Due to recent budget cuts from the state and county, Bergen students will see tuition rates increase. The Board of Trustees, during a Sept. 7 meeting, approved the 5.5 percent raise, which now makes tuition $124.80 a credit.

This is a substantial increase from previous years, with costs being $111.60 per credit in 2009 and $118.33 per credit in 2010. Over the last several years, the state and county have contributed less and less to community colleges, leaving the students to foot the bill.

When New Jersey started county colleges in the 1960s, the cost had intended to be divided evenly amongst the state, county and student, with each paying 33 percent. Over the following decades, this system shifted as the state and county governments contributed less.

Currently, Bergen students pay approximately 57.5 percent of college costs, with Bergen County making up 10.7 percent and the state adding 9.2 percent. While nearly double of what the original plan was, it is even more surprising when compared to costs just two years ago. In 2009, Bergen County contributed 17 percent of the schools budget and New Jersey contributed 11.6 percent.

Decreases in aid can cause hardships for those with little or no financial aid. Students are not pleased that they have to foot the bill for budget disproportions. David Zillante, a freshman at Bergen who depends on financial aid, was critical of the increase.

“Now that the tuition has been raised, my aid will not cover all my costs. It’s unfair that students have to pay out of their own pockets when there is county money going to waste on unneeded expenditures,” Zillante said.

The question that keeps coming up is as to why the cost keeps landing on the shoulders of the students. With repeated cuts from the governor’s office, including eliminating $55 million worth of college tuition grants, students have fewer avenues to turn to for financial assistance. That, paired with other cuts, led to some students having to find multiple jobs to cover costs.

Mark Gallagher, another student facing hardship due to the raise, is one of those students with multiple jobs.

“I had thought that the FAFSA would cover my costs, but after everything was done I had to find a way to come up with the other $2,000 that I needed. I now work a part time job and lifeguard at the pool here [at Bergen], so I can pay the tuition and have enough for books,” he said.

Another side effect of the higher tuition could be more students who are ineligible for financial aid taking out loans. This could create unwanted debt and hinder the path to a solid career start as students may be using their salaries to repay the cost of two years worth of loans.

Although it appears to be unpopular, the raise is here to stay. With more cuts possible within the next few months due to less state and county aid, it may be in students best interest to budget accordingly and save a little in order to gap the bridge between their finances and the cost of tuition.
Environmental Club Ahead of the Curve

Alphonso Delgra
Staff Writer

The Environmental Club is making way with minor additions to the Paramus campus with new charging stations for electric cars and the Rocket composter. It started with students, faculty and staff showing much interest in going green. The Environmental Club then picked up these ideas and commenced the first action, which was done two years ago, when the club started composting using Earth Machines (50-gallon composting drums) by hand.

This act inspired Dean P.J. Ricatto to get an industrial-sized composter for educational purposes. Previously, these composters were only used at slaughterhouses and prisons. Even later on, only a handful of schools owned an industrial-sized composter. Now that a Rocket composter is at Bergen, the interest is growing rapidly campus-wide.

In the past, Bergen had to resort to either a landfill or incinerator when it came to waste. However, now with the composter, all the waste will be useful for the environment, whether it is supporting life through growing healthy foods or soil for landscapes.

Dean Ricatto is very satisfied with the new composter. “The thing I most like about the composter project is that we can explain the what, why and how to the college community in five minutes, and they get it,” said Ricatto. “Also the potential for educational and service learning opportunities are amazing.”

The other noticeable change, electric car charging stations, had a different beginning. Professor Schmidt won a grant for the project. Two “Stage 2” charging stations (220-volt chargers) are already in the process of being installed in the A Lot. Most chargers, including the Chevrolet Volt and Nissan Leaf, will be compatible with these chargers.

Other places where the stations can be found are New York City and soon on Massachusetts’ highways, which will be a part of the Chargepoint America Network.

An identification card with a radio-frequency identification chip (RFID) is used to charge the electric car. Once the electric car is fully charged, a text message will be sent to the user saying the car is charged. This is so another person can use the station.

Initially, the cost will be free until the Environmental Club has gathered more data on the electric cars using the stations. One obstacle is to create infrastructure as there is a $7,500 federal tax credit for new EV (Electric Vehicle) purchases. There are other projects towards making Bergen go green and thanks to the students’, faculty’s and staff’s interest, it is already on the move.

