gives a damn.

Our protagonist is Rune Germain, and she's going to school at the Roseblood academy for musical talent. The first two chapters are just one dump of info about Rune's power and information about the school.

I'm skipping ahead because the book goes into excruciating detail about her new friends at Roseblood and her classes which is unnecessary, but let's get to what I've been waiting for - The Phantom of the Opera!

Is he going to be Rune's love interest? Nope, his son is going to be instead. Erik (The Phantom) adopted a son who wears a mask and becomes Rune's love interest. His name is Thorn (I'm dead serious, his name is THORN), and he wears a mask even though he has no deformities. He stalks Rune and visits her in her dreams. Erik and Thorn live in the sewers of the academy and haunt it.

Wouldn't it be more interesting if Thorn had a deformity? Instead he wears a mask like Kylo Ren and is charming in every way despite the fact that he lives in the damn sewers without any friends except for his psycho father.

Of course, he's a handsome love interest. We can't have ugly love interests can we? Physical beauty and beauty of the soul itself were core themes of the original book.

Also, the reason why Erik is still alive (the original Phantom of the Opera took place in the year 1870, Susan Kay's book "Phantom" claims that Erik was born in 1831 and Roseblood takes place in modern day 2016 so that makes Erik 186 years old) is because he's a psychic vampire. A PSYCHIC VAMPIRE.

The best part is that Rune and Thorn are also psychic vampires (because why not) and their voices lure people to them. They don't drink blood, but they suck the energy from people with their song (don't ask how.)

You are probably wondering how they feed from people. Well, Erik owns a rave and he uses the people in the rave to feed off their energy. The Phantom owns a rave. THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA OWNS A GODDAMN RAVE!

Yes folks, the Phantom of the Opera owns a nightclub and there's a rave inside that people go to and he feeds off their fear by exposing his face and using giant tubes to suck up their energy.

Later we find out that Rune and

Thorn are "twin flames," which means that they have the same soul. Essentially, one soul is separated into two parts in two different bodies.

The soul that was split between Rune's and Thorn's was Christine Daae's, otherwise known as Christina Nilsson. She was a real life opera singer who is the original author of the Phantom of the Opera who was based on the character of Christine Daae.

She was Erik's twin flame and she died before they could have a bonding ritual (not really explained well), so her soul reincarnated into Thorn and Rune.

It makes no sense. First of all why was Christine Erik's twin flame? Erik is a tragic character because he's never been loved and tries to force Christine to love him and when she refuses, he thinks that it is because of his deformity, but that's not the reason at all. It's because he's a psychopath, stalker, kidnapper and murderer, and they were never soulmates.

The book even has the audacity to say: "She [Christine] wasn't ready for the selfless, soul-deep level of love he required...they had a passionate emotional affair, although sadly, she was young and immature."

Are you for real? We are really blaming Christine, the victim, here. Oh! but wait, it gets better. This is the "REAL" history of Erik and Christine:

Christine returns to Erik years later after the death of her husband Raoul and she falls in love with him because they are ~soulmates~ and they have a

child together.

The baby girl dies and Erik tries to resurrect her, but Christine gets angry and leaves him forever. Erik then spends the rest of his life trying to resurrect the baby by finding Thorn and Rune because they have Christine's soul.

The whole plot of this book is Erik trying to capture Rune so he can cut out her voice and give it to his dead daughter to resurrect.

At the end Thorn saves the day by releasing a lever that floods the sewers. He lives, of course, and he and Rune live happily ever after. Also, Erik is alive and goes to live with other psychic vampires in Canada. Why Canada? There's no explanation why he would go there! Erik doesn't take any revenge against them and is chill.

Everyone ends up happy in the end and nobody dies, all in the spirit of the original source material, am I right?

The only redeeming thing is that it's so bad that sometimes it's actually hilarious. Honestly, it's just another bland Young Adult love story that we've seen a million times. However, this one really got under my skin because it used material that many people love and disrespected it, just like that horrible Last Airbender movie did.

Only read it if you're completely new to paranormal Young Adult books and then you'll enjoy this more, but most readers will recognize all the familiar elements.



Roseblood, alongside the original Phantom of the Opera, and Phantom by Susan Kay // Rebecca Karpinski

From Rising Star to a Rising Activist: Colin Kaepernick Kneeling For Change

KEMRICK PETREE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick has brought both a large amount of support and controversy by refusing to stand for the national anthem in regards to protesting what Kaepernick believes is the unfair treatment African Americans and other minorities in the United States.

In an interview with Steve Wyche, a reporter for NFL media, Kaepernick said “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color, to me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way.”

“There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder,” said Kaepernick.

Many others had made their comments of the situation, even Kaepernick’s coach at the time. Chip Kelly said “it’s not my right to tell him not to do something” and that it is “his right as a citizen.”

Kaepernick’s decision also gained the attention of many other NFL players and athletes across America.

From being drafted in 2011 in the second round to becoming the 49ers superstar and leading them to the Super Bowl in 2012, Kaepernick has gone from being one of the most promising players in football to being a huge civil rights protester.

