

“Truth, No Matter
The Cost”

The Torch

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER
IGNITING STUDENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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Bergen Beats: Inside BCC's Music Studio



Brian "B" DeGroff using one of the labs many MIDI controllers to produce a new track // Francisco Camacho

IAN ARDELLE

LAYOUT EDITOR

&

FRANCISCO CAMACHO

STAFF WRITER

Many fantastic musicians fly under the radar every day and do not get the recognition they deserve. In fact, Bergen Community College itself is home to dozens of talented musicians who are constantly cultivating their arts and looking to improve their skills to excel in an incredibly competitive professional niche that constantly changes with each trend. These students walk among the regular crowds every day. However, once they step into BCC's recording studio, their true colors come out in the form of instruments, vocals, keyboards and more.

The studio, located in West Halls, is equipped with an expansive array of music composition and editing equipment. Among them is an analog mixing console, a series of quality keyboards and midi controllers, a collection of high-end music production software, and a quiet room with

a multitude of microphones.

Many students use this space to exercise their music abilities for their classes while others even use it to record for professional purposes.

The number of genres music students play are innumerable and unique in their own ways. Even among just a handful of these students, one can find punk, hip-hop, and R&B. The myriads of different styles allow for interesting collaborative opportunities, bustling with creative energy not found in many professionally focused environments. Because of the exposure to different sounds, students can draw inspiration from unrelated genres and create potential to collaborate with others looking for unique twists.

Beyond facilitating artistic collaboration, BCC allows students to refine the raw musical prowess of the students. Christopher Selman from Cliffside Park's punk band Feed Me to the Forest attributes much of his growth as a musician to the music program, saying, "It really

helped me hone in my craft... it taught me a lot."

Within BCC's music program, students are actively creating connections with others in order to create large-scale projects.

Sean Lee and Seung Hyun 'Clubby' Yoo, music production majors who also produce R&B and rap, have a plan to connect many students with each other and promote internal networking at BCC. "What we are starting now is a platform called 9th Ave and we are using that to get all Bergren students, not just music students but all students in the creative field to work together."

Clubby and Lee address that the resources exist for some very powerful BCC creative projects, but also acknowledge that there is a lack of a platform to promote networking and collaborative energy. "There are a lot of prospering artists in the BCC community that are all in their shells and are willing to come out of their shells, but they have no place to come out... we want to change that." 9th Ave could

be the key to taking the talents around BCC and connecting them through active networks, greatly benefiting local artists. Lee commented, "First you will meet everyone in the BCC community with which you can get recognition if you have the talent."

Abraham Breton, the music studio's lab monitor, described some of the benefits of the studio as a collaborative environment, stating, "It's one of the most important things in music: marketing yourself and honing your skills in music."

Abraham also described that the music studio is a blooming resource and that the BCC music community is continuing to grow around the studio. "I'm bringing in more people - they just come in and hone their skills... I wish more people knew about it."

The West Hall music studio is open from 10 - 6 Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and any students regardless of major are welcome to scope the place out or use the tools the studio provides.

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NEWS

Shut Up and Vote

KATY TEMPLE
FEATURES EDITOR
&
ASHLEY SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Midterm elections are right around the corner and with a pivotal election coming up, we need to know what's going on in our political climate. Midterm elections allow the American people to vote for U.S. members of congress, state governors, and local positions.

For the state of New Jersey, 12 candidates will be elected into the U.S. House of Representatives - one from each of the 12 congressional districts in New Jersey. On November 6, you can head to your designated polling station and exercise your right to vote.

Currently, the House and the Senate are controlled by the Republican party. With the midterms coming up, we have a chance to change that and invoke direct change in the way our government is functioning. That's not to say we need to vote Democrat in order to see change; it means we need to vote. Period.

According to Rock the Vote, millennials are about to be the largest voting bloc in 2018. Out of the 69.2 million millennials who were of voting age in 2016, only 34 million of them casted votes in the presidential election. Being registered to vote is great and the first step towards having a platform to stand on and having your voice be heard. However, a registration card is not the same as a ballot.

Voting can be confusing, especially if you don't know what you're voting for. It's especially important now to know your district, know your candidates, and know your polling station.

So, what's stopping young people from voting? You'll hear every excuse in the book when it comes to voting, here's how you can debunk every one of them.

Don't know how to register?



// Edriel Fimbres

To mark National Voter Registration Day, MTV ramped up their first-ever midterm election campaign called "+1 the Vote" which encouraged young voters to ignite the most powerful voting bloc in the country. Visit www.iwillvote.com to either get registered or check your registration. With registration deadlines looming over the country, checking your registration status is just as important as registering. Check your registration status at www.letamericavote.org or www.headcount.org.

Don't know who's running?

Simple solution! Head to www.ballotpedia.org, enter your address, and your sample ballot will pop up along with congressional districts! Once you have your sample ballot, you can do your own research and cast an educated vote.

Don't know where to vote?

Another easy fix! All you have to do is visit www.usa.gov/election-day. Scroll down to "find out where to vote", enter your address, and your polling location will pop up! You can also check www.Voter411.org, an organization that will text you important announcements regarding your district, remind you when and where to vote, and even tell you who's running.

Can't get to the polls?

Polling locations are open from 6am to 8pm in the state of New Jersey, and your employer is legally obligated to allow you to vote. If you don't have access to a car or public transportation, Uber and Lyft are known to give discounted or free rides for people going to vote. Carpooling is another effective way to make sure you get to the polls, and your friends do too.

"My vote doesn't matter".

If your vote didn't matter, the government wouldn't be trying to take it away from you. Let America Vote is an organization that fights to combat voter restriction laws all across the country. While living in New Jersey, a state with no voter restriction laws, you might find it hard to believe what's going on in the rest of the country. However, in New Hampshire, Senate Bill 3 (SB3) is enacted, which makes voting as a college student extremely difficult and even criminalizes voting by fining those who fail to meet the absurd documentation requirements. Montana has enacted SB352, which makes voting by absentee ballot almost impossible and prevents civic groups and individuals from collecting absentee ballots and delivering them to polls. Restrictive voter ID Laws are set in place all across the country-meaning you can probably vote with a hunting license but not with a student ID. Two-thirds of the country have restrictive laws in place. These laws silence the people whose voices need to be heard the most. Vote for the people who don't get to. Text VOTE to 44939 to fight voter restriction laws and stay up to date on upcoming elections in your district.

Don't care?

There are institutional and systemic flaws in our democracy on both sides. The only way to fix that is to vote people into power who are challenging unchallenged seats, who are sick and tired of the same people making the same decisions, and who are actually keeping partisanship out of nonpartisan issues. We aren't just electing people to sit at a table to talk foreign policy and terrorism anymore. We're electing people who are making decisions about our cost of education, our health care, and what we can and can't do with our own bodies, our income, and our environment. Politics didn't used to apply to young people, but they do now. If there's a time to care, it's now.

Hurricane Florence Hits US Southeast

JEREMY NIFRAS
COPY EDITOR

This past September, Hurricane Florence unleashed its wrath upon the American Southeast, leaving widespread destruction and devastation in its wake. The storm, which most severely affected those living in Virginia and the Carolinas, resulted in a death toll of around 37 people, and racked up nearly \$45 billion in property damage.

The storm left around half a million residents without power, with the majority of these people living in North Carolina. At its peak, the storm reached 112 miles per hour, and dumped a state-record 35.93 inches over North Carolina. Shortly after the storm, many residents found their homes mostly, if not completely, submerged in floodwaters. Humans weren't the only ones affected by Florence, as nearly 3.4 million chickens and over five thousand pigs were killed due to severe flooding. The storm resulted in thousands of residents fleeing to shelters across the region, with the number of total shelter occupants at one point amounting to 10,000 people.

Even after the storm passed, residents still faced increased flooding, after local bodies of water, including the Cape Fear River in North Carolina, continued to rise. Additionally, the



Hurricane Florence, as seen from the International Space Station // NASA

storm left tons of homes and businesses without electricity to power air conditioners, which caused particular discomfort for the elderly.

Now, more than a month after the storm made landfall, residents have since undertaken numerous recovery efforts, in an attempt to rebuild the massive areas of destruction. Donations have been flowing in from all over the country from various organizations such as the American

Red Cross, in addition to governmental aid from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), who delivered truckloads of food, water, and supplies to the hardest-hit areas.

