Grand Opening: BCC Cuts the Ribbon on its Newest and Most Advanced Building to Date

BY: DOUG SMITH
STAFF WRITER

West Hall, BCC’s new communications building (located in the front of the campus’s Paramus Road entrance), opened on Thursday May 8th 2007. It was the perfect setting, the sun was shining, camera men were set up to document the event, and a group of African percussionists were banging away behind the podium creating anticipation as a crowd arrived. BCC president Dr. Judith K. Winn began by dedicating a moment of silence to music Professor Ron Mazurek, who was one of the most vocal proponents for this project. As a teacher of the arts and an accomplished musician, Prof. Mazurek knew that the department needed its own space away from the traditional class rooms. We all bowed our heads in commemoration in front of a finished product that he worked so hard to make happen.

President Winn also mentioned the effort put forth by the various Board of Trustees members to make the West Hall a reality. She then discussed one of the most important aspects, the funding. West Hall is not expected to be a result of increased tuition fees because the entire construction cost (which excludes consulting, staffing, maintenance etc.) was covered by what are called Chapter 12 funds from the state and county government.

When the speeches ended, President Winn and Board of Trustees members Stephen J. Moses and David J. Kasparian brandished a pair of classic cliché oversized golden scissors, showing the purple and orange ribbons no mercy.

BCC President Judith K. Winn Cuts the Ribbon at West Hall, alongside Board of Trustees Members Stephen J. Moses and David J. Kasparian.

Honor Students Present Their Work at the National Honors Council Conference in Rhode Island

BY: CARESSA VALDEZUA
STAFF WRITER

Bergen Community College students Fred Clark, Jr., Melissa Toscano, and Caressa Valdueza were selected to present their term papers in Rhode Island at The National Regional Honors Council (NRHC) annual Conference on March 29 to April 1st at the Providence Hilton Hotel. The NRHC event was attended by colleges from different states including Maryland, Connecticut, and New York. This year’s conference was entitled Legacies, “how past practices are reflected in present thought and institutional traditions.” Fred Clark, Jr., assisted by fellow BCC student, Marci Batchelor, presented “The Legacy of Lyndon LaRouche,” Melissa Toscano presented “Modern Slavery: The Legacy of Exploitation,” and Caressa Valdueza presented “US Asylum Based on Social Orientation.”

The students who went to Rhode Island took English Composition I Honors class with Dr. Dorothy Altman, who encouraged the students to submit their paper. Dr. Altman says the NRHC is “an organization of students, faculty, and administrators dedicated to encourage and support undergraduate honors learning.” Nearly 200 members from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington DC, Maine, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Puerto Rico "share activities and information." BCC is one of the many participants. Dr. Altman learned more about NRHC through Dr. Kaufman, Director of the Honors program. "I asked members of my English Composition I Honors if they would like to submit proposals and three students did and were accepted," Dr. Altman says.

Fred Clark, Jr. and Marci Batchelor did an interactive round-table presentation. Melissa Toscano and Caressa Valdueza presented their papers and answered questions thereafter. The day before the big event, the students with Dr. Altman toured some of Rhode Island’s finest places.

Why did you choose your topic?
Describe the process of working on your research paper and preparing for the presentation.

Melissa: I needed an interesting topic that involved immigrants to...
Monday, April 16th, may have been one of the happiest days for Bergen students this year: the heavy rains brought by the Nor’easter allowed them to leave early. Unfortunately, not everybody shared that same joy because as Bergen was closing its doors to classes, it was opening them to people temporarily homeless due to the property destruction of the flood.

The American Red Cross (Bergen – Hudson chapter) and Bergen Community College collectively opened a temporary shelter to house the people who woke to several feet of water in the basements and bottom floors. Remaining in their homes was unsafe and almost impossible. One of the Red Cross volunteers was kind enough to give The Torch a short interview on how this came to be and what type of aid and assistance was offered. (Due to formality agreements, the volunteer asked that his name not be released.)

Doug Smith - Tell me from what these flood victims are coming and what kind of aid they’re receiving here from the Red Cross?

Red Cross Volunteer - The Red Cross, in a case like this, would do mainly immediate care as far as food, shelter, and any clothing needs they may have. Most of them seem to be coming from New Milford, Lodi, and some are from River Edge and Paramus.

D.S. - How many people is this temporary shelter set up to house?

R.C.V. - It can hold up to approximately 200. We had at one time up to 120 cots set up, but as these people came in, a lot of them looked for other places [and] made other arrangements. So, last night, (Monday April 16th), we had about 35-40 people sleeping here.

D.S. - Who made the decision to assist the victims here at BCC?

R.C.V. - That’s a decision that’s made through the Red Cross, the office of emergency management in the county, and the different towns.

BCC Gymnasium turned into temporary shelter outfitted with dozens of cots.

Red Cross workers check in people leftover homeless after major flooding in parts of Bergen County time up to 120 cots set-up, but as these people came in, a lot of them looked for other places [and] made other arrangements. So, last night, (Monday April 16th), we had about 35-40 people sleeping here.

D.S. - At the onset of the flood, was the Red Cross ready in terms of volunteers and supplies or was it scrambling?