Kaepernick has completely put his career and family on the line for what he feels should be the fair treatment of minorities. Kaepernick, being a biracial child, was adopted by white parents and said he had mixed feelings about what to do but felt that he had to take a stand.

In an interview with Christine



Kaepernick playing for the 49’ers // flickr.com

Hauser of The New York Times he said, “this is not something that I am going to run by anybody, I am not looking

for approval. I have to stand up for my people that are oppressed.”

Kaepernick, who is a free agent at

the moment, is entering his 7th season in the NFL and many teams have passed on signing the quarterback.

Michael Bennett Accuses Las Vegas of Racial Profiling

KEMRICK PETREE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Defensive end Michael Bennett of the Seattle Seahawks will plan to file a lawsuit against the Las Vegas Police Department claiming that after the Floyd Mayweather-Conor McGregor fight in August, he was racially profiled by police, who used excessive force when stopping him.

Bennett claims that the incident was so traumatic that he feared for his own life and thought that he would never see his family or play football again. This incident gained major attention across the sports nation and even turned the head of NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, which also allowed police to prompt as internal investigation.

Bennett explained in a post on twitter, detailing the events that took place, “several hundred people heard what sounded like gunshots, [the] Las Vegas police officers singled me out and pointed their guns at me for doing nothing wrong more than simply being a black man in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

The aggressive and excessive amount of force used by police had Bennett in a very traumatic situation.

Bennett said, “A police officer

ordered me to get on the ground. As I laid on the ground, complying with his commands not to move, he placed his gun near my head and warned me that if I moved he would “blow my [expletive] head off.”

“Until they apparently realized I was not a thug, [a] common criminal or ordinary black man but Michael Bennett, a professional football player,” is when they finally released him. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police undersheriff Kevin McMahill said that the arresting officer did not have his body camera on, which a lot of people probably asked questions about what he said.

“Once Bennett was in the officer’s view, he quickly ran out the south doors, jumped over a wall onto Flamingo Road into traffic. Due to Bennett’s actions and the information the officers had at the time, they believed Bennett may have been involved in the shooting and they gave chase,” said McMahill.

Bennett’s incident got the eyes of many other NFL players especially former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who we know is famous for kneeling at the national anthem last season.



Bennett in his Seattle Seahawks uniform. // Wikimedia Commons

2017 BCC Women’s Soccer Season Review

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA
SPORTS EDITOR



With the soccer season now here, many new tactics will be new used on the field in order to improve the team as the season progresses.

Coach Vivino, the new head coach at BCC, was hired in March after years of playing and coaching the game at a very young age.

“It’s the game that I love [and] it’s the game that I grew up playing,” said Coach Vivino.

After many years spent in the high school and college level, he’s ready to move the program here at Bergen forward. Of course he’s not alone; many of his players, despite having little experience in the college level soccer, are working hard each and every day to make each other and team better.

“It’s really cool, the girls are really nice [and] we all get along very well,” said freshman Erica Ford.

Of course, with a new coach comes playing in a new environment, one that the players have touched on since the beginning.

“They really understood, it’s a big change, and I understood that from the get-go. However things worked last year won’t be my style,” said Coach Vivino.

He stresses to his players the demand of being on a soccer team at BCC and how it will be benefiting in the near future.

“It’s not going to be a very casual style; we want to make sure that deadlines are met and workouts are attended [and] practices [that] we’re working hard.”

But this season is not without its challenges, “it’s tough because of the numbers. We don’t have a deep roster [and] we have players that may not have the most experience but their hard working players, so that’s a start but hard work will carry you so far in soccer,” said Vivino.

Despite that, Vivino stressed that he will work hard in recruiting and working with the players in an attempt move the program forward.



Coach Vivino practicing with team members (both above and below). // Stephen Giordano

German Soccer League Appoints First Female Referee

ROBERT C. MCDERMOTT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bibiana Steinhaus recently made history by becoming the first female referee in Germany’s most prestigious soccer league, the Bundesliga.

The German 38-year-old referee and police officer was praised in her first professional match on September 10, 2017 after she saw out the (1-1) draw between Werder Bremen and Hertha Berlin. Although Steinhaus didn’t want attention drawn to herself, the news of her being the first female referee in any major European league gave her fame in the soccer community.

Hertha Berlin even offered 500 free tickets exclusively for women to attend the match.

“We want to offer all women a chance to experience this historic moment,” said Hertha Berlin on their website.

Steinhaus was pleased that she was picked to watch over the match, but insists it has nothing to do with her gender.

“Firstly, I’m a Bundesliga referee because my performances have been good enough, not because I’m a woman. That’s a big difference. If, because of that, I am considered a role model for young girls or a pioneer for equality, then that makes me even happier,” said

Steinhaus in an exclusive interview with Hertha.

While there have been times that women have refereed soccer matches in the United States, none have taken the position as the center referee. This would give them more control in decision making when judging the match. Every woman who has been a referee in Major League Soccer, the highest professional league in the United States, has been an assistant referee.

Bergen Community College men’s soccer has had female line refs in two of their last matches. Jorge Hernandez, the athletic director at BCC, was pleased to see women ref in a sport mostly dominated by men.