According to the Associated Press, cities like Wilmington, NC handed out supplies to residents in need by utilizing a method "resembling a giant fast-food drive-thru." Furthermore, in the weeks following the disaster, more than 400,000

electrical workers from across North America traveled to storm-ravaged areas to restore power, after Florence knocked over power lines all over the region. President Trump also made a visit to the Carolinas to survey the destruction, and later said, "To all those impacted by this terrible storm, our entire American family is with you and ready to help. You will recover."

Gian Paul Gonzalez Kicks Off Hispanic Heritage Month

FRANCISCO CAMACHO
STAFF WRITER

October is finally here, and besides the long-awaited transition to fall, there's more significance to it – it's Hispanic Heritage Month. To kick the month off, BCC had a presentation which took place in the Anna Maria Ciccone theater.

BCC President Michael Redmond described the school as a Hispanic-Serving Institution as Latinos make up about 25 percent of BCC. He expressed his pride in the diversity here at BCC. He felt it "contributes greatly to our community and our vibrancy."

The event featured the keynote speaker, Gian Paul Gonzalez, a Union City high school teacher who became a public speaker. He is also a former All-American basketball player from Montclair State University.

Gonzalez was offered several contracts to play professional basketball but decided to reject the offers and give back to the community. Instead, he decided to become a teacher and teach world history at Jose Marti Freshman Academy.

He was here to deliver his famous "All In" speech, which propelled the New York Giants Super Bowl run back in 2011. He was here to give a backdrop on his life and what it meant to be "All In".

His speech began with his birth. His mother was pregnant with him when she contracted the measles and was considered a high-risk pregnancy.

Furthermore, some of his limbs were not developing properly and she was advised to terminate. She refused, and had Mr. Gonzales.

His presentation had one theme present which was commitment; all his anecdotes always came full circle to always having a sense of commitment.

When he spoke about a meeting he had with the New York Giants players, he recalled asking everyone in the room about commitment and what it meant. He compared commitment to playing a game of poker in which a person makes an irreversible decision to go "all-in."

He then posed several questions: "If we would never do it in a game why would do it in real life? Why do we say we're going to be committed to something, then when things get tough we back away?"

He gave each player a poker chip and instructed them to sign it. "When you see it, ask yourself the question, 'am I really giving my best?'" The Giants proceeded to win every game left in that season and to win the Super Bowl after that speech.

He believes that being "all-in" is a lifestyle - something to tell yourself every day to strive to become the greatest. "That's what it's all about. It's about being committed inside... what do we do when no one is watching?"

He has opened a youth center in West New York, New Jersey called *Hope and Future*, an establishment open for any student under 21 for free. The center started with five students and, 20 months later, now has nearly



Gian Paul Gonzalez speaking to Bergen students. // Francisco Camacho

1300 students signed up.

Mr. Gonzalez no longer works as a teacher, but mostly serves as a coach for other teachers and runs the youth

center. He continues to push forward the message of commitment and empowers his community to do better.



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VOTE.ORG

Newark Hosts 17,000 Future Leaders at Lions of Justice Festival

CHRISTOPHER GAGLIARDI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On September 23rd, 2018, 9 cities: Atlanta, Georgia, Chicago, Illinois, Miami, Florida, Phoenix, Arizona, Honolulu, Hawaii, Dallas, Texas, Los Angeles, California, Anaheim, California and finally, Newark, New Jersey, were hosts to a gathering of 50,000 individuals who came from all parts of the country, and other parts of the world to be a witness to history at the Lions of Justice festival.

The event gathers people together to stand up for the dignity of life and promote inner peace. The event was linked together via video satellite and began with an opening presented by the USA Branch of the Buddhist organization, Soka Gakkai International, to welcome the guests to this historic meeting. The main part of the meeting was held at the Honda Civic Center in Los Angeles, California where the masters of ceremonies greeted everyone who was attending this once-in-a-lifetime event.

The historic meeting kicked off with a rousing performance of "Chameleon" by the legendary Herbie Hancock. The atmosphere was charged for the next part of the event, where the renowned philosopher of peace Daisaku Ikeda, expressed his utmost congratulations on the gathering of such a large number of people and called upon them to boldly advance and to stand up in the current times we are facing.

The biggest surprise of the day was when former First Lady Michelle Obama expressed her congratulations on such a historic undertaking to lead the way for peace and hope, and wished the youth who were performing at this event great success. Vows were presented for the very first time before the country. Those are- To view the people of the world beyond all borders, including refugees as family who are equally worthy of respect; to end the violence in our homes and our communities that have taken the lives of the youth of America and world; ceaselessly engage in the dialogue that uproots ideas that justify hatred and discrimination so that there is common individuality; that the Earth is our common home and that the issue of climate change must be addressed; and lastly, fighting to abolish all nuclear weapons by the year 2030. This event was to coincide with the 61st anniversary of the 2nd founder of the organization, Josei Toda, and his declaration for the abolishment of weapons of mass destruction.



Prudential Arena in Newark, NJ hosting 17,000 people for 50K Lions nationwide festival. // Christopher Gagliardi

A new song called "A New History" debuted, and wowed the crowd with joy. After the main part of the broadcast was completed, the local versions took their turn on the main stage. The Ikeda Peace Ensemble, The Taiko Drum team, and the fife and drum corps, gave such a joy filled performance and performed songs to inspire hope.

The choir sang a new song called "This is me" that made spirits soar higher. After the choir performed, an

electrifying dance performance shook the roof off the arenas from coast to coast. After performances, a select group of people shared their self-love journeys with the crowd. Among them was a woman who had to overcome the darkness of being abused. Through the power of Buddhism, she was able to achieve greater joy and become the woman she once was. Today, she is now studying to become a nurse and wishes to open a school or mental health center

to give all those who are suffering a chance to live a normal life.

The final part of the show, attendees were called to usher in a new era of hope and respect. The event was closed with the song, "Be the Vow"- a call unto us to uphold the vow of creating the change in this country that we live upon so that a new age of peace can be achieved and so a new era of respect can be seen in this world now and forever.

Bill Cosby: A Fallen Star



Bill Cosby in 1965 on left, Cosby's mugshot on right // Wikimedia Commons

TIFFANY MARIE VELEZ
Co-EDITOR

Bill Cosby, once dubbed as "America's dad," is now known around the world as a registered sex offender. Cosby was sentenced to 3-10 years in a Pennsylvania state prison for drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand back in 2004. He is required to pay a fine of \$25,000, not including the costs of prosecutions which is a part of his sentencing.

Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill labeled Cosby as a "sexually violent predator," a term that includes a future requiring lifetime registration, lifetime mandatory sex offender counseling, and a warning to residents in the neighborhood that a "sexually violent predator" lives in the area.

O'Neill, enraged, told Cosby, "It was planned predation; the pills, the planning, the penetration without

her consent, your own words in your deposition." O'Neill continued saying, "You claimed her silence was her consent, that is not the law. Your version of consent was rejected by the jury. That underscores how serious this crime is."

In 2002, Constand met Cosby through a mutual friend, when she was the Director of Operations for Temple University's women's basketball team.

In January 2004, Constand said that Cosby had invited her over his home to discuss her future career plans. Cosby told Constand he had given her a Benadryl to calm down, but Constand said he told her it was herbal medication. Whatever Cosby had given her that night left Constand unable to move while Cosby proceeded to sexually assault her. Fourteen years later, perhaps Cosby's prison sentence can help Constand develop a better piece of mind.

BCC Doubles Down on Campus Safety

ASHLEY SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The amount of violence the U.S. has endured can be pretty terrifying. With the amount of terror attacks in public spaces such as schools, malls, movie theaters, and airports, there's no recommended safe place. We as people can't let that stop us from living our lives. No matter where we are we should familiarize ourselves with the proper safety precautions in each area.

Bergen Community College is a sizable school with 14,000 currently enrolled students, so their wellness and safety is BCC's main focus, especially for future students. BCC offers multiple ways of how students should keep themselves safe at all times. That's why BCC holds Campus Safety Day each year for new and returning students to learn about the programs they offer for safety and even for the students' personal wellness.

This year Campus Safety Day was held in the student center at 12 p.m. on Thursday September 13, with a few speakers and personnel such as Ian Wolfe who was the Coordinator of Student Conduct and Student Information.

Dean Jennifer Reyes was the first speaker to present one of her other roles in the school which is to be responsible for BIT (Behavioral intervention Team). What this program offers is multiple support services that are free and available to students to ensure their campus safety. The BIT offers help in room HS100 or A118.



Ian Wolfe, Coordinator of Student Conduct and Information, kicks off Campus Safety Day in the Student Center // Michelle Coneo

One of the perks BCC offers is having police officers already in the building to react right away for any emergency. They also have a K9 unit, which was also demonstrated at Campus Safety Day

when the officer put a padding on his arm and let the dog charge at him.

