What's Inside:

BC News: P. 2
Spring 07' Club Day: P. 9
A & E: P. 16, 17
Sports: P. 20

Don’t miss our Academic Calendar!

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

January 2007

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Vol. XII

Issue 4

THE BIG SEX TALK

Professor Rubino

By: Chloe Riccardo

STAFF WRITER

On December 7, Professor Rubino offered a personal enrichment workshop on Safe Sex. He talked about the many sexually transmitted diseases in our country and world. He also informed us on the rate of people with STDs and the different types such as AIDS, Herpes, gonorrhea, syphilis, and many more.

In addition, he showed us a visual PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate pictures of what happens when a person contracts an STD. The pictures were graphic and a little disturbing for the group, but they made an important point. STDs can be physically painful and a scare, especially if people do not properly treat or read up on what the symptoms are.

The interview with Dr. Rubino offered information that will help raise awareness for those who are unfamiliar with the details of STDs and assist in the treatment for those who already have contracted an STD.

1. Torch: How can we inform people more about STDs?

Rubino: We can educate students inside and outside of school by teaching them with classes so they can learn about safe sex in college. We can also teach them by sitting down with them and their families so they can learn there also.

2. Torch: How do you feel about the way young people are making the choice not to protect themselves at all while having sex?

Rubino: They have a very bravo attitude to it and they do not care, which is foolish.

3. Torch: In honor of World AIDS Day, how can we encourage people to find information on AIDS to protect themselves when having sex?

Rubino: They can go find information online; they can also go to the AIDS Fair that will be held in January that will take place.

4. What protection do you think is the safest for young and older people to use?

Rubino: Condoms, birth control pills, and any other protection that is better than one form of protection will help. Also talking with your significant other will help before being intimate.

Professor Rubino helped many students with their insightful information and more.

People who choose to not use protection will make the right decision besides making the choice to sleep with someone. Practice safe sex and we are all at high risk for AIDS.

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Top Do's and Don'ts in your Academic Career
By: Marta Gonor

PUBLICIST
Welcome to Bergen Community College, new students! Here’s some advice from an experienced Bergen student that you will find useful in your academic career and social life here at the College. There are some things that you definitely should and should not do. Here are some:

**Do take advantage of the #1** rich resources the college offers you – come to the library at any time of the day or night. Some of the places that you shop on campus.

**Don't procrastinate. It is</DOCTYPE>
Common Courtesy

By Jill Bartlett

Staff Writer

Fellow students, I implore you. On behalf of myself and the rest of us waiting to use the recently diminished number of computers in the library, check your MySpace elsewhere. It is nothing but common courtesy to finish whatever, ahem, course related work you are doing and be on your merry way. For those of us who use the books and textbooks, write essays, articles and use other media available in the library find it to be a great injustice.

Need to make use of an hour or more between classes? Well, if it is a Tuesday between 12:30 and 1:25, you can join a club. Whether you enjoy philosophy, art, anime, video games, cheerleading or dental hygiene Bergen has a group for you. You can even come to room L-115, join The Torch staff and write your own article in return of this one. I promise to be a good sport.

Like chess? If so you can walk to the student center almost anytime and participate in a match. You might even get lucky enough to play on the life-size board if it’s not too crowded. You don’t have to be in the chess club to play. In fact, when I asked the young gentlemen quietly involved in a match if you had to be in the chess club, I received an enthusiastic “no, just play chess!” So there you have it, just play chess.

Work out! We have our very own fitness center located in S-128, right across from the gym entrance. Go hop on a treadmill, lift some free weights, or tighten up those abs. Hours of operation are currently being configured, but now for you can check the door of the fitness center for schedules and updates. When I spoke to Professor Wolfe, he explained that they try to schedule time a day in the gaps between classes, until closing around 7 or 8 p.m. Again, feel free to check the door to S-128, or drop in and ask any questions you need to. Everyone I’ve spoken with from the athletics department has been enthusiastic and helpful; and if you see Travis, tell him Jill from The Torch says, “hey.” All you need to work out is a valid student ID, proper attire, and a pair of sneakers. ID is optional but I highly suggest you bring a bottle of water. There are lockers under the gym where you can store your various belongings while burning those extra calories off and showers to wash that workout stank away before heading to class. Just remember to bring your towel and some soap.

Like to play sports? You’re in luck. There is an open gym scheduled posted outside of the door to the gym. Just stop by and check it out. There are also intramural sports teams for fall and spring semesters. Questions about intramurals can be answered in G-202, or call 201-447-7182 and talk to Professor Fuersich. Check the bulletin board outside of room G-202 for intramural updates.

Sitting in a natatorium and have no idea what it means? Glad you are reading. The natatorium happens to be a fancy word for swimming pool. And you don’t have to be a student here at Bergen and own a bathing suit. Free swim hours will be posted on the door to the pool as lifeguards are hired and availability of the lifeguards is figured. For now, check the door to the swimming pool (follow the signs for the natatorium) for schedule updates.

Last, but certainly not least, you can stop by the Office of Student Life in A-115 and pick up a copy of the Student Leadership and Activity Guide. In it you will find schedules for guest speakers provided by the various clubs and organizations within the College. I attended a philosophy lecture last semester and found it to be profound and inspiring. If philosophy isn’t your thing, there are plenty of other lectures and activities listed in the book.

For those of you who find no other way to pass time than to participate in commenting, posting and internet stalking, try the Tech building. Tech 114 is also an open computer lab, and as I sit here now, there are 20 open computers. That’s right, 20. But please, be aware of your surroundings. If there are no open stations and you see people waiting, for the love of whatever you find holy, send that sparkly picture comment and get going!
The People’s Victory  
Ecuador’s Recent Presidential Elections  
Following Latin America’s Silent Revolution

BY: DOUG SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past January 15th, Rafael Correa took office as the new President of Ecuador, winning about 68 percent of the popular vote. In a country where usually wouldn’t be big news, however, this is following the major political change that has been sweeping like wildfire throughout Latin America. After many years of living under right-wing dictators (where many people were influenced by the U.S. and other western corporate interests), El PUEBLO (the people) seemed to want a chance to take the power into their own hands and make a better future for themselves.  

