We're Not the Only Ones Failing Remedial Math; the Math Department is Failing, Too!

By: Amanda Ferrante

Copy Editor

Many students have expressed concerns about the utter futility of dealing with the remedial math program as it currently is present.

This poses a question: Should a failed program be allowed to continue on a mandatory basis, or should it be abandoned? We need to ask the integrity and ethics of requiring students to submit to a program that is less than 20% effective.

A 20% achievement always represents a failing grade for students, so why the double standard here? Yes, fewer than 20% of all students placed into math remediation are fortunate enough to get through all of it and have the opportunity to continue toward a degree here at Bergen. That's a whopping 80% of the remedial math population given the pink slip, rejected from furthering their education, and access to the treasures here at Bergen Community College.

No wonder Dr. Porter is so "uncomfortable." Surely, students would be eager and willing to undergo a remedial program which provides successful treatment on their behalf, but the remedial math program at Bergen Community College simply is not accomplishing the outcome we are paying for. We are paying for something that does not work, and worse, something that is a failure. We take classes discussing Ethics and Moral Theory, but are we willing to sit back and pay our own way to failure? What is our ethical and moral compass telling us? What is necessary is a regime which understands that an effective teaching side of the equation is necessary. And an effective learning side of the equation.

We still need a remedial program for the students who truly need remediation; not for the relatively few students who currently get through the program and probably did not need remediation in the first place, but for those who are not presently getting through, that 80% who deserve some bang for the buck they are spending.

The most widely prescribed sequence of remediation is Basic Mathematics (MAT 011), Algebra A (MAT-031), and Algebra B (MAT-032); three classes you must take, no degree credits.

Instituting a "right to fail" privilege for college level math courses would enable us to take a college level math course in the absence of a remedial gatekeeper. Many of our students go outside to take their college level math course in the absence of a remedial requirement. This indicates and proves that Bergen's remedial requirement. This indicates and proves that Bergen's remedial requirement.

David D. Troutt, author, professor and graduate of Harvard Law School, spoke in the Cotsen Theatre in front of faculty and students on the topic of race and racism, mainly though the scope of African-American history. Her introduction was followed by Professor Gros, who spoke about the evolution of Black History Month, which changed from "Negro History Week" to a month-long event in 1976. Professor Troutt took the stage to discuss the "unconscious racism" that he has observed taking place today. He explained that most racism today is not intentional; it is an "unconscious racism" that still exists, making its presence felt through more structural impacts. Prof. Troutt, author of After the Storms, a ten-year book analyzing the political and social response to Hurricane Katrina, said that the events that followed the hurricane gave a "21st century view of racial apprasal."

"What we saw on our television screens these few days to people dealing with intense humidity, stuck in lines of houses trying to escape, all of their Four Board members will proceed to conduct all formal interviews of the 8-12 candidates before choosing 3-5 individuals whose names will be submitted to the Board for a final decision. During this filtering process, the narrowed-down candidates will be brought to campus for open forums available to Bergen students. (If any of you happen to be reading this, I highly suggest you attend.)

Immediately following the formation of the new search policy approved in December 2006, Professor Kaufman sent correspondence to the Board inquiring about the new procedure's policy — he has yet to hear a reply. He stated that "the Board is uncommunicative, no one knows what is going on. They think it is okay to govern without giving input to everyone else."

Some implicate the Board for this rift in negotiations while others blame those associated with county government. As Professor Helf stated, "If they (Board members) have already elected someone, it wouldn't surprise me. It seems to be Joe Ferriero enterprises, as far as I can see."

Joe Ferriero-who? County Chairman Joseph Ferriero. In the last five years, Ferriero has done what no Democrat in Bergen County has been able to accomplish in 80 years. He was able to get both a Democrat elected in the County Executive Position and a Democratic majority within the Board of Chosen Freeholders. In other words, Ferriero seems to be brilliant at the game of modern politics. A game in which absolute power always seems to appear before absolute corruption.

It is not completely unwarranted that the faculty remains skeptical. Tim Dacey, who was rumored to be our politically appointed president-in-waiting, was sworn into the position of interim Vice President of Administrative Services at Bergen on February 12, 2007. This was done without...
Failure Rate Exposed

BY: AMANDA FERRANTE
COPY EDITOR

Continued Main Department

free choice right to possibly fail. If and when we fail, we can voluntarily choose remedial math courses, but we anticipate that our failure rate in the college-level courses will be more than the 80%-90% attrition that are forced to go through the remedial math program. We propose that remedial math prereq- uisites for college-level math courses be simply “recommended,” that is, optional rather than mandatory. What can the college do about it? We propose a five-year period of major remedial math courses, and then we can compare the data going five years from now with the data going five years from now. Many students will prove the math department’s nega- tive selection process and determine that no one has been picked.

Caution

Dr. Winn also knows that at least 39 applications were submitted in consideration for the Presidency: “The Board of Trustees has the legal right to respond in writing with the answer that they “do not wish to respond to such matters.”

She explained that she wouldn’t know if any of those resumes are from individuals currently employed in county government. When asked if she should be more involved in the search, she mentioned how she had attended an American Association of Community Colleges seminar concerning presi- dents who were thinking about retiring. During the seminar, the speaker noted that the current president should not participate. This will ensure that the person selected is a competent good fit for the college. She told me that the Board is comprised of people from one million, and others have education backgrounds on the selection com- mittee was one of the four her own unique voice in the future is the most important thing. The most important thing was in good conscience without blindly discussing the Middle States evalua- tion, a decennial assessment of the governance and integrity of the college. Within this 18 page docu- ment, issues of governance do arise. The evaluation points out: “While there is a gen- eral agreement on the need to share authority and responsi- bility among the college’s various stakeholders, the means by which this will be achieved is not clear.” The document also says that the Board of Trustees called upon the Faculty Senate to create a compre- hensive assessment program, and when that program is as rigorous as the Board’s Assessment Framework, it will be approved. The problem is the faculty’s enthu- siasm in effecting these prospects. Due to this sluggish pace, the Board has taken the decision-making process upon themselves which which otherwise would come through a collegiate governance system. There is also a notion that leadership among the faculty is compromised. As the report states: “It is widely held by some leadership, especially intermingled with the Faculty Senate leadership and the members of the non-tenure- track executive committee, that this has potential for entrenchment and insensitivity and represents a subversive and saboteur leave committee. This has the potential for entrenchment and insensitivity and represents a subversive and saboteur. The point is, there are no signs of positive changes in the area of wages, benefits, and working conditions.”

When I spoke to Professor Gilroy, she had indicated that she considers the experience to be overwhelming, but in an effort to test someone’s true mettle, oneDancers

SPRING BBQ 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (weather permitting)
Kofi Dunfur: MUSIC from Africa
Dancers
FASHION SHOW
Rain date: Spring BBQ
Rain date: Spring BBQ
AfricaWEEK: April 23 - 27th
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of GHANA
April 23 Monday
War and Poverty in Africa
SALMAN AHMED: United Nations
Chief of Office and Special Assistant
Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping
April 24 Tuesday
SPRING BBQ 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (weather permitting)
Kofi Dunfur: MUSIC from Africa
Dancers
April 25 Wednesday
FASHION SHOW
Rain date: Spring BBQ
April 26 Thursday
Africa and Film. Dr. Jotri Mistry
1:40 p.m. Student Center “Spoken word”
Rain date: Spring BBQ
Leadership Weekend Workshop: “Who Moved My Cheese?”

By: Rob Torres
Staff Writer

Bergen Community College held a Leadership Weekend workshop on February 16th - 18th at the Friar Tuck Resort in Canoekill, NY. There were interesting workshops that talked about the different qualities of and methods to becoming a good leader. About 80 students and faculty members attended. It was a good way to meet other students as well as learn about leadership. One of the workshops given by Jack Dorf talked about dealing with changes.

Changes in our lives can be a difficult experience with which to deal. Many times we don't know how to cope with it, and other times, it's an easy piece of cheese. There are even times when we are too scared to even accept change, which then causes problems in our daily lives. So what is a good solution to dealing with change? Some good advice can be obtained from a book titled “Who Moved My Cheese?”

At the workshop, we watched a movie based on the book. In the story, there were four characters: two little people who resembled humans named Hem and Haw, and two mice named Sniff and Scurry, whose daily life consisted of finding and eating cheese. The mice were simple-minded and searched for cheese by scent. Sniff would smell out the direction, and Scurry would make sure they were going the right way. The two humans, Hem and Haw, were complex-minded and looked for cheese using their sense of direction, often looking at maps and remembering where they had gone last.

One day the cheese, which was located in Cheese Station C, had completely run out. This caused a problem for both the humans and the mice. The mice quickly learned to acclimate to this change and left the station to look for more cheese. After a while, they found Cheese Station N, which had the cheese. Hem and Haw had a difficult time accepting the fact that there was no more cheese in the station. They ran back every day to see if the cheese returned – it didn’t.

