Environment Week
BY: LIKA SKENDEREI
-StAFF WRITER-

It’s official, Bergen Community College is going green! It couldn’t have been more evident this past weekend. Earth Week, organized by the Environmental Club in conjunction with the Student Government Council and enthusiastic faculty and staff, included workshops, talks, and other creative events geared toward raising awareness about sustainability for our campus and community. The series was completed by the statewide Go Green NJ Conference, which attracted a range of people including but not limited to: local legislators, activists, professionals, professors and students.

The week was kicked off with the “Green” Pledge Wall, on which students wrote down their own pledges to “go green.” The event, which was held on Monday April 20th, was a continuation of previous pledging events held during the previous week. Proposed efforts ranged in “shades of green” and dedication. Some included smaller steps such as purchasing reusable travel mugs to more extreme, and perhaps “far out” ones such as a promise to minimize showers to once a month.

“Students will feel the debts in the long run. The revenue sources for the year 2009-2010 budgets is shaped by tuition and fees, state and county funding, Student Aid and Grants and other sources. The money coming from these revenues is spent for various expenditures such as instruction, institutional support, Academic Support, Student services and Operation and Maintenance of Plan. Instruction and Institutional support account for almost 65 percent of the proposed budget.

An average of 15 credits “per semester tuition” is expected to rise to almost $197 dollars. Nursing majors on the other hand, will see a more dramatic increase of nearly $348 dollars for 17 credits per semester. Biology, horticulture, music and animation majors can also expect increase due to a demand of ever-evolving technology and equipments needed to provide quality education.

Fortunately, the college has saved up a higher rate of surplus this year which will help accommodate a reasonable tuition increase for the year 2009-2010. “Bergen Community College, thanks to years of excellent fiscal management [in] better shape than most public agencies. It is our responsibility to ensure that we do most with the state [and] county funding…,” said V.P. Dacey.

Almost $670,000 in state funding. This reduction in state aid will now represent only twelve percent as a source of revenue for our budget. Five years ago, it represented about 19% of our budget.

“This means that next year students are going to again be asked to pay more to attend Bergen Community College,” said V.P. Dacey.

Tuition increase is a norm in any educational institution and it goes up nearly every year by a certain percentage. However, the economic meltdown has forced several institutions to make some drastic changes to keep up with the pace of crashing economy.

On April 1ST, Bergen Community College held a public hearing to inform the students that the tuition will increase by almost eight percent for the next semester. Vice President Timothy Dacey declared that this year the college will be losing $670,000 in state funding. This reduction in state aid will now represent only twelve percent as a source of revenue for our budget. Five years ago, it represented about 19% of our budget.

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Tuition Increase on the Horizon
BY: HUMA MUNIR
-Co-EDITOR-

A true Renaissance woman spoke about rainbows and hope at Bergen last week. Dr. Maya Angelou, the poet, producer, actress, author, playwright, film director, historian, and civil rights activist for over 60 years spoke in the gym on Tuesday, April 21st.

Dr. Maya Angelou was introduced as a “mother to the world”, and a voice to all of those who have had to live in hard times and repression. Indeed, such was the theme when Maya Angelou spoke to an enthusiastic and packed audience of students and teachers.

This writer had the opportunity to find out what Dr. Angelou had to present to us at BCC. Dr. Ralph Choono introduced us to the events. First, President Ryan came up and spoke praise of Dr. Angelou, followed by a reading of one of her literary pieces, titled “On the Pulse of Morning”. As an interesting side note, Dr. Angelou wrote and recited this poem for the 1993 Clinton Presidential Inauguration. Another of her poems, called “Phenomenal Woman”, was accompanied with a dance performance.

Dr. Maya Angelou
Speaks of Hope to BCC
BY: MICHAEL BULL
-AD MANAGER-

Dr. Maya Angelou spoke out to Bergen in the BCC gymnasium
PHOTO COURTESY OF BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

We, the Student Newspaper of Bergen County College

Winner of the General Excellence Award 2007-2008
New Jersey Press Foundation Better College Newspaper Contest

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The sight of bulldozers. The sound of jackhammers. Ground dug up. Workers scurrying everywhere. Areas off limits. It must be that time again. Yes indeed, Bergen Community College is getting ready for another major renovation of its campus.

We have already seen the construction that has begun a few weeks ago on the parking lot area between Pitkin and West Hall. That project is a $300,000 effort to help reduce the traffic that flows through the road on the walkway between Pitkin and West Hall which represents a real safety hazard to students. But as Administrative Vice President Timothy Dacey explained, that is just the tip of the iceberg. I had the chance to sit down with Mr Dacey a few weeks ago to discuss what this impending construction is all about, and how this would have implications for the students of BCC.

The construction at BCC, which has been over a year in the making and part of an ongoing effort by President Ryan and the student government to renovate the whole school, is scheduled to begin in July or August of this year, and will not be done until the following year. This part of the school construction was undertaken for the main reasons of general student life, as well as make life here more comfortable and convenient. This includes widening up the entrances, exits, and walkways in the student center, which are admittedly rather narrow, and to give students a larger eating area, which will also be expanded outside. This will come in the form of new tables and seating areas for outside, which would be useful for students in the spring and summer months.

Club areas will also be expanded, and the student government will be moved, so that they are integrated more with the student center in general. The counseling center will get a brand new conference room, and some offices will be shuffled around. As for the infrastructure side of things, the school will be getting a new “green roof”, a new HVAC system, new energy efficient lighting, natural light windows, and will have a focus on the outside as more positive instead of a negative.

These construction measures are sure to capture the interest of many students who have been demanding many improvements to various areas of the student center through the student government. And indeed, this construction may just appease them and perhaps a lot more. However, if these improvements will be worth the investment is something that still remains to be seen. But here’s to hoping.

