‘You Talk Like You’re White’

LESHEY JONES
Senior Writer

On a beautiful Sunday morning, I was at my church in Harlem having a conversation with three of my friends before service.

One of my friends stopped our conversation and said, "I'm not gonna hold y'all, but y'all sound mad white."

When it comes to language, there are millions of dialects that people use depending on where they're from and how they are brought up.

Many people would expect me to speak in African-American English (AAVE), especially my African-American peers.

However, I have been told more times than I can count that I talk like I am white.

When you look into the world of linguistics of the American language, Standard English is the most commonly spoken version.

Often times, people who speak AAVE know how to switch to Standard English depending on their environment. It is almost like speaking two languages.

I found at a young age that it is tiring to keep switching the way that I talk, so I stuck with the one that I was more comfortable with which was Standard English.

I grew up in a family that, for the most part, spoke Standard English. My grandmother, who doesn't have an education, even tried her best to speak properly.

However, similar to a lot of black people, we had our moments, and we still do.

I also went to a predominantly white school when I was a kid and, at one point, was the only African-American in my class. So, like most children still learning how to behave, I modeled my surroundings.

What really bothers me is that Standard English, or "proper" English as most would call it, is associated with being white.

I have an education - one that is very expensive. I like to use that education in my speech.

Just because I don’t say the N-word in every other sentence, or just because I don’t use slang 24/7 doesn’t mean that I talk like I'm "white."

A lot of black people still have that mentality that we live separately from white people, and I get it. We have been scared of each other for years again by "the white man."

Many black people talk themselves down to the point where we can't speak proper English because that’s how white people talk.

The color of your skin and the way you speak should have no correlation but, unfortunately, it still does.

I am an African-American woman and the way I speak will never change that fact.

BCC President Michael Redmond Promotes 'Excellence Through Inclusivity' 

OWEN MccLOSKEY
Editor-in-Chief

BCC President Michael Redmond’s first year as Interim President of Bergen Community College during the 2017-2018 academic year had left his administration “putting out small fires” on various problems at Bergen. Following the wake of the Walter Redmond administration, Redmond has had to deal with a wide array of issues, from the student return rate to a decline in enrollment.

Redmond was appointed by the Board of Trustees to a one-year contract, just before Governor Phil Murphy signed a law that would require only 60 credits for an Associate’s Degree. Before the action was passed, Bergen required 64 to 66 credits to graduate, and this small change has forced many colleges to revamp their entire curriculum. This has left Bergen’s administrators in a complicated position, as it now requires a large amount of curricular restructuring, said Redmond.

However, Redmond assures a meticulously-planned solution, and is currently working with Academic Affairs Vice President Dr. William Mullaney to solve the issue.

Redmond also cited the large number of students at Bergen who are on academic probation.

Many students are not able to take another course, so that’s about a loss of 300 students each time.”

This is a huge problem for Bergen, especially in a time of mass decline in student enrollment at community colleges around the country. Redmond even noticed that the long lines that were strewn about Bergen on the first day were mainly comprised of students on academic probation waiting to speak with an advisor, and felt concerned because he would “rather see them in a classroom.”

This brings up a point that waiting for an advisor is counterintuitive, because if students on probation want to succeed, they should not be missing their first day of class. Redmond is working with Mullaney to cut the probationary rate by 20 percent over the course of the next year, and cites “early alert systems” as one of the biggest catalysts to academic probation.

“We need a better early alert system. Students don’t always know when they’re getting in trouble in the classroom until it’s too late... We have an excellent tutoring service.”

President Michael Redmond // BCC Public Relations

Be More Chill: A Rock Musical For Generation Z

Venezuela Keeps Moving Forward

What The Hell’s Intersectionality and Why Is It So Important?

Featured Articles:

Be More Chill: A Rock Musical For Generation Z

Organizational Tips for College


drawn by Edriel Fimbres

// Edited by Edriel Fimbres
Radio Hosts Call NJ Attorney General ‘Turban Man, Get Suspended’

TIFFANY MARIE VELEZ

In July, Dennis Malloy and Juli Franco, hosts of WKXW-FM, were suspended after calling New Jersey’s Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal a ‘Turban man’ on air. The suspension only lasted 10 days. Before their dialogue, they warned listeners that they would suspend their comments to avoid being offensive, yet once it was too late.

During a segment on New Jersey’s 101.5, titled The Dennis and Juli Show, a conversation regarding Grewal’s recent decision to suspend marijuana initiative to suspend marijuana, Franco, hosts of WKXW-FM, were posted on his Twitter with the intention to “support and serve the purpose to inform students, ranging from ethnicities to the diversity of our community, which is a judgment-free zone where everyone inspire students, offering them many opportunities of volunteering hours outside of campus.