Phi Theta Kappa: Your Key to a Transfer Scholarship

Stefani Gjorgievska
Phi Theta Kappa President

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the largest international honor society for two-year colleges. Its purpose is recognition of academic excellence and encouragement of scholarship among two-year college students.

Our college’s award-winning chapter, Alpha Epsilon Phi, is very active. It provides an opportunity to our members to connect to the college and to the local and global community. Being a member of this society is a highest honor for Bergen student.

Membership in Phi Theta Kappa recognizes your academic accomplishment, give you opportunities to make new friends, gain community service hours and up to more than $37 million in scholarships.

In addition, members get free enrollment in CollegeFish.org (a transfer and college completion planning tool), personalized letters of recommendation for scholarships and highly much and employment.

Membership Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Qualifying GPA*</th>
<th>Credits Attempted**</th>
<th>Credits Earned**</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.65-4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.9-4.0</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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The membership requirements are based on a student’s grade point average (GPA) corresponding to earned credits. Qualified students are selected from those who are registered for the fall or spring semester. Students must be invited to join by the college president. All the students who qualify will receive an invitation letter in the mail. Prospective members must accept their invitation the same semester they are invited.

This semester, PTK has already sent out 445 invitation letters to students who met the GPA criteria and qualifications. All the students who will accept the application by registering online have been inducted to the Alpha Epsilon Phi chapter on Oct. 10.

To maintain enhanced membership within the chapter, it is necessary for members to attend meetings and participate in approximately eight hours of service in this year’s Phi Theta Kappa Honors in Action Project; “Commit to Complete.” With this project, PTK raises awareness of why it is important for students to complete their degree and encourage everyone to compete their degree.

Torch Head Says:

Before It’s Too Late!!!

Hydraulic fracturing (Fracking) is the act of sending millions of gallons of water, proprietary chemicals and sand into a well to cause an earthquake that will release trapped pockets of natural gas. These chemicals and the gas end up in the drinking supplies, food and air of those in the area.

We are all at risk.

Thousands of acres of land in the Delaware River Basin could be opened to fracking, jeopardizing the public health, the environment and drinking water of over 15 million people. By getting informed, calling into local government to get it banned and rallying on decision day, you can have a voice in putting a stop to fracking in the tri-state area.

Come Join the Environmental Club!
10/17 - Gasland Movie Screening at Giccone 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
10/21 - Rally to Ban Fracking in Trenton 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

You do receive compensation. But we need your PASSION!
Protesters have successfully occupied a privately owned park in Lower Manhattan, just a few blocks from Wall Street, for almost a month. Their movement, called Occupy Wall Street, started with a small march at Bowling Green around the famous Charging Bull statue on the afternoon of Sept. 17. On that Saturday, there were around 1,000 who took part in the march, but by nightfall, only around 100 remained to stay the night.

One month later, more than 500 people are sleeping each night at Zuccotti Park, which has since been renamed Liberty Square by the protesters. Each day at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., the crowd swells to over 1,000 for what the movement calls the “general assembly,” a public forum where participants can voice their ideas and make proposals for the whole group.

Proposals, however, are never voted on; instead, they are discussed and argued until literally everyone reaches consensus to move forward. To make the consensus process easier, a set of basic hand signals are used to communicate agreement or disagreement and to interrupt the process with questions about procedure. The movement has called this process “horizontal direct democracy,” and it has its roots in anarchist thought.

The largest event to date was held on Oct. 5. Many New York labor unions and university students joined the movement to rally at Foley Square near City Hall. The rally was attended by an estimated 15,000-20,000.

The movement started off slowly for the first week with small turnouts and little media attention. On Saturday, Sept. 24, that all changed. When the demonstrators attempted to march back to Zuccotti Park after making their way to Union Square, the police moved in with orange nets to corral and arrest them.

Several arrests were filmed by demonstrators and showed the police using heavy-handed tactics to bring protesters down. A few of the videos showed New York Police Department (NYPD) Deputy Inspector Anthony Bologna pepper-spraying five female protesters at close range without any clear provocation.

Ashley Drzymala, a 21-year-old student at State University of New York in New Paltz, was one of those five women. She said that the police had prevented her from leaving the area by holding her behind an orange net on the sidewalk.

“I was video-taping a young man who had been thrown down onto the ground by the police simply for having his video camera out,” Drzymala said. “I looked in front of me and there was a white shirted police officer that came up to me and told me to stand back. And then, another white shirted officer came up behind him and pepper-sprayed me and several girls around me in the face.”

