

“Truth, No Matter The Cost”

The Torch



BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER
IGNITING STUDENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
TORCHBCC.COM

Vol. 26... No. 5

FEBRUARY 2018

\$50 for 50: Bergen Campaigns for Scholarships

FARAH ALHABLAWI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Raising \$505,050 in donations seems like a daunting and even a touch infeasible task, but for those who participated, it's as easy as apple pie.

With almost \$100,000 already donated to Bergen's Fifty for 50 campaign, the goal seems closer than ever. The campaign started as "a representation of the institute's 50 year tradition of excellence," said Larry Hlavenka, Executive Director of Public Relations. "It encourages the members of our Bergen community to leave a lasting legacy of support for students."

The campaign and all its donations will provide students scholarships and educational support for their time in Bergen Community College.

It is crucial for many Bergen students who could not afford paying the cost of education by themselves.

"Scholarships are increasingly critical lifelines for community college students - 50 percent report financial issues could cause them to leave the institution," Hlavenka said

The campaign started in mid-October 2017 and will



// Adrianna Caraballo

continue until the biggest day of the academic year: commencement 2018.

The goal is expected to be fully reached by then. Although the scholarships and financial aid for students are the main goal of the campaign, it is not the only one. All who donate can give their name and a wall will be built in their honor and contribution.

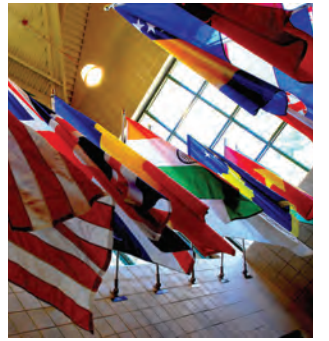
"The wall will represent a reflection of our Bergen community generosity - a lasting reminder of the individuals who supported the campaign," Hlavenka said.

The donations the campaign receives will not pay for the wall, however. Those overseeing the project are still receiving quotes on its cost.

The funds for the wall will be from a separate source. The wall will be a committed piece of history that will not only serve as a commemoration to kindness, but will also be affordable.

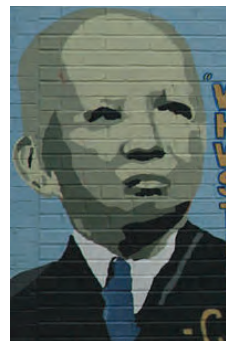
As for how it will look, those overseeing are discussing design ideas with vendors this spring.

The wall will be located in the Student Center, it will help create a brighter future of many students looking to enter higher education.



Limited Transfer Options for International Students

pg. 3



Black History Month: Is It Enough?

pg. 6

Is Success 101 a Waste of Time?

JELSON MONTERO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every semester incoming students sign up for Success 101 and it seems that every semester the complaints grow.

The Success 101 class is a course required of students who are placed in remedial level mathematics or remedial level writing courses. The purpose of this course is to help incoming students prepare for what will be expected from them at the college level and how they can use special skills to prepare for tests, homework, projects, etc. Success 101 also focuses on how each student should define success and how they can gain success.

The course, however, was in uncertain status because the Faculty Senate had not made a decision on whether it should be a permanent requirement for students, meaning the course was in pilot status.

William Mullaney, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, said, "The course is no longer in pilot status because the faculty senate recommended it be required for certain students." The recommendation was signed by the President of the college, ending the pilot status for the course.

According to professor Iris Bucchino who currently teaches Success 101 "First year experience (FYE) courses are considered high impact and are student-centered. Over 90 percent of colleges and universities across the nation offer some version of the FYE



// publicdomainpictures.net

course."

Success 101 is considered to be an impactful course in the eyes of the administration with the research that backs it up.

In fact Bucchino also said, "Educational research suggests FYE courses are high impact, which increases the rate of student retention and engagement."

First year students tend to agree with these statistics however students feel that the effectiveness of the class fades with time.

Mariah Calvano who is in her first semester here at Bergen Community College

said, "I'm excited about the class. It should be helpful."

New students and administrators seem to feel that success 101 has a helpful impact during college, however students who have completed the course had different opinions.

Yefry Ramirez has completed five semesters at BCC. Ramirez who was placed in Success 101, said "Every class seems to focus on finding what success means to each individual and tips to improve academically, and although the concept is good having to learn the same thing over and over again is not interesting at

all. After a while the course just seems time consuming."

Not only does this make students uneasy but it makes them lose interest. It becomes harder for students to find the motivation for coming to class.

Erimir Vargas, who is in his third semester at BCC, took Success 101 said, "At first the class helped me out because I was new here and didn't really know much about college, but after a while it just became boring. We were learning the same things over and over again. We did projects and other things but they were all focused on the same old topics."

The class becomes time consuming for college students; this can be harmful to them. Students who take this course are essentially losing a chance to take an extra elective. Instead of choosing a class that interest a student they are forced to attend Success 101 which doesn't add much value or interest.

Vargas said, "Having a class that has such little benefits for students and solely takes up their time does not seem fair."

Students who take remedial level courses are already at a disadvantage because of the fact they have to pay for these extra courses and gain zero credits for them.

BCC seems to be at a divide between the feelings towards Success 101 from administration point of view and a student point of view.



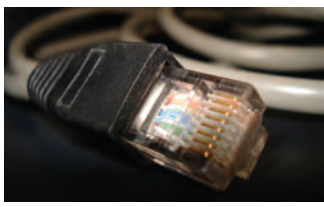
30 Years of Phantom

pg. 10



Men's Basketball Season Update

pg. 20



NEWS The Torch

The End of the Dream

KAROLINE SANTOS SOUZA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer have been working together with President Trump since September 5, 2017 to find a better bill for this case before the deadline of March 5, 2018.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a program that started in the Obama-era in June 2012. The program protects a specific eligible type of young immigrants brought illegally to the United States as children from deportation, and also provides work permits.

It is a two-year long renewal-based program that can help people like 26-year-old Camila Oliveira from Brazil. Camila is a young adult that came to United State in 2005 with her sister and her parents.

She was one of the first applicants to DACA and explained that during this time she has had the chance to go to college in New York City, get her driver license and live in a status that she compared to a "limbo", where she was not considered a legal resident but was also not afraid to get deported.

After the announcements of a possible cancellation in the program, she is no longer thinking about her future or what is going to happen with her and her sister. Camila's DACA expiration is coming at the end of the year; however, she is not sure if it is a good idea for her to renew her status



The debate over DACA is ongoing. // Wikimedia Commons

while Congress is still deliberating on a possible DACA solution and she also fears the judiciary could block DACA renewal again.

After September 2017, around 200,000 Dreamers have submitted the application, paid the fee of \$465 and

still have not received a new DACA.

Camila said that the word that would best describe her current situation is "fear," because even knowing she is a Brazilian citizen, her heart belongs to the US. This is the speech of many Dreamers; they've all grown up here;

they have all the same things that other Americans have, except the papers.

On January 9, President Trump had a meeting with bipartisan members of the Senate on immigration, and in that meeting, Trump discussed the chance to give a path to citizenship for the DACA applicants.

Meanwhile, the government is still afraid for the country's safety after a series of recent crimes and terrorism involving immigrants. The bipartisan senators are having trouble making a decision together.

President Trump said that he is going to sign any bill that parties came forward with. The only thing that all senators were in an agreement about is the fact that the bill has to be solid enough to resolve the problem once and for all, since a good number of the senators do not want to go back for DACA again after some years.

The DACA program is considered an urgent case since the deadline is coming and this problem is linked to other things, for example, the government shutdown on Friday, January 19th.

Now, there is no way to predict how DACA can be affected by this situation. The most important thing that we know is that the bipartisan groups had to run with a bill for the Dreamers.

Until this day comes, undocumented Americans are praying to receive the real name that they all deserve: Americans.

Who's Behind the Crown?

KATY TEMPLE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Pageantry is often subject to criticism based on the superficial aspects that are conveyed in the media. However, the Miss America Organization has done an excellent job in the past of re-emphasizing its values - the education and empowerment of young women - by being the number one scholarship provider for young women in America.

Controversy ensued on September 10, 2017, when Miss America Contestants participated in the onstage question portion of the national finals. Topics such as racism, foreign policy, the Paris Accord and violence in Charlottesville were all touched upon, and contestants had a mere 30 seconds to take a stance on these issues.

Viewers were surprised to see such talented and beautiful women speaking intelligently on such prominent social and political issues. However, members of the organization saw this as an opportunity to convey that women in this kind of public position should be well rounded and embody the four points of the crown service: style, successand, most pertinent, scholarship.

The storm seemed to subside until December 21, 2017, when emails between CEO Sam Haskell and board members Tammy Haddad and Lynn Weidner were leaked.

Haskell was found speaking in a derogatory manner in regards to former Miss Americas, and even went as far as commenting on physical appearances and private lives of women he had to work with during their year of service.

Haskell went back on everything that the organization stands for, and ruined all the hard work that local level contestants and directors do to create a positive reputation for themselves and the organization.

Soon after the emails leaked, contestants in the organization on every level began using the hashtag, "Save Miss America," followed by their accomplishments and the impact that the organization has had on their lives.

The movement started in hopes of recreating the positive attitude people had toward the organization before the email scandal, and reestablishing that

Miss America and local titles are so much more than a crown.

After pressure from former Miss Americas like Mallory Hagan, and a social media uprising, Haskell resigned, along with Haddad and Weidner.

On January 17, 2018, The Miss America Organization announced the appointment of two new board members.

The statement said, "The Miss America Board of Directors is pleased to announce the unanimous election of two new board members. Jessie Bennett, formerly the Executive Director of the Miss Arkansas Competition, and Ashley Byrd, formerly the Executive

Director of the Miss South Carolina Competition, who were put forward by their fellow state Executive Directors to represent the states at this critical phase of our restructuring."

The Organization continues to reorganize the board of directors, and appointed more former Miss Americas. Contestants across the country were thrilled to find out that former Miss Americas have finally been appointed to the board, considering they've been in the shoes of the women they're representing. Jessica Milne, a 2017 local titleholder and state competitor, expressed her joy with the new board of directors.

"I think one of the most important changes is the inclusion of the former Miss Americas in leadership positions on the board. Previously, most of the positions were held by men, which doesn't make much sense for an organization which focuses on female empowerment and making women's voices heard. Now we have people in power who know what it's like making the journey from local titleholder to state queen, all the way to Miss America," Milne said. "They know what struggles we encounter along the way and are already advocating for issues that are important to us, not just addressing the financial side of the organization."

Now that Miss America 2.0 is a go, the board of directors and local contestants are on a mission to reinvent their reputation yet again, and strive to live up to their values and support the empowerment of young women.