One day, Haw had the idea to leave the station and find cheese elsewhere, but Hem didn't want to leave and couldn't deal with the thought of hem being one of the few people stayed in the empty station and continued to search for cheese. After a few days, Haw left to look for new cheese. It took a while, but eventually Haw, like the mice accomplished earlier, finally discovered Cheese Station N. He stayed in the new cheese station, and this time, learned to take into account how much cheese was being eaten. He wanted to be prepared for the next time at which the cheese would eventually run out.

The moral of this story teaches us how to deal with change in a positive way. Hem didn’t want to change, stayed negative, and continued hoping for something that wouldn’t happen. Haw stayed positive, made the change to find new cheese, and became successful in his goal. The most important concept to keep in mind is that change inevitably happens: anticipate it, monitor it, adapt to it, and enjoy it.

Confronting a Challenge

By: Alon Melamed
Entertainment Editor

As an individual with five senses that work relatively well, I often get how fortunate I am to have them compared to others who lack one or more of these senses. Whenever I walk past the Learning Disability Center, I truly grasp the meaning of one’s ability to face a challenge and doing so with success!

In addition to being a very good academic institution, Bergen Community College offers a program for people who need a little extra help. “The Office of Specialized Services offers students many solutions. Some may need to use a tape recorder to get a hold of the subject taught, while others may need a note taker to review what they insufficiently heard in class. A new student with a disability of any kind should contact the OSS office located in room S-131 and schedule a meeting with one of the helpful advisors. Afterwards, the student, with the help of the staff, will choose the classes available for the current semester to fit his or her needs.

Besides the staff’s daily assistance, the school also offers an Adaptive Technology Lab located in room S-151A. Students with visual impairments are offered the latest software to assist them with almost everything. Of the available software accessible, there is the DBT Braille translator and printer, ZoomText Magnifier/Screen Reader, and the Kurzweil 1000.

For students with hearing disabilities, Bergen has the Center for Collegiate Deaf Education located in room S-131A. Students with visual impairments are offered the latest software to assist them with almost everything. Of the available software accessible, there is the DBT Braille translator and printer, ZoomText Magnifier/Screen Reader, and the Kurzweil 1000.

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Unsung Heroes of America: BLACK INVENTORS INSPIRATION

By: Bahadir Basaran
Staff Writer

The Black Inventions Exhibit (BIE) is having a tour themed “Made In America! Black Inventors USA.” BIE will be expanding the minds of millions of people by traveling to over 100 cities throughout Africa, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom, and the United States, after already having visited our own Bergen Community College.

BIE is a showcase of Black Americans in the fields of science, aerospace, communication, health care, agriculture, transportation, and all other areas. Black inventors have invented many things such as the golf tee, automatic traffic light, cell phone, and the pencil sharpener. And even the super soaker water gun. Yet, the goal of BIE is not to teach people about the inventions that the Black Americans were credited for, but instead to inspire the minds of the young people.

James Ince, BIE Chief Curator, said, “History is important, but our goal is not to glorify people or facts, but to motivate young people, and to let them know they can do anything they put their minds to. Our mission is to develop racial pride, promote racial understanding, and provide a new motivation for learning. BIE is for everyone—all age groups and ethnicities. The Museum gratefully compliments all science and American history curricula, while promoting positive images in those who seek to learn about the discoveries and challenges of these great men and women.

While inspiring young men and women to build on their creativity and imagination, such an exhibit should also bury any sort of racism that may still be demonstrated by others. We are surrounded by inventions from every culture. If we can put all of these creations together, people from different backgrounds should be able to come together, too. After all, an idea that creates a response from many makes a better invention than an idea standing alone. The exhibit shows inventions used by cultures all over the world, proving that a young person’s creativity can lead to an invention that could join people from all over the world.

BIE is not only supporting such a thought, but also promoting it. Helping to spread the word of BIE allows young people not only creates a higher chance of having great inventors in the future, but would also help the young men and women to come together in a world where creativity would be shared, but it would be spread, and accomplishments would become more common than dreams.
Why We Love . . . 

Professor Berkowitz

BY: CHRISTIE RICCARDO

STAFF WRITER

One of my favorite professors at Bergen Community College is Mr. Michael Berkowitz. He taught me English Basic Skills and Intro to Journalism professor. Mr. Berkowitz is my favorite professor because he is fun and enjoyable. It is interesting because students share a great deal I never knew about him. Mr. Berkowitz recommended me. She said “Sigmund Freud said the goal of life should be to love and to work. I think that you should find people you are not necessarily born with, but people make emotional connections with others that become your family emotionally. For the sake of reality, you have to work. Money’s great. Money’s wonderful. You need it! (She laughed.)" I will always remember my interview with my favorite professor because he made me to help you get there. The students should just remember from my class “Work hard, don’t mess with my Yankees, and we’ll get along.”

Torch: Do you have any hidden talents that you want to share with the students of Bergen?

Professor Berkowitz: I play the guitar, sing, and write songs. I played in a band called Farview (named after the street in Bergen County) for three years and I enjoyed it.

My interview with my favorite professor was funny and enjoyable. It is interesting because students think that their teacher’s lives only revolve around teaching, but he shared a great deal I never knew about him. Professor Berkowitz is my favorite professor because he helped me change my grammatical errors in EBS which has taken me to the market for a Communications class, take Berkowitz, everyone!

Why We Love . . . 

Professor McDermott

BY: MICHIELA LANCHE

MANAGING EDITOR

“I think people should have more sex. [doing] it will calm them down more,” Professor Shannon McDermott told me halfway through our interview. This interjection may have seemed a bit shocking coming from other professors; however, I have the privilege of taking General Psychology this semester with the one and only “McDiddy,” so I’m sure everyone understands the sense of humor. Now don’t misinterpret her crudeness for ignorance; she truly cares about the antithesis of such a character. Her vulgar humor and her unkind style of teaching not only exhibit her witty, intelligent character, but these attributes are what make her one of the best professors at Bergen Community College.

McDermott was home-schooling during high school, but her childhood’s discouragement of you from having her as your professor, she’s not your stereotypical home-schooled “freak of nature.” She had actually worked at a camp for people with disabilities in Ridgewood, NJ, and luckily, such a job helped her to become socialized. However, being home-schooled and the first member of her family to go to college didn’t really help her in terms of applying to institutions of higher education. She applied to Montclair State University late, and the admissions officer suggested she first attend a community college. He said she could earn plenty of credits and eventually transfer to Montclair. “I was [actually] living in Toowara in Passaic County at the time, and my father was like, ‘You are not going to Passaic Community Country,’” so I attended (my college career) at Bergen.

By 19, she knew exactly what she wanted to do. Working. Knowing exactly what you want to do in life apparently catches the attention of institutions like Brown and New York Universities – she ultimately decided to go to NYU for financial reasons. (That’s a bit ironic, don’t you think?) Sure enough, she achieved her dream and is now teaching General Psychology as well as other subjects like Statistics and other branches of Psychology at Bergen and William Paterson University of New Jersey.

Outside of teaching, she is currently taking online classes for a PhD from Capella University. This rigorous 12-week curriculum involves 2-3 “short” papers (each is 6-10 pages), two papers that must be at least 25 pages, and a final paper of at least 40 pages. She says a lot of her time is devoted to reading, researching, and writing, but for fun, she absolutely loves both cooking with her husband (who she met at Bergen) – “I know how cute it is and bird watching. ‘My favorite bird is the blue-footed booby,’ she told me. I asked, ‘Are you sure you don’t just like the colors’ and she replied, ‘...it’s more of a bonus really.’”

In addition to the interesting fact about what her life philosophy was, and I was considering paraphrasing it. I just couldn’t do so even thinking about what it would do to her integrity and beauty, so here is exactly what McDermott said: “Sigmund Freud said the goal of life should be to love and to work. I think that you should find people you are not necessarily born with, but people make emotional connections with others that become your family emotionally. For the sake of reality, you have to work. Money’s great. Money’s wonderful. You need it!”

Torch: What or who inspires you about your life work?

Professor Berkowitz: About their jobs. I definitely love what I do.

Torch: What classes do you teach?

Professor Berkowitz: English Composition 1, English Basic Skills, and Intro to Journalism.

Torch: What or who inspires you to keep teaching your students?

Professor Berkowitz: My students. A lot of my students told me to become a teacher. I was tutoring a lot of students in the tutoring center. They also encouraged me to become a full time teacher. Dr. Judy Davis was also a huge influence; she recommended me. She was the head of the English Department at the time. Also Denise Jerman pushed me to go to Bergen Community College is my favorite professor because he is fun and enjoyable. It is interesting because students think that their teacher’s lives only revolve around teaching, but he shared a great deal I never knew about him. Professor Berkowitz is my favorite professor because he helped me change my grammatical errors in EBS which has taken me to the market for a Communications class, take Berkowitz, everyone!

Why We Love . . . 