R.C.V. - No, we were pretty much ready for it. I know in my chapter in Morris County, we had people on standby, ready to go. I know the national Red Cross had been having conference calls to inform the national area about what was going on, what they were getting ready for, and what they were expecting. I’m sure Bergen County was in on it too… everybody was pretty much ready for it, and obviously, up here, they’ve done it before with [Hurricane] Floyd a few years ago. All these supplies are from the Bergen - Hudson American Red Cross, so we had the supplies ready to go. It’s just a matter of getting the volunteers together to move them to where they’re needed to open the shelters, which is a fairly routine thing.

D.S. - A personal question; I see that on a – two day thing here, and you guys pretty much have it covered, but is there anything a student here can do to help with this?

R.C.V. - For the most part, to work at a shelter for the Red Cross you have to have been trained, and you have to have a background check. The days of pulling people off the streets to help do things are gone.

D.S. - You guys have it covered?

R.C.V. - Yeah, actually when I was first started with Katrina, we had to go through (classes) very quickly, at least three disaster management classes, and we’ve gone through more since we’ve been involved. Shelter management is one of the classes. You need to go through the training so you know what you can and cannot allow and how the Red Cross wants it to be run, otherwise you just have a bunch of untrained people coming in who may or may not be trustworthy. You really can’t have anyone who’s just going to say, “I’m just going to drop in and start working.” It doesn’t work that way. The best thing they can do is get involved with the Red Cross (formally) and get the training before the disaster so when it happens you can be on call and ready-to-go.

D.S. - Thank you.

Seeing the Bergen gymnasium as a place where flood victims slept was surreal; however, the Red Cross Volunteers did their best to make them feel at home. Volunteers assisted with not only lodging, but meal stations were stocked with all the essentials. Bergen County Sheriff’s and Bergen Community College Public Safety officers oversaw the project ensuring the safety of all involved.

Thanks to The Red Cross and Bergen’s efforts, we can find solace in tragedy.
Guide for New Students

The Student’s Guide to Registering for Classes

BY: JAMES ROBINSON

STAFF WRITER

Registering for classes can be more difficult for those already registered for classes. You’re registering for classes. You wait in long lines at Registrations, only to be told “You’re full on your class.” You decide to stay and do it all over again, and you wait in line for a class for the next hour. If you use WebAdvisor, but many new students may be lost about some of these simple steps to never wait in line again.

Here is your guide to online registration, adding and dropping classes, buying books and everything you else need to know.

Registering for classes online:

1. Log onto Bergen’s website and find WebAdvisor (or just go to https://go.bergen.edu) to find WebAdvisor.
2. Click “Log in” at the top of the page.
3. Enter the semester you’d like to register for and the classes you want to take.
4. After you’ve entered your username and password, click the “Register for sections” button.
5. Enter the semester you’d like to register for and the classes you want to take.
6. A list of classes will come up, here you should check the days and time of the class, availability and professor.
7. Click the box to the left of the class you wish to register for and submit.
8. Confirm and you’re done!

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For students registering for classes, the special note for this semester is:

- Add/Drop Policy:
  - For the Fall semester, here are the withdrawal dates to receive a refund:
    - Last Day to receive 100% refund: 9/11/2007
    - Last Day to receive 50% refund: 9/18/2007

The official withdrawal deadline for Fall is September 19th.

Buying your books online:

1. Log onto bergen.bl commodore
2. Click the type of book you need (Ex: Textbook)
3. Select the department and section number (Ex: Bio-101-000)
4. Check off if you’d like to buy your books used or new and the price you’d be willing to pay.

Congratulations! You’ve managed to avoid the lines and register for classes AND buy your books online!

- Welcome Weeks
- GLBT Awareness Week
- Diversity Week
- Interfaith Month

*Fall dates are tentative

Have a Great Summer!

Guide to the Bergen Campus

BY: CHRIS MAYS

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Entering the Bergen Community College campus can be overwhelming as a new student. After finding a spot, getting to the building you want to be in is the next step. Hopefully this article will clear up some confusion.

General courses are held in this building. The Welcome Center is the place to go for any college-related questions. The registrar’s office and bookstore are available.

If you don’t like your professor, you should change your classes. Also, do not be afraid to ask for help.

If you would like to be in the same class at a later time don’t wait until you see the professor.

The campus has computer labs and interactive classrooms on the first floor of the Technology building. The Technology building continues education is located sometimes held in the theatre.

There is a kitchen where culinary students prepare food. Special dietary considerations are available for a reasonable price.

There is a small food store, computer lab, art gallery, and computer training. It is the place to be for all future hotel and restaurant managers.

Edend Hall also houses theatre majors with their workshop, grab room, and lab. Performances are sometimes held in the theatre.

The Real STARS of Bergen

BY: ALON MELAMED

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Bergen Community College is a home away from home. Whether it’s the Cheerleading center, Encouraging student body, student body, we are all part of the community service.

We are planning a big campus clean up right now. We are going to put on an Environment Week, and in fact, one of the professors is going to talk about the role our campus plays in the world.

There are a lot of things students in Bergen can do while away from home. Some of these events are:

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Have a Great Summer!
The Torch
July 2007

Café Bergen: Displays Art and Showcases Artists

BY DOUG SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The usually semi-annual Café Bergen (a student, faculty, and outsider mix of culture and art) just recently took place in the student center. The main focus was on a mural of paintings done by the students that depict facial portraits of their fellow Bergen students. In conjunction with World Week, Café Bergen also included three performances: an appropriate electric modern dance to “Haale,” an Iranian infused rock female singer who played at Carnegie Hall earlier this year. (missing a per?)