For instance, clubs like D.I.V.A (Determined Intelligent Valuable Accountable girls) Club empower and forgetting about everyday worries, but they’re mainly working. Every now and they're always working on something of really getting involved. So, that's Bards and Scribes. Their organization to implement free zone where students are welcome to watch their literature and art. There is no doubt that the life of a college student is abundant in choices. Each one of our students is unique and has their own way of life, to approximate, but nine times out of ten, you will meet someone who has a similar background and has a similar interest. But, despite what they might think, they’re not alone in their struggles. That's what makes our community so special.

On Thursday, September 7, the Bergen County Community College (BCC) kicked off its new school year with Club Day. The event was held in the Student Center and was open to all students.

SGA President Focuses on Student Involvement and Enrollment

On Thursday, August 30th, I sat down with the incoming student president, Marlen Herrera, to discuss her role as SGA President and the importance of student involvement and registration.

Marlen Herrera is a General Natural Science and Math major, and worked as an assistant “‘Turban’ Malloy then responded, ‘If that offends you, then you don’t wear the turban, and maybe you’ll remember your name.’

In a response to these heinous remarks, Grewal posted on his Twitter account saying, ‘My name, for the record, is Gurbir Grewal. I’m the 61st American. I have 3 daughters. And yesterday, I told them to turn off the American.’

Born to two Indian parents, Grewal was born in Jersey City. Before becoming the NJ Attorney General, Grewal was a Bergen county prosecutor and worked as an assistant US attorney.

In Sikh religion, turbans are used to represent self respect, honor, and courage. And many Sikhs that wear a turban represent the Sikh religion, but the religion does not define Grewal. Malloy apologized to Grewal, on behalf of himself and his co-host France and said, ‘I was not offering hurtful or offensive remarks to the attorney general of the state of New Jersey, who is a man who certainly deserves more respect than our comments reflected on Wednesday.’

“The numbers are crazy; everywhere you go, you will see at least one Venezuelan,” said Melvis. “They come from throughout the country, or eating at a restaurant, but these are people who are out of the country and then, you see them living and working and studying, but they’re working, and the reality is that they’re working to send their kids to school and to leave, but I had to,” he said.

“I worked as an engineer, and the money still wasn’t enough. So, I left and went to Peru. I worked for four years, I was young, we were working for minimum wage, but it wasn’t enough to send my son to school, so I had to make a tough choice.”

I then asked about his time in Peru. Because of this whole situation, many Venezuelans have emigrated to other countries to seek a better life. At the moment there are about 400,000 Venezuelans living in Peru, and there are about 5,000 Venezuelan that come into Peru every year, according to the United Nations. However, many of them want to return to Venezuela. Melvis said, “When I first came to Bergen, I wasn’t really aware of the importance of registering students. But, when I discovered SGA and their role in the registration process, I knew their focus is to do the best they can to help students and to register them.”

To understand how the SGA would advocate for the students at Bergen, I sat down to do the functions of SGA and the new electorates.

Alicia Metes, the vice president, deals with the student senate; a body that makes policy proposals that are voted on by the other members of the SGA. Marlen Herrera, the new president, is the chair of the Board of Representatives, which consists of the presidents of each individual club at Bergen. Herrera will also oversee the budget for all SGA clubs and organizations.

“Any ticket violations, the chief officer is responsible for the ticket of the student,” Melvis explains. Finally, Azul Cestan-Heredia, the executive assistant, organizes all the meetings for the SGA and records them. Herrera
told me that it was important to inform students about the important information discussed in the meeting process.

With the preliminary questions out of the way, it was time to dive deeper. I scheduled the interview, initially for the end of the week, then a couple days before. I asked Melvis about the actual student enrollment and if the SGA has any concrete policies to solve the problem. Due to the bureaucratic nature of the SGA, they explained that it would take an extra long time to come up with a solution because they have to be voted on by the student body. For this and many other solutions, Melvis was unsure of what policies could be enacted to solve the registration problem that would arrive in a convenient timeframe.

However, Melvis is confident that the SGA can rally policies that will fix up the registration booth at Bergen and make it more appealing for newer students. No matter the challenge, it seems that the incoming SGA can think up new solutions to Bergen’s fundamental issues.

Ventura definitely is proud to be a student of BCC, and I believe he genuinely wants to do his part to support and serve the purpose to inform students, ranging from ethnicities to the diversity of our community, which is a judgment-free zone where everyone inspire students, offering them many opportunities of volunteering hours outside of campus.

