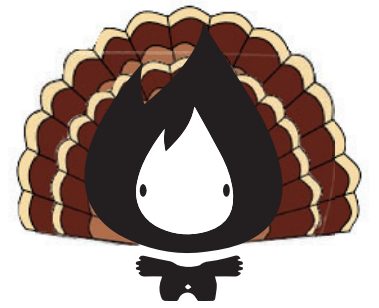


“Truth, No Matter  
The Cost”

# The Torch

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
IGNITING STUDENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



VOL. 27... No. 3

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NOVEMBER 2018

## 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 closing 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 2011.

Key races in Virginia’s second and seventh district 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 were great, but weren’t nearly as monumental as the DNC had hoped, this is 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 upsets left the country disappointed and worried.

Beto O’Rourke (D) ran against incumbent senator Ted Cruz (R) and lost by 2.6 percent. After his defense of star athletes kneeling for the national anthem, O’Rourke picked up national exposure, traction and became the DNC’s star candidate.

As someone who supports the legalization of marijuana, opposes the influence of corporate money in Washington and views healthcare as a basic human right rather than a privilege, O’Rourke encompasses everything young people are looking for in a politician.

While O’Rourke has a national presence and Texas swayed more blue than it has in the past, Cruz still managed to clench on to his Senate seat by the skin of his teeth despite his past falters.

In Georgia, Stacey Abrams had the opportunity to become the first black female governor in the United States. Abrams became the first woman to lead the Georgia General Assembly in 2010, and the first African-American to lead for Georgia in the House of Representatives.

Like O’Rourke, Abrams ran a campaign focusing on big ticket issues young people are eager to reform. Making housing more affordable, creating quality educational



// Wikimedia Commons

opportunities, enforcing gun-safety and anti-discrimination laws, reforming our criminal justice system and providing affordable health care were all topics of discussion throughout Abrams’ campaign trail. Even with Oprah’s endorsement, Brian Kemp (R) came out on top 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 wasn’t just 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.

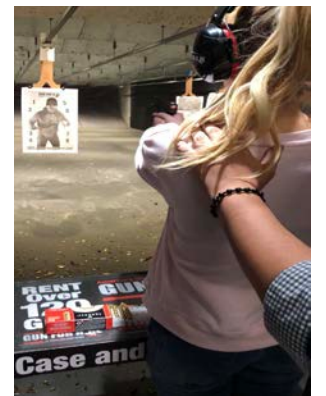
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## Hate Breeds Hate: A Holocaust Survivor’s Story

DANIEL CURRIER  
STAFF WRITER

It is often said that by refusing to learn from the ghosts 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 walled off section of the Moses Family Center at 10:30 a.m.

“If we forget the past, then we will lose the future,” Trudy emphasized.

Trudy spoke of her life before the German occupation. She was born in Czechoslovakia to Modern Orthodox parents. According to her account, her childhood was peaceful and everyone lived in harmony.

However, there were rumors stirring in the early 1930s: rumors of what would later be known as “The Night of Broken Glass.” Rumors of Jews being shipped to ghettos arose as well, all of which would be proven to be true.

In their own time, the Wehrmacht cut their way through Eastern Europe and into Trudy’s homeland. With the new German occupation, everything seemed peaceful at first, but regulations were soon put in place, such as not being able to own businesses and jewelry.

By the Spring of 1944, that peace was broken. All the Jews



Trudy Album tells her story to fascinated students // Daniel Currier

in her town were ordered to take their belongings and move to a ghetto. The next order was the demanding of able-bodied men over the age of 15 to be drafted into a segregated labor force known as the Werk Kommando. This was the last time Trudy saw her father.

Another order came in which led her and her family to another ghetto, which she stayed in for two days. It was at this point that she donned the infamous Jewish star on her clothing. Initially, she wore it gladly, because she did not understand its significance at the time.

Later, she was sent to Auschwitz, which she described as frightening:

chimneys were belching black smoke, an orchestra was always playing and, according to Trudy, there were “skeletons wearing human skin” walking about the camp.

It was at this point that 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 time Trudy saw her mother, both sisters and her grandmother. She, 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 the truth, the Schutzstaffel (soldiers employed by the Nazi party) lured many Jews to their deaths with promises of hot food. She was a member of the lucky few that did not leave the cattle car, and was rescued by the American Army.

She survived her ordeal with the aid of good Samaritans along the way. She credits these people for her survival and survival of many others, including some of her friends and their mothers.

She spoke of a physician that saved her life by treating a sickness she developed while she was working. If she were to report to the infirmary, she would have been killed and it was through the power of human compassion that she was capable of telling her story.

Trudy, currently 89 years old, looks back at her experiences and urges students to speak out against hatred.

“If you see something, say something,” she said. At first, the students were aloof, but by the end they were a captivated audience.



# NEWS

## Rohingya Refugees Sent Back To Myanmar Despite Persecution

OWEN McCLOSKEY  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Rohingya are a group of displaced 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 State 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 Rohingya 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



// Flickr.com

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 Myanmar, and this has been exacerbated by a surprising factor: social media.