Rafael Correa’s victory is a force to be reckoned with. He was schooled in Economics in both Europe (Belgium) and the U.S. (Chicago). He is trilingual in French and English alongside his native language, Spanish. The fact that he’s an expert in Economics stops most of his critics’ typical argument that Correa’s victory is about left-wingers dislike of capitalism and weak knowledge of how the market works. This is certainly not the case here as he has devised a well thought-out economic plan that allows Correa to balance national income to be in favor of everyday working Ecuadorians. His advisor from the University of California, Berkeley, stated to the Washington Post: “He appreciates the market to a certain point, but he knows that the market left alone concentrates wealth. He is not going to do anything foolish, because he is a fairly open-minded person.”  

In order to change the flow of money among the hands of wealthy corporations, Correa plans on letting foreign investors have a smaller stake in industries such as energy without totally cutting them off. He was quoted describing the foreign oil contracts as “a true entrapment for the country.” Of every five barrels of oil that the multinational corporations produce, they leave only one for the state and take four...that is absolutely unacceptable. “We’re going to revise and renegotiate the contracts.”  

This economic strategy is only one part of a five part strategy which he describes as consisting of “constitutional revolution, ethical revolution, education and production revolution, education and health revolution, and sovereignty.”  

So, while he will not try to switch over to a fully communist system, Correa declared that the Constitution must change. Correa states that while he is friends with the outspoken Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, he is also not considering himself part of his “Bolivarian movement.” Correa seems similar to Chile’s Michelle Bachelet more so than Hugo Chavez, for he is well-educated and multilingual and less of a militaristic revolutionary. Still, the fact remains that Correa didn’t win solely on his intelligence and economic strategies. He is a charismatic person who practices what he preaches. While volunteering in his youth, he actually took the time to learn how to speak a decent amount of Quechua, the native language of the pre-Spanish inhabitants still widely spoken in villages throughout Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru. Familiarity with this language helped him win votes with this exploited yet important ethnic minority.  

American and other Western conservatives are not taking his winning of the presidency lightly. Since Correa is not a political insider, he has no qualms about speaking the truth to power. Regardless of the consequences. When asked if he agreed with the decision of past president Jamil Mahuad in making the U.S. dollar the official currency of Ecuador, Correa stated that it was a mistake, but he will not try to switch over for the time being and would like to eventually adopt a regional South American currency much like Europe’s Euro.  

Again, when asked about a simi- lar conference, Correa stated that he won’t renew the U.S.S. lease to use Eloy Alfaro Air force base in other countries. The U.S. govern- ment has been using this base to fly highly controversial anti-drug raids, an expansion of the consider- ably unfair policy of “Plan Colombia.” Correa told the New York Times, “We can negotiate with the U.S. about a base in Manta if they let us put a military base in Miami, if there is no prob- lem, we’ll accept.”  

The inspiration Raphael Correa has provided to Ecuador, a country in the desperate grip of poverty for countless years, is sparking a silent revolution that has empow- ered the people of South America to take action in processes of their political system and society. When listing his beliefs on his website...
The Definition of Marriage

BY: JILL BARLETT

STAFF WRITER

What is Marriage? How do you define a word that has existed since the dawn of man, yet has so many facets and meanings to the modern world? Who are the people who decide such matters of linguistic minutiae? How can one word explain away the controversy that web pages are being updated as we speak?

It begins with a simple definition that, in time, has become so complex it might change the overall acceptance of marriage. It has been known to be since the days of Adam and Eve.

Let’s start with a few definitions. Wikipedia, online encyclopaedia and modern wealth of information at your fingertips, defines marriage as “a socially, sometimes religiously, and often legally recognized union between or among partners, with whom a person resides or with whom they intend to live, based on the institution of marriage.”

The Encarta World English Dictionary (©1999) offers the definition of marriage to be “a legal or religious ceremony or rite by which the marriage of two people taking place.”

The Random House Dictionary of the English Language (©1987), second edition, unabridged, defines marriage as “the social institution under which a man and a woman enter into a legal commitment to live as husband and wife.”

Medical Dictionary (©1993) defines marriage as “a union between two or more people living in a committed sexual relationship that is legally recognized by a society.”

If you have recently tuned in to your local news, picked up a newspaper, or are alive and living in the modern world, you are probably aware of the debate about same-sex marriage. It is a heated issue sparking so much controversy, even Supreme Court justices. It is a topic that has been debated, fought over, and even Supreme Court justices who have been involved in the case do not really agree on a definition. It is a topic that has been discussed, argued, and even Supreme Court justices have disagreed on what marriage is.

It is interesting to note that Webster's Online Dictionary defines marriage as being in its latest form. In December, it was updated and defined as “the union of two persons of the same sex or the union of a person of the opposite sex and a child in an adoption or foster care.”

The federal government adds thousands of additional benefits to married couples, including the right to inherit property, to vote, and to file joint tax returns. The federal government also provides a larger range of benefits to married couples, including access to health care, social security, and other federal programs.

The most notable case to pass through the Supreme Court in support of Proposition 22, which defined marriage as being restricted to one man and one woman. However, this proposition only controls the institution of marriage. What it does not prevent is that the future legislature from creating new laws which encompass other relationships, mainly civil unions and domestic partnerships.

What is the difference between a marriage and a civil union, you ask? States typically grant about 400 rights and privileges to married couples including lower taxes,child custody rights, and survivor's benefits, property ownership. The federal government adds about 1,000 additional benefits on top of the 400 already provided by the state. Federal perks include adoption rights (an important issue to gay couples since having a baby between two members of the same sex is impossible), shared health benefits, retirement benefits, and property ownership.