Professor Dr. Birnback

BY: AMANDA FERRANTE

COPY EDITOR

In a world where the subject is you and learning is fun, Psychology reigns and Dr. Sidney Birnback teaches us to enjoy new things and even ponder the error of ways. Friendly, charismatic Dr. Birnback teaches General Psychology, and also his time as a student at Bergen first, then transferred and eventually decided to go to NYU for financial reasons. (That’s a bit ironic, don’t you think?) Sure enough, he achieved his dream and is now teaching General Psychology and Statistics and other branches of Psychology at Bergen and William Paterson University of New Jersey.

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The Skinny on Gastric Bypass Surgery and the Story Behind a “Fat Girl”

By Amanda Ferrante

Copy Editor

As college students, our eating habits are awful. We grab a slice of pizza here, perhaps a stop at the local drive-thru later, and a whole lot of Twizzlers and Snickers in between. Out of all other countries, America gets the worst vacation time per year, yet somehow we’re the most obese. Perhaps it’s on a few pounds while stressed about the worst semester to date? It is one thing, but what about when you’ve struggled with weight your whole life? Diets and exercise have proven to be ineffective due to the difficulty of consistency, but if you are morbidly obese, there may be a solution for you. Gastric Bypass surgery is a procedure that has been popularized by celebrities like Ali Roker and Carrie Wilson, but before it was a well-known alternative, Kristina Garnarcz, now 26, went under the knife. In March 2007, after a minute or two, I realized when the surgery was still being worked out.

When asked about the risks of gastric bypass, “You could die,” was the immediate response from Kristina. Insurance was hesitant to fund the surgery, since other risks include vitamin deficiency, anemia, hernia, ulcers, and the ultimate risk, your life. Currently, it’s a routine procedure, but for a young girl in 1999, it was terrifying. Sadly, Kristina recalls what life was like prior to her surgery; she tipped the scale at 322 pounds. After surgery, Kristina lost 176 pounds and now uis pes-
ty in a size 8. “I completely changed my life,” she starts. “I went from a walking dead, fat person to nor-
mal. It’s funny how guys who wouldn’t talk to me in high school now offer to buy me drinks.”

Nevertheless, it’s still a battle Kristina fights to this day. “The first thought I have in the morning when I open my eyes is: ‘I want a glazed donut,’” says the self-pro-
claimed “normal girl with a fat per-
sonality.” Considering gastric bypass surgery? Here are some things you should know: you won’t be eating solid foods for six to eight weeks. Baby food is the best alternative. After surgery, Kristina experienced depression due to her inability to eat yet desiring so much to do so. Kristina says, “It’s scary, but it forces you to be consistent, and it will change your life. Do your research, and go for it.”

Remember that obesity is a huge problem among our popula-
tion, and the next time you judge, it may cause the problem to esca-
late. Be smart, be sensitive, and be considerate.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE STUDENT ACCIDENT & SICKNESS INSURANCE PLAN AT BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

VISIT

http://www.bollingerinsurance.com/Bergen

Pamphlets/I’d cards available at the Office of Health Services Room HS100

As a full time student you may have purchased this policy. It is also available to part time students.

If you have any questions about bills received after using this policy, please bring paperwork to Health Services (HS100) between the hours of 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM only Monday thru Friday.

Chinese New Year Celebration

By Frederic Tan

Staff Writer

On February 15, 2007, the Tech Building’s room 128 celebrated the Chinese New Year. People warmly greeted me at the door, as I found a seat at one of the tables. Chinese decorations ligh-
tened up the room with calligraphy and fau-
re-crackers. For a moment, it felt like Chinatown. Bergen’s Chinese Club was the event’s host, and its executive board gave several speeches to inform the guests about the special day. This year is the “Year of the Pig.” According to a handout provided, “the boar is associated with fertility and virility. Bearing children in the year of the pig is considered very fortunate, for they will be happy and honest.”

Good news for parents and babies this year, huh? Following the speeches, a pair of dancers dressed in lion costumes performed, mimicking a lion’s move-
ments. “The dance is traditionally accompanied by gongs, drums, and fire-crackers, representing the descent of good luck,” according to another print-
out. Although there were no fire-crackers (cue in fake ones on the walls), there were drums and c y m b a l s provided by a man on a large drum provided with several others clash-
ing the c y m b a l s. Overall, it was an impressive and enter-
t a i n i n g show.

Back at the table, there was an envelope containing several numbers which were to be ran-
domly drawn. The individuals whose digits were called had their names artisti-
cally rendered and framed on big boards. Fortunately, they called my number, 177, and I took home a nice-sovereint.

Winning the lotto and eating the delicious, free food like pepper steak, General Tao’s chicken, and fried rice, made the day worthwhile. To those of you who missed the Chinese New Year celebration at Bergen—hey, there’s always next year!
American Journalist Placed in American Prison
Josh Wolf's incarceration questions freedom of the press in this nation.

BY: DOUG SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When a story of this magnitude is hidden from public view, it makes the details of the story that much more believable. Tuesday, January 30th 2007, Josh Wolf officially became the longest held journalist imprisoned for crimes relating to his profession. He has been there since August 1st, 2006, and can quite possibly be held there until July 2007, without material criminal charges. What he's actually being charged with is content of court for not handing over footage and testifying to a grand jury about an anti-G-8 demonstration where a police car was damaged. Shockingly, the only media outlets that identified this story were the local "San Francisco Chronicle" and liberal online news outlets such as "The Huffington Post." If it weren't for the very recent PBS report, this would have gone virtually unnoticed publicly.

Josh Wolf is a 24 year old freelance journalist who was working for "The San Francisco Mission District," when some protesters got a little out of hand and took to spray painting property. Shortly thereafter, a police cruiser raced to the scene where two police officers who were some of the demonstrators and who were caught choosing one of the suspects on Wolf's video. One of the said officers claimed to be minorly injured during the scuffle. In the confusion of the chaotic police intervention the police car received some damage to the tail lights, apparently giving the prosecutor enough evidence for a warrant.

A grand jury was formed by the Northern California federal prosecu- tion to testify and hand in his raw un-cut footage to the court. In order to maintain journalistic integrity he refused and was sent to federal prison in contempt of court because of the refusal.

This case has haunting similarities to the highly publicized leak investiga- tion of reporter Judith Miller with whom the court was associated the grand jury in the federal case of the outing of CIA agent Valerie Plame by White house officials.

Apparently, the reason American protesters such as Wolf are ending up in federal prison is because federal law does not have any legislation protecting journalists' rights to keep their un-published material and sources confidential. In California there is something called the shield law that offers journalists this protection which would usually safe-guard someone like Wolf but here's the catch: because the S.F.P.U. receivs federal aid for anti-terrorism the police car that was damaged falls under federal jurisdiction. Federal prosecutor Kevin Ryan sought to use this federal power against Wolf to coerce names of some of the demonstrators that attended the July 8th 2005 event.

Local justice (as the defense sought to capitalize on the resigna- tion of prosecutor Ryan) Wolf's attorney, Mark Garwood, tend to make a deal with the judge that in exchange for his release from federal prison Wolf would hand over the un-edited footage from the demon- stration and that the judge accepted and stated that "this reveal a realistic possibility that Mr. Wolf's confinement may be having its coercive effect," basically meaning that the judge plans on holding Wolf as long as legally possible in hopes of getting him to reveal the names of some of the protesters. In the midst of all this, there have also been reports saying that the judge and prosecution don't even think he's a real journalist because he is worked by an agency, a sad argument considering that the local news companies paid Josh Wolf for his video coverage of the said anti G-8 demonstration.

In response to the accusa- tions, Wolf has claimed to be minorly injured and refuses to testify and will not reveal any of his sources. Wolf has said, "I was there until June 2007, without for- mer. He has been there since August 1st, 2006, and can quite possibly be held there until July 2007, without material criminal charges. What he's actually being charged with is content of court for not handing over footage and testifying to a grand jury about an anti-G-8 demonstration where a police car was damaged. Shockingly, the only media outlets that identified this story were the local "San Francisco Chronicle" and liberal online news outlets such as "The Huffington Post." If it weren't for the very recent PBS report, this would have gone virtually unnoticed publicly.

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A grand jury was formed by the Northern California federal prosecu- tion to testify and hand in his raw un-cut footage to the court. In order to maintain journalistic integrity he refused and was sent to federal prison in contempt of court because of the refusal.

This case has haunting similarities to the highly publicized leak investiga- tion of reporter Judith Miller with whom the court was associated the grand jury in the federal case of the outing of CIA agent Valerie Plame by White house officials.

Apparently, the reason American protesters such as Wolf are ending up in federal prison is because federal law does not have any legislation protecting journalists' rights to keep their un-published material and sources confidential. In California there is something called the shield law that offers journalists this protection which would usually safe-guard someone like Wolf but here's the catch: because the S.F.P.U. receivs federal aid for anti-terrorism the police car that was damaged falls under federal jurisdiction. Federal prosecutor Kevin Ryan sought to use this federal power against Wolf to coerce names of some of the demonstrators that attended the July 8th 2005 event.