BY: MICHAEL BULL

-AD MANAGER-

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April 2nd marked the opening night of BCC’s ARS Electronica: Suburban Dreamscapes in the Ciccone Theatre. The ARS Electronica series features multiple art forms brought together to examine aspects of society. This year’s presentation kept with the tradition, offering interpretative dance, pop/rock, and electronic music. The show started off with an electronic survey during which audience members were given small digital “clickers” and invited to respond to several interpretative questions regarding their impressions of suburbia. Lead and conducted by Amanjit Kaur, the multiple choice survey started off with the question, “How do you describe suburbia?” After the murmur of a thoughtful audience, and the sounds of clickers registering their decisions, the results displayed that 51% answered “Residential”, with the remaining choices split pretty evenly. Most of the questions returned the same decisive results, such as “What best describes the sounds of suburbia?” to which 676% voted “Lawnmowers.”

Other terms to describe suburbia that were derived from the audience-participation segment of the show were interdisciplinarity to enhance our view of the very communities in which we reside. Dolce is currently holding seminars on suburban gang activity, a subject he deems “unfortunate.” With resolve and commitment to his cause, Dolce said, “We are not only here to educate students; we are here to serve the community.”

Next was an interpretive dance routine performed by choreographer Priscilla Brownlee, and BCC student dancers. Starting out silent with only one dancer on stage, eventually music was brought in to the choreography. One might easily interpret that each of the different dancers exemplified a unique characteristic of suburban society, and when they all eventually took stage, a sense of diversity was developed.

BCC’s own Andy Krikun took the stage next with Dan Sheehan to perform a piece

**Suburban Dreamscapes: In Memory of Dr. Mazurek**

**BY: AUSTIN KEENAN**

_A Staff Writer_

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**Battle of the Bands**

**BY: AUSTIN KEENAN**

_A Staff Writer_

On April 24th, BCC’s Music Interactive Club held a Battle of the Bands in the school’s gymnasium to a crowd of passionate rock music lovers and band-loving supporters.

Organized largely by Jason Comas of the Music Interactive Club, the show’s billing included all bands from Bergen County, and even some with BCC students as musicians. Witchblood Recording Studio of little Ferry, which boasts such recognizable clients as My Chemical Romance, proudly sponsored the event, offering a four-hour recording session to the winner of the contest. With the amount of variety offered from this show, it was surely hard to pick a winner.

The show’s full bill included A Midnight Tragedy, The Victory Drive, The Bad Scene, Avenida, and Dawn of a New Romance, proudly sponsored the event, offering a four-hour recording session to the winner of the contest. With the amount of variety offered from this show, it was surely hard to pick a winner.

The show’s full bill included A Midnight Tragedy, The Victory Drive, The Bad Scene, Avenida, and Dawn of a New Day. Although you might not have heard of any of these bands, we are happy to report that there is an awesome diversity of rock music and that we could not resist checking out each of the competing bands.

A Midnight Tragedy is a band hailing from Kearny with an emphasis on high-tempo edgy rock that draws most of its influence from contemporary punk and metal combinations. The band has a considerable following in New Jersey, and recently was voted into the finals of this summer’s Warped Tour Battle of the Bands.

From their humble beginnings in 2005, the band has gained enough following with their tight performances to set up a record deal with Stitched Up Records in 2008, leading them on the way to Warped Tour. The Bad Scene is a band that many are likely to compare to the legend of Bossa Nova/reggae rock, The Police. However, The Bad Scene takes a more modern approach to their songwriting. By taking their unique style of music to the suburbs of New Jersey, The Bad Scene has set themselves apart from many similar acts. With the release of their first album, “A Classy Mess” in 2007, and their upcoming release, “When Things Get Weird,” the band is now developing a solid sound that will appeal to a broader fan base.

Avenida is a band from the Livingston/ Millburn area of New Jersey that is composed of five brothers who have combined electronics, gentle lyricism, and hard-hitting metal roots to make a sound that they call their own. The band is alive with activity, and joins A Midnight Tragedy among the finalists of this year’s Warped Tour Battle of the Bands finalists. With the April release of their new EP, “Take Control!”, the band is seeking to grow their audience to even higher levels.

Dawn of a New Day is a band that stands out as the heaviest on the Bergen Battle bill. The band thrashes with the audience with a sound that incorporates death metal vocal

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See BANDS on page 13
The event had a high yield with long lines (and crowds) of excited “green” commuters as well as regretful, gas-guzzling lone-drivers.

Another successful Earth Week event was the “Vintage Day and Live Music.” The campus community was encouraged to purchase, barter, and/or donate gently used, clean items including, but not limited to, clothes, jewelry, books, and music. An overwhelming turnout transformed the first floor of the Pitkin Building into an eclectic vintage shop and music venue, while student and staff musicians entertained scavenging buyers and passers-by. Although one day shy of Arbor Day, the “Tea Tree and Community Garden Day” featured another success, reaching out to the community by engaging children from the college’s Child Development Center. Six trees of varying breeds were donated by a local Home Depot for the planting event. Rachel Wieland, Environmental Club advisor, says, “the kids were the highlight” as they fought over the shovel with enthusiasm. Among the staff who attended was also Dean of Math, Science and Technology P.J. Ricatto, who, according to Wieland, has played such a crucial role in the manifestation of the whole green movement at BCC. “He has not only provided the moral support and encouragement, but has generously provided funding for much of the initiative” says Wieland.

Dean Ricatto’s support extended from minute details to the largest part of the week, the Go Green NJ Conference, held on Friday. The Conference attracted high school and college students from the area, as well as experts in the field and local legislators among others. The event included workshops on alternative energy and composting, a student discussion, and informative presentations. The event promoted sustainability even in the presentation of food and refreshments, with biodegradable utensils and cups and more vegetarian choices than not. The conference geared toward informing the community and developing a sustainable network of advocates. Surely this is a sign of a greener tomorrow.