The welcoming setting offered about three rows of red table-clothed tables with a candle on each and a program for every chair. In the back corner, coffee and cookies were served. Various Bergen professors came to the microphone to give our honorable mentions to student artists whose works were most impressive, and to announce the coming performers to the stage offering a little background information.

Haale (pronounced HA-ŁA) was the first to perform after having already given a speech to students about Persian mysticism. She skillfully mixed the two styles of tranquil, experimental rock with the rich harmonies of the ancient Sufi culture in which she grew up. The incredible part of the performance was her versatileness. For example, in one song she sang mostly in Farsi, but then, she broke into a chorus of English, just when you thought you might have felt lost. She also played with a variety of instruments, including a violin, guitar to a shaker for a special chant with which she started her set. It was a big risk to have a musician playing up close and personal. If you missed her at Café Bergen, check out Haale at haale.com or myspace.com/haale. Bergen’s very own music professor John La Barbera did a set with the famous Bansuri flute player, Steve Gorn (even Paul Simon admitted to being a fan of his music). John La Barbera teaches music, and he demonstrated his talent for strung instruments with a different member of the guitar family for each song. He used both modern and ancient guitars, one of which was custom made for him in Italy (and is actually the first steel-strung type of guitar), and one that was invented by an aboriginal population of Latin America upon seeing the guitar of the Spanish Conquistadores. These two did about five songs ranging from traditional southern Italian style to a Brazilian fusion. The crowd was impressed with their vast knowledge and talent of the instruments they played.

The last performance was by Eun-Hee Vivian Lee. She’s a student at Bergen as well as an accomplished dance teacher and choreographer. Lee is also a graduate from Haungsing University in South Korea and has an impressive dance resume spanning from Korea to New York City. She did an original choreographed piece behind an intense musical backdrop.

The biggest feature of Bergen Café was the student artists. The artists were tasks with painting facial portraits of other students in the college. Of all the thirty or so paintings on display, eight students stood out from the rest and received honorable mentions right before the performances began. Jayson Kim, Kathy Hetzel, Anna Sudol, Kelly Lorenz, Lena Lee, Hye Jin Kim, Ed Boghosian, and Umberto Spezzacatena were the students presented with Honorable Mention.

Math Professor and World Week committee member, Linne Hua (front and center in the group photo), emphasized the importance of the happenings of the day. The students put into their creations. She felt that their theme should not go unnoticed by the rest of the students. The display should not go unnoticed by the rest of the students. The display showcased true talent; works that were so diverse; looks as if they were taken right off the wall of an art gallery.

John Maddi, a painter, modestly stated that “art for [him] is just persis- ence.” He went on to explain that this is something that he has been doing for awhile and contrary to what most people believe, not every artist is a natural. For many, being an artist is a practiced skill that keeps improving with time and experience.

Honorable mention artist Umberto Spezzacatena, standing next to the portrait he made (top) and the portrait made of him (middle). The entire World Week committee, along with participating students and faculty, did a fine job in bringing together all the different mediums of artistic ability for another successful Café Bergen.

BCC music Professor John La Barbera (left) playing an antiquated Italian guitar along with Bansuri flute virtuoso Steve Gorn in the Student Center.

BY DOUG SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Continued from Cover
write about the world in the movie In Writing 101 Honors. I had seen a movie on Lifetime a while back about Persian mysticism. She skillfully mixed the two styles of tranquil, experimental rock with the rich harmonies of the ancient Sufi culture in which she grew up. The incredible part of the performance was her versatileness. For example, in one song she sang mostly in Farsi, but then, she broke into a chorus of English, just when you thought you might have felt lost. She also played with a variety of instruments, including a violin, guitar to a shaker for a special chant with which she started her set. It was a big risk to have a musician playing up close and personal. If you missed her at Café Bergen, check out Haale at haale.com or myspace.com/haale.

Melissa: I loved the “City as Text” tour in Newport. We got to take a tour of the city and see all the cool places from the 1660s to the Guided age and see the mansions of the Vanderbilt family. Fred: I enjoyed the beautiful day when we had in Rhode Island to walk around the city of Providence, take in a little museums, and bask in the leisure of becoming educated about the history of not only Rhode Island, but also America.

Dr. Altman: I really enjoyed the entire conference—the presenta- tions, the tour, spending time with the BCC students, and talking with other Honors faculty members.

What was it like doing the round table presentation?
Fred: The roundtable was exciting. Months of thought and prepa- ration were finally realized. The other students listened diligently as I spoke and responded with many of the thoughts I had encountered as researched. This allowed me to guide the discussion along the lines of my personal research while pro- viding insight into LaRouche’s ideas. The other presenter at the table of 12 or 13 students and faculty combined spoke about “US policy being operated by foreign companies.”

Dr. Altman: I was very nervous dur- ing parts of the presentation and then I would just calm down a bit. The most nerve-wracking part was the questions at the end of my reading.

What did you learn from the Conference?
Melissa: I learned a lot about the history of Rhode Island, I learned a lot of information about students going to numerous colleges around New Jersey. Also, the topics essays have taught me a great deal.

Fred: I learned that I’m not the only one who thinks that LaRouche’s ideas are disturbing (laughs). And just a lot about Rhode Island.

Melissa Toscano plans to major in Biology. For the fall 2007 semes- ters, she hopes to study abroad in Rome, Italy which has promised her scholarship. The NJ STAR scholar hopes to transfer to Rutgers or Montclair State University. Fred Clark, Jr. will graduate with an Associate Degree in Business next fall. He will continue to get his Bachelor’s in Rutgers or NYU. Carressa Valdueza and Melissa Toscano also presented their paper in the 3rd Annual Feminist Connections, held in Montclair State University.