A Facebook post from a page controlled by the Myanmar army called the Rohingyas “subhuman” and said, “we need to destroy their race.”

Facebook is enormous in Myanmar, and is mainly used to spread anti-Rohingya sentiment. Because of this, there has been an increased hatred of

Muslims amongst Burmese laypeople.

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

PATRICK CAO  
STAFF WRITER

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 bombing 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 so tired and was just so used to the sound that I went back to sleep.”

Bombings were such 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.



Vincent Meli, 19, in his corporal cook uniform.

“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 railings 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 98th birthday this coming February.



# 'Trump of the Tropics' Assumes Power in Brazil

**KAROLINE SANTOS SOUZA**  
STAFF WRITER

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



Jair Bolsonaro (on the left) and Fernando Haddad (on the right) // Wikimedia Commons

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 mustachioed 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.



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# OPINIONS

## Trump Administration Attacks Legal Immigration

**OWEN McCLOSKEY**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It shouldn't be a shock to anyone that President Trump's administration is clamping down on illegal immigration. Wall prototypes at the border, the deployment of up to 15,000 troops to the southern border of the U.S. and a harsh family separation policy are clear indicators that Trump is trying to staunch the flow of migrants across the southern border.

Without 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 destitution amongst those who come here illegally because the government may not be fiscally prepared to 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?

On multiple occasions, President Trump has said in interviews and speeches that he wants immigrants to have the opportunity to work in the United States and vie for citizenship, but there have been many policies that his administration has codified that sequester the rights of immigrants.

Birthright citizenship has caught 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 automatic 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

become citizens. However, this isn't a bad thing.

When babies are born into the U.S. and granted citizenship, they are obligated to pay federal income tax as adults. Every U.S. citizen needs to pay income tax, and having a stimulus of birthright population would only mean more tax revenue for the government.

Most immigrant mothers have the plan of returning to their home country and simply want 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 Jaime Diez, 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 detainees reported.

Civilian immigrants aren't the only ones affected by federal immigration policies. In 2002, George Bush introduced an "expedited 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 interested in enlisting for 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 during 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 the U.S.

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 that with McCarthyism 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.

## The Torch

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

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### EDITORIAL AND OPINION PIECES

As an open public forum, The Torch welcomes guest opinion pieces and letters to the editor from any member of the Bergen Community College community. Materials should be submitted to eictorch@gmail.com or delivered to The Torch office, SC-111. Such submissions must include the writer's name, contact information and affiliation with the college. Students should include their major; faculty and staff should include campus title or position. Opinion pieces are limited to 600 words and letters to the editor to 200 words. The Torch reserves the right to edit and to refuse publication of any submission.

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## I Don't Care About 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 blasting while you're trying to concentrate on your books.

You decide that instead 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 their brand new JBL speaker. It's rude and disturbs 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.

Most phones nowadays come with headphones, so use them. These repeat offenders act with a complete disregard for other students who don't want to listen to their music.

If your answer to this is, "why don't you just go somewhere else," you're part of the problem.

My question is why do I have to leave? Why do I, who is not disturbing the peace, have to leave because



// Karoline Santos

someone else is disturbing the peace? There is a time and place for everything, and a learning institution is definitely not the place for you to play your music for the world to hear.

I pay tuition like everyone else - I should be able to go anywhere on campus and not have to worry about being disturbed by the sounds of 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 playlist. The worst part about the situation is the fact 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 students 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.



# When You Give a Girl a Glock

KATY TEMPLE  
FEATURES EDITOR

With it being peak midterm season (politically and academically), I've realized that working myself to death for three weeks straight and taking a day off after I've reached mental breakdown territory is not an effective stress management method.

The entire point of self care, which I have apparently missed, is to take breaks before having a panic attack, not in the middle of one.

Between exam one and research paper two, I realized I needed to step back. I wasn't sleeping, I wasn't eating and I could feel my heart start to race whenever I thought about all of the things I had to do.

It wasn't until a coworker of mine mentioned that he could tell my stress was at an all-time high that I realized I needed to revisit my stress management and coping mechanisms.

After I laughed in his face when he told me to take up knitting, he suggested target shooting.

I paused and used the three brain cells I had left to think about whether or not I'd be comfortable going to a shooting range as a young, liberal college student who's been very outspoken about gun control and lack of common sense gun legislation in this country.

It took me a minute to warm up to the idea, but after thinking about how much I love adrenaline and how much I didn't want to study for my psychology midterm, I decided that if I was going to continue to write about gun control, I should maybe be more familiar with guns and the communities they cultivate.

With credit card and "protect

kids not guns" popsocket in hand (the employees loved that), I waltzed my way into Gun for Hire in Woodridge, New Jersey. Ten minutes later, I wound up with a little 9mm glock that had a lot more kick than you'd expect.

I was terrified. Walking into a tiny space with 10 weapons that could literally kill you if misused or even misplaced, and then actually hearing the sounds of shotguns, assault rifles and automatic weapons being fired was enough to make anyone's knees weak, even with ear protection on.