Wherever we are we, need to be informed about safety procedures. Especially in our school we're very

vulnerable to any attack so we should be ready and attentive if anything should come up.

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OPINIONS

America's Ideological Civil War

OWEN McCLOSKEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I don't remember a time when the United States body politic wasn't in constant turmoil. I only really started to care about politics in 2015, amidst a boisterous climate of people who had firmly-held beliefs and who never really wanted to listen to the people on the other side.

The first few clamorous months of the Trump presidency shaped how I viewed the American political climate. Antifa protesters violently destroyed property in cities, alt-right ideology became pervasive in many corners of the media, and -- perhaps most heinous of all -- white supremacists wreaked havoc in Charlottesville, killing a counter-protester.

Hot-button issues like immigration, disaster relief, gun control, and countless others sprang up frequently in political discourse and drove even deeper rifts into the American populace. Neighbors would be afraid to speak with each other about politics, family members and friends became adversaries; and all of this politicization made me unsure about civic engagement.

Every time I talk to an older person, they relay the same message: "The political climate has never been this bad." People always reminisce about the patriotic electricity in the post-9/11 era, a time when you could disagree with a person's politics, but still see the value of their opinion.

But in 2018, socioeconomic changes and cultural tensions are creating an "us versus them" paradigm that always falls along party lines. Politicization now coincides with the ideology, and certain beliefs prescribe to a certain party.

Not only are partisan lines dividing us, but every issue is a two-sided debate. Pew Research states that most conservatives detest globalism (36 percent against more U.S. global involvement) while liberals think America should be more active on the world stage (56 percent for more U.S. global involvement). The same report, from 2017, says that in the wake of various white supremacist marches and the NFL protests, views on racial division has changed as well. 64 percent of Democratic voters say that racial inequality is due to discrimination, while only 14 percent of Republicans believe that to be the case, which changed from 18 percent and 9 percent in 2009, respectively.

I believe that politics are conflated with ideology so much that being a centrist is near impossible. If you identify as a Democrat, you're expected to agree with everything that comes with that party's rhetoric. If you're a liberal who doesn't agree with government subsidies or abortion, you'd best believe you're not going to be invited to your friend's house the next time they have a viewing of *Real Time with Bill Maher*.

By the same token, a conservative who believes in comprehensive gun control or doesn't necessarily agree with the NRA could be completely shunned. If you live in a red state and you believe in climate change, you might get chastised for it.

This is a recent trend. According to a 2017 Pew Research Poll, Americans are less likely now to hold a mix of liberal and conservative views than ever before in modern history. The opinion of someone on the other side is now deemed

meaningless to most people as rational debate slowly fades into the woodwork.

The inability to speak across party lines has made it impossible for us to speak to one another about actual solutions to problems without arguing about the context of said problems. Furthermore, politicians would rather hinder their opponents' progresses than work on actual reform measures. If people could find some sort of common ground, the United States could be much more productive.

If you're a liberal, next time you get the opportunity, try to listen to a Trump supporter. Sure, you can argue with him or her, but at the end of the day you should just try to get to know them as a person and see if they're capable of rational discourse. If you're a conservative, try to talk to a liberal college student and get them to understand that your beliefs are not racist or backward.

At the end of the day we're all Americans. As corny as that sounds, we're all on the same team. We want this successful experiment in democracy to continue as long as it can, because each and every one of us loves this country and the ideals it represents. The United States is certainly fair to everyone and it has a checkered past that needs rectifying.

Nonetheless, most of us want to see the United States move forward and continue to be the protectors of the world stage and set the shining example of a city on a hill. I hate to be ominous but I'm certain that if we don't start seeing eye-to-eye, this country will plummet into moral destitution.

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.

WHO ARE THE TORCH EDITORS?

OWEN McCLOSKEY
Editor-In-Chief

TIFFANY MARIE VELEZ
Co-Editor

JEREMY NIFRAS
Copy Editor

DAVID JOO
News Editor

KATY TEMPLE
Features Editor

JELSON MONTERO
Sports Editor

IAN ARDELLE
Layout Editor

AMANDA BARANDAS
Online Editor

EDRIEL FIMBRES
Photo Editor

ROBERT C McDERMOTT
Ad Manager

PROF. LEW WHEATON
Advisor

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

I Believe Dr. Christine Blasey Ford

KAROLINE SANTOS SOUZA
STAFF WRITER

"Why did you wait so long to tell people about the incident?" That was one of the most repeated questions asked to Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, a victim of a sexual assault by Brett Kavanaugh in 1980.

Well, I have something to say for everyone, including the Senate Committee that questioned her honesty since Dr. Ford waited 30 years to tell the public. WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? If we all could just, for a moment, put ourselves in her shoes, what would we do?

Would you tell your parents you were at a house with no supervision with four boys? Would you mention that you were all drinking beers and having fun while two of the boys decided to violate your personal space and sexually abuse you?

I would not just hide this from everyone and regret speaking out. I wouldn't be able to look myself in the mirror. I would be so afraid of being judged and being viewed as a victim, that I completely understand why Dr. Ford took so long to speak her truth.

On September 27, the Senate Judiciary Committee conducted a public hearing for Dr. Ford, and Brett Kavanaugh. Dr. Ford said "I am here today not because I want to be. I am terrified. I am here because I believe it is my civic duty to tell you what happened to me while Brett Kavanaugh and I were in high school."

Dr. Ford is one of the many victims who hide their sexual assault

stories. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, "Rape is the most under-reported crime; 63 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to police." This means that more than half of women and men never disclose the fact that they were abused.

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center also stated, "One in five women will be raped at some point in their life." This means that hypothetically, in your circle of friends, there is probably one girl that was abused or will be abused one day.

This is not a rule, but it's a study, which proves that we are a target to be the next one. That is why I don't understand how men like Brett Kavanaugh could be seen as innocent and Dr. Ford be seen as a lying woman striving for attention.

This is not a matter of who we believe in or who we don't believe in, it's a matter of doing the right thing. If we really care about the number of women who died with the pain of keeping a secret like being a victim of sexual assault for so long, we are not as caring as I'd thought.

Dr. Ford's testimony makes me afraid of being a woman, especially an immigrant woman. I couldn't imagine myself in her situation- thousands of miles from home, away from my parents and everything I grew up with. All this controversy makes me feel that if something happened to me, I wouldn't be able to say a word again.

I strongly believe Dr. Ford's testimony will encourage victims to report abuses, regardless of the duration of the assault. As Dr. Ford



Dr. Christine Blasey Ford is the first of three women to report a sexual assault against Brett Kavanaugh // Wikimedia Commons

explained, "I thought it was my civic duty to relay the information I had about Mr. Kavanaugh's conduct." We have to come together and try our best to prevent and protect the future of women.

I will not be afraid to speak out for myself, and neither should you. We are all for one and one for all. Regardless of what people say, in spite of what they think or if they believe survivors or not! We are not going to be silent anymore! It is for Dr. Ford, for our closest friends, and for our own safety.

Major Cities Projected to Join Atlantis if Global Temperatures Rise by 2 Degrees

CHRISTOPHER GAGLIARDI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Everyone has seen the recent headlines and horrifying images from around the world regarding the dangerous weather outbreaks. In 2017, Hurricane Maria claimed an estimated number of 4,600 innocent American citizens in Puerto Rico. Most recently, Hurricane Florence did damage from North and South Carolina to Georgia with winds blowing at 200+mph, shocking rainfall, and massive flooding.

After you take these storms into account with the explosive fires that raged in the Pacific Northwest, Canada, and Europe, you have to realize that something drastically wrong is unfolding. What we have been witnessing is a massive explosion of violent acts by Mother Nature, as her anger is finally surfacing and causing disasters of unprecedented scale.

But why? What is causing such intensity and such power? The tragic answer is a very simple one and it is something that the current administration in the White House absolutely does not want us to know. What are those words you should ask? Global climate change.

That's right, the actual answer is indeed global climate change. Scientists have warned the world for years that humanity has accelerated climate change with distribution of greenhouse gases and emissions that we release into the atmosphere. According to the Union of The Concerned Scientists, a recent Gallup poll indicated that the American public increasingly agrees that global

warming is very real, and very much a problem that requires immediate attention.

A 2016 poll from Yale found that 70 percent of Americans believe global warming is happening, while a record low number of Americans say the opposite. A Gallup poll from 2017 showed that the number of Americans who worry "a great deal" about global warming has increased from 37 percent in 2016 to 45 percent in 2017.