NYC’s Pillow Fight: What a Way to Spend a Saturday

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR.COM

Feathers fly in the world’s largest pillow fight

BY: CASSANDRA VEALE

-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF-

On April 4th, New York City hosted the fourth annual NYC Pillow Fight, a project brought to us by Newmindspace. Pillow Fight Day is a worldwide holiday that began with the NYC pillow fight four years ago but the last two years have seen pillow fights in seventy-two other parts of the globe like Toronto, London and Spain. Feathers and fake dollar bills flew on Wall Street as thousands of onlookers witnessed the massive pillow fight that ensued. For a concept as odd as a several hundred person pillow fight to happen, Newmindspace founders Lori Kufner and Kevin Bracken used such networking tools like Facebook, Twitter, and word of mouth to spread the news. The duo has been organizing massive free events in North America since 2005. They run their project from donations alone and never accept advertising or sponsorships. Their website explains that Newmindspace “organizes free, fun, all-ages events like parties on subway cars, public pillow fights, giant games of capture the flag on city streets, massive...”

See Pillow Fight on page 14

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NY International Auto Show

By: Guy Weiss
-Staff Writer-

The New York International Auto Show is the nation’s most heavily attended auto exhibition with over one million visitors expected annually.

The show was recently held from April 10th through April 19th. Major car demographics are covered at the Auto Show from high performance exotics like the Koenigsegg CCXR, and the Audi R8 to hybrid and electric vehicles like the Scion IQ concept and the Mini E. Others included luxurious full size sedans like the recently released new BMW 7 series and the Bentley Continental Flying Spur as well as many other cars in other categories.

The auto show is popular for many people because of the numerous exhibitors showing off their company’s newest and most successful models. The car show serves as the ultimate place to conduct car research and compare multiple cars directly competing with each other. It is easier and more convenient to view vehicles over a shorter period of time when you can simply walk the short distance from manufacturer to manufacturer rather than driving from dealership to dealership. The car show also serves its purpose quite well as a daylong retreat for a car fanatic who has read about upcoming cars and would like to see beyond the pictures. Representatives are available from every exhibiting manufacturer to try and answer questions about their cars.

Volkswagen displayed their sixth generation GTI at this year’s show. This car features a revamped front and rear, as well as side rocker panels. The engine remains the same 200 horsepower turbocharged 4-cylinder. Volkswagen has also significantly improved the steering wheel, seats, and multimedia console from the fifth generation GTI. While the GTI may run slightly more expensive than competitors like the Mazda 3 and the Honda Civic Si, there is no question that it is worth every penny.

Another impressive car this year is the new Nissan Nismo 370Z. Nismo is Nissan’s performance sector, and this 370Z is definitely not short on performance. It features a 350 horsepower naturally aspirated 6-cylinder engine that is surprisingly fuel efficient with EPA fuel ratings of 18 mpg city and 26 mpg highway.

One of the show’s most disappointing cars was the extremely hyped-up Hyundai Genesis coupe. While the Genesis Sedan rattled the car industry and brought countless awards and recognition to Hyundai, the coupe leaves much to be desired. The interior feels cheap, the leather seats were hard and cracked, and there is very little leg room in the backseat. The steering wheel is very thin and does not convey the car’s intended sport inspired
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OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Editorial

Torch members hard at work to bring you the best paper possible.

From left to right: Sadaf Khurshid, Michelle Ha, Jed Empleo, Michael Bull, Huma Munir.

By: Cassandra Veale

-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF-

When I first accepted the position as the Editor in Chief of Torch, I felt that the paper was not living up to its full potential. The expectations of three published issues per semester were not being met and it seemed that the Torch had dropped off the Bergen scope. My co-editor, Huma Munir and I spent countless hours over the Winter break doing our best to clean up the interstaff communications, school relations, organization matters and issues of timeliness. Once the first issue was printed and placed on the racks, we had learned a great deal about what was needed to get done month to month in order to provide Bergen with the student publication it deserves.

This semester’s Torch team has been the subject of many compliments and praises and I have the staff to thank for that. The staff of Torch is the most dedicated group of individuals I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Not only are we incredibly proud of the work we do, but we are a very close-knit group of people that can be described as friends sooner than co-workers. Day by day we strive to bring you the most relevant, up to date, and student centric news we can find.

The Torch was proud to repeat our award-winning standing in the New Jersey Press Foundation College Newspaper circuit. With great pride and admiration, we congratulate Jed Empleo, our comic relief of a layout editor for earning Torch the Best Layout and Design Award.

Charles Cartagena, off to Rider University, took first place in Arts & Entertainment Writing and also earned an honorable mention for Sports writing.

Huma Munir, the unstoppable layout editor for earning Torch the College Newspaper circuit. With honor and privleged to have led Torch this Spring 2009 Term. Thank you.

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Letters to the Editor

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The Torch strives for the highest journalistic standards and accuracy. Readers are encouraged to contact us if they find any mistakes in any edition of the Torch.

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21st Century Technology: Good or Bad

BY: Zakaria Hashem
-Staff Writer-

The internet is a powerful tool—it greatly contributed to the success of Barack Obama’s campaign. The publicity a person can gain from the Internet can launch their careers. The hip-hop artist, Sonja Boy, gained popularity from the networking website, MySpace. This is just another example of the Internet’s influence on the music industry.

Torrents are another form of information sharing in which “stealing” is feasible. The internet makes sharing data very easy with these sites and programs, causing many copy right laws to become obsolete.

So, has the advancement of the Internet hurt the music industry? As far as artists are concerned, they make the majority of their money from performances. The sharing of their music encourages people to attend their concerts; this is similar to how artists allow DJs to play their music on the radio.

A Cafeteria, is a Cafeteria

BY: Charles A. Cartagena
-Staff Writer-

In my grammar school, the gems were in the form of forty-cent chocolate chip cookies. The doe-eyed pre-teen adolescents in the know would bypass the assembly line of human misery comprised of micro waved “meat”, peas and “mashed potatoes”, and head straight for the cookie cart. There, a pleasant older woman would free you of your 40 cents, and in turn, provide you with a chocolate chip cookie bigger than your hands cupped together at the pinkies. To this day, I have never had a more satisfying transaction.

In Bergen, there are a lot of things to avoid, true. The hot case is more chemistry than cooking, and the salad bar is where plant life goes to die. Subway will charge you seven dollars for a foot of bread and 2 slivers of roast beef and will free you of your 40 cents, and in turn, provide you with a chocolate chip cookie bigger than your hands cupped together at the pinkies. To this day, I have never had a more satisfying transaction.