The first time I pulled the trigger was the first time I had actually relaxed in at least four weeks. It's not like I had much of a choice, shooting a glock quite literally requires all of your attention. The adrenaline kicked in and I was absolutely hooked.

I never really saw the appeal of guns before this moment. I never understood why people were so determined to hold on to their firearms, even if giving up some of them meant possibly preventing another gun related tragedy in America.

I probably still don't fully understand the gun community, but the important part is I'm trying my best to learn because uninformed opinions don't contribute to constructive discourse.

On a basic level, shooting is fun. It makes you feel powerful, it gives you a nice dose of adrenaline, and it helps you take your mind off of literally everything that's occupying your thoughts.

With so many things to remember-how to load, how to keep your thumbs down, to keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot, to point the gun down the range at all

times- it's literally impossible to think about anything else. That means for one whole hour, I wasn't thinking about what was stressing me out so much.

Now, do I think those feelings are grounds to own 20 guns and have unlimited access to automatic weapons and bump stocks? No. But, do I think that there's still a gray area between all guns and no guns? Absolutely.

I've said it before, I'll say it again, and I'll probably say it 100 more times in the future- There is always a gray area when it comes to gun control. You're allowed to have an interest in guns and still support gun control.

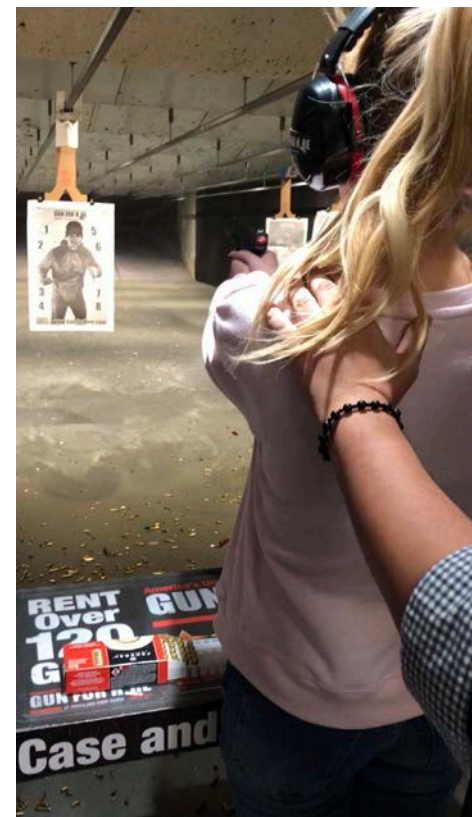
You're allowed to respect people who have gun collections while still holding on to your own beliefs about America's gun problem.

My enjoyment of recreational shooting doesn't mean that I'm suddenly running around screaming about "leftist snowflakes" wanting to take my guns away, and it doesn't make me a hypocrite either; I still think we're in dire need of gun control.

That's not to say that people who shoot as an actual hobby are saying that either. It may come as a shock, but there are actual people hanging out in the middle of this issue.

I'm also not suggesting that anyone in the middle of a panic attack should have firearms as their go-to coping mechanism. Panic and guns aren't always the best mix. But what I am saying is that breaks and hobbies are important to maintaining a relatively stable mindset throughout the semester, and that you should be educated on the things you choose to write about.

I'm lucky enough to have people around me who notice when my stress levels are higher than usual, and I'm



*Gun For Hire offers a wide variety of guns and ranges to accommodate all skill levels. // Robert C. McDermott*

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, personality 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

FRANCISCO CAMACHO  
STAFF WRITER

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

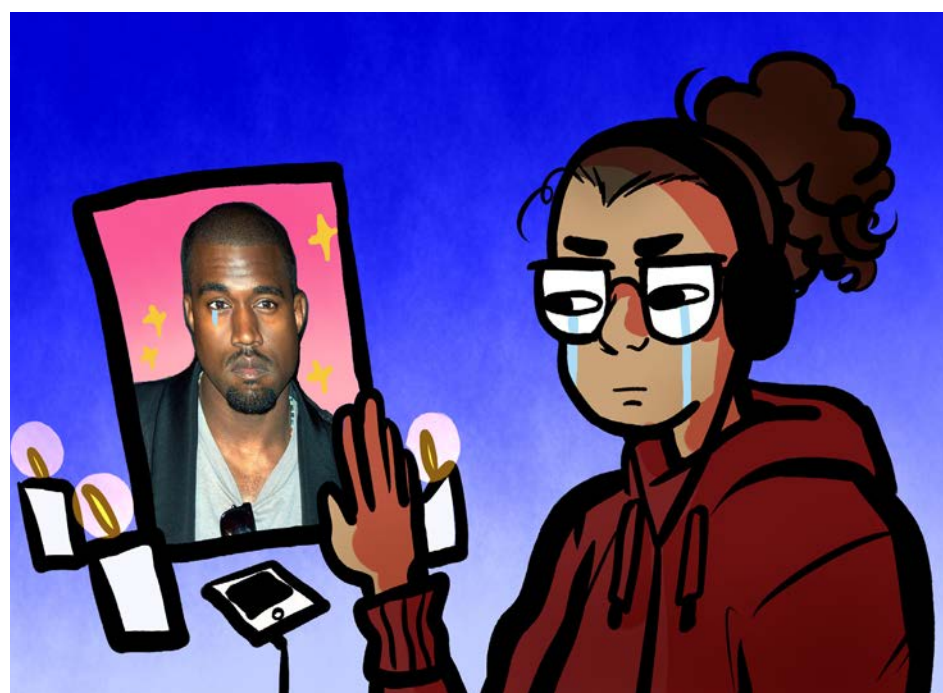
Nowadays, it feels like that Kanye no longer exists. Instead, we have an impostor who claims to be Kanye but can't possibly be.