“I was so proud of the BCC students who went to Legacies,” Dr. Altman says, “Many other schools brought students just to observe with the idea of presenting next year; we were attending the conference for the first time, but the BCC students did a great job!”

The NYC Honors Conference will be in Morristown next year, sponsored by area colleges including the College of St. Elizabeth and William Paterson.”

Honors Council Conference in Rhode Island

Artists John Maddi and Umberto Spezzacatena standing in front of their work proudly, with Bergen professors came to the microphone to give our honorable mentions to student artists whose works were most impressive, and to announce the coming performers to the stage offering a little background information.

Hui (front and center) and Melissa Toscana presented with Honorable Mention.
At the age of 21, Arthur Romano dedicated his life to organizing and supporting peace related events and campaigns in the US and in other parts of the world. Since that time, he has worked in communication in various concerned communities and strengthened various social networks in the US and around the world. In 1999, at the age of twenty-four, Arthur founded Youth for Peace, an internet based program that provided an opportunity for young people in various parts of the world to share inspiration and information related to their own community projects. He went on to work with an array of governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and NGOs and the Information Department of the United Nations to promote the International Day of Peace and the Gandhi-King Season for Nonviolence.

In 2002, being the source of September 11th, Arthur joined with a group of concerned citizens to counteract the narrowing national debate and increasing calls for retaliatory measures in response to those attacks. The World Peace Walk resulted with members walking more than three hundred miles from the former site of the World Trade Towers to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Thus, creating space for communities to grieve and explore the possibilities for nonviolent responses to these acts of hatred.

Arthur Romano

The decision becoming of a peace worker was generated by his school work in History. Martin at one point in his life was a worker in the tobacco industry. As such, nobody expected for him to become what he represents today. However, he believed in one constant: KEEP MOVING AND NEVER FEAR ANYTHING. Through this notion he wanted to encourage, inspire, and firm followers of their beliefs. He said that it is the only way to become true conveyor. Although we might think that we can’t make a big change in a life-time, getting started and being willing to do something for others is what matters, and will be appreciated by everyone.

At the end, the guest speaker pro- posed one very useful technique of being controlled over. When we are scared, we get upset. First, we have to identify the source of the anger. Second, we have to inhale deep and release it quickly, and finally by knowing the source and the cause of the distur- bance, we can relax by playing some good music or simply enjoy- ing nature.

A very inspiring speech for many and for the ones that consider themselves particular.

By: Marieta Gonor

Publicist

People take many important things for granted. Sometimes we fail to appreciate the most essential things in our lives. How many days would you be able to survive without your car, or cell phone? While your phone can be replaced quite easily, your driving privilege if taken away will not be replaced as easily. We all show our “love” to police cars that patrol our neigh- borhoods from driving maniacs, but every mistake one makes on the road can cost a lot.

The defensive driving course that I had to take for speeding revealed some interesting information I have not known before. We all feel bad for Paris Hilton got for going to prison, but do you know that a blood alcohol level of slightly more than 0.08 doubles the possibility of causing a crash? Some interesting facts from all over the world that might make you think before drinking and driving: In Japan one can lose his license forever for DUI. In Bulgaria the second conviction of DUI could result in execution. In Great Britain one can not only pay a lot of money but also spend some time in jail for driving intox- icated.

If you are spending your spring break in El Salvador you might want to seriously consider drinking drunk, for you could be executed. In Malayasia you would go to jail, and if you are married the wife would be imprisoned too. In Turkey drunk drivers are taken 20 miles from town by the police and forced to walk back under escort. And the facts that are not so famous.

In 2003 more than 43,000 peo- ple died in traffic crashes. Most of them are caused by drivers’ failure to keep in his lane or simply run- ning off the road. One of the most accidents are caused by someone who has been drinking too much or was not able to “hold” their liquor. So stop and think whether having fun is worth risking someone else’s life.

Four Westworld Colleges You’ve Never Heard Of

By: Rachel Freeman

Contributing Writer

It’s well known that the Bergen Community College is in the process of attending college. I’ve met at least ten people who would chop their heads off to have the same kind of student body that BCC offers. When I say the word, others blurt out to get that fat package in the mail this May. Perhaps instead you would prefer to have students like Ramapo, William Patterson, or other classic BCC choices. This is not the case.

But here’s a list of some “wacky” less traditional schools. Liberal and progressively thinking, some of these colleges do not require SAT scores, citing them as unfair assessments. While some other colleges require fewer tests, in favor of cumulative final projects or thesis, considering these forms of creativ- ity a better representation of course work. Most provide unique approaches to education. Most assessments of intellect. Others require fewer tests, in favor of assessing intelligence. All provide unique approaches to education. Most tend to be very small towns, and went up to ten people who would chop off their heads every day for the feeling of their life, like the funny in- dustry a different self. And most tend to work especially hard, but every mistake one makes on the road can cost a lot.

The many people that are able and willing to contribute something significant, through PEACEFUL ACTION was deeply encouraged by the speaker, and by doing so many problems that occupy the world will be solved.