Miss American 2014 contestants. // Wikimedia Commons

Limited Transfer Options for International Students

KAROLINE SANTOS SOUZA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There are things in our lives that will never be simple for anyone. For example: moving.

Moving to another house is not easy, moving to another city is not easy and moving to another country is even harder. That is what happened with some of our students.

Here at Bergen Community College, we have almost one-thousand international students from over 138 countries. Most of these students came to United States with no family at all, looking for better opportunities in the future.

However, the challenges that they have to deal with — tuitions, grades and documents — are a lot of work. All this work is then doubled when the time comes to transfer to a four-year university.

The first problem includes the price for international students, that in most times is different for an American citizen. Many universities usually have three prices: for in-state residents, for out-of-state students and for international students.

Guess which one is the most expensive? The price for internationals. As if was not enough to pay almost three times the price, immigrants cannot apply for any kind of financial aid.

In some universities in the state of New York, like New York University, there are no scholarships for international students.

The second problem are the grades. When a foreign student is applying for a 4-year university, they are probably asked to provide a high school transcript, extra curricular



// Wikimedia Commons

activities and a GPA.

It is true that a transfer student's grades from the previous school matters, but what is not so true is that all universities care for your academic

level in your native country. In many countries, schools do not have as much activities as they do here, and the system for grades are different, so the calculation for a GPA is not simple.

Because of this, a translation of the grades is required. Not all universities have the same protocol; however, do not believe that just because you were a great high school student in your native country that you are going to be eligible for that amazing scholarship.

The last thing that all international students love is the huge amount of papers that need to be read and filled in before transferring to a four-year school.

To get into BCC, many individuals who came from another country have to provide many documents of confirmation before completing the application and all that work must be done to transfer.

There are also many laws to follow as an international student. For example, they are not allowed to work off campus, or get an internship before a driver's permit. They are not allowed to get a social security unless they work on campus, and there are many other laws making our lives "easier."

Going to a college in another country requires much work. It requests time, patience, money, attention and dedication from international students. For those who are planning to transfer to a four-year school, they basically do the entire process again.

However, times are changing, and we hope that with this President we do not have more difficulties that we already have. Even with the financial problems, the grades and the papers that we as international students need, we are capable of getting through it.

You will be fine if you just continue working hard and giving your best. There is nothing better than seeing the things we can do and the things we will do.



College Fair

New Jersey Colleges and Universities

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Student Center - Pitkin Education Building

Paired Classes at Bergen

ADRIANNA CARABALLO
Co-EDITOR

Three professors at Bergen Community College have created a new approach to learning — paired courses.

Professor Maria Kasparova, Professor Eileen Fitzgerald and Dr. Mina Ahn created the class program in order to put an emphasis on community learning.

“We kinda just came up with an idea. In Fall 2012 we came up with basically the first class that we decided to try and that was for ESL students, writing and Psychology 101,” Kasparova said.

The way it works is a student takes two classes at one time and receives 6 credits for both classes. Some professors may teach together in the same room, at the same time.

Other professors may prefer to teach in separate rooms at separate times, sticking to a more traditional teaching method.

“Even if not [teaching together], we make sure that we meet outside of class regularly to kind of keep up with where each of us stands in terms of the material, so there’s a lot of collaboration,” Kasparova said.

Learning communities are not a new concept; they are something that has been practiced by four-year universities.

“We went to Washington state to the Evergreen institute which is a nationwide institute devoted to the development of learning communities,”



// pxhere.com

Kasparova said.

At the Evergreen institute, they learned how to create a learning community of their own and mingled with other professors. The training at the institute took a week, and after that they applied what they learned to Bergen Community College.

“It’s a national program; it’s not just something we’re doing here,” Ahn said.

Currently, the college offers two

paired honor courses and four general education courses, and the schedule changes every semester.

The paired course program meets general education requirements, involves shared assignments and makes registering for classes easier.

“What we do is we try to sort of link what we do in each class; I go to his class all the time,” Ahn said.

Students are able to listen to different ideas and are encouraged to

give their own. Professors are also given a chance to learn from one another. Students are able to see two different perspectives and thus think deeper about the subject they are learning.

“I think conceptually; it’s understanding the material on a deeper level,” Ahn said.

“You get deeper learning but it doesn’t necessarily mean more volume,” Kasparova said in response to Ahn.

Jungmin Choi, a recent graduate of BCC took the paired class of Cross-cultural Psychology and history with Dr. Ahn and Dr. Yi.

“It was interesting because it was a lecture, small group discussion, exams and projects. It sounds challenging and like too much work, but professors help you out,” Choi said.

Choi enjoyed the class but did have one critique for the paired course program, due to some professors teaching together and some teaching separately, it can feel like two different courses.

“It was tiring how they had a class in the main building and the other class in Ender Hall. Also, more combined themes would be interesting too. It felt like I took a history course and a psychology course, but they were not “paired” enough,” Choi said.

For more information on the paired courses visit bergen.edu/learning-communities.

Montana Governor Enforces Net Neutrality

NICHOLAS CONTRERAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Since the Federal Communications Commission vote to rollback Net Neutrality on December 14 last year, many states have reacted in opposition to the FCC’s new stance that would change the 2015 Net Neutrality rules.

While New Jersey’s former Governor Christie has declined to follow suit, 20 other states have decided to sue the FCC over the federal repeal, according to the Washington Post. Other states have issued executive orders, mandating Internet Service Providers (ISPs) follow Net Neutrality rulings.

Particularly, State Governor of Montana Steve Bullock signed a Net Neutrality protections executive order on January 22nd. However, the order does not protect Net Neutrality for ‘non-government’ customers, but would have ISPs only be able to receive state contracts if they agree to net neutrality principles.

The governor’s legal office distributed a fact sheet in concern of legal challenges to the order.

Briefly, it states, “Companies that don’t like it don’t have to do business with the state - nothing stops ISPs

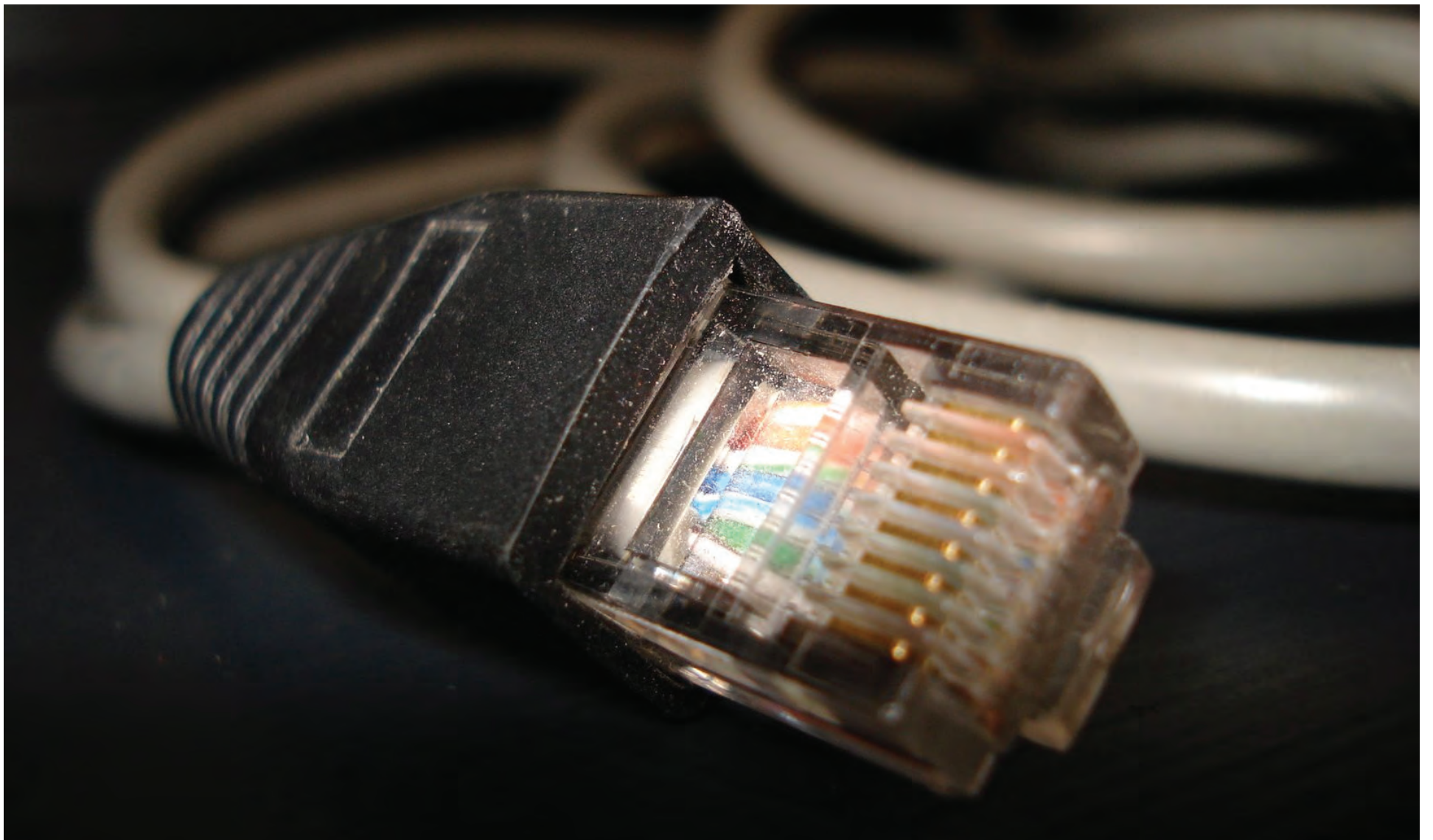
from selling dumpy internet plans in Montana if they insist.”

The governor is also confident that Net Neutrality could be state enforced as a law — the FCC’s repeal of Title II of the Communications Act reclassified broadband service providers from its former status of “common carrier,” which also relinquished the FCC’s authority to preempt states in how they approach broadband service.

Bullock’s executive order attempts to extend to residents and private business owners, as it includes

“with respect to any consumer in the State of Montana (including, but not limited to, the State itself),” by ‘going around’ FCC preemption and enforcing Net Neutrality as a condition of state contracts.

Considering many large ISPs and broadband service providers like Charter, Verizon and AT&T already have established state contracts, it seems that Net Neutrality protections may come into place for all Montana consumers, should Bullock have his way.