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 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 its token black guy - and he is okay with that. The man who claims to be a free thinker and person who asserts that he will not let himself be controlled is nothing more than a mere puppet.

Kanye has aligned himself with a man who clearly panders to bigots like Donald Trump. How do you listen to someone who couldn't even denounce white supremacy in the wake of the Charlottesville rally?



//Illustration by Edriel Fimbres

Kanye claims that he wants us to all get along but, at the same time, associates himself with a man who doesn't care about anyone but himself. Kanye has become a caricature of himself.

As a long-time fan, I am disappointed in his incomprehensible behavior. He has become too caught up in his illusions of grandeur and has forgotten that he was once a kid from the inner-city just like me.

He has betrayed the memory of what he once was - a man who understood the plight of African-Americans. Kanye used to be the people's champion; he was this generation's Muhammad Ali.

He claims that he feels empowered by Trump. I wonder if he feels empowered by Trump because they are both huge narcissists and believe that they are larger than life itself.

He says that he feels like a superhero when he wears his red "Make America

Great Again" hat. No, Mr. West, you are a supervillain.

He has assigned himself the role of a prophet but he speaks nothing but lies. He is a man who calls himself "Yeezus" because he believes that he is a god, but doesn't realize that he is just a pawn.

It's disturbing to realize that someone who was once your beloved hero is nothing but a farce. That's not just how I feel, but how many more people who grew up listening to him feel.

We are witnessing the murder of a once beloved icon. Kanye has truly gone off the deep end, and I don't believe we will be getting him back anytime soon.

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 forgot what being black in America is like.

His rhetoric is dangerous and he masks it by calling it free thought. He is not a free thinker, but more of a free idiot who no longer has any idea what he is talking about.

I have given up on Kanye and I've tried to understand his methods but I can't. The man who once meant so much in my life is now gone.

I'll continue to treasure memorabilia like my "College Dropout" CD but I can't continue to support a man who no longer cares about the culture and people who got him to where he is today. I really miss the old Kanye.



# Hate and Fear Run Rampant in America

CHRISTOPHER GAGLIARDI

STAFF WRITER

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.

2018 has been one of the darkest years our nation has ever seen, especially the last few months when the fire of such hatred and bigotry ignited 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.C. 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



Protesters March in Washington D.C. // Flickr.com

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 that have given me strength.

In times like these we must take them into consideration even now. They come from the 13th century Buddhist philosopher Nichiren Daishonin, who wrote in a letter to his followers called "Great evils and Great Good". "GREAT events never have minor omens. When great evil occurs, great good follows. Since great slander already exists in our land, the great correct Law will

spread without fail."

It is time for this nation, to banish the darkness of hate and fear, and for us as individuals to be accepting and loving people, making sure every life matters.

Let's make America a place to welcome all people from all walks of life because I have always said "America is for everyone!" Love has a place here in this nation, hate does not. Let's be a nation of inclusiveness and not exclusiveness.

## What Does Brett Kavanaugh's Confirmation Mean For Politics?

JEREMY NIFRAS

COPY EDITOR

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 retiring justice Anthony Kennedy.

When Kavanaugh was announced as Trump's Supreme Court pick, he was already a fairly controversial choice; his stances on issues such as immigration, women's rights (including his opinions on *Roe v. Wade*) and race were already being called into question by Democrats, who felt he was unfit to sit upon the nation's highest court.

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, all of which he firmly denied.

These shocking, disturbing claims added fuel to the growing political fire Kavanaugh's nomination sparked within Washington, and exposed the deeply-rooted partisan divide in our country's government.

Most, if not all Democrats sided with Dr. Ford, and supported her as she gave an emotional testimony detailing her allegations. Many Republicans, however, did not believe her words to be genuine, and viewed her claims as a tactic to derail Kavanaugh's nomination.

"The details about that night that



// Wikimedia Commons

bring me here today are ones I will never forget," Ford said in her testimony to Congress. "They have been 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 tucked 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  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before the 2018 midterms, there were many appeals to the country's youngest voters.

The survivors of the Parkland shooting in Florida launched a nationwide voter-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 candidates and cast their votes. Uber even offered free rides for voters to go cast their votes at their local polling places.

It must have worked, because there was a spike in the youth turnout at the 2018 Midterm elections in several key states. In Texas, where young voters have 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 early in 2018 as they did in 2014.

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 voters.

Our generation faces many issues in the U.S. that usually go unheard of. Since the youth would better understand other young people, the best way to improve political participation in this generation would be through having younger people in office.

