Scheduling Grids Give Extra Five Minutes Between Classes

Those of you who registered for spring 2010 classes at BCC must have noticed that classes are five minutes shorter than previous semester.

The Faculty Senate formed a sub-committee that worked on the scheduling grid for the upcoming semesters. Professor Gene Callerton, who is also a career counselor at BCC, chaired the committee and was charged by Doctor Allen Kaufman “to study what they can do to change the grid,” Kaufman said.

One of the most positive aspects of this grid for BCC students is that it leaves 15 minutes between classes. Getting from Ender Hall to Main Building will no longer seem like such a hassle for students anymore. “It is better for professors and students because it is impossible to get from Ender to Main or even West Hall in ten minutes. Five extra minutes give ample time for students to reach the classrooms conveniently and more time for professors to set up the class,” said Humana Bushra, vice president of Student Government Association.

However, at November’s Faculty Senate meeting another grid was proposed that was designed to “restructure.” Assistant Provost Sam Porter presented the grid to Senate. It essentially was designed to cover three important goals that President G. Jeremiah Ryan has been trying to achieve. “The President wanted a grid that would use maximum classroom utilization, more classes at 8 a.m. …and on Friday,” Kaufman said.

The grid that was proposed met with strong opposition from the Faculty Senate and the students that were present at the meeting. Some of the characteristics it featured were the same classes being offered twice a week at different times. For example, a statistics class that meets on Monday at 9 a.m. is meeting on Wednesday at 1:40 p.m.

“I had a lot of problems with the grid that was brought before the Senate and feel it would be difficult to implement,” said Kaufman.

Kaufman is not the only one who felt this way. Many students complained about the grid as it conflicts with their work schedules and extra curricular activities outside of college life. Lisa Skenderi, a BCC student, said, “Although scheduling grids like that are implemented at other four year schools, those are schools that are primarily not commuter schools. They haven’t taken into consideration the commuter times, work hours (and) class times.”

Planned Campus Renovations

The time has come for Bergen Community College to launch campus renovations to beautify the college grounds. A master plan is in store for us and although ideas are still pending, the overall final product will blow you off campus.

Much thought and consideration was put into issues such as, the fact that we have a major student surplus, the economy’s constantly changing trends, the needs and wants of students and faculty as well as maintaining a realistic budget. The focal outline of the master plan consists of adding a new solar powered building as well as an additional three story parking garage.

Vice President Tim Dacey along with a team of architects presented the report of the Master Plan at an open forum held recently. To consider the needs of our staff members, interviews were held and surveys were sent out in which approximately 45 were answered. They saw that student services need reorganization along with additional classrooms. In taking classroom size and technological needs into consideration, repairs to existing classrooms will be refurbished and restructured.

VP Dacey and his team also estimated that with the 33% student increase this semester, an additional 45 to 50 classrooms are obligatory. Dacey and his team came to the conclusion that the main issues to be considered are: larger/additional classrooms, campus entry, access for the physically challenged, identifiable building entrances, recreation area, pedestrian walkway, new academic building, non-structured academic space, student parking expansion & relocation.

In order to meet these demands they have integrated a new 3-4 level academic building of 30 to 50 classrooms, possibly 3 stories high, reaching 90,000 sq ft. is a major contribution to the proposal as well.

The anticipated renovations in store are: remodeling of the Dunkin Donuts/ lounge vicinity with a relocation of the current Pitkin entrance from the student center to the public safety area. An improved and more pronounced main entrance that student services will surround; an amphitheater by the crescent garage to add vitality; pedestrian walkway from lot ‘B’ to ‘C’ as well as leveling out the hills to provide less of a safety hazard for pedestrians walking at night; a one-way loop road to Pitkin to eliminate less confusion for newcomers; renovations to the present fitness center as well as a two-story annexation to the physical education building.

Not only are they taking the staff and students into consideration they are also looking at environmental conditions as a top concern. One positive aspiration they have for the master plan is to make it entirely eco-friendly. As far as contributing to the environment, the plan is to secure lead certification as well as utilize environmentally friendly...
Open Forum with President Ryan

Avelin Shannon
Staff Writer

We can all admit that Bergen Community College has been quite the center of attention lately. With change and innovation continually inspiring all around us, students’ notorious gossiping skills have been at an all-time peak. In many cases however, the assortment of rumors that leak down the halls are not always entirely accurate, which is why President G. Jeremiah Ryan held an open forum for all of us curious cats.

When asked about student tuition fees and student population increase for this coming spring semester, President Ryan was reassuring in stating, “There will be no change in tuition cost, it will be staying the same. In regards to student population increase, well, spring term is usually slower than fall term. Yes, we will certainly have more students this spring than we did last spring, but my guess is that we won’t have the same number as we had this fall.”

BCC is currently undergoing a major master-plan to build two additional academic facilities consisting of only classrooms located on the main campus. In addition, we currently have two other campuses; Hackensack and the Meadowlands. President Ryan explained that the Meadowlands campus is a five-story building but we currently occupy only one floor. Next year we will start to utilize the second floor, the following year the third, and so on.

In regards to the parking dilemma, President Ryan explained, “If we have an extraneous student increase and the parking problem becomes more severe, we will try to work something out with Garden State Plaza. We are currently talking to them about this arrangement, so if we feel the need to do that, we will have some type of communication program and work something out.”

For a while now there have been rumors about Bergen becoming a four-year college in the near future. Although we take that as a huge compliment, that is simply not the case. President Ryan did however mention an alternative option regarding the switch. He explained, “I believe that in the not so distant future, community colleges plan on offering selective classes in areas of really high demand; such as a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing, Teachers Education and possibly Criminal Justice.”

Keep your eyes open for this if you’re interested in furthering your education.

Students look forward to spending time at school organized events that tend to run over the course of a weekend, such as “Leadership and Diversity Weekend.” In order to participate in similar future endeavors, we will need the funding to do so. President Ryan commented on the topic stating, “In terms of funding for next semester we’re safe because our annual budget, which is about 110 million dollars, is beyond sufficient. Our state aid is set, our country is set and our tuition rate is set. The real issue is for the next year. The good news is that were banking all the extra tuition revenue that we get from our students and hoping we’ll be able to use that as a revenue surplus. If we can save money this year, and spend wisely, we can put that into tuition cost and not end up with a budget deficit.”

Bergen has done a great job accommodating the needs of both students and faculty. We can assume that for next semester we are all in the clear. So long as wise decisions are made, BCC will not experience any major setbacks in the near future. BCC has always strived for excellence and without a doubt will continue to do so.

Dr. Nasr Talks About Islam and Forgiveness

ISLAM ELSHAMI
Staff Writer

“Justice is a very crucial matter and is related to everything in the world,” said Seyyed Hossein Nasr, the Interfaith Month keynote speaker at Bergen Community College.

He spoke in the Marie Ciccone Theater to discuss the major aspects of Islam on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 1:30 PM. Nasr is currently an Islamic studies professor at the George Washington University in Washington D.C.

He was speaking about forgiveness in Islam as well as other religions of the world. He also spoke about the importance of the name of God. According to him, it is very important to call God by his beautiful names that describe his greatness and majesty. These names involve characteristics such as love, forgiveness, and mercy, which are stated in the Holy Quran, the Islamic scripture. For example, “Al Ghaffur” is one of Allah’s 99 names, which means “the forgiver” in the Arabic language. “The door is kept open and you need to choose which path you decide to take,” said Nasr about forgiveness.

Nasr elaborated on more phrases in Islam that are used to sought forgiveness from God. “Astaghfir-Allah” is one of the most famous ones. The phrase “Astaghfir-Allah” in Arabic means, “I seek forgiveness from Allah (God)!” Allah forgives and we must demand his forgiveness,” said Nasr.

At the end of his lecture, he asked the audience if they had any questions and a young lady asked, “Who is Prophet Muhammad?” Nasr answered her question and went into further details about Prophet Muhammad’s (peace be upon him) biography and explained his importance to the Islamic belief system where he brought the message of peace to the world.

Nasr stated that he wrote a book about Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) called “A Man of God.” He said that this book is basically written for younger people where it is easier to understand and interpret. After the discussion and questions session was over, the entire audience exited the theater and waited in front of the entrance doorway to purchase Nasr’s inspiring collection of books. Students were also encouraged to ask questions during book signing session.

Nasr’s visit to Bergen Community College was a pleasure to many people who enjoy learning more about the religion of Islam and become more familiar with the aspects of being a Muslim.

The Risks of the H1N1 Vaccination

OK, so we all know what Swine Flu (H1N1) is by now, but what you may not know are the best ways to avoid getting it. According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), there have been at least 6,770 deaths worldwide due to H1N1 since this past April.

Most of the H1N1 cases that have been reported have been very mild, but a small percentage of cases are severe and people have medical problems between the ages of 24 to 64 to receive the H1N1 vaccination before anyone else.

Due to the urgency of the situation, some critics are worried that these vaccinations may have been created too hastily and were therefore not properly tested.

With the Federal Government declaring a State of Emergency due to H1N1, makers of the vaccine have been given leniency in the amount of testing required before distribution of the vaccine. The declaring of the State of Emergency also allows makers to include additives in the vaccination to increase the amount of shots available.

Although the process of adding additives to increase the amount of flu vaccinations has been done with the typical seasonal flu for years, certain additives have been known to contain traces of harmful chemicals such as mercury. The type of additives may be different depending on the time the vaccination was produced and its manufacturer. Manufacturers argue that the H1N1 vaccination has been produced in the same amount of time as seasonal flu vaccinations in past years; considering

College student receives seasonal flu shot.

TRAVIS WEITZ
Staff Writer

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Set H1N1 on pg 6

See h1n1 on pg 6
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BCC NEWS

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B.D. Wong Befriends Bergen

MATTHEW COLE
STAFF WRITER

“Nerdy Fabulous,” is how B.D. Wong describes his childhood image.

B.D. Wong, an actor currently casted on Law and Order, was the keynote speaker of Asian Heritage Week. He also spoke at Bergen Community College. Wong touched on a wide range of topics all stemming from his own life experiences. He told his inspirational story of how he grew to become the person speaking in front of Bergen Community College. What makes B.D. Wong different and unique compared to many of the other speakers featured at Bergen Community College is his ability to make you feel open about yourself and your opinions. As he talked about his internal struggles of being an Asian American and about being gay, a feeling of remorse came over him but quickly faded when his witty banter shone through.

Quickly made it apparent that his childhood, although rocky, was planted firmly on the ground. “I was probably the gayest child.” Self-confidence was not something young B.D. Wong lacked; he always led and announced the musicals as a child. High school introduced his first mentor: the drama teacher. She did not look at skin color but focused on talent and emotion. Excited from Lincoln High school he moved on to San Francisco State University where he proceeded to drop out (not advocating this to other students). Being an Asian American he was not receiving any roles to act. So he did what any aspiring young actor does: spontaneously move to NYC.

When arriving in NYC he was immediately greeted with more conflict. As an Asian American he was not getting any work at all and his self-esteem was at an all time low for two reasons. The first reason being he truly wished he was white and the second being he wanted to be “not gay.” He wanted to change himself but to that, he would ignore his ethnicity and play up his American self.

By ignoring his ethnicity he was offered work for theme parks. Although he did not take the jobs, gives him as an example because it shows the “water down version” of whom he was. He did not want to learn Chinese and he distanced himself from his family. It saddens him that in his young adult life he was missing out on the rich Chinese culture.

Living in NYC for a few years he later moved to L.A. and got an agent. “Obnoxious Chinese waiter…troubled Chinatown teenage gang member...wacky foreign exchange student,” were B.D. Wong’s specialties. During this time he was offered to do a Broadway show in NYC, M. Butterfly. “Embrace the role that an actor must take on as primarily a messenger of someone’s ideas,” was his life theme at the time. So he hands him a perfect role in M. Butterfly. Right after performing M. Butterfly live 650 times he started talking to students. But not in the same way we saw; it was more stern and upright standing at a podium with a hard-copied speech in hand.

During the M. Butterfly saga he began his fifteen year long relationship with Richic. After ten years he realized that if he wants kids they needed to do something about it. Through a surrogate mother they had twins, but sadly they were born three months premature and only one survived. So from this amazing, exciting, heart breaking event he wrote a book that was published. To promote the book he plans to tour. After all of this, only now does he realize that he will be nationally coming out and blossoming into the man that is standing in front of Bergen Community College and its audience.

Asian Fever at BCC

MATTHEW COLE
STAFF WRITER

From November 9th to 13th, Bergen Community College was host to Asian Heritage Week. We hosted popular Chinese actor Bradley Durray Wong as well as the prestigious daughter of First Asian Secretary-General of the United Nations. Each day featured a new and exciting event to immerse yourself into the Asian culture.

Celebrating the first day of Asian Heritage Week, Bergen Community College was graced with the presence of Aye Aye Thant, the daughter of U Thant. U Thant, former Secretary-General of the United Nations (1961-1971) was born in lower Burma. President G. Jeremiah Ryan had the privilege of interviewing Aye Aye Thant, President of the U Thant Institute.

President Ryan got right to the point, asking questions about her father, her childhood, the institute and personal life. Aye Aye Thant’s answers were in President Ryan’s words, “Diplomatic.”

When President Ryan asked if she was “expected to act a certain way in the public eye,” Aye Aye Thant answered, “Not at all.” She stated simply that she lived a low key life and she did not feel pressured. She did not feel like she had to act in a certain way to please her father or the public. “I had a normal childhood,” said Aye Aye Thant.

When asked about her plans for the Institute, she answered with two big plans, “Friendship Across Culture,” which gives young people across the world an understanding of Asian culture. The second plan is the Emergency Myanmar Cyclone Relief Fund.

At the end of the interview when President Ryan asked Aye Aye Thant to tell us something about her father we do not know about, she answered, “He would always say his, ‘favorite meal’ was the one cooked by his [own] wife.” He loved to tell amusing stories and he used his sense of humor to bring people together.

Following the interview the Bergen Gallery opened to commemorate the 100th year Birth/Anniversary of U Thant. On the second day of Asian Heritage Week, Chinese calligraphy and Korean artists were featured at the Student Center. Students were given the opportunity to be taught the way of the Asian writing and drawing. They also talked about the humble beginnings of Korean artists to what they have become nowadays. Students were also offered to study the culture and lifestyle of Asia by Dean Amparo Codding.

Wednesday afternoon featured actor B.D. Wong and Professor Richard Comerford. B.D. Wong has been in HBO series Oz and M. Butterfly, the Broadway show in which he won numerous awards. He is currently acting on the Law and Order series.

Professor Comerford spoke on Asia and the G-20 Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy held at the National Building Museum, Washington D.C.

Professor Comerford showed us astounding facts on the Asian economy as well as many charts detailing “share of world Gross Domestic Product percentage” with many other different statistics.

The last two days of the Asian Heritage Week were musically themed. On Thursday students had the opportunity to experience the Asian music and dance. The students from Chooomnuri Korean Dance School had a splendid show in which they performed native dances from their heritage. In the Filipino dances and songs portion students were taught line dancing maneuvers. Added to this were Filipino freestyle dancing and the voice of a Filipino singer. Mixed in between the dancing and singing was a martial arts demonstration and an Asian fashion show that illustrated the color, beauty and depth of Asian culture.

Friday was the astonishing drums of the Taikoza. These thunderous Japanese drums were not the only attraction, also featured were the Japanese dancers, flutes and thirteen string guitars called a “koto.” All shows were enjoyed by the whole family to enjoy. The Taikoza has been featured all around the world.

This year’s Asian Heritage Week was brought together with thanks from the Asian Heritage Committee.
Veteran's Day Ceremony at Bergen Community College

It was a heart-warming commemoration for Veteran’s Day thanks to the efforts of the BCC Veteran’s Initiative Committee and many others who helped organize the ceremony. “We are taking time to honor our veterans, to show respect for them, and express our gratitude for the service they’ve provided for this country,” said Bergen Counselor and Vietnam Veteran, John Giammo, as he commenced the procession. Veterans, Bergen staff, students, families and friends all gathered around at the Student Center on the eleventh hour of November 11th to show support for our fallen soldiers, our veterans and those now overseas.

Other Bergen staff and students, who were also veterans, shared their thoughts on this day. “As a Veteran of Vietnam, I clearly understand the aspect of war,” began Vice President of Student Services, Raymond Smith. He spoke of war bringing about anguish, texts of humanity and more war. But most importantly, he stated, “War brings about the glory of this country to continue to be free.”

Vice President of Administration, Timothy Dacey, a Persian Gulf War Veteran, emphasized that, for many veterans, the worst part is not actually serving at war, but coming home. When you see people getting killed every day, roadside bombings going on, and you come home, it’s very difficult to reunite with your wife or husband and your children and society in general.” VP Dacey urged that we should remember and honor our veterans not just today, but every day.

Al Brooks, who is a Vietnam Veteran, a retired police officer, Commander of VFW Post in Paramus and now a student at BCC, remarked, “As we have said in the past, take a moment to thank them. They gave up a part of their life’s freedoms so that we can have our freedoms here at home.”

In an interview, Brooks mentioned the Veteran’s Initiative, a committee that is going to help veterans transition into the education process and provide him or her with any resources that they need. “The college is saying we’re here for you, and we’re very, very helpful, with all our returning veterans…It’s very supportive,” Brooks said.

In reflection to this day, Brooks stated, “War is a horrible thing, but it also brings out sometimes the best in people—all of these people volunteered to go to the army.”

Another student, Andrew Steiner, a Marine Corps Veteran who served in Iraq twice, said, “It gives me a lot of pleasure to be here and being a student representative for all the military families.” He is the Representative of the Veteran’s Initiative. Steiner added, “I just want to get the word out there, if you have a loved one or a friend here at school, in your community, and they’re facing a problem, tell them to come [to BCC]…They can get them the help they need.”

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Al Talk with Former Congressman, Mickey Edwards

CARRIE TESONE
NEWS EDITOR

“I believe in American exceptionalism. The difference is our system of government, where the people control the outcome—[that] is what makes us exceptional.”

These are the words of Marvin Henry “Mickey” Edwards, a former Republican Congressman who served for sixteen years. He came to speak at BCC on November 4th at the Ciccone Theatre. President Ryan introduced and commended Edwards for coming.

Edwards wanted to get his message across.

He addressed the disorder that exists on both sides: politicians taking too much power into their own hands, citizens who are not only uneducated about their own system of government, but are also sometimes “too willing to give up their freedoms.”

Edwards referred to the Bush Administration to highlight some of his points. “We went through a period here where the President of the United States signed a bill 1,100 times and said I’ll decide whether I have to obey that law or not.”

According to Edwards, when the Bush administration conducted searches and seizures to protect America against terrorism, the president could not use those warrants, which directly violated the Constitution. “The fact that some people who are less that less and less, we pay attention to the Constitution. And more and more we think of reality—and it’s not simple.”

Edwards listed three basic criteria each Congressman and Congresswoman should employ while in office: 1) Listen to your constituents and represent them. 2) Do only what the Constitution permits you to do. 3) Look at the proposal or bill being introduced and Supreme Court Justice nominees. Ideally, the individual would be able to make an evaluation and a decision based on the criteria, without having to compromise his or her beliefs to a particular party.

“Politics in this country has often become my club against your club.”

-Mickey Edwards

“But when it is your political party that matters, you make your decision based on where your club stands to gain an advantage,” Edwards explained.

He brought up the example of Sonya Sotomayor’s nomination. “I could make a pretty good argument about why she should not be on the Supreme Court and I could make a pretty good argument about why she would be a good Supreme Court Justice.”

He actually was for her. When he thought “sunning” was that fact that every Republican voted against her, while almost all the Democrats confirmed her, and Edwards had this to say: “Well, what all the Democrats are at one side and all the Republicans are on the other side, somebody is not thinking about what their party line is. And that happens over and over and over again.”

In case you were wondering, Mickey Edwards’ club is the Sun. SOHO, short for Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, is a spacecraft that can watch the sun very closely in ways that Galileo never could have hoped to. Hill expounded on some of its discoveries such as sunspots. Sunspots are dark blotches on the surface of the sun which are actually caused by magnetic interference due to fluctuations in the sun’s magnetic field. He showed graphs that reveal the pattern of sunspots over the decades: how the frequency of these spots steadily goes up, then down, like steady waves on the shore. Part of the presentation was 3-D, which showed some amazing images. Afterwards, there was a Solar Viewing through a specially filtered telescope; however, there was technical trouble and it took quite a while to get the telescope to work right.

Jim Gates is more of an astrophysicist than an astronomer. He had no shortage of amazing images to show, some of which hadn’t even been released to the public yet (although they are now all available on Hubble’s website).

He talked about what he knows best: the Sun. SOHO, the organization that runs the Hubble Space Telescope—as the head of Public Outreach. The second was Dr. Steele-Hill, media person for the SOHO spacecraft. The third was Dr. Jim Gates, an astrophysicist on President Barack Obama’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, as well as professor of Physics at the University of Maryland.

Living presentation was mainly concerned with Hubble. He had no shortage of amazing images to show, some of which hadn’t even been released to the public yet (although they are now all available on Hubble’s website).

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With so much talent in this world I always jump at the chance to experience some fresh, new faces. However, it is important to know when to walk away. This is why I went to the talent show on November 13th, held at the auditorium.

The talent show was sponsored by the Student Activities Board. It was modeled after the popular television show, “America’s Got Talent.” Some of the students involved had been doing their talents for years. However, it only picked it up a few years prior. It is clear that all of the students were talented, and it was a very tough choice for the judges. It is best to consult with your doctor before getting a flu shot. This is especially true for people with certain conditions. It is not necessary to get the flu shot, but it will help protect you from getting sick. It is important to wash your hands frequently, especially after going to the bathroom or touching anything that might be contaminated with germs. It is also important to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. This will help prevent the spread of germs to other people. It is also important to get a flu shot. This is especially true for people who are at higher risk of getting sick, such as young children, older adults, and people with certain health conditions. It is not necessary to get a flu shot, but it will help protect you from getting sick. It is important to wash your hands frequently, especially after going to the bathroom or touching anything that might be contaminated with germs. It is also important to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. This will help prevent the spread of germs to other people.

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OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Farewell BCC and Fellow Students!

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JESSICA STROH
GUY WEISS

SICK OF THE SAME OLD SCENARY AND THE FACES I ENCOUNTERED EVERY SINGLE DAY, BUT I HAVE I WANTED TO BUILD AND SUSTAIN GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

The Torch

December 2009

Page 8

The Torch

HUMA MUNIR, Editor-In-Chief

I have had a privilege to work at the Torch for the past four semesters. For two years, I have been Torch’s lone the talents of fellow students who have gained much appreciation for the field of journalism. I am proud to say that I am one of them. Working with students who shared the same interests and faculty members who guided me, my work here has truly been tremendous and satisfying and fulfilling.

The two and a half years spent in Bergen Community College will always encompass one of the happiest and most cherishable periods of my life. I am happy to have ever known such profound beauty this campus holds in the shape of diversity and equality for all kinds of people.

There is no doubt that I have a lot more to learn at BCC but I am here to announce that my work here is done. By the end of this semester, I will have completed all my credits towards an associate degree and will be attending Ramapo College in spring 2010.

However, I do not leave with any regret. I leave with a heart full of contentment and my soul rejuvenated. My experience at BCC has often been tremendously wonderful that I find no words to describe how truly thankful I am. The two and a half times when I did get sick of the old scenery and the faces I encountered every single day, but I have loved every single one of them and all my heart.

BCC would not be anything without the people who run this institution. Some of these people have gone the extra mile to promote student-driven programs and new initiatives to help students with their learning. The credit goes to people like Ms. Darleen McGrath Florence, the Director of Counseling Center and Dr. Ralph Choonoo, the Associate Dean of Student Life. I have seen them work, day and night, tirelessly to promote the highest quality of education and support for students. Their dedication has inspired me to work hard and be an advocate of education anywhere I go in the world.

I want to give a shout out to the world’s best bosses at BCC’s Counseling Center: Mrs. Ann Squires, Tara Muttillo and Cora Fenscy. These three have been supportive of my work at the Torch all along and always valued it.

I have had the privilege of taking courses with some of the brightest professors in the country. If I started naming each and every one of them, the list would stretch like the sea. However, there are some who have impacted me in a unique way. The American Lit courses with Dr. Alan Kaufman were tremendously fun and intellectual. The Asian History course with Professor Richard Comerford gave me a whole new perspective on the continent and helped me gain more appreciation for its people. Prof. Comerford is like a walking encyclopedia and I will always be envious of that!

Also, working with Professor Lew Wheaton (Torch Advisor) has been an illustrious experience in every aspect. This semester, he has taught me to respect the field of journalism and its audience. He is ethically driven in every task he performs and holds the integrity of journalism near to his heart. Professor Wheaton’s kindness has made it possible for us to enjoy our work at the Torch. He is more of a friend than anything and I want to thank him for being patient with us when we were rough.

This semester we have had very diligent staff members and I will not name any names because it would be unfair to many people. I believe the majority of them tried their very best to meet the strict deadlines and adhere to the standards of Torch.

I also want to thank my editors for putting up with the pressure of deadlines. They spent away their weekends and nights editing, gathering art, creating captions and titles for the articles that you have read and enjoyed. They have been the greatest of friends, and I am proud to say that I have made life-long friendships by working and hanging out with them.

Last but never the least I want to thank the administration of BCC for being supportive. President Ryan made a special trip to Torch and was glad to hear our problems, comments and suggestions regarding Torch and other issues surrounding the college. We have had a very positive response from the administration and are grateful for it.

If I have left out a name of any individual or department, I do hope you forgive me! Due to word limit I am compelled to stop where I am. I hope that I have mention all the things that BCC and its students. And I hope the college continues to thrive and promote the best quality education as one of the top institutions in the country and perhaps, the World.

Alas, It is time to move on. Farewell and good luck, everyone!

PHOTO BY SADAF KHURSHID

A Testament on Religion’s Vindication Towards Same-Sex Relationships

NICOLE DE LOS SANTOS
STAFF WRITER

November 17th, Bergen Community College hosted eight very different, yet similar religious leaders. The events were called the “Religion Forum, “held to discuss both religion and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender groups combined into what is usually a taboo subject.

The guest leaders that took the table to speak about religion and the GLBT world were: Rabbi Victor S. Apparel, Reverend David C. Bocock, Presbyterian Minister Laurie J. Ferguson, Reverend Katrina D. Post, Pastoral psychologist and United Methodist Pastor Penny Gadzinni, Reverend Gary Konecky, Reverend Robert O. Kriestat, and High Priestess Gardnerian Witch Deborah Lipp. All were gathered to speak out on a very controversial subject: How people can interpret texts from the Bible and the Torah, which are against same-sex relationships.

From all eight of the speakers the main key points that should be considered are:

- Human beings are the product of divine inspiration and the manifestation of love for God’s humanity and should be treated as such whether or not a couple is of the same or opposite sex.

That all people want to build and sustain good relationships

All are led to spiritual lives and create a safe haven for the souls and a community.

Homosexual relationships are not about being a pornographic fantasy, but instead a matter of equal right and responsibilities as well as deserved privileges that are usually denied like the subject of marriage.

To side with continuing American revolution of freedom and justice for all

That it isn’t right to stand aside and

PHOTO BY NICOLE DE LOS SANTOS

See Same Sex on pg 16
**Roving Reporter**

*“Has the economic turmoil affected your spending for the holiday season?”*

Raven Bryant - Matthew Cole  
Staff Writers

Bryant Haister  
Major: Undecided

“I work two jobs and I manage my money well, so I should do fairly well this holiday season.”

Joshua Sparks  
Major: DPT Design

“I’ll spend as much money as I need for the ones I love.”

Adrienne Chappell  
Major: Undecided

“I just got a job so I will not be spending much on myself.”

Kenneth Reyes  
Major: Undecided

“You have to pick your gift more carefully, and plan better and be more financially aware.”

**Mid-Semester Blues**

Ashley Shannon  
Staff Writer

It’s the first day of the semester. As you walk through the door of your very own class, you think to yourself, “Well that’s it, summer has officially come to an end. It’s time to do a complete mentality transformation; out with the beaches and in with the books.”

You are not worried though because you are in control this year and extremely confident that you will succeed. Well, at least until mid-semester comes creeping out of left field and all of a sudden you are burdened with endless research papers, mind-numbing mid-terms, and upcoming presentations. You find yourself trapped in this endless cycle of stress and anxiety, wondering what happened to all that hyped-up enthusiasm you had just a couple months back.

You are handing in sloppy homework, your grades aren’t what they used to be, and overall, that studious note-taking anddrone within you has been repressed and gone on strike.

Rest assured that you are not alone. Entering the semester in an enthusiastic state of motivational high is one thing, maintaining it is another. The bottom line is it’s easy for your “once upon a time” fully-charged battery to get worn out when your attitude slowly leaves the achievement mindset and enters the realm of deficiency. One likely cause of this set-back could be that you set unrealistic expectations for yourself upon the start of the semester, and you are simply not getting the results you anticipated. In an article published on The Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education’s website, “Dealing with Mid-Semester Stress,” Dr. Marcella Fontana explains, “Each time reality doesn’t quite compare to an envisioned ideal, emotionality is drained, self-esteem is lowered and feelings of being in control are diminished.” In other words, you’re not giving yourself recognition for what you’ve been able to achieve. Instead, you are dwelling on the vagueness and allowing them to pull you down.

At this point in the semester, you probably live in the library and the last day you have had with your bed is way past due. Also, if you are as weary as I have been, you most likely are referred to as a “human ticking time bomb” just waiting to explode. The key and most successful piece of advice is learning how to apply time management into your daily life.

It is no lie that Fox has been very critical of the Obama administration, but there are other ways the White House can send Fox a message. For example, a few Sundays back President Obama appeared on five different Sunday talk shows, but strategically avoided Chris Wallace on Fox News. This was a legit and acceptable slap to the face, but to deny certain press from a White House press conference is hitting a little below the belt. At the end of the day, Fox News is still a part of the news pool that collectively reports the American people.

Perhaps the White House is upset that the Fox News commentators refuse to ignore the effects of a recession. The White House points to this issue when they talk about American jobs. Perhaps Van Jones, the former Green Jobs Czar, who was exposed for a number of controversial issues. Mainly for claiming that Americans feel pain during a speech made earlier this month while wearing a 9/11 talisman. Jones signed a petition as a part of a movement... See Gov and News on pg 16

**White House Goes After Fox News**

PERPETUA ROMAN  
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving break is over, end of the year celebrations are near and Fall Semester’s end is fast approaching. That means it’s time to winterize your cars, visit family: possibly fly out, shop for the upcoming freezing weather, and of course, presents... present galore. Quicker than you can say “Winter Break”, your budget and funds are more likely frozen before you were.

Nevertheless, fall is the season for mild to moderate panic over the cost of schoolbooks for the spring semester. However, even in these trying financial times of our economy, there are still student friendly options to save on books. According to Chegg.com, books are offered at discounted prices that you can rent and return for a full refund if unsatisfied with a textbook. It is referred to as the hassle-free 30-day “Any Reason” Guarantee. Starting this semester, whether you drop a class, the course syllabus changes or you decide you’re just not going to read that book, you can get a full refund.

This can be very useful to the students’ friends or family who may be enrolling and registering at RCC for spring 2010. Their ship date policy guarantees delivery of your textbooks no later than the date stated on your order confirmation. If you receive your order later than the date stated, they will provide a full refund of your shipping costs. If the quality happens to be in a permitted as well. Not only did the administration back down, but the publicity of this story has been non-existent and it’s not long after.

This kind of effort to marginalize a major news network in a country that actually adheres to its Constitution is subconsciously by the White House. Pulitzer Prize columnist Charles Krauthammer said the following, “While Government can and should debate and criticize opposition voices, the current White House goes beyond that.”

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The newspaper you now hold in your hands is the heir to over 35 years of proud history. It’s the Torch-bearer, so to speak, of a tradition of generation after generation of BCC students who devoted their time and effort to work on this paper and making it the best it could be. (Pardon the pun). Indeed, The Torch has been around since the beginning, and is likely to be here in some form or another as long as there’s a Bergen Community College.

I had the privilege to dig through the older editions of the Torch and extract some intriguing information about our college newspaper and its history. Here is what I found out.

The year was 1968. The school had been founded two years earlier, and the campus consisted of Skokie Hall, College Center, and an Interim building. The main building was still under construction, and the student population numbered little over 1,300. Students of that era would find a nameless four-page newsletter bearing the BCC logo of the time- the letter B, with two C’s inside the letter’s holes. The first edition of the then-untitled paper, dated December of 1968, reported on the writing of a constitution for Student Government, the college’s first dance, the start of the first-ever class of BCC, and more. It also ran an ad, saying that the paper would pay a grand total of $5 to whoever invents the best title for the paper.

The name that was chosen, and the name that stuck, was The Monitor. For the rest of the year, it continued its publication at the same size. In issue 4, the paper reported on what the planned future college might look like: “A structure of the future; a seven building complex with the main building floating on columns of white alabaster. The interior will be of red brick with a smooth glaze, lighting will illuminate the school from concealed fluorescent fixtures.” During this early era, Torch still included news, letters to the editor, and sports.

The second Volume saw an explosion of the paper. The editors were able to move their offices from a small office in the Interim building into a larger one in the Main Building, where they reported an expected student body of 2,800. By the end of the year, the paper doubled in size, now numbering at 8 pages. They put out a whopping 10 issues over the course of the year, and many of them were no longer restricted to reporting on school affairs; they were now politically charged, with news and editorials about the Vietnam War, elections, and the Civil-Rights movement, some of them actually screaming in bold text. By issue 9, the paper had begun to sport the new logo of BCC: a Torch. This would soon disappear from the cover, but later resurface.

During the 1970’s, continuing delays in the Main Building “The new building is ready,” they wrote. The several redesigns through early ’70s, the page number of the paper switched to a vertical one. By 1978, it was 20 pages. The second Volume saw an explosion of the paper. The editors were able to move their offices from a small office in the Interim building into a larger one in the Main Building, where they reported an expected student body of 2,800. By the end of the year, the paper doubled in size, now numbering at 8 pages. They put out a whopping 10 issues over the course of the year, and many of them were no longer restricted to reporting on school affairs; they were now politically charged, with news and editorials about the Vietnam War, elections, and the Civil-Rights movement, some of them actually screaming in bold text. By issue 9, the paper had begun to sport the new logo of BCC: a Torch. This would soon disappear from the cover, but later resurface.
The Torch Through History

The Bergen Monitor reported on construction of the Main Building... will someday be able to see for itself. The paper also went through two more decades. In the early 90s, the paper featured a new logo for The Bergen Monitor, which bore the moniker, "Since 1979", which is of course the current name of the paper. By 1995, the system restarted in Volume 1. This 8-page periodical adopted a colorful logo to go with the new name. The paper has been redesigned several times throughout the decade. In the mid-90s, the layout remained the same, but the overall paper remained the same. Political cartoons mostly poked fun at ex-president Clinton over the Lewinsky scandal. In 1996, the Torch published an April Fool's issue, with articles written by "Klark Cent", "Lois Lain", and "James Oilyson" proclaiming that BCC was bankrupt. By 2000, the title was again black-and-white and simply called "Torch". The paper became even more Internet-oriented, now featuring a Technology section, with headlines such as "MP3-Free Music". While Arts & Entertainment and Sports were still covered, both had reduced roles.

In 2006-2007, The Torch finally grew to 20 pages for the first time. It maintained its hallmarks, now replacing the Technology section with a section called "Science Made Easy", which explained the science behind current issues. For a while, it featured a flashy pop-art logo, which was soon enough replaced with a simplistic black and white logo. In 2008, the paper's new editor-in-chief, Cassandra Veale, worked hard to "turn the paper around". The paper got the new logo, which is still in use today. The Science section was gone, but News, Editorials, Features, and Sports remained. In 2009, Huma Munir became the new editor-in-chief, and continues—as do all the editors, writers, and staff of the Torch—in the proud tradition of our predecessors.

This semester marks the end of an era for The Torch. Several editors and writers alike are leaving, moving on to new places. The Torch itself will go on, of course, and continue to grow and change as it has since the beginning. We here at the Torch feel that it's a great time to look into the past of the paper and of the school as a whole, before moving into the next era. So please enjoy this special gaze into history!
As college students, there are certain instincts that we develop as our college career progresses. One of these instincts is a comprehensive knowledge of a catalog of websites and YouTube videos to have open in addition to Blackboard and Facebook while “doing our homework.”

Top of the list for the vacant tab space is Collegehumor.com, a website devoted to providing funny pictures and videos, clever articles, and the occasional contest. Collegehumor.com is also home to “Jake and Amir,” an ongoing series of comedy shorts chronicling a seriously twisted, fictional (I hope) relationship between two of the website’s writers – Jake Hurwitz and Amir Blumenfeld.

Since 2007, as viewers have been thoroughly entertained by the clever comedy sketches they have provided, Jake and Amir have garnered a significant following on college campuses nationwide. When the opportunity to interview them at their offices presented itself, I jumped at the chance.

The feeling I got when I walked into the Collegehumor offices was one of familiarity. After watching countless videos, I felt that I had been here so many times before it was almost surreal. The same feeling

Amir claims that Ricky Gervais is a big influence for him when it comes to comedy. He said that he is the actor he would choose to have as a guest-star on an episode of Jake and Amir. “Whenever I’m walking home late at night and people are drunk across the street, I’ll keep walking and ignore them.”

In closing, I must thank Jake and Amir again for their time, and apologize to Jeff Rosenberg. Meeting Jake and Amir was a great experience and proved that they are not only funny and entertaining on stage, or on the other side of the computer. They truly are two very gifted people that continue to inspire so many people in the fields of writing, journalism, and comedy.

West Side Story: Emotional and Cultural

A production of the West Side Story. West Side Story, a real tear jerker, evokes a number of emotions all throughout the audience. The remake of the original 1957 show, manages to reveal innocence through gang culture.

The laughter aroused by witty songs, creates a time line of passion from falling in love to losing it. West Side Story is a modern day Romeo and Juliet. The poetic love story is taken from Shakespeare and brought to the streets of Manhattan in the booming fifties.

The individuals responsible for West Side Story are: American playwright, Arthur Laurent, composer Leonard Bernstein, and lyricist Stephen Sondheim. The musical captures youth at its finest and ultimately creates a spiritual, up-beat and vigorous tone.

The plot based on ethnic warfare, touches the issue of race. The Puerto Rican migration forms a clan called the “Sharks” who find conflict with the “Jets” who are non-Puerto Rican. There is no need to bring Spanish to English dictionary along because the musical is bilingual. The play is funny, happy, and full of passion. More importantly, it leaves the audience with an aching heart from Josefine Scaglione who performed so well.

The revival shows off the cultural side of the story with parts spoken in Spanish. However, there is no need to bring Spanish to English dictionary along because the music is bilingual. The play is funny, happy, and full of passion. More importantly, it leaves the audience with an aching heart from Josefine Scaglione who performed so well.

West Side Story reminds you of what it feels to be in love for the first time and the impulse that stirs enormous amounts of love. So rare, pure and innocent: West Side Story, a story of love.
A Movie To Sink Your Teeth Into

NICOLE DE LOS SANTOS

The sequel to the Twilight saga, New Moon, opened up November 20th, drawing an armada of movie attendants the night prior at the midnight premier as well as large amounts of traffic surrounding the theaters. Tickets sold out as expected with viewers ranging anywhere from kids to adults.

New Moon follows after the first movies ending, but only this time the protagonist, Bella Swan played by Kristen Stewart, is abandoned by her vampire boyfriend, Robert Pattinson as Edward Cullen. Stewart, is abandoned by Edward Cullen. Stewart, is abandoned by Edward Cullen. Stewart, is abandoned by Edward Cullen. Stewart, is abandoned by Edward Cullen.

Edward thinks his lover has died but everything changes when Edward thinks his lover has died but everything changes when Edward thinks his lover has died but everything changes when Edward thinks his lover has died but everything changes when Edward thinks his lover has died but everything changes when Edward thinks his lover has died. Edward has a depressing feel to it as the heroine was able to personify her characters depression well at the constant revolving conflicts around her. The Twilight fandom is big and still growing, and just as most thought, New Moon sold out in all theaters opening night and many nights after.

Production of Eclipse, the third installment, has already started in Vancouver. The love triangle only gets more complicated for the mythical-canine-magnet high school girl when she creating horse-sized vampires and werewolves. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook. The scenery in Italy was breathtaking along with the wooden scenes where most of the film partook.

The movie was all that it was hyped up to be and more. The computer graphics for the wolves were unique; canines through their manifestations as well as the hyper speed and combat scenes for both vampires and werewolves.

The New Moon movie about vampires, werewolves and everything in between.

Radley Suite unites with BCC

MATTHEW COLE

An open mike session was featured in Bergen Community College’s Welcome Center. Tuesday the 11th. Some of Bergen’s musically talented spread there wings and took flight into the musical pastures.

Music Interactive Club hosted this musical bravado and if you are interested in showing off your talents, do not hesitate to approach them.

The genres of music was wide ranging from a random screaming drum group, “Pluto Storms” to Deana, a solo singer with nothing but her acoustic guitar and raw emotion.

You could tell the experienced ones from the genuinely fresh talent. The group Reality Suite seemed to have the most experience along with Mike Coleman, Mike Coleman grooved on his guitar with so much feeling that I was waiting for it to catch on fire.

Reality Suite brought experience with their own written songs, flowing with a kind of music that had lead bobbing and feet tapping. They held down the stage gracefully, and the overflowing crowd seemed mesmerized.

A group by the name of HELLA worked with cover songs by Pink Floyd, Beatles and Foo Fighters. They were spot on except for the drums that were refined with double bass pedal action. It gave the songs a feel of Travis Barker remixing to it. This group had the crowd singing with them especially with the Beatles favorite “Come Together”. The group brought Bergen together even if only for those three minutes.

Those that got up on the stage all had one thing in common: Courage. For many of those students, it was their first time on stage and performing in front of peers. In the end, it didn’t matter if they sucked or sounded great. They got up on the stage and that was enough to show their passion for music.
Motorola Droid: Is this Verizon's Solution to the iPhone?

**Stephen Zheng**

**Contributing Writer**

In our society nowadays, touch screen phones are a big hype. The Apple iPhone was the first touch screen phone in North America and today is the best touch screen phone we have had so far. Other Cellular companies have decided to produce touch screen phones to compete with the iPhone and people call these phones "iPhone Killers.

The Palm Pre, BlackBerry Storm, and also the Google Android Series phones have been produced to compete with the iPhone. On November 6, 2009, Verizon released another iPhone Killer, the first Android phone called "The Motorola Droid". This high tech sleek phone comes with a 3.7 inch capacitive TouchScreen, 720x480 which has the highest resolution when compared to the iPhone and other cellular phone display resolutions.

This bad boy also comes packed with the first Android 2.0 operation system which will not be available for other Android phones until 2010. The Motorola Droid has an OMAP 3 processor for faster web browsing, multi-tasking and opening applications. The Android 2.0 operation system allows the Motorola Droid to bring out its display screen's true potential by being able to multitask up to 6 to 10 WebPages, or applications at a time.

The Motorola Droid also has built memory of up to 16 GB and expandable memory of up to 64 GB, which the iPhone lacks till this day. Droid also has a 3.5mm Headphone Jack and a physical QWERTY keyboard for hardcore texters to test faster if they get bored texting on touch screen.

Since it’s an iPhone Killer, it of course needs applications to compete with the iPhone App store. The Droid supports the Android Markets which have up to 10,000 apps mostly all similar to the one offered on the iPhone App store.

The Droid uses a Webkit Browser similar to the Palm Pre but only a lot faster. Though the Droid does not support multi-touch it makes up for it with support for Adobe Flash player 10 which iPhone does not have. The Droid also has a free GPS installed so people don’t have to purchase the application on their phone.

The Motorola Droid also has a 5megapixel camera included with Auto Focus, image stabilizer, and dual led flash. It records video at 720x480 resolutions by 24 frames per second. Overall, the Verizon has been improving a lot with their phones and operating systems, making the Motorola Droid a perfect example which really knocks out the iPhone with all its features and of course, its high resolution screen. The Motorola Droid is available at Verizon Wireless for $199.99, and it’s worth the price for all the things this phone can do.

**Syfy’s ‘Stargate Universe’ Reimagines Science Fiction**

With the end of the Sci-Fi Channel's mega-hit, Battlestar Galactica's last season, what do sci-fi fans and casual viewers have to look forward to this television season?

Sci-Fi's brand-new series, Stargate Universe (SGU), is based on the long-running Stargate franchise, poised to pick up the slack.

Those familiar with the Stargate franchise are used to good stories and lovable characters, but unfortunately also an overabundance of "cheesy" aliens and concepts--in the words of one of Stargate's producers, "Humanoid, mustache-twirling alien villains." All of this remained constant throughout the first two series, Stargate SG-1 and Stargate Atlantis. However, one day, the producers decided it was time for a change.

It Stargate Universe began this fall season, taking a wildly different approach to the series while staying true to its roots. The show is about a group of present day humans, trapped billions of light-years away from Earth on an ancient, animated starship known as the Destiny.

The show is firmly rooted in the mythology of its Stargate predecessors. It takes a lot from Battlestar Galactica in terms of realistic, believable storytelling, complex characters, and great aesthetic beauty of everything in the show. However, SGU is no imitation, while it learns from the high standard set by Battlestar, its approach is still uniquely Stargate and true to itself.

SGU is a great, imaginative show that you can be excited about whether or not you are a Stargate fan or even a sci-fi fan. Its mix of great acting and characterization, realistic, plots, and beautiful, mysterious visual storytelling all tell us that a new era of Science Fiction television has arrived.

**Brendon Min**

**Staff Writer**

After playing over 25 hours of Modern Warfare 2, I feel safe to say that “the game is good;” would be a big understatement.

Rarely will you see a game emerge with an immersive single-player campaign that has a relatively high replay value, and an online multiplayer capability with plenty of unlockable content. MW2 is a complete package that fits those criteria and is a great addition to the Call of Duty series.

If you are into video games that have theatrical substance in their storyline, then MW2 is right down your alley—more especially if first-person shooters are your genre of choice. The single-player campaign is packed full of action and continues the story from the first Modern Warfare game five years later.

More often than not, you will find yourself in situations full of utter chaos and destruction. You will be forced to take a moment and actually think about which direction to point your gun next rather than just going out into the open with guns blazing. Underlying all the action-packed gameplay is a story full of political and military conspiracy that keeps you engaged with what you are doing. On the field of battle, your comrades and platoon members with whom you eventually come to feel a sense of brotherhood constantly remind you of the urgency of your situation. It is never a dull moment.

Although the single-player campaign is short albeit intense, the multiplayer aspect of MW2 makes up for it. You can have co-op missions with a friend online or participate in the many game modes available for team gameplay. As I mentioned earlier, there is a decent amount of unlockable content—much more so than its predecessor. As you accomplish more achievements or reach higher levels of rank, you can unlock more weapons and perks that will help you in besting the other team.

So if you like first-person shooters, immersive story lines, good online fun, and still haven’t tried this game then I suggest that you go out there and rent it. It has been out for at least 3 weeks already. You have been missing out.
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Mid-Sem Stress

dates, personal notes, etc. Do not leave out any details! Make sure you organize your priorities by level of importance. Yes, that means studying prior to watching your favorite TV series! (Reward comes after work.) Once you begin to do this, you will see a significant transformation in the way you coordinate your life on a daily basis by method of putting things into perspective. It will even give you that free time to engage in personal activities or hobbies, which is always a plus!

I know you’ve all said to yourselves, “If only there were more hours in a day.” Trust me we have all been on that boat. This leads me to Golden Rule #2: Breaks are crucial not only to your health, but in terms of memory. You will see that taking a break, every so often is rejuvenating and will overall increase the amount of material retained.

Season

condition you are unsatisfied with, Chegg.com will immediately ship another copy to you as rapidly as it is feasible, as long as the original rented book is returned. Rentals may extend if the rental period ends before the semester’s final date at no cost to the student.

Consider some common textbooks needed for the average classes; Literature and the Writing Process starting at $22.54 for a savings of $133.72 on leading and the Writing Process starting at $58.98 for new and $23.00 for off new, and 90% off used. The average price reduced are up to 30% on Amazon can resell once an account is established. Prices reduced are up to 30% off new, and 90% off used. The average price for Literature and the Writing Process starts from $58.98 for new and $23.00 for used with opportunity of free shipping. Students can sell any textbook they own from old classes of various subjects by ISBN® and name their own price. This can prove beneficial towards applying the profit to future textbooks or savings for other Bergen items.

showing memory. You will see that taking a break, every so often is rejuvenating and will overall increase the amount of material retained.

Golden Rule #3: Sleep is vital and will help dig you out of this mid-semester slump. Most of us aren’t getting a sufficient amount of sleep every night. This results in lowered energy levels and ultimately lower test scores. It’s a proven fact that studying for one hour per day for 5 days before an exam is more effective than studying 5 hours straight the night before.

You need time for the information to process into long-term memory, cramming will never allow consolidation to occur. As soon as you complete a study session be sure to go right to sleep (or rest) with no interruptions such as cell phone, TV, friends, etc.

Always remember, mid-semester blues are normal. So cheer up, follow these helpful rules and keep in mind winter break is just around the corner!

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Same Sex

watch abuse go on just because of someone’s sexual orientation, faith and sexuality held in opposition with a higher desire to understand oneself instead.