Logan said, “I sort of have this policy of really getting involved. So, that's Bards and Scribes. Their organization to implement free zone where students are welcome to watch their literature and art. There is no doubt that the life of a college student is abundant in choices. Each one of our students is unique and has their own way of life, to approximate, but nine times out of ten, you will meet someone who has a similar background and has a similar interest. But, despite what they might think, they’re not alone in their struggles. That's what makes our community so special.”

Venezuela Keeps Moving Forward

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Students kick off their semester at BCC by getting involved on campus / Office of Student Life

There are also clubs with the goal of helping students make new friends and meet new people through activities they enjoy. For instance, writing poetry or basically sharing “any piece of work,” according to Kailash Chinthar and Feline Sasso, active members of Hands and Scissors. Their organization is a human rights advocacy club, and it is welcome to watch their literature and art. There is no doubt that the life of a college student is abundant in choices. Each one of our students is unique and has their own way of life, to approximate, but nine times out of ten, you will meet someone who has a similar background and has a similar interest. But, despite what they might think, they’re not alone in their struggles. That's what makes our community so special.

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Contact Writer

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BCC President Michael Redmond Promotes 'Excellence Through Inclusivity' (cont.)

OWEN MCCLOSKEY
Editor-in-Chief

FOLLOW THE TORCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

On January 23rd, 2018, a man in Michigan was arrested for calling CNN on multiple occasions and threatening to kill employees at the Atlanta headquarters.

On June 28th, 2018, the staff of The Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, went to work expecting a normal day of producing a daily paper, but ended up as victims of another mass shooting in America.

On August 16th, 2018, The Boston Globe was subjected to a bomb threat after Donald Trump tweeted about their “collusion with the fake news media.”

When you take a mass shooting, a death threat, or a bomb threat and place it in a political setting, a conversation and a political narrative is a threat to kill people based on the political opinions you cover such topics.

The knee-jerk reaction, attacks on mainstream news outlets has prevailed in the last few years and have only been adding tension to the already strained relationship between government and media. Fake news, lies and more have always existed. It’s terrifyingly easy to get through the purest form of a fake story from an unreliable source and actually believe what you are being told.

Nowadays, “fake news” is interchangeable with “mainstream news source” because of the sheer overuse and because the word has been blown out of proportion by some other than our government.

However, the media as a political narrative has been annoying at best. I was tired of defending my major to complete strangers, tired of seeing my future as a threat to society, and having no facts but my own misinformed information. I found it to be trying to rid of things that just because someone doesn’t agree with something doesn’t mean it’s not important. I find this isn’t just annoying and frustrating but it’s dangerous.

A state's or publication's possible opinion doesn't matter, but if you’re entitled to express an opinion, and the people who are trying to use it for political coverage doesn’t align with the people of different discriminated groups to gang up on each other.

Intersectionality has been a hot button term to many people in the political spectrum. Progressives view intersectionality as a revolutionary concept that outlines varying forms of discrimination that they may be dealt with more effectively. On the other token, conservatives view intersectionality as an anti-white ideology, and think of these opinions of their straight, white male counterparts.

Before we dive in on the term, we need to take a moment and think about how the term is actually defined. It would be useful to understand how the term originated. Kimberle Crenshaw, the aforementioned Constitution professor, coined the term “intersectionality” after the infamous General Motors Assembly case. The 19th act case when the plaintiff Emma DeGraffenreid sued, a General Motors employee, for a gain in wages because she was denied the position. Crenshaw claimed that she was discriminated not just on the basis of race or gender, but the judge threw away her case because he thought it would be unfair if she were to be able to see her race and gender to file a suit. The judge said that because the company employed both black people and women that her case was invalid.

Now, at community college, we have a very different philosophy. We pursue education because we want to explore the world, to get to know our neighbors, to take all. “New, because we take all” is a quote from our community that will help Bergen for years to come.

President Michael Redmond is one of the most valuable assets at Bergen’s disposal. His dedication to Bergen’s success is unparalleled. Redmond represents the field of education because they are already good at it.

Redmond then dove into the topic of community college. “In my view, we should have interest in what our students, has driven him to draft some policies which will always sway to the left. CNN’s Atlanta Headquarters // pixabay.com

“..."collusion with other papers on free speech,"" is that just because someone doesn’t agree with something doesn’t mean it’s not important. I find this isn’t just annoying and frustrating but it’s dangerous.

However, the employees are not the only ones who have faced a 20% decline in enrollment. “Excellence through exclusivity, right? It’s a basic business concept that outlines varying forms of discrimination which the founder of this site is dealing with more effectively,” Redmond said. “Just now, in New Jersey, we have a community college that faced a 20% decline enrollment.”