Politicians 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



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez encouraging voters to vote on November 6.

// Alexandria Ocasio

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.

The only people who fully understand what the younger generation needs are in the younger generation,

so why not have them in office? Our generation mainly focuses on our education system, reducing war costs, increasing minimum wage, ending gun violence and hate crimes in America, and saving our environment.

Elders believe that we pose a threat

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 poses a threat for older generations.

In the 2018 midterm elections, Wisconsin elected 19-year-old Democrat Kalan Haywood 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. Haywood 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 my biggest asset."

"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 Democrat Alexandria 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 jobs guarantee, abolishment of ICE, and immigration and criminal-justice reform.

If 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.

## BULLYING AND 'BULLYCID': An Urgent Appeal to Save the Next Generation

CHRISTOPHER GAGLIARDI  
STAFF WRITER

I am one among many.

A survivor of such unimaginable horror that no one wants to talk about. It's something that many youth have faced throughout their years of being young, yet many people will not deal with it because they think it's "just a passing fad" and that "They will grow out of it."

However, this kind of behavior and conduct has reached such unprecedented and frightening levels that sometimes, the only thing that people want to do is unthinkable—ending their own lives.

This issue gets so bad that it reaches a breaking point where victims are saying, "I'd rather not be here," or other things that make them feel defeated and broken.

I am speaking about the subject because I, a person with special needs, have endured such a painful chapter in my life. However, I am someone who wants to bring this to the consciousness of every single peer, especially with the power of the written word. The subject I am speaking about is bullying and "bully-cide" in our country and around the world.

For years, I have read stories about people ending their own lives and remember their names sincerely as if they were standing before me. Names that we cannot forget include Jamey Rodemeyer, who ended his life seven years ago on the 18th of September.

Jamey was bullied because he was gay and the emotional abuse was so horrific, both on social media and in public, that he was emotionally broken. Phoebe Prince, a young lady from Ireland, was bullied due to a "dispute" over a person she met. Phoebe was teased, taunted and hit with an empty can, which caused her to end her life. The bullying DID NOT stop when she died. Even on social media, they kept taunting her until comments were removed.

Lastly, a college student named Tyler Clementi, who was the victim of the most sinister form of bullying, when he was spied on by several students and teased about being in love with another male. It reached a tragic point on the night of September 22nd when Tyler sent his last message on his social media, saying that he was going to jump off the George Washington Bridge. Seven days later, Tyler's lifeless body was found.

The families of those people, are now dealing with the heartache of losing someone very precious to them, to such a dark and despicable pandemic. The names of these victims and so many other victims cannot be forgotten in our hearts and in our consciousness because they are those who tried to speak up on such a nightmarish scenario.

Nothing was done, nothing except in the state of New Jersey. As a former advocate to Assemblywoman Valerie V. Huttie, it was my great fortune to make sure that we had the toughest anti-bullying bill in the United States. So far,

we have achieved success in making sure all students here and in colleges across New Jersey are welcomed. More must be done sincerely. Why more, you ask? These statistics I am about to share here will make broaden your mind.

My hope is that these statistics inspire individuals to help get their congress members and senators to make Bully-cide, when incidents of bullying become 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 studies 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 statistics reported by ABC News, nearly 30 percent of students are either bullies 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;



// Pixabay.com

high rates of school absence; physical illness.

In addition to these, There are other things that can cause the person to think about ending their lives and the signs are: showing signs of depression (ongoing sadness, withdrawal from others, losing interest in favorite activities, or trouble sleeping or eating), talking about or showing an interest in death or dying; engaging in dangerous or harmful activities (reckless behavior, substance abuse, or self-injury), giving away favorite possessions and saying goodbye to people, saying or expressing that they can't handle things anymore; making comments that things would be better without them.

With so many people facing the consequences of bullying and bully-cide, there needs to be a more conscious effort to pass legislation to prevent these tragedies.



# Study Shows Most UK Citizens Want Brexit Due To Immigration

**OWEN McCLOSKEY**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The name “United Kingdom” is starting to sound a little ironic in the wake of the British exit of 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.”



// publicdomainpictures.net

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.

So if 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.

## BEST FREIND?



// Jeschelle Manansala



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# FEATURES

## 'The Hate U Give' Shines Light on Police Brutality Against African Americans

LESHAY JONES  
Co-EDITOR

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 injustices 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 those 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\*\*\*\* Everybody." Tilman 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.

"Absolutely riveting!"  
JASON REYNOLDS

"Stunning."  
JOHN GREEN



ANGIE THOMAS

// Amazon.com

## Comic Con Craze

KATEY JOHNSON  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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 cast of Dr. Who meets fans at NYCC 2018. // Katey Johnson



Comic Con attendees rush into the Javits Center for NYCC 2018. // Katey Johnson



# An Inside Look At BCC's Honors Programs

**KAROLINE SANTOS SOUZA**  
STAFF WRITER

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 is an academic program offering 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 S-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 discussion.

The president of Judith K. Winn School of Honors, Jenna Santacrose, 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".