// Anders Engelbøl

Cold Weather Causes Danger for BCC

PURNASREE SAHA
SPORTS EDITOR

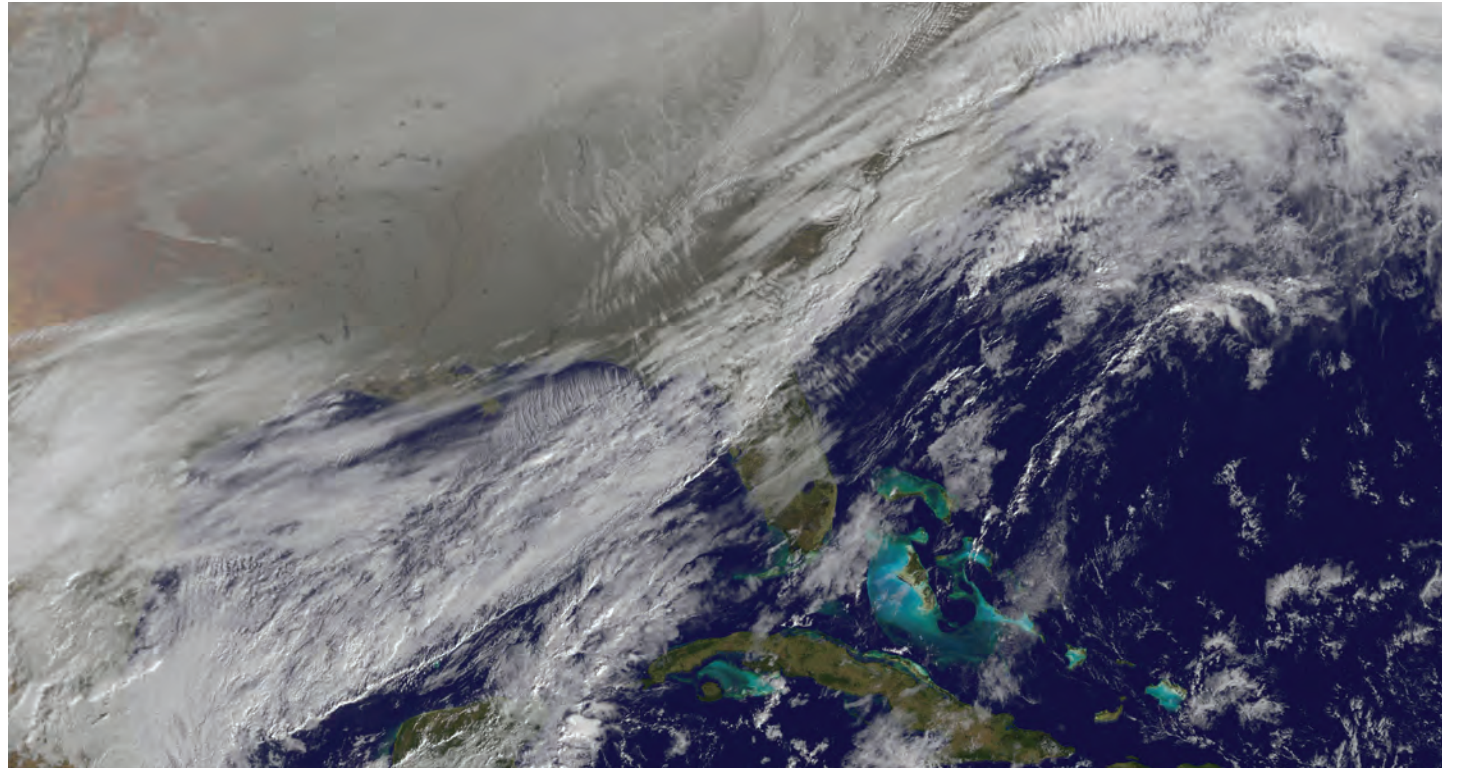
Around the first week of January, there was a powerful winter storm in the Southeastern region of the United States. Most people in Florida were warned about the icy roads and the dangerously low temperatures. In the Northeast many people were alerted about the windy weather, potential power losses, and whiteout conditions.

According to the article “Bomb Cyclone: Rare Snow in South as North Braces for Bitter Cold” from the new york times website(www.nytimes.com), the storm is referred to as the bomb cyclone due to the decrease in atmospheric pressure. There were also flight and school cancellations/delays throughout the East Coast including New York City.

In coastal areas and the city of Boston, the bomb cyclone turned the roads into slushy rivers due to the high tides and powerful winds that blew. There were over 450 flights cancelled and more than 3,800 flights delayed from the brutal weather conditions. According to the article “Ice Storm Expected After Brutally Cold Weekend” from the cnn website(cnn.com), there were at least twenty-two people who died from the severe, frigid weather.

Anybody from a different country who hasn't lived in harsh weather conditions will probably be experiencing the extreme cold weather for the first time. The harsh, cold weather may cause many health problems and various side effects.

According to the article “How Extremely Cold Weather Can Affect Your Health” from the health line website (www.healthline.com) , there may be some damages on your skin from the dangerous, cold weather due to the low temperatures and wind chills. For example frostbite. Frostbite



The Polar Vortex (pictured in the satellite image above) subjected much of the country to extremem cold earlier this season. // Wikimedia Commons

could be on your ears, nose, cheeks, fingers, chin and your toes and it will appear hard and waxy. At first, it looks gray or white, but later it turns black and then forms a blister.

Hypothermia is a type of health condition that causes your body to lose more heat than it can make and your body temperature will drop down to 35 degrees Celsius or below. Tiredness, clumsiness, confusion and shivering are side effects of hypothermia. If you don't protect yourself from hypothermia, you may die.

There are also risks of heart disease from the extreme cold weather. A person with heart problems who does not regularly exercise may have a risk of having a heart attack.

In most areas, there are roads that

could be slippery and icy from the extreme cold weather. Many people especially who are older may get injured from falling on the icy roads.

There is also a chance of losing electricity during blizzard conditions due to high winds. If it's too cold outside for several days, people will get lazy and just sit down and watch television for days and weeks. This may then lead to obesity, heart disease and other health issues.

If people go out during the extreme cold weather, they should dress up in warm clothes or wear several layers. Mittens are better than gloves because they keep your hands warmer while you are outside.








It is also better to wrap your head and face with a scarf or hat, which

will help your skin stay protected. Waterproof, warm boots are best during the hazardous winter conditions because they will prevent you from slipping or falling.

Not wearing a coat may cause people to get the flu or a cold. There were some researchers who found out that there are cold viruses that replicate during the winter.

It is not safe to travel or exercise outside if the temperatures drop below twenty degrees Celsius. During a blizzard, people should stay inside with heat and drink hot coffee, chocolate or tea because it will help them stay warm. High winds and slippery roads are what causes traveling to be dangerous during the extreme cold weather.

TRANSFER CENTRAL

College/University	Contact	BCC Office	Email
 BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY	Erica James	A126	Erica.james@bellevue.edu (201) 879-1143 Monday – Friday 9am-5pm
 FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY	Almida Hernandez	A126	Ahernadez9@bergen.edu (201)-493-4088 Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
 MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY	Zabdi Medel	A126	msupromise@montclair.edu Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 10am – 3pm
 RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY	Nicole Pedoto	A126	npedoto@bergen.edu (201)-879-7532 Mondays & Thursdays 9am – 5pm
 THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY RUTGERS	Eleanor Agmana Newark Campus	A126	eagmana@bergen.edu 973-752-1236 Thursday 9:30am-3pm
 Saint Peter's UNIVERSITY	Pamela DeLeon Dawn Mazurkiewicz	Advising A-118	pdeleon@saintpeters.edu dmazurkiewicz@saintpeters.edu Tuesdays & Wednesdays
 WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY	Miranda Malaquias	A126	malasquiasm@wpuni.edu Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9am – 4pm



Oprah Winfrey for President?

pg. 8



Racism in the Clothing Industry

pg. 9

OPINIONS

The Torch

The Torch

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

LESHAY JONES
Editor-In-Chief

ADRIANNA CARABALLO
Co-Editor

OWEN MCCLOSKEY
Copy Editor

YOO RA KIM
Features Editor

PURNASREE SAHA
Sports Editor

CHARLIE LEPPERT
Layout Editor

AMANDA BARANDAS
Online Editor

ROBERT C. MCDERMOTT
Ad Manager

REBECCA KARPINSKI
Photo Editor

PROF. LEW WHEATON
Advisor

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

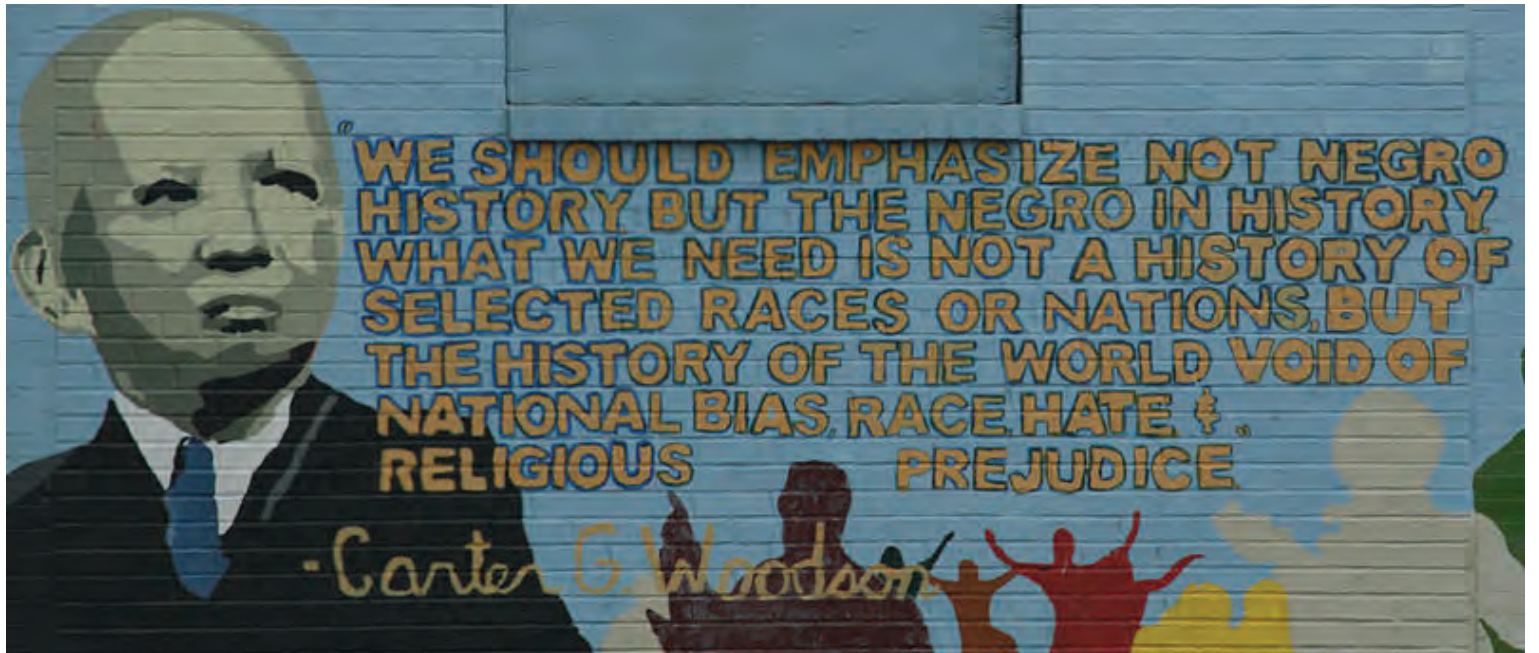
EDITORIAL AND OPINION PIECES

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

Black History Month: Is It Enough?