Redmond also attributes this issue to a national decrease in unemployment. “When unemployment goes down, people tend to not look for higher education because they are already employed. However, Redmond says that this trend is gradually stabilizing.

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President Michael Redmond is one of the most valuable assets at Bergen’s disposal. His dedication to Bergen’s success is unparalleled. Redmond represents the field of education because they are already good at it. Bergen Community, and wanted to relay this message as best we can. “All of us in higher education, we’re trying to pursue excellence as best we can in the constraints that we have: But we know, most four-year schools, they have a certain philosophy for how they do it. They pursue excellence by picking and choosing their students. Excellence through exclusivity, right? Now, at community college, we have a very different philosophy. We pursue education because we want to explore the world, to get to know our neighbors, to take all. “New, because we take all, in many ways I think it’s a greater social challenge. But I think accurately, what we’re doing has greater social value.” The editor-in-Chief
### Politics, Meet Cosmetics

You’d never think of cosmetics going hand-in-hand with politics, but as young people become more and more politically and socially aware, the industry strives to keep up. While some companies are still building shade ranges and releasing a different variation of the same lipstick shade, others are more敢 to take the path of activism. In the past year, many makeup brands have been doing their part to help change the world, and not just in the form of a lip product. The phrase “She Persisted” printed on the tubes is a prime example of how many companies have been using their platforms to promote social and political issues. Women running for office are being encouraged to help change it. By combining the arts with makeup and politics, an event catered to those of us who wish to raise hell and make a difference has come to fruition. Attendees left with much more than a swag-bag, a new sense of community was found among those who wish to raise hell and make change. By combining the arts with politics, an event catered to those of us who wish to raise hell and make a difference has come to fruition. Attendees left with much more than a swag-bag, a new sense of community was found among those who wish to raise hell and make change.

### Bergen Hotspots: The Buehler Challenger Science Center

There are many locations on the BCC campus which people have never been inside of. On the Paramus campus alone, there are buildings which populate the entire property: starting with landscape of small offices and buildings near the main center, through the BCC campuses that ironically have no horticultural students may be familiar with the Buehler Challenger and Science center. The Buehler Challenger center is one of few structures on any of the BCC campuses that genuinely have no connection with BCC whatsoever. It’s located near the C parking lot between Ender Hall and the baseball diamond. The center is home to many Challenger learning centers. After the Challenger center was built in 1986, the families of the Challenger student crew banded together with community leaders and constructed a series of educational centers to build the interest of youth in science and space, and to push them towards participation and exploration.

But why do these structures exist, and what purpose do they serve to Bergen? Today we can see some of these curious places starting with the Buehler Challenger and Science Center. The Buehler Challenger center is one of few structures on any of the BCC campuses that genuinely have no connection with BCC whatsoever. It’s located near the C parking lot between Ender Hall and the baseball diamond. The center is home to many Challenger learning centers. After the Challenger center was built in 1986, the families of the Challenger student crew banded together with community leaders and constructed a series of educational centers to build the interest of youth in science and space, and to push them towards participation and exploration.

The Buehler Challenger Center, located next to the BCC’s Paramus campus, is David Joe a voyage to the moon, and making a rendezvous with Comet Halley. The programs offer exposure to both the planning and communications side of the experience to young minds as well as the critical life skills that are important for our society. Although BCC students may not have an opportunity to explore their services, the facility is one of the most impressive and engaging on the campus. After all, landing the textbooks is a little less engaging than flying a rocket.

### Bergen Hotspots: Ender Hall Greenhouse and Coffee Shop

Ender Hall is an outlier among the buildings on the Paramus campus of BCC. As opposed to being in the cluster of structures around the Pritikin Education Center, it’s closer to the Ridgewood Country Club. Hidden away from the busyness of the school, Ender Hall is a hidden gem for students who are both impractical and anxious to get to. However, the building itself has some cool and less-known elements which may surprise some students to discover. There are two places to get hot food. Pickin’ Free, the cafeteria offers meals for both breakfast and lunch, and has the widest selection of any of the eateries on the Paramus campus. There’s also the Student Cafe which has both a Dunkin Donuts from breakfast through the evening, and a pizzeria which opens at lunch and has more of a meal selection than Dunkin’ Donuts. However, the Paramus campus has a third cafe: Ender Hall’s Cyber Cafe. The cafe has hours like that of Dunkin’ but has a much more comfortable atmosphere being directly adjacent to the well-furnished study lounge. It also has a large repertoire of baked goods and snacks to enjoy. If you have a class near Ender, or even want a comfortable place to relax and snack at, the Cyber Cafe could be just the place for you.