The decision becoming of a peace worker was generated by his school work in History. Martin at one point in his life was a worker in the tobacco industry. As such, nobody expected for him to become what he represents today. However, he believed in one constant: KEEP MOVING AND NEVER FEAR ANYTHING. Through this notion he wanted to encourage, inspire, and firm followers of their beliefs. He said that it is the only way to become true conveyor. Although we might think that we can’t make a big change in a life-time, getting started and being willing to do something for others is what matters, and will be appreciated by everyone.

At the end, the guest speaker pro- posed one very useful technique of being controlled over. When we are scared, we get upset. First, we have to identify the source of the anger. Second, we have to inhale deep and release it quickly, and finally by knowing the source and the cause of the distur- bance, we can relax by playing some good music or simply enjoy- ing nature.

A very inspiring speech for many and for the ones that consider themselves particular.
A Victimless Crime

By Chris Mays

After reading about the murder of a "Talley boogaloo man who was arrested in connection with an off- shore sports betting operation," in the Record, the "victimless" crime concept took my inter- est. A local bookie, who has declined to be named, agreed to bring me up to date on his cash business in Providence, Rhode Island. Inside a take on his leather coach, he tells me about the small world of red wine from Italy. He had just been updated on his computer. The recent massacre at Virginia Tech has spawned more question- ing on the issue of gun control, and the question is whether or not there is a need in America for restrictions placed on firearms. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that there were 52,447 violence- related and 23,237 accidental gun- shot injuries in the United States in 1998. This year alone, about 6,107 of these shootings are homicides. Pennsylvania's Justice Initiative is the "Victimless Crime Victimization Survey," stat- ing that there are 2.5 million lives which will be saved by firearms protection each year in the United States. The best available evidence indicates that about 25% of all firearm deaths are due to suicide. This is the number one cause of death in the United States. The biggest movement that has been taking place for quite some time now is the fight to save our environment. In the future, as the Earth continues to get warmer, sea levels would rise, our poorest counties face a drought of food and water, and we would see more floods and avalanches, and in North America, more hurricanes, droughts, floods, heat waves and wildfires are expected. However, we can reverse all of these effects by changing the way we consume energy, on a national, local, and personal level. There is a vast and ever-growing amount of information on our fingertips through the Internet. For instance, the HumanCarbonFootprint offers an easy-to-follow list of everyday things we can do, such as replacing our light bulbs with a compact fluorescent light bulb, which uses 60% less energy, or something as simple as we would save 300 pounds of carbon dioxide a year! There are dozens of simple changes such as these that can drastically change our current situ- ation for the better. While these small changes can help achieve our goal, the problem con- tinues nationally. Carbon emis- sions need to be reduced and the argument of how to go about enticing businesses to reduce their emissions has sparked a variety of

Our Generation’s To-Do List

By James Robinson

Each generation is given the opportunity to improve on our great nation, and while America has moved forward by leaps and bounds since its inception, the jour-ney is not yet over. With the 13th Amendment we abolished slavery; through the 19th Amendment women were finally given the right to vote, and during the 1960’s, the Civil Rights move- ment took a place in our history. These things have arrived at centuries earlier. These changes that were made as a nation have given us an opportunity to look into the future and see what our country is capable of producing. Our government, the issue's of racism and sex-ism, are always present; but they seem to have been put back in their place. Congress, once again, is gearing up to pass legislation. Congress is currently considering, once again, gun control, and the question is whether or not there is a need in America for restrictions placed on firearms. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that there were 52,447 violence-related and 23,237 accidental gun-shot injuries in the United States in 1998. This year alone, about 6,107 of these shootings are homicides. Pennsylvania's Justice Initiative is the "Victimless Crime Victimization Survey," stating that there are 2.5 million lives which will be saved by firearms protection each year in the United States. The best available evidence indicates that about 25% of all firearm deaths are due to suicide. This is the number one cause of death in the United States. The biggest movement that has been taking place for quite some time now is the fight to save our environment. In the future, as the Earth continues to get warmer, sea levels would rise, our poorest counties face a drought of food and water, and we would see more floods and avalanches, and in North America, more hurricanes, droughts, floods, heat waves and wildfires are expected. However, we can reverse all of these effects by changing the way we consume energy, on a national, local, and personal level. There is a vast and ever-growing amount of information on our fingertips through the Internet. For instance, the HumanCarbonFootprint offers an easy-to-follow list of everyday things we can do, such as replacing our light bulbs with a compact fluorescent light bulb, which uses 60% less energy, or something as simple as we would save 300 pounds of carbon dioxide a year! There are dozens of simple changes such as these that can drastically change our current situation for the better. While these small changes can help achieve our goal, the problem continues nationally. Carbon emissions need to be reduced and the argument of how to go about enticing businesses to reduce their emissions has sparked a variety of suggestions, including not to omissions. Obama has an army of political accomplishments under his belt. woven in with his political plan to accomplish as President of the United States? What does he plan to do for college students in particular? Obama's policy for education is revolutionary. He plans to eliminate the Federal Pell Grant limit from $4,050 to a new maximum limit of $5,500. He can also help students buy textbooks or allow them to take summer classes so that they can graduate faster. Obama has inspired students in high schools and colleges to form accidental firearm deaths involving children and with weak back- ground checks, illegal sales, and improper licensing, these weapons could very easily fall into the wrong hands. The policy concern- ing gun laws in America has swung in each direction at some point in time and the argument continues and will continue for some time. After considering the facts, the question to ask yourself is: By owning a gun, are you making myself safer or less safe? Sources:

Barack Obama: The Next JFK?