This past June, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York City (GISS), recorded the 3rd hottest June on record. Based upon the information that was obtained, the past month surpassed the 1951-1980 June mean by 0.77 degrees Celsius. It actually tied with June of 1998 as the 3rd warmest June.

Donald Trump chose to withdraw our country from the Paris Climate Agreement in 2017 because he feels that climate change doesn't exist. Along with those from big oil companies and naysayers, our current administration still thinks that abusing natural resources will come with little to no consequences.

Despite denial, there are still brave scientists who have warned us about the disasters of climate change that are yet to come. Among the things that affect our very life, water is the one thing that keeps us going. According to the group Conservation International, The ocean has absorbed 80 percent of the heat that has been added to the Earth's system. As a result of warmer water, the beautiful coral we always see in the oceans has all started to bleach, which in turn negatively impacts the entire coral-centric ecosystems. There are



Industry is one of many major sources of greenhouse gasses
// Wikimedia Commons

many species that are being forced to migrate so that they can maintain the temperature conditions they need for feeding and reproduction.

Our major cities could be underwater down the road. If the temperature rises by 2 degrees Celsius, the polar ice caps will melt dramatically, cause the oceans to rise, and put several major cities underwater including Miami, Florida; Galveston, Texas; Atlantic City, NJ; and Virginia Beach, VA. The evidence is clear and our participation in the Paris Accord is

more vital than ever before.

Get together with your friends and carpool to college to reduce your carbon footprint. Reduce electric waste by changing the lightbulbs to those that save you money on your electric bill. The best way to show those who have denied the fact that climate change is a problem is to show them the proof and to win them over with facts. The time to act to save our Earth, is right here and right now before it is too late!

Trump Administration's Border Policies Get More Vicious, Immigration Dwindles

OWEN McCLOSKEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Donald Trump's "no tolerance" border policy has been in effect for the good majority of his presidency. Trump's stance on the border was basically what won him the election. Out of all the phrases in the Trump lexicon, "Build the wall!" was certainly the most pervasive, and echoed out of each and every one of his rallies.

When Trump spoke of his big, beautiful wall at his rallies, he always made it clear as day that it would be a tangible wall across the southern border of the United States - an actual steel monolith of a wall across the entire border of the United States.

Well, the wall hasn't been built yet, but that doesn't mean that Trump hasn't tried cracking down on the southern border in other ways. Trump famously ordered an addition of 5,000 Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents to the staff of 20,000 five days after his inauguration. Although the CBP has had a net loss of 400 agents in 2017 and Trump's staffing goal has not nearly been met, Trump has promised to increase border apprehensions... but that hasn't happened either.

The truth is, border crossings have gone down recently - and although Trump will attribute this decrease in number to his border policies - that is most certainly not the case. Mexican immigration to the U.S. has sharply declined in recent years due to the booming Mexican economy and rising growth potential for Mexican citizens.



// MaxPixel.net

Most crossings at the southern border are actually due to refugees fleeing political instability in Central American and South American countries. Many of the people in countries like Honduras, Venezuela and Columbia don't have the resources to travel to the United States; in fact, Mexico has seen a sharp uptick in apprehension of migrants from Central American countries, specifically Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Central American refugees have found it immensely difficult to cross through Mexico safely due to cartels and corrupt police officials, and many have lost life and limb. Because of this,

the majority of asylum-seekers haven't been able to make it into the United States.

In fact, the number of reported border crossings has decreased from 1.6 million in 2000 to just around 250,000 in 2018. A 2017 Center for Migration Studies report even found that in 2014, two-thirds of all undocumented immigrants were people who already lived in the U.S. but overstayed their visas - and the trend continued.

So what gives? Trump supporters must be lackluster; there's no wall, there's no raise in CBP enrollment, and fewer migrants in more than a decade are illegally crossing the border.

However, Trump's incessant border policies are more of an ideological need rather than a practical one; so although the need for increased border security is not prevalent, the Trump administration will not stop implementing more border policies.

That brings us to the child detention centers on the southern border of the United States. The Trump administration has decided to immediately detain any migrant found on the border despite the downward trend in border migration.

Over 12,000 children are being detained at the border, in repurposed supermarkets or "tent cities" like the one in Tornillo, TX. The ACLU also reports that many of these facilities are run by the GEO Group, a private prison company known for sexually abusing and brutally beating teenage prisoners in similar facilities.

Just last June, Trump sent 1,600 undocumented migrants to federal prison to wait out the arrangement of their departure. Instead of providing humanitarian aid, the Trump administration has kept migrants in similar, if not worse conditions than they had come from.

Although there is not a serious border-crossing problem, Trump's administration has decided to ramp up CBP activity and the incarceration of many people who are trying to simply find a better life. It is a problem when people come to the country illegally, but instead of detaining migrants, it seems the administration has failed to offer services that make it easier for them to become citizens.

Why I Don't Celebrate Halloween

MICHELLE CONEO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While I grew up in Colombia, Halloween didn't have much meaning to me. My parents were strict in terms of my curfew and I never went trick-or-treating. The only reason why I was excited about October coming up was because of the birthday gifts I'd receive around that season. However, I was a fan of Disney movies and TV shows that were mainly produced here in the US; so a part of me was familiarized with this holiday.

The real reason I don't celebrate Halloween is not because I was born somewhere else or because it goes against with my culture. I don't celebrate Halloween because I'm a Christian. Yes, you may be rolling your eyes and thinking about how my life is really boring or how I've missed about 20 nights full of candy and mysterious stories told by strangers. But no, once you come to the understanding that God sent Jesus Christ to save you from your sins, that "sacrifice" of saying no to some candies and costumes seem minimal to what he did for all of us. Yes, for you. Even for those who constantly try to deny his existence.

I came to realize that God has a purpose in my life when I was 16. I had just gotten here to the U.S. in a cold December, but little did I know about the surprises I was going to receive. After a couple of months, October arrived; I started to see the leaves change their colors and the insides of stores turn orange and filled with spooky decoration. It was weird; I was definitely not used to such spirit of decoration about something that was not Christmas or even the Carnival we celebrate every year in Barranquilla. Nevertheless, I felt out of place and started to question the roots of this celebration.

A great deal of the information I found about Halloween described pagan festivities and celtic harvest celebrations. In fact, after reading some more about it, I came to the realization that the American version of these festivities is nothing but a glamorized impression. It has become a perfect social excuse to party, drink and steal others' identities for a night.

The problem is not that it became a reason to party; the issue is that most of those who dress up don't even know what it means. Celebrating something that does not belong to us is only making it into a business. Without even realizing, you're just another victim of



// Edriel Fimbres

consumerism.

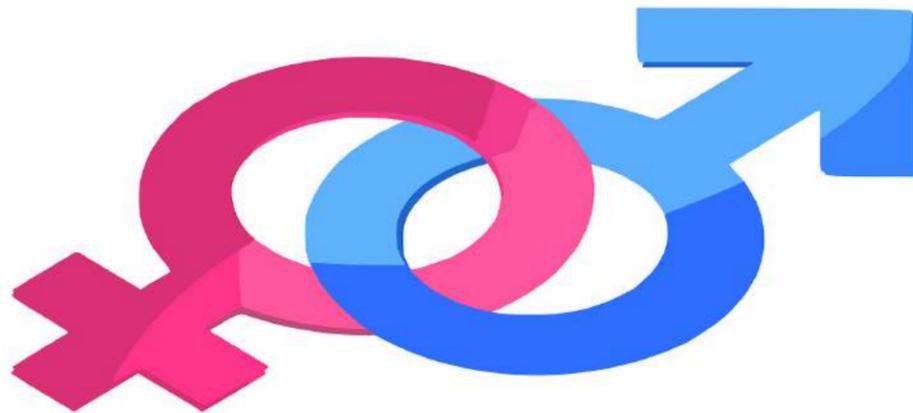
What are you letting yourself be fed with? The only way to answer that question is to research, acculturate yourself, and also have a firm grasp on the roots of this holiday that only seek to deceive the younger ones into the idea of scary things being cool or fun.

As a Christian, I feel that if something doesn't glorify God's name,

it is not worth celebrating. However, we, as human beings, should feel the need to know the meanings behind our actions. We need to be aware that everything we do has an impact on future generations - just like how we believe Christopher Columbus needed to be celebrated until a few did their history homeworks and found out about his misdeeds.

On my part, I have always respected every one's opinions about celebrating Halloween. However, the ones I can't respect are those that just roll with the multitude. Celebrating Halloween while ignoring its real meaning and history is just like celebrating Cinco de Mayo believing it's all about Mexico's Independence Day - an absurd assumption.