Same Sex Marriages: In Your Opinion

Here is how fellow students at Bergen feel about the issue of Gay Marriage:

“I feel comfortable with it. If gay people want to get married, it’s cool.”

-Wilbur, Respiratory Therapy

“I am against it, for Religious reasons.”

-Anna, undecided

“Children with gay parents often get teased in school because of it, so they would probably not grow up the same as children with heterosexual parents.”

-Bo, Exercise Science

“I am for it; there is nothing wrong with it. No one is harming anybody, so however they want to do, go ahead.”

-Elena, Liberal Arts

“I don’t really care, if a person loves another, then let them love each other regardless of gender, race-or whatever. Just be careful and make sure you truly love that person and know that they are the one.”

-Jamie, Art

“It’s okay. If they want to do it, they can do it.”

-Diego, Education

“I am for it, not against it. Every person has a right to choose who they want to be with.”

-Ricardo, Electrical Technician

“I am for it, because everyone should be treated the same and have the opportunity to love and care for whomever they want.”

-Thomas, Accounting

“I disagree with it because when God created man he asked for Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. He asked them to multiply, and beget a nation and multiply and beget to have all the different people who live in the world and each other and all that stuff they were doing. I love gay people, but it is not what God ordered. We are all born into sin.”

-Vincent, Environmental Technologies

“I think it’s cool. It doesn’t affect me if I see gay guys making out whether they have a ring on their finger or not.”

-Milos, Liberal Arts

“No, I just don’t think it’s right.”

-Jack, Education

“I am all for it, isn’t everybody? I have no sensible reason to get into someone else’s marriage, I have my own hands full. I’m straight.”

-Paul, Computer Animation

“It’s alright. I mean, I’m not really against it. I am in the middle, but more for it.”

-Zarni, Environmental Technologies

“I am for it, and I am against it. It changes the family dynamic. But as long as they aren’t harming anyone else, it’s okay with me.”

-Mari, Music

“I don’t really care, if a person loves another, then let them love each other regardless of gender, race- or whatever. Just be careful and make sure you truly love that person and know that they are the one.”

-Kate, General Studies

“I am for it, because everyone should be treated the same and have the opportunity to love and care for whomever they want.”

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-Adam, Respiratory Therapy
“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.”
Langston Hughes

“...I want to say to every Negro woman present, don’t sit down and wait for the opportunities to come... Get up and make them!”
Madame C.J. Walker

“Community colleges play an important role in helping people transition between careers by providing the retooling they need to take on a new career.”
Barack Obama

“...When you have mastered numbers, you will in fact no longer be reading numbers, any more than you read words when reading books. You will be reading meanings.”
W.E.B. Du Bois

Garret Morgan, Inventor of Gas Mask and Traffic Signal
When the 110th Congress convened in early January, they promised to pass a sweeping set of legislation into law within their first one hundred hours of service. With twenty-four hours left, they had enacted many of the 9/11 Commission Report’s recommendations, increased the minimum wage, removed the ban on embryonic stem-cell research, banned lobbyist-paid gifts to lawmakers, and approved legislation that requires the government to negotiate for lower priced prescription drugs.

Congress is not stopping there, however, stating that by the time their first 100 hours are completed, they will also pass laws that would cut the interest rates on student loans and end subsidies to oil companies to invest in renewable energy. Leading the way is the first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, who stated, “This is an historic moment -- for the Congress, and for the women of America. It is a moment for which we have waited more than 200 years. Never losing faith, we waited through the many years of struggle to achieve our rights.”

The President, however, has said that he will veto two of the bills recently passed, the stem cell research, and the prescription drug bill. The issue of embryonic stem cell research has been one of the most fiercely debated issues in recent memory. In August 2001, President Bush restricted the funding of embryonic stem cell research, and vetoed a bill that was put before him last year that would lift the ban. The White House has gone on record about the most recent stem cell bill, saying that the research “would use federal taxpayer dollars to support and encourage the destruction of human life for research.”

The other bill expected to be vetoed discusses the cost of prescription drugs for Medicare patients. Rep. John Dingell, who introduced the bill into the House, stated: “Forty-three million people can have the purchasing power to perhaps encourage these drug house to give the government and the American retirees a better price.” Those who oppose the bill and the Congressional Budget Office have argued that there would be no savings under the law, and President Bush has said that prices are already being reduced.

In the case of the stem cell research and prescription drug bills, the vote margin in the House of Representatives did not meet the two-thirds majority needed to overturn a Presidential veto. President Bush has used his veto just once in his presidency, to keep his restriction of embryonic stem cell research intact.

Sources:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070111/ap_on_go_pr_wh/medicare_drugs

Congress’s "100 Hours"

BY: JAMES ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

...is online at http://www.bergen.edu/pages/880.asp
Bergen Community College

Black History Celebration
January 27–February 23

“A Bridge Over Troubled Water: Continuing the Dialogue on Race”

Sat., January 27
Amikaelya
3:00 p.m., Ciccone Theatre
Tickets: $10 adults; $6 children 17 & under
Call Office of Cultural Affairs at 201-447-7428

Thu., February 1
Vanessa Thomas, Artist-in-Residence
“Memphis at the Crossroads: Music, Culture and Civil Rights”
1:30 p.m., A-104
Opening Reception
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., A-113

Sat., February 3
Trip to Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts
(MCCADA), Brooklyn, New York
Tom Feelings Exhibit
9:30 a.m., Bus leaves Parking Lot B
$10 Students; $20 Faculty/Staff

Mon., February 5
1,001 Black Inventions (Exhibit)
Student Center

Tue., February 6
David Dante Troutt
Rutgers School of Law
Keynote Speaker
11:00 a.m., Ciccone Theatre

Wed., February 7
Ernie Pannicottoli
1:30 p.m., Student Center

Thu., February 8
Bob Marley Birthday Celebration
12:30 p.m., Student Center
Sponsored by the Caribbean Club

Thu., February 8
“The Color Purple”
4:00 p.m., Bus leaves Parking Lot B
Broadway Play, $30

