Blue Wave Ripples Through Suburbia

KATY TEMPLE
Features Editor

Rumors of the “blue wave” were running rampant throughout the country in the months leading to the 2018 midterm elections. As polls were taken and ballots were counted, the entire country stayed glued to their televisions to wait for the great blue wave.

What looked like a ripple on election day rose to a wave a week later, with Democrats flipping many seats from red to blue and taking control of the House for the first time since 2010.

Key races in Virginia’s second and seventh districts indicate that suburban civilians who previously voted Republican have switched to the blue side. Elaine Luria (D) defeated the incumbent Scott Taylor (R) by about 6,000 votes in district 2. Similarly in district 7, incumbent (R) Dave Brat has conceded to Abigail Spanberger (D) by less than 2 percent.

Of the seats up for grabs, 35 had flipped from red to blue by mid-November, with six races still not called. That’s the biggest Democratic gain since the wave election that followed Watergate. These victories are eager to reform. Making us glide into Congress. 100 women have been elected to the House for the first time this year, with 50.3% of the vote.

Despite a few major upsets, this midterm was a success for women and minorities in politics. For the first time, over 100 women have been elected into Congress.

Deb Haaland (D) in New Mexico and Sharice Davids in Kansas have been elected as the first two Native American women to serve in Congress along with the first two Muslim women: Ilhan Omar (D) from Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib (D) from Michigan. This was a win for minority women, Colorado elected the very first openly gay governor, Jared Polis.

According to CBS, this was the first year that the number of voters exceeded 100 million at a midterm election. Analysts now say that Democrats have flipped 33 seats and will finish with between 36 and 40. What looked like a ripple on election day is now a definite wave.

Hate Breeds Hate: A Holocaust Survivor’s Story

DANIEL CURRIER
Staff Writer

It is often said that by refusing to learn from the ghettos of our past, we are inadvertently doomed to repeat our mistakes. This is the message that Trudy Album, a Holocaust survivor, was conveying on October 30 in a message that Trudy Album, our mistakes. This is the ghost of our past, we are refusing to learn from the past. Cruz still managed to sway more blue than it has in the past. Cruz managed to see a step in the right direction towards the actual blue wave we may see in 2020. Small victories are great, but two particular races that ended with upset for the family disappointed and worried.

Beto O’Rourke (D) ran against incumbent Ted Cruz (R) and lost by 2.6 percent. After his defense of it gladly, because she did not stay in for two days. It was at this point that she donned her clothing. Initially, she wore a yellow star, but at this point that she donned the infamous Jewish star on her clothing. Initially, she wore a yellow star, but later be known as “The Night of Death” who conducted deadly human experiments during the Holocaust. This was the last day of Trudy read her mother, both sisters and her grandmother. Additionally, along with several of her friends, were taken to Birkenau concentration camp. Despite all this, Trudy still had faith in humanity and God. She promised herself, “I would not be the only one who dies,” unaware that she was the sole survivor of her family.

After many grueling months of hard labor in various camps, she was packed into a cattle car with other survivors. In a last ditch effort to hide, she came face to face with Dr. Mengele, the notorious “Angel of Death” who conducted deadly human experiments throughout the duration of the Holocaust. This was the last day of Trudy read her mother, both sisters and her grandmother. Additionally, along with several of her friends, were taken to Birkenau concentration camp. Despite all this, Trudy still had faith in humanity and God. She promised herself, “I would not be the only one who dies,” unaware that she was the sole survivor of her family.

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Rohingya Refugees Sent Back To Myanmar Despite Persecution

The Rohingya are a group of disfraced people who have lived in the Rakhine region of Myanmar for centuries. The ethnic group developed from tribes in parts of southeastern and southern Asia and have lived in the Rakhine for generations upon generations.

However, the Rohingya – a predominantly Muslim group – are targets of persecution by the Buddhist-majority Burmese (Myanmar) government.

In 2015, a group of researchers from the UK-based International Crime Initiative reported “sporadic massacres” and “ghettoization” of the Rohingya people.

After quelling the voting rights of the Rohingya people, the government of Myanmar responded to an attack by Rohingya militants with what has been reported by watchdog groups as “ethnic cleansing.” Military troops are systematically being sent into Rohingya neighborhoods, firing upon men, women and children.

Surveys conducted by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in refugee settlement camps in Bangladesh estimated that at least 9,000 Rohingya died in Myanmar during the August and September of 2017. Since then, the number has increased to a staggering 43,000, missing, the government who are presumed dead.

Despite this, the Myanmar government has reported an unlikely estimate of 400 Rohingya dead since the beginning of the crisis.

It is not surprising that the government of Myanmar is targeting Muslims, as there is an enormous distaste for Islam in a country that is largely Buddhist. The demonization of Muslims is a common trope in largely Buddhist. The demonization of Muslims is a common trope in predominantly Muslim – are targets of persecution by the Buddhist-majority Burmese (Myanmar) government.

Despite all of this, the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar (Bangladesh has the largest Rohingya refugee population in the world, at 655,500) have made a deal that will repatriate the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The United Nations has issued a warning against this, stating that the conditions are inadequate for the Rohingya to go back to their home country.

The anti-Islam sentiment in the country of Myanmar is too great and, as a country recovering from a civil conflict of its own, its citizens feel the need to turn to a scapegoat for the fundamental problems in Myanmar.

If this deal goes through, hundreds of thousands of refugees will be sent back to a country that is currently participating in the genocide of their people.

Many of the refugees in Bangladesh believe they will be killed if they return to their homeland. Despite this, plans to repatriate 2,600 refugees are to be enacted this month.

Bombed and Bound: A Veteran’s Tale

Between bombs booming in the ears of innocent and malnourished children scavenging the streets for crumbs, it is an average day in the life of Vincent Meli.

Born in the small town of Sliema, Vincent Meli was one of the many Maltese citizens who endured the travesties that World War II unleashed upon them.

Due to Malta's importance to Britain's offensive front, Axis Power air forces had attempted to resolve the issue through starving and clogging the island and destroying significant ports, cities and Allied ships providing it with supplies.

“It was truly horrible,” Meli said. “I remember one time when I was home as a boy. I was sleeping when another set of bombs dropped. I'll never forget when that noise was heard. My family bolted out of the house in fear and my siblings yelled at me to wake up. ‘Vincent, Vincent, get up, get up!’ But I tell you, I was just so used to that sound that I went back to sleep.

Bomber attacks were a common occurrence in Malta that children were trained from an early age on how to wear gas masks and act accordingly whenever there was a bombing.

“My Maria [Vincent's wife] was younger than me. When I was already in the army, she was still in school and she would tell me that whenever there was a bomb threat, they would just hide under their desks.”

But bombings were the least of Malta's troubles as each day, its people's plates started diminishing. Since the Axis Powers began bombing any shipments that would come to Malta's ports, many were left to starve.

“The hunger was the worst part of the war. Just seeing everybody become like ralings and waste away was what true horror was. I mean, I came from a family filled with 10 siblings and to see them grow so thin killed me on the inside.” He then continues, “Since I was the oldest out of them, I joined the army as a cook. I just had to do something.”

During his time in the army, Meli would serve his fellow men canned corn beef, a small piece of bread, and, as he describes, a serving of “very bland soup.”

The hunger made Malta a desperate and hostile place. While on a break with other soldiers, Meli was caught stealing figs from a local farmer's tree. The farmer came out and aimed his shotgun at the soldiers, but lowered it when he saw that at end of the barrel, there were just some scared kids who looked like they were wasting away.

“When he saw how skinny we were, he put down his gun, and told us, ‘have whatever you want. Just ask, next time’.”

Their hunger would soon be forgotten as a damaged oil tanker called the SS Ohio docked on Malta’s shores.

Due to several attacks from Axis fronts, the tanker sent from the U.S. was badly damaged as it carried supplies for the suffering Maltese people. But despite its extensive destruction, it still made it to its targeted location and made Malta hopeful once more.

“That ship was a miracle. A true miracle. It didn't solve all our problems but it sure as hell helped.”

Soon after the war, Meli moved to the U.S. to find opportunity and is now waiting to celebrate his 90th birthday this coming February.
‘Trump of the Tropics’ Assumes Power in Brazil

On Tuesday October 28, Brazil elected Jair Messias Bolsonaro as the 42nd president of the country with 55.1 percent of the votes while Fernando Haddad, Bolsonaro’s opponent from the Workers Party, got 44 percent of the votes. Bolsonaro won what is described as “the most violent election in the history of the country” after 94 percent of the votes were counted.