“As long as they are able to work hard and do a great job, I think it’s wonderful,” said Hernandez after the BCC Bulldogs men’s soccer team (8-0) win against Passaic Community College.

With more of the 2017-18 season left to go, it may only be a matter of time until we see another center female referee take the responsibility of judging one of the most beautiful sports in the world.



German Referee Bibiana Steinhaus. // Wikimedia Commons



Bundesliga is a prestigious soccer league in Germany. // broadbandtvnews.com

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The Torch

SPORTS



Three New Head Coaches Hired at BCC

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA
SPORTS EDITOR

With a new season of fall sports upon us, many new faces have arrived at Bergen, and not just the student athletes. This year BCC hired three new head coaches in three different sports: softball, women's soccer and men's basketball.

These new coaches will bring a different and a competitive style of their sport.

Women's soccer was given Mike Vivino, who was hired in March. He comes to Bergen with years of experience in coaching soccer; much of that knowledge derives from the love of the game.

He holds a bachelor's degree from William Paterson University, and a master's in coaching including athletic administration, with a focus in sport psychology and leadership. He pursued his coaching career starting at his alma mater in Wayne Valley, where he was an assistant coach who has helped to win two Passaic county titles and lead JV boys to an undefeated season in his first year.

He also had a similar success in high schools such as Mountain Lakes and Park Ridge. After Mountain Lakes, Vivino got his first head coaching job in the college level, at Jersey City University. After that, he was later hired as the assistant coach at Park Ridge high school, there he lead the team to compete in the conference and state championships.

A lot of his success in coaching was learning to adapt to ever game changing environment.

"The game is constantly changing so coaches have to change. Getting stuck in your ways is an easy way for people to pass you by. We want our players to be technically sound while having a level of intelligence that goes



Coaches (clockwise from top) Donald "Ozzie" Osbourne, Mike Vivino, and Christina Zaggia // bergencbulldogs.com

with every decision they make. Every day is a new competition to be better," said Vivino.

As many of the players have already experienced, "he's a really

good coach, he's really tough on us but in a good way. He just really trying to push us in the right direction, so he's definitely the coach that we needed this

season," said striker Erica Ford.

Christina Zaggia was named the new head coach in softball. Before coming to Bergen, Zaggia was the assistant coach at Dominican College for three years, where she learned important skills such as off-field tactics by having them to come together and bond.

Other key aspects are pitch calling, fielding and preseason workouts. However, bringing the same success to BCC won't be an easy task, considering that last year softball went without a season and the majority of the players are new, which only adds more of a challenge. However, she is the kind of character that hates losing.

"I love the competitiveness, I love to win, I hate losing people that quickly so I do everything in my power to get the girls on the same page," said Zaggia and the players feel the same way.

"She's more active in getting us to be a team," said first baseman Perry Brown.

Bergen Community College hired new head men's basketball coach, Donald "Ozzie" Osbourne, who is taking on his first head coaching job at a college. Donald "Ozzie" Osbourne was the head coach at Dwight Morrow high school.

During his reign, he helped the program in winning games but also aided the student athletes in earning high GPA's. Just last year, twenty-two Maroon Raiders earned a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

Osbourne, who was hired in July, plans to use the same method from Dwight Morrow at Bergen.

"It was amazing that out of the 35 kids we had on the team last year, 22 won honor roll; so we're gonna do the same here at Bergen," said Osbourne.

BCC Cross Country Builds on a Strong Start

CHRISTOPHER MOLINA
SPORTS EDITOR

Cross country teams are geared up and ready to run. In the fall, the Bergen cross country team prepares in competing against runners from all over. With a history of success on the field many are confident in having another positive season.

Following a scorching hot start to the 2017 season, Bergen cross country has its eyes set on a postseason run. Many aspects go into that, such as the veterans from last year. With that, the veterans bring experience and knowledge of Cross country to the college level.

Despite being a division III program, the Cross country program has made good progress, and a lot of that has to do with team's chemistry. That is one of the most important keys to the success of any sport or organization.

Effective teams are more than just a collection of talented people. To be effective, a team has to be able to combine the efforts and abilities of all the members in the right way, which the cross country from has shown

"I feel like now we have such strong people. I feel like we really outlook and you know we're just staying positive,"



The Women's Cross Country Team hopes to build on their momentum to succeed next season. Pictured: Justine Conca. // bergencbulldogs.com

said cross country runner Faega Fostok. However, it wasn't without difficulty. For a long time the cross country team was left without a girls team until now.

"It's been interesting, at first we did not have a girls team [and] it took us a while to recruit people but we have

a solid girls team and we're all going improve together," said Captain Justine Conca.

The cross country team is focused on the long-term and keeping their minds set on the final result. Bergen's women's cross country will seek to build on the momentum of its season

opener in Delaware in the 16th Annual Goldey-Beacom College Fall Classic this Friday. Followed by Men's Cross Country Luzerne Invitational on September 30th. Saturday, the 14th will be the 1st Annual Brookdale Jersey Blues Invitational.

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