Sun., February 11
McCullough
Sons of Thunder
3:00 p.m., Ciccone Theatre
Tickets: $18; $10 students & seniors citizens (65+);
$6 children 17 & under
Call Office of Cultural Affairs at 201-447-7428

Tue., February 13
“Perspectives on Race” (Panel Discussion)
New Jersey Caucus of Black Legislators
11:00 a.m., A-104

Thu., February 15
“Spirit of A Woman”
Key Arts Productions
11:00 a.m., Ciccone Theatre
Sponsored by the Black Student Union

Fri., February 16
CJ Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band
7:30 p.m., Ciccone Theatre
Ticket: $50 general admission; $18 students & senior citizens (65+);
$18 all Bergen Community College Call Office of Cultural Affairs at 201-447-7428

Tue., February 20
African-American History Game Bowl
(Game Show)
12:30 p.m., Student Center

Wed., February 21
Spoken Word Open Mic
6:30 p.m., Student Center

Thu., February 22
“Who’s to Blame for the Lack of Student Retention?”
Shaun R. Harper,
Pennsylvania State University
Moses Family Meeting & Training Center (TFD-198)
10:00 a.m. Students
3:00 p.m. Faculty/Staff

Fri., February 23
Banquet
7:00 p.m., Moses Family Meeting & Training Center (TFD-150)

Black History Celebration Committee
Low Isobel Rolston, Chair
Dallas Gray, Co-Chair

April Adams
Vannette John
Wilkin Aguilar
Andrew Krakun
Susan Baschel
Constance Lee
Stafford Barton
Ursula Parrish Daniels
Sonja Brown
Raymond Smith
Gregory Burton
Nikolas Williams
Ralph Choonoo
Paula Williams
Hoesa Lechields
Jon Yamin
Celeste Fimney
Mary Yepez

Craig Phillips, Black Student Union
Deborah Graham, Caribbean Club
Club Day: Spring 06’

Video Game Club members

Latin America Student Association
President: Maida, Romel, member; Vice President, Andrea, member; Ana, Laura, and junior

Student Government Council, Treasurer: Juan Vasquez, Vice President: Sarah Julien, and Senators

Bible Study Club
Treasurer: Raymond, Secretary: Samuel, Luis, new member, President: Christine, Maida, Carolina

Floetry Club members

The Student Newspaper of Bergen Community College, The Torch.
Above: Danny LaFaso: Sports Editor and Chloe Riccardo: Staff Writer
Having Respect for Yourself and your Fellow Females: A Response to Michela Lanche's Breasts vs. Buttocks

By: Amy L. Beckers

EDITORIAL RESPONSE

One key thing that we as not only females, but individuals, strive for in life is respect and recognition. Despite the progress we’ve made over the years, we still have a long way to go.

Breasts vs. Buttocks? My focus on the breast, can be seen as an example of this. How can we expect to gain respect and recognition when we choose to write and acknowledge subject matter as superficial as this? My intention is not to anger the author, my message will never be heard that way. But criticism is inevitable here given the topic. My only hope is that the author be mature enough to accept criticism and learn from it, as all good writers should.

After reading this article, painfully, I could not help but to respond. Perhaps she thought it was funny, clever, or something not to be taken too seriously. Thank you. This article, whether it ever is published or not, is a degrading slap in the face to women in general. Having a conversation with friends regarding your anatomy and what is more important or flattering is one thing, attempting to publish an article on the subject is just inappropriate. If the article were health-related, SOME-THING of importance to inform others, then absolutely write it. Any other reason just seems purely a trivial and demeaning. What exactly was the goal of this article? What did the author hope to convey here? There is a line within the article that states, “Breasts are the sex symbol of a woman.” THIS is what compelled me to write a response. This implies that the author is an expert on the subject, clearly she is NOT. Then I read a little further. “What is a woman? She is a baby, level-headed, yet compassionate being. What better symbol to use than breasts?” What? What? Valid points did she present to back up such a statement? She provided nothing compelling to me. My suggestion here is for the author to take some time reading or perhaps corresponding with some of the fine women out there that are representing us. Maybe do some soul searching of her own to determine if she REALLY believes those declarations she has made. Better yet, ask a breast cancer survivor of she feels “breasts” are the defining marker of a woman. Ms. Lanche, you are, whether you realize it or not, representing not only the student body at Bergen, but women in general when you write. Are we individuals who have the freedom of speech? Of course, but when you put yourself out there, especially as a staff writer for a newspaper, you are representing an entity, like it or not. Be careful with your subject matters and be at least a little considerate to your readership. Not to be unintentionally, YOUR message will never be heard. More important, your opinion and your issue not respected, THAT is important. Especially in today’s society when a woman’s body Image is constantly being put ahead of her intellectual and capabilities. There are some alarming consequences as a result of this, understand? Challenge yourself to make a better angle of your subject matter and help an example not only for your generation, but the generations coming up behind you that still worth goes far beyond body image. One more request for the generations coming up behind you, especially those who have fought so hard to gain that respect makes me want to be as loud as you to be heard, help give them hope that we HAVE and WILL continue to make strides so that respect and recognition I spoke of earlier.

By: Michela Lanche

MANAGING EDITOR

Dear Ms. Beckers,

I apologize for having offended you, as well as other females, with my article Breasts vs. Buttocks. My focus on the breast, feedback whether it be supportive or not, is always appreciated so I do appreciate the constructive criticism. However, I will neither repel nor be ashamed of what I had “declared” or to put it more accurately, stated as my opinion. My article was more definitely published under the “Opinions and Editorial” section of the Torch – just as you can see on page 10 of the November–December 2006 issue.