A mural commemorating Carter G. Woodson. // Wikimedia Commons

LESHAY JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's February, so we all know what that means: it's that time of year where we recognize African Americans and their contributions to American culture.

When I was younger, I used to think of Black History Month as something great; something that should be celebrated hardcore. Don't get me wrong, I still do, but why only a month?

Why should our culture be compacted into one month, and the shortest one at that? This has been something that has been argued for years by the African American community.

Black history should be celebrated every month. We should always be learning about our background, where we come from, what we have done and what we continue to do and African Americans play a huge role in all of that.

We should be supporting each other's goals and supporting black businesses. This is something that we should do all year round, not just during Black History Month.

When Carter Woodson first founded Black History Month, it was huge, especially for African Americans. It has grown into something bigger than anyone ever could have ever imagined; so much so that every President since Gerald Ford has recognized this month as something beneficial to all.

But why don't we have that support all the time? Why can't we teach kids about Frederick Douglass and Martin Luther King Jr. in March, April or June?

Have you ever noticed in

elementary school how the smallest section in the history textbooks was about black history and the teacher would always cover it in February?

On occasion you would see some black guy in the corner of your book with a little biography that the teacher skipped over.

Why don't we spend more time talking about the hardship of African Americans in the early stages in the development of this country? Why don't we talk more about how strong black men and women fought to overcome the systems of oppression that are arguably still in place today?

I'll tell you why: guilt. No one wants to look back at how the founders of this country brutally discriminated against blacks. No one wants to remember how thousands of innocent people were lynched all because of something as simple as the color of their skin.

Let's face it, white people screwed up and they know that they did. So, they try to make up for it by helping us celebrate black history during this one month, but after that they lock it up in a chest and throw in the attic until next year.

When this first came about, this was all that black people had; so they took it and ran with it. They wanted people down the line to remember where we came from and all that we have been through so that we can pass the torch along. But not just during February.

I celebrate my culture and every month. I try to remind myself everyday where my people have come from and how the system is not always

for me. I remind myself everyday to stay woke.

I remind myself to stay strong and work hard because of the blood, sweat and tears that my ancestors put in for me to be where I am today.

One month is not enough, and it never will be. There is too much history around African Americans that cannot just be stuffed in 28 — sometimes 29 — days. I don't see anyone celebrating White History Month because we

talk about that history all the time.

We all know who George Washington is, but not as many people would be able to tell you about Carter Woodson.

No matter where you come from or the color of your skin, celebrate your culture as often as you can. Celebrate who you are and where you come from, and do not let anyone make you forget about your history.

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Graduating From Bergen Community College? Spring 2018 College Transfer Information Presentations

Wednesday, February 7	William Paterson University
Wednesday, February 14	Baruch College
Wednesday, February 21	Rutgers University
Wednesday, February 28	Ramapo College
Wednesday, March 7	John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Wednesday, March 21	Montclair State University
Wednesday, March 28	Bellevue University
Wednesday, April 4	New Jersey Institute of Technology
Wednesday, April 11	New Jersey City University

Meet with representatives from area colleges here on campus

Time: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Room: C-313

Bergen Community College Spring 2018 College Fair

New Jersey Colleges & Universities
Wednesday, March 21st
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • Student Center

Out of State Colleges & Universities
Wednesday, April 4th
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • Student Center

A New Day on the Horizon

TIFFANY MARIE VELEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The time is up for sexual abuse. According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), only 310 out of every 1,000 sexual assaults are reported to police, that means about 2 out of 3 go unreported. That also means that those whom were once innocent victims transition into passionate survivors that discover this beautiful thing called resilience.

The perpetrators of these unfortunate attacks may not ever even get to see the inside of a 6 by 8. Their prestigious lawyers whom represented a well-known athlete or two will defend them, perpetuating yet another power struggle for the innocent victims to have to experience.

In fact, perpetrators of sexual violence are less likely to go to jail or prison than any other criminals. What kind of toll does that take on a human being, who has suffered enough? What if the victim isn't even alive to seek justice? Why are the screams not being heard?

The #MeToo movement ignited a fire in more women and men and thus, Times Up was formed. Times Up is a legal defense fund that provides legal support to those who have experienced sexual harassment, assault or abuse in the workplace.

Hollywood celebrities walked the red carpet with Times Up pins at the 2018 Golden Globes, and many wore black to represent the movement. Oprah Winfrey gave a speech that resonated with victims everywhere, regardless of



// Wikimedia Commons

race, gender, occupation or religious beliefs, saying, "a new day is on the horizon".

A new day will call for the end of brushing things under the carpet. The Women's March took place last month; on the anniversary of last year's march, which took place shortly after the inauguration of Donald Trump.

It is absolutely meant to be coincidental. It's a march dedicated to protesting Trump, the questionable policies he stands for and this time around, the #MeToo movement and Power to the Polls. Can you hear the screams now?

The women and men of today are fighting for a brighter day. Unfortunately, our mothers, grandmothers, fathers and grandfathers have had to endure all sorts of abuse within their years, especially in the workplace.

According to a Washington Post survey, 10 percent of men have experienced sexual harassment at work and in 2016. The EEOC released a comprehensive study of workplace harassment in the United States which concluded that "anywhere from 25% to 85% of women report having experienced sexual harassment in the workplace."

The victims of sexual abuse have suffered enough. The time for change is now. So long are the days of living in fear and the fear of stigma those may face by their family and friends.

May the future be brighter and the world be a safer place, so no one ever has to say the words #MeToo again.

Beauty Brand Can't Live Up To New Shade Standards

KATY TEMPLE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rihanna sent waves through the cosmetic industry with the launch of her Fenty Beauty line in September of 2017. The Fenty foundation was the most anticipated release, as the shade range was rumored to be unprecedented.

Consumers weren't disappointed and Rihanna released 40 shades of foundation with every undertone and skin tone in mind.

The entire community was in a frenzy, and consumers were thrilled to finally have access to a diverse and inclusive product.

Following Rihanna's example, NARS and Kylie Cosmetics also released products in hopes of living up to the Fenty standard.

NARS entered the market with 33 shades of their new Natural Radiant Longwear Foundation, and Kylie with 30 shades of concealer. While this certainly doesn't hold up to Rihanna's 40 shades, the beauty community saw this as a step in the right direction towards true shade inclusivity.

However, consumers are now under the impression that shade inclusivity could have been a short-lived trend. As new products roll out, new shades do not.

Tarte is now under attack for managing to release two new formulas with a measly 15 shades, only two of which are intended for people of color.

Beauty influencers and consumers alike have taken to social media to express their outrage.

Influencer Nikkietutorials had originally published her video reviewing Tarte's new product and later tweeted that she'd be removing her video and will be using her voice to speak out against the shade range controversy.

Laura Lee also made her opinion clear and refused to feature the product on her YouTube channel.

This problem hasn't strictly been limited to high end brands; shade inclusivity remains a problem in lower price point products as well.

Physician's Formula, a popular drugstore brand, has become notorious for having only 3 shades of face



// pexels.com

powders and foundations. With their new release of The Healthy Foundation, consumers were impressed that they increased their range to 18 shades, but still disappointed by the limitations of diversity.

While the cosmetic industry is

known for ups and down, scandals and controversy, shade inclusivity will not be a short term blimp on the industry's radar. The role that social media plays in the industry is only increasing, and finally holding companies accountable for their actions or lack thereof.

The community hopes to see increased inclusivity for 2018, and wishes to see diversity as a long term standard rather than a short term fad.

New Year, New Me



// Wikimedia Commons

ALYSSA BLUNDO
STAFF WRITER

Every year I write a list of resolutions, but never have the time to resolve them. I would always tell myself that I'll get to them later in the year, but I never do.

With 2017 gone, I can now focus on what lies ahead of me in 2018 by

actually sticking to the resolutions that I have been putting off for years.

The resolutions I have on my list will ultimately change me and will help me gain more independence and confidence. Most importantly, it will boost my self-esteem. The resolutions that I have will also make me a much happier person. Though I am normally

happy, there are a few areas in my life that need change.

However, I feel that resolutions are personal and cannot be shared unless someone asks, and if they do ask, I will share. But for now, because no one asked, I am keeping my resolutions to myself.

By having resolutions and keeping them private, I can finally fix the areas in my life that need fixing, find ways to reinvent myself and get more involved in extracurricular activities.

It will also open my mind to new ideas and opinions, open my eyes to new surroundings and open my ears to new opportunities.

Resolutions also bring peace to minds, hearts and souls and it is there to build myself up instead of tearing me down.

Resolutions are also there to help me grow and change for the better. It will for sure make me a much happier person, as well as a more successful person.

By writing and crossing each resolution off the list, I would feel more relaxed. It would let me expel all the adrenaline from my body so that I would feel like I'm in a zen-like state.

Because of this, I can transform



// Edriel Fimbres

myself into a better, healthier, happier and stronger person. I can finally fix what is broken, think more clearly, see new people and listen for opportunities.

I can also resolve all of my resolutions so that I can get rid of the old me and embrace the new me in the New Year.

Should Oprah Winfrey Run for President?

TIFFANY MARIE VELEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"The internet is saying Oprah for president in 2020," said the Los Angeles Times, but what do you say? Does she have what it takes? Will she become the first female President of the United States?

Oprah Winfrey is known for having her very own hit show, The Oprah Winfrey Show, but her philanthropic work speaks for itself.

For example, she passed the National Child Protection Act in 1993. This act created a database that provided access to criminal history and child abuse records. In 2007, Oprah founded a school in South Africa, known as the Leadership Academy, to provide an education for underprivileged girls.

She would undeniably be the perfect candidate for President. Oprah has given us no reason to believe that she is unfit for the position. From South Africa to her birthplace of Mississippi, she is a pivotal force of nature.