Bolsonaro, from the Partido Social Liberal (PSL) or the Social Liberal Party, took the country out of the Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT) referring to the Workers Party, after 13 years of presidency with Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff, his successor.

The new president started his victory speech by praying, thanking God and mentioning a passage in John 8:32 from the Bible which states, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” This was considered unfamiliar for a president since Brazil is considered to be a secular country.

This is the first time since 2003 that Brazil is governed by a completely different power. For most Brazilians, this was the opportunity to take the Workers Party out of control after so many years of crime and corruption. However, the election was also an opportunity for Bolsonaro to repress minority groups such as the black community, women and LGBTQ+ since he is a conservative person who favors traditional family values.

Bolsonaro was compared to Donald Trump innumerable times for his racist, homophobic and misogynistic comments. He told a congresswoman she would not be raped because “she doesn’t deserve it.” He’s also said – (he) would be incapable of loving a homosexual son … (he) would prefer my son to die in an accident than show up with a mustached man.”

Their similarity is so notable that Trump personally called Bolsonaro to congratulate him in his victory.

Fernando Haddad talked about his gratitude towards his ancestors and how he would always be there for his country regardless of the elections results.

His final words were related to not fearing the future. “We are together,” he said, “don’t fear because we are holding hands, be brave, life is built in bravery.”

Haddad was the mayor of São Paulo, one of the biggest cities in the world with 12.1 million residents. He was a strong opponent to Bolsonaro not only for being from the Workers Party, but also for his beliefs in a free country for different genders, religions and political parties.

This year, the elections brought Brazil a scenario of polarity. The chaos took control over the situation and millions of Brazilians have been left unsatisfied with the final decision.

Right now, the only thing the nation can do is keep their eyes on the horizon for a better future.
I Don’t Want Your Playlist

FRANCISCO CAMACHO
Staff Writer

Picture this: you have a test in two hours and you’re trying to study in the Student Center. In the distance, you can hear music blaring while you’re trying to concentrate on your books. Without the option of asking whoever is playing the music to lower the volume, you leave and go elsewhere. Bergen is facing a problem; there are people who feel that it’s okay to assault your ears with their music. Like most people, I love music.

I am not here to advocate against listening to music. I am merely stating that no one should be forced to listen to it because someone else wants to use music to numb their own rude and disturbing people who are in the student center trying to do other things like study.

What possesses people to think that everyone will like what they’re playing? No matter what time it is, I am not trying to listen to your workout playlist. I am not trying to listen to someone else’s DJ Set. I am not trying to hear DJ Inconsiderate leave me and my ears alone and keep your music to yourself.

I am tired of waking up in the morning – already dreading coming to school – knowing that my ears are going to be attacked by someone’s DJ Set. The worst part about the situation is that no one is doing anything to stop it.

How can a first-class institution like Bergen Community College continue to allow this to happen? Change needs to happen sooner than later. All neighborhoods have noise laws, so why shouldn’t BCC?

This behavior should not be accepted, and we should demand more from the students on campus. After all, respect is one of the main pillars of the student code of conduct, and every time someone turns up their speakers, they are disrespecting other students.

I am calling upon the administration to take action; this blatant disrespect for others needs to stop. The Office of Student Life, Public Safety, The Board of Trustees and anyone else should make this a top priority. Changes must happen so we can preserve the sanctity of this learning institution.

Do not let this blatant disregard for other students continue any longer. Stop these individuals who continue to take away from what makes BCC great - an environment which helps a student learn, not disturb them.

I am calling upon you to make a change and let students thrive in a peaceful, noise-free environment.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ATTACKS LEGAL IMMIGRATION

OWEN MCLCOKSEY
Editor-In-Chief

It shouldn’t be a shock to anyone that President Trump’s administration is clampdown on legal immigration. Wall prototipes at the border, the deployment of up to 15,000 troops to the southern border and a harsh family separation policy are clear indicators that Trump is trying to stave off a hypothetical challenge from the southern border.

However, getting into the fact that many of the refugees from the southern border are women and children who want to legally seek asylum, it makes sense for a sovereign nation to keep its borders secure.

Too much immigration could lead to deinstitution amongst those who come here illegally because the government may not be fairly paying for the deal with such an influx of new people.

But what about the immigrants who have waited years to get their visas and go through the immigration process normally? Legal immigrants, of course.

With notable occasions, President Trump has said in interviews and speeches that he wants immigrants to have legal immigrants who are in the United States and vie for citizenship, but there have been many policies that his administration has codified that sequester the rights of the immigrants.

Birthright citizenship has caused the ire of the President recently, and he’s tried to do away with it through an executive order. Birthright citizenship is a policy in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that grants birthright citizenship to any child born on US soil.

President Trump has decried this policy, saying that immigrants come to the country illegally and have babies simply so that their children can come to the country illegally and have babies simply so that their children can only sponsor their children to have the opportunity to receive a U.S. education. Usually well-off immigrant mothers are the ones bringing their children to the United States, and don’t try to apply for green cards because their children can only sponsor their applications after 22 years.

This takes such a long time that most immigrants don’t even stick around to become full-time citizens.

I personally know many second-generation American students who study hard, get degrees and eventually get great jobs -- and they could thank the 14th Amendment for this.

Besides trying to scrap birthright citizenship, the current U.S. government has made life in the States harder for legal immigrants.

A Washington Post article featured the interview of a Brownsville, Texas immigration attorney named Jamie Díez, who reported that over 20 of his clients (all U.S. citizens) were sent to detention centers. Think about that. That’s 20 legal citizens who were sent to immigration detention centers against their will, and that’s only a small portion of those detained.

There aren’t the only ones affected by federal immigration policies. In 2002, George Bush introduced a “naturalization” program to help bolster military recruitment for the conflicts in the Middle East.

The action was called Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI), and it made it much easier for incoming immigrants to apply for citizenship if they are not legally allowed into the U.S. military. However, in contrast to Bush’s policy, President Trump has made it much harder for immigrants to enlist.

Trump’s administration has since severely limited MAVNI, on the grounds of creating a more “specialized program.” Due to this, it’s been much harder for immigrants who want to enlist to actually join the military.

The last and most vicious ploy of the federal government is the increased tendency to denaturalize American citizens.

This tactic was used in the U.S. before the era of McCarthyism, when people were stripped of their citizenship due to fears of growing communism and Nazism in local communities.

The current administration is stripping citizenship from immigrants who have applied legally for fear of fake birth certificates. This has led to a curbing of rights from predominantly Hispanic immigrant communities in local communities.

So why is President Trump cracking down on legal immigration despite his vocal defense of policies that protect them? The only reason I see is subversive racism, because these suppressive policies are most certainly not based on reason or rationale.

We don’t want to be remembered as a country who targets their citizens with no objective reasoning. We’ve gone through both automatics and we’ve implemented it after Pearl Harbor.

Those were dark times in American history, and we are surely doomed to repeat them if we do not stop discriminating against legal U.S. citizens.

OPINIONS

The Torch: A voice for all Bergen

OWEN MCLCOKSEY
Editor-In-Chief

LESJAY JONES
Co-Editor

JEREMY NIFRAS
Copy Editor

DAVID JOO
News Editor

KATY TEMPLE
Features Editor

JELSON MONTERO
Sports Editor

IAN ARDELLE
Layout Editor

ASHLEY SMITH
Online Editor

EDRIEL FIMBRES
Photo Editor

ROBERT C MCDERMOTT
Ad Manager

PROF. LEW WHEATON
Advisor

HARSH FAMILY SEPARATION POLICY ARE CONDUCTED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF UP TO 15,000 TROOPS TO THE SOUTHERN BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES. WALL PROTOTYPES AT THE BORDER, THE DEPLOYMENT OF UP TO 15,000 TROOPS TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES AND A HARSH FAMILY SEPARATION POLICY ARE CLEAR INDICATORS THAT TRUMP IS TRYING TO STAVE OFF A HYPOTHETICAL CHALLENGE FROM THE SOUTHERN BORDER.