Drzymala avoided the worst of it by turning her face as the officer sprayed. She tried to walk away from the situation, but was trapped behind another police blockade.

When she looked behind, she saw Bologna approaching.

“He sprayed me and those around me again,” she said.

Drzymala, like many other demonstrators who witnessed the police using excessive force, has posted video evidence from her cell phone onto YouTube.

The following week, on Oct. 1, Drzymala was one of over 700 marchers who were arrested on the Brooklyn Bridge while marching in traffic lanes. She said she never heard the police warning that was given to those in front of the march. She received a citation for disorderly conduct and was released in the middle of the night.

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Dr. James Hansen Has a Possible Solution for Climate Change

Alphonsus Delgra
Staff Writer

Within all of the extraordinary data from the history of Earth’s atmosphere over time to the effects of the current climate change on nature, a possible solution has risen from Dr. James Hansen, a climate scientist and director of NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Dr. Hansen has worked with scientists from around the world over his decades of experience in the field. He came to the college on Sept. 22 to speak about his solution to climate change in the Stephen J. Moses Center for Civic Engagement in TEC-128.

The solution, according to Dr. Hansen, is to put a fee or tax on fossil fuels (namely oil, gas and coal) when it is delivered and first sold. This tax would gradually increase over time to discourage people from using up the fossil fuels and focus on other alternatives like electric or hybrid automobiles.

Hansen brought out that the only problem that this solution would present is that the corporate executives of fossil fuel-producing companies and banks might disagree, because they do not want to pay extra to ship and sell fossil fuels.

He also mentioned that in terms of alternative fuel, China is the country leading on the energy topic, because they are utilizing alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar energy.

It took about an hour for Dr. Hansen to explain many scientific topics, but this was necessary to explain his solution. His speech included many facts and research. He had a PowerPoint presentation displaying graphs upon graphs of collected data from the amount of carbon dioxide the Earth and humans produce to the atmosphere’s composition and how it is affected by Earth’s and humanity’s carbon output. All of these numbers pointed to his solution to help curtail the amount of carbon emission.

However, not all slides displayed graphs and numbers. There were a few slides that showed his family, namely grandchildren, to show how they took part in combating climate change. One of his grandchildren wanted to write a letter to President Obama while another wanted to count watts.

After his talk, there was a question-and-answer session with the audience. Everyone from fellow scientists to high school students had many questions about Dr. Hansen and his work.

One of the questions came from a scientist by the name of John Elwood who asked a personal question on how Hansen juggled his career and family. Another question came from a high school student who was involved with her school’s environmental club. She asked if Dr. Hansen could bring his material and teach it on a high school level. He encouraged the youth to learn more about climate change as it will become their problem soon enough.

Dr. Hansen took questions for around an hour before ending the event with photo opportunities and autographed copies of his book “Storms of My Grandchildren” that had a similar cause as Dr. Hansen.
Native American Heritage Celebrated

The college celebrated Native American Heritage Week the third week of September. Keynote speakers for the week were Chief Dwaine Perry and Autumn Wind Scott. Jennifer Pena hosted a Birds of Prey presentation outside Public Safety.

All of these events lead to the grand finale of Native American Heritage Week, the pow-wow. On Friday, Sept. 23 starting at 12 p.m. until 5 p.m., the drumming and the jingling of bells were audible throughout the halls of the Technology Building. Although the location was hard to find, students were able to attend this festive day and watch the celebration.

The following day, Saturday, the pow-wow was located in the Ciccone Theater, from 10 p.m. to 5 p.m. The drummers began to gather the dancers around with their ‘calling,’ which was their drumming. Once everyone was gathered, the whole audience stood to salute those who have fallen from wars prior, those who have died recently and above all those who are living today, while those who gathered danced around the host drum.

Chief Dwaine Perry briefly spoke. Following his speech was a prayer in his native tongue. He ended his prayer with “Aho.” “Aho” has been infused into the Native American languages, and translated into everyday English, it is the same as “amen” or “yes, I agree.”

Arthur E. Crippen, master of ceremony, introduced the dancers and drummers, along with the main purpose or idea for their apparel. Crippen continued commenting during the pow-wow to differentiate the dances men would dance compared to women. Shortly after it was the story telling time and children of all ages came on stage and sat around her. She was animated with her story of how the sun came to be with the help of a small little spider.