When Oprah gave her powerful speech at the 75th Golden Globe Awards, she made every young girl and boy watching believe that they too can stand on that glamorous stage, if they work hard enough for it.

Oprah is a relatable, humble and hardworking individual who gives



Winfrey on the campaign trail with President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. // Wikimedia Commons

back to communities across the world. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same about our current president.

Donald Trump, the most well known racist in America, puts many people to shame. The demeaning things that come out of his mouth, many of those regarding his views on women, would put the young students enrolled at Oprah Winfrey's academy, all of whom are girls, in a state of depression. This is the same man who compared woman to buildings.

"Beauty and elegance, whether in a woman, a building, or a work of art, is not just superficial or something pretty to see," said Trump.

To Trump, it seems that women are just something nice to look at. In his eyes, they don't possess much intelligence nor do they have significant talent.

Oprah on the other hand? She always believed in the minds of young adults and their positive effect on today and tomorrow's society.

Oprah Winfrey running for President wouldn't be the worst thing to happen to America. We've seen far worse as a nation, but the best is yet to come.

NJIT
New Jersey Institute
of Technology

Connect To: *A Higher Salary*
njit.edu/visit

**ONE OF THE
TOP 25
COLLEGES
NATIONALLY
WHERE
GRADUATES
CAN EARN
SIX-FIGURE
SALARIES**

- Money Magazine

Racism in the Clothing Industry



// Wikimedia Commons

KAYLEE ALZAMORA
STAFF WRITER

Are there mistakes when it comes to racism, or does everyone that sounds racist genuinely mean to be?

Recently, all over social media and all over top headlines, the story broke out about the young African boy who was given a sweatshirt to wear with the words “coolest monkey in the jungle” written on it for a photoshoot for the brand H&M, as a model for their brand.

When the ad for the sweatshirt became public, people did not hold back on what they had to say. This caused a huge controversy between people all over. A lot of people were offended and felt like this was a huge racial attack towards people of color; so much so that H&M had to shut down all of their stores in South Africa because protesters went and wrecked them.

This doesn't mean that everyone felt like it was a racial attack; others just felt like it was a sweatshirt given to the boy with no bad intentions and that people are just taking things out of hand... but are they?

This is 2018, where racial attacks are everywhere and sadly they are common, this is something that we shouldn't be oblivious to. With Trump as our president, people feel that it's okay to make fun of others for the color of their skin and where they come from because he too, does it in a nonchalant way, and that shouldn't be the case.

With so much racism going on in the world nowadays with people of all different types of nationalities, I feel that it's great that people are standing up, fighting for their rights and not letting others make fun of them because they are different.

When H&M released this sweatshirt, many people believed that it was huge racial attack towards people of color — which if you look at the ad, it is, and with everything going on in the world today it's obvious that this is the first thing people are going to go to rather than just thinking it's a average sweatshirt.

This was a huge racial outbreak because of the fact that to get this

sweatshirt out to the public it had to have gone through many people and for no one to say, “Hey I don't think we should publicize this because it seems racist,” the idea in itself just seems very farfetched.

It's obvious that a company like H&M, being so big and known, has many employees and someone must have realized their error. However, no one spoke out about it, and if they did, the company still publicized the ad and that's when the problem starts.

The fact that this is not a small company but one that is worldwide and is purchased by people of all different nationalities is what made this so bad.

After the whole scandal broke out, the company spoke out and said, “we are sorry if we made you feel bad.”

People were outraged because they felt that this apology was not sincere at all. After a huge scandal like that, for them to go out and put a half-put-together sorry out to the public is really offensive because it's obvious that they don't see that what they did was wrong.

They later came out with another apology letter actually saying sorry for what they did saying that the situation was a “mistake” and that it shouldn't happen again. Being hispanic and coming from parents who were immigrants, I know firsthand what racism is like and I know what it feels like to be the one being targeted.


For a clothing brand being the ones making people feel targeted and like principle of jokes because of a “mistake” shouldn't be accepted by anyone. This wasn't a “mistake”, because being such a worldwide brand, mistakes like this don't just happen and if they do they really need to check their brand.

For the parents of the little boy, they really have to reevaluate what they are doing with their son because to have your son go through this and be the center of jokes for others is horrible. The kid's parents even went out to an interview and said that they didn't realize the situation until the outbreak, they even went on to say that so much goes on that they don't even pay

attention and they don't even remember him putting the sweater on.

As parents of a young African boy, they have to be more aware of these types of situations and not pretend like it won't happen. Sadly people like you, me and even that little boy are high targets for racial attacks and that shouldn't be the case.

Companies like H&M shouldn't think it's okay to make fun of other cultures because they are different; that's why we have to stand up and show them that we are more than their racial slurs, together we stand strong, together we are one.



Asian Heritage Committee Sponsors:

STUDENT SPEECH COMPETITION

“What is Your Story?”

What is your definition of success? Is it something you achieve because of expectations placed on you or is it a personal journey that you are attempting to complete? Are there significant events that have positively affected your success? What kind of obstacles do you face culturally to achieve the goals? In what specific ways have your family, friends, culture, religion, physical location/s influenced this journey? What role does BCC have in your journey to success?

Entry criteria

All currently enrolled BCC students are eligible to participate in the speech competition.

Deadline

Please email a brief summary of your story (300-500 words) to Professor Mina Ahn at mahn@bergen.edu by **March 1st, 2018** (by 5:00 p.m.). We will notify the qualified students to participate in the speech competition by March 8th.


Date of the Competition

The speech competition will be held on **March 28th** from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Award recognition

First Place: \$300
Second Place: \$200
Third Place: \$100

All winners will be invited to the annual Asian Recognition Luncheon on April 12th, 2018. First place winner will be asked to deliver the speech during the luncheon. Contact Professor Mina Ahn at mahn@bergen.edu if you have any questions.


Office of Multicultural Affairs

Bergen Community College is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact the Office of Specialized Services at 201-612-5269 or ossevents@bergen.edu.

The Phantom of the Opera Celebrates 30 Year Milestone



Top: The famous chandelier from Phantom of the Opera. // Wikimedia Commons
 Middle: Stage settings from the 30th Anniversary show. // Rebecca Karpinski
 Bottom: The view from outside the theater. // Rebecca Karpinski

REBECCA KARPINSKI
 PHOTO EDITOR

On January 24, The Phantom of the Opera celebrated 30 years on Broadway with a very special performance of the Andrew Lloyd Webber smash hit at the Majestic Theatre.

Before the performance, there was a red carpet event hosted by musical's acclaimed former 'Christine,' Phantom alumni Sierra Boggess and Andrew Lloyd Webber's daughter, Imogen Lloyd Webber.

The actors who were set to play the top three lead roles for the 30th anniversary performance were Ali Ewoldt as Christine Daaé, Peter Jöback as the Phantom and Rodney Ingram as Vicomte Raoul de Chagny.

Previous Phantom alumni were present at the Wednesday night performance, including the original Christine Daaé, Sarah Brightman, who offered up a surprise post-show

performance of the musical's title song with the current Phantom, Peter Jöback and cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's other Broadway hit musical, School of Rock.

Following Brightman's performance, the original cast of the musical came on stage to sing happy birthday to not only The Phantom of the Opera, but also to Hal Prince, the original director and producer of the musical, who turned 90 years old on January 30th. Prince was also present on stage with the cast, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Cameron Mackintosh.

The Phantom of the Opera also paired with the Empire State Building for a special Music-To-Light show during the Gala party following the anniversary performance. At 11 p.m., a custom-designed light show was lit at the top of the tower synced to a special arrangement of music from the Phantom of the Opera.

Not only was the show completely visible to party guests with a clear view from Rainbow Room where the after party was taking place, but to all New Yorkers looking up at the skyscraper. Before the light show, the Empire State Building was lit in blue and white in honor of the 30th Anniversary.

Since its opening in 1988, The Phantom of the Opera, based on the french novel "Le Fantôme de l'Opéra" by Gaston Leroux, set a record advance

of \$18 million, has performed in front of 18 million people in New York City alone, and is the only Broadway musical to celebrate a 30-year anniversary milestone.

It was the winner of seven Tony awards including Best Musical, seven Drama Desk awards and three Outer Critic Circle awards.

In January 2006, The Phantom of the Opera surpassed Cats to become the longest running show in Broadway history with 7,486 performances. It's next milestone will be in February 2018 with its 12,500th performance.

Over the course of 30 years on Broadway, 400 actors have appeared on the Majestic Theatre stage. Each night it takes 125 cast, crew, orchestra and house employees to put on the legendary musical.

15 actors have donned the iconic Phantom mask but Howard McGillin holds the record of being Broadway's longest running Phantom with 2,500 performances. Between these fifteen actors, 300 custom-made Phantom masks and 12,484 sets of foam latex application process of the Phantom's deformity.

Additionally, there are 230 costumes and 111 wigs used in the show every night and the production has gone through over 7,000 pointe shoes for the famous ballet combination number.

The original Broadway cast recording of The Phantom of the Opera has sold over 40 million copies worldwide which makes it the best selling cast recording of all time.

In 160 cities and 35 countries, over 140 million have experienced The Phantom of the Opera world-wide giving a whole new meaning to the Music of the Night.



Top: The Playbill for the 30th Anniversary show. // Rebecca Karpinski
 Middle: The cast of the 30th Anniversary show. // Rebecca Karpinski
 Bottom: Merchandise at the 30th Anniversary show. // Rebecca Karpinski



Dear Evan Hansen: A Story of Connection

pg. 15

Minimum Wage, Minimum Sanity

pg. 16



FEATURES

The Torch

Benefits of Group Studying at BCC

DAVID JOO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As exams and papers begin to creep up on Bergen Community College students, it is important to be familiar with studying methods: memorization techniques, preferred background music, learning resources and study groups.

While solitary study may be the preferred choice by many students, there is no doubt that group study reaps numerous benefits.

BCC offers a plethora of options for students in study groups who wish to achieve the A's they want in their courses. Mark Shields's age-old adage stands relevant especially when it comes to studying.

"There is always strength in numbers. The more individuals or organizations that you can rally to your cause, the better," Shields said.

Studying and learning can be daunting tasks, especially for nursing students. Claudine Belford, Evelynne Auzi Jimenez and Joshua Bandiola are BCC freshmen majoring in nursing.

Nursing at BCC is one of the most strenuous majors to pursue, with a small window for acceptance and an even smaller window for graduation.

For those unprepared for the workload, it can seem almost ceaseless, and can easily be overwhelming unless constant attention is paid. This is no different for Belford, Jimenez and Bandiola as they are constantly studying for upcoming exams, quizzes



// SOURCE

and other tests.