That being said, I am entitled to my opinion, whether it be offensive to others or not. You stated that you are a “college journalist”. Having a conversation with friends regarding your anatomy and what is more important or flattering is one thing, attempting to publish an article on the subject is just inappropriate. If the article were health-related, something of importance to inform others, then absolutely write it. Any other reason just seems purely trivial and demeaning. What exactly was the goal of this article? What did the author hope to convey here? There is a line within the article that states, “Breasts are the sex symbol of a woman.” This is what compelled me to write a response. This implies that the author is an expert on the subject, clearly she is NOT. Then I read a little further. “What is a woman? She is a baby, level-headed, yet compassionate being. What better symbol to use than breasts?” What? What? Valid points did she present to back up such a statement? She provided nothing compelling to me. My suggestion here is for the author to take some time reading or perhaps corresponding with some of the fine women out there that are representing us. Maybe do some soul searching of her own to determine if she really believes those declarations she has made. Better yet, ask a breast cancer survivor of she feels “breasts” are the defining marker of a woman. Ms. Lanche, you are, whether you realize it or not, representing not only the student body at Bergen, but women in general when you write. Are we individuals who have the freedom of speech? Of course, but when you put yourself out there, especially as a staff writer for a newspaper, you are representing an entity, like it or not. Be careful with your subject matters and be at least a little considerate to your readership. Not to be unintentionally, YOUR message will never be heard. More important, your opinion and your issue not respected, THAT is important. Especially in today’s society when a woman’s body image is constantly being put ahead of her intellectual and capabilities. There are some alarming consequences as a result of this, understand? Challenge yourself to make a better angle of your subject matter and help an example not only for your generation, but the generations coming up behind you, especially those who have fought so hard to gain that respect makes me want to be as loud as you to be heard, help give them hope that we HAVE and WILL continue to make strides so that respect and recognition I spoke of earlier.

PS. It would be great if a staff member could cover Carmit Delman’s presentation for the Literary Arts Series this spring. See www.bergen.edu/las.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Beckers

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

Is looking for writers

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Dear Dr. Addabbo,

Thank you for your response in regards to the editorial on BCC's math program. As a math major, I am very disheartened by the unfairness and lack of support for our math program.

For years, I have been a student of mathematics, and I know firsthand the importance of our math program. As a future math teacher, I am deeply concerned about the future of math at BCC.

I have noticed a significant decline in the number of students enrolled in math courses. This decline has led to a decrease in the quality of instruction and a lack of support for students who are struggling.

I have spoken with several math professors, and they have expressed their concern about the funding for the math program. They have also noted the difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified math teachers.

In addition, I have spoken with other math majors who have expressed their frustration with the lack of resources for our math program. They have noted the difficulty in finding textbooks and other materials that are needed for their courses.

I am concerned about the impact of this decline on the future of math at BCC. I believe that we need to take action to support our math program and ensure that it is able to continue to provide the high-quality education that our students deserve.

I am writing to you today to express my concern about the decline of our math program and to request your help in finding solutions to this problem. I would appreciate any suggestions you might have on how we can support our math program and ensure that it is able to continue to provide the high-quality education that our students deserve.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

Amanda Ferrante
Women and men are both naturally competitive, especially in America. We are competitive in life when it comes to working, studying, shopping at the grocery store, waiting in line for government offices, and even parking on Black Friday. However, if I were to ask people whether they believe either women or men were more competitive among each other, the majority would agree that women take the title.

One morning, I was in the ladies room getting ready to go to the Torch office. My hair was everywhere, so I figured I should fix it. As soon as this girl saw me fix my hair, she immediately took out her brush and started brushing her own hair. Then, another woman behind me did the same thing. If women are competitive in society, then they are definitely competitive when it comes to looking their best.

I have witnessed it firsthand in many instances aside from the one in the bathroom. I have seen it as I was getting ready for a party, a club, and even school. I went to two all-girl high schools; I know the true meaning of competition. For example, every “dress-down” day at school was considered “competition” day. The girls would come dressed up in three or four inch heels, tight jeans, tight shirts, dresses, and skirts. They would wear the creme de la creme of fashion designers with name-brand shoes and handbags to match. All of this just to get attention.

I always wondered to myself, “Why are we dressed up for girl’s? Why are we wasting time investing in clothes?” It’s our competitive nature. The unspoken question prevalent in our minds is: “Do I look just as good as (if not better than) she?” I thought about the girls grooming their hair in the ladies room, and I thought competitiveness is getting too extreme; we need to relax.

Women, chill out! Who cares about who looks the best? I thought we all wanted to be heard and known for power and intelligence, not for our looks. Chill out when it comes to looking well-kept and fashionable. Don’t do the make-up and matching because you want to compete and make it a beauty pageant; do those things because you want to feel good about yourself.
on the poor footwear sported by girls this winter, and the bad sun- glasses you boys love to don, the answer is yes. ‘You tell us what to do, and we’ll do it!’ You may be pondering, ‘Do I really overuse the word?’ If you’re in doubt, listen to yourself and to your friends. You will be amazed.

It’s a problem everyone faces at some point or another; you may as well do your absolute best to nip it in the bud. Maybe our class will be happy to know the word we use most isn’t the typical don’t-give-a-damn swear, but we have another four letter word problem to take care of. Get it, like, together!

**Coral’s Corner**

*“Do you have problems? We’ve got insight! The Torch is happy to announce the birth of our advice column, Coral’s Corner, scheduled to make its debut in the upcoming issue! Don’t know how to deal with an unfair professor? You feel your boss might be short-changing you? Troubles with your significant other? Could your life be an episode of Jerry Springer?* *Well then Coral wants to help! Please send all questions to: helpmecoroctor@yahoo.com.* *We sincerely look forward to hearing from you, but please, keep in mind, Coral is not a doctor or a psychologist, just a friend you never knew you had.*

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**Valentine’s Day for Dummies**

**BY: CHLOE RICCARDO**

**Staff Writer:**

**With Valentine’s Day right around the corner, I thought I’d survey some BCC students and, for my own sake, my girlfriend, to see what they wanted most of all for Valentine’s Day. First and foremost, I’d like to mention that I do not ask any males for their input because guys couldn’t care less about this holiday. We’re not the ones who get anything. The pure desire to do something amazing is tremendous! What I will say is that you’re in college, Romance is 4 and 1 is something you celebrate this holiday every day just by being your romantic self. But if you’re looking for that little something to get her this February 14th, look no further!