By Paul Ibanez

Barack Obama is a U.S. Senator from Illinois. His father is from Kenya and his moth- er from a rural town in Kansas. They met as students at the University of Hawaii. When Obama was ten years old, his father was left with his mother in Hawaii. Living with his mother was difficult due to language and understand- ing values of empathy. However, as students at the University of Hawaii, where he graduated, from a real issue is rooted in the difference between his relationships and regula- tions of the process to own a firearm, and most importantly, is about the propo- sition of keeping guns safe from improper licensing, these weapons can help achieve our goal, the problem continues nationally. Carbon emis- sions need to be reduced and the argument of how to go about enticing businesses to reduce their emissions has sparked a variety of suggestions, including not to omissions. Obama has an army of political accomplishments under his belt. woven in with his political plan to accomplish as President of the United States? What does he plan to do for college students in particular? Obama's policy for education is revolutionary. He plans to eliminate the Federal Pell Grant limit from $4,050 to a new maximum limit of $5,500. He can also help students buy textbooks or allow them to take summer classes so that they can graduate faster. Students For Barack Obama (SFBO). This organization is com- prised of American high school, college, and graduate students who have congregated with a common purpose: to improve the nation for our generation by electing Obama as President of the United States. SFBO was established in the sum- mer of 2006 when a small number of students started to petition Obama to run for President in 2008. SFBO movement (an online social network).
Su1 Club Day on the Green

All you lovely ladies who would like to kill two birds with one stone can 1. join a prestigious college newspaper and 2. have the privilege to work with this most sexiest of men this coming Fall 2007 semester. Don’t delay it’s first come, first serve!

The Caribbean Students Association is one of the many cultural based clubs that BCC has to offer.

www.bergenhonors.org Everything you hoped college could be

Student Ambassadors; they’re here to help and they were red shirt, so you can’t miss ‘em.

The newly formed BergenLit literature club reached out to students and faculty by sharing the wealth, without asking for a cent in return!

A government by the student and for the students!
Letters to the Editor

By: Martia Gonor

PUBLIC

I am going to ask my readers to recall the last issue of The Torch (April 2007 edition). On page 11 there was an article “Innovation of Mathematically Disinterested” written by two of BCC’s science tutors. Unfortunately, to make some valid points, I was shocked with their ignorance and arrogance. Through a process of human kind, we learn that inability to acknowledge a problem or the denial of the existence of a problem is a serious mistake that one can make. That is why when we are faced with the fact that eighty percent of students will fail remedial math courses, neither faculty nor students should stay indifferent to this issue.

As Ms Tilia Gode and Mr. Tanner have pointed out in their article, math is an essential component of our lives; however, by far not the most inspired person. When one looks at a painting by Mome, it is easy to realize that the artist was successfully taught how to mix paint with oil. The element of elementary math we are talking about; thus, most of student will have to face it in our adult life. Nevertheless, no one has the right to disrespect and look down upon those who are not strong or successful in math. (Strangely enough NOT every person in the universe wants to be a mathematician) Therefore, those courses were designed to make our education outside of the walls of our campus; thus, he contributed his time for professor’s teaching methods. While it may seem like a sufficient procedure, there is no one in each case do not prove objective.

As we all know, every student who wants to get a degree may take two math and two science courses. I don’t mean to sound ignorant, but I believe in a business major because I did not want to study chemistry, biology, climatology, or any other course at that time. I am sure that at least half of all other students would agree with me on that. After all, we are not making pre-med students take accounting or economics. They may choose to, but it is not a requirement.

TO THE EDITOR

Recently I found out that professors who do not care about their students are leaving the refugee centers in Darfur. Instead, it campaigned to raise awareness about the Darfur crisis. I even bought a bag of green wrist bands and a lawn sign that read “Not on our watch” (a slogan mimicking President Bush’s anti-genocide proclamation) in hopes that my donations would go to organized marches and serious political movements. That never happened; the money went to astounding amounts of public advertising on buses and subways in New York that nobody looked at like every other annoying adverting campaign plastered all over NYC. Because the issue is not a priority, President Bashir will not have any thing standing in the way of his mission to crush any and all opposition, peacefully or not. Why do we only intervene in countries that are either western, like Serbia, or rich in natural resources (i.e. Iraq)? The fact is that the U.S. policy is only interested in helping those who have something to offer seems outright racist! On top of that, the pugnacious voices that intensely railed against the occupation of Iraq and global warming have dropped the ball on this issue, and doing so has made them look like all-talk.

Instructor vs. Program Evaluation

By: Doug Smith

STAFF WRITER

Rwanda, oh Rwanda! People must have thought your genocide was just a big joke. The years following the ethnic cleansing between two factions has left the whole western world mortified by the way it let that humanitarian atrocity slip through its fingers and result in the loss of nearly one million lives.

During this crisis, George W. Bush was told about the Rwandan genocide by one of his staff members. When he then famously replied, “Not on my watch.” Well now, we are! When 2004, it seems that President Bush might need to invest in a set of glasses.

What could have been a small violent scuffle has now escalated to an area with millions homeless and thousands dead.

I was happy with the initial push with the Sudanese government, but so far, he has done so by not rebuilding Afghanistan, replacing one repressive regime in Iraq with another. Instead, the Sudan is supporting ethnic cleansing, denying some of its citizens the basic amenities of life, and continuing to be an ally (once housing Osama Bin-Laden).