Local justice (as the defense sought to capitalize on the resigna- tion of prosecutor Ryan) Wolf's attorney, Mark Garwood, tend to make a deal with the judge that in exchange for his release from federal prison Wolf would hand over the un-edited footage from the demon- stration and that the judge accepted and stated that "this reveal a realistic possibility that Mr. Wolf's confinement may be having its coercive effect," basically meaning that the judge plans on holding Wolf as long as legally possible in hopes of getting him to reveal the names of some of the protesters. In the midst of all this, there have also been reports saying that the judge and prosecution don't even think he's a real journalist because he is worked by an agency, a sad argument considering that the local news companies paid Josh Wolf for his video coverage of the said anti G-8 demonstration.

In response to the accusa- tions, Wolf has claimed to be minorly injured and refuses to testify and will not reveal any of his sources. Wolf has said, "I was there until June 2007, without for-
Science Made Easy: What You Didn’t Know about Cancer

BY MOSES AGRAI
ILLUSTRATOR

It is unfortunate that one of the major diseases that kill Americans today is cancer. According to recent studies, more than 1500 Americans die each day of cancer. One out of four people will die of cancer, and one out of three people will develop cancer. It is the leading cause of death in Americans below the age of 95. Chances of getting cancer will double every five years after the age of 25. Certain cancer like prostate, stomach, and colon cancer reach a peak incidence between the ages 60-80. Wow! What a depressing statement. The most amazing thing is that people have heard about cancer at least once or twice, but now everyone knows its sequela growth. Some people, believe it or not, hear about cancer and tune their auditory system off because of its scientific incomprehension. They know cancer helps but don’t know. I remember speaking to a friend some time ago about cancer and

The Cancer Causing Fiend

as our conversation intensified, I realized that she wasn’t aware of the basics of diseases. ‘Is it true then I asked her, “How does cancer attack a human being?” She replied, “...if you smoke you might get cancer and die.” This was the only knowledge she knew and its effects. After a series of questions, she replied, “...whatever, I am not a geek like you, Moses.” This statement was really funny, but it later dawned on me that many people, like her, have no clue how cancer affects them. For the non-smokers, some watch the nicotine patch commercial where a woman smokes and camera zooms in to her lungs. Many people, like she, have no idea what cancer is exactly. (The truth is bitter, what do you expect?)

In any case, this article isn’t about smoking or commercials (although if anyone stopped smoking after reading this article, I’d be more than happy to send you a congratulatory letter). The article, however, is about cancer and how it functions. Just as I have always believed, one might not really be able to conquer an obstacle until he/she has more knowledge of it. Once again, you are about to acquire more, or renew your knowledge of cancers, the medical phenomena.

Cancer and the Immune System: The Fiction

Imagine the human body (this time around as a factory). The workers in it are the cells of the body. The guard and the cancerous virus called leukemia are the WBCs. Wherever there is a breach in the security, the WBC responds to the crime scene to counteract the various crime causing cells (also known as antigens). There are specific WBCs for each antigen, like the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT). The WBCs are the most ruthless beings on the planet. They kill antigens first, and then ask questions later.

In order to understand this, it will be helpful to know about blood. Three components make up blood: red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. Red blood cells are the oxygen transportation individuals. They transport oxygen from outside to the various departments in the factory. Whenever there is an explosion from foreign objects to the factory, the injured wall is sealed up by the plant workers to avoid any loss of lucrative goods from the factory. (This is what happens when you cut yourself, the platelets stop the bleeding.) However, if abnormal cells infiltrate the facility, it is the job of the white blood cells to extinguish them. There are various mechanisms in which these white blood cells eradicate diseases such as: mucus, inflammation, fever and confinement.

When bacteria breach the first line of defense (the skin), the antibodies are confined. (This is the term for extermination.) The antibodies are eventually destroyed, the process known as apoptosis. This is where the battle area is circled for extermination. (Once a month would be pulsed of the breasts for masses, or palpation of the testes for masses in males innately dislike cancer and do not destroy these minions. This is because they are infected from the inside out and killer cells cannot tell the difference between their kind and their new breed. When this species spreads in a particular vicinity, they increase in size; this is called a tumor. Good stuff right? How about the victims have enough will power not to be malevolent? Would they still be as deadly? In this case scenario, they will turn old and immediately become harmless. These cells are then known as benign tumors. This is the better of both circumstances, because their existence causes little or no damage to the factory. On the other hand, the ones with no will power get to be the most chaotic in the system, multiplying until the entire vicinity is demolished. These are called malignant tumors. However, even if they spread to other locations in the factory, their origin of transformation is still referred to as the type of cancer. For example, if a tumor was initially formed at department lump and spreads to the stomach sector, abnormal growth would still be referred to as lung cancer. This is the basic concept of cancer; the rest remains a mystery to various factories to this very day.

Today, scientists are still trying to figure out what these different kinds of cancers have in common. What makes the process more difficult is that there are different types of cancer which might RESPOND to different remedies. It is a common misconception that cancer is just one type of disease, there are many kinds of cancer. What’s worse is the dilemma scientists face every day. Some scientists are not attacking these tumors in its structure. Why can't these scientists eliminate these tumors? However, scientists have made advances in the causes of cancer. Among others were tobacco smoking, genetics and sun exposure that could lead to cancer.

In an interview with Dr. Karen Walters, a Biology professor here at the college, I learned that women of the age of 40 should have a mammography done at least once a year, and men older than 40 should have prostate examination at least once a month.

Dr. Karen Walters

She further explained that most males infrequently do cancer check ups but should be urged to go as this might decrease any chances of malignant cancers. “Prevention is worth a pound of cure.” In a brief summary, malignant tumors is the number one killer of all age groups today, and some people are biologically predisposed to get it more than others. Our cells are influenced daily by chemicals we consume, ultraviolet rays, pollution from the atmosphere, and tobacco inhalation.

These could cause our cells to become malignant or cancerous. There is a common misconception that cancer causes the cell to die. The process of chemotherapy, a part of cancer cure, simply destroys any rapidly growing cells in the human body. This is why most people undergoing chemotherapy usually experience hair loss, because the hair is one of humans rapidly growing cells.

Deadly diseases like cancer kill people everyday. ‘Science Made Easy’ sheds light on scientific phenomena like these to entertain readers while being informed. For any scientific topic needed to be ‘made easy’ for better comprehension, send emails to mos.fajers@yahoo.com. Publishing priority will be given to the first set of emails on “Science Made Easy”. You probably had knowledge of cancer and probably never knew how to explain it so easily until now!

MARCH 2007

THE TORCH
The 2007 3rd Annual George Stickel Festival Of Moving Images

Presented by
The Arts and Communications Department of Bergen Community College

Monday, April 16, 2007
7:00 p.m.
Student Center Mini-Theater
Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ 07652

Entry deadlines April 1st 2007
For an entry form and more information contact:
Prof. Marshall D. Katzman
Bergen Community College, Room A331
400 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ 07652-1555
Phone: 201-495-3507
email: mkatzman@bergen.edu

George Stickel served as the Bergen Community College photographer for twenty-six years. His importance to the college's operation was instrumental in developing an archival archive of college images. His kind, gentle, and patient personality always helped him “find the good side” in creating portraits of those who worked and studied here at the college. His interest in people was evident in the way he shared his creative and technical expertise with others.
When you hear the name “Bob Marley,” what comes to mind? Perhaps a picture of the Caribbean with its breathtaking beaches and scenery. Maybe sweet island jams loop in your head, guitars and steel drums in full swing. Or maybe some Rastafarians in dreadlocks, sporting the thematic red, yellow, and green? Then again, you recall the soulful, honest face and voice that defined a genre and inspired generations of musicians, fans, and people, all over the world.

On February 8th, Bergen Community College held a birthday celebration to remember the man who changed the world forever. A speech was given in his honor, and a film containing a concert and music video footage was shown for the enjoyment and entertainment of the audience. The film was especially interesting as it highlighted many songs from Marley’s career.

Among the tunes featured was “Stir It Up,” an early single and one of Marley’s many international hits. A concert clip of the sweet simple melody of “No Woman No Cry” was also shown. (“Said I remember when we used to sit / in the government yard in T rench town”). Even a song by one of Bob’s children, Damian Marley, was played. “Road to Zion,” featuring rapper Nas, is a delightful mix of reggae and hip-hop.

Bob Marley’s music did not just leave a legacy; it was the inspiration for many musicians. Funk rock progenitors, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, called Bob Marley a “poet and a prophet” in their classic hit “Give It Away.” The ska/reggae band Sublime sang, “If I was Bob Marley, I said could you be loved” in a line from their song “Don’t Push.” Reggae was a major component of Sublime’s craft, the genre that Bob pioneered. This unique music form has influenced other artists as well, from Eric Clapton (who covered Marley’s “I Shot the Sheriff,”) to The Police. 311, an alternative rock band who heavily weave reggae into their sound, exclaim, “The waiting feel is fine” at the end of their single “All Mixed Up.” The inspiration for that line: Credit it to Marley yet again: the beautiful “Waiting in Vain” was the source of that lyric.