In Bergen, there are a lot of things to avoid, true. The hot case is more chemistry than cooking, and the salad bar is where plant life goes to die. Subway will charge you seven dollars for a foot of bread and 2 slivers of any cold cut you want, sliced to the point of transparency, and I’ve never tried the Nathan’s, and don’t think I ever will.

The sharing of their music encourages people to attend their concerts; this is similar to how artists allow DJs to play their music on the radio.

There is one station that I consider a true gem of the Bergen cafe, and that quarry of rare delights is: the Panini Station. There, the friendliest woman I have ever encountered takes your order with exuberance and pure joy. For less than $5.00, you can orchestrate panini’s conception, adding or excluding ingredients at a whim. Bacon, breaded chicken, lettuce, tomato, roasted peppers, provolone cheese, cheddar cheese, mayo, and magic are somehow contained between two slices of hard bread and heated through by a press.

There are a plethora of ingredients, and many combinations. The stand also offers vegetarian and vegan specials, and low fat options, so variety isn’t a problem. Go every day and treat yourself to something new.
Far away, so distant from the civilian life that they once knew, Marines walk the terrains of conflicted countries. Strong, they stand in conjunction to America, completing missions and bravely protecting our nation. They are no longer the average man, they are an accumulated force.

Marines are guardians to the American eye and our shield against terrorism and war. For generations, young men and women have committed to this challenging career path known for its heroism and many have grievously lost their lives during combat. Together they form an undeniably powerful military force, but what are they experiencing as individuals?

Let’s pretend that the vast majority of students reading this article have once considered the possibility of joining the armed forces or know somebody who has. A decision was waiting to be made and depending on the individuals’ preference and priorities, benefits were measured and compared to possible pessimistic outcomes. Being such a controversial career path, interpretation of the military experience will vary amongst the troops. Marine Corps troops are constantly challenged and are expected to submit to stern discipline and ongoing periodical training. Destined to be respected, they have undergone intensive infantry training, practiced weapon usage, tactics, and have mastered various combat techniques.

Joining the military is a decision that should be taken extremely seriously and discussed earnestly with family and loved ones. Family consent and understanding will prove to be intensely necessary in order to feel confident in one’s decision. A marine has to learn how to become lenient to the possibility of getting deployed at any specific time; therefore it is indispensable that they maintain their physical composition in order to prove their combat readiness and efficiency. Personal routines, commitments, and obligations are commonly terminated in order to fulfill their military expectations and duties.

Although it is crucial for Marines to be mentally prepared for the unexpected, it’s always internally difficult leave the people they cherish. Every moment spent with loved ones become more precious and valuable for they have to consider the possibility of never seeing them again. Hugging their most beloved companion or child for the last time before deployment and looking back at their tear-soaked face as they walk away is arguably the most difficult part of being a Marine. After months of active duty, relationships are either strengthened or lost due to their absences.

Depending on reception and location of deployment, communication methods in foreign countries are usually available but not always dependable. While on specific road missions, in which may range from hours to weeks, Marines are unable to contact or receive emotional support from their loved ones. On the more positive side, they are surrounded by an enthusiastically devoted orderly organization of heroic troops joined in sacrifices, experience, and common tasks.

Isolated from the world they once knew, they are naturally more vulnerable to analyze their own lives and grow as individuals. During deployment, they witness life from a distinct perspective, as their agility is continuously challenged and provoked. They develop a wider awareness of their surroundings and adjust to a life lacking basic luxuries and accommodations. Marines are likely to come home with an indescribable change of attitude, maturity, and a different perspective on life. They arrive home as well rounded individuals, strong enough to push any barrier blocking their road to success.
A Stronger, Better Smallville

By: Zachary Rzetelny

-Staff Writer-

Is it possible that Smallville, CW Network’s long-running sci-fi drama, is stronger than ever, despite moving into its eighth season? When the show first launched in 2001, viewers crowded around their television sets to see the awkward teenage years of Clark Kent (Tom Welling), otherwise known as Superman. However, during intermediate seasons, Smallville lost steam, and many fans departed due to repetitive, contrived plots. When the show moved into its eighth and current season, the show’s supporters worried that it was doomed, as certain key characters dropped off the cast, and the show’s creators departed.

In spite of the doom and gloom, Smallville reinvented itself this season, taking a new direction while coming closer to the Superman mythos than ever before. The ratings have risen, and Smallville has been renewed for a ninth season. Is it enough to make the show worth watching again? Could it be time to come back?

The action increasingly takes place in Metropolis, the high-tech metropolitan city Superman protects in the comic-books. Clark is no longer a simple farm boy, but has taken his iconic reporter job at the Daily Planet newspaper, and is using his abilities to save people and inspire hope. Chloe, his long-time friend/sidekick, is forging her own path. New characters appear this season, and they work well, rounding out the show.

Tess Mercer (Cassidy Freeman) now resides at the Luthor mansion. She began as a rather hollow character, but was later fleshed out. Lovable Davis Bloome (Sam Witwer), a puppy-dog cute yet responsible-seeming paramedic, suspects he’s transforming into a nightmarish creature—Doomsday, the unstoppable killing-machine that leads the Man of Steel to his early demise in the comic. His acting is cute, interesting, and, at times, frightening.

Smallville’s more enjoyable than previous seasons, and the ratings reflect that. While not every episode’s perfect, there is a captivating storyline and creative ideas behind it and even the bad episodes add to the mix. The show feels fresh and interesting, and has plenty going on. Season 8 feels like the beginning of a new, exciting Superman show. It’s once again fun to watch an awkward farm boy slowly becoming one of our culture’s greatest heroes.

For a show that has finally reached its potential, there’s one drawback; Chloe has outgrown running her school newspaper, named— you guessed it —The Torch. New episodes air at 8pm on Thursdays on CW network.

The Haunting in Connecticut: Worth the Hype?