Another company on the forefront of this movement is Lipslut Cosmetics. Founded by a team of women in Los Angeles prior to the 2016 election, The Liptat cosmetics team describes their company as a “middle finger to the current sociopolitical landscape and the beauty industry. Their most popular product is a lipstick with the shade name “F*ck Trump.” Coming in close behind are the shades, “F*ck Hollywood” inspired by the #MeToo movement, and “F*ck-thegl глубоковолосые-антикоммерциалистичные- левый-угол” Yes, that’s a real shade name, and it came from a briefly email written by a woman named Karen, who used that exact word, (phrase? sentence?) with that exact spelling and lack of spaces, to try to insult Lipat and what they stand for. With each purchase, Lipslut donates at least 50% of the proceeds to a civil rights organization targeted by the Trump administration, or an anti-sexual assault organization.

Not only do these products help initiate real change in the world, but they’re actually good products too. Supporting a cause is just that much better, when you look good doing it. You can and should care about beauty while still caring about politics. Beauty trends may come and go, but the need for change won’t ever go away.

Imagine if companies like Estee Lauder and L’Oreal listed half as much as Lipat and Nasty Woman do. The beauty industry is huge, and the money and power to instigate real change it put into practicing socially responsible.

Consumers are tired of supporting multi-billion dollar companies that are concerned about the sustainability of their products, or whether or not it is cruelty free and vegan, and if they can have a clean moral conscience while also making purchases. If those companies had the same exposure and household recognition as any brand carried in Sephora, Ulta, or even CV, it would be impossible for the rest of the country to ignore the message that a lipstick could have. Whether that be hundreds of thousands of dollars being donated to Planned Parenthood, or just millions of people saying, “Thanks, it’s called F*ck Trump” when someone complments their makeup, it’d be impossible to ignore.

Still, beauty standards and practices are out, activism is in, and it’s time for us to reflect in our choice of makeup.
Typically in high school, the unspoken ambition of every student is to become well-liked by his or her peers, and to varying extents, become popular. In the new off-Broadway musical *Be More Chill*, these ambitions are framed within an upbeat, satirical lens, with an interesting science-fiction twist.

That might sound like a mouthful at first, but the show, created by composer Joe Iconis and playwright Joe Tracz, blends the worlds of teenage anxiety and science fiction with ease. Based on a Ned Vizzini novel of the same name, *Be More Chill* follows protagonist Jeremy Heere (portrayed by Will Roland), a high school junior who’s desperate to climb his school’s social ladder, and receives help from a “SQUIP,” a supercomputer contained in a pill that instructs Jeremy on how to act cooler. As you might expect, the results soon become disastrous, but the growing conflict is made much more palatable by Joe Iconis’ extremely catchy, rock-influenced musical numbers.

If you’ve never heard of *Be More Chill*, and are somewhat interested in diving into the world of the musical headfirst, listening to the cast recording on Spotify is a good place to start: millions of people around the world have done exactly this, and in turn, transformed the show into the newest trend of the moment. However, it was recently announced the show will soon be moving to Broadway’s Lyceum Theatre beginning in February, which means more fans than ever before will have a chance to see the show for themselves.

As popular and fun as the show’s cast album may be, seeing *Be More Chill* in person is a far more thrilling, complete experience. Among the musical’s best numbers is the ambitious opening song “More Than Survive,” which spotlights Jeremy’s desperation to no longer be seen as an outcast by his classmates, and to get with his longtime crush, Christine (portrayed by Stephanie Hsu). Another fan favorite is the roaring, infectious “The Smartphone Hour,” which includes nearly every member of the cast onstage at once, and features the most electric, eye-popping choreography within the entire show.

I was initially skeptical towards whether Will Roland would be able to pull off the musical’s leading role of Jeremy (he’s probably more known for comedic relief roles), but his complex, often-times intense performance definitely proved me wrong, especially during the epic solo number, “Loser Clock Whatever,” which brings Act I to a dramatic close. The song was co-written by Joe Iconis and Roland himself, and it shows, I couldn’t imagine another performer besides him doing that song justice.

Although Roland’s performance was indeed exceptional, the rest of the cast were definitely just as exciting to watch. It would be disrespectful not to mention George Salazar’s performance as Jeremy’s best friend Michael Mell, whose solo song “Michael In The Bathroom” remains the show’s most emotionally powerful moment. Also worth mentioning is Tiffany Mann, who plays Christine’s rival, group-loving Jenna (portrayed by Claire Shor). In particular, the performance of Jordan Gersonski was equally impressive (he in particular contributes to the show’s more intense dance breaks).