Amidst the music, there were clips of interviews with Marley. One line that remains etched in memory said: “I believe all people should live in peace. White, black, Chinese...know what I mean?” Bob Marley’s words surely echoed the sentiment of students and teachers at Bergen Community College, as was evident by the multiethnic and diverse audience.

Bob Marley touched so many lives with his musical talent. His words embodied wisdom and warmth, his melodies the perfect canvas for those words. If you are looking to expand your musical horizons, need something to cheer you up – or just want some mellow music to relax or jam to – look no further than Bob Marley. Happy birthday, Bob!

BY: FREDRIC TAN
STAFF WRITER

The Arts and Communications Department of Bergen Community College will be presenting The 3rd Annual George Stickel Festival of Moving Images on April 16, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Student Center Mini-Theater.

The festival is named in honor of George Stickel, who in the words of Jack Ditt, former manager of Media Technologies at Bergen Community College, “…served as the Bergen Community College photographer for twenty-five years. His keen eye for visual composition was instrumental in developing an historical archive of college images. His kind, gentle and patient personality always helped him find the good side in creating portraits of those who worked and studied here at the college. His interest in people was evident in the way he shared his creative and technical expertise with others.”

This year’s festival includes four categories: animation, documentary, narrative and alternative. Entries will only be accepted in DVD-R, VHS & SVHS formats.

Last year’s 2006 Festival Award Winner Anna Boluda’s “Queer Span” aired on thirteen/NET in June.

For more information please contact, Prof. Marshall D. Katzman, Bergen Community College, Room A331, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ 07652-1595, or by email: mkatzman@bergen.edu

A complete listing of last year’s entries as well as an entry form for the 2007 festival are available online at: http://www.bergen.edu/faculty/mkatzman/George.html
Letter to the Editor

By: Concerned Members of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department

On February 22, 2007, the independent National Assessment Governing Board released test results that indicate that high school students are scoring low on nationally normed tests for reading and mathematics despite taking more “challenging courses” in school and receiving higher grades. Nearly 40 percent of high school seniors scored below the basic level on the math test.” (Bergen Record, Friday, February 23, 2007). On the Asprey place, students coming into BCC score overwhelmingly below the level which place them into developmental mathematics. Such is the reality for the students that do not pass the test score at the lowest level on the test.

Students in frustration with their lack of achievement in remedial courses, while understandably, is misplaced. The damage is done well before students arrive on campus. The lack of basic skills in mathematics and reading, often coupled with a lack of experience in what constitutes good study skills and habits, are too often, and unfortunately, obstacles that have been carried over a long period of time.

Many students enter BCC woefully under-prepared. The expectation that 15 weeks of remedial instruction will overcome years of deficiencies is unrealistic in most cases. Students need to recognize that a rigorous program of remediation is guaranteed opportunity to succeed. They are not guaranteed success. While we are sympathetic to students who are under-prepared, the college must not abandon students in this fashion. Bergen Community College is an open-access institution. Students are guaranteed an opportunity to succeed. They are not guaranteed success. While we are sympathetic to students who are under-prepared, the college must not abandon students in this fashion.

Many students enter BCC with theaxiom that among the areas of highest satisfaction at BCC is the Developmental Mathematics Program. Students, who transfer to four-institutions having passed the developmental math at BCC, do as well or better in gaining forward in math than students who started at those institutions without the developmental background.

We lament the state of mathematics achievement of the nation as a whole and specifically among students who are less than immediately successful at BCC. We readily examine the root causes in an effort to refine, improve, and reach out to students willing to work hard and learn. We are not ready to compromise standards and success because we understand the implications of doing this. In Lucy Sells famous article, “Math, the Critical Filter,” Professor Sells studied the well-documented correlation between the depth of students’ mathematics education and their earning potential. The pass rate at BCC is on a par with other institutions of higher education. The Mathematics and Computer Science Faculty of Bergen Community College counts among its members nationally recognized experts whose work has been published and who attend professional conferences and meetings too numerous to mention. Each and every member of this Department wants nothing more than to have students be successful. The Department is committed to meaningful, self-study, assessment and discussion of all aspects of the program and courses offered. We are fully aware of the problems students face and are not at all inclined to seek ways to help students overcome them. The pass rate at BCC is on a par with our sister institutions across the state and we are always engaged in dialogue with our colleagues about how to help improve it.

Many students succeed. Their keys to success are not mysterious. When they study, they offered the following: • Come to class every day • Listen actively • Participate in the teaching & learning process • Prepare their assignments with care • Ask questions • Complete weekly learning assignments when there is a problem • Review notes and materials on an ongoing basis • Study and practice each and every assignment • Review test materials • Do all the work in a timely, organized fashion.

In recent surveys of BCC graduates who went on to other institutions of higher learning, students responded that among the areas of highest satisfaction at BCC is the Developmental Mathematics Program. Students, who transfer to four-institutions having passed the developmental math at BCC, do as well or better in gaining forward in math than students who started at those institutions without the developmental background.

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B.C. C. STUDENT

I want to preface my following complaint with something positive. Although I had a rough start to bringing a number of issues with the math department in ELRC to light, I am very fond of Bergen Community College. I think that most of the programs run by the college are very supportive and helpful to students of all types. However my view of the Math Department has not so positive. I have been a student at the college for the last 4 semesters; I have taken a lot of Math classes and I believe that the college and have been dissatisfied by the whole program in general.

My first complaint was with Professor Latham. This was the hands-on professor who taught me my college career. Mind you this was not from lack of trying. The teaching style was difficult to understand. It was difficult to learn that by the first test we had to receive a minimum grade. At the end there were only eleven of us out of 40 that understand that classes are meant to be challenging, and yet they should never be unfair. This department is very supportive and helpful to students of all types. However my view of the Math Department has not so positive. I have been a student at the college for the last 4 semesters; I have taken a lot of Math classes and I believe that the college and have been dissatisfied by the whole program in general.

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The Torch

March 2007

A Stranger Abroad

By: Marina Jovanovska

"I’m finally back on earth and off the plane after a 24 hour flight!" This was my reaction when I first got here. I arrived in New York City and was very excited to see it. When I got here, I saw a new beginning and a new life. Not that I didn’t have a good life in Macedonia, but the desire to be away from home and handling things myself has always been a challenge for me. I didn’t know what to expect, but I knew it was going to be very different and fun experience that I will cherish for life.

Emotions swirling became majestic, it destroyed families, took away lives. It became majestic, it destroyed. When their eyes met with the Red Violin, it played, sorrow it felt.

Emotions it played, sorrow it felt. Let me tell you what you will never see. Foretold by others, interpreted by me, and sending me endless kisses.

Red Violin

Foretold by others, interpreted by me, and sending me endless kisses.

THOUGHTS

Life is funny
In fact it is strange
It is a puzzle
That can’t be arranged
Sometimes the pieces
Are nowhere to be found
It confuses your mind.
Emotions swirling become wound

You fall in love
It breaks your heart
A repeated process
With an easy start

You win some
You lose some
You learn in the game
What a surprise!
It’s always the same
A minute always your reflection
But no bad it does not
Give your correction!
You put up a rose
It fell apart
Who's going to mend
Your broken heart?

Life is sad
There’s a lot of pain
What happened to the sunshine?
It’s been replaced by rain

Reaching Success

What does it take to be the best?
What does it take to become better than the rest?
And when you reach that, would you settle for less?
Can you get that pressure off your chest?
Can you bear the feeling of success?

Well, let’s take a second to see
If what you do is that easy, like 1, 2, 3
You can do it and I am me
But you can’t expect to believe things you can’t see
Take it slow, take it whole, take it by the day
Take it like there’s nothing in your way
Also consider that there’s a price to pay
But you’re too good, high, or low, or every way

Hard work and faith is the main component
And little things that happen at any given moment
Don’t worry about your opponent
The only one you’re battling is yourself
And if he ever gets too hard
I’ll be here to help

By: Robert Torres

TORCH POEM

T is for terrific for keeping Bergen students informed.
O is for outstanding and outgoing group of writers and editors.
R is for reasonable and reliable.
C is for concise, caring, and courteous articles.
H is for helping those in need to promote what Bergen is all about.
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By: Robert Torres

Poems

Red Violin

Foretold by others, interpreted by me.

Let me tell you what you will never see.
Luscious red, thick as blood on top, made so beautiful it moved me.

Emotions it played, sorrow it felt.
Each string represented a stage in life.
A body of music made so perfect.

Result of everyone, greed consumed them.
When their eyes met with the magnificent object.
It became majestic, it destroyed.
An unexpected surprise.

In many ways, people had a true enigma in their hands,
it is always be known what power such creation can have.