And that no matter how much time passes everything is still sacred. Reading this, now those who are either quite religious or quite open to the opposition of two people of the same sex being together in a romantic relationship are thinking “It’s in the Bible, it’s immoral!” That depends on your interpretation and to what extent you are willing to try to see and understand the text. The writer is here to express their opinion on all this, agreeing with Boccok’s “Defending Oursehres’ students, The Clueber Passages’, which takes parts of the Bible that ‘bash’ homosexuality and read them to see a newer outlook to what the Bible really does say.

Nowhere in the Bible does it ever say ‘homosexuality’ since at the time the word never even existed. A reader or two is now screaming while jabbing at the newspaper “Genesis 19” or “Leviticus 18:22.” Genesis’ story of Sodom never states anything about a homosexual act or the possibility that it ever occurred. The fact is God decided to destroy the city of Sodom because of how the townspeople were treating the angels: being threatened to leave their hosts house and literally harmed. No one likes being threatened, especially when nothing bad has ever been done.

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### Happy Holidays from the Torch

#### The price of a holiday song

Due to the weak economy in 2009, the Christmas Price Index increased a modest 1.8 percent compared with last year in the whimsical analysis by PNC Wealth Management based on prices of gifts in the holiday classic, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Gift</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Increase (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Partridge in a pear tree</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$5,005</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Turtle doves</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$15,413</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 French hens</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$16,935</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Calling birds</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$12,413</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Gold rings</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<td>$7,000</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
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<td>6 Geese a-laying</td>
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<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Swans a-swimming</td>
<td>$2,285</td>
<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$14,180</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Maids a-milking</td>
<td>$58</td>
<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Ladies dancing</td>
<td>$5,473</td>
<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$15,992</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Lords a-leaping</td>
<td>$2,975</td>
<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$18,490</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Pipers piping</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Drummers drumming</td>
<td>$2,475</td>
<td>$21,465</td>
<td>$18,990</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### More shoppers, less spending

If Thanksgiving weekend is an indication of holiday shopping trends, retailers can expect more shoppers who will spend less this year.

- More shoppers turned out this year...
- ...but they spent less
- ...and total spending was about the same

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retail Category</th>
<th>2008 Number of Shoppers</th>
<th>2008 Average Spending</th>
<th>2009 Number of Shoppers</th>
<th>2009 Average Spending</th>
<th>Total Spending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department stores</td>
<td>172 million</td>
<td>$372.51 billion</td>
<td>195 million</td>
<td>$41 billion</td>
<td>$41.2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$372.51 billion</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$41 billion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount store</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>$22.9 billion</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
<td>$22.9 billion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics store</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>$29.0 billion</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>$33.2 billion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing store</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>$22.6 billion</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>$21.0 billion</td>
<td></td>
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#### PNC Christmas Price Index

Cost of assembling the 12 days of Christmas

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#### Holiday shopping online

U.S. online shopping during the holiday season to date, Nov. 1-Dec. 19:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Spending down slightly</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$24.2 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$24.0 billion</td>
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#### Gainers and losers

Retail categories with the largest percent change, 2007 to 2008:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>2007 Percent</th>
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#### Sales trends

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Online spending on Nov. 1, the Monday after Thanksgiving, known as Cyber Monday</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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#### Retail categories with the largest percent change, 2007 to 2008:

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and Brendan Hughes (freshman), worked fourteen goals throughout the season.

The men’s soccer coach, Sal Guillen, said, “We失误 before,” he said. “I feel ready to compete. We’re gonna let them know who’s Bergen.”

The Wrestling Team is preparing for next season’s competitions. Coach Milt Rehain is enthusiastic with the amount of talent he has to work with: seven place finishers (some of whom are county finalists); one returning national qualifier (Alex Moreno); and two girls: Rachelle Ambrocio and Krystal Halak.

The coach, himself, was a JV and Varsity wrestler from Montclair State University. In 1998, while he was coaching at Pasacal Hills High School, Rehain coached the first team to have a female wrestler in the state of New Jersey. Her name was Lilikai Ogasawara; she later went on to become a Judie Olympian.

As for the girls in the team, Rachelle Ambrocio and Krystal Halak, they wrestle the guys all the same. “There is no distinction between men and women,” said the coach. Ambrocio and Halak were JV and Varsity wrestlers in high school and had experience wrestling against guys.

“Both have pretty good skills,” he said. When asked how she felt about competitions next season, Ambrocio said, “My heart races every time I’m about to wrestle. I get a little bit nervous.”

Another wrestler, Noel Enriquez, who has a background in Mixed Martial Arts, said, “I feel ready to compete. We’re gonna let them know who’s Bergen.”

Of course, wrestling is not always fun and games. It also proves to be a difficult sport to master, especially while attending school.
Top Dogs!

Men's Basketball Ranked #1 in the Nation

Bergen Community College is home to the best division III basketball team in the NJCAA. Since being ranked second in the nation prior to the start of the season, going undefeated in their first 7 games has placed them as the number one team in the nation.

Winning, however, does not do justice to how the Bulldogs have been playing. The team has surpassed even the most optimistic of expectations. Winning by ludicrous margins (32 and 55 in their first two games against Bronx and Queensborough), and even beating a division II team (Raritan Valley) that was otherwise 3-1, the Bulldogs are proving, with every game, that they certainly deserve the top ranking.

There are many reasons to attend a Men's basketball game. There is a heightened sense of camaraderie in the gym that has not been present at any other sport this year. The bleachers are filled with fans, anticipating the next alleyoop to Jayvon Beaty, or the next vicious dunk over a defender by David West. Every play at a Bulldogs game has the potential to become the subject of conversation for days or even weeks to come.

The team has been playing wonderfully, averaging 23 point victories to this point in the season. The team has also averaged a field goal percentage of 49.15% and a 3 point field goal percentage of 36.73% - both impressive numbers.

The players, on top of playing very successfully as a team, have also managed to earn impressive averages in points, rebounds, blocks, and assists to this point in the season.

Elgin Brown, who was chosen to the NJCAA.org's preseason All American Honorable Mention team, has certainly justified his selection. He has averaged 13.8 rebounds per game, 1.5 blocks per game, and 18.1 points per game on 51.4% shooting.

Jimmy Schmitt has also been of invaluable importance to the team, earning 6.6 assists per game, 1.6 steals per game, and only 2.9 turnovers per game, despite being the one responsible for handling the ball most of the time. A lot of Jimmy’s performance does not translate the kind of stats that can be seen on paper, but through his confident and consistent playmaking abilities, it is evident that he is crucial to the team’s success.

Jayvon Beaty has also been impressive statistically with 9.3 rebounds per game, 3.1 blocks per game, and 14.1 points per game on 51.4% shooting. David West has contributed 18.3 points per game on 58.4% shooting, and 2.3 steals per game. Asmar Edwards has also provided 11.6 points per game, 4.2 assists per game, and 2.8 steals per game.

The BCC Bulldogs are off to a great start of the season, and they show no signs of slowing down. They are intent on building on last season’s success and have shown that they have the talent to convincingly beat any team that comes their way. If they continue playing like they have been, there is no limit to how far they can go this season.

Photography Credit: Erwin Del Pino and Guy Weiss

Guy Weiss
Sports Editor

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Men and Women’s Soccer Recap... pg 19