When Will the Labeling End?



// rawpixel.com

BILLY VOYLES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There is a terrible crisis happening in the LGBT community: patronization. People who have different sexual orientations or gender identities are being treated differently than how they wish to be treated. This problem has

been present since people began to express differences with the socially accepted norms of gender and sexuality.

People who believe that these changes are at best uncomfortable or at worst disgusting are also usually the ones who patronize the most by discriminating against others who are different from them. However, there

are those who patronize without ill intentions; they just don't know how to treat the LGBT community.

Those in the LGBT community who get patronized the most are transgender people, including those who are bigender, agender, transgender, or non-binary. People always expect them to act within the gender-norms they were born into, rather than the genders they wish to identify as.

Those who cannot choose between either gender identity are often stuck with labels such as "hermaphrodites" - people born with both male and female genitals. Ignorant people give these labels to those specific groups because some consider themselves either male, female or neither.

People also criticize those with different gender identities by not using preferred pronouns. For those who were born as males but want to be treated as females, they prefer to be referred to with feminine pronouns like "she" or

"her" rather than by "he" or "him."

For people who do not have gender identities, some use pronouns like "they" or "them" while others use pronouns like "it". People who identify as a non-binary gender sometimes use pronouns like "he," "him," "she" or "her" while others use their own pronouns like "vie," "vem" or "ver."

There are also those who are scrutinized not by their gender identities, but by their sexual identities - specifically homosexuals. They are treated in two different ways: with an expectation that homosexuals should act flamboyantly or with discrimination by homophobes or people who dislike homosexuals. Some people go as far as expecting homosexuals to stare at them or try to hook up with them. However, a large portion of homophobes can originate from those practicing a religion in which homosexuality is perceived as a sin.

FEATURES

Miss America Misses the Mark



Miss America 2018, Cara Mund makes an appearance in a parade during her year of service. // Mark Mauno

KATY TEMPLE
FEATURES EDITOR

In January of 2018, Gretchen Carlson announced that Miss America was getting a “Me Too Era” makeover, which meant saying goodbye to the swimsuit portion of competition, and welcoming yet another set of on-stage questioning. Theoretically, this will get more women participating in this form of “competition” and the organization will stop receiving so much criticism for being outdated, demeaning, and sexist, from people who know nothing about what we do. However, we’re forgetting a major problem that comes with calling this a “Me Too Era” makeover: swimsuits and pageantry do not cause sexual assault, and do not equate to lack of feminism in the organization.

Miss America is a representation of a well-rounded young woman who is graceful, poised, healthy, intelligent, and talented; all of which are important aspects of living a balanced lifestyle. When we take away swimsuit and turn this into a competition based solely on scholarship and talent, we have a glorified student government debate, or America’s Got Talent with some scholarship money attached and half as much air time.

I’m blatantly aware that living a healthy and active lifestyle doesn’t necessarily mean having a solid set of abs with long and lean limbs. You

can take a woman who dances and a woman who plays basketball (both of which are very physically demanding sports), put them in a bathing suit, and have them look completely different, while both being recognized as physically fit. I’m also aware that I put a lot more energy into my diet and exercises than the average 22-year-old college woman, and I know for a fact I wouldn’t be doing that if I didn’t have to get on stage in a swimsuit.

With all that hassle comes an indescribable sense of confidence. If you can walk confidently in a swimsuit and heels, in front of hundreds or thousands of people, you really can do anything. Swimsuit based competitions aren’t about having a perfectly carved-out six pack with freakishly defined biceps, it’s all about confidence. I’ve walked onto stage at so many different weights and shapes and I felt just as empowered, every time.

The intentions behind this change were genuine. I completely agree that swimsuit should be revisited, but why not supplement it with a fitness routine similar to what the teen competitors do? Why not cut the weight off the swimsuit score to 5 percent and increase our interview percentage? To scratch swimsuit without a similar alternative completely changes what

Miss America is all about.

The reason I fell in love with this organization was because it was the only environment in which I was encouraged to embrace my femininity, while also being valued for my intelligence and opinions, which doesn’t always happen in an academic setting. When I walk into a Miss America interview with my hair and makeup done, sporting high heels and a dress, people are expecting me to comment on our political and social climate and on top of that, everything I say is taken with the utmost respect.

People like to argue that pageantry is anti-feminist, but it’s one of the most empowering feminist organizations to exist. Feminism isn’t just about supporting the women who chose not to conform to stereotypical gender roles, it’s about accepting the women who still do. I’m not any less of a feminist or a Me Too supporter because I like evening gowns and makeup.

Feminism is crucial, the Me Too movement is only becoming more relevant, but the Miss America Organization needs to do better.

With Gretchen making such a scene about this competition being focused on intellect, we were expecting questions similar to the ones that were asked on stage last year at

the national pageant. Miss New Jersey was asked about confederate statues, Miss North Dakota (who ended up being crowned Miss America) was asked about the Paris Climate Accord, and one of the contestants had to address white power marches and riots in Charlottesville. Those questions made headlines. Those questions gained national traction for the organization, and those questions finally proved to the world that pageant girls are indeed smart!

Then the 2019 competition came around in early September and viewers were left disappointed and confused. Contestants ended up talking about every basic, simple, and stereotypical pageant topic with answers that matched accordingly. There were no politics or social problems to be found despite Gretchen’s constant emphasis on intellect and current events.

This is not to say that a Miss America should be a politician, but she should absolutely know what’s going on in the country she’s representing. Unfortunately, that includes political problems and social issues. This was the year that the organization could have sent the world a message. If you want Miss America to be known for having a brain, let her use it.

Matte Makes a Comeback - 6 Fall Makeup Trends You Don't Want to Skip

KATY TEMPLE

FEATURES EDITOR

We're kissing those long summer nights goodbye, along with the dewy skin and glossy lips that went with them! With high temperatures dropping and trips to the apple orchard farms getting closer, it's time to ditch the gloss and the highlighter, and get back to our mattes and bold colors!

Cold-Weather Cheeks: We all can't walk in from the crisp fall outdoors with perfectly flushed cheeks, unless you're Blake Lively walking around the Upper East Side as Serena Van Der Woodsen. Get a natural-looking flush with a pink blush dusted over just the apples of your cheeks. Blending blush and bronzer was huge for this summer, but having focused color on your cheeks will add to the illusion of having walked in from a chilly stroll.

Bold Lips: When it comes to fall lipstick, we usually think about our browns, deep reds, and plums. While those colors are a classic staple for fall makeup, any bold color is appropriate for this fall. After Brandon Maxwell debuted a hot pink matte lip in his Fall 2018 collection, no color is off-limits when it comes to a matte statement lip!

Jewel-Toned Eyes: Think emerald, sapphire, and ruby when it comes to your eyeshadow this season. You could absolutely spend an hour blending out the perfect jewel-toned smokey eye if that's your style, or pop a single shadow on your lid and blend into the crease for a simple wash of bold color. Either way, you're in style and out the door with a trendy fresh face.

Cool-Toned Bronzer: The Physician's Formula Butter Bronzer was flying off the shelves this summer. But now that it's colder, we're ditching



// Katy Temple

the sun-kissed look and diving head first into cool-toned cut cheeks. To avoid a muddy looking cheekbone, apply your contour color on your actual cheekbone rather than right below it. This will give your face a lift without any actual botox and give you some extra blending room.

Cream Highlights: A blinding highlight doesn't do much good when there's no sun to reflect off of it. Cream highlighters are perfect for adding a subtle glow to the skin without having to add more powder to skin that's probably already dry (cooler temperatures means dryer skin all across the board, even people with oily skin get less oily in the winter). Some cream products don't



// pixabay.com

always sit well on top of powder, so opt for a lighter formula, or place it on top of foundation before setting your face.

Graphic Liner: Not everyone has time to blend out eyeshadow, even if it's only one color. Eyeliner can make any look complete, even if there's no eyeshadow involved. Weather it be a bold wing, a bright color, or a thick straight line, eyeliner is a quick and easy way to add depth to any look.

This is a community college, I don't think any of us are rushing to Sephora or Ulta to buy the newest fall launches (and if you are, I envy you). But, picking up one or two staples from brands you enjoy is the perfect way to amp up your makeup bag without breaking the bank.

If you want to skip big box makeup stores completely, save up your coupons at CVS and plan your trip before you go. I know it sounds utterly ridiculous to plan a trip to the drugstore, but by researching what sales were going on and saving up my ExtraBucks (basically free money to use in CVS), I can save \$20-\$50 every time I'm in there for a bigger purchase.