**By: James Robinson**

**The Top 1 Valentine’s Day Gifts Your Girlfriend Wants vs. What You Will Actually Get Her**

**What She Wants**

1. A hand-written love note
2. Some dark chocolate Godiva truffles
3. A night on the town
4. Pasta Amore and champagne
5. A day of pampering at the spa
6. Rose pedals lining the ground on which she walks
7. Romantic movie for the two of you to watch that evening
8. Diamond necklace from Tiffany’s
9. Dinner by candlelight

**What You Actually Get Her**

1. A show card that you fill out in the car on the way over to her house
2. Tickets to Wiesnemannia
3. Your ’94 Ford Ranger driving you two to the mini golf course
4. Potato skins and iced tea
5. An hour at Bowl-O-Rama
6. Full-sized roses purchased at the supermarket
7. A reservation at White Castle for 8 o’clock

So guys, listen up! I know you don’t really care about this supposed “holiday,” but you have to give a little. So, make sure you lavish her with flowers and chocolate and take her out for a romantic dinner at her favorite restaurant. Then, go home and throw on a little Planet of the Apes. She’ll love it. Actually, you may want to reconsider that last part. Happy Valentine’s Day!

**How to Save Your Dough**

*STAFF WRITER*:

College years can make a student realize the importance of money. It’s necessary to buy the material things we want and desire. Saving during college期间 can help a student learn how to save money for his/her future as an adult.

During winter break, I went to Washington, D.C., my hometown. I stopped at some places that might help students who want to save money on meals, toiletries, and all other necessities needed for college.

If college students want to save money, they should look for different places that can give them what they really need. College students can go to and save money at several grocery stores in New Jersey. For example, BJ’s Wholesale Club - you can get large portions of food for low prices.

- Costco - you can buy things in bulk, saving you money in the long run.
- Target/Wal-Mart - you can get great clothes, electronics, CDs, furniture, and more at a minimal cost.
- Dollar stores - you can buy toiletries like shaving cream, toothpaste, razors, and toilet paper for a dollar each.

These are just a few of the stores that help students save money for more important things as opposed to spending it on unnecessary things. Places like Costco and the 99 cent store will help students become both smart consumers and educated buyers.

**The Door on the Second Floor**

*STAFF WRITER*:

It has become a shock to me that Bergen has graffiti on its bathroom walls and doors. I thought I’d check in from one afternoon when I was going to the library. It surprised me because Bergen didn’t have that before. I thought. So, why are people putting graffiti on the walls and doors? Are we in high school again? Aren’t we young adults doing a college that expects us to use our education both outside and inside of school? Our days of trying to succumb to peer-pressure are limited once you are in college. Which brings up another question: we are in college, right? We are learning to use our education wisely, right? That’s what I thought. So, why are people putting graffiti on the walls now? It wasn’t there two years ago and I am surprised to see it now.

Why is this being done especially in the semester program? This is absolutely inconsiderate, especially since someone will eventually have to scrub or repaint these walls and doors. It makes our college look disgraceful, and it is not fair to anyone who pays tuition to go here. Those who consider drawing graffiti on school walls and doors as a joke should understand themselves all need to register for Art Appreciation 101. That way, they will be able to both express their love for art, and learn as well.
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Bari Koral – Rock & Roll “Indiegirl”

By: Alon Melamed

As part of Welcome Week, Bergen Community College welcomed Bari Koral, a singer-songwriter from New York City. Already having three albums under her name, she has also released three albums with her band, The Rebirth of True Metal. Her latest album, Confession of an Indigodig, (2005), has been getting rave reviews.

“...The album easily shifts between upbeat melodies (‘In Time’ and ‘The World You Call Home’) and dashing ballads (‘Choices’).” – Cityzen.tv. I caught up with her for a quick session of Q & A.

Lovely Lily Allen Makes Us “Smile”

By: Amanda Ferrante

Cute Face? Check. Relatable lyrics? Check. A lovely little accent? Check. Lily Allen is the latest sensation to come out of England, and we just love her. Winning Spin Magazine’s MySpace Artist Award, Lily Allen has broken into the scene and gotten us where we’ve best reached: MySpace.

She barely meets the drinking age at 21, but she has been quoted saying “Musically, I’ve achieved everything I’ve set out to achieve.” Lily’s love of music stems from her lonely teenage years. “I went to thirteen different schools so I never had time to make enduring friendships. Music became a lifeline to me,” says the singer. As far as her personal likes, Neko Case tops the sacred list of her favorite things, but flowers, dresses, and Marc Jacobs handbags all find their designated slots. We love the “down” Lily.

With her fresh-out-of-the-teen-wood good music box lyrics and her fun bubblegum beats, Lily sounds like nothing we’ve ever heard. “Smile” is sitting happy on MTV’s Big Ten Music Videos on mtv.com. The video chronicles a brokenhearted Ms. Allen, who seeks revenge by having a few of her boys helping her “find the light in the tunnel at the end.” (by destroying the heartbreak-a- err, apartment, of course.) The song’s Also, Lily claims that aside from being cute and catchy, the girl can write. She even prides herself in it saying “...a lot of female artists, and make ones that are boring singers who don’t say anything (certainly not to my generation.) With the kind of music I do you have to be direct and quite literal. I don’t play an instrument, which really makes me focus on the vocal melody, and the lyrics are incredibly important to me. I don’t want to be part of a scene... the whole idea of that makes me feel sick... and most of the music I listen to is by outsider figures, which is where I feel happy.”