*Be More Chill* has attracted fans from all across the globe, with some international fans flying into New York City, specifically to see the musical. If you’re thinking of seeing the show for yourself, you might want to put these plans on hold, as tickets for the musical’s entire two-month run have completely sold out. However, it was recently announced the show will soon be moving to Broadway’s Lyceum Theatre beginning in February, which means more fans than ever before will have a chance to see the show for themselves.

There’s something deeply special about *Be More Chill* that not too many musicals out there quite accomplish. Through composer Joe Iconis and writer Joe Tracz’ partnership, they created a musical which speaks to the hidden insecurities and thoughts of many American teenagers: more specifically, the growing conflict is made much more palatable by Joe Iconis’ extremely catchy, rock-influenced musical numbers.

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BRIDGETte CASTEL
Features

Moving From Your Home Country

“Sometimes, when you first move, you have a moment where you think you made the right decision, but then you have the realization that you’re never going to be able to go home again. It’s a very lonely moment.”

By Karoline Santos Souza

Peace or Corruption in Peru?

President Vizcarra resigned due to public scrutiny over information discovered about him during the 2017 presidential campaign. According to Ernesto Diaz, a political scientist, this is not an unusual practice between Fujimori and President Vizcarra. It was a deal made to help each other out, but it led to President Fujimori being re-elected for a second term. Now, the focus is on President Vizcarra being investigated for criminal conspiracy and money laundering.

By Kaylee Alzamora

Romanticizing Sadness

“Romanticizing sadness is a way of looking at suffering as something beautiful and desirable. It is a way of understanding pain and loss as a necessary part of the human experience.”

By Tiffany Marie Veliz

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Eminem Reaches Number One Again With Kamikaze

In the same week Kamikaze dropped, Eminem earned his ninth no. 1 album on The Billboard 200 chart. The album is the latest release from the former rapping provocateur, turned political icon. After Eminem dropped a weak and self-hating Revival LP, The album is just what the fans were eager for, the same old aggressive, no sh#t Slim Shady. He did not hold back and made it clear that he isn’t going to be sitting in the corner or letting down his fans, or “Stans” as they are called.

In “Kamikaze” Eminem calls out his rivals and critics even though it is spiritually a suicide mission, lettre the critical fans and haters. “You got some views, but you’re still below me.”

More is higher, so when you compare our views, you get overlooked. “Mine are higher, so when you say that Eminem doesn’t like. MGK or Machine Gun Kelly was targeted again in “Not Alike” when Eminem called out MGK for his fans and how he is letting them down. “MGK has responded with a diss titled “Rap Devil,” since Eminem is commonly known as the “Rap God,” and MGK is just a rappin dipoosey. The latter of which many fans and critics have been relentless on his overtly political LP “Revival,” many fans and critics have been relentless on his.”

In “Kamikaze” Eminem claims: “I’m happy where I am. I love attending BCC, and I love attending RCC, between my friends and teachers, I definitely wouldn’t be here. It’s a great and fairly new community college as a first experience.”

Although both students speak for themselves and not for their entire community, it’s easy to see how a person’s community, school, and friends, can impact the way they view community college. BCC is filled with students from different backgrounds, and each student holds their own view of community college. It’s a topic that has many layers.

How Do Students View Bergen Community College?

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students attend a lecture at their local college // velkr0 (flickr.com)

JELSON MONTERO

The Secret Life of Bees: A Journey For The Truth

This story was one of the most enjoyable readings of this year so far. Although Lily goes through some unrealistic situations in her life, the book still captures the importance of living our lives in the best way possible. Sue Monk Kidd had the ability to embrace delicate subjects in child abuse, racism, and simple compassionate way, by always using bees as a metaphor, like the title proposes.

The bees play an important role in the life of the characters as Monk Kidd alternates every chapter starts with a quote from books of bees, and as we read more about the life of those animals it also tells us what we have in common as a society.

Diaries of a Food Gypsy: Maywood Pancake House

Welcome back, Bulldogs! This summer was filled with fun memories and events to remember, but this fall is all about the food! Now if you like like, you sometimes just need to get out of the cafeteria and do something new. This summer, I was able to enjoy many new places, for both food and entertainment alike. For this issue, I’m talking about a local destination that has a little something for everyone—local comfort foods, Vegan French Toast // Amanda K. Barandas

AMANDA K. BARANDAS

The Secret Life of Bees: A Journey For The Truth

Imagine yourself growing up with the memories of your dear mother, living with your abusive father and having a nanny as your only friend. This is the life of a young girl named Lily, the main character of the book, The Secret Life of Bees.

The book by Sue Monk Kidd tells the story of Lily Owens, a 14-year-old girl marked by the mystery of her mother’s past. After her friend Rosaline gets arrested, Lily decides that it is time to find a better life for them both.