As a result, all three created a study group in order to aid each other with staying on top of their studies and the effects are definitely present.

The three students use a mobile group chat mainly for contacting each other about meeting up for group study sessions, often rendezvousing at a library group study room.

While Belford, Jimenez and Bandiola may have harnessed their group study habits as valuable assets, anyone is able to do so as well. BCC offers a wide variety of programs and resources available for students at

absolutely no monetary cost.

The Henry and Edith Cerullo Learning Assistance Center at BCC is an award-winning tutoring center that offers study group tutoring sessions where a group of three or more students can schedule tutoring appointments easily and quickly online.

Students without a study group can join existing tutoring study groups with no worry; study groups can reach an occupancy of up to 14 to 15 students at one time.

The tutoring center offers sessions in almost any subjects like statistics, Italian, writing and chemistry.

However, prospective groups should be aware that tutors may work by inflexible schedules, so it would be wise to request appointments at least two weeks prior from the intended date.

According to John Findura, Writing Tutorial Supervisor of the Learning Center, students taking advantage of the tutoring center are "more likely to earn higher semester GPAs higher overall GPAs, higher graduation rates and higher retention rates."

As if it was not enough, the Sidney Silverman Library at BCC also has free resources for students to access. The library houses six study rooms, each one outfitted with Wi-Fi accessibility, a whiteboard with markers, a large table and numerous chairs.

To check out a group study room, a group of at least three students must go to the front Service Desk, present a student ID and sign a form. A librarian will give students an assigned room to students for two hours.

The library also offers electronics to students to check out for up to two weeks for those who may need them at no cost – Apple iPads, Microsoft Surfaces, Amazon Kindles and more. To check out an electronic tablet, students must go to the Media Services desk which is located to the left of the Service Desk.

All of these resources are absolutely free and open to the usage of students, which can only aid study groups as midterms begin to draw closer as each day passes by.

BCC Respiratory Therapists Win 2017 Sputum Bowl

DERRIAN DOUGLAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Emphysema, Asthma, Pneumonia, oh my!

The annual Sputum Bowl Competition was in full-swing this past October, and some of BCC's own students took home the trophy.

Team leader Gessilda C. Galang, Richal Patel, Michelle Samuels and alternate Karin Marescot traveled to Atlantic City, NJ on October 12, 2017 to compete in the 2017 Regional Sputum Bowl at the New Jersey State Society for Respiratory Care Conference held at the Tropicana Hotel.

The Bergen Community College team faced off against Brookdale Community College and won after several rounds of questioning.

Galang, Patel, Samuels and Marescot are all second-year students in the Bergen Community College Respiratory Care program, studying to become Respiratory Therapists.

The teams were placed in a Jeopardy-like setting and were asked questions about respiratory care. Students were asked questions pertaining to information they learned prior to competing in the competition, but also information they had yet to learn.

Some of the questions included infant care techniques, ICU care techniques, drugs and mechanical ventilation.

The all-female team proudly representing BCC's Respiratory Care program hit the books to ensure their win, studying flashcards and reviewing booklets.

Some of the information they were



(From the left) Regional Sputum Bowl 2017 champions Richal Patel, team leader Gessilda C. Galang, Michelle Samuels and alternate Karin Marescot holding their trophy. // Derrian Douglas

studying, the women had yet to learn in class. Respiratory Care Club advisor Amy Ceconi commended the team, saying, "This team really put in a lot of work and effort because they really wanted to win this competition."

The team faced two other teams that day. One comprised of Brookdale Community College Respiratory Care students, and another comprised of former Brookdale Community College

students who are now practicing Respiratory Therapists.

The BCC team beat both Brookdale teams to win the coveted Sputum Bowl trophy.

What Is Your Ideal Valentine's Day Date?

YOO RA KIM
FEATURES EDITOR

February is that special time of year when sentimental feelings and affection are high. There's lots of gift-giving involved, including timeless favorites such as chocolate and flowers. Whether you're relaxing at home, watching a rom-com marathon or spending time with your other half, February is an overall enjoyable month. Regardless whether you're single or in a relationship, everyone has an idea of what their perfect Valentine's Day is. Several students on campus were asked what their ideal V-Day dates would be like and these were their responses.

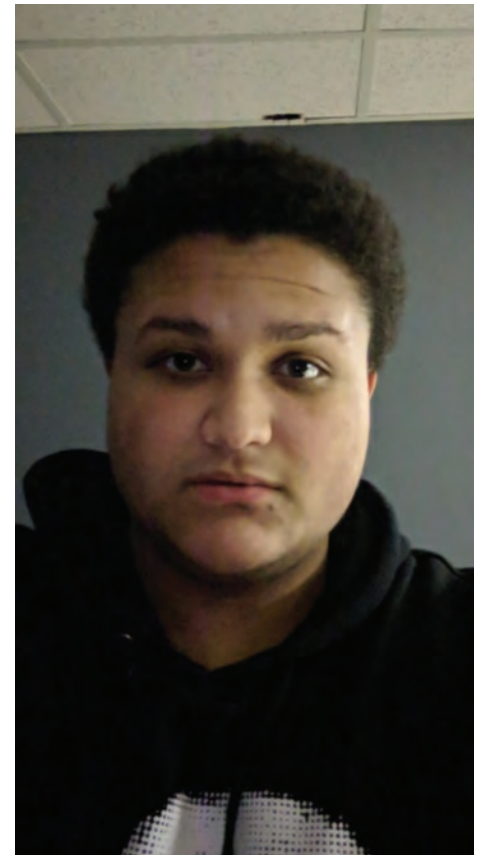


Steph Zena
Major: Dance
"I would enjoy going to a nice restaurant and seeing a movie afterwards."



Justin Lester
Major: Education
"I would start off my Valentine's Day by giving my date flowers and chocolate. We could take a relaxing stroll in the park after dinner. As long as we're enjoying each other's company, that's all that really matters."

Ariel Dadon
Major: Undecided
"My ideal Valentine's Day would involve going to a nice, romantic dinner at a restaurant. A gift exchange would be a thoughtful way to end the night."



Raekwon Cabezas
Major: Cinema
"Probably if we've been dating for a while, I would go back to the place where we had our first date and then after that go back to her or my place and give her a gift."

// Rebecca Karpinski

Vegan Makeup Is the New Black



// pexels.com

ASHLEY SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The history of cosmetics began 6000 years ago. Women and even men utilized makeup. The earliest record of men using cosmetics to signify their status in society is in 3000 BC. Women would also use makeup to signify their status, hide aging, and accentuate their features.

Each year, more than 100 million animals, including mice, rats, frogs, dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, monkeys, fish and birds are killed in U.S. laboratories for biology lessons, medical training, curiosity-driven experimentation and chemical, drug, food, and cosmetics testing.

As a vegan and makeup consumer myself, I always wondered how long

animals have been used for cosmetic testing.

Nars cosmetics was created by the dapper Frenchman François Nars in 1994. His cosmetic line launched in New York with 12 different-colored lipsticks. Nars reported in June of 2017 that they will be ending their cruelty-free stance so that they're able to enter the Chinese market.

Their decision was criticized by their fan base. Vegans and animal activists were especially upset because they cannot use Nars products anymore or support the brand. It is a Chinese law that any makeup brand sold for retail has to be tested on animals in order to be sold.

Statistics shows that the Chinese beauty market is projected to make \$50 billion dollars annually by the year 2020, so makeup companies logically want their cut.

There are ways around selling makeup in China without having to test on animals, they simply require more tedious steps, money and time. Therefore, Nars had the option of doing the right thing, or selling out. The company unfortunately chose to take a step backwards toward animal testing.

Imagine using the same brand for years because they were cruelty-free and then having to find another brand that supports cruelty-free testing.

It has been shown that one simple

ingredient can cause the death of 1,400 animals. In 2013, the EU banned animal testing. Therefore, if a makeup company's products were made using animal testing, then those products couldn't be sold in Europe.

72 percent of cosmetic consumers said no to animal testing in the US. There are many alternatives and dupes to replace your non cruelty-free favorites online.

If large parenting companies see that their cruelty-free brands are doing better, then they will put more money towards those brands and hopefully work towards a more ethical solution to their other brands that do animal testing.



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**



**CONTINUE ON YOUR
TRACK TOWARDS A**

**HIGHER
DEGREE
AT A
LOWER
COST.**



BCC + FDU

Bergen Community College and **Fairleigh Dickinson University** are partnering to offer you a more affordable path to a bachelor's degree. Graduate with your associate's degree from BCC, and you will be eligible to transfer to a FDU bachelor's program at a significant tuition reduction. BCC-FDU Scholars Program benefits include:

40% tuition reduction for undergraduate programs, which may also be applicable to some master's degrees at FDU

Additional grants may be available for resident students, NJSTARS and students graduating with a 3.0+ GPA

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

LEARN MORE
fdu.edu/bcc

Book Review: *The Eagle Tree*

PURNASREE SAHA
SPORTS EDITOR

The *Eagle Tree*, written by Ned Hayes, is considered to be a remarkable story about a boy named Peter Wong and a tree. Peter is fourteen years old and his middle name is March. On the third Monday of March, March saw the Eagle Tree for the first time, which he thought was magic.

After seeing the Eagle Tree the first time, March felt passionate about trees and wanted to climb them. March used to climb trees every morning and he thought that his mother wouldn't know because she would still be sleeping. I think that Peter's middle name is March due to seeing the Eagle tree the first time in March and it would probably remind him of the time that he spent with his father in March.

After viewing the Eagle Tree for the first time, that is probably when March sensed other types of trees and then wanted to climb them. March's mother probably wanted March to stay away from trees since he was injured when he was a child. This is why there would probably be a conversation with his mother and Uncle Mike.

If I saw a tree I would always investigate what type of tree it is and try and climb it, so I could feel the texture of the tree and see how high the tree is.

When March first laid eyes on the Eagle Tree, he believed it was a very large tree and did not realize that it was called the Eagle Tree. He measured the tree and then when he heard the high wind blowing and sound coming out of his mouth, March thought that the tree was singing back to him.



// Wikimedia Commons

The sound of a wind blowing would make me feel depressed and remind me of a song that includes peacefulness and sympathetic feeling about a family member of mine who passed away.

While Uncle Mike and his mother was having the conversation, that is probably when March realized that where his father lives in Arizona, there are many trees. That is when March probably imagined that he was climbing trees in Arizona.

When March moved to the new house with his mother, he probably felt that the new house was smaller than the old house and lonely without his father. If March felt depressed without his father, he could have invited his school friends for lunch/dinner or went to places such as the arcade or to the movie theater.