Santacrose 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 knowing 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 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



In blue sashes, President Redmond and VP Mullaney pose with new PTK members // bergenptk.com

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 shy, 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 Santacrose 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**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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 food station encourages 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.

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# EA Ruins FIFA 19

ROBERT C McDERMOTT

AD MANAGER

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



FIFA '19 game cover // Flickr.com

YouTubers have covered the topic.

The saddest part about the complete ignorance from EA is that fans will continue to buy the game. The only other real competition is PES - Pro Evolution Soccer, but EA bought the rights to use Champions League logos, as well as many team names and logo licenses.

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 payment 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 planet populated by hostile robots.

The story of "Vectorman" is a sci-fi adventure taking place in the year 2049, and because of pollution deeming the planet uninhabitable, humans have left the Earth in the care of robots.

*"The art style of Vectorman is very distinct compared to other games released during its time."*

Everything is fine until a strange virus breaks out and causes the robots to go out of control. It is up to Vectorman to stop these out-of-control robots from destroying the planet with nuclear weapons.

The art style of "Vectorman" is very distinct compared to other games released during its time, with pre-rendered 3D graphics instead of 2D graphics. The game has an advanced, futuristic look to it, with dark and earthy tones of the 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.



// lukiegames.com

"Vectorman's" gameplay is deceptively simple. You can run, double jump and fire a blaster as you run to the end goal. It's easy to learn, but difficult to master with arcade-style timed levels.

The player is given a sense of urgency to complete the level as quickly as possible, which is annoying when you're trying to look for secrets and power-ups. Learning the ins-and-outs of "Vectorman" is highly rewarding, as learning how the enemies move and attack makes finding secrets and power-ups will make the game easier.

Besides the normal platforming levels, there are a few travel-based levels where Vectorman will transform into different forms, such as a train to travel quickly across the land, or a bug to scale a tall mountain.

One of the main problems in "Vectorman" is the difficulty spikes within certain levels. Sometimes you can easily get through a level without much of a challenge, only to immediately run into a brick wall of a boss that eats your lives and sends you back to the title screen. The check point system can range from very lenient, to extremely frustrating with their random placement.

The small screen area is problematic as well. While Vectorman has high mobility and running speed, it is detrimental when there are enemies just off-screen ready to pounce on you before you even see them. Players would benefit from being able to zoom out to see enemies that are further away.

Vectorman is definitely a classic and one of my favorite Genesis games. I'd definitely recommend picking this game up if you're interested in a difficult platformer with a unique artstyle and a killer soundtrack. I give the game a solid 9/10.



# Lil Wayne Brings The Uproar With 'Tha Carter V'

FRANCISCO CAMACHO  
STAFF 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 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.

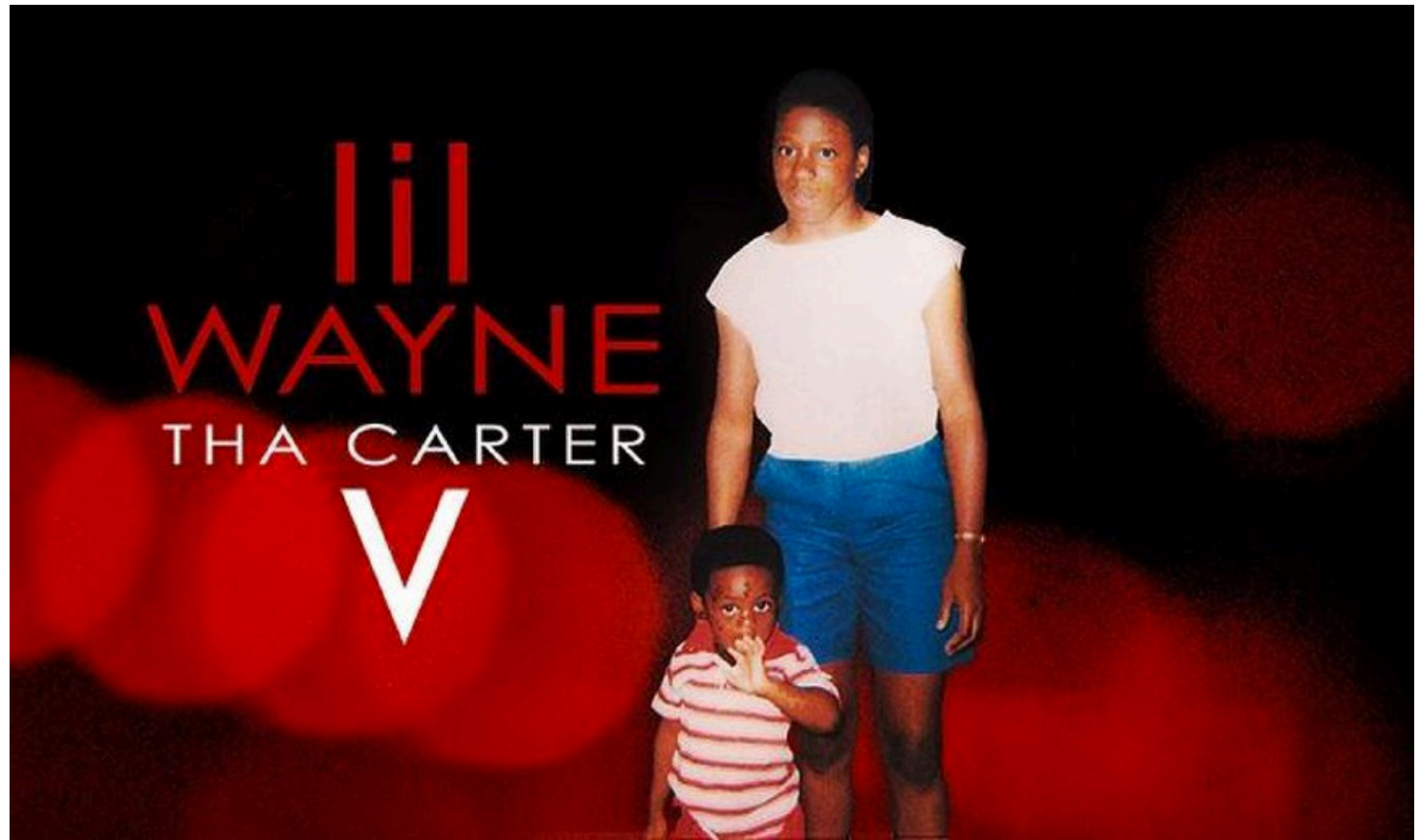
The album starts off with a more contemporary rap and pop sound, but then evokes nostalgia later on, as rappers Snoop Dogg and Mannie Fresh make appearances.