Autumn Wind Scott organized the pow-wow for both days. Vendors of Native American descent came to sell their handmade crafts such as jewelry, dreamcatchers, articles of clothing and much more. For more information about the Ramapo Lenape Tribe or for any future events, please visit: http://www.ramapouhlenapenation.org.

Greyhounds on Campus Move Students to Adopt

Volunteers from Greyhound Friends of New Jersey brought eight beautiful greyhounds to the college for Greyhound Adoption Day to support the adoption of the dogs and educate the public about the breed.

Greyhound Friends of New Jersey is a non-profit organization based out of Tabernacle, New Jersey that, for the past 25 years, have rescued over 6,000 greyhounds from race tracks and have placed them into loving homes.

Each year close to one hundred volunteers help place 250 greyhounds into foster homes until they are ready for a permanent home. Although there have been a lot of the dogs placed in homes, every time one gets adopted there is another one that is taken from the tracks, filling that spot.

Pitkin Education Center’s L-wing lobby by Public Safety filled with students interested in learning about greyhound adoption and, of course, having fun petting the dogs. The owners were happy to answer any questions students had about greyhounds adoption.

Along with the greyhounds being shown, there were also t-shirts being sold for a ten dollar donation. A video played throughout the event for questions that students had that were not answered. The dogs were excited by the many new faces and all the attention they were getting. To make the event even more student friendly, the greyhound owners brought treats that the students could feed to the dogs.

Because greyhounds live under the laws of livestock, if they are not able to be placed into good homes after they retire from the track, they do get killed or get sent to labs. Greyhound owners agree that it’s best to get two greyhounds (if it fits one’s budget), so that the greyhound will feel more comfortable.

The minimum cost to adopt a greyhound from the shelter is $235.00. For more information and a list of greyhounds that still need homes, visit http://www.greyhoundfriendsnj.org.

For more information on T.O.P. Scholars, please visit: BerkeleyCollege.edu/Transfer_Scholarship or text: “EASY” to 247365

More than $37 million in Berkeley College grants and scholarships for qualified students provided in the past award year

The Transfer Opportunity Program (T.O.P. Scholars) from Berkeley College offers scholarships to students who have earned an Associate’s degree from another college. Scholarship amounts are based on a student’s grade point average (GPA) and range from 25% to 50% of the tuition at Berkeley College.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible as a T.O.P. Scholar, a student must:

• Have an Associate’s degree from another college
• Be enrolled as a full-time student at Berkeley College
• Remain continuously enrolled for his/her first academic year (three quarters). After that, the student may take one quarter off without losing the scholarship

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Melendez called this area of the student center “the living room of the college” where there will be a stage for presentations and events, such as karaoke, poetry slams, student forums and more. Additionally, a drop-down projection screen has been installed which may also be used to convey demonstrations or even sporting events.

Throughout the two floors, seven flat-screen TV monitors are spread out among the facility to show news programs and the campus’ channel to keep students updated on national and college events. The hallway, where the student life office is located, is now home to five more club offices, meeting offices and a meditation room equipped with all necessities. There is also a public safety station which has access to all cameras spread out along the student center to observe and contain a civilized and appropriate social scene. Student Government has been provided their own room with personal offices and computers.

The ARCO construction group has instilled the “going green” concept. They have constructed energy saving fixtures that will power lighting outdoors and indoors, a green roof and devices to save water in the restrooms.

The main goal of the renovation of the student center has been sensible interaction. Since the construction began, students and clubs have been meeting in alternative destinations that have been all but conventional. This, however, was all to create the environment that the students on campus have been yearning for; to stay informed on school events and a place where meeting new people is practical and possible.

Community College Transfers Welcome!

Community college transfers are some of our best students, so check out an SLC degree!

• Twice the one-on-one faculty contact as any other college or university
• 12 men’s and women’s teams moving to NCAA Division III
• 30 minutes to midtown Manhattan
• Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships in the amount of $10,000 per year
• Internships, career counseling, and study abroad
• Generous financial aid packages and credit acceptance policy

Visit the campus for one of our Transfer Days, February 13 and 20.

To learn more, visit www.slc.edu/admission/apply/transfer.
e-mail slcadmit@sarahlawrence.edu or call (800) 888-2858.
blink before you hit the books.

$15/month. no contract.

keep your mind and body sharp with blink fitness. join at blinkfitness.com or at the gym.