The book begins in South Carolina during the Civil Rights Act of 1964, when Lily and Rosaline leave their house for New Orleans, Louisiana, where they find out more about her mother. “Lily, a young African American girl, sets out on an adventure and knowledge that was waiting for her as she left her house. It’s as if she were saying, ‘People who think doing the wrong thing don’t know a thing about life’.”

Despite the many hardships and the trials and tribulations of high school, all in the age of social media, (Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter) you can always find yourself hooked on Turnt.

Tiffaney Marie Velez

Turnt Review

Fame premiered on August 1st on Facebook Watch. If you happen to find yourself bored one night, you should get a friend to come over, bring some cheap wine, and binge-watch Turnt. The new hit show features 40 episodes for the first season, and three episodes dropping every Wednesday! The digital network Brat, best known for the highly-successful Chicken Girls, catered to young adult audiences, and previously featured films such as Downtowners, Monster High, and Ever After High. The show focuses on a group of friends trying to navigate the trials and tribulations of high school, all in the age of social media. Instagram stans, Madeline Breyne and Elise Hewitt are the main characters of the show. This show is remarkably “woke” and puts its own spin on the typically cliché high school stories. You will find yourself hooked on Turnt.
Six Organizational Tips For Bergen Newbies

KATY TEMPLE

1. Buy a Planner

I know it sounds like common sense, but you'd be surprised by how many people don't use a planner! A monthly and weekly planner will help you remember when assignments are due, and help you visualize what weeks may be tougher than others.

2. Use the Planner

You can buy a planner and pretend that you have your life together, and if that works for you, I envy you. However, your planner will be a lot more helpful if you actually use it. If you're an inanimate organizer like myself, or involved with things other than school, color coding is going to be extremely important. This helps you visually see what's missing, and helps you prepare accordingly.

3. Make a Master Syllabus

Having a syllabus is great, but it doesn't do you any good if it sits in the back of your folder for the entire semester. Be sure to mark down important due dates, exam dates, and readings in your planner, but remember that they're tentative - a class could move quicker or slower. To help keep everything in one spot, create a new document with all of the assignments from all of your classes. Instead of looking for four or five pieces of paper, you can instead have one document saved on your computer, and you can reprint and edit when you need to.

4. Schedule Your Unscheduled Time

It's so easy to spread your random chunks of time between classes and work in an unorganized manner, but keep previously-taught information fresh. Dedicate that to getting ahead in history, reviewing your math notes, I'll help you find what you're looking for when you go back to review, and help identify what days of class you might have missed. Keep making extra space below concepts or terms you may not understand, so you can go in and fill in missing information later. Laptops are also great for note taking, but it's hard to draw diagrams or concept maps on a laptop. Make sure you know which classes you'd be able to use a laptop in, and which ones are better off with a pen and paper.

5. Use Your Professor's Office Hours

It may not seem like it, but the professors here at Bergen are willing to help you. However, you have to ask for it! Most of the time, office hours and locations are going to either be announced on your first day of class, or on your syllabus (probably both). If you're struggling, have questions, or need an extra set of eyes, send out an email and make plans to meet up with your professors. I can assure you that asking for help is much better than suffering in silence. Most professors will recognize the effort you put into their class, and that effort will be reflected in your grades. (Disclaimer: Going to office hours doesn’t guarantee you an A, but it might bump you up from a B to a B+).

6. Keep Your Notes Separated and Dated

You don't need chemistry notes when you're studying for a psychology exam. Whether you use a binder, a notebook, or a note-taking app like Evernote, make sure class materials stay together in the same spot. Keeping dates on your notes will help you find what you're looking for when you go back to review, and help you identify what days of class you might have missed. Keep extra space below concepts or terms you may not understand, so you can go in and fill in missing information later. Laptops are also great for note taking, but it's hard to draw diagrams or concept maps on a laptop. Make sure you know which classes you'd be able to use a laptop in, and which ones are better off with a pen and paper.

Networking: the Most Powerful Resource a College Can Offer

IAN ARDELLE

Many students who are entering a university typically have certain expectations of what the school can offer them. It may be credits to transfer when graduating from a school, or employment opportunities and programs for work, which can lead to a good income. While these expectations are significant and very useful, the most important asset a university can provide is the opportunity to expand your knowledge outside of your formal education. That resource is the ability to network and collaborate with your peers.

A university assembles a collection of young, driven intellectuals who seek to further their understanding of their field and pursue lucrative careers. However, while many students believe that entering a university means reciprocally, you should be able to expand your understanding of subjects grow. That means working with others as your thoughts with others as your understanding of others grows.