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 made him so compelling- inventive, bringing funny one liners and word play.

He brings his patented creaky



// NewsOK.com

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 retrospective trap 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 to 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 is 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 Fradley and David Gordon Green (who also directed), takes place 40 years after the original and follows the series protagonist, Laurie Strode, and her family as they face Laurie's greatest fear - Michael Myers.

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 slasher 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 disregard 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. Through these 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 through this mastery the film builds suspense to a satisfying payoff, never leaving 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 slasher fans who are looking for a film to fill them with dread.



//flickr.com



# 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 become 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 lot of the meal and take some of the stress off of the host all while making sure there will be plenty of options for yourself.

- **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.

- **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.

The most important thing to remember is to show confidence, pride and happiness in your decision to be a 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



Vegan Cinnamon Rolls // Ashley Smith

vegan don't know what it is like to be vegan, and only have your experience to go off of.

Your goal isn't to magically turn

your family into vegans overnight, but showing them alternatives, recipes, and examples of how easy veganism can be never hurts.

## Roving Reporter- Thanksgiving Traditions at BCC

**ALYSSA BLUNDO**  
STAFF 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."*



Taejamae Hutchinson  
Biology

*"Every year we pray for better health."*



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."*

// Ricky Hernandez photo credit to Edriel Fimbres, David Jones and Nicole Pennisi photos credit to Alyssa Blundo, Taejamae Hutchinson photo credit to Taejamae Hutchinson



# 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."



// [twitter.com/Kristine\\_Ross](https://twitter.com/Kristine_Ross)

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.

# 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.



// [Edriel Fimbres](#)

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 haven'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 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 seems 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 Mahncke. 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 [kostumes4kids.org](http://kostumes4kids.org) to help get a Halloween costume.

The NMDP provides community outreach, mentorship and educational programming to the public.



Nikki Manx // Stephanie Zena

Manx's work makes audience members think about important concepts of the human experience while promoting social change, advocacy and environmental awareness throughout the program.

She said, "(I'm) a firm believer for the arts to connect with (the) thread of society and strengthen the voice of the people."

NMDP also presents projects that each of the company dancers have worked on for tons of hours in the studio choreographing pieces to perform in the flashmob. Each dancer also gets to perform in group numbers, duets, trios and solos.

The company's signature style of incorporating social issues into their dances provides a connection that engages and inspires audience members regardless of subject matter. The company also holds certain events to collaborate with other dance companies to come together and perform other flash mobs for other events

In dance, society and the world itself is not only brought into the experience; but dance can also be taken to a new and inspiring place to elicit change in the world.

NMDP's goal for the project is to motivate and train future generations of dancers from different backgrounds to show support through artistic development.



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# Boston Red Sox Slaughter LA Dodgers in World Series

**JELSON MONTERO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

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 fairly easy series win 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 2013, which made many people non-believers in the team. The Red Sox would quickly silence the doubters and take care of



// Wikimedia Commons

the Yankees in a quick four games.

Once again, they were considered underdogs, as they faced the defending champions Houston Astros. In one of the most shocking moments of the playoffs, the Red Sox eliminated the Astros in five games on their way to their fourth World Series appearance 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.

## BCC Volleyball Team Goes All Out All Season

**FRANCISCO CAMACHO**  
STAFF WRITER

Bergen Community College's volleyball season came to an end on Saturday Oct. 20 in the first round of the NJCAA Region XIX D-III playoffs, after falling 3-0 to Ocean County College. This comes after a fantastic season by the lady Bulldogs, who went 14-7 in the regular season.