HOWEVER, GETTING INTO THE FACT THAT MANY OF THE REFUGEES FROM THE SOUTHERN BORDER ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO WANT TO LEGALLY SEEK ASYLUM, IT MAKES SENSE FOR A SOVEREIGN NATION TO KEEP ITS BORDERS SECURE.

TOO MUCH IMMIGRATION COULD LEAD TO DEINSTITUTION AMONGST THOSE WHO COME HERE ILLEGALLY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE FAIRLY PAYING FOR THE DEAL WITH SUCH AN INFLUX OF NEW PEOPLE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE WAITED YEARS TO GET THEIR VISAS AND GO THROUGH THE IMMIGRATION PROCESS NORMAL? LEGAL IMMIGRANTS, OF COURSE.

WITH NOTABLE OCCASIONS, PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS SAID IN INTERVIEWS AND SPEECHES THAT HE WANTS IMMIGRANTS TO HAVE LEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE IN THE UNITED STATES AND VIE FOR CITIZENSHIP, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY POLICIES THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS CODIFIED THAT SEQUESTER THE RIGHTS OF THE IMMIGRANTS.

BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP HAS CAUSED THE IRE OF THE PRESIDENT RECENTLY, AND HE’S TRIED TO DO AWAY WITH IT THROUGH AN EXECUTIVE ORDER. BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP IS A POLICY IN THE 14TH AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION THAT GRANTS BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP TO ANY CHILD BORN ON US SOIL.

PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS DECRIED THIS POLICY, SAYING THAT IMMIGRANTS COME TO THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY AND HAVE BABIES SIMPLY SO THAT THEIR CHILDREN CAN ONLY SPONSOR THEIR CHILDREN TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE A U.S. EDUCATION. USUALLY WELL-OFF IMMIGRANT MOTHERS ARE THE ONES BRINGING THEIR CHILDREN TO THE UNITED STATES, AND DON’T TRY TO APPLY FOR GREEN CARDS BECAUSE THEIR CHILDREN CAN ONLY SPONSOR THEIR APPLICATIONS AFTER 22 YEARS.

THIS TAKES SUCH A LONG TIME THAT MOST IMMIGRANTS DON’T EVEN STICK AROUND TO BECOME FULL-TIME CITIZENS.

I PERSONALLY KNOW MANY SECOND-GENERATION AMERICAN STUDENTS WHO STUDY HARD, GET DEGREES AND EVENTUALLY GET GREAT JOBS -- AND THEY COULD THANK THE 14TH AMENDMENT FOR THIS.

BEFORE THE ERA OF MCCARTHYISM, WHEN PEOPLE WERE STRIPPED OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP DUE TO FEARS OF GROWING COMMUNISM AND NAZISM IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION IS STRIPPING CITIZENSHIP FROM IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE APPLIED LEGALLY FOR FEAR OF FAKE BIRTH CERTIFICATES. THIS HAS LED TO A CURBING OF RIGHTS FROM PREDOMINANTLY HISPANIC IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

SO WHY IS PRESIDENT TRUMP CRACKING DOWN ON LEGAL IMMIGRATION DESPITE HIS VOCAL DEFENSE OF POLICIES THAT PROTECT THEM? THE ONLY REASON I SEE IS SUBVERSIVE RACISM, BECAUSE THESE SUPPRESSIVE POLICIES ARE MOST CERTAINLY NOT BASED ON REASON OR RATIONAL.

WE DON’T WANT TO BE REMEMBERED AS A COUNTRY WHO TARGETS THEIR CITIZENS WITH NO OBJECTIVE REASONING. WE’VE GONE THROUGH BOTH AUTOMATICS AND WE’VE IMPLEMENTED IT AFTER PEARL HARBOR.

THOSE WERE DARK TIMES IN AMERICAN HISTORY, AND WE ARE SOURELY DOOMED TO REPEAT THEM IF WE DO NOT STOP DISCRIMINATING AGAINST LEGAL U.S. CITIZENS.

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 necessarily those of THE TORCH. All the materials submitted to THE TORCH become property of THE TORCH.
When You Give a Girl a Glock

KATY TEMPLE

FRANCISCO CAMACHO

I miss the old Kanye West; the Kanye that made millions of black kids revere and idolize him. He was the one who gave us the classic hits like “All Falls Down” and “Jesus Walks.”

Nowadays, it feels like Kanye no longer exists. Instead, we have an impostor who claims to be Kanye but can’t possibly be.

This new Kanye doesn’t care about black people. This new Kanye implies that black people were complicit in their own slavery and it hurts to hear him say that.

A man who was once lauded for being one of the most prominent musical geniuses of our generation is now viewed as a moron: someone who would rather live in ignorance instead of lives without educating himself and listening to people’s opinions.

He has decided to be used by the Trump administration as a photo opportunity. He has become his token, his black guy - and he is okay with that. The man who once said that George Bush doesn’t care about Black people is no longer with us. In his wake stands a man disconnected from the world; a man who once meant so much in my life is now gone.

I’m lucky enough to have found a hobby that will stay a hobby, and not turn into another form of competition to stress about in my life.

We’re indoctrinated to think that we can be one thing or another; smart or pretty, athletic or feminine, happy or sad. There’s no reason to be so polarized.

That goes for politics, social issues, emotions, community and hobbies. The world isn’t as black and white as we make it out to be, so let’s stop acting like it is.

I miss the old Kanye.
As I began to write this commentary, I read about evil in the history books and saw it in pictures. But never before has our country seen such evil manifesting on such a large scale. Recent events including the attempted attacks on key political figures, attacks on the free press (CNN specifically) and the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, exemplify how much work this country needs to do in terms of acceptance and tolerance.

We are at one of the darkest years our nation has ever seen, especially the last few months when the fire of such a tragedy burned across the nation. The shooting in Pittsburgh was one of the most sinister and anti-Semitic hate crimes.

But, this isn’t new at all. In fact, hate crimes have been going on since the early years of our independence, and hate crime laws have a long history in the United States.

The first hate crime laws were passed after the American Civil War, beginning with the Civil Rights Act of 1871, to combat the growing number of racially-motivated crimes being committed by the Ku Klux Klan during the Reconstruction Era.

Throughout history, the struggle for acceptance and inclusiveness kept marching on. The modern era of hate crime legislation began in 1968 with the passage of federal statute, 18 U.S. 245, part of the Civil Rights Act which made it illegal to “by force or by threat of force, injure, intimidate, or interfere with anyone who is engaged in six specified protected activities, by reason of their race, color, religion or national origin.

However, “The prosecution of such crimes must be certified by the U.S. attorney general.”

According to a November 2016 report issued by the FBI, hate crime statistics are on the rise in the United States. The number of hate crime incidents increased from 5,850 in 2015, to 6,121 hate crime incidents in 2016—an increase of 4.6 percent. Among the most vulnerable are minority communities such as the Jewish community, the LGBT community, the Muslim community, the African-American community and the indigenous nation community.

The images of violence against people of any nationality or religion is beyond reprehensible. Yet in the midst of such evil, I take solace with the words of a 13th century Buddhist philosopher of such evil, I take solace with the words of a 13th century Buddhist philosopher of such evil, I take solace with the words of a 13th century Buddhist philosopher. “When hatred and fear run rampant in America, let’s be a nation of inclusiveness and not exclusiveness. Let’s be a nation of love and not hate. Let’s be a nation of peace and not war. Let’s be a nation of freedom and not slavery. Let’s be a nation of justice and not discrimination.

This is why I write this commentary. This is why I write about evil. This is why I write about hate. This is why I write about the United States. This is why I write about America.

What Does Brett Kavanaugh’s Confirmation Mean For Politics?

Back in July, Brett M. Kavanaugh was selected by President Trump to be the new Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, in order to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia back in 2016.

Several months later, a woman named Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, a professor of psychology at Palo Alto University, went public with sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh, claiming he tried to rape her at a college party during the 1980s. Two other women came forward with their own allegations against Kavanaugh back in 2018. Both sides were seared into my memory and have haunted me episodically as an adult.

Following Dr. Ford’s testimony, it was time for Kavanaugh himself to take the stand. It could be argued that Kavanaugh’s testimony was just as intense and emotional as Dr. Ford’s, as he passionately and defiantly denied her allegations.