By: Sadaf Khurshid

-Staff Writer-

The recently released horror film, The Haunting in Connecticut is a story that centers on Campbell family, who moves into an eerie house due to the health condition of their son. The son has been diagnosed with cancer and their new house is conveniently located closer to the hospital where he receives treatment. Though the movie is supposedly based on a true story, it has many superficial elements that make it appear unrealistic. The only event that seems real is the boy with cancer and the hardship he must endure.

The characters in the story are portrayed as the ones with the worst luck in the world. The calamities that the family is faced with are an alcoholic father, boy with cancer, financial struggle, and a haunted house. For this family, it seems that trouble always comes all at once. This movie is much like every other ‘based on a true story’ movie—a bit too exaggerated. The characters in this movie seem unrealistic because anyone with a little common sense would not make the film appear alive. The dramatic and chilling music playing in the background helped to augment the performances and the actions, as well.

However, in the end, what it all comes down to is that the movie is a waste of money and the demolition of another story by Hollywood movie makers.

Metrics: Fantasies

By: Austin Keenan

-Staff Writer-

The Canadian sensations, Metric, released their greatly anticipated new album, “Fantasies”, on April 14th with a barrage of marketing that reached all the way into the U.S.

For those familiar with Metric, the album is adequate in terms of maintaining the band’s unique sound, and exceeds expectations in terms of the quality of the songwriting. For those who have never heard Metric, it is a good introduction to their dreamy rock styling, but you may have missed the indie (read: cool hipster kid) boat. Metric is about to get even more mainstream.

The album cautiously preserves the spacious soundscapes and smoky purr of lead singer Emily Haines that the band is known for. If you go back in Metric’s history, you will see a distinctly formulated balance between avant-garde electronic music, soft rock, and poetic lyrics set to a seductive female vocal. All of that is present on “Fantasies”, however rhythm and rock have a more pronounced presence on this record, compared to the older works. “Live It Out” and “Grow Up and Blow Away.”

Still, the album is beautifully crafted, if only slightly more accessible to their growing American audience. You can’t knock a band for trying to embrace their increasing success. The opening track, “Help Me, I’m Alive” is an easy single and surefire hit for fans of similar alternative styles that have grown out of the indie movement in the North-Eastern U.S. (see: Arcade Fire and Interpol). Make sure to give Metric a call to the writers of The O.C. and recommend Metric if you like them.

The Torch
FEATURES

Top Gear: Some Say It’s Not Your Average Car Show

By: Jed Empleo
-Layout Editor-

Aside from being a show that reviews new cars, Top Gear is essential viewing. Presented by Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond, James May, and the anonymous test driver, the Stig, they add brash British humor with essential car facts.

One of the greatest aspects of this program is that you don’t have to be a car enthusiast to enjoy the show. This is due to the rude approach to motoring and the three presenters’ personas butting heads with their opinions.

What attracts audiences to Top Gear are the challenges presented to the hosts in every episode. These challenges do not necessarily have to be a drag race or a timed lap around the Top Gear track. It varies from driving a homemade amphibious vehicle across the English Channel, trying to send a car to space, to towing old cars and launching them across a quarry made to look like a giant dartboard. The number of original challenges is immense.

Another feature to the show is the “Star in a Reasonably-Priced Car.” This segment has celebrities on the show that take a mid-sized sedan around the track. Majority of the guests that have appeared are British celebrities, but some Americans

Who Killed Amanda Palmer?

By: Cassandra Veale
-Editor-in-Chief-

I’m taking advantage of this last issue of Torch to tell you about my favorite album that was released during the school year, that being Amanda Palmer’s “Who Killed Amanda Palmer?” The first solo album by the Dresden Dolls’ own pianist/songwriter/mastermind is possibly the finest display of Palmer’s talents to date.

Most songs featured on the album are actually years old and are simply Dresden Dolls’ songs minus the crucial drum skills of Brian Viglione. In truth, Brian and Amanda could have released nearly anything Viglione. In truth, Brian and Amanda could have released nearly anything Viglione. In truth, Brian and Amanda could have released nearly anything Viglione. In truth, Brian and Amanda could have released nearly anything

17 Again: Another Hollywood Cliché

By: Sadaf Khurshid
-Staff Writer-

The Hollywood filmmakers seem to have either run out of new and exciting ideas for their films or have taken the audience for miniature puppets dancing to their tune. 17 Again is a teen movie, based on a man’s life, spiraling downhill at work and at home. It was released on April 17, and boy was there a crowd. There was an audience potpourri:

- mothers, kids, teenager girls and some boyfriends, who were forced to endure a painstaking happy-go-lucky romance movie.
- The characters in this film did not seem to fulfill their potential for this time-swapping film. Zach Efron, the star in the movie, seems to be just going through the motions. His looks and charisma mesmerized the teenage audience into believing that he is an excellent actor. However, to more mature audience it is apparent that he is all looks and no talent. So what was the filmmaking industry thinking putting an immature actor out on the screen?

It is not Hollywood’s fault that the majority of the American demographic, teenage girls, think with their hearts and not their brains. A boy with a pretty face can captivate them to look past all other traits of an individual, be it character, education, skills, talent, etc. These “happy ending” teenage love stories plant a seed in young girls’ minds that finding Mr. Perfect is everything. These kinds of movies create a standard that women look for in men and in their love life which results in dissatisfaction with their partners. There is no Mr. Perfect and these kinds of ideas and fantasies should not be embedded in young minds, because it only leads to heartache.

The only reason that this movie is worth watching is because of the humor. However, other than some lout father-daughter sexual tension, there is nothing particularly original or memorable about this cliché-ridden deviation on the time-travel comedy theme.

Amanda had some songs that were not deemed fit to be called Dolls songs and thus, she formed an e-mail affair with newly converted fan, Ben Folds.