May your lips stay lined and contour stay sharp. Happy Fall!



// pexels.com



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(**Garba** - a form of Asian Indian dance, originated in the state of Gujarat, India)

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From 4: 00pm-6: 00pm

Where: Room C-211 (Pitkin Education Center)

Light Refreshments will be served

The Origins of Halloween: From Sacrifices to Cavities



Herne's Oak from 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' by George Cruikshank // Wikimedia Commons

PATRICK CAO

STAFF WRITER

When we think about Halloween, the first things that come to mind are usually fun-sized candy bars and forty-dollar costumes, but in reality, there is a rich history behind the seemingly simple holiday.

Dating back roughly 2,000 years to an area that is now considered to be the United Kingdom, the Celts were the first originators of Halloween, with their version being called Samhain. Since November 1 was the Celts' new year, October 31 served to represent the beginning of the harsh winter along with commemorating the dead. During Samhain, the Celts believed that the world of the living and dead would combine, making Druids

(high-ranking religious figures) build massive bonfires where people would burn crops and animals to appease the Deities. In addition to these sacrifices, the Celts would dress in costumes made of animal skins and relight any extinguished fires to symbolize being warm in the winter.

However, by the 9th century, the Celtic land and its traditions (which were conquered by the Roman Empire at this time), had become more grounded in Christianity and controlled by the church. The churches would create a new holiday named All Souls Day to honor the dead while maintaining the traditions of Samhain such as having festivals and wearing costumes, only now representing saints, angels, and demons. Over time,

All Souls Day eventually started being called All-hallows or All-hallowmas, from Middle English Alhallowmesse meaning All Saints' Day, which would eventually become Halloween.

Around the turn of the eighteenth century, settlers from the Old World came to the colonies, and their version Halloween was limited to Maryland and southern colonies due to the dominant Protestant reign at the time. During Halloween, settlers would have festivals, dance, and tell stories about the dead or ghosts. But it was during the time of the Irish Potato Famine that millions of immigrants from Ireland and England settled in the colonies and shared their Halloween traditions, which led to dressing up in costumes and going door-to-door

for food or money that soon became "trick-or-treating."

As Halloween grew in popularity around the 1920s and 1930s, families and news media at the time reformed the day to be more community-based, making the religious undertones in it eventually fade away. Especially during the 1950s, when the baby boom erupted, Halloween was widely celebrated throughout the country with the emergence of new children. Also, in order to keep the mischief in check with children, adults would offer small amounts of candy if they strayed from pranks.

Who knew that from an ancient Celtic ritual, the world would have one of the most commercially successful holidays?

A Broke Girl's Guide to Halloween Costumes

ASHLEY SMITH

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you waited this long to pick out a Halloween costume, fear not! There's still time to assemble the perfect look. These ideas are inexpensive, simple, and easy to assemble.

Masks: Buying a mask is probably the most simple solution. If you've watched the famous movie *The Purge*, citizens would cover their identity with masks while they purged away their sins. Most horror movies have characters with masks that you can choose from, including:

- Friday the 13th - Michael Myers
- Nightmare on Elm Street - Freddy Krueger
- Scream - Ghostface
- Saw - Jigsaw

Footie Pajamas: This costume idea is for people who are extremely lazy. As an adult, you probably received footie pajamas from a relative for Christmas because they completely forgot to get you a gift. Now you're stuck with it, not having worn it once. Most footie pajamas come as a costume already. You can be an animal, a superhero, or a giant baby; the possibilities are endless.

Faux animal ears and tails: One trick for a last-minute costume is making or buying some type of animal ears with a matching tail. These are relatively inexpensive and perfect for last-minute ideas. Make it more believable by drawing whiskers and a cute nose to match.

80-90's school nerd: If you remember the sitcoms *Family Matters*, *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, and *Drake and Josh*, you'd probably remember their infamous geeky cast members like Carlton Banks, Steve Urkel, and Craig and Eric. They play your stereotypical nerds who are honors students, inventing gadgets, or being captain of the chess team. Get your signature geek look by putting duct tape on glasses, wearing your pants too high, and having long socks outside of your pants.

Favorite celebrity: You don't have to go shopping for expensive items to transform into your favorite celebrity. Watch a few tutorials on how to get their iconic look, and before you know it, you will be mistaken as someone from Hollywood.

Face paint: You don't need to be a professional when it comes to painting your face. If you don't have any ideas, watch some cool videos on YouTube for step-by-step instructions. Here are a few ideas for you to try:

- Sugarskull
- Creepy Doll
- Mime
- Clown

Memes: Halloween is a time where people express themselves through a creative, never-before-seen costume. Dressing up as a superhero or something provocative won't do. Our



// Ashley Smith

generation usually tries to impress each other with dank memes. Here are a few ideas to become your favorite meme:

- Salt Bae
- Danielle Breggoli - "Cash me outside"

- Mocking Spongebob
- Meryl Steep shout
- Dark Kermit

7 Fun Things to Do This Fall

ASHLEY SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fall is finally upon us! Soon the leaves will start to change, our days will get shorter, and our mornings will get chillier. Even though we will miss our long summer days and warm nights, we can look forward to the exciting season that's approaching us! To celebrate autumn, here's a list of fun activities and adventures to go on this fall.

Pumpkin picking: Fall is famous for for pumpkin season. Coffee shops, restaurants, and stores start to sell their pumpkin drinks, foods, and products to begin the season. You can go to your local pumpkin patch and do many free activities like going on hayrides, wandering through corn mazes, hanging out at petting zoos, and even making a Jack-o-lantern.

Amusement parks: One thing you can still enjoy during the fall is an amusement park. Once fall arrives, amusement parks transition from their fun-filled summer theme to spooky horror nights. Once the night falls, all the scary creatures of the night come out to spook the living. Visit your local amusement parks for a horror filled weekend.

- Six Flags - Fright Fest
- Dorney Park- Halloween Haunt
- Hershey Park - Hershey Park in the Dark

Haunted attractions: Whether you're into strange characters screaming in your face or paranormal activity, one thing to do this fall is visit a haunted attraction. America has so much history and violence which left so many lingering souls haunting old hotels, famous homes, asylums jails, and museums. With most locations, you can get a day tour, or even a ghost tour at night.

Halloween: Enjoy a fun-filled holiday with family and friends dressing up as your favorite superhero, villain, princess, or even as the opposite sex. There are no rules to Halloween, so be whoever you want. It's the only holiday where we go door-to-door to collect sweets from strangers with no questions asked. Attend Halloween parades with family, or even host your own Halloween costume party.

Football: Nothing screams fall like football! Throw on your favorite jersey because football season is finally here. The NFL's regular season began on September 6th. One way to enjoy football is through tailgating, which is a pre-event tradition for both professional and college football. In other words, it's the party before the event.

Movies: There's something about chilly weather and movies that just go together. Whether you're rewatching your favorite childhood movies, classics, or horror movies, there's no better way to bring in the season all cozied up watching the big screen.

Weather: As the air gets crisp and the leaves start to change from their vibrant greens to autumn reds and golds, some say the best things in life are free, like the beauty of nature. Here are a few ways to enjoy nature this fall.

- Hiking (Pleasant Park or Tamandua Rainforest expeditions)
- Nature centers (Palisades Interstate Park Trail or Ramapo Mountain State Forest)
- Parks (Central Park or Saddle River Park)



Autumn brings out beautiful colors in nature, but also provides excellent weather for cozying up with a sweater, a book, and a nice mug of coffee.
// Ashley Smith

6 Halloween Movies to Watch



// flickr.com/theglobalpanorama

JOHNATHAN FLYNN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's October and everybody is preparing for All Hallows Eve. They are decorating houses, planning parties, preparing costumes and, above all for a cinephile like myself, watching movies that fit the season. Watching holiday movies is an important part of any holiday in the current era and Halloween is no exception. Here are some movies that you should watch this Halloween, ranging from popular ones to more obscure ones.

1. Halloween (1978): The seminal slasher film follows Laurie Strode, a teenage babysitter, as she and her friends are stalked by an escaped mental patient. This appropriately-named horror film is a staple of the season and is an obvious choice for a watch, especially in the lead up to its direct sequel, Halloween (2018) and the 40th anniversary of the film itself.

2. Gravy (2015): This is an obscure indie horror-comedy slasher film about a staff of a bar that are taken hostage by a group of cannibals on Halloween and forced to play ridiculous games to win their survival... until the next round. This is a cult film that invokes a midnight movie aesthetic - a fun watch for some laughs between screams.