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For special offers text “blink” to 22122.
In these times we live in, attainment of a college education is now a privileged requirement. Far too many students are unable to pay for higher learning beyond high school and are envious of those who can. However, those who are able to attend an institution fall under certain categories.

There are students who come to school and just go home, while there are other students who immerse themselves in campus life and further their responsibilities. They remain active. For their belief is this will help them to become successful in life; yes, the leaders and overachievers.

Our campus grounds are saturated with active students and full of student leaders. These are the ones you find remaining and overachievers.

On behalf of the executive board of Student Government, I want to thank you for being a part of making Bergen Community College a great college with much to offer, and being a great institution is always a work in progress, dedicated to providing the best possible education for Bergen County.

For dedication and personal incentives, opportunities to meet and execute your week’s tasks, the college and the Student Government offers a choice to be aware and heard, but we can only do so if we are willing to plan, prioritize and execute our tasks.

“Mastering Self-Management,” from the book “Don’t Count On It,” by Tom Brokaw says, “It’s easy to make a buck. It’s another thing to make a difference.” – Tom Brokaw

As the Student Government, we’re trying to fulfill our goals. We have been working on a project called “The Torch Book Exchange.” This is an application process but we need to fulfill the goals of THE TORCH. The goals are to help students save money on textbooks and make more sustainable teaching practices. This is an easy way to help others.

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“In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem.” This quote by Ronald Reagan was right. In this present crisis, the state with the highest property taxes in the nation, the exorbitant amount of money residents pay in property taxes does not cover permit fees. Interestingly enough, after going through the process of obtaining a permit, I could not comprehend why there was a fee at all. You fill out a simple one-page form and provide a sketch of what is being done, that’s it. There is nothing complex about it.

Discrimination is one of the biggest social issues of the 20th and 21st century. The change in social conventions when compared with the rest of human history have been astounding. In no other time in history do we have as many laws protecting those may be suffering from unjust repercussions. Our cultural consciousness has moved in accord with this and never have people been more against sexism or racism or more keen on issues involving equality. As much progress as has been made, there is one type of discrimination which is scarcely discussed, yet pervasive on every level of human interaction and in every society in recorded history; lookism.

Lookism is discrimination based upon physical attractiveness. Researchers have looked into the effects of beauty on men and women. In a joint-study between MIT and Harvard Medical School, researchers analyzed the activity in men’s brains when looking at a picture of an attractive woman. They found that the areas of the brain which were activated were the same as those which are stimulated when a drug addict sees their drug of choice or a hungry person sees food. Physical beauty triggers an addiction-like response. As for women, ABC News did a study to reveal the importance of men’s physical appearance, specifically height, on their dating preferences. Investigators lined up a group of men and asked women to pick one for a date. The women were given written descriptions of each man including occupation and achievements. The shorter men were given extremely impressive resumes such as being self-made millionaires and being a champion skier to compensate for their lack of vertical prowess. No matter what achievements the shorter men were given, the women always tended toward the taller men. The only possible game changer researchers found was if the women were told the taller men were criminals. The effects of physical appearance are much broader and more pervasive than dating preferences. Social psychologists have dubbed the subconscious effect of beauty on an individual as the “halo effect.” People tend to think of better looking people as more intelligent, talented, honest and kind than less attractive peers. This bias from dominating our opinions of others is necessary to think twice though. Studies have shown that 74 percent of voters who were extremely resistant to preferences. Social psychologists have dubbed the subconscious effect of beauty on an individual as the “halo effect.” People tend to think of better looking people as more intelligent, talented, honest and kind than less attractive peers. This bias from dominating our opinions of others is necessary to think twice though. Studies have shown that 74 percent of voters who were extremely resistant to appearances of beauty are much broader and more pervasive than dating preferences. Social psychologists have dubbed the subconscious effect of beauty on an individual as the “halo effect.” People tend to think of better looking people as more intelligent, talented, honest and kind than less attractive peers.

According to our broker, the policy my employer has cannot be increased to $10,000 because of the filing requirements set by the NJ Department of Insurance. When I asked why such a high requirement is necessary, I was told we indicated use of the baseball field on our paperwork. Our options at this point are to either not use the field, which is the problem. The armies of bureaucrats proliferating like germs, spraying their poison on the ever-expanding federal agenda testify to that.