The best perk of the album is how it was truly a group effort between Palmer and such guest appearances as: Ben Folds on nearly every instrument and synthesizer you could imagine, ex-Rasputina member Zoe Keating on violin, and East Bay Ray of punk legends the Dead Kennedys lent his talents for some of the harder, more guitar-driven tracks. The usual sound of Amanda’s quick voice tricks and exhubert piano parts are now accompanied by more than drums. Palmer sounds stronger than ever with enough strings, guitars, claps, choirs and many digital tricks to knock an old-school Dolls fan flat on their behinds.

The play starts out strong with the first two tracks showcasing Amanda’s superb understanding of music and melody. The lounge in cheek lyrics are often obscene, more often clever and very mature. Amanda pushes her sarcastic wit straight in your face with the best music she has ever produced. Each track has a unique and listenable quirk that sets it apart from the rest. Finally, this is a record in which I do not find myself skipping every other track. Pick it up and you are sure to be glad you did. She is certainly worth knowing.
The Torch

April/May 2009

FEATURES

BCC Presents: The Firebugs

By: Austin Keenan
-Staff Writer-

Bergen Community College proudly presented the theatre department’s production of the early 20th century play by Max Frisch, The Firebugs throughout the second half of April.

First published in 1958, The Firebugs is a comedic satire that takes place in Nazi Germany during a time when the country is suffering from the attack of notorious arsonists known as “firebugs” who attempt to infiltrate homes and set large areas ablaze. The play is widely seen as being critical of a society that was too complacent during the war and the Nazis took over Germany.

The play’s producer, Jim Bumgardner, explained that the whole production is operated and performed by students. “That’s one of the coolest things about [our plays] is that they’re all student run,” said Bumgardner. Not all of the students are Theatre Majors, either. In fact, the lead role for The Firebugs was given to a student who studies computer sciences. Bill Gianelli, who played Biedermann, the play’s main protagonist, has an impressive history and a proven passion for theatre and performance arts, but elected to take up a degree that considered more “practical”.

Students also operated the lighting equipment, lead by Lighting Designer Jared Saltzman of BCC, and sound equipment with the help of Dean Mattson, the play’s Sound Designer. Actors took their cues from Director Ken Bonnafons, who, according to Bumgardner, came up with the idea to do The Firebugs for the spring semester.

The play opens with a crew of clown-faced firefighters setting the stage for Biedermann to enter the stage, which is set to appear as if it is his own house. The firefighters act as a Greek Chorus throughout the play, offering insight into the actions occurring on stage. Biedermann’s house is infiltrated by a man claiming to be nothing but a professional wrestler, and later on his friend, who takes great pleasure in antagonizing the fearful Biedermann. Of course, they turn out to be arsonists, but the real threat has everyone howling for mercy as it transforms the people and animals of the town into futile, exasperated creatures.

These vile creatures known as “Majinis” are entirely merciless. They strike from all directions and never stay off course for long. Redfield is joined by his partner in crime, Sheva Alomar, who provides him with support as she contributes her potency and shrewdness to the fight. In order to survive, the two must work collectively to demolish the responsible ones behind all the occurring malice.

Resident Evil 5

By: Michelle Ha
-Staff Writer-

Just when it seemed that the peril of Resident Evil had been crushed, a new horror comes along with screaming and crying tears of euphoric blood-soaked bliss. The new Resident Evil 5 builds on the same style of game play and amps it up even more.

The battle picks up a decade after the first title. Chris Redfield, an original cast member of Resident Evil, returns for more ferocious action. Subsequent to pursuing iniquity around the world, Chris has joined a new association and proceeds to Kijuju, Africa, where the latest bioterrorism is assailing. The new threat has everyone howling for mercy as it transforms the people and animals of the town into futile, exasperated creatures.

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These vile creatures known as “Majinis” are entirely merciless. They strike from all directions and never stay off course for long. Redfield is joined by his partner in crime, Sheva Alomar, who provides him with support as she contributes her potency and shrewdness to the fight. In order to survive, the two must work collectively to demolish the responsible ones behind all the occurring malice.

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**The Torch**

**Bands**

styles as well as neck-snapping dual guitar solos that make the five-piece stand apart from other acts in the show. Coming out of Dumont, New Jersey, the band is sure to attract a large following for those who love to hit heavier than the rest (when it comes to music of course).

The wide range of rock acts at the Music Interactive Club’s Bergen Battle

**Firebugs**

before opening, it was easy to see how enthusiastic the whole team on stage was. Also, the attention to detail and creative use of stage props made the whole production really work well. As much as made for a great show. After a long and hard battle, Midnight Tragedy walked away with the prize. It’s an event that BCC does not often see, but hopefully one that will gain popularity in the near future. Contact the Performing Arts Dept. to find out how you can help put on the next great show!

Continued from page 2

This article was not intended to be a review, it would be hard not to acknowledge how smoothly everything went for that performance the night just before opening.

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Allman Bros

about having accomplishments, they also received the honor of being the last act to play at the Fillmore East before it closed in June 1971. Their final shows at the Fillmore were legendary not only because Duane Allman was still around but because they played all night till the sun came up.

The Allman Brothers Band is a very talented band that is perfect for all ages. I went to my first concert at the Beacon Theater and I was just blown away. The sound was unbelievable and just took photos of them made for a very good visual. The audience at the public hearing

During the question answer session, BCC’s President G. Jeremiah Ryan answered questions alongside V.P. Dacey. When asked about what the President Obama’s stimulus package will do to help the budget, President Ryan said most of the money is going towards training programs. The money will be designated to areas of “going-green” and solar technology and Allied Health services.

The audience at the public hearing was encouraged to propose ideas and comments. Professor Paul Eckstein who teaches philosophy courses at BCC suggested that one way to lift the burden of tuition increase on students is to “... lessen the cost of instructional material,” he said. Passionate and resolute, Professor Eckstein strongly believes that faculty members should do everything they can to help the students get through the economic difficulties.

Dr. Alan Kaufman, the head of the faculty senate, encouraged students to write to their local district legislatures. He also proposed that students in large numbers should go to public hearings and present their cases. “You should be making your voice as loud and as clear as possible, telling them about the budgetary considerations and concerns,” he said. “They are a lot more likely to listen to you than they are to listen to me, or the president or the board members,” said Dr. Kaufman.