3. Trick 'r Treat (2007): This horror anthology tells several intersecting tales that show what happens to those who break the rules of Halloween. It takes place over a single Halloween, mainly connected by a trick or treating child named Sam. This is a good example of the spectrum of horror genres from slasher to monster and everything in between, a good addition to your Halloween watch-list.

4. Idle Hands (1999): A horror-comedy about a stoner whose hand becomes possessed by a demon that goes on a killing spree while the stoner is along for the ride. This film featuring Jessica Alba, early in her career, is a good film for gallows humor and is exactly what you would expect from a late 90s horror-comedy.

5. Halloween H20 (1998): This movie is the first to wipe the slate clean for the Halloween series. This film ignores the fourth, fifth, and sixth films to continue Laurie Strode's story from Halloween 1 and 2. This film is similar in theming to the upcoming sequel that seems to be about Strode's overcoming of her boogeyman. A good horror film full of suspense and scares.

6. The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993): This classic double-whammy film is good for the family to watch on both Christmas and Halloween. The Nightmare Before Christmas follows the story of a personification of Halloween who has grown bored of the monotony of Halloween tradition and decides to try taking control of Christmas to experience something new.

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Marvel's Spider-Man: the Good, the Bad, and the Amazing



Intense combat and a dynamic environment for dishing out justice can be found in the latest Spider Man. // flickr.com

FRANCISCO CAMACHO

STAFF WRITER

Insomniac Games, Inc. has been reaping the fruits of their labor this September. They are responsible for developing the most anticipated game of the year, Marvel's Spider-Man. The PlayStation exclusive sold 3.3 million copies within the first 72 hours of its release - and deservedly so.

From beginning to end, Spider-Man is a non-stop adrenaline rush. With a riveting story, flowing and dynamic combat and a generous reward system, the game is like a trip that never ends. The visuals of the game are stunning with vibrant colors that grip you from

the very first second of booting up the game. New York City has never looked more beautiful as Spider-Man swings around the diverse concrete jungle, exploring and fighting crime at every block. This game is nothing short of excellence and is a competitor for this 2018's Game of the Year.

As if you were transported right into the classic comic book, the game is a worthy revival of the true essence of the web-slinging hero. Every second playing the game incorporates elements from almost every piece of Spider-Man media - a feat that is nothing short of spectacular. Insomniac knew that there was an active Spider-Man fan base -

and they delivered. From the current Marvel Cinematic Universe to even the dated Amazing Fantasy Spider-Man, there's something for every fan out there. Furthermore, Insomniac knew that the Spider-Man brand is expansive and means something different to each fan. To appease even the pickiest fans, the studio incorporated as much as they could from the Spider-Man universe into the game. As a game with gripping writing as it follows Peter Parker, Mary Jane and Miles Morales, players cannot help but feel rising emotions as they follow through the eyes of these characters, voiced by extremely talented voice actors. To top it off, this

game is the closest representation of Peter Parker and his story. Have a tissue box handy while playing this game; it can be a tearjerker at times.

While the story and voice acting are nothing less than perfect, we need to consider the most important part: the gameplay. Fear not, fans; there is nothing but praise in this department. Every button-press, trigger-pull, and joystick-push is associated with fluid movement and combat as Spider-Man swings, punches, kicks, flips, and traverses through New York City. It truly does make you feel like you're Spider-Man. The many aerial combos and web moves that you can perform are not only aesthetically pleasing, but satisfying and entertaining. With extensive upgrades and gadgets, the game never seems to have any downtime or boring moment.

As more games incorporate microtransaction systems, Spider-Man swings the other way. Once players buy the game, they have access to everything - a breath of fresh air in a market filled with these sorts of problems. Plainly and simply, this game rewards players for playing rather than paying. All upgrades and cosmetics are available as the game progresses. Nowadays, we see too many instances of developers locking content behind paywalls. However, Insomniac decided to stay away from that and made players feel a sense of accomplishment by allowing them to unlock everything through gameplay.

Overall, Spider-Man is a game to go down in gaming history as a legend. If I had it to give it a score, it would be a 9/10. From beginning to end, the game is an exhilarating adventure. Anyone who is a Spider-Man fan - or isn't - should have this on the top of their lists of games to play.

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Boston Celtics Predicted to Take on “Unbeatable” Golden State Warriors

JELSON MONTERO
SPORTS EDITOR

As the calendar flips into October, the sight of basketball appears more and more. Last season concluded with yet another championship parade for the Golden State Warriors. They cemented their place in history by becoming a dynasty. With new faces joining new teams, this year's NBA season will be filled with lots excitement and drama.

The biggest story of the offseason belongs to the Lakers, with their signing of LeBron James. The Lakers landed the best player in the world and that should put them as title contenders, however, they play in the Western Conference. The Western Conference is filled with tough teams such as the Thunder, Rockets, Trail Blazers, Jazz, Spurs, Pelicans, and of course the Warriors. The Lakers have not made the playoffs since 2013. With their new additions they hope to bounce back and contend with top tier teams.

The Oklahoma City Thunder had a busy offseason. They've placed all of the focus on re-signing Paul George. Having George and Westbrook together for another year makes a top five team in the west. Additions like Dennis Schroder and Nerlens Noel will help with their bench depth.

The Houston Rockets took a defensive hit by losing Trevor Ariza. The team took a chance by signing the veteran Carmelo Anthony after he was waived by the Atlanta Hawks. Although Anthony can help out on the offensive side there are questions about his defense.

For San Antonio it was an offseason



// Wikimedia Commons

like no other. The team was forced to trade away their star player, Kawhi Leonard, due to the lack of trust between both sides. They were able to land all-star Demar Derozan from the Raptors for Leonard. Derozan was shocked at the time of the trade however it was a move the Spurs were forced to make.

The Eastern Conference was dominated by LeBron James for almost a decade. His departure opens up the path for several teams in the East to the finals. The Boston Celtics seem to be the favorites heading into the year. The Celtics did not make new additions, however, Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward are returning from injury.

The young Celtics team lead by Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Terry Rozier made the Eastern Conference finals a year ago and now are getting their two best players for a full season.

Despite trading away the best player in franchise history, the Toronto Raptors upgraded by getting Kawhi Leonard. Leonard was clearly unhappy in San Antonio so the Raptors viewed it as an opportunity to get a top five talent in the game. Derozan will go down as the best player in Raptors history but it was a move the Raptors felt they had to make.

The Philadelphia 76ers made great progress a year ago. Joel Embid became

a top five big men in the game and Ben Simmons added a rookie of the year award. The 76ers are hoping for a bounce back year from Markelle Fultz in order to compete with the Celtics and Raptors. They missed on some key free agent signings like LeBron James and Paul George.

It seems like the Warriors will be the team to come out of the Western Conference once again. Adding Demarcus Cousins makes them almost unstoppable. In the East the Celtics seem like the team that will end up facing the warriors in June. A Celtics vs Warriors finals seems to be a great battle for the finals trophy.

Bergen Community College Cheer Team Makes a Comeback

STEPHANIE ZENA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last year, Bergen Community College and Student Life decided to introduce a new club, and revived a sport titled “Cheer Squad.” The Cheer Squad President Gianna DiFiore and Vice President Leanna Tsiakaros were captains of the team, and decided they wanted to work together to create a cheer team. Those two girls had experience cheering throughout their high school years. Also, the girls noticed that Bergen no longer had one, so they both went into Student Life and had a discussion about reviving the Cheer Team.

At Bergen, cheering ended up getting banned a long time ago, when a serious incident occurred, involving girls on the team performing stunts and tricks during one of the basketball games, leading into an injury. The girls filled out all the paperwork, included faculty advisors for the club, and gathered and recruited girls who signed up to be part of the team. Each of the girls who signed up to join didn't need to have cheer experience to join. The team accepted everyone last year, since it was their first time ever running a cheer team back in Bergen. As of today, the Cheer Squad made an agreement in the contract to not include stunts and tricks because of the liability and safety reasons on campus. “The whole team had worked hard projecting their voices when they shouted their cheers out loud, sat up straight, and smiled while cheering,” coach Laura Madeira says. “Let's see what this upcoming



Fall 2017 BCC Cheer Team. // Laura Madeira

season holds for the team.”

This year, the cheer squad and their captains will be holding tryouts to determine their roster for the upcoming 2018-2019 basketball season. The tryouts were based on how well each girl can dance and memorize the cheers, in order to prepare themselves for the new season. Last year, the cheer team had an opportunity to cheer for the scrimmage basketball game to see how their seats are formed on the bleachers in the gym. They also participated in the pep rally, which was the same day as the last basketball game of the season, to

represent all the Bergen Athletics team back in February of this year.