However, Kavanaugh eventually turned his attention not just towards Dr. Ford, but the Democratic Party as a whole, and claimed that her allegations were “revenge on behalf of the Clintons,” insinuating that her testimony was a political attack in retaliation for Hillary Clinton’s loss in the 2016 presidential election.

Many Republicans felt the same way. Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of Kavanaugh’s most staunch supporters on Capitol Hill, said Dr. Ford’s allegations were part of “the most unethical sham since I’ve been in politics.”

Support or opposition to Dr. Ford’s claims were mostly divided among party lines, with Kavanaugh’s final confirmation in the Senate being a very close 50-48 vote, the smallest margin in Supreme Court history.

To make matters even more severe, Kavanaugh’s confirmation pushed the Supreme Court towards a conservative slant for the foreseeable future, as the recently-retired Anthony Kennedy was known to be a crucial swing vote on the bench. With a conservative majority, future Supreme Court cases may have more predictable outcomes based on Republican ideology.

For Democrats, the idea of a conservative-dominated Supreme Court could mean either lack of progress for party goals within the Court, or even the rolling back of many legal victories on issues liberals have championed in the past, including abortion, the death penalty, affirmative action, LGBTQ rights and more.

As Kavanaugh was officially sworn into the Supreme Court in October, thousands of women across the country, especially victims of sexual assault, took the confirmation as a sign of defeat.

Despite Dr. Ford’s detailed testimony, where she claimed she was “100 percent” certain that Kavanaugh tried to rape her, many Republican lawmakers chose to disavow her words, in favor of a politically-motivated conspiracy theory. In other words, Kavanaugh’s victory felt like a slap in the face to sexual assault victims across the nation.

Looking back on Kavanaugh’s nomination hearings and subsequent confirmation, both sides view the whole ordeal as one of the most shameful events in modern American history.

One side considers it an unnecessarily long, drawn-out process which was hindered by political opportunists, while the other side views it as an example of the political radicalization our country has been heading in for quite some time.

As Kavanaugh awaits his first case upon the Supreme Court, a seat he holds for life, both sides of the political spectrum remain t.bucket away on opposite sides of the conversation, with little hope of unity in sight.

If President Trump’s election first exposed our deep, fractured divisions as a country, Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation only further cemented them.
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Should This Generation Vote Younger People Into Office?

ASHLEY SMITH

Before the 2016 midterms, there were many appeals to the country’s youngest voters.

The survivors of the Parkland shooting in Florida launched a nationwide vote-registration drive, MTV and many celebrities pleaded for younger voters to go out and vote.

Taylor Swift, who was silent throughout the 2016 election, urged her millions of Instagram followers to research their states and cast their votes. Uber even offered free rides for voters to cast their votes at their local polling places.

It must have worked, because there was a significant increase in the 2018 Midterm elections in several key states. In Texas, where young voters had rallied behind the Democratic Senate candidate Beto O’Rourke, early voting numbers increased for voters aged 18 to 29 - five times as many young voters turned out in 2018 as they did in 2016.

Young adults have always had the worst turnout of any age group in every election since the U.S. Census Bureau began keeping track of voter-age data in 1978 for the midterm races and in 1964 for the presidential races. 18- to 29-year-olds usually make up the lowest percentage of overall voter turnout.

Our generation faces many issues in the U.S. that usually go unheard of. Since this is the only generation that will need to deal with this, we will need to understand and follow through with things people of older generations cannot handle.

Voting is everyone’s right, and I believe this right should be extended to people younger than 18 years of age. They are the people of the future, and we need their perspective.

The state Legislature as a whole voted against voting for younger people in office. However, this kind of behavior is happening less and less with the increase of young people in office.

Politics and voters aged 35 and over do not think our generation is capable of understanding what this country needs. They believe that mature politicians are the only people who can differentiate the good from the bad, that our generation is impatient and less experienced and that it is a bad idea to give us control of our country.

These statistics inspire individuals to help get their congress members and senators to have Bully-cide. When bullying becomes so intolerable that the victim ultimately commits suicide by taking their own life, punishable.

According to Bullying Statistics (http://www.bullyingstatistics.org),

1) Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people, resulting in about 4,400 deaths per year, according to the CDC. For every suicide among young people, there are at least 100 suicide attempts. Over 14 percent of high school students have considered suicide, and almost 7 percent have attempted it.

2) Bully victims are between two to nine times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims, according to statistics by Yale University.

3) A study in Britain found that at least half of suicides among young people are related to bullying.

4) According to reports by ABC News, nearly 30 percent of students are either bullied or victims of bullying, and 160,000 kids stay home from school every day because of fear of bullying.

What does that do to our youth? bullying or cyberbullying can have many negative effects on young people including low self-esteem; anxiety; high rates of school absence; physical illness.

In addition to these, there are other things that can cause the person to think of ending their life. The signs are: showing signs of depression (ongoing sadness, withdrawal from activities, or trouble sleeping or eating), talking about or showing an interest in death or dying, having thoughts of harming another person, thinking about or talking about how people will react if they were to die, or planning or attempting suicide.

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What does that do to our youth? bullying or cyberbullying can have many negative effects on young people including low self-esteem; anxiety; to their daily lives because the older you get, the more you depend on social security, health insurance, retirement and assisted living. Any disruption of this process is a threat to their lives.

In the 2018 midterm elections, Wisconsin elected 9-year-old Democratic candidate Ashely Smith to the state Assembly, making him the youngest state legislator in the U.S. Haywood’s proposals include requiring students to vote when they turn 18. However, he told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: “Being young is going to play well with some people, but there will also be people who doubt me because of my age, which is fair — it’s new. My age is important for this generation to understand.

“The state Legislature as a whole — they are missing a young person’s perspective,” he said. “I want to make sure MPS (Milwaukee Public Schools) gets proper funding — I am a proud MPS graduate.”

New York also elected 29-year-old Democratic Congregative Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, who is now the youngest woman ever in Congress. Her campaign centered on a progressive platform advocating for Medicare for everyone, a universal job guarantee, free college, Social Security, and immigration and criminal-justice reform.

Only the rest of America can see that having our generation in office side-by-side with our electees can be beneficial for everyone of all age groups.

We’re trying to establish a better way of life and thinking for our future. With the result of this election and having such a diverse House of Representatives can result in the change and opportunities that America needed.
The name “United Kingdom” is starting to sound a little ironic in the wake of the British exit from the EU. There are a multitude of issues with this deal; the fact that EU citizens live in Britain, that British citizens live in Europe, that Britain will need to rely on the unstable pound as its currency and that a multitude of new tariffs have been placed on EU goods imported to Britain.

The Brexit vote on June 23, 2016 was a landmark decision that had many U.K. citizens reeling. There were even reports that many people asked for a second referendum, going back on their initial votes. Without even going into the fact that Brexit supporters and politicians in the U.K. government falsely claimed numbers about payments to the EU that Britain made, a lot of public influence was garnered by fear mongering employed by the far-right Ukip party.

The Brexit decision was steeped in massive populist sentiment. Britain’s far-right Ukip party has been lambasted by critics for having some intolerant and bigoted views about British immigrants. The current leader of the Ukip party, Henry Bolton, has been attacked by critics for racist comments made by his girlfriend about American royal Meghan Markle.

Nigel Farage, the former leader of Ukip, had to resign amidst growing pressure about his comments on “immigrants clogging up the train.” Nigel Farage even admitted to wanting to make it permissible to put up signs that say: “No dogs. No Irish.”

A recent poll showed that most UK citizens who were proponents of Brexit only held their beliefs due to fear of immigration. This is a stark parallel to the anti-Central American sentiment that is currently being spread in the U.S. Civil conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Sudan have left millions of displaced migrants searching for a new home. Countries like France and Germany have spearheaded the effort to take in asylum-seekers, but their numbers are too great for such small countries to support. However, the United Kingdom doesn’t necessarily even take in as many migrants as other European countries; while the number of asylum-seekers accepted has decreased from the years of 2016 through 2017, the numbers of those admitted by Italy, Germany, Spain and France have increased.

The U.K. already isn’t admitting as many refugees as its neighbors, why would there be a need for a sharper decrease in refugee admissions? The answer is simple – xenophobic ideals perpetrated by the far-right party of Britain. The racism exacerbated by populism in the U.K. is terrifying, but it also follows a world trend of those traits in many other first-world democracies. A racist ideology cannot live in a world that is becoming more globalized each and every year.