Everyone the current U.S. administration says it’s opposed to doing in a “post 9-11 world” is happening in the Sudan, but we turn a blind eye. Where are the voices of outrage? Antiwar activists, stand by your word, organize something more than retail style advertisements, and you will see how many people stand behind you.

At this time last year, five brave U.S. Congress members were arrest ed for protesting outside of the Sudanese embassy in Washington D.C. A coalition of Californians, Jim McGovern and John Oliver of Massachusetts, Jim Moran of Virginia, and Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas. They may serve as an example of the civic duty of all American activists to act for the values and rights of all people on the highest pedestal, regardless of the cost.

“IAntiwar Activists,” Appeal To Be Dropping the Ball With Darfur

By: Doug Smith

STAFF WRITER

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We have a nation and a president that has vowed to fight terror through a new world order, and so far, he has done so by not rebuilding Afghanistan, replacing one repressive regime in Iraq with another. Instead, the Sudan is supporting ethnic cleansing, denying some of its citizens the basic amenities of life, and continuing to be our ally (once housing Osama Bin-Laden).

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Remember getting your first job? It was not that hard, was it? Now, however, everything is going to change. As we are graduating college or just trying to get a good internship, we have to face some serious competition in the workforce. It is not only a fight to survive and keep the job, but most importantly, it is a fight for that one precious position. That's where the interviewing skills come in. I don't think that anyone is really fond of being evaluated or judged by other people; however, that is exactly what happens during job interviews. And even worse you have somewhere around 15 minutes to make a good first impression. Also, there is a 90% possibility that the decision about your employment will be made within that little amount of time. So read on to find out what it takes to be successful in that fight for the job.

– First of all, you should arrive on time. . . better yet, arrive 15 minutes earlier. Coming late on your first interview . . . erk . . . it is even worse than talking about commitment on the first date. Coming 40 minutes early on the other hand is not showing anything good about you either. It is just pathetic.

– The next thing is your attire. I had a friend who showed up on an interview wearing jeans. How smart is that? What you want to wear is a nice suit with that terribly uncomfortable tie. If you don't have a suit for some reason, get those dressy pants and a shirt out of the closet. It is needless to say that a girl should not be wearing the shortest skirt from her closet. It most certainly is not going to get you the job.

– It is a good idea to have your resume ready for the interview even if it is not required. It will show that you are confident in yourself.

– Go to www.bergenhonors.org

– Be confident. Don't show that you are nervous. Try to speak slowly and not use any "bad words," and also if it is possible try not to use any slang either. The interviewers will try to make you as comfortable as possible, but you must remember that they are still evaluating you.

– In addition, it is a good idea to do some research on the company or individual that is interviewing you. Obviously, you should be knowledgeable about requirements for the position that you are going for.

– It is not hard to be great, lovable and totally adorable on an interview – just be charming like you always are… good luck.

– BY: MARIYA GONOR

PUBLICIST

What it Takes to Get a Job You Want

The humans say "imitation is highest form of flattery," maybe now we can be friends!
The Beauty Takes it Back: Christina Aguilera's Back to Basics Tour at Continental Airlines Arena

By: Amanda Ferrante

COPY EDITOR

It’s the fifth day of April and though we expect warmer temper-atures and pretty flowers, there is no such luck. It is cold, dark, and windy. We needed a little heat, and that’s exactly what we got. Christina Aguilera has been a con-fident, strong artist since she came on the scene with her smash hit “Genie in a Bottle” back in 1999. The chameleon-like performer has dropped a pop album, My 1st titled Breathe of You, which is also the title of the first hit single from it. “Because of You” is currently on Billboard’s Hot 100. Ne-Yo’s debut album, In My Own Words was com-mercially successful, and his sopho-more album is expected to have the same success especially with artists like Ghostface Killah, Peedi Peedi, Jennifer Hudson and Jay-Z. Rihannas new LP, Good Girl Gone Bad, was released on June 5th. With songs like her single, “Umbrella” featuring Jay-Z, the album shows Rihannas growth as an artist. “The album is very edgy. We have some urban records and some pop records,” says Rihanna (MTV News). She released a music video that was directed by Chris Applebaum to go along with "Umbrella," so make sure to check that out (if you haven’t already). Fabulous, despite his current run-ins with the law, has his album hit-ting the streets hard. Three new singles from the album titled From Nothing to Somethin’ have been hit-ting NR radio stations like Hot 97 and Power 105. The first single, “Make me Better” featuring Ne-Yo and produced by Timbaland, takes Fabulous back to his old ways; kickin’ it to the ladies. The single “Diamonds on My Neck,” featur-ing Young Jeezy and produced by Just Blaze is a club banging mix of the southern snap and New York base. Another single produced by Just Blaze, “Return of the Hustle” featuring Swizz Beatz, has a catch-ing violin production to the beat. Fabolosas album has been pushed back several times due to the shootings and trials, but it was released on June 12th.

Kanye West is dropping his album, Graduation, September 18th. His first single, “Can’t Tell Me Nothing” was a catch ing radio. This is another triumph album for Kanye West, and it is bound to start more controversy.

Linkin Park: Minutes to Midnight

By: Amanda Ferrante

COPY EDITOR

“Here we go for the hundredth time,” raps Mike Shinoda on “Bleed It Out.” One of the heaviest songs on Minutes to Midnight, Linkin Parks highly anticipated third album. It was supposed to acknowledge a time in the bands history when nobody knew his name. It is bound to start more controversy.