Student Government Ron Subramanian also suggested that instead of expanding the expenditures, we should think about cutting costs from wherever we can. The students were encouraged to contact V.P. Dacey about any comments or concerns they have about the matter.

“We are here for the students and they deserve the very best service we can provide,” said V.P. Dacey.

Continued from page 1

**Green Team**

the importance of recycling. Numbers make the facts more visible. “Visibility is important,” says Ricatto as he ushers me over to a pile of recycling “caddies” that were just delivered. “They’re really simple and cheap, too,” says Ricatto. The caddies consist of a thin metal frame and transparent plastic bag. “Some of these have already been installed. They’re great because you become more aware of what you can do.”

Continued from page 10

“I’m a small part of this,” says Dean Ricatto, “Students have put a lot of effort in—beyond my expectations. They have been totally proactive in the process. I had anticipated having to continuously map out steps for them, but instead they are finding what to do next.”

Anyone interested in applying for a Green Team job is welcome to acquire an application in room A325.

Continued from page 10

**Auto Show**

demeanor. One of the car’s few positive assets is the 3.8 liter V6 that puts out over 300 horsepower and rivals the Ford Mustang GT in performance and price.

The overall best in show was the Koenigsegg CCXR. Hidden in the concourse between the 1st and 2nd levels of the show, this supercar has one of the strongest and well-built engines in the world. While most supercars have 12 or even 16 cylinder engines, this car has an 8-cylinder engine that produces 1,085 horsepower when running on biofuel, and will rocket you from 0-60 in possibly the most intense 2.9 seconds of your life. The CCXR should be the last car viewed in the show, this supercar has one of the strongest and well-built engines in the world.

Continued from page 7

**Tuition**

to keep the tuition as low as possible. However, the year 2010-2011 will be a difficult year for the college as the tuition is expected to rise even more and the amount of surplus is expected to decrease.

The college is also expected to replace 43 lecturers with 34 tenured faculty members to meet the growing need of students, said V.P. Dacey. More improvements are on the way as BCC continues to expand with the number of students enrolling and more campuses being opened in various places. “This certainly shows that we are committed to providing quality educational system to our students,” said V.P. Dacey.

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Continued from page 1

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Dr. Angelou
called “Another Morning.” It was a guitar
driven instrumental piece that was
punished by Sheehan’s lead couple with
Krikn’s volume pedal guitar work.
Dan Sheehan took the stage solo to
perform a song he had written called “The
Fort”, which he explained had been derived
from a coupling of bushes that he had used
as a hideout when he was a child. Played
entirely acoustically, Sheehan reflected
on the times when we all have used our
surroundings to feed our imagination.
To take the show to another level, Dr.
Linda Marcel of BCC took the stage with
percussionist Ben Marino, and vocalist
Lorraine Ernest to bring the earlier poll
results into musical form. The dance team
joined them in expressively painting the
descriptive terms derived from the poll
into song and dance. The improvised
performance was aimed to give each word
its own personality and essence.
Poetry readings by Brian Cordell were
accompanied by paintings by Andrea
Jablonski in the next segment, and then
began to say that she will accept no man-made
differences and truly shine, a central theme
as a hideout when he was a child.
and electronics to perform Krikun’s own
original pop/rock piece, “Basketball.”

Finally, Louise Mazurek took the stage
to pay tribute to her late husband
and to introduce his composition,
“Rockaby”, which was to be performed
by Greta Feeney on vocals and Linda
Marcel on piano. The piece marked a
solemn and fitting tribute to Mazurek,
who pioneered many of Bergen’s music
technology programs and also taught at
NYU. Mazurek’s compositions have been
performed throughout the world, and this
performance of his cherished work was
spot-on in terms of how he’d want it to
have been performed.

Pillow Fight
bubble battles, public art installations and
much more. Newmindspace is committed
to reclaiming public space, inventing
new ways of having fun, and creating
community.” This is the urban playground
movement, a playful part of the larger
public space movement.
The goal of such events is to encourage
people to organize and connect with one
another for the simple reason of doing
something as a community. As more and
more of our time is sucked into television
and Facebook, we are steadly breaking
the connections that hold us together as
urban communities. “The result, we hope,
will be a global community of participants
in a world where people are constantly
organizing and attending these happenings
in every major city in the world.” – Lori
Kufner. Truly, this sort of event is just
the sort of thing that Wall Street needed
to ease up the tension of economic hardship.
For more information, you can visit
Newmindspace.com. They will be hosting
a massive NYC Lighntblade Battle on April
25th, 2009 in Washington Square Park at
8:15 AM. Watch for the upcoming website
as well: www.UrbanPlaygrounds.com

Letter from the Office of Community Relations

Dear Teachers, Faculty and Staff,
As you all have heard in the news, cases of swine flu have been identified in Mexico and within the United States. Federal and state health officials have declared a Public Health Emergency involving swine influenza A.

This is an important issue campus community to be aware of, but not alarmed. Indeed, a semester before, President of Bergen Community College, Bergen Community College is working with the appropriate health agencies to stay informed and provide information to students and staff throughout the college, as said by

These agencies include the Bergen County Health Department and the Borough of Paramus Health Department. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the federal entity for all emergency health matters, so you would like to stay informed, please visit the CDC’s web site at www.cdc.gov.

Case of swine flu in the United States have peaked positively to common medical treatments. Anyone experiencing flu like symptoms should immediately see their physician for diagnosis and treatment. There are currently 141 diagnosed cases of swine flu in the United States, 23 in New York City, seven in California, two in Kansas, two in Texas, and one in Ohio. There are five recovered cases in New Jersey.

Susan McGee, a registered nurse at Bergen Community College Health Services offices retells the CDC directive to prevent the spread of germs, including but not limited to the following:
• Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.елско
• Avoid touching your nose, eyes, or mouth.
• Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
• Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
• Flu is a contagious virus that is transmitted through coughing or sneezing or contact with infected people.

Please note that the College will keep you informed on any new health information the Bergen eda. We site and through e-mail.