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In another example, I recently have been dealing with the Bergen County Parks Department in order to obtain a different kind of permit. This permit would be for a company picnic/barbecue I am organizing for my job. Of course, this permit, too, required a fee. $155 plus a security deposit of $225. The amount of insurance required by the county is mind-boggling. Again, keep in mind we’re talking about a picnic, not a white water rafting trip. The policy we have includes general liability in the amount of $5 million and medical payments coverage in the amount of $5000 per person. We exceed the general liability amount required, which is only $1 million, but tell short stories or the size of the required amount is $10,000 per person.

According to our broker, the policy my employer has cannot be increased to $10,000 because of the filing requirements set by the NJ Department of Insurance. When I asked why such a high requirement is necessary, I was told we indicated use of the baseball field on our paperwork. Our options at this point are to either not use the field, which is the problem. The armies of bureaucrats proliferating like germs, spraying their poison on the ever-expanding federal agenda testify to that.

There has been a study of federal elections in Canada, scientists found good looking candidates received as much as two and half more votes than unattractive candidates. Furthermore, voters were extremely resistant to appearance of beauty. In a 1974 study of federal elections in Canada, scientists found good looking candidates received as much as two and half more votes than unattractive candidates. Furthermore, voters were extremely resistant to appearance of beauty. In a 1974 study of federal elections in Canada, scientists found good looking candidates received as much as two and half more votes than unattractive candidates. Furthermore, voters were extremely resistant to appearance of beauty. In a 1974 study of federal elections in Canada, scientists found good looking candidates received as much as two and half more votes than unattractive candidates. Furthermore, voters were extremely resistant to appearance of beauty. In a 1974 study of federal elections in Canada, scientists found good looking candidates received as much as two and half more votes than unattractive candidates. Furthermore, voters were extremely resistant to appearance of beauty. In a 1974 study of federal elections in Canada, scientists found good looking candidates received as much as two and half more votes than unattractive candidates. Furthermore, voters were extremely resistant to appearance of beauty. In a 1974 study of federal elections in Canada, scientists found good looking candidates received as much as two and half more votes than unattractive candidates. Furthermore, voters were extremely resistant to appearance of beauty.
Chasing the Shadows of “Home Grown Terrorists”

Karl Reyes
Contributing Writer

With the anniversary of 9/11 having only recently passed, it seems the country is bracing itself in anticipation for the possibility of another terrorist attack. Security at transportation hubs such as airports have been heightened, especially in locations of importance, such as the former location of the World Trade Center. Considering the enormous task the government’s security officials face, one can’t help but speculate as to whether or not their concerted efforts will be enough.

A recent investigation held by National Public Radio (NPR) suggested that the alphabet agencies are tasked to capacity and have moved to privatize the counter-terrorism unit. Upon further inspection, it was discovered that one privatized counter-terrorism unit in particular, Risk Assessment and Mitigation (RAM), has been taking extreme measures to protect our borders.

Founded in 2005, Mall of America’s RAM unit has been cited as “a model” for the private security sector. However, as the investigation uncovered, “the unit processes over 1,000 cases per year. Approximately 100 of those reports are sent to local law enforcement and, in turn, a number of those reports are sent to federal agencies. It is easy to imagine that RAM is doing a relatively good job, but as one former FBI program director points out, they’re far from it.”

Dale Watson was an FBI counter-terrorism chief during the Bush administration. He has claimed that RAM apprehends individuals for seemingly normal behavior. “I’m not real sure I’d go to the mall [of America]. I mean, they might accuse me of being a terrorist.”

“It seems like we’ve moved from reasonable suspicion to let’s look at everything. I mean if someone is buying ammonium nitrate in Pennsylvania in a rural place in a rental truck and the owners have never seen them before, putting it in plastic barrels, I’d say yeah, that’s a suspicious activity, they should be reported.”

One prime example of RAM’s apparent over-severe reaction is the story of Najam Qureshi and his family. On January 2007, Qureshi’s home was visited by an FBI official who proceeded to interrogate Mr. Qureshi and his family. He was asked questions such as “Do you know anybody from Afghanistan?” “Do you have any friends in Pakistan?”

The FBI continued on with more questions, which greatly offended Qureshi. “My reaction in my mind was, how dare this guy in my house, come in and say this.”

Prior to this, Qureshi’s father accidentally left his cell phone on a table at the Mall of America, which prompted RAM agents to question the area. The report indicates that, along with the unattended cell phone, there was also a diaper and baby stroller. When the elder Qureshi returned to the area to retrieve his phone, he was apprehended by RAM which cited that he had a nervous demeanor. RAM finally concluded that the 70-year old Qureshi was a “suspicious person” and produced an 11-page report which was sent to local law enforcement.

While it’s no question that national security should hold a place of prominence in the minds of our country’s elected officials, we should also be striving for an effective means of doing so. Whether or not we can achieve that remains to be seen.

On Sept. 15 a large crowd gathered at the Technology Building for an event sponsored by Americans for Prosperity (AFP) and the West Bergen Tea Party. The event was a forum titled “Hands Off My Health Care.”

The forum was to share information and the contents of the 2,700 page health care legislation that passed in 2010, most commonly referred to as Obamacare. The key note speaker for the evening was the former U.S. Governor of New York, Betsy McCaughey, who owns a 3,200-unit chain. Puzder addressed congress and member of the American Urological Society, Phillip Affuso, M.D.

McCaughey touched on the recent victory this past August in the 11 Circuit Court of Appeals. The court decision declared the health law’s compulsory insurance an unconstitutional expansion of government power into the private decisions of individuals from birth to death.

In an attempt to put the problem of the uninsured by making health care more affordable. The question asked of individuals from birth to death.

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The Crime Report is a new addition to the Torch that will be reported monthly in each issue to raise awareness on campus safety. It was created in cooperation with William Corcoran, director of public safety, to help keep Bergen students, faculty and administration safe. Names, detailed personal information and some locations have been omitted to protect the privacy of those involved in each incident. Thank you for reading and doing your part to make Bergen Community College a safer place to work and learn.

Sometimes a bad situation can’t be avoided, many can. Protect yourself from theft and attack. Lock your car and lockers. Keep your belongings in sight at all times. Be aware of your surroundings and stay in groups as often as possible. Do not enter a suspicious situation or dark parking lot alone. Dial 6 from any campus phone to reach public safety if you have an emergency.

Jennifer Figueroa Contributing Writer

I’ve heard Dalia Campohermoso and many of my LASA friends mentioned that Nester is the advisor of LASA. I don’t know him personally, since I wasn’t a Bergen student at the time, but I envisioned him as often as possible. Do not enter a suspicious situation or dark parking lot alone. Dial 6 from any campus phone to reach public safety if you have an emergency.

Jennifer Figueroa Contributing Writer

Roving Reporter: What is your funniest BCC Moment?

Kathleen Capinoso
Liberal Arts

Miguel Guzman
Electrical Engineering

Sage Moslen
Liberal Arts

Charlie Ramos
Computer Science

Jessica Melendez
Undecided

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Two Door Cinema Club Takes It To the Basement
September 14, 2011
The Studio at Webster Hall
NYC

Arturo Sangregorio
Photo Editor

Two Door Cinema Club (TDCC), the Irish band comprised of Alex Trimble, Kevin Baird and Sam Halliday announced a last minute show for September 14 at The Studio at Webster Hall in Manhattan. The Studio happens to be nothing but a little basement situated right under Webster Hall itself. Having hosted bands such as Mumford and Sons, Florence + the Machine, Peter Bjorn & John, and Vampire Weekend, the tiny place has a rather big reputation to upkeep.

TDCC seemed to be rightfully chosen for the task of filling in the shoes of its predecessors, selling out the show rather quickly. I scored a pair of tickets for very cheap, a feat that I was unable to achieve while trying to get some for their gig at the much bigger Terminal 5 the following day. The marquee announced that Toro y Moi would be playing that night at the Webster's main stage, while TDCC would be entertaining a more intimate crowd underneath the floorboards. In reality though, the intimacy of the gig was fictitious. Even though the place was packed with an audience of about 100 people, the show was being broadcast live to millions of viewers at home via MTV’s Hive.

TDCC played a vast majority of the songs from their album “Tourist History,” including their very popular hit single, “Something Good Can Work” and “Undercover Martyn,” which ironically has the line, “to the basement people, to the basement/ Many surprises await you,” within its lyrics. Sweating bullets through a setlist where each song packed more rhythmical energy than the last, the band made sure that the clapping and the dancing did not stop until everyone was drained out of their dance fuel.

At that basement, the band did surprise the audience with an encore which included, “I Can Talk” and a couple of other songs. Stopping only to thank the crowd and the viewers at home, TDCC never allowed for the show to become a drag with slow ballroom sleep-