By: Gisela Abad

Illusion

By Gisela Abad

By Marina Jovanovska

MR

A Strange Abroad

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Emotions it played, sorrow it felt.
Each string represented a stage in life.
A body of music made so perfect.

Result of everyone, greed consumed them.
When their eyes met with the magnificent object.
It became majestic, it destroyed.
An unexpected surprise.

In many ways, people had a true enigma in their hands,
it is always be known what power such creation can have.

By: Gisela Abad

Illusion

By Gisela Abad

By Marina Jovanovska

Poems
unhappy. I know it wasn’t the smartest thing to do, but I can’t help it. It just made me feel better.

I had to buy stuff for myself and my room. I had (and still have) no idea where to find many things. Usually, when I go to the mall, I wander around for half an hour to find the place where I can buy things I need. Then, after that, I begin shopping. The first time I took the Shuttle to the mall, I noticed that it was a low rise, and I didn’t like it. There were stores on the sides, outdoor vending, and maybe one or two spots for accessories. There were no places where I could get coffee (or I should say Macdonian coffee.) Coffee is my obsession; I can have it anywhere, at anytime! To make it worse, here they serve it in carton cups! Also, you can choose to have small, medium, or large. The small cup is like the biggest we are served with at home. It is very big in fact. The first time I was able to make it only to the?, and the rest was going in the garbage. I was spending money for something I didn’t use, and that irritated me. When we travel, we tend to look for things that reminds us of home and living in another cultural setting. When I learned about this, I began missing my friends more than ever. I really hoped that I would be able to find someone similar to myself, but I didn’t. We were all very different, and that was really sad.

Another thing is the measurement units. America has of course different measures from Europe, and I always had trouble converting. I knew that a pound was 405, 495, or 450 grams. Among all of them, there is a big discrepancy, but it was enough for me to get a close value to the exact quantity. Later, I looked up on the internet to secure myself, but soon after, I forgot again. Even now, while writ- ing this piece, I have no clue how much one pound is in kilograms. It certainly wasn’t any different with the temperature. When the weather gets really hot, it is very difficult to keep cool. It was always a catch! It was 20 degrees FAHRENHEIT, not celcius! I was so used to my home here. At home, I knew that a pound was 405 grams, I could stand it anymore! It was so differ- ent from home and I couldn’t deal with it a day ago. I looked up on the internet to see the con- version and there was a formula 5/9 multiplied by something. I don’t remember, and honestly, I don’t want to know! I just know that when it is 60 degrees celcius, it is warm and pleasant outside, but below that I am cold. Another thing was the dorm. It was very dirty. I was disappointed, and when I asked some of the residents what they think about it, they said they didn’t care. Taking in consideration how clean I keep my things, the first thing I thought was “I can’t live here!” I remember the first three weeks. I was taking showers three times a day. I was paranoid that I would get a disease. I might even get the flu before I get here, but I still wanted to make sure everything was okay. That was another expense. The vaccines cost me 250 dollars! I was very angry to learn that, but I had no choice. Yes, 250 dollars, and that was at home in Macedonia! I don’t want to know how much they cost here, probably double. I was reluctant to receive them, but my mom insist- ed. Mom knows best!

One thing I really don’t like is American food. When I got here, I started using the dining hall. What people eat here is not fresh at all! The food has a weird taste, it usually tastes like the big metal pots it sins in. It is not healthy either, because many have told me that there are many chemicals in it. I can definitely feel and taste the difference, since I come from a region where food is naturally grown. I was shocked to learn how unnatu- ral everything was! Back home, there are no chemicals or processed meat. I once received a shipment of beef, but going back home was not the place! What am I doing here on my own?” I had regretted coming here, and I really said that, and I don’t miss home as much. I’m very proud of that. I haven’t disappointed myself at all. I made it through the semester on my own and my family is extremely happy.

Honestly, now I can’t imagine myself leaving that place! I met so many wonderful people who are really caring, and school is going well with all my professors. I coop- erate well, I get good grades, and I am doing well on exams. I enjoy all my classes and it’s definitely been a great learning experience for me. I’ve grown up in every possible way. It is amazing how challenging it is to be away from home and still be successful in other aspects! I’ve matured, I don’t think of trivial things, and I try to prioritize. That keeps me on time for everything. I made many friends and I have a little more organized but there is definitely more work to do. Even though I have said some negative things about the college, I sincere- ly love it, and I always will! Adapting to a new environment can be difficult but definitely very challenging. Now, I am definitely used to it, I accept that I like it and I don’t miss home as much. I’m very proud of that. I haven’t disappointed myself at all. I made it through the semester on my own and my family is extremely happy.

I wasn’t easy as all they say “what doesn’t kill us, makes us stronger.”

An advice to everyone that wants to leave home at 18 and go on another continent: Don’t leave if you are not ready! Or you will regret it!
L.A. Galaxy Sings as Beckham Dances

BY: BAHADUR BASRAN

STAFF WRITER

The Major League Soccer team L.A. Galaxy has signed David Beckham for a five-year deal that is worth $100 million dollars. Currently playing for Real Madrid, Beckham will be earning about $100 a second, Beckham says he is not coming here for the money, although he will be earning about $90 a second. Beckham will be on his way to the United States as soon as his contract expires this summer. Although he will be earning about $90 a second, Beckham says he is not coming here for the money, but instead his goal is to promote soccer in the U.S. With such a salary, L.A. Galaxy would be making Beckham the highest paid athlete in the world. This poses a question: is Beckham worth that much money? L.A. Galaxy has already sold thousands of season tickets and shirts since the announcement of Beckham going to L.A. This news has captured the headlines of many newspapers, even those in the U.S. There is no doubt that Beckham will make an impact on soccer in the United States in general. L.A. Galaxy’s spokesperson already said that Beckham was worth every penny especially with the sales of tickets and shirts rising each day. He hasn’t even arrived in the United States and soccer fans all over the country are already acting as if he is in L.A. playing a game at this moment. The selling of the tickets and shirts by the thousands is already a confirmation of his success, but will he be able to keep the fans in their seats? Beckham is highly known for his free kicks and long passes. Surely the lack of his speed and dribbling skills to get around the defenders will be a concern for fans after a short while. Beckham will certainly make people want to come and watch him play, but will he keep them coming? Is it the sex icons Ronaldinho, the Ronaldinho, the Zidane’s, that makes fans want to come every single game and watch soccer? Hopefully Beckham attracting many fans will make people realize other great MLS players such as Donovan, to showcase their finishing abilities and keep the fans wanting for more. Soccer in the U.S. has to start somewhere. Beckham coming to the United States is a giant leap forward. This is why every soccer fan hoping for soccer to evolve in the U.S. should begin supporting MLS now alongside David Beckham. It is only a matter of time before other great names come to MLS. Soccer is the world’s common language, yet the United States has trouble speaking it. If Beckham can change that, the world would have a better look on the U.S. However soccer fans must remember that David Beckham can only do so much, that at the end it will be the amount of support shown by the fans that will keep the hype going in the U.S.
Ernie Panniccioli

By Jill Bartlett
Staff Writer
**THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIP-HOP**

By: Rob Torres

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

February 21st, 2007

Ernie Paniccioli

**Staff Writer**

The Student Center was buzzing last Thursday, February 14th, in celebration of Valentine’s Day. Ernie Paniccioli, better known for being a hip-hop photographer, spoke on February 7th at the Student Center here at Bergen Community College about a different side of hip-hop. He opened up with a story of a little girl he used to know. She grew up in Brooklyn, moved to the west, and eventually settled down in the south. He talked about how she changed over the years and even though she was always in his heart. In the words of a Famous code, that girl was hip-hop.

Graffiti was a big part of hip-hop culture, and it is still moving today. DJ Kea/Slay before being known as a hip-hop DJ, entered the culture by spraying graffiti or “tagging” on walls. Back then, he was known in New York City as Dez. Another graffiti artist who became a rapper was Genome, who we all know today as Nas. Graffiti became a powerful way to express oneself and feeling in the hip-hop culture.

Paniccioli talked about the difference between rappers and the way they present themselves as hip-hop icons. A comparison he made was the difference between Flav Flav and Nas. Flav Flav started in the rap group called Public Enemy back in 1982. Now he is on a popular TV show called “Flavor of Love” which, in the words of Paniccioli, “is only popular because of the subliminal messaging about women.” Nas, on the other hand, has to be one of the only mainstream rappers that still hold close his hip-hop roots as much as he can, while still trying to give the people what they want. If Nas did not go through with the whole gangsta attitude, he probably would not have been where he is today.

An interesting point Paniccioli made was how the worst thing rappers can do is be repetitive. If we watch a hip-hop video, we see the same peoplet wearing all this gold, showing off their riches, and dancing with girls. It has become less about the art and more about material things. Take a second next time you watch a music video. Make the volume, just watch it and see if it differs from other music videos. Hip-hop is about being original, and originality seems dead.