Angela Harrington
Chief Community Relations Officer
Office Phone: 201-440-7677
Email: aharrington@bergen.edu

Preventative steps include:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Shield-based hand dryers are also effective.
- Avoid touching your nose, eyes or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Flu is a contagious virus that is transmitted through coughing or sneezing or contact with infected people.
Health Watch
Preventing the Spread of Swine Flu

Tips From the Centers for Disease Control

How to Stay Healthy
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Alcohol-based hands cleaners also are an effective way to clean hands.
- Germs spread when you touch your eyes, nose or mouth, so keep hands off your face.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

More on Influenza
- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- If you get sick, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

If You are Experiencing Flu-like Symptoms
- See physician immediately. Diagnoses takes 48 hours.
- Stay home and avoid contact with others until you receive a diagnosis.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is the federal link to all emergency health matters, so if you would like up-to-date information, please visit the CDC's web site at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.

Visit Bergen's Health Office – HS100 for More Information
Information on hand washing and swine flu is available at the College's Health Services Office, located at HS100 across from the Gymnasium in the Pitkin building or by visiting the CDC web site.

Email: healthservices@bergen.edu
Phone: 201-447-9257

Quick Facts

Strain: Influenza A (H1N1)
Infectious Period: 1 to 3 days before onset to 3 to 9 days after onset of illness

Symptoms:
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Coughing
- Nausea
- Vomiting

Lethargy
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea

Areas Affected (As of April 29, 2009):
- Mexico – 7 confirmed cases
- Arizona – 1 confirmed case
- California – 14 confirmed cases
- Indiana – 1 confirmed case
- Kansas – 2 confirmed cases
- Massachusetts – 2 confirmed cases
- Michigan – 2 confirmed cases
- Nevada – 1 confirmed cases
- New York – 51 confirmed cases
- Ohio – 1 confirmed cases
- Texas – 16 confirmed cases
Women’s Softball Team Off to a Start

BY: HUMA MUNIR

With spring came new faces for the Women’s softball team at BCC. Coach Lissette Lombana is coaching the team this year for the very first time and she is also the head coach of Volleyball and the assistant head coach of the Women’s Basketball team.

The team has had three victories this season and two players that earned honors: 2nd Team All Conference and 2nd Team All Region both 3rd baseman, Natalie Mooney with a batting average of .375 and 3 home runs and catcher, Tracy Barone with a batting average of .289 and 1 home run, said Coach Lombana.

“A tremendous effort was given by all of the athletes but especially freshman pitcher Allie Ronchi, who pitched in almost all of the 28 games. Allie stayed strong and focused regardless of whether the defense was on or off,” said Coach Lombana.

The team has had an “injury ridden” season according to Coach Lombana. The team has faced many ailments from shoulder pinched nerves, hyper extended elbows, to concussions and season ending knee injuries. “It has been difficult for the players to give 100 percent when their bodies are not allowing them to,” said Coach Lombana. “Hopefully in the off season their bodies are not allowing them to play different positions but healthy and get their bodies in shape.”

The team started out with very ambitious goals of learning to play different positions but the injuries have been a huge obstacle in the way of achieving it. However, Coach Lombana assures that since day one, every athlete has put forth their best efforts and practiced to improve significantly.

“Some have actually surprised themselves with what they have been able to accomplish,” said Coach Lombana.

The team has had a stellar position alongside Natalia Mooney who is positioned as a second baseman. The team has four outfield players, one centerfield player, two second and third base players, two pitchers, one shortstop, two catchers and a designated player.

“The athletes have done a very good job of learning different positions so that we can accommodate the personnel that is present each day,” said Coach Lombana.

The main pitcher Allie Ronchi has held a steadfast position alongside Natalia Mooney who is positioned as a second pitcher. The team has four first year players and four returning players.

Along with the talented players, coach Lombana has a great deal to offer to the BCC’s women’s softball team. She was a head coach of her high school softball team for six years and three years at a college level. Furthermore, Coach Lombana has played on the Women’s Major Softball Level for ten years.

“I played softball in college, on the major Fastpitch level and internationally,” said coach Lombana.

Since the beginning of the season, the team has faced about four to five ranked teams as well as three Division II teams. “I believe that we have made improvements since the beginning of the season,” said Coach Lombana about the overall progress of the team.

Track and Field

BY: MITALI DAVE

The BCC Track & Field team has had a very fruitful season this year. The roster has many returning members from last semester. Of the six meets they have been to this semester, four have been invitational. They have three more meets coming up: the Penn Relays at University of Pennsylvania, the Yale Springtime Invitational at Yale University and the Region XIX District Championships @ Bergen Community College. If the team qualifies then they can participate in the NJCAA Div. III Nationals at Alfred Community College on May 7-9th.

The season had been a record-breaking one. During the first meet of the season at Queens Borough, Ricardo Garcia broke the 400M hurdles record. Mike and Mark Brown, Eugene Warren and Ricardo Garcia broke the 4x800M relay record. Ricardo followed up his success at the next meet at Stockton College by placing 1st once again in the 400M hurdles category. Senior and Captain, Kwame Bananahe places 2nd in the 100M. Jabari Brown, Victor Salazar and Eugene Warren placed 3rd in the 4x100M relays. The team has done relatively well at the rest of the meets and it is now to be seen how they shall perform for the remainder of the season. One such event to look forward to is the Yale Invitational where the team set a previous track record.

Head coach Randy Brazil, when contacted, was unavailable for comment, however assistant Coach Erika Czujko was happy to provide a comment.

“The team has been improving very nicely over the years. I see more and more students interested in Track and Field which is wonderful for the track team and Bergen Community College. When I first started as the Throwing Coach I had one single thrower, this year I have five very talented athletes who dominate their throwing events. Every year our track team is progressing beyond our expectations.” Assistant Coach Erika Czujko said.

We hope to see this winning streak continued next semester, and also see the team prosper and widen. We wish good luck to all the athletes with the rest of the meets for the season with the hopes to see them again next year.