Networking means reciprocal thinking and knowledge exchange. Many professors are willing to help you. However, you have to ask for it! Most of the time, office hours and locations are going to either be announced on your first day of class, or on your syllabus (probably both). If you're struggling, have questions, or need an extra set of eyes, send out an email and make plans to meet up with your professors. I can assure you that asking for help is much better than suffering in silence. Most professors will recognize the effort you put into their class, and that effort will be reflected in your grades.
The Vikings have upgraded at the quarterback position by signing Cousins this offseason. As for the Packers, they will have their favorite target back in Odell Beckham Jr. returning and having MVP seasons, the Red Sox will remain the king of the hill despite Julian Edelman suspended to start the year. However, the Cleveland Indians are set for an amazing 102-win season. If it weren’t for the Red Sox’s incredible season, the Yankees would get much more attention. The Indians are set for an amazing 102-win season. Although they still have a chance to catch the Red Sox, it seems more likely that they will host the Wild Card game for the third time in franchise history. However, the Cleveland Indians have not had much noise due to the division they play in, they are still one of the most dangerous teams in baseball. The Indians play in such a mediocre division that their 14-game lead on the division does not seem as big of a lead as it is. With additions like Hand and Donaldson, they are certainly a team to watch out for.

The most interesting American League race falls in the west between the Athletics and Astros. The defending World Champion, the Astros, lead the division by just two games on the Athletics, who have had a magical season themselves. No one had any expectations for this team heading into 2018, and yet it seems like they will give the defending world champs a run for their money. The winner of the division avoids a one game playoff with the Yankees. The playoff picture gets extremely interesting with the National League. The Atlanta Braves and Philadelphia Phillies are in a tight race for their division, the Chicago Cubs are battling with the St. Louis Cardinals and Milwaukee Brewers for their division, and the Los Angeles Dodgers are competing with the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies.

The East Division is lead by the young Atlanta Braves. This was a division who many people believed would be dominated by Washington, but the Braves young core has really surpassed expectations and lead the Phillies by four games. The Cubs seem to have the central division all but locked with a five-game lead on the Brewers, and a five and a half game lead over the Cardinals. Although the Cardinals have been one of the hottest teams in baseball, the addition of Daniel Murphy to the Cubs has proven to have a great impact on the division. As for the Brewers they will have to lean on some of their MVP candidates like Lorenzo Cain and Christian Yelich to push them into October.

The wild, wild west is by far the most interesting division in baseball. The Dodgers lead the west by a half game over the Rockies and a game over the Diamondbacks. These three teams have been trading punches all year, and it will come down to the final week of baseball to decide who is in and who is out.

The NFC North is a battle of two one of the most dangerous teams in football. However, the Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots as Super Bowl favorites. Despite not having Carson Wentz and a slow preseason, the Eagles don’t have many weaknesses. Their defensive and offensive lines are very strong heading into the year. The NFC East is an interesting division as the Eagles will have to go through the Cowboys and Giants, who have a chance to problem running the table. As for the AFC goes, the Patriots will remain the king of the hill despite losing Danny Amendola and having Julian Edelman suspended to start the year. As long as Brady and Belichick are together the Patriots should have no need to be paid.

JELSON MONTERO
Sports Editor

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

Why NCAA Athletes Should Be Paid

One might think that a scholarship is enough to keep NCAA athletes satisfied with their college experience, however it is not nearly enough. NCAA athletes have long performed for these universities, sacrificed a great deal of time, and brought in a large amount of revenue which implies that they should be paid.

Marc Edelman, a contributing writer for Forbes, wrote an article called “21 Reasons Why Student-Athletes Are Employees and Should Be Allowed To Unionize.” Edelman said, “The typical Division I college football player devotes 43.3 hours per week to his sport — 3.3 more hours than the typical American work week.”

Football athletes are not the only ones affected by NCAA rules; in fact, basketball athletes are subject to these rules as well. “Meanwhile, the annual NCAA men’s basketball tournament affects more than six days of classes,” Edelman says.

It is ironic that universities continue to make a point that a scholarship is good enough; however, sporting events are causing athletes to miss class in order to bring in revenue. Alex Kirshner, a contributing writer for SBnation, wrote an article on this called “Here’s how the NCAA generated a billion dollars in 2017.” In this article, Kirshner says that $128,113,594 in revenue comes from championships and NIT tournaments. With these athletes performing at such a high level, it makes sense for TV networks to get in on the action and partner up with the NCAA organization.

According to Kirshner, television and marketing revenues add up to $815,517,801. With so much revenue accumulated by the NCAA, it only makes sense that student athletes would get a share of the revenue. After all, it is their hard work that allows these universities to continue to make billions of dollars.