Link in Park’s highly anticipated third album. It was supposed to acknowledge a time in the bands history when nobody knew his name. It is bound to start more controversy.

"Minutes to Midnight is a change from the usual LP sound. The band emphasizes ‘starting from scratch’ and making the music they truly wanted to create, even if it meant reinventing Linkin Park. As a result of change, there are only four tracks that feature Shindos vocals (the plays guitar on all tracks, howev-er). Though Shindos vocals take a backseat on this album, production rides: downgar as he is given produc- tion credit alongside the infamous Rick Rubin on the new masterpiece.

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New Jersey Nets Move: Is the Ball in Fans’ Court?  

BY ALON MELAMED  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

"I don't distinguish between New Jersey... and Brooklyn, in terms of quality of life. There's no language that because of fan issues. It's important to have a good team... Well look at how we can have the best team the next year - whether it's Brooklyn or New Jersey or anywhere."

That is what Bruce Ratner, principal owner of National Basketball Association’s New Jersey Nets has to say about the planned move of the Nets to Brooklyn. Whether the move is justified or not, the Nets will find out how many fans show up on their opening game of the 2009-2010 season.

New Jersey's former owner, Ray Chambers, had a completely different vision of the team. His idea was to construct a new arena in Newark, NJ, that would be the home stadium for both NBA's Nets and the National Hockey League’s New Jersey Devils.

The combination of insufficient fan support and other issues terminated the plan. Eventually, Chambers sold his Nets shares to Ratner, a real estate developer. On July 25, 2004, Ratner announced that by the end of the 2008 year, the Nets will relocate and become the Brooklyn Nets.

With the upcoming move, Brooklyn will have its first professional sports team since baseball's 1957 Dodgers. As for the public reaction, not all fans support the move.

Loyal New Jersey fans that oppose the move are trying to get a massive petition signed by as many people as possible. The petition, titled "No Stadium - Prospect Heights Action Coalition" is targeted towards Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg and New York state governor George Patarka.

In the online form, they oppose Ratner's political involvement with Patarka and Bloomberg and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. According to them, Ratner's funding to improve the Long Island Railroad facilities was the main cause why Brooklyn moved to Brooklyn. As of this month, 1,538 people signed the petition.

Furthermore, initial expectation set by Ratner's real estate project, Atlantic Yards, with the new arena part of the plan, were aiming for the move to be carried out by the end of this year. Now with the team's help, the project, as seen above is postponed to 2009, possibly 2010; with many local services offered for the population, living in Brooklyn is being delayed or cancelled at the last moment.

The Nets Continental Airlines Arena holds 20,049 people. In their opening game this year, 18,646 fans came to cheer them on. On their March 11th game against the Philadelphia 76ers, the stadium had the potential to sell out all seats because of Philly's relative geo-graphical location. Yet, the official attendance is more than two thousand people. Attendance number reached as low as 16,500 people came to see the game.

Maybe it is a result of a weak fan base, thin, weak support. On the other hand, it may be just that Bruce Ratner and the political support he brings with him to New York simply has a better case than leaving the team in New Jersey.

Save the date: 2009 – it is the year the Barclays Center in Brooklyn is scheduled for tip off.

Bergen Takes Us Out to the Ballgame  

BY JAMES ROBINSON  
STAFF WRITER

As a member of "The Torch" staff, I received a great opportunity to head out to the Yankees-Indians game on April 18th. Ultimately, the Yankees won 9-2 with home runs by A-Rod and Jason Wittenmeyer, but going to the game, as always, gave me an opportunity to go through the atmospherizations and re-acti-als that make going to the game an experience in itself. The night was almost over before it began when we showed up in "Parking Lot B" at 5:02, two minutes after the bus was scheduled to leave, luckily I saw the bus sitting in the parking lot and made a run for it, grabbing hold of the side of the bus as it drove away (Ok, that last part didn't happen, but it almost did.) A few minutes later we were out way to Yankee Stadium, blanket in hand (it was forty degrees and raining.)

We arrived at the stadium with plenty of time before first pitch to enjoy all of the "pre-game hot spots." First up on the list is getting this collectable cup when it was brought to my attention that I was to walk up to two flights of stairs to receive it. You see, at the refreshment stand near where we were seated, I saw the ordinary soda bottle, but who wants that! I made my way upstairs, retrieved the cup and a hot dog and made my way back to the seats. I pol-ished off the hot dog in the time it took you to read that last sentence and was ready for "Round 2." as far as hot dogs are concerned.

Midway through the game, I stumbled into my second "homemade tradition." Alex Rodriguez belted two fly outs to left field, and I, along with the guy next to me, leaped out of my seat screaming! We looked at each other and without thinking twice, I was high-five-ing this person I had never met before in my life, and we were engaged in a conversation at the top of our lungs about A-Rod. Shapping hands with strangers is one of the many perks of going to a game, it’s a great way to get out there and interact with new fans. Whenever you get out to a game, every age group is represented at the stadium, the elderly, the college students, the parents, the children and the thirty-somethings. From the rowdy fans and the swearing to the history and the excitement, it’s all there in one night at a Yankee game. The blanket hardly kept us warm in the subzero weather (this is baseball, right?)! Thank you to Bergen, we were treated to an extremely comfortable and cost- free ride to and from the game, terrific seats, a great game, and we’re not forgetting the best part, the collect- able caps.
Bergen Community College at NJCAA Div. III Outdoor Track & Field National Championship Meet at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD.