BCC Library Saves Paper

By: Michelle Ha and Michael Bull

-Staff Writer/Ad Manager-

Student needs for printing, as in any institution of learning, have always been diverse and plentiful. As it should be, the great majority of students respect the privilege of printing and copying their reports, homework, and other school documents.

However, there are those who have abused the system to wasteful implications, and have thus printed out many unnecessary “junk” documents that result in an oversize of paper and excessive amount of garbage for the school. There have been many attempts to help curve this trend, sometimes successful, sometimes not. In the latest effort for its efficiency model, BCC has decided to take the initiative and has proceeded to set up a new printing management system that went into effect on January 16, 2009.

Assistant director of BCC Library, Rong Wang, says the new system is intended to monitor and ultimately control the ever-persistent paper waste. The new system requires students to create a username and password every time they need to print. Then, they must go to the appropriate printing release station, click the appropriate document, enter the username and password, and finally retrieve their papers.

Not only is this new printing system more ecologically friendly, it also aids in privacy protection. Although the school library doesn’t encourage students to print personal things in the library, many students print private documents on a regular basis. These documents, ranging from bank statements to college recommendations, can essentially be left scattered anywhere for anyone to read and gather private information. The new printing management system is efficient in protecting privacy, so that no one but the actual document owner can access it.

It also permits the school to track how much paper each individual is using in the library. It would also track how much, on average, students print using the library printers. Frequently, many documents are printed but are never picked up.

Many might be skeptical of the complexity and the new limits that this printing system imposes, but Rong Wang explains that it is still a free system and relatively simple to use.

“At Bergen, everything we print is for free. But some people do not have patience. There are so many wasted papers everyday.”

Students are allowed to print up to fifty pages in one print session. However, there are no limits to how many pages can be printed throughout the day or even the entire semester. A student can still print as many pages as they desire, as long as they respect the limit set by the school.

On January 15th, Airbus A320 took off from LaGuardia Airport carrying 155 passengers. Flight 1549, heading for Charlotte, North Carolina, was delayed indefinitely. Shortly after takeoff the captain, Chesley Sullenberger, was forced to make a daring emergency landing. Two engines were damaged due to the planes encountering a flock of geese; the midair meeting resulted with at least two of the animals being sucked into the plane’s engines damaging the turbines. With engines failing, and no time to make it back to the runway, the former U.S. fighter pilot, Sullenberger successfully dodged the surrounding N.Y.C. skyscrapers and guided the plane down into the Hudson river. The large body of water however, could have proved just as fatal as solid ground, as explained by NTSB investigator Greg Feith.

“If he dragged a wing, had one wing down, he could have cart wheeled the airplane and we would be talking about fatalities.”

Upon impact the crew quickly worked on making sure that the passengers were safe and that the plane was in a stable position. The crew then opened the emergency doors and began to evacuate the passengers.

On the Waterfront

By: Charles A. Cartagena

-Staff Writer-

On January 15th, Airbus A320 took off from LaGuardia Airport carrying 155 passengers. Flight 1549, heading for Charlotte, North Carolina, was delayed indefinitely. Shortly after takeoff the captain, Chesley Sullenberger, was forced to make a daring emergency landing. Two engines were damaged due to the planes encountering a flock of geese; the midair meeting resulted with at least two of the animals being sucked into the plane’s engines damaging the turbines. With engines failing, and no time to make it back to the runway, the former U.S. fighter pilot, Sullenberger successfully dodged the surrounding N.Y.C. skyscrapers and guided the plane down into the Hudson river. The large body of water however, could have proved just as fatal as solid ground, as explained by NTSB investigator Greg Feith.

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The Essence of Universality

By: Tiffany Martin

-Staff Writer-

“When there is disorder under the heavens, little issues are made big issues, and the big issues are neglected...” said William H. Luers, President of the United Nations Association of the UNA-USA.

Nearly 30 Bergen Community College students attended the UNA-USA Mid Atlantic regional conference in New York City, on February 6th, 2009. Three panels of discussion were: peace and security, human rights, and climate change.

The mission statement of the United Nations affirms, “To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind; to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights.”

Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo led the Peace and Security Discussion Panel. DiCarlo firmly believes that “By working through the United Nations, we can build strong partnerships and tackle global challenges.” Global problems addressed included enhancing peace and security, eliminating poverty, promoting sustainable development, peacekeeping operations, and aiding those areas of the world currently experiencing conflict, such as Darfur, Sudan.

Jackie Shapiro led the Human Rights panel of the UN.
Bergen Professor Selected as Semifinalist for Smithsonian

By: Rolliene Mallari
-Copy Editor-

“This is a very big thing, when you just throw your hat in the ring and see what happens,” exclaims Bergen art professor Paul Mindell. “You just don’t pass up something like the Smithsonian.”

Mindell, who has been a fulltime member of the Art faculty of Bergen since 1988, was chosen as one of the 100 semifinalists in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition held by the Smithsonian Institution. The competition, held once every three years, received entries nationwide from more than 3,300 artists who submitted one entry judged by a panel of seven distinguished members of the art community. The jurors will select between 50 and 60 finalists, whose works will be exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C.

The competition, "Contemporary Portraits of America," asked artists to "investigate the contemporary art of the portrait," as explained in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition website. The competition called for artists to submit entries ranging from "classical drawing and painting or hyperrealistic sculpture to large-scale photography to prints and new media." The grand prize winner will receive a $25,000 cash prize in addition to a commission for a portrait of a famous living American which will become a permanent collection in the gallery.

“It is a wide open, national competition. You have works from all over the country, and you have no idea what the judges are looking for,” Mindell said.

Mindell's personal style of taking photographs of certain scenes and arranging the individual prints to create a new work is the foundation of his entry, a photo collage titled, "Aln In Through Time: The Painted Muse, The Piedland Views." The collage features a digital photo of an oil portrait which Mindell completed in the past summer, several Photoshopped portraits, and photos of the Bergen painting room, along with three other art studios each about one hundred years old.

"The idea for the photo collage sprung from the uncanny resemblance of one of my painting students to Rembrandt’s self portrait at age 20. I liked the idea of the passage of time, and began wondering how I might connect the past to the present," Mindell says.

Trained as a traditional painter, Mindell explains that the collage incorporates two of his great interests: oil painting and photography. Combining the two mediums exemplify the theme of duality in his collages.

"My painting for the last several years has focused on traditional, realistic portraiture," he discloses. "Yet as a photo collage artist for more than 20 years, I have been exploring a deliberate fragmentation and subsequent reinvention of the collage."

For artists to submit entries, go to Boochever Portrait Competition website.

The competition will be announced sometime in late May or early June. The chosen works will be featured at the National Portrait Gallery during an exhibition from October 2009 to August 2010.

"I really got down to the wire, with just a half hour to spare,” Mindell laughed. “I finished everything at 11:30 pm, hit ‘Send,’ and there it went.”

The results of the competition will be announced sometime in late May or early June. The chosen works will be featured at the National Portrait Gallery during an exhibition from October 2009 to August 2010.

― See Chess on page 14

Bergen Chess Club: Columbia University Showdown

By: David Frank
-Staff Writer-

On November 21, 2008, the Bergen Community College Chess Club participated in its first major chess competition. The competition came down to a one game decision. This is a huge step for the BCC chess club, which was once nothing more than a group of rag-tag college students who played chess just for fun in the BCC student center.

Robert Entemann is a freshman at BCC. He is currently being inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa international honors society, as well as being in the process of applying to school like Colombia University and NYU. Aside from schoolwork, one of Entemann’s favorite hobbies is chess.

Bergen Chess Club: Columbia University Showdown

By: Zachary Rzetelny
-Staff Writer-

The Englewood police department towed a large number of vehicles throughout the city during a heavy snowstorm. The vehicles were parked in front of signs which simply read, “No Parking When Road Is Snow Covered.”

The vehicles were ticketed and towed early in the morning. Residents whose vehicles were towed were told that a neighbor had called in and complained about their illegally parked car. However, it was not just a few isolated incidents of cars being towed. Throughout several streets, all cars parked on the street were ticketed and towed at owner’s expense.

One local resident does not remember ever being ticketed on the Avenue, one of the main streets of the area, despite parking on the street during heavy snowfall. The police, when asked how many vehicles they had towed, only commented “quite a few” and were not interested in looking into their records on the matter.

A resident of Ridgeland Terrace who had two cars towed and one ticketed, reported no memory of an ever having trouble parking on the street when roads were snow covered in over twenty-five years of living there. Another resident of Ridgeland Terrace, having lived there for five years, reported the same.

The police, however, firmly deny that they are cracking down on this offense, or even doing any more towing than usual. An officer commented that they have...
The final program is designed for those students who score high in all parts of the accuplacer test, yet still qualify for remedial math. This option combines Mat 011 and Algebra 035 for those whose scores range from 62 to 72.9 on the test. They complete all math development requirements during the course of one semester.

Because the above programs showed an increase in the passing rate after January, they are now part of the developmental math program and be officially part of the upcoming curriculum. “We are happy with the results we got,” said Walker. “All we need is to spread the news to counselors, so all the students are informed about the changes.”

BCC Rotary Club: Bergen’s Miracle Worker

BY: ROLLINI MALLARI
-COPY EDITOR-

A small, intimate group of people stand up in attention to the small American flag propped on the table at the front of the room. Calm but determined, the group recites the Pledge of Allegiance, loyalty and strength resounding in their voices. Clubs around the school do not usually start in this manner, but the Rotary Club is not just another club.

“Helping others, that’s the key for the whole thing,” Paul Rutiliaigno, BCC Rotary Club Adviser, explained. Rutiliaigno is an active member of the Cresskill Rotary Club and has served as a District Governor in District 7400. “What can we do to make our community a better community?”

The BCC Rotary Club, the first in the history of Bergen college, is a small club dedicated to providing service to communities. Rotary clubs exist throughout the country and the world, with stamps mailed from locations in Spain, Italy, Russia, and Japan, among many others. The BCC Rotary club’s most recent project, the Coat Drive, was held throughout Bergen County. Donation boxes were strategically placed throughout the school campus. A total of 1500 coats were collected during the months of October through December of 2008. The coats were sent to other organizations interested in community service, such as Habitat for Humanity.

“The entire campus community, students, faculty, staff, and seniors came together [for this one project] and it was excellent,” said James Miller, Vice President of the Club and Chief Human Resources Officer for BCC.

The coat drive is only one of the many projects that the club undertakes. Lois Marshall, club adviser and active member of the Cresskill Rotary Club, claims the “Gift of Life” project as her favorite personal. It is a worldwide program where children with heart problems from other countries, deprived of adequate medical attention are brought to the United States for treatment. Marshall explains that the club actively raises money to help bring the children.

“I remember this one woman, crying at the airport, saying, “They’re going to experiment on my child,” said Lois. “We said, “No, we’re going to save your child. She will be a living human being!”

Through the “Gift of Life,” the Rotary Club was able to help a child from Honduras to come to the US for medical attention. Additionally, they also built a hospital in Honduras to perform necessary operations to the local children. The club has worked on various projects, including a far-reaching plan to eradicating polio worldwide. These projects drew attention from Microsoft mogul Bill Gates, who volunteered to provide funding to the Rotary Club for the achievement of their goals. Other service projects include feeding the homeless, fixing bicycles for poverty-stricken children nationwide, and “Alliance for Smiles,” which aids in helping families with children born with lip, cleft, or palate deformities.

Currently, the club is raising money for “Gift of Life” by collecting loose change in various locations around the college. Everyone is welcome to join the club and they are always looking for community members interested in making the society a better place. The club meets Wednesdays at 12:30 pm in the Pitkin Education Center, in L-158.
The 44th President

OBAMA'S FIRST DAYS

BY: CARINA TESONE
-NEWS EDITOR-

Immediately after his momentous inauguration, President Obama’s promises of change are being put to the test throughout his first month in office, as he is striving to campaign for the economic stimulus and a mortgage reform policy to heal the nation’s financial crisis.

Obama has been campaigning in communities across the nation for the $787 billion economic stimulus, which he defined as a “major milestone on our road to recovery.” The stimulus is supposed to significantly raise employment and consumer spending rates.

However, none of the Republicans voted for the bill, and Obama is being accused for a failure to act in the face of this crisis.

Republican Senator McCain told CNN’s John King, “It was a bad beginning because it wasn’t what we promised the American people — what President Obama promised the American people, that we would sit down and talk gloom.

In addition to the opposing viewpoints of the President’s new way of doing things, Obama’s senior White House advisor, David Axelrod, warned on “Sunday Fox News” that the nation’s economic situation will worsen before the stimulus can begin to take effect. The stimulus is supposed to significantly raise employment and consumer spending rates.

During a campaign visit to a town meeting in southwest Florida, the President said, “I’m not going to tell you that this plan [stimulus] is perfect — it was produced in Washington! I also can’t tell you with 100 percent certainty that everything in this plan will work exactly as we hope, but I can tell you with complete confidence that a failure to act in the face of this crisis will only worsen our problems.”

Assembling that taking action is essential to getting this country out of the financial disaster, Obama expects to sign the economic stimulus bill on Tuesday, Feb 17th during his campaign visit to Denver, Colorado.

Obama is also planning to stop by Phoenix, Arizona on the 18th and address the collapsing housing market situation. He suggests a mortgage reform policy, which is aimed to help an estimated two million people who have lost or are at risk of losing their homes to refinance their mortgages.

According to his website, Obama has closely observed the declining housing market and “introduced comprehensive legislation over a year ago to fight mortgage fraud and protect consumers against abusive lending practices.”

One of Obama’s measures for mortgage reform is called the Stop Fraud Act, which according to his website, “provides the first federal definition of mortgage fraud, increases funding for federal and state law enforcement programs, creates new criminal penalties for mortgage professionals found guilty of fraud, and requires industry insiders to report suspicious activity.”

According to his website, Obama’s bill requires the Government Accountability Office to evaluate and report to Congress on various state lending practices so that state regulations that undermine consumer’s rights can be identified and hopefully eliminated.

The mortgage rescue proposal is still undergoing through some revisions. The proposal must be passed to improve the housing market and the aid the millions of families who have lost or are at risk of losing their homes.

Hopefully, President Obama’s measures for mortgage reform and a mortgage reform policy will replenish this nation’s depleted economy.
President Obama has ordered that the notorious “secret” prison, known as the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp (“Gitmo” for short), be closed within four months time. The ramifications of such an act are causing shockwaves around America’s homeland security force. Without so much as even closing the detention center, a number of questions have risen regarding the closing process of the camp.

First, obviously, is the question of what to do with the detainees. There are approximately 250 detainees with questionable backgrounds who need to be taken from the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp and transferred elsewhere, a task that has proven to be more difficult than originally conceived. Iraq, Portugal, and Switzerland, have offered to take Gitmo’s prisoners after the shutdown of the facility, but the fact remains that some of these detainees are suspected to have bad intentions for the world after their release. The European Union recently held a board meeting to discuss Europe’s role in taking some of the prisoners, but ruled out the possibility of procuring detainees who carry a higher risk of terrorist activity.

No one would doubt the intentions of President Barack Obama in shutting down the camp that has soiled U.S. foreign relations ever since the unfortunate events on 9/11. Countries around the world will be glad to see the detention center shut its gates. Surely the Arab world will have a favorable reaction to the closing of a center which, amongst other “secret” prison camps, holds a long history of torture and unfair imprisonment. However, the world will not forget the actions of the last president, and few countries are willing to help the U.S. get over its sordid past of human rights violations.

It has been almost a full year since formal charges were brought against Gitmo prisoners, largely due to lack of evidence against the prisoners and inefficiencies within the center’s processing procedure while under the Bush administration. On February 5th, 2009, Barack Obama ordered that all pending charges stemming from interrogations at Guantanamo Bay be suspended for 120 days, and action that caused charges against alleged Al-Qaeda mastermind, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, be dropped. The action has led to much speculation and criticism, especially from hard right conservatives who supported the policies of the Bush administration in detaining suspected terrorists in the Guantanamo Bay facility.

It remains to be seen what the ultimate outcome of Gitmo’s closure will be, but it is certain that the world will be watching closely.

Gitmo Closing

BY: AUSTIN KEEGAN
- STAFF WRITER -

See Gitmo on page 14
The recent clash between the territory of Israel and Palestine started on December 27th, 2008 and left 1,314 Palestinians and 23 Israeli dead. Rockets are being fired from both sides as both states fail to reach an agreement for a ceasefire truce.

Israel took military action against Gaza in response to a rocket fired by Hamas, a militant organization that has ruled Gaza since June 2007. The initial attack occurred after the termination of a six-month ceasefire truce between Israel and Palestine on December 24th, 2008. Policypointers.org revealed a 37 page U.S. overview of the situation and concluded that the reason for this attack was somewhat to “significantly weaken all aspects of Hamas rule in Gaza.”

The origins of this conflict date back to the end of WWII when Jews and Arabs had a dispute about who should gain control of the Holy Land, Jerusalem. After WWII, the territory was divided between these two groups, causing major conflicts to arise. Over time, the issue has become more complex with the emergence of the militant group Hamas, who believes that Israel has long denied them economic growth and prosperity. Hamas, who has terrorized the state of Israel for more than a decade, was once a charitable organization. Following the insurgence against Israel in 1987, Hamas moved towards violence by disrupting peace on both states.

The NY Times reported that Hamas considers Israel to be an “illegitimate state,” while Israel sees Hamas as a terrorist group that must be “dismantled.”

“Yet each needs the other to hold its fire,” according to NY Times reporter, Ethan Bronner. Professor Richard Comerford, who teaches Economics and Modern Asian History courses at BCC, traveled to Gaza this January and returned with a personal account of the situation. He described the situation as “terrible.”

Just like there are Palestinians who want the end of Hamas in Gaza, a lot of moderate Israelis also believe in ending the conflict, said Prof. Comerford.

Relating an incident of his Palestinian friend, Ismail, who lost his son during one of the previous conflicts, Prof. Comerford said that his friend wishes to see peace on both sides. “I want peace, my brother; this solves nothing, my child did not die for this”, said Ismail while talking to Prof. Comerford.

“Young people want the end of this and they want to live peacefully,” he said.

The U.N. aid blockade in Gaza caused the situation to deteriorate further as NY Times reports that “Gaza’s stocks of flour are exhausted.” Attacks on several U.N. schools have also raised some very concerning questions about this conflict.

The results of the recent Israeli election can play a great role in the turning point of this conflict, said Prof. Comerford. The situation will either head for the worse or for better depending if the Hamas favors the new government or not.

“Hamas loves to tweak the tail of the tiger. The tragedy of the Hamas is that their tweaking of the tail gets a lot of people hurt,” he said.

Furthermore, Israel acknowledged that one of the soldiers who committed war crimes in Gaza will be given “state protection from prosecution overseas,” BBC reports.

Negotiations on another ceasefire truce were underway but Israel refused to comply until Hamas frees one of its war prisoners, Gilad Shalit, captured in 2006 conflict by the Hamas.

For now, the conflict is a “now-what” situation. Its future remains unclear and decided at the same time. Unclear because there is no sign of peace anytime soon, decided because further violence and bloodshed awaits the borders, unless Hamas and Israel reach a peaceful negotiation.

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**BCC News**

**Gaza Conflict: Now What?**

**By: Huma Munir**

**-Co-Editor-**

Continued from page 1

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continued from page 1
Israel and Palestine: A Dilemma

BY: HUMA MUNIR

The cost of one rocket fire is a murder of thousands of innocent people.

Israel military on the other, is there no choice for Palestinian people but to suffer and die in agony?

I think we have played the blame game for too long. But unfortunately, this is the only game we know how to play. Unless the bigger nations such as the United States and other western countries make Israel understand the implications of such violence, what hope is there for Palestine and its people? What hope is there for the children who are frequently exposed to such brutality? These children, my friends, are the Hamas, the condemned terrorists to be.

We all know that the economic situation in Gaza has been deteriorating for quite a long time and prosperity is far from reaching the homes of Palestinians. Living under such confined circumstances, Palestinians have been forced to do what Hamas tells them to do.

On the other hand, I have no problem in admitting that Hamas is a radical organization and understanding its actions have certainly hurt Palestinians. However, I think the greater problem lies with the countries who claim to be the strongest nations on Earth and yet stand beside and do nothing to stop the on-going violence on both sides.

Through the Gaming Industry?

BY: ALEX KANG

Even though these few companies report positive earnings, there is a dark side to the story. Activision Blizzard, the biggest third-party publisher in the video-gaming world, recorded $2.3 billion in October/December’s net revenue and beat the prediction of Thomson Reuters’ survey of $2.15 billion.

However, the company posted a $72 million loss during the last quarter of 2008 when they launched new entries in its three biggest franchises: Guitar Hero World Tour, Call of Duty: World at War, and World of Warcraft: Wrath of the Lich King.

Activision Blizzard’s CEO, Bobby Kotick, told Reuters, “We won’t be distracted by layoffs and restructuring and things that other companies are going to be distracted with.” Activision is planning an ambitious year of new game releases, with “more products than ever before” set to arrive in 2009.

Despite Kotick’s upbeat tone, the markets reacted swiftly and negatively. In after-hours trading, Activision Blizzard’s stock was down over 5 percent, trading at $9 as of press time.

Sega Sammy is one of the many publishers that were forced to take action during these grim times, soliciting voluntary retirement from 18% of their workforce, which amounts to 560 jobs.

Software, Ubisoft, Take-Two and Nintendo. Even though these few companies reported positive earnings, including
Veggie Heaven: A Vegan's Delight

BY: MICHAEL BULL
-AD MANAGER-

Having been a vegan for almost a year now, I can say that finding the right alternatives to dairy and meat products has not always been so easy. In fact, it’s been a pretty big challenge from the very beginning, although there are still plenty of resources out there to help anyone. In spite of the difficulty for a vegan who wants to eat in, an even bigger challenge has been trying to find accommodations in restaurants.

In the past, I always had to resort to something that was little more than pasta and vegetables, and often not a very satisfying meal to say the least. However, what used to be a challenge has proven easier by the discovery of places like Veggie Heaven, which are more than enough to satisfy anyone who practices the ancient credo.

Founded back in September 1996, Veggie Heaven in Teaneck is one of two restaurants of its kind that offer many diverse and completely vegan & delicious Chinese cuisines. I discovered the restaurant this year, and immediately took an immense liking to it.

Upon entering the restaurant, the atmosphere is surprisingly lush and relaxing, full of traditional oriental architecture and artifacts. In the background, the music alternates between meditation and pop music. You’re seated quickly and kindly, which is usually near meditation and pop music. You’re seated in the background, the music alternates between architecture and artifacts. In the background, the music alternates between meditation and pop music.

Veggie Heaven is a very relaxing and worthwhile experience for everyone who wishes to have a great meal, and one that vegans and vegetarians can join in on too. I have been back to the restaurant many times since May, and it has always been a satisfying visit every time. The price of most of the food is very reasonable, so there is no trade-off time. The price of most of the food is very reasonable, so there is no trade-off.

Speaking of cake, they have that too! That’s right, they have cake that’s 100% vegan. The cake is not cheap for a small piece, but it’s definitely worth it if you’re a vegan and are never able to eat regular cake with its butter and egg ingredients. At the end of the day, it is a well worthwhile end to a meal anyone (vegetarian, vegan, or otherwise) can enjoy.

Overall, Veggie Heaven is a very relaxing and worthwhile experience for anyone who wishes to have a great meal, and one that vegans and vegetarians can join in on too. I have been back to the restaurant many times since May, and it has always been a satisfying visit every time. The price of most of the food is very reasonable, so there is no trade-off between having this delicious specialty food and having to pay more as there is often is at many other restaurants. For all those vegans/vegetarians in and around Teaneck, Veggie Heaven is not a bad place to go for a vegan dish.

A Rod vs the Media

BY: NATALIA ARANGO
-SPORTS EDITOR-

The bad blood between the Media and Alex Rodriguez is no secret. Amidst the recent allegations and confirmation from A-Rod regarding the use of performance enhancing drugs, the media circus has yet again begun for the Yankee slugger. It seems that every year around this time, there seems to be a report circulating about the Yankee third baseman’s extra-curricular activities, and never about baseball itself. That is, until now when the two have finally, to the media’s delight, coincided.

The unfortunate part for me as a fan is that he played right into their hands. When Jose Conseco first came out with Juiced in 2005, I didn’t take his word for gospel, especially when it came to A-Rod. However, what I found interesting was the passage in his first book where he goes into detail regarding Alex’s image and how Major League Baseball was intent on creating certain clean cut, savior. Yet, there are too many powers that had a vested interest in seeing that image built and destroyed in order to save the biggest image of all, Major League Baseball’s.

Hailed as America’s favorite past time, Baseball has had a sanctified image in the way the media portrayed the sport and its famous player staples. Throughout Baseball’s history, legends of iconic role models were created in persona’s such as Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle, just to name a few. Regardless of these men’s activities and conduct off the field, they were placed on pedestals impossible to live up to.

Alex Rodriguez threatens records made by all three and that doesn’t sit well with some. Maybe because Alex is Dominician, or maybe because he just rubs some the wrong way; who knows. One thing is for sure: ever since Alex’s transition into a Yankee uniform he has become public enemy number one.

The guy can’t seem to catch a break, and when he does, there is someone waiting in the shadows to drop a bomb and devastating his image and baseball legacy. Now, I’m not advocating the use of any performance enhancers, but in the reality of today’s
Lost: What’s Past is Now

BY: MICHELLE HA

The more serious question of the castaways during the first couple of seasons of the hit TV series on ABC Lost was, “Where are we?” Now the castaways that have successfully left the island are told that they must return to the island to help the ones they left behind.

And yet what else has fostered during this season? Deafening beams of flashing light that churn the survivors on the island back and forth in time? Yes, we are officially talking about time travel. Lost is in tune and back for another trippy ride with familiar faces and the obscurity that persistently puts their viewers to the edge of their seats.

Picking up from last season, Ben (played by Michael Emerson) reiterates that Jack and the others must return to the island. Meanwhile, the survivors who remained on the island are experiencing new difficulties. Slowly, but surely, we begin to understand why they must return to the island and how.

The show kicked off its fifth season on January 21, 2009, unraveling itself with action-packed goodness. The show continuously interrogates countless theories, with its rampant plot twists, and turns. After all, what is the smoke monster? Are they all dead? Are they in purgatory? What is the island actually all about?

However, unlike the previous seasons where the audience was left immersed with one-too-many questions, more answers are presumably in store this season. The series returns with retribution and is a bit clearer. It is entirely mind-reeling, as usual. Needless to say, cliffhangers will evidently be in tact with the show. Millions of viewers tuned in with much awaited eagerness for a show that has blissfully perplexed their viewers for the last four years. Of course, Lost wouldn’t be Lost without new faces, new problems and death, but many new solutions are pending to be offered. Lost shows high hopes on carrying out yet another pivotal season. You can catch Lost every Wednesdays at 9 PM on ABC.

Slumdog Wins Millions in Box Office Release

BY: ROLLINEE MALLARI

The first time I heard about the movie, “Slumdog Millionaire” was the same day that I went to see it. As I inquired my friends about what the movie was about, I received a listless, “it’s a love story about this guy who goes on the Indian version of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire” and becomes a millionaire.”

Wow. Sounds cliché enough, but at a total of eight wins out of ten Oscar nominations such as Best Achievement in Cinematography, Best Music, and the prestigious Best Motion Picture of the Year, not to mention 62 other awards and 29 nominations, “Slumdog Millionaire” is not your average, run-of-the-mill, rags-to-riches story.

Dev Patel stars as Jamal Malik, a former street kid who grew up in the slums of Mumbai with his brother Salim, who is played by Maddhur Mittal. By luck, Jamal appears on the Indian edition of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire,” going by the same name. He manages to make it to the final question, arousing suspicion from the show’s host and the Indian police, who accuse him of cheating. After all, how can an uneducated street dog know all the answers and be one question away from winning 20 million rupees, roughly the...
Top Ten Things We Learn From Video Games

1. Getting shot in the head doesn’t necessarily equal death.

2. Plumbers are hopeless romantics.

3. Whole and tames dinosaurs to just to get a kiss on the cheek?!

4. When the cops are chasing you, drive fast for a while, and they’ll give up.

5. Staying in the shadow will make you invisible.

6. The Importance of inventory management

7. The laws of physics

8. You know you’ve won a fight when your opponent is unconscious, you’ve won the fight and he is waiting for you to FINISH HIM.

9. Training to become a commercial airline pilot only requires a keyboard and mouse.

10. Everyone speaks English, including Nazis, aliens and the living dead.

Shrek the Musical

The number of Broadway musicals based on movies, cartoons, and other nuisances of pop culture seem to be on the uptrend in recent years. In the ongoing process of many companies to milk their franchises to the extent through ever more far reaching and imaginative ways, it seems to have become the norm for many popular works. The latest of the bunch for 2008 is none other than the musical adaptation of the movie Shrek, simply called, Shrek the Musical, which was scheduled for an official opening on December 14th 2008. It can safely be said that this adaptation is safe from the many failures that grip most other adaptations of any media to another, and is overall quite a solid musical. The plot is pretty much the same as the movie, including Nazis, aliens and the living dead.

Want to fly a Boeing 747 commercial airplane? How about an F-16 fighting falcon jet fighter? All you need is a keyboard and mouse.

Sure there are hundreds of other languages out there, but if there is one thing that countless hours of video gaming has taught me, it’s that everyone speaks English.

Everybody knows it’s impossible to carry a bazooka and two shotguns at once… NOT true! My mother never taught me that! Video games did!

We see it in almost every shooting game out there. Getting shot in the head doesn’t always mean death. For example, in the ever-so popular first person shooter for the PC, Counter-Strike, getting shot in the head will encourage us to be more careful when walking around a corner. So the player named “Rambo” will learn to stop charging into enemy base, change his name to “Jason Bourne” and make every round a stealth mission.

The Importance of inventory management

Video games take the complicated laws of physics and make it easy for anyone to understand. Want to jump off that cliff? Is there at least 2 feet of water down there? If yes, go right ahead! No matter what the height of your fall is, if you land on at least 2 feet of water, rest assured, you will walk away unharmed.

Shrek the Musical

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The plot is pretty much the same as the movie, although there are a few minor changes in regards to how it all plays out. Both constitute an important theme of self reflection and how we view ourselves in comparison to others in the world, all the while permeating the same brand of humor that the original was so famous for. The music is completely different than the soundtrack of the movie, which consists mostly of classic rock material, and the big orchestra. The musical tone feels quite at home to the source material, something of which is not always expected from such adaptations. The main theme, Big Bright Beautiful World, is an especially solid number that seems to epitomize the overall feel and focus of the series. The rest of the musical numbers are also very solid, and there’s hardly a dull moment in any of them. Many seem to be parodies of other Disney musicals, which many might find funny as well. The acting and singing was also very straight-on, and fit in well with all of the musical numbers and spoken word scenes. They are all very good at recreating many scenes from the movie, including some that weren’t in the original, and this is especially evident with the voice work. Don’t be surprised if you find yourself harkened back to the very same scenes in the movie if you are familiar with the source material.

There are times when the effort may seem a little too overambitious, and the ending comes by rather quick, but overall, this is a very solid musical that by no means oversteps its bounds or goes for anything that’s particularly cringe-worthy. It is an above
Bill Nye the Science Guy for Adults!

By: Cassandra Veale

Bill Bryson's bestseller is a delight for anyone who ambitious to learn about the universe, well, nearly everything! A Short History of Nearly Everything is a play-by-play account of how we came to know what little we know about our universe in a charming human tone. Bryson's tongue in cheek commentary will break up many a sentence to keep your eyes from glazing over. The vocabulary is impressive but not overwhelming. The content is divided into six parts with 30 short chapters that break down an incredible amount of information into easy and comprehensible sections.

Bryson includes facts, statistics and personal information. You’ll never hear in a science class. He excels at identifying scientists and other developers that have not received the credit for their achievements, and has given them the proper attributions for their accomplishments. Bryson composed A Short History of Nearly Everything over the course of three years through hundreds of hours of research, interviews, seminars, and just hitting the books old school. The end result is more than you could ever imagine: vast knowledge of our planet, explained in a fast, humorous manner.

I was fond of the book’s segments that point out misconceptions about our solar system. Bryson gives the example stating that when the solar system is depicted in a standard sized format, we are not seeing anything close to what the solar system would look like on paper when put to scale. “Such are the distances, in fact, that it isn’t possible, in any practical terms, to draw the solar system to scale. On a diagram of the solar system to scale, with Earth reduced to about the diameter of a pea, Jupiter would be over 1,000 feet away and Pluto would be a mile and a half distant (and about the size of a bacterium, so you wouldn’t be able to see it anyway).” More fun facts can be found within the pages of A Short History of Nearly Everything. It’s not just a science book; it’s a great way to settle some planetary curiosity!

Bryson’s composition is a playful, light-hearted look at the history of science. It is divided into six parts with 30 short chapters that break down an incredible amount of information into easy and comprehensible sections. Bryson includes facts, statistics and personal information. You’ll never hear in a science class. He excels at identifying scientists and other developers that have not received the credit for their achievements, and has given them the proper attributions for their accomplishments. Bryson composed A Short History of Nearly Everything over the course of three years through hundreds of hours of research, interviews, seminars, and just hitting the books old school. The end result is more than you could ever imagine: vast knowledge of our planet, explained in a fast, humorous manner.

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By: Austin Keenan

Restaurant Review: The Bergen Room

The Bergen Room operates by a bubbly waitress who asked for a drink order. Sorry, guys, no beer or wine here. Beverage choices include: lemonade, tea, iced tea, and water. The lemonade was well crafted, with no sign of too much sugar or syrup.

The menu itself is not too complicated. There are two appetizers, two entrees, and two desserts to choose from. For my meal I decided on a shrimp cocktail appetizer, chicken fransaise, and a brownie sundae for dessert. Other options included soup, sandwich, or a fruit parfait. All meals come with a side salad complete with your choice of dressing.

Without getting completely Gordon Ramsay on you, I will say that The Bergen Room did exceed my expectations in terms of food quality. The shrimp cocktail was cooked perfectly, with cocktail sauce heavy on the horseradish, which is just how I like it. The chicken fransaise, by far, stole the show. Delicious and evenly done chicken with a light lemon sauce was plated with a side of green beans sautéed with toasted almonds and reasonably spiced red skin potatoes that complimented the meal pleasantly. The dessert was a split brownie covered with two large scoops of vanilla ice cream and a drizzle of chocolate sauce. If the brownie had been the only feature, you might be tempted to say it was a little underbaked, but when accompanied with the vanilla ice cream, it balanced out quite well. Overall, a pretty satisfying meal!

I sat in the restaurant for a moment to reflect on the meal with a cup of coffee. It did seem quite busy, and in between managing his tables, Del Nero remarked, “Some of these guys have been coming here for a long time, like this table. They’ve been coming every Thursday for 30 years.” As a culinary teacher, I’m sure Don knows that “regulars” are what sets apart a successful eatery from a failure. As a satisfied customer, I’m sure Del Nero’s name is on a kitchen wall somewhere as a testament to those who haven’t tried it. And at only $8.50 per plate, you’d be glad you did!

The Bergen Room operates on Wednesdays and Thursdays only. Call to make a reservation if you wish to check it out. We
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Night at the Ballet

BY: CHARLES A. CARTAGENA

The graceful and elegant of ballet captures as all its an audience. PHOTO COURTESY OF VANILLA JOY

A Man Apart

BY: CHARLES A. CARTAGENA

Rendered unrecognizable by prosthetics and makeup, actor Brad Pitt plays as Benjamin Button, a man who ages backwards. IMAGE COURTESY OF WWW.IMDB.COM

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**Police**

always towed roughly the same amount of cars every year.

Luckily, towed cars were held at a local lot in Englewood. However, they refused to release the cars to just anyone. One resident, a college student with a valid driver’s license and money to pay the fee, was unable to pick up his car, as it was registered in his father’s name. The police department required a notarized letter from his mother, who had no time to leave her work to notarize such a letter or pick up the car. The demanding procedure for days for those whose cars were being held.

There are many streets throughout Englewood that carry the “No Parking” sign, however the signs found give no warning of towing. For now, it seems citizens of Englewood should be wary of parking on the street when it snows, or when there’s forecast of snow the next morning. A similar incident occurred in Fort Lee on the street when it snows, or when there’s forecast of snow the next morning. The film, an adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s short novel, catalogues the life and exploits of Brad Pitt’s character Benjamin who, in a twist of fate, was born with a rather curious condition: he ages backwards.

The plot of the film’s narrative is conveyed through the heavy use of narration and “flashbacks.” The action starts in what appears to be a modern day New Orleans where the ailing Daisy Fuller (played by Cate Blanchett) is comforted as she listens to her daughter recount the entries of a man’s journal. The passages begin the journey into the past as the narrator shifts from the daughter to the aged raucous voice of Button. From the opening scene the audience is kept in suspense as we witness Benjamin’s birth, a supposedly happy occasion. However, this statement is confused by the father’s (played by Jason Flemyng) bewilderment, angered expression at viewing his new born child. The viewer is instantly drawn in as the Flemyng’s character snatches up the child, and runs toward the river in a complete rage. It would seem the child’s story is to end prematurely, but luck would have it the father is confronted by a policeman and flies the edge of the river. He ultimately arrives at a boarding home for the elderly, a rather fitting place given the circumstances. The father abandonment the child, and Benjamin begins his life under the care of Queenie (played by Taraji P. Henson), the home’s principle caretaker.

Raised as Queenie’s son, Benjamin is forced to deal with a very odd circumstance. Benjamin is truly peerless, despite the many occupants and visitors of the estate houses. While he looks and sounds like the ancient residents of the boarding home, his mind and sensibility remain that of what he really is: a child.

See Apart on page 14

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**Video Game**

Sega’s results for the first three quarters of its 2009 fiscal year proved to be too much for them to handle. The period, which ran through December 31, 2008, saw a total loss of $119 million USD, reports GamesIndustry.biz. Although the loss was obviously tremendous for Sega, it was actually an improvement from the previous year’s staggering $173 million loss during the same period.

According to Kotaku.com, due to the tremendous losses that Sega has faced during the last two years, they are being forced into selling or closing up to 110 arcades. Sega hopes that this major loss will be enough to get Sega back on track to bring in some profit. Sega said these layoffs are in a voluntary phase, and those who surrender their jobs willingly will be let go during the month of March. As if this wasn’t bad enough, Sega is expecting the full fiscal year’s losses to exceed $225 million!

Sega is not the only one taking a major hit during these tough economic times. Electronic Arts reported in the first week of February that 1100 jobs have been cut, which is equivalent to 11% of its workforce. THQ, another major face in the industry recently announced that they will be letting go of 600 employees, a distressed 24% of its workforce.

These times of economic distress are tough on every one in every industry. We cannot overlook the dire situation that video games industry faces; some studies have just outright gone out of business. Microsoft had to shut down ACES (known for the flight simulator series). This may just be the wake up call we need to realize the economic distress we are in today, can affect any industry. Even the once thought-to-be invincible video gaming industry is taking a major hit from the recession, and we can all feel it.
As this plan becomes more of a reality, Wang.

Obama is determined to have the American body and mind put him between the two worlds, neither of which he understands. The world will respond to his plea to improve our nation’s standing and its image.

Wang.

The government goes directly to a bank called the Federal Reserve, and borrows the money it needs to save the economy. This is done by consulting with industry leaders to determine what the market will pay for the services of the government. The government then borrows these funds, and the market pays for the services with interest.

The time to take action is now. No further delays should be made in attempting to resolve the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Both factions have the right to self-defense and to be secure in their homes. Israel should help the disabled Palestinian and build the crutches to help it stand on its own feet until the wounds are healed completely. The economic growth and prosperity in the Middle East are vital to bringing peace to both Israel and Palestine.

As an American, I am always thankful for the sacrifices made by the General Motors strike. It is only through these actions that we can continue to grow as a nation and achieve our goals.

The Bergen Room, located in the basement of the library, is a powerhouse of Hollywood Cinema, and is definitely worth making time for.

The Torch
Around the Diamond in the Northeast

BY: NATALIA ARANGO
-SPORTS EDITOR-

Spring training is officially underway, and the New York Yankees are once again the focus of MLB talk. Regardless of their much-buzzed-about new acquisitions, the Bronx bombers, Coach Joe Girardi stands by his team and swears by their unity on and off the field. As a change of pace, Girardi cancelled regular workouts and took the Yankees to a nearby billiard hall in order to relieve some of the recent pressures and allow the team to bond away from the diamond.

As spring training exhibition games ready to commence on February 26th, the yanks number one pitcher, CC Sabathia is slated for his first start on March 6th with an expected 5-6 starts throughout spring training. Coaches Phil Hughes, Ian Kennedy, and Joba Chamberlain will precede Sabathia with the first four starts of the grapefruit exhibition games.

The Yankee captain experienced some soreness in his right hamstring, but is not expected to miss any playing time. “It’s no big deal,” said Jeter, “if we had a game today, I would be playing,” reports MLB.com.

Middle relief pitcher, Edwar Ramirez, is expected to miss some time due to mild bursitis in his pitching shoulder. After throwing a pitching session on Sunday, February 22nd, Ramirez complained of some discomfort. Although Ramirez is still competing for a middle relief role, the team didn’t want to take any chances by pushing it so they ordered Ramirez to sit out for a minimum of three days.

Behind the plate, Catcher Jorge Posada expects to make a full recovery and has since been showing progress. Not yet at full strength, Posada remains un-phased and determined to be ready for the opening day. As spring training begins, so does the World Baseball Classic which starts on March 5th. Yankee infielders, Derek Jeter (USA), Alex Rodriguez (Dominican Republic) and Robinson Cano (Dominican Republic) are slated for the WBC rosters. Therefore, Girardi plans to play them more than usual in order to reduce chance of injury in preparation for the WBC games.

On the other side of town, the Mets have managed to fly under the radar, but as the season approaches, their inner turmoilings have begun to get louder.

This past week, manager Jerry Manuel announced Daniel Murphy as the Mets full time Left fielder, taking the job from Gary Sheffield as a parting gift with Fernando Tatis in Right field.

Lefty ace, CC Sabathia is expected to miss his first start this week due to tendinitis in his pitching shoulder. After throwing a pitching session on Monday, February 22nd, Sabathia complained of some soreness in his pitching shoulder. When asked if he would be playing, “I would be playing,” reports Sabathia.

Coach: We need, of course, to be over 500 in our wins but besides that, last year was our first playoff birth in 20-25 years. Breaking this streak has kept us motivated and this year I believe we will have the morale to repeat.

Q: Which players should we look out for this season? Coach: Well the key players on the roster are Steve Caracena (third base) and Jorge Padilla (center fielder). At short-stop is Michael Cassies. Michael in my opinion is the best short stop with talent I’ve have worked with since I’ve been here at BCC. Our main pitchers are Garud Beretta and 1st year pitcher, Tony Capanneli, all of which will cause problems for our opponents.

Q: What do you have to do to repeat a playoff year?

Hockey Is Just Heating Up

BY: GERRY POWERS
-Staff Writer-

With the football season ending, and baseball not starting its regular season until mid April, the NHL is in full swing. Some of the same teams are on top of their respected division while some surprises have surfaced in 2009. The excitement is intensifying which will make the 2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs a must see.

If you are looking for the breakout team in the NHL, look no further than the New Jersey Devils with a revamped offense led by young sensations Zach Parise and dry-emptied candidate Zach Parise. Parise has surpassed his previous record of 32 goals in a season.

The excitement is intensifying, not just with the Devils, but with the entire league. The long and arduous NHL season is finally coming to an end, and the playoffs are underway.

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As for the “Broadway Blues” New York Rangers, the team has had their share of difficulties. In the off-season, the Rangers signed two big free agents, Marcus Naslund and Wade Redden hoping they would add to their depth. They started the year off very hot, scoring goals and getting great goaltending from Henrik Lundqvist.