Ernie Paniccioli did not start out as a photographer. At the age of nine, he was in a gang in Brooklyn called The Bishops. Growing up in the streets he first took an interest in photography when he noticed graffiti appearing on walls and took to the art. He picked up a camera and started taking pictures of all the art he saw. From then on, he shot photos and hung out with hip-hop icons such as Biggie, Nas, Flav Flav, Mary J. Blige, Lil’ Kim, and many more. To this day, Paniccioli continues to expose lies, talk about the reality of hip-hop, and doing what he does best, take photos.

**Mic Check! Spoken Word Open Mic**

By: Frederic Tan

The Floetry Club held a Spoken Word Open Mic session on Wednesday, February 21st.

The Floetry Club’s Spoken Word Open Mic, I will likely learn a thing or two. A student then delivered her poem about a drug dealer (who ended up in jail), then proceeded with another student’s poem of “Walking through the valley of the shadow of death” and the explanation of that choice. The student who rhymed about Romeo and Juliet had a few more works about love to share. Another student read his poem about a drug dealer (who ended up in jail), then proceeded with another student’s poem of “Waiting for a rock and a hard place” and the explanation of that choice.

Another student took the spotlight, asking the audience to “think.” He then recited a work that was based on a class assignment, which required the selection of a color and the explanation of that choice. The color he chose? Red. “For the blood that’s being shed.” The student then delivered her poem about Romeo and Juliet. She had a few more works about love to share. One piece was on how he’ll never understand how we gave the example of wanting to be with a girl so badly, then how things turn sour with her. The next two works were simply “sweet nothings” to a girl. A student then delivered her poem “Walking through the valley of the shadow of death” and overcoming her difficulties. But perhaps the highlight of Open Mic was a student who performed two R&B/Crapp songs.

His defining message was praise to God. “Lord, I love You, there’s no one above You,” he sang in the first tune. A lyric that hit home was about not dwelling on the past, but learning from it. The student’s second song was done to the beat of Jay-Z’s “Show Me What You Got,” with more thanksgivings (“Praise Him” used in the chorus). The music had “talent” written all over it; this student has what it takes to sell out concerts.

Bravo to all the students who performed that evening! If you haven’t checked out the Floetry Club’s Spoken Word Open Mic, I heartily suggest you do. Not only will you be highly entertained, you will likely learn a thing or two. (Hey, that rhymes!)

**Canadian Hip-Hop artist K-OS hits America hard with “Atlantis: hyms for disco”**

By: Doug Smith

**Contributing Writer**

This new release from already well known Canadian rapper K-OS has already been in rotation for the past couple months up north, and with much success, winning 4 Juno nominations (Canadian equivalent of a Grammy) including one for best single, “Sunday Morning.” This just adds to his three Juns and one Grammy he won in the past (for working with The Chemical Brothers.)

His American release, which hit stores Tuesday Feb. 20th comes with a lot more than a bonus track. This record is a must buy for anyone who is a fan of artsy/creative urban music, but you don’t have to trust me. A lyric that hit home was about throwing rock rejections, type of riffs like “Mirror in the Sky,” as well as tracks that rock the house with an electric guitar. I was never to much into Toronto based hip-hop, and always preferred the music out of Vancouver (i.e. Swollen Members), until now of course. K-OS’s new release entitled Atlantis: Hyms for Disco, touches all areas of truth, especially the song “Fly Papers,” that depicts how we all live life like robots in our own routine, never stopping to look at life. I can’t lie, this CD may not be what a lot of Urban music fans are looking for, but don’t speak about any type of street wise material and even has “other,” listed as his style of music on his MySpace page. It’s had to compare it to anything, to me it sounds like a mix between Atmosphere meets Gym Class Heroes meets Damiens Masley with a small pinch of Jurassic Five for flavor. K-OS is currently on tour in the US with rock band Gym Class Heroes and underground rapper P.O.S., a good mix considering the style.
Last year, as I was choosing my Humanist class for the fall 2016 semester, I ultimately narrowed it down to two choices: art and music. I chose music. Why? When my sister had attended Rutgers, she had taken art (eruditely referred to as “Art Appreciation”), and what she had been required to do was sit between a sneaker with a shadow and her hand without looking at the paper. She ended up drawing something that looked like a pitchfork for the latter, but I do not expect when you can’t look at what you’re drawing! I figured that since I had taken music in my middle school career, it’s only natural that I take “Music Appreciation.”

Contrary to what I was semi-excited for this class, however, when lecture started, I was surprisingly felt bored. I already had extensive knowledge in what we were learning: I had taken piano when I was younger and, as I started earlier, choir in high school. This is how a typical day of class would proceed. The professor would ask, “What’s the meaning?” “What’s ‘andante’ mean?” If I felt like it, I’d answer. Then, I’d continue to test my boyfriend.

Midterms came, and one section was supposed to assess my ability to identify musical pieces, their composers, and the era during which they were written. The professor previously notified the class about this sec-
tion, and since I’m not too familiar with classical pieces, I started listening to the two CDs that came with the mandatory textbook, “Music Listening Today.”

Which brings me to the main point of this article: I love classical music, and you should, too. Every since I started listening to the CDs, I haven’t stopped. I’ll be capitals and revert to my hip-hop music, but for no more than twosongs.

When I do homework, I listen to classical music. Whenever I drive, I listen to classical music. Before I sleep, I listen to classical music. Actually, in this write article, I am listening to classical music.

The type of person who must have absolute silence whenever they work or study, just because I have a horrible attention span. However, for some odd reason, classical music helps me focus. Because of the intricacies and complexities found in the structure and sound of each piece, your brain begins to subtly think in a complex way. When you think in such a way, you’re forced to focus more…well, not forced, but you naturally focus more, just because you’re using your brain in a way it’s not normally used. There’s even a theory that states pregnant women should make their developing babies listen to classical music by placing headphones against their womb—doing so will make the baby smarter.

I never listened to classical music while I was in my mother’s womb, but in my case, and maybe even yours, better late than never, right? Here are a few starting pieces (“appetizers,” if you will) that’ll whet your intellectual palate:

1. Liszt: “Grandes Études de Paganini,” No. 5 in G-Sharp minor from “La Campanella.”
2. Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor, I.
3. Mozart: Symphony No. 40, I. (You should be familiar with this one—it’s the song used in those “Diamonds are Forever” commercials.)

Body and Soul

There are many musical styles and various ways to perform. Two genres that many would claim to be polar opposites are bands encompassed by the indie/emo scene and the metal scene. One may call the other over-the-top and the latter would call the former a bunch of wimps. On the surface they have bold differences in manner, but hey, what do you expect when you walk by the color purple on Broadway.

As you make your way to center stage, I guarantee you’ll see less happy-go-lucky feel, in musiqueally conveyed these there are these themes that makes up the subject matter: factionalism, racism, and sexism. Should these be conveyed through song and dance, espe-
cially of the bubbly, Broadway nature, and doing so, somehow, you’ll make them feel like laughing at a hate crime: sickeningly wrong.

About a third into the play, Harpo, a Negro who seems to be incompetent in terms of sustaining male dominance, attempts to beat his wife, Sofia. After his failed try, she marches to center stage and coaxes Harpo to try to beat her again—all this performed in a comedic fashion.

As she made her way to center stage, approximately every ten minutes or so, including myself, was laughing. After the show, I realized we were all laughing, not at her actual reaction to what she had just subjected: potential domestic violence on us.

Perhaps we, as the audience, shouldn’t be feeling shamful, after all, it is simply a result of the stimulus. In this case, the play is con-
cidered the three essential plays behind the produc-
tion: the director, the play-
wright, and the composer.

The director, Gary Griffin, is responsible for guiding the actors in terms of how to present the adapted material written by the playwright, Marsha Norman. The com-
posers, Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, and Stephen Bray, write music that heightens each scene. These people are like the three branches of gov-
ernment: one cannot work without the others.

A play production staff is to collectively convey the correct themes with the cor-
tect tone—not what they think befits the typical Broadway.

That being said, we have a problem here, don’t we? Sure, the production conveyed the correct themes, but did it do it in a way done by Walker had intended? No. If she had wanted people to laugh at the idea of a disun-
ited Negro community torn into factions of abuse, racism, and sexism, I doubt she would have written her novel the way she did, if at all.

At any rate, Broadway is a form of entertainment, so I will admit that I was definiti-

The Color Purple People

The Color Purple exhibits twists on many of the same disunity of the Negro commu-
nity and the nature of racism and sexism during the early to mid 20th century. Despite the Broadway production’s jazzy, happy-go-lucky feel, it’s music-
ially conveyed these there are those themes that don’t belong to Broadway—doing so will make the audience think of the frequency of domestic violence.