The U.K. needs to get their act together and stop a plethora of economic problems that will arise from Brexit, for these problems are only resultant of fear mongering and lies.
Comic Con Craze

From October 4 through October 7, 2018, the Javits Center held its annual New York Comic Con (NYCC). People from all over the world gathered for one of the most entertaining conventions in the United States.

Comic Con has been around since 1970, starting in San Diego. NYCC, however, started more recently, taking off in 2006. Ever since its start, people have become obsessed with cosplay, entertainment, bonding with other people who have the same interests and massive amounts of fun. This convention brings comics, books, movies, TV shows, fiction and so much more to life.

Walking through the Javits Center was quite the experience. People cosplayed, dressing up as characters from many different things, such as Harry Potter, superheroes, cartoon characters, video game characters and actors from different TV shows. People love to express their “nerd” side at NYCC and it’s a beautiful thing.

Autograph sessions, meet-and-greets and panels provide amazing experiences and opportunities for fans in attendance, and it makes the NYCC experience all the more enjoyable.

This year, David Tennant, Matt Smith, Alex Kingston and Mark Sheppard (whom I had the pleasure of meeting) and others like Bill Nye, the Impractical Jokers guys, Tom Felton and Mark Ruffalo attended.

NYCC always includes tons of amazing vendors for a wide variety of attendees. There were vendors for everything you can think of; selling wands from the Harry Potter franchise, Nintendo mystery boxes, limited edition comic books, video games and exclusive T-shirts.

Everyone could find the perfect thing to remind them of their visit. NYCC also held contests and giveaways, as well as selling rare items that you can’t find anywhere else, including the famous Nuka Cola Quantum drink from the video game Fallout. It’s no secret that everyone loves food. Besides it being a human necessity for living, it is also enjoyable, and even more so when you serve it on a truck.

They have food trucks for Mexican food, Asian food, Indian food and American food, with snacks galore. The streets were flooded with people buying food from these trucks. Besides it being less expensive than eating inside, it brings the whole NYCC experience together. Sitting down outside, enjoying some tacos and watching all the cool cosplay; nothing beats that.

NYCC is a place to freely express yourself, show your love for different things that make you happy and to have a great time. There are so many things to do at Comic Con, that four days just doesn’t seem like enough.

Going one, two, three or all days, you are guaranteed to have the time of your life.

Next year, NYCC will be held at the Javits Center again, from October 3 through 6 and I’ll be there to see what’s in store.

THE HATE U GIVE

LESHAY JONES

       Contributing Writer

‘The Hate U Give’ Shines Light on Police Brutality Against African Americans

Angie Thomas’ “The Hate U Give” is an eye-opening book that shines a bright light on the difficulties African-Americans face within the U.S. justice system.

The book follows 16-year-old Starr Carter, who witnesses her childhood friend, Khalil, get shot and killed by a police officer after a traffic stop gone wrong.

The reader follows Starr on her journey as important issues arise regarding police brutality and how the legal system deals with these cases, especially when people of color are involved.

It depicts the raw truth of how African-Americans are treated by our justice system and how the media will sometimes twist these stories in the favor of law enforcement. Thomas does a spectacular job in shining light on these issues and how they affect the African-American community.

There were times when I’d have to stop reading for a moment because it became emotionally overwhelming. I felt as if I was right beside Starr every step of the way, and I could understand her insecurities.

There are many people who do not understand the effects that police brutality have on minorities like African-Americans, and “The Hate U Give” will help others see these effects through another lens.

This book has influenced so many people that the film hit theaters in the beginning of October and was just as outstanding in delivering its message.

George Tillman Jr., the director of the film, added twists into the movie that weren’t in the novel, and it made the experience of it all even more impactful.

He mentions other crucial issues and emphasizes how these systems of oppression impact and shape African-American youth.

“The Hate U Give” comes from the abbreviation “T.H.U.G.L.I.F.E” that the rapper 2Pac was famous for. It stands for “The Hate U Give Little Infants F*cking Everybody.” Tillman stresses this concept in one of the closing scenes of the film.

It is important that we get our act together when it comes to police brutality against African-Americans. There are too many cases where unarmed black people are treated poorly and unfairly by law enforcement. There are too many cases where excessive force is used in situations involving people of color.

This story is extremely important because it is so relevant in today’s day and age, where unarmed black people are getting shot and killed by police officers who, more often than not, face little to no consequences.

After both reading the book and seeing the film, it feels like I have had a breath of fresh air. It tugs at your heartstrings to see how African-Americans are treated in this country.

It made me feel like I needed to go out there and use my voice to help those who don’t have one. Especially my people.

“The Hate U Give” is definitely a book that everyone, especially African-American youth, should read because it is vital to our perseverance in this society.
An Inside Look At BCC’s Honors Programs

**KAROLINE SANTOS SOUZA**

An important part of successful academic studies is the participation of honors classes and programs. However, not all the students are aware of the types of programs available at Bergen Community College.

The Phi, Theta Kappa (PTK) and the Judith K. Winn School of Honors are two important honors societies at BCC that students may not even be familiar with.

PTK is the International Honor Society of two-year colleges. Students who are eligible to become members receive invitations through email and, after the induction, have access to many scholarships and opportunities.

The information regarding eligibility - as well as information on upcoming events and opportunities for members - is provided on the Bergen website.

The Judith K. Winn School of Honors, also known as the Honors Program, is Bergen Community College's academic program providing the highest level of scholarly education. The program provides almost 30 general courses with smaller class sizes. Through the honors program, students also have opportunities to go on field trips to four-year colleges, earn honors diplomas and win various awards.

Although PTK and the Winn School of Honors are located in the same office in Room 5-347, they work completely separately. Every semester both of the programs offer different activities on and off campus for members and current students. They usually promote events such as workshops, volunteer opportunities, bake sales, college tours and panel discussions.

The president of Judith K. Winn School of Honors, Jenna Santacroce, considers the Honors society as a community where “we all, essentially, are on the same route. We support each other. In no time, peers become friends”.

Santacroce decided to run for president in order to help to improve other students’ academic lives: “A fair amount of students, at Bergen Community College especially, go about their college career without realizing that there is much more available to them,” she said.

In her perspective, the Honors Society inspired her to be more extraordinary and more prosperous. As the president, she tries to “inspire others to be like the same.”

On the other side of Honors Society is Bryant Gomez, the president of PTK. Gomez is passionate about helping students and was able to improve their skills as a leader, facing challenges that improved his understanding and potential.

“I ran for president because I was passionate and dedicated to what Phi Theta Kappa stands for and I wanted to be the voice for students about excelling in academics and campus engagement while also sharing the opportunities that this organization gives,” said Gomez.

Gomez sees PTK as a second home - a place where he can grow as an individual. He feels it is an organization to embrace foster students in order to help them with connections and self-confidence.

“I was a very quiet and introverted person. However, that didn’t stop me from pursuing my dreams and I decided to embrace my strengths and flaws and continue forward to see what this experience will teach me.”

Just like Santacroce and Gomez, numerous students at Bergen have given chances to Honors Society’s and have grown up both in personal and academic life.

Such organizations are not only for statuses or rewards, but rather for life experiences. In the end, the best learning students get from their time in Honor Societies is though the self.

**Bergen Café: A Hidden Treasure**

**MICHELLE CONEO**

With a set of gourmet options and a tasteful feeling of a professional learning environment, The Bergen Café is a buffet served, organized, and presented by students from the Hospitality Management and culinary arts classes at BCC.

Although students receive tons of emails from Bergen Daily, this precious gem is hidden at the very end of those emails and rarely gets the attention it deserves.

The buffet takes place in room C-210 of the Pitkin Education Center at the Paramus Campus. It is open to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. It also hosts events with reservations, such as lunch with deans from almost every department in the campus.

One of the best and most important details about this café is the low cost offered to the public. For only eight dollars, you are able to taste high-quality cuisine.

You would expect that culinary classes provide an open environment to mess up and learn, but this is not the case at the Bergen Café. Even though the buffet is made up of combined classes, it serves great quality food and provides excellent service. The food is definitely fresh, the recipes are unique, and the combinations are very creative.

The enticing smell and look of every station encourage you to try a little bit of everything. From the veggies to the drinks, everything looks elegant. The variety of options and the incredible service will make you feel as if you had just checked into the restaurant of a fancy hotel.

Food served at the buffet // Michelle Coneo

One of my favorite things about the Bergen Café was the fact that as it happens within a learning setting, professors, chefs and members of the respective classes come out of the kitchen to greet those eating at the tables. They make you feel like family, and are willing to answer questions about their programs and menus.

Everyone should be able to experience the exquisite work of these students and professors at our college.
When a new FIFA comes out, loyal fans buy the game thinking that this year’s version might be different. The FIFA community has been voicing their opinions for years on what should be changed in the game.

First off, the career mode and Pro Clubs mode, which are two of the best, have been nearly copied and pasted into a new game.

Don’t get me wrong, I appreciate the little changes that EA has made to the gameplay, and even adding a new hardest difficulty against the AI.

The gameplay is smooth and realistic, which is basically one of the only things that I could care about. However, I would have liked to see new improvements in career mode. Past career modes have been the same boring thing every year.

You join a club, sign players, play a season and win trophies. Fans have asked for a few additions to the game mode, like more customization, and an interesting story throughout your career. Otherwise, it just gets dull after a while.

As the most unappreciated game mode, career mode virtually goes unplayed. FIFA Ultimate Team is one of the only modes EA pays attention to and continues to update. EA has sold out their fans for money, plain and simple. Fans have been voicing their opinions, and many popular FIFA licenses.

EA Ruins FIFA 19

ROBERT C McDERMOTT
Acetamic

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Pro Clubs have much more potential, as you play locked onto one player against other teams online. There are so many different things EA could’ve done with this game mode. Instead of listening to the fans, EA has decided to go all in on FIFA Ultimate Team, in which you have to pay for card packs to even have a chance at winning. Once you add paywalls to a game, people can buy amazing cards. This leaves behind real gamers who play for coins, unless they pay.

EA is going to continue to sell copies of the game, essentially using their fans and supporters of many football clubs. They keep pushing the same dull gameplay of career mode and can’t make it more immersive like other sports games, such as NBA 2K19.

What happens next depends on EA’s willingness to listen to the many players that want to see career mode and Pro Clubs revived.

Retro Review: Vectorman

TAURIN WIMBERLY
Contributing Writer

“Vectorman” is a video game originally released in 1995, created by Blue Sky software and published by Sega for the Sega Genesis. “Vectorman” is an action platformer where you play as the titular character who runs, jumps and shoots his way to victory across a futuristic look to it, with dark and earthy graphics. The game has an advanced, rendered 3D graphics instead of 2D released during its time, with pre-rendered backgrounds contrasting against the metallic structures and characters within the game.

The soundtrack of “Vectorman” has a grungy, synthetic sound like many of the other Genesis games released during its era. The heavy grumbles and high-octane synths of the “Vectorman” soundtrack provide a sense of a strange combination of awe and fear, like being in a beautiful world where danger can be right around the corner.
Lil Wayne Brings The Uproar With ‘Tha Carter V’

FRANCISCO CAMACHO
Sports Writer

Lil Wayne has finally delivered his long awaited album “Tha Carter V” earlier this October. This album comes after the back-and-forth legal battle between him and his former label, Cash Money Records, eventually came to an end as he was released from his record deal.

The album sold 480,000 copies in the first week of its release, which is considered the third-biggest release this year, and the second-largest streaming week ever with 433 million streams, dethroning his protege Drake.

This album is a refreshing take on Lil Wayne during the current environment of hip hop. Wayne uses a lot of the production elements of newer producers.

The album has guest appearances from newer artists like Travis Scott and Kendrick Lamar. It even has a posthumous feature from controversial emo rapper XXXTENTACION, an artist who would not have been on this album if it was released in 2014, when it was supposed to.

The album starts off with a more contemporary rap and pop sound, but then evokes nostalgia later on, as rappers Snoop Dogg and Mannie Fresh make appearances.

There were many standout tracks that showcased Wayne’s versatility and songwriting, like “Mona Lisa,” “Don’t Cry” and “Uproar,” which took over the internet.

Wayne’s return on this album has been a reminder of the deep ripples of influence he has on new artists today like Young Thug, Lil Uzi Vert, Kodak Black and even Kendrick Lamar.

Wayne is back in rare form on this new album, reminding listeners of what he did that made him so compelling: inventive, bringing funny one liners and word play.

He brings his patented creaky voice with his very infectious flow, and manages to create great melodies with some fantastic songwriting throughout most of the album.

This album sometimes feel like it wears out its welcome; with a lengthy 23 tracks and 93-minute runtime, the album starts to feel stale.

There are still a lot of great tracks on the first leg of the album. It starts off with a spectacular group ballad “Don’t Cry” (featuring XXXTENTACION) that shows a more vulnerable side of Wayne, as he speaks about his life and mortality combined with great vocals from XXXTENTACION.

“Don’t Cry” is then followed by more mesmerising raps with incredible production, slick wordplay and sharp, witty references. Clearly the track “Uproar” stands in a league of its own, and can be considered a certified hit. Producer Swizz Beatz did a marvelous job by using the screaming crowd samples and the bass blasting through the speakers. Wayne flexes his touted lyrical prowess as he electrifies your sound system with energy and a great overall vibe.

Every artist featured on this record brings something unique that adds to its overall success. Travis Scott’s woozy psychedelic style compliments Wayne’s perfection on their track “Let It Fly.”

The record starts to lose momentum in the second half as the tracks start to feel formulaic and bland with one or two catchy tracks.

Waiting five years on this album was definitely worth the wait. It was the long anticipated return of one of the most prominent rappers of this generation.

Hearing this album felt like watching Tiger Woods start golfing again after all the setbacks he suffered. We now welcome back our lyrical champion after a lengthy hiatus.

Wayne manages to reestablish his status as a member of the hip hop elite with this project and also cements his legacy as an all time great.

Although it has its dull moments, Wayne still exhibits brilliance and mastery of his craft with “Tha Carter V.”

Michael Myers Returns To Haddonfield In Halloween Revamp

JOHNATHAN FLYNN
Contributing Writer

It’s the 40th anniversary of “Halloween”, the movie that started the modern slasher-movie craze. In order to celebrate the 40-year anniversary, a direct sequel to the 1978 original was released to massive success, managing to break the franchise record for best opening weekend, last held by Rob Zombie’s “Halloween” reboot in 2007.

“Halloween” (2018) making $77.5 million compared to Rob Zombie’s “Halloween” making $26 million.

This sequel, written by Danny McBride of Eastbound and Down fame, Jeff弗莱迪 and David Gordon Green (who also directed), takes place 40 years after the original and follows Jamie Lee Curtis and Judy Greer as Laurie Strode, and her daughter Karen respectively.

This film manages to excel at everything it set out to do: it’s a nostalgic trip to Haddonfield for long time fans, while also managing to be a good slash film in its own right.

The opening credits of the film invoke the opening of the original 1978 classic, featuring a rotten pumpkin that slowly reverses to a still burning Jack O’ Lantern in an obvious reference to the franchise as a whole.

The film manages to make Michael Myers a.k.a “The Shape” as scary as he was in the 1978 original. This was achieved by discreetly altering the familial ties between Michael and Laurie that were introduced in “Halloween 2” (1981) and this makes “The Shape” an aimless psychopath that kills indiscriminately until stopped.

The film even managed to deconstruct slasher movies in a unique way by showing the psychological toll of the trauma that a victim is left with if they survive a serial killers attack.

This is achieved through the amazing performances by Jamie Lee Curtis and Judy Greer as Laurie Strode and her daughter Karen respectively.

The performances, the film explores how trauma affects entire families across generations even leading to broken relationships.

The film was perfectly paced, and kept viewers on the edge of their seat while maintaining a healthy balance of suspense and payoff, so as to not desensitize the audience to the scares.

The cinematography and sound design is masterful, and while this masterpiece the film builds suspense to a satisfying payoff, never letting the audience feeling cheated yet also never feeling the scares were cheap.

This film is a good choice for a late-night theater visit, and I suggest it to horror and slash fan who are looking for a film to fill them with dread.
**Survival of the Vegans: Thanksgiving Edition**

**ASHLEY SMITH Online Editor**

Thanksgiving is around the corner and while everyone is planning whose house you’ll be visiting, you still haven’t told anyone that you’ve just became vegan.