The team will also be raising money based upon the school's budget to order and provide new uniforms, bows, pompoms and shoes for this season. Unfortunately, they had no chance to do so last season because of the girls leaving the team.

For the 2018-2019 season, the goal for the cheer team is to aim for a stronger bond, and to try to add up more girls to the team. This would also give them an opportunity for them to work together, add more energy to

the cheers, and choreograph a dance routine for the halftime performance. They will also create a small dance for the timeout show. The captains and the entire team have looked forward to structuring the energy and project. They have trained the girls to work harder from last season.

The coaches have worked with the entire team to push through and be sure they're all focused and trained, so they can be the best cheer squad in all Bergen Athletics history, compared to many years ago. Practices take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays in C106D.



Giants Fumble Through 2018 Season Despite Restructuring

FRANCISCO CAMACHO
STAFF WRITER

At the end of the NFL's 2017 season, the New York Giants went under a lot of changes. The first domino to fall was former head coach Ben McAdoo, followed by the ownership firing the long-standing general manager Jerry Reese. It was a much needed change, considering the myriad of controversy that plagued the team last year; like the benching of Eli Manning and the team's abysmal record.

The changes started by hiring the Minnesota Vikings' offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur. They also hired the Carolina Panthers general manager Dave Gettleman. Their task is to turn around a franchise who had a 4-12 record the previous season.

The problems were obvious. The offensive line was terrible and there was no run game. They signed Nate Solder, who was the best left tackle available, and drafted William Hernandez, a highly-touted college guard. The biggest move was drafting Saquon Barkley, the Penn State running back and Heisman trophy finalist.

This season is filled with hope. Getting Odell Beckham Jr. back would bolster the passing game. The additions to the offensive line will help Saquon start off strong. The Giants are positioned to have a great season behind a dynamic offense.

Instead the opposite has happened and the offense has looked stagnant. Currently sitting on 1-2 record, they've suffered two ugly losses. The offense looks nothing like advertised as the line is still struggling to block. Eli Manning sees himself with no time to throw as he's been sacked the most with less than 2.5 seconds in the pocket.



// Wikimedia Commons

This puts Giants management in a difficult spot. Do they start thinking about the future? They have the young assets like Odell Beckham Jr., Saquon Barkley, and Evan Engram in place to make a run for years to come. Do they move on from Eli? He has looked very slow lately.

The Giants have a lot of questions to answer. If the team performs the same as last year it might be time to let go of past relics like Eli Manning and start looking for the quarterback of the future. Start drafting linemen and make sure that who ever the quarterback is protected.

This team is on the clock and time is running out. The management is going to have to make a decision. They need to think of the future considering Eli Manning's age and the hits he keeps taking. If the franchise does not start thinking of this soon the team could end up being in shambles.

Kaepernick Refuses to Kneel to Racism

JELSON MONTERO
SPORTS EDITOR

Nike is celebrating their 30th anniversary of their "Just Do It" ad campaign. The company recently chose Colin Kaepernick to be the face of their new ad and commercial. Kaepernick has been a huge supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement and has expressed his disdain towards police brutality.

In September of 2016, Kaepernick took a knee during the National Anthem while playing for the San Francisco 49ers. This act divided the nation. Some people believed in his message and supported him. Others were against his act and felt that Kaepernick was disrespecting the American flag by taking a knee.

Kaepernick has stated that his actions were to bring light on the violence against minorities and not being against the military. Steven Ruiz from USA Today.com wrote, "A reminder that an army vet suggested Colin Kaepernick kneel during the anthem." Army veteran Nate Boyer convinced Kaepernick to kneel in order to show respect towards the the flag and protest police brutality respectfully.

Although getting some backlash, Nike has decided that Kaepernick's courage and message was worth telling. The ad campaign was a picture of Kaepernick with the quote, "Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything." The ad was also followed by a commercial that emphasizes taking risk, not being afraid to fail and to fight for what you believe in.

Many people did not enjoy the ad campaign and decided to show Nike by burning their Nike sneakers. Others decided to boycott the company. Backlash from people like President



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick's refusal to kneel during the national anthem lead to major controversy among sports fans // flickr.com/BrookWard

Trump, Tomi Lahren, John Rich, etc. Despite the backlash Nike has had support from many big names such as LeBron James, Serena Williams, Ava DuVernay, etc.

Many believed Nike's sales would drop dramatically however it was just the opposite. Diana Pearl from adweek.com writes, "Despite initial blowback for its controversial Kaepernick ad,

Nike's sales and stocks increase." Nike believed that the message was greater than any backlash they would receive and chose to support Kaepernick.

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The Torch SPORTS



Should Student Athletes Take Financial Courses?

JELSON MONTERO
SPORTS EDITOR

Student athletes enter college with aspirations of becoming pro athletes, and some of them do become pros and sign million-dollar contracts. Acquiring millions of dollars at a young age can be overwhelming for many of these students. There are many cases where athletes have properly managed their money but unfortunately, there have also been many athletes who have not.

Colleges and universities allow first-year students to enter their pro careers as soon as they become drafted. Many of these students do not feel the need to take interest in their classes if they know they will be paid millions in a couple of months and their dreams will be achieved.

Jack Maloney from CBS Sports wrote an article on NBA star Ben Simmons and his college experience. Maloney's article titled, "Sixers' Ben Simmons On His Time at LSU: 'I Don't Really Know What I Learned.'"

Simmons was selected as the number one pick in the NBA draft and was paid millions of dollars right out of college. Fortunately, Simmons has a great supporting cast of people



// Edriel Fimbres

such as Klutch Sports founded by Rich Paul. Paul and members of his team are able to give Simmons financial and life advice. However, many athletes are not as fortunate and never receive proper financial education.

Kyrie Irving has recently enrolled

in a financial literacy program at Harvard Business School. Nicole Yang from boston.com writes, "The program is designed to help pro athletes better prepare themselves for business activities during and after their sports careers."

A player of Irving's magnitude realizes the advantages of being financially stable. Being educated on how to properly manage money saves athletes from bankruptcy and life altering decisions based off of financial problems.

Madrid Struggles with Absence of Cristiano Ronaldo

ROBERT C McDERMOTT
AD MANAGER

The UEFA Champions League is back after an exciting first matchday of the yearly tournament. 32 of Europe's best clubs will be hoping to advance over the next few months to the knockout stages. Many pundits try to predict the outcome of the competition each year, but this year the competition could see a change of pace. Real Madrid has won the Champions League four times in the past five years. They took a setback when the Spanish team sold superstar Cristiano Ronaldo to Juventus.

Real Madrid still has a strong squad and will still undoubtedly contend for the Champions League Trophy. Unfortunately, when a team sells a player of Ronaldo's caliber, they essentially are losing someone who could save them in the final minutes of a match. The Portuguese attacker has the most goals ever scored in the UEFA Champions League, putting the ball in the back of the net 120 different times. This year could be an end to an era of complete dominance by Madrid in the tournament.

Juventus could see a long and successful run for themselves with a dangerous team that can score. As mentioned, Cristiano Ronaldo was picked up by the Italian Club, for a not-so moderate fee of \$88 million. The team as a whole has been underperforming, but still winning as Ronaldo has proved to be a crucial part of the team. Other players still need to step up if they want to have a chance in this competition.



Champions League 2017-18 winners Real Madrid being crowned champions. // Wikimedia Commons

So far this season, the team has had troubles with their defense, but a crucial game against Napoli proved Ronaldo was their best weapon. He was involved in all three goals in a tense 3-1 victory against league rivals Napoli. Juventus' goal this season should be to focus on getting to the final and not underestimating their opponents attack.

The German clubs in the tournament should not be overlooked as we head

into the next matchday. Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund have already made their impacts in the first games. Bayern defeated Portugal's Benfica 2-0, while Dortmund just got by Club Brugge after a late goal by American Christian Pulisic in the 85th min. Munich are in a fairly easy group E, while Dortmund reside in group A with the likes of Atletico Madrid, Monaco and Club Brugge.

While Bayern has always shined domestically and internationally, Dortmund are currently sitting top of the table one point ahead of Bayern in the German Bundesliga. Dortmund hope to see a long and memorable year in this tournament, and it looks like they might get just that. Marco Reus, Christian Pulisic, Jadon Sancho and Mahmoud Dahoud are their key players to watch for this season.

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