In Steven Spielberg’s 1985 rendition of Walker’s “The Color Purple,” he states, “I think it pisses God off when you walk by the color purple in a field and don’t notice it.” Shug, honest, it think it pisses God off when you walk by the color purple in a field and don’t notice it. The Color Purple on Broadway. Despite all the hype, raving reviews, and Op-رح, The Color Purple was utterly dis-
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However, it’s just one of those stories that shouldn’t be put on Broadway—doing so takes away from the author’s original, deeper message. The Color Purple exhibits twists on many of the same disunity of the Negro commu-
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March Must Have CD's

BY ALON MELAMED

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Without paying much attention, the year's shortest month literally "flew" by and spring time is here. Yes, guys and girls, April Fool's is here! Are you ready for the summer? The Heart of Everything/Within Temptation. If you were to put a female singer in front of a rock-metal group, who would you pick? The majority of people would probably choose Evanescence's Amy Lee. Of course, there is the look, a proven track record (two full-length albums), and a voice that complements the heavier tone of the music. Within Temptation, on the other hand, is a long-play album, Fallen (2003); another band from a different continent already making waves. Within Temptation's style is primarily a blend of metal and progressive rock. For the first time, Within Temptation's fourth studio album is out in US stores as well. Within Temptation formed in Holland back in 1996 and became popular in their homeland very quickly. Distinctive with a base focused only in the Netherlands and neighboring countries like Germany, the band changed their music style a bit, hoping not to lose their original identity and yet, become more popular all over the world. Some bands that produced a massive following all over the world except perhaps those as big as within their previous album, The Silent Force (2004). Although they do sound similar to Evanescence, they have experimented with metal surface.  After wishing every- one a fêted as the "Crown Prince of Performing Arts series. Crescent City Blues and That from Here and There" to perform. The man who played the washboard, King Clifton Chenier , PJ Harvey and Van Morrison, the album doesn't so much promise to leave you dancing so much as communicate the sorrow of the ordeal for the people who engaged in their lives together. If you would like to experience the fun and energetic performance of CJ Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band, yes, in luck, as they will be touring at length throughout North America later this year from September 2007. Feel free to check his current label's website (World Village) at http://www.worldvillagemusic.com/english/albums.php?artist_id=77 for tour updates and other information.

CJ Chenier: Red Hot and Riveting

BY JILL BARTLETT

STAFF WRITER

CJ Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band brought the passionate Zydeco to the Anna Maria Ciccone Theatre Friday, Feb. 16, covering Big Brother and the Holding Company's "Thank You and That From Here and There" Performing Arts series. Following in his father, Zydeco King Clifton Chenier, footsteps, and fitting in his "King of Zydeco," CJ Chenier brought a liv- ing performance to a lively audience unfazed to feel the absolute soul of the music. The clear melodies and southern style prompted young and old to dance with each other whether swaying in their seats or out dancing in the aisles. In his words, CJ brought us "down the way to the Bayou, where the crawfish got soul.

Donning a red suit, thick-rimmed wooden beads that hung on the ends of his hair, he quickly lost the suit jacket to reveal a black t-shirt. Then, after playing just a few chords and sparkling accordion, he began to play a simple 12-chord, 5-key mu- sician machine was simply an extension of his own heart. As he pumped his levers and played the notes his hands could not help but feel the music pulsing throughout.

The Red Hot Louisiana Band, made up of a bass guitarist, drum- mer, lead guitar and washboard, completed Chenier exquisitely. The man who played the washboard, reputedly known to CJ as "Tin Man," was easy the one captivating figure of the show. The guitar player in the southern sun hovering over pink skies, all while keeping the pace and rhythm in sync. Near the end of the concert, he invited a young brother and sister to come up to stage and try out the washboard. Their faces were full of pride and wonder as they tripped the tangled ends of what looked like metal spoons and carved their own melodies out on the rigid metal surface. After wishing every- body a "bonsoir" and striking off stage left, he beckoned back on for an encore, telling everyone "dance! Just dance where you stand..." and everyone did. Even I went home with my own pair of purple Mardi-Gras beads (courtesy of the woman tearing it up in front of the first row.)

CJ Chenier also has an eighth discography spanning 18 years and four record labels, must available on Amazon. His most recent release, The Greatest King of Zydeco, deviates from earlier releases as it gives a vivid recollection of the struggle facing his hometown of Port Arthur, Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Covering songs by his father, Zydeco King Clifton Chenier, (P) Harvey and Van Morrison, the album doesn't so much promise to leave you dancing so much as communicate the sorrow of the ordeal for the people who engaged in their lives together. If you would like to experience the fun and energetic performance of CJ Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band, yes, in luck, as they will be traveling at length throughout North America later this year from September 2007. Feel free to check his current label's website (World Village) at http://www.worldvillagemusic.com/english/albums.php?artist_id=77 for tour updates and other information.

Intelligence: It's the Ultimate Aphrodisiac

Don't Hate the Game... Hate the Player

BY MICHELA LANCHE

MANAGING EDITOR

As I walked into a large building located at 415 East 7th Street, Manhattan, I was surprised to enter a small auditorium that seated (at most) around 150 people. The room was dark and sparsely filled – in fact, the first two people to enter were duet partners. "Don't worry, we'll have the best seats in the house," I thought to myself. Having chosen our seats in the absolute cen- ter of the room, I was glad to know we had the best seats in the house; we were watching half of the concert. Meanwhile, the other half of the concert was happening cast. What this band is all about is a formula that produced a world famous album from his sheet music and acknowl- edge them with a smile. His reaction was to express himself – he was simply typing on a keyboard. Essentially, the second performance as simple, subtle, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and last performances could be described in one word: "Epic."
A total of eight pieces were played – I enjoyed one. I had already been in awe of classical music prior to this experience, so I was familiar with how each piece would sound (I should sound). Yet I did not attend for the concert himself. To simply sit at home and listen to one of my CDs for that. I attended this concert because I wanted to see peo- ple express these timeless pieces in the way their authors had intended them to be expressed: with passion and deep personal association or emotional connection to a song. This is precisely what separates musicians from instrumentals. An instrumentalist is one who simply plays an instrument. He hits all the right notes. He applies all the right dynamics; however, he does not feel it in his heart; he does not express himself vicariously- through what he plays, no matter how much skill he has. An instrumentalist may be. True musicians always find ways to illustrate their identities through music- these people are unfortunately lost faces in a crowd.

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Room C-211
Opening Tea
Join colleagues and friends for an informal reception to celebrate the start of Women’s History Month and learn more about upcoming activities, while enjoying TEA-liturgical symphonies and lively music in a “Welcome Spring” setting.

3/2 Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Ciccone Theatre
Vannexe Thomas – “Women of Soul” Concert
Sweet and soulful, Vannexe Thomas is a Memphis-bred singer of R&B and Soul music. Vannexe Thomas is a vibrant performer who committed to preserving and passing on these traditions. The women to whom the pays tribute in this concert are important in the development of the southern soul tradition.

3/3 Saturday, 3:00 p.m.
Ciccone Theatre
Isle of Klezbos in Concert
Shyu Tien, Isle of Klezbos, an island in the black sea of New York’s famedMetropolitan Klezmer, has toured North America and Europe extensively. The group’s award-winning recordings have hit the top of world music charts at home and abroad, and their excellent performances have led the Village Voice to proclaim: “These women will make you throw your既有!”

3/4 Sunday, 3:00 p.m.
Ciccone Theatre
3/5 Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.
Ciccone Theatre
Keynote Speakers: Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards
"Can I Be a Feminist and ... be fashionable, make money, be religious, be pro-choice, be a man? People generally aren’t confused about the value of these questions for men, but they are confused about the idea that women are just as good in these areas--but with an added political consciousness. This presentation simply asks, "Can I be myself and be a free woman? Can I be a woman and be a feminist because it is the right thing to do?"

3/6 Wednesday, 11:40 p.m.
Room C-313
Dr. Amy Copley - "Feminist Final Girls Why Females in Horror Films are Women?"
Amy Copley is a philosopher with a focus on feminist research interests include ancient Greek philosophy, the philosophy of film, and moral psychology, especially the philosophy of emotion. Feminist "final girls" are a technical term in feminist literary and aesthetic theory: the "heroes" of horror films--protagonists who survive against impossible odds. Amy Copley is a member of the Philosophy Faculty at California State University, Fullerton. She has published numerous articles on this topic, and this talk is the conclusion of an inclusive film and discussion event.

3/7 Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Ciccone Theatre
"Virtue Violence Against Women"
This program is presented by Bergen Community College students and guest assistant speaker at a Backyard Sun class project under the direction of Prof. Anne Langas. It will include a presentation and a discussion of the subject.

3/8 Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Ciccone Theatre
"Why Women in Horror Films are Women?"
"Why Men in Horror Films are Men?"
As part of the "Virtue Violence Against Women" program, this program will present an analysis of gender roles in horror films and discuss the implications for contemporary society.

3/9/10 Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Ciccone Theatre
"Women in Horror Films: A Critical Analysis"
This program is presented by Bergen Community College students and guest assistant speaker at a Backyard Sun class project under the direction of Prof. Anne Langas. It will include a presentation and a discussion of the subject.