You can see it now—telling your grandma that you can’t have her famous turkey stuffing. What do you do? Fake your own death? Lie and say that you have the stomach bug? Or do you just stay home?

The holidays can be difficult for vegans. This food-filled Thursday is meant to be a celebration of things for which we are thankful, but once you go vegan, the idea of sitting around a table staring at a dead bird doesn’t sound too good. Here are a few tips on surviving this Thanksgiving as a vegan.

- **Bring your own food:**
  - Bringing your own food allows you to take control of what you eat and how much you can throw onto your plate. That said, don’t be surprised if your relatives try some of your food.
  - **Help cook:** Many people don’t know what veganism is, so being clear is helpful. It’s also a great idea to offer a hand in the kitchen to help prepare the meal. This is not only a good gesture, but it means you can help veganize a meal. This is not only a good gesture, and while everyone is planning whose house it is leads people to bring up slaughterhouses, heart disease or deforestation.

- **Tis the season:** The holidays aren’t really about the bird in the middle of the table. They are about family, tradition, love and the season. Instead bring in the foods that are in season.

- **Throw a party:** You should host/co-host your own Thanksgiving celebration. Then, you’re totally in charge. You can customize it to your exact instructions, remove all of the guesswork and create a plant-based feast.

- **Pressure:** Don’t put a lot of pressure on yourself. You don’t have to be the world’s best cook to make a perfect impression of vegan dining. Don’t set the bar too high, just make and bring things that you love.

- **Have fun:** Try your best to focus on your own tasty vegan food and topics of conversation that don’t relate to dead animals. Enjoy the family gathering.

- **Don’t preach about veganism:** For some reason, as soon as you sit down to dinner everyone will jump on the opportunity to ask you why you’re vegan. This is not the time or place to bring up slaughterhouses, heart disease or deforestation.

- **Don’t do](./image?image=100298) any of the above:**
  - If you apologize for being vegan don’t know what it is like to be vegan. If you don’t show pride, then no one will respect your choice.
  - If you apologize for being compassionate people will agree that you have something to apologize for. If you make being vegan seem difficult or inconvenient, then that’s what people will think it is. People who are not your family into vegans overnight, but showing them alternatives, recipes, and examples of how easy veganism can be never hurts.

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**Roving Reporter—Thanksgiving Traditions at BCC**

**ALYSSA BLUNDO Student Writer**

The holidays are right around the corner, especially Thanksgiving. During this time, families gather for food, football and of course, family. Typically, they sit around a hearty meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing and cranberry sauce to give thanks for the things that they have. That includes a roof over our heads, food, clothes, a bed to sleep in, and many other things that we shouldn’t take for granted.

The holidays also bring laughs, smiles, hungry stomachs, and last but not least, family traditions. These range from watching football, watching The Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, going Black Friday shopping, or breaking the turkey’s wishbone.

There are other traditions that students at Bergen Community College have, and some students shared several of their Thanksgiving traditions and how they celebrate with their families. These four BCC students have six different traditions, but they all have one thing in common. They love being around family, food and fun.

**Nicole Pennisi Nursing**

“Our tradition for Thanksgiving is preparing Mole sauce for our turkey as part of a Mexican switch up.”

**David Jones Exercise Science**

“First, we establish whose house to go to depending on what time the game starts. Depending on when dinner is ready, the person whose house it is leads the prayer. We argue about sports. We wish each other good health.”

**Ricky Hernandez Computer Science**

“My family and I all go to my aunt’s house and we watch football, see who gets the wishbone in a game of rock, paper, scissors, and just eat food and play games.”

**Taejamae Hutchinson Biology**

“Every year we pray for better health.”
Pump Up the Pumpkin Spice

ASHLEY SMITH
Online Editor

You know it’s fall when the leaves start changing color, the air starts to feel crisper and pumpkin spice fever starts running from Starbucks, candle shops, body scents and your local supermarket.

If you’ve ever wondered why we’re so obsessed with pumpkin spice in the fall and where this craze began, it goes back to 1936, where The Washington Post referred to this type of blend as a “pumpkin spice blend” in a recipe for pumpkin spice cakes.

McCormick was the first company that originated their signature Pumpkin Pie Spice in 1934. The pumpkin pie spice blend contains cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and allspice, which the company sold as a shortcut for flavoring the traditional harvest dessert.

Turns out, pumpkin spice has a long and storied past which doesn’t only revolve around lattes. Ever since the pumpkin pie spice-spiked coffee drinks hit the scene, food and beverage companies have been trying to replicate its success by analyzing what made it so popular in the first place.

Starbucks’ “Liquid Lab” in Seattle was the first to pump out the highly anticipated pumpkin spice latte, which has remained the chain’s top-selling seasonal beverage, with more than 350 million cups sold to date.

Why do we love it so much? For many people, fall eating is all about moving away from raw and cooling foods, towards dishes that are heartier and more “comforting.” The anticipation for pumpkin spice’s annual return is explained by a psychological theory called “reactance.”

The reactance theory explains why people respond to offers when they feel that their choices and alternatives are limited. The more important the choice is to them, the stronger they’ll react when they know it’ll soon be gone.

Just like hot chocolate, fuzzy sweaters and apple picking, the pumpkin spice flavor is one of the many things that has linked itself to the autumn category. This causes the sense of nostalgia as people reminisce about their favorite things of fall.

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Why do we love it so much? For many people, fall eating is all about moving away from raw and cooling foods, towards dishes that are heartier and more “comforting.” The anticipation for pumpkin spice’s annual return is explained by a psychological theory called “reactance.”

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Finding Solace in Astrology

TIFFANY MARIE VELEZ
Staff Writer

When I’m going through a rough patch in my life, I religiously read my horoscope to help me better understand what the hell is going on. Or, I find myself asking, “Is Mercury in retrograde?”

Astrology has become increasingly popular throughout the years, especially amongst millennials.

According to the American Psychological Association, millennials have been the most stressed generation. Naturally during stressful times, we tend to strive for explanations and advice that astrology can easily provide.

Hundreds of astrology websites and applications are available on your computer and phone that grant you access to read your personalized horoscope; a detailed prediction of your future based on your zodiac sign. You can easily find out your zodiac sign by using the month and day you were born.

Recently, my close friend and I got into a disagreement and we hadn’t spoken in a few months. I’ve found myself relying on horoscopes to help me gain clarity in this upsetting disagreement with my friend, and it’s been a tremendous token of guidance.

Not only do I read my friend’s horoscope everyday, I also read my friend’s horoscope so I can somehow manage to understand what she’s going through and feeling in regards to our disagreement.

Evidently, I’m not the only one who religiously reads horoscopes, it’s seem to be a fast growing trend. For years, established newspapers and magazines have had their own astrology section for readers.

As of late, meme accounts on Instagram have been dedicated to making fun of specific zodiac signs and their vast variety of traits.

Nikki Manx Dance Project Tackles Social Issues

STEPHANIE ZENA
Staff Writer

The Nikki Manx Dance Project focuses on issues that have to do with the social and environmental problems in society – and it does so through dance.

The Nikki Manx Dance Project is run by professional dancer, artistic director, choreographer and instructor, Nicole Mahnke. She has been performing professionally for years and also teaches at the Art of Motion in Ridgewood, NJ where she collaborates with one of the artistic directors and adjunct dance professors at BCC, Lynn Needle.

Her work and onstage dance style blends certain modern and hip hop components with theatrical styles. Manx choreographs for charities and certain causes that are evolving in the dance community.

The company also raises donations for children who can’t afford clothes and toys. The most recent flash mob Manx created helped finance Halloween costumes for foster children who couldn’t afford costumes.

Children who are financially insecure or in foster homes can visit costumes4kids.org to help get a Halloween costume.

The NMCP provides community outreach, mentorship and educational programming to the public.
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The 2018 Major League Baseball season concluded following a World Series Championship for the Boston Red Sox. Unlike the previous two series, the Red Sox were fan favorites coming into the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The American League was by far superior to the National League, so it was no surprise that the Red Sox would be favored. Despite only having five games, the World Series had many memorable moments.

Both the Dodgers and Red Sox had different paths to the World Series. The Dodgers played an extra regular season game against the Colorado Rockies in order to determine the division winner. After their win, they had a tough series against the Atlanta Braves. However, the Dodgers would encounter some adversity when they faced the Milwaukee Brewers. The Brewers and Dodgers went into a deciding seventh game of the National League Championship series. The Dodgers pulled off an impressive win on the road to become back-to-back National League Champions.