Unfortunately, that was the highest the team has been. After the all-star break the Blue shirts have played clueless and uninspiring hockey during a five game skid including a 10-2 loss to the Dallas Stars. Some think that Head Coach Tom Renney lost his team, while others think that the team lacks a leader that can give this team some inspirational fire.

Whatever it’s going to take, it had better happen quickly. With the playoffs around the corner, the Rangers need to gel and start playing together as a team if they want to make the postseason.

Outside of the metropolitan area the San Jose Sharks, the Boston Bruins and the Detroit Red Wings seem to be the powerhouses of the NHL. San Jose has always been strong in the regular season, but can they finally translate their regular season success into the post season? The Boston Bruins were the worst team in their division a few years ago and are now one of the best in the Eastern Conference. Can this team led by the greats Tim Thomas, young star Marc Savard, and the 6’9’’ bruiser Zdena Chara carry them to the playoffs? About the defending champion Detroit Red Wings? They are now showing the same poise that made them the champions last year. The playoffs start in April, and teams are now battling for those eight playoff spots.

Baseball

since we have proved ourselves as a playoff caliber team now, teams will view us as a contender team. No longer will teams use their third or fourth pitchers instead of their first or second. We have all the ingredients to make a contender team now.

Q: Which players should we look out for this season?

Coach: Well the key players on the roster are Steve Caracena (third base) and Jorge Padilla (center fielder). At short-stop is Michael Cassies. Michael in my opinion is the best short stop with talent I’ve have worked with since I’ve been here at BCC. Our main pitchers are Garud Beretta and 1st year pitcher, Tony Capanneli, all of which will cause problems for our opponents.

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Coach: We need, of course, to be over 500 in our wins but besides that, last year was our first playoff birth in 20-25 years. Breaking this streak has kept us motivated and this year I believe we will have the morale to repeat.

Q: How are you looking offensively and defensively?

Coach: Our key players are keeping us strong on both fronts. Luckily, we have about twelve players on our team that were all county last year, as well as having at least four years experience behind them from their high school years. They all will keep our defense and offense very strong.

Aside from his break away players and his all county starters, Coach Hernandez also praised his bench heavily. There are 27 players in the squad, in total. “All our players are enthusiastic, disciplined, and have fun win or lose,” Coach Hernandez remarks. Our Bergen Bulldogs start their playoff season the last week of March, with away games in Maryland and Delaware. When they return, the student body should come out in full force to cheer our team to the playoffs.

Coach Hernandez says his teams’ goals include improving themselves physically and mentally. More importantly, the team is also “aiming to improve school spirit.”

The most underrated factor in the Devils success comes from their defense. The defensive line has not filled with stars like Stevens, Niedimeyer and Daneyko, but players such as Paul Martin, Colin White Johnny Oduya, and Mike Matteau have carried the load for the defense so far. Look
Congratulations are in Order

By: Charles A. Cartagena
-Staff Writer-

Bergen Bulldog’s own Laura Kuiken took stage at this year’s National Girls and Women in Sports Day, held by the Garden State Athletic Conference at Seton Hall University. On February 1, 2009, Kuiken stood and addressed those in attendance as the only student representative of not only Bergen Community College but female athletes across the state.

“Naturally, I was a little nervous, but I feel like I settled in quickly. I was so honored to speak that I wasn’t really thinking about being scared.” Kuiken said, having addressed more than 1000 audiences at the event.

The Torch took a trip over to the BCC Athletic Department to find out what’s been going on. Honored with the “Woman of the Year” award by the conference, Kuiken was recognized for academic, athletic and social achievements.

“I am extremely proud of Laura’s stellar academic performance, work in the community and her accomplishments on the athletic field,” said BCC President Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan.

Academically Ms. Kuiken has maintained a perfect G.P.A. across three semesters and is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges. In addition to these achievements, she is an Academic All-American, and a beneficiary of Bergen’s cooperation with the NJSTARS program.

“I ended up at Bergen strictly because of NJSTARS,” Kuiken said. “It is such a great program, and I realized that it would be an awesome opportunity to receive four years of education for free; two at Bergen and two at a state college.”

On the athletic front Kuiken has been an integral part of Bergen women’s soccer team. Playing the last line of defense as a sweeper and center midfielder, Kuiken has been in charge of “backing up” her teams.

“Soccer has always been a huge part of my life,” Kuiken explained. “I was very surprised but extremely honored to have been chosen [for this award]. I have always worked hard in everything I do, not for the recognition, but because that is who I am.”

Kuiken’s dedication and spirit can be most quantified by her charitable endeavors. For Kuiken, school is a responsibility and soccer, at the core of all the work and dedication, is a fun pass time. Kuiken is very passionate about her service work, which involved working through her church, Spectrum for Living, and two missionary trips to Mexico.

“I have been doing different service projects since I was very young. My church and school have always provided great opportunities to serve,” she said. “Through Bergen, Professor Feursich was in touch with the heads of an organization called Spectrum for Living, which works with adults with developmental disorders. I really enjoyed working with the people at Spectrum. They touched my life, and it was amazing to build relationships with them!”

Commenting on her trips to Mexico, Kuiken said, “My trips to Mexico have been amazing!”

“The people in Reynosa, the city where the group I went with served, do not have much. However, they treasure what they do have, and they really have the most wonderful outlook on life.”

With such interesting and dedicated people like Laura Kuiken, Bergen students and faculty should be urged to come out and support our various athletic teams. They represent us with their hard work and deserve to hear us cheer them on.

When asked about the decreasing support of Bergen students towards the athletes, she was quick to respond. “As an athlete, I can say how disappointing it can be to not see too many fans in the stands at games. I hope that everyone will at some point go out and support the athletes that are representing the school.”

BCC Sports Update

By: Austin Keenan
-Staff Writer-

The Torch is going to press, the team was heading for the regional finals against Sussex County College on Feb. 28. The winner of that match goes on to the NCAA division finals in Uteaple New York March 12-14. The varsity wrestling team is also heading into the district tournament. More information on those competitions is available at the Athletic Office, or you can check back with the Torch for more coverage.

Sleeper to Contender: Bulldog Baseball

By: Andrew Merino
-Staff Writer-

Bergen Basebal defeated three ranked teams last year to achieve a playoff berth and our Bulldogs are on track for 2009 playoff contention. Coach Jorge Hernandez, who has led the Bulldogs the past four seasons, recently sat down with the Torch for a casual interview to discuss this upcoming season.

Q: So you guys were a sleeper team last year?
Coach: Definitely, but because of that we were able to surprise some teams. However, see Baseball on page 15