Jammin’ in January: Music Picks for the Month

By: Alon Melamed

Back with new forces to battle another semester, here are my top picks for the must buy albums of January. A new year holds perhaps improved personal resolutions for some of us. New music can make a dream about a better year than the one that just left us. Musically, there are some sure winners on the albums that all your music fanatics. “Crowd Rock! Lil’ Jon: This is the debut album of the Atlanta based music producer. An album made up of rock and rap influenced tracks, there is an entourage of guest appearances from artists such as Daizy and Stoop Dogg. On one of his songs, ‘Anget Management’, Eminem and Korn? His first single, ‘Snap Yo Fingers’ features Sean P of YoungBloods and E-40. All songs produced by Lil’ Jon and he is featured singing in every song. Another ambition, American Idol winner Naija Jones is back with another ambitious act, New York native and 2003 winner of the Best New Artist Grammy award, Naija Jones is prepared to release the track of the band’s latest release entitled, “My Rebirth.” This is a six song EP, produced by Max Illidge of 40 Below Summer and Black Market Hero and is chock full of single along choruses and enough body crippling breakdowns to rival any band on the scene. The opening track, “The Deepest Scar,” is the absolute embodiment of why crowds all over the Ticketmaster site are have flocked to see these boys at work. Fennins’s screams and growls compliments the smooth, clean vocals of the chorus beautifully while the instruments are complete heavy metal perfection. Every track on the EP is as well written and precisely performed as the opener, essentially “Road of Empire,” a personal favorite.
On December 6th, 2006, Paul Ruddnick's "I Hate Hamlet" graced the stage and showcased that it's not just a clever title, but it's hilarious! The "play within a play" takes place in the spring of the 1990's in Manhattan. The main characters are Andrew Rally, Felicia Dentine, Lillian Troy, Deidre McDavey, Gary Leftkovity, and John Barrymore. Encouraged by his modern day Ophelia girlfriend, Deidre (Melissa Visco), doubtful actor Andrew Rally (Brain Park) decides to audition for Hamlet, and ends up with the title role. The story is prefaced by a comedic scene in which Felicia (Christine Loihle) tries to reach the ghost of John Barrymore (Elmer Santos.) John Barrymore was a stage screen/actor and Grandfather of actress Drew Barrymore. Elmer Santos delivered a great performance as John Barrymore from the start of the play to the end. He spoke in a deep, flirtatious, high class voice. He charms all the women in the play (even though they cannot see him.) He also gives Andrew the courage that he needs to play Hamlet. Santos's performance was comedic and entertaining. Sergio Pagan, who played Gary Leftkovity, did a great job at playing the money hungry, sleaze ball manager of Andrew Rally. When Andrew plays Hamlet on opening night, his performance does not deliver; the crowd isn't pleased. He goes against his manager's advice and doesn't go to Los Angeles to be a "big star." His manager blames John Barrymore's ghost, but Andrew comes to his senses and knows he should not do it. "I Hate Hamlet"'s moral theme is if your instincts tell you not to do something, you should not go along with it. Overall, the cast's performance was very impressive. "I Hate Hamlet" was romantic, hilarious, and worthwhile. Bergen's students should show support and see every production the students put on. They are all worth it. Great job, Professor Bumgardner and students.

BY: CHLOE RICCARDO
STAFF WRITER

Recently, while subjecting myself and my mother (props to Eric Forman) to Robert DeNiro's three hour spy-epic, The Good Shepherd, I was reminded of how much I like DeNiro as an actor and producer, but perhaps not so much as a director. Now, don't get me wrong fellow DeNiro fans, I am not drawing the conclusion that DeNiro is a bad director. I have yet to meet someone who did not like A Bronx Tale. What I am saying is, waiting fourteen years before directing another film by yourself can make anyone a little rusty. The Good Shepherd tells the story of Edward Bell Wilson (Matt Damon), a Yale student who finds himself spiraling deeper and deeper into a world of mistrust, lies, and deception. Between being part of a secret society and employed at the Office of Strategic Services (the first name given to the Central Intelligence Agency), Wilson must manage a wife, Margaret Russell (Angelina Jolie), a child, and a growing sense of deception.

The movie starts and ends at the Bay of Pigs invasion in the 1960's. The two hours in between take us through Wilson's life, choices, and his involvement in the cold war. Although the plot is well-developed, the continuity of the movie was a bit confusing. The timeline jumps around; if you are not aware of the date being updated in either the bottom left or right corner of the screen, you could get somewhat confused. Or at least I was. Mom was too.

Matt Damon does however play a terrific counterintelligence agent (as we have seen previously in his work as Jason Bourne) and brings the character full circle from his experience in witnessing the death of his own father in childhood to his work at the OSS, and ultimately how he handles his own family. Angelina Jolie plays a decent role, although she is also accustomed to the part of the carefree young woman turned dejected and despondent in her search for attention in later life. Any ideas why, Mr. Voight?

All in all, I give this movie a C. Three hours of moderately puzzling spy treachery and deception is good for rental, not so much for my numb buns and aching back. And please people; keep your feet off the back of my seat. Thank you, kindly.

BY: JILL BARTLETT
STAFF WRITER

Play Review: “I Hate Hamlet”
Alpha Dog: Definitely an Alpha Don't
BY AMANDA FERRANTE
COPY EDITOR
Alpha Dog paints a shocking yet truthful portrait of three days leading up to the end of a 15 year old boy’s life. Written from the perspective of the 15 year old LA with too much time and money. After their X-Box goes on the barricade, Johnny finds himself in utter disgust.

It’s safe to say that no one had a “thinking caps on,” and drugs brought out the worst in these already ill-tempered teens. Johnny and his boy decide that Zach can’t be nearly returned, he’d talk. Johnny decides his lawyer friend and receives word that in the state of California you could get a life sentence for kidnapping. Somehow, the midle of girls wearing next to nothing and chugging of wine coolers, Johnny decides “he’s got to go.” Convinced that Zach’s a good kid and wouldn’t talk if returned, Johnny’s main man, Frankie Ballenbacher (Justin Timberlake) can’t bring himself to harm the kid. What raised question marks above Johnny’s head was his task was harder than he thought. The team finished with a 3-2 loss in the regular season to West Virginia and a disappointing ending of the season to Rutgers.