Conclusively, if I felt depressed about a family member who passed away, I would look out the window and remember my past and the time that I spent with them. Looking at trees during the winter would remind me of how cold and windy it is outside due to the snow that's on the tree. During spring/summer there are birds that sit on the tree, so I would count the birds and hear them whistling. In the Fall, there are a variety of fall color leaves on the tree, so I would observe the colors and feel the texture of leaves.

Reading this book made feel both anxious and cheerful. I would recommend this book to my friends and English professor because it would make them delighted and they would see how it feels when you look at a tree the first time.

Dear Evan Hansen: A Story of Connection

JEREMY NIFRAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you don't consider yourself to be an emotional person, watching the Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen* might convince you otherwise.

For those unfamiliar with the show, the Pasek and Paul-written musical (*La La Land*, *The Greatest Showman*) focuses on the titular character, a high-schooler with a severe case of social anxiety.

When we first meet Evan, he is a teenager struggling to navigate his way through his school's cliquy social landscape and, despite his disorder, desperately wants to feel connected to his peers. This desperation is exemplified by the musical's second number, "Waving Through A Window," which sheds a spotlight on Evan's fear of social interaction.

Evan's desire for connection is suddenly realized upon the unexpected and tragic suicide of classmate Connor Murphy, which leads Connor's grieving parents to mistakenly identify Evan as his closest friend.

Eventually, Evan realizes that lying about his friendship with Connor may help the mourning family in their time of need, and it's a lie that grows into almost unfathomable proportions through the help of social media.

When I saw the musical, Evan was played by Michael Lee Brown, who put on a spectacular, realistic portrayal of a teenager stricken with social anxiety. He portrayed this by tugging at his shirt and constantly fidgeting with his hands.

During the performance, Brown was an alternate who only performed on certain matinees (unlike the role's main actor), but anyone who witnessed his emotional prowess on stage would never have guessed. By the end of the show's third number (and my personal favorite) "For Forever," it was nearly impossible to find a dry eye in the audience.

Throughout the play, Brown's portrayal of Evan was truly visceral and raw, and during certain moments one could not help but feel concerned,

as Brown was able to showcase anguish effortlessly. During the musical's most emotional moments, especially during the powerful number "Words Fail," Brown was heavily sobbing, with tears visibly running down his cheeks, and spit flying from his mouth.

Aside from Brown's terrific performance, it would be unfair not to mention some other members of the musical's superb cast: Laura Dreyfuss brilliantly portrayed Connor's sister (and Evan's crush) Zoe Murphy; Will

Roland constantly made the entire audience laugh with his wisecracking performance as Evan's "family friend" Jared Kleinman, and perhaps the musical's most memorable performance (Evan withstanding) was Rachel Bay Jones' emotional portrayal of Evan's mother, Heidi Hansen.

Despite the common stereotype of Broadway musicals being "too cheesy" and niche, *Dear Evan Hansen* is an accessible, relatable story for the average teenager. Even though the story

is fictional, Evan is faced with the same desires and aspirations that many real American teenagers face today: the constant need to be accepted by those around you, and to "fit in."

Although many teenagers may not be caught up in a dilemma as problematic as Evan's, the story's central themes of relationships, family and emotional support is enough of a hook to bring in anyone willing to give it a chance.



// Jeremy Nifras

Minimum Wage, Minimum Sanity



// Edriel Fimbres

OWEN MCCLOSKEY
COPY EDITOR

If you're reading this article, it's more than likely that you are a college student — and if you're a college student, you've probably had some experience in a dead-end job.

The bills piling up for loans, gas, food, car insurance and your cell phone plan can't always be covered by your parents' wallets, and you'd do anything to get that sweet, sweet paper.

I interviewed students at Bergen Community College in an attempt to get their horror stories from their time at minimum-wage jobs — and it wasn't difficult at all. It seems that nearly every person I spoke to had a rude customer, an incompetent manager, or simply a really, really bad day. The common denominator in all minimum-wage jobs is that they're absolutely terrible.

Writing this story struck a chord in my heart because I — like many others before me — worked at a variety of soul-sucking jobs during my tenure as an employee.

I worked at Stop and Shop, tossing expired fish into the wastebasket in an ill-fitting white coat reminiscent of an evil scientist's. I wore three sweatshirts and sweated through them all while loading heavy crates on to shelves in a freezer the size of my room.

I worked as a server at a Mexican chain restaurant called On the Border, where I repeatedly burned myself on hot plates and a tortilla press that I swore was possessed by some malignant spirit (seriously, that thing burned me all the time).

I've gotten cursed out by angry customers whose food arrived too late, unbeknownst to me. I've dropped enormous trays full of food on the floor, and afterwards, staring in existential disbelief that I had to tell the irritable cooks to remake the order.

I was a food runner at Dave and Buster's, and my short tenure there were some of the worst days of my life. Imagine dodging kids who are hopped up on candy that they won from the prize room while sloughing enormous trays full of greasy food.

I've had to babysit the children of parents who were too drunk to notice that their kid was halfway out the door of the restaurant.

I've had a ton of horror stories myself, but I wanted to hear more experiences from ex-employees.

I caught up with Eden McDermott near the financial aid office, a first-year student at Bergen whom, although reluctant initially, therapeutically poured out some of the worst job experiences I had ever heard. I had hit the jackpot.

Eden told me about his tenure at Brookstone, a retail chain in the Westfield Garden State Plaza. While poor Eden helped customers, restocked the store and dealt with the mundane droll of Brookstone, his manager sat back on her phone and refused to train employees on protocol.

"Her thing was," Eden recalled, "you should know this already."

Eden then went on to explain how a dumpster carrying Brookstone trash

was knocked over by a garbage truck operator, spilling mounds of trash onto the floor around it. In typical managerial fashion, Eden's superior blamed the incident on him. It was only after Eden went to mall security — who had CCTV footage of the incident — that he was vindicated.

However, Eden and two other employees still had to clean up the mess. I mean, come on! Three people are not enough to clean an entire dumpster's worth of trash.

I walked into the student lounge and noticed three students chatting, one with Dunkin' Donuts in hand. After asking Jessica Verga, Rahid Chouehdh and Rifat Hussein what minimum-wage jobs they've worked at, they divulged that they were all employees at the Ringwood Dunkin' Donuts.

Jessica was, fortunately, very talkative about her Dunkin' experiences, and she dealt with one of the worst customers I've ever heard of. Jessica was working at the drive-thru of her store when a customer walked up to the drive-thru window.

He was in a rush, and Jessica said the best way to deal with customers is to "Kill 'em with kindness," so she obliged and asked the man what he needed, assuming it was a quick order.

"Two dozen donuts and a Box of Joe," Jessica told me, which is probably the largest order I've personally ever heard of at a Dunkin' Donuts.

Frantically, Jessica called out the order, right when another customer further down the line started to pick a

fight with the first customer.

The man was being held back by a friend while chastising Jessica saying, "You shouldn't let people do this!"

Apparently, customers blame employees when another customer is acting up.

Zachary Arada was the next student I spoke with, and his experience at Lucky Brand was short and sweet.

"I folded jeans for twelve hours a day," Zachary recounted.

I asked him what the worst part of the job was, and Zachary replied, "Monotony." This is a common theme with minimum-wage jobs, as the constant mundaneness of the jobs are usually what takes the greatest toll on employees.

Finally, I spoke with Brandon Almanzar, a former employee at a New York City McDonald's. Almanzar told me about a family of seven who took a long time on an order, and after all the food was made, the family canceled the order.

"I just remember looking at them like... 'you just wasted this order,'" Brandon said.

Regardless of whether or not you've worked at a minimum-wage job, you can hopefully sympathize with the employees of these jobs and understand the struggle of working at a minimum-wage job.

Remember to treat minimum-wage employees nicely, because his or her day has probably been a complete drag.

P.T. Barnum: The Greatest Showman



Hugh Jackman portrays P.T. Barnum in the new film. // Wikimedia Commons

REBECCA KARPINSKI
PHOTO EDITOR

The Greatest Showman is meant to highlight the fact that we, as a human race, should be treated as equals no matter class, race, ethnicity, etc.

The Greatest Showman is filled with a star studded cast, with Hugh Jackman starring as PT Barnum; Zac Efron returning to his first musical in a decade, and Hollywood starlet Zendaya featuring in only her second major film.

There are so many themes that this film touches on from what it is like to be born with money vs. finding wealth at an older age, accepting those that are different, relationship struggles and more.

Jackman starring the Greatest Showman himself, PT Barnum, was up for a challenging role due to the controversy surrounding the character. I don't feel as if they are trying to rewrite history, but simply highlight what this man did for show business and bring those qualities to light.

This is the first film that I have seen Jackman passionate about a character

and willing to do whatever it takes for us to follow this story.

All the man wants is to be accepted because he grew up poor and thought that having wealth and fame was the key to success.

Slowly but surely, Barnum recognizes that by losing what he thought was everything, brought him back to what he cared about most and that was being a man who was there for his family and taking people who were considered "freaks" and giving them a real family.

One of the key highlights of the film would have to be the effort of Efron (Philip Carlyle) and Zendaya (Anne Wheeler) and the struggles of having an interracial relationship.

Rarely do you see a love story unfold where the characters barely interact with one another in a 2 hour movie.

Since this film is set in the late 1800's, these characters can only interact by slight glances at each other.

I felt happy knowing that Efron's character was naive to the dangers they both could face by being together, because it honestly is how it should be when you like someone.

The love story unfolded by them leading with their hearts and not by what society puts forth.

If the movie were set around their relationship instead and the struggles they faced, I think that it would have been well received because if they could make you root for them while barely interacting, I think giving them more screen time would captivate the audience.

Musically the songs were phenomenal. "This is Me" won a Golden Globe for Best Original Song, and the lyrics are unapologetic about how it is ok to be yourself.

I don't think there is ever a wrong time to let someone know that being themselves is enough. Broadway star, Keala Settle (Lettie Lutz) makes you feel in the moment with her phenomenal voice. "This Is Me" is one of those songs where no one can ever cover the song and have the same effect as the original singer.

"From Now On" is a reminder that you will always find your way back home to those who truly care about you.

"Rewrite the Stars" reminds us to lead with love and not what others think that should be for you.

The Soundtrack told the story in a poetic way that made the flow of the music look effortless in the film.

I think to truly appreciate the film, you should watch it a second time like I did because I felt something was missing after the first time I saw it and seeing it a second time made everything come full circle.

It may not break box office records, but it is a feel good movie to make you believe that dreams can come true if you work hard at them and are smart

with your money and investments if you want to keep that dream.