Despite getting a franchise-record 108 wins, the Red Sox were not favored against their first round opponent, the New York Yankees. The Red Sox had not enjoyed postseason success since 2004. Heading into game one of the World Series, the talk was about the matchup between Chris Sale and Clayton Kershaw. Arguably the two greatest left handed pitchers in this decade would face head-to-head in the bright lights of October.

Unfortunately the matchup would not live up to expectations. Both pitchers only lasted four innings pitched as the offense took over. Following a clutch home run by Eduardo Nunez, the Red Sox held on to take game one and soon followed up by taking game two.

With the series heading to Los Angeles, the Red Sox were in complete control of the series with a 2-0 series lead. Game three was by far the most memorable game in the 2018 season. Dodger rookie pitcher Walker Buehler shined in his World Series debut, going seven shutout innings against the best offense in baseball. However, the Dodger bullpen could not keep the 1-0 lead and blew it in the eighth inning. With the game tied and headed to extra innings, the Red Sox decided to bring in Nathan Eovaldi who was scheduled to pitch next day. Eovaldi would put on one of the greatest performances in postseason history, throwing 97 pitches in relief but would eventually allow a game winning home run to Max Muncy.

Coming off a heartbreaking loss for the Red Sox, it seemed all momentum was on the Dodgers side heading into game four. Yasiel Puig would add on after a three-run home run, giving the Dodgers a 4-0 lead. The Red Sox would not go out quietly. Following a three-run home run by Mitch Moreland, the Red Sox seemed to have life again.

Soon-to-be World Series MVP Steve Pearce would tie the game the next inning, and soon after the Red Sox would stun the Dodgers and take the lead in the ninth. Craig Kimbrel came in to close the game, and it felt like the Dodgers let a golden opportunity slip through their hands. Coming into game five, the feeling was that the Red Sox would finish the job. Having a commanding 3-1 series lead seemed almost impossible to blow.

It did not take long for the Red Sox to strike first, as Steve Pearce gave them a quick 2-0 lead in the first inning. The route was quickly on as the Red Sox hit a combined four home runs and two by Pearce. The story of the night belonged to David Price. Price shined for the third straight start in the playoffs tossing seven innings with one run. All of his postseason failures were suddenly erased, and his success would trump old narratives about his pitching.

Chris Sale would come into the ninth inning to close out the final three outs of the World Series. After a dominant inning, the Red Sox were once again on top of the baseball world, becoming World Series Champions for the fourth time since 2004.
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**‘My Name is Joe’ Roman Reigns Struggles with Leukemia**

JOHNATHAN FLYNN

Contributing Writer

The professional wrestling business was brought to a halt on October 22. Everyone who tuned in to Monday Night Raw was surprised to find Roman Reigns breaking character by using his real name, Joe Anoa’i.

He revealed his battle with leukemia and its recent resurfacing leading to him having to give up the Universal Championship title because he will not be able to compete for the foreseeable future.

This news is particularly shocking because it’s one of the few times in pro-wrestling’s history that such an important player was sidelined by something potentially fatal or career ending.

The loss of such a central performer will be a big game-changer going forward because of how much the WWE has invested in Anoa’i’s. In his absence, the question is: who will rise to fill his place on the top?

Wrestlers from all over the world and from every company began to voice their support for Anoa’i’s recovery. Even WWE’s rival companies were supportive. Ring of Honor and New Japan Pro Wrestling released supportive statements on their social media pages.

The road to recovery seems long for Joe Anoa’i but hopefully he will come out on the other side stronger and able to return to the business he loves. He closed his speech with a special moment with his longtime tag-team partners, Colby “Seth Rollins” Lopez and Jonathan “Dean Ambrose” Good.

They shared their “shield” gesture before Anoa’i went backstage and was met by the entire roster as well as Vince McMahon. Everyone showed their support to the locker room leader as he begins this difficult fight.

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**BCC’s Women’s Soccer Team Ready to Bounce Back**

FRANCISCO CAMACHO

Sports Writer

The soccer season ended early this October as the team ended with an abysmal 2-10 record. There seemed to be a lot problems with the team overall, especially the defense, which gave up over five goals per game.

The offense was not particularly good either, as their shot percentage was about four percent. The team had difficulty scoring as they only averaged a little more than one goal per game and were held scoreless three times this season.

A lot of these problems could be attributed to the fact that there were a lot of freshmen on the team this year. Jeschelle Mansala plays forward on the team and believes the biggest challenge this season was team chemistry.

“I was awkward around my teammates… I didn’t see my teammates as family at first,” Mansala said.

She also expressed how she wanted to continue to build team morale.

“I think it’s better if we keep a more positive attitude,” Mansala said.

She feels that the team will come back stronger next season with a bigger sense of comradery.

The soccer team should expect to bounce back next season with this year’s experience. There were some good things to come from the season as Amy Franklin, who won the September Bergen Student-Athlete of the Month award, came into her own.

Her coach, Toni Di Franco, had high praise according to the Bergen sports website.

“Amy Franklin is the definition of a student-athlete and leader on and off the field. She was elected our captain because she embodies the qualities of a leader humble, hard working and leads by example in everything she does. She is one of my best defenders shutting down our opponents and also can take the ball up the field being an offensive threat to other teams,” Di Franco said.

Her offense was great with her shot percentage was 50 percent. There were other standout like freshman Kathy Villanueva who led the team in goals and had a shot percentage of 80 percent.

She seems poised to become this team’s leader next season. The talent is definitely there and it could hopefully come together for the next Bulldogs season.
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JELSON MONTERO
Sports Editor

The men’s soccer team fell short of expectations this year, with a record of 1-11-1. The Bulldogs were never able to put a consistent season together and saw themselves drop nine of their ten conference games.

The team had a season high eight game losing streak before breaking it with a tie against Cumberland County College. Despite the struggles, the team remains optimistic of the players, coaches and future of the team.

Giovanni Soto is the head coach of the Bulldogs and, despite the record, he does not determine success by wins or losses.

“Winning is a scarce thing in sports. So for us as soccer coaches, we determine success by how the team is playing, the providences of our game and the chemistry the team has so that there is room for improvement,” Soto said.

For a young team like this one, evaluating individual and team growth is far greater than the overall outcomes of games. It is important that they build chemistry going forward.

Major League Baseball was once known as America’s pastime. In an article called “The Most Popular Sports in America” on Rant.com, Major League Baseball has fallen to the third-most popular sport behind the National Football League and the National Basketball Association. However, this was not by choice, but because women are not allowed to wrestle in Saudi Arabia.

According to Scooby Axson from SL.com, the average baseball game lasts three hours and five minutes. This is a much longer game time than basketball and football.

Baseball players must respect the sport’s marketability to fans, especially kids. Baseball players have a long list of unwritten rules that allow the players to police themselves.

In football and basketball, referees frequently show a lot of emotions and take long breaks. In baseball, the players are expected to police themselves.

Baseball’s culture also impacts the sport’s marketability to fans, especially kids. Baseball players have a long list of unwritten rules that allow the players to police themselves.

In football and basketball, players frequently show a lot of emotions and connect with the fans more often than not.

Baseball players must respect the game and never show up the opposition, but because women are not allowed to wrestle in Saudi Arabia.

The WWE has had a very interesting fourth quarter. In the span of a week, they aired an all women’s show from Saudi Arabia.

However, this was not by choice, but because women are not allowed to wrestle in Saudi Arabia. Crown Jewel was the subject of controversy due to fans not agreeing with WWE making propaganda shows for such an oppressive culture.

The displeasure was relatively minor at first, but changed with the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Turkey.

The news spread quickly and many businesses began to suspend any deals with the WWE. This was highlighted throughout the night by many sloppy performances and changes and the obvious absence of John Cena and Daniel Bryan as they refused to participate in the show despite their appearance being advertised.

Their absence was rumored to be a PR stunt. This loss was made up by the WWE.Hall of Famers, Hulk Hogan, who made his return after being fired in 2015 due to controversy with a racist discussion that was recorded and leaked. This added to the controversy of Crown Jewel.

Whether or not the WWE will continue this deal with Saudi Arabia remains a question. However, if they do, then we have nine more years of propaganda to look forward to.