In addition to Rice’s immediate impact, the Scarlet Knight defense also had an immense step in the fourth quarter. While North Carolina was leading 2-10 and the ball at the one-yard line, they decided to play the fourth down. Rutgers defense stopping the Tar Heels drive was the main reason Rutgers was victorious.

The Scarlet Knights were one more game out of first place in the Big East conference game against Pittsburgh. Quarterback Mike Teel orchestrates a touch down and built a crisp machine that erupted through the Panthers. Fullback Brian Leonard became the Scarlet Knights all time leader in rushing for the second straight game. Right end Tyler Palco had. Sacking Palco four times and managing to get running back Ray Rice and his supporting cast enough time to erapat Pittsburgh were the only real positive.

Game # 3: December 2, 2006, Morgantown, WV

Rutgers Scarlet Knights at West Virginia Mountaineers

In one of the most electrifying games in College Football this season, visiting Rutgers came up a 33-yard field goal. Somehow, Ito missed the kick. Lucky for him and the rest of the team, the Cardinals were called for a penalty and with 13 seconds left, The judge was to make a 22-yard field goal win to the game. This time, the kick was good and it just about the entire state of New Jersey poured into the field. The Scarlet Knights were one more step closer to hitting the .500 mark.

Five exciting games form one very exciting season. Who knows what next year will bring! A national championship anytime!
See how far and how fast Montclair State can take you.

Find out why Montclair State is the Number 1 choice for transfer and adult students. Whether you’re a college transfer or returning adult, make Montclair State your final destination. See why New Jersey’s second-largest and fastest-growing university is the perfect place to earn your degree.

Attend our Open House for transfer and adult students on March 15. Our Representatives from Admissions, Financial Aid, the Career Development Center, and the Center for Academic Advising and Adult Learning will be present to provide information and answer your questions.

Open House for Adults and Transfers
Thursday, March 15, 2007
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
University Hall 1070
Bulldogs defeat Raritan Lions 64-31
At the Expense of Defense and Discipline

BY: DANNY LAFASO
SPORTS EDITOR

With a 5-11 record, the BCC Bulldogs men’s basketball team took on the court on Thursday, January 18th, to take on the Raritan Valley Lions. For the first four minutes of the first half, the Bulldogs looked asleep, and lacked any intensity needed to win a basketball game. Eventually, they made their way down the court offensively, they tried to put on a show for the home crowd to no avail. Raritan Valley only carried about eight men on their roster, so naturally they began to tire early; even with a 9.8 lead early in the first half, they called a timeout to rest their players. This did little for the Lions, but completely rejuvenated the Bulldogs, who then dismantled their opponent with a quick 16-2 run, making the score 24-11 late in the first half. The half would end with BCC up 32-11, completing a masterful 24-2 first half run, completely stifling the Raritan players offensively.

The second half can bring almost the complete polar opposite of the first. Bergen sprinted up court every chance they got, and buried shot after shot, while giving nothing forthcoming for Raritan to work with offensively. It took a full five minutes for Raritan to finally sink a basket, making the score 38-13. With about 15:00 left in the game, still no momentum could be gained, no matter what the Lions tried. Bergen’s defensive effort was not one that could be called terrific, giving opportunity after opportunity to the Raritan squad, who just couldn’t get any shots to fall their way. The Bulldogs picked up victory number 6, with a final score of 64-31, and perhaps some semblance of the intensity that was so lacking in the first half was gained by the BCC squad’s outcome. So much of the non-stop dribbles and defensive prowess that last season’s team showed game after game was non-existent. Opponents in the paint were given no reason to fear any center that Bergen threw at them, and perimeter shots were thrown up at will, with little or no effort from the Bulldogs perimeter defenders.

The head coach who brought winning to the BCC gymnasium floor is gone, and even at 6-11 with a chance to still make a playoff push, is so last season. Point guard Shawn Hoggins, arguably the team leader and overall best player.

BCC’s Men’s Basketball Team

BCC’s Men’s Basketball Team

BCC’s Women’s Basketball Team

Meanwhile, Bergen’s Men’s Basketball team welcomed this year a new coach with new standards. With some Division II experience at Mercy College, Sean Kelly hopes to take a new roster full of potential to a new road of success.

Torch: How much are you familiar with BCC’s Women’s Basketball team?
Coach Kelly: I would like to make sure the team is representing the school respectfully and is respected by other teams as well. I expect that the players to play hard and put up 110% of every time they play.

Torch: What is the team’s strengths?
Coach Kelly: We have very good overall size. In fact, we are strong in every position. We are confident we can bring the peak for the Region playoffs in March. We have a tremendous amount of youth on this year’s team. We have to mesh the handful of returning players from last year’s team and the freshmen we brought in to work for the Region playoffs in March.

Torch: What is your bas- ketball background?
Coach Kelly: I believe we are a strong defensive team. We preach that defense wins games and our kids seem to have bought into that notion. We understand and can throw a lot of different looks at a team on the defensive side of the court and that forces them to adjust. We need to continue to get better on the offensive end of the floor, and one of our glaring weaknesses would probably be our 3-point shooting, which right now needs to improve. The game has changed over the last two decades with the advent of the 3-point shot, and we need to be able to knock it down with more consistency.

I am confident it will improve as the year continues. It is a marathon season that starts in October and goes through March, so we hope to improve every day in practice and our freshmen are acclimated to the college game.

Torch: What is so special about playing for BCC?
Coach Kelly: It is a special experience to be a college basketball player. Not many people have the talent to com- pete at this high level of basketball. Our goal here at BCC is to ensure that our players do well in both the classroom and on the hardwood, and move on from BCC to four-year programs at the Division II or III level. We feel that participating in athletics is a valued activity that translates well to the real world once our players graduate.