To this, add the excellent cinematography, impeccable editing of the song scenes and the magnificence of the detail embedded in each scene took my breath away on numerous occasions. And I can't even begin to talk about the choreography.

The biggest part for me is the roller coaster of emotions that the movie takes you on. It conveys many feelings as it talks about dreams, how hard it is to achieve them, being different, accepting others for who they are, the lessons we learn when we let things go to our heads, the hard falls and picking ourselves up and moving on.

What worked best for me was the reactions of the attending audience. The theater was pretty full - and hearing them gasp when something sad or unexpected unfolded, watching some shake in their seats to the rhythm of "This Is Me," one of the best songs in the score or hearing the clapping as the movie ends, is a testament of how deep the impact of this film is.

Although I have a feeling it's loosely based in the real story of PT Barnum, it's for sure a lavish display of some sort of fairy tale that I want to hear over and over again.



Zac Efron // Wikimedia Commons



Zendaya, a former Disney star also appearing in the film. // Wikimedia Commons

THE CHAIRS

EUGENE IONESCO
A TRAGIC FARSE

DIRECTED BY PROF. JARED SALTZMAN
ENDER HALL LAB THEATRE
FEB. 23, 24, MAR. 1, 2, & 3, 2018 at 7:30 PM
FEB. 24 & March 3 at 2:00 PM

TICKETS: \$ 15.00 GENERAL ADMISSION, \$ 10.00 SENIORS (65+) AND ALL OF BCC, \$ 5.00 STUDENTS
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: TICKETS.BERGEN.EDU OR THE BOX OFFICE IN ROOM A-130

FOR INFORMATION CALL (201) 447-7428

Instagram.com/mattie_forte

As Major League Baseball Returns, All Star Free Agents Remain Unsigned

STEPHEN MIGNANELLI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Towards the end of February, every Major League Baseball team will report for spring training. There is one major problem: most of the top free agents are unsigned.

Some of the top unsigned free agents include J.D. Martinez, Jake Arrieta and Eric Hosmer.

Jeff Passan, a Yahoo Sports reporter wrote, "Never has baseball witnessed an off-season as laborious as 2017-18's."

The free agent market this off-season has been almost frozen since November when free agency began.

All of the players were listed as All-Star players. In the case of Eric Hosmer he has been named All-Star multiple times. In any other off-season these players would have signed in December during the yearly winter meetings. J.D. Martinez in particular is coming off a career year in 2017.

Martinez hit for a batting average of .303, 45 home runs and had 104 runs batted in. Jon Heyman of FanRag Sports reported that Martinez wants "\$200 million if he can get it, but at least \$180 million."

Martinez is one of many free agents, who is holding out for a better contract offer.

One free agent who lowered his asking price was outfielder Jay Bruce. In November 2017, ESPN writer Jerry Crasnick said Bruce was "seeking a deal for 5 years in the \$80-90 million range."



Free agent J.D. Martinez after he hit a grand slam against the Cardinals. // Wikimedia Commons

On January 10th, Crasnick reported that Bruce signed with the New York Mets with a three-year \$39 million contract to return to the Mets. Bruce decided to take an offer he had already received then wait out for a market that may not develop. He played with the Mets from July 2016 to August 2017 before being traded to the Cleveland Indians.

This year's free agent class is having a hard time finding a team in part because of next year's free agent class. Teams are wanting to save money in order to sign players like Bryce Harper, Manny Machado or Madison Bumgarner.

This year's free agent class is filled with All-Star players, but next year's class is filled with most valuable player candidates. Bryce Harper has won one MVP award, and is in the prime of his career at 26 years old.

Manny Machado is on the same level as Bryce Harper. Machado has been named as an All-Star multiple times, and has won two gold glove awards. These players are once in a generation talents; so teams are willing to hold off spending until next off-season.

Most of the free agents listed will be signed before spring training, and they may not get paid what they want. Any of these players could sign one year deals, and try again next year.

UEFA Champions League Preview



Estádio do Sport Lisboa e Benfica in Lisbon, Portugal. // Wikimedia Commons

ROBERT C. MCDERMOTT
AD MANAGER

Fans from all over the world are ready to see the 2018 UEFA Champions League unfold as the round of 16 approaches. There are so many quality teams this year that can make a run for the final which will be held in Kiev, Ukraine.

PSG are set to have a good run in the tournament with a front line including Neymar, Mbappe and Cavani. PSG are currently set to win France's Ligue 1 with an eight point gap ahead of Lyon. The real challenge for Neymar and PSG will be playing Real Madrid in the round of 16 of the Champions League.

Real Madrid is currently struggling to get into third place in Spain's La Liga, almost 20 points behind league leaders Barcelona.

This match will be the deciding

factor for PSG. If they can beat Real Madrid, who has the most success in the Champions League, they will have a lot more confidence to take on other big clubs.

Tottenham Hotspur will be facing Juventus, which will put a few key players to the test. Harry Kane and Christian Eriksen have been exceptionally well so far in the Barclays Premier League. Juventus is at a disadvantage, as they recently ruled out star player Paulo Dybala due to injury.

Manchester City has had an amazing season in the Barclays Premier League. On top of this, they had an 18 game win streak before losing to Liverpool 4-3. They will be playing FC Basel who are also competing for first place in the Swiss Super League.

A struggling Liverpool will be facing Porto, a Portuguese club who are currently leading the Primeira Liga by one point. Liverpool is seen as the favorite to win as Porto's star midfielder Danilo because of injury.

German Giants, Bayern Munich will be playing Besiktas. Bayern Munich is expected to easily go through to the next round, assuming Turkish club Besiktas won't get a few surprise goals to win.

One of the most exciting matches will be Chelsea and Barcelona, which are big clubs with a lot of history and talent. During the last three times Chelsea played Barcelona in the Champions League, there were two draws, and one win for Chelsea.

The times are a bit different now, with a strong Barcelona team consisting

of the sport's best players Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez.

Manchester United is anticipated to beat Sevilla, but the Spanish club has won multiple Europa League trophies in this past decade and will be taken seriously by Jose Mourinho's Manchester United.

Roma, one of the two Italian clubs in the tournament will be playing Shakhtar Donetsk, the only Ukrainian team in the competition.

While Shakhtar is seen as one of the best clubs in their league, compared to the caliber of clubs that compete in the Champions League, they are expected to lose early on in the tournament. Roma should rather be difficult, but almost certainly win.



Why Drew?

- > **Drew's tuition will be lowered by 20%** starting in academic year 2018–19.
- > **Generous merit-** and need-based scholarships just for you—up to \$20,000.
- > **Additional awards** for PTK students with associate degrees.
- > **Seamless** transfer of credits.
- > **Named One of 50 Colleges that Create Futures** by The Princeton Review.
- > **50+** fields of study.
- > **10:1** student-faculty ratio.
- > **Undergraduate** research opportunities.
- > **NYC semesters** on Wall Street, at the United Nations, and in contemporary art, communications/media, theatre and social entrepreneurship.
- > **International opportunities** spanning the globe.

ATTEND A TRANSFER EXPLORATION DAY.

Monday–Friday | 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Drew University, Madison, NJ

Take a tour, start a preliminary application, get a credit evaluation, learn more about the Drew Honors Partnership with Bergen Community College and find out which scholarship could be yours.

Register Now: drew.edu/bcctransfer

DREW



The Torch

SPORTS



Men's Basketball Season Update

JELSON MONTERO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Despite great optimism, the men's basketball team continues to struggle. The Bulldogs recently lost to Rowan college with a final score of 83 to 76.

Following the loss, the team's record took another hit falling to 4-15 on the season, and 1-10 against conference opponents. The Bulldogs are in a poor stretch where they have tallied two wins in the last ten games. Despite the season struggles, the spirit of clubhouse does not seem to fracture.

Yohanly Ortiz, who is the starting point guard on the team, said, "The vibe around the clubhouse is great. We get along pretty well, and look out for each other."

Considering the fact that the team has not enjoyed great success, it is impressive to see how determined the players are to get back on track. A big reason for that is the leadership role, Ortiz has taken alongside his teammate



Micaiah Fraction // BergenCCBulldogs.com

Nolan Van Rye.

The men's basketball season has 11 games left on their remaining schedule. First year coach Ozzie Osbourne believes that the players have the ability to finish the season on a high note.

"We are currently struggling and it's not because of lack of effort. We had 5 or 6 games that we lost because as a team we don't shoot free throws and the defense at times is not good," Coach Osbourne said.

The Bulldogs next game will be at Cumberland County College on January 20th. With a 4-15 record and eleven games left on the schedule, the Bulldogs have a chance to finish the season with a .500 winning percentage, as noted by Yohanly Ortiz, "All upcoming games for us are important."

The Bulldogs seem prepared for a great stretch before the season ends on February 20th.

Women's Basketball Season Update



Kiara Keitt // bergenccebulldogs.com

PURNASREE SAHA
SPORTS EDITOR

In January 2018, the Bergen Community College Women's Basketball team played against many teams. These teams included Brookdale Community College, Rowan College in Gloucester County, Cumberland County College, Sussex County Community College, Community College of Philadelphia, Camden County College, and Passaic County Community College.

On January 9, 2018, the basketball team played against Brookdale by defeating them by a score of 52-43 making the team's overall record 10-6, and the regions record was 6-3. Grace

D'Annibale and Cherie Smedile were the new sophomores in this game. D'Annibale had a big game by scoring 24 points, including five three-pointers. In addition, Smedile had 13 boards and 18 points for the night. Rose D'Annibale, Victoria Lipari and Kiara Keitt were three new sophomores. There were also two new freshmen in the Women's Basketball team, and they were Anira Calamia and Allison Bryan.

"The team is doing quite well, we are 13-8, having beaten a few excellent teams, such as Brookdale twice," said Tracy Green, head coach of the BCC

Women's Basketball team. Green has been coaching at BCC for nine years, and prior to that, coached for 21 years on the high school level at Waldwick High School.

The players are getting ready to gel as a team, just in time for playoffs. On January 25, 2018, BCC played against the Community College of Philadelphia. Smedile is a shooting guard from Saddle Brook, NJ, and she hit the 1,000 point mark that game. "It was quite an accomplishment in less than two years of playing," said Green. Smedile achieved that special milestone during the second quarter of

the game, and did not display any signs of nervousness.

Smedile finished with 37 points, leading BCC to a 74-31 win. Smedile became the fourth women's basketball player in Bergen's history to reach the 1,000 point milestone.

"My players all did well in the classroom this past semester and when you are a part of a team, it actually helps you organize your time so that you use it wisely. Many of the players also have a job, and have to juggle many responsibilities. We hope to do well in the Region 19 playoffs," said Green. The playoffs will start at the end of February.

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