Overall the season was great, and at one point the team went on a tear and had a 9-game winning streak.

The program did undergo a few changes as BCC brought in new head coach, Samoya Bailey, and assistant coach, Tanash Reid, who both have a championship pedigree.

Both coaches were at Passaic County Community College and won championships before coming to BCC.

When asked what the biggest challenge was this season Coach Bailey said, "meshing personalities... you only have about two years

to mesh personalities."

The coach's expectations were high as the team was stacked with talent.

"As long as our lady bulldogs give it 150 percent we can win...we have a very talented group of ladies," said Coach Bailey.

There were many standouts on the team like Stephanie Padilla and Samantha Frola, who both won player of the week awards.

Stephanie Padilla was ranked 28th in the nation with 57 Service Aces, and Samantha Frola anchored the defense as she was ranked 2nd in the nation with 79 Block Solos.

There was also Melanie Cuco who received the nod for BCC's Student Athlete of the Month for september. She was ranked 2nd in the nation for Service Ace with 107. She has been a contributor to the team's success this year.

Next season should definitely be interesting as the new coaching staff tries to build on the momentum of this year while trying to incorporate the new players coming in next year.



BCC's Volleyball team practicing for their season // Francisco Camacho

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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. 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.



// [WWE.com](http://WWE.com)

# BCC's Women's Soccer Team Ready to Bounce Back

FRANCISCO CAMACHO  
STAFF WRITER

The soccer season ended early this October as the team ended with an abysmal 2-10 record. There seemed to be a lot of 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 freshman 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 standouts 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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# The Torch SPORTS



## BCC Men's Soccer Looking at Bright Future

**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 proficiencies 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.



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"The team has had great chemistry off the field this year, which has been of great delight to the coaches, and has made our practices and games much easier because we remain positive and

focus better," Soto said.

Chemistry can be shared by both the coaches and players in order to make a healthy environment.

In a long season, teams usually

have a leader emerge in order to keep the players grounded and focused on their task at hand. For these Bulldogs, that player was Victor Souza.

Unfortunately, Souza's leadership will be missed by the team next year. The coaches believe there are two strong candidates for the leadership role heading into next season.

"One of those players is Kevin Cabrera, who shows great poise on the field and will be turned to for leadership. Another player that can help us in the leadership role can be Luis Yolanes, whose good play and focus can help us to become more competitive by actions more than words," Soto said.

The players and coaches still see a bright future for the Bulldogs. The team will work on building a young core and returning to championship-level play.

"I would say that the future looks bright, and if we perfect the last piece of the puzzle - which for us is the offensive side of the ball - we will be a team that will compete for the region 19 title again just like we did in 2015 and 2016 when we won the title back-to-back and went to nationals," Soto said.

The Bulldogs seem to be ready to make some noise starting next season.

## Baseball Loses Popularity to Basketball and Football

**JELSON MONTERO**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Major League Baseball was once known as America's pastime. In an article called "The Most Popular Sports in America" on Ranker.com, Major League Baseball has fallen to the third-most popular sport behind the National Football League and the National Basketball Association.

The game has been moving in the wrong direction in terms of national interest. Not only are baseball players not being recognized on a national scale, but some of the biggest stars in the game are getting little recognition by baseball fans.

Mike Trout, Bryce Harper and Francisco Lindor are arguably three of the most popular players in the game. Unfortunately, in an article written by Mark Newman called "MLB's Most Popular Jerseys Revealed" on MLB.com, Harper had the fifth-most sold jersey in baseball, Trout placed eighth, and Lindor was ninth.

Unlike basketball and football, the game of baseball is far longer in terms of time per games and season length. Baseball has 162 games a year, and is played in a span of six months, not including pre season and playoffs.

For many fans, following a team for six months and 162 games can be uninteresting. Basketball has a season length of 82 games, and football season is 16 games - a significantly



// [MaxPixel.net](http://MaxPixel.net)

smaller length than 162.

According to Scooby Axson from SI.com, the average baseball game lasts three hours and five minutes. This is a much longer game time length than basketball and football. The inability to add a game clock to the game is a huge contributor to the length of time for a baseball game to finish. Unlike basketball or football, there is no constant movement or action through a baseball game.

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 opponent or get too emotional. As time passes, fans continue to show less interest in the game of baseball. It's a game that's losing TV ratings, local fans and national recognition.

## WWE Faces Backlash After Visit to Saudi Arabia

**JOHNATHAN FLYNN**  
STAFF WRITER

The WWE has had a very interesting fourth quarter. In the span of a week, they aired an all women's show with Evolution, followed by Crown Jewel, an all men'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 Saudi Arabia while the investigation took place, which the WWE did not do. The WWE proceeded to plan and promote the show and allegedly had a "wait and see" attitude towards

the investigation, making minor gestures to try and save face by avoiding the subject of Crown Jewel's location.

This continued until the event itself, where the wrestlers were noticeably not as interested in performing. This was highlighted throughout the night by many sloppy performances and two changes with 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 Famer, 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.



// [WWE.com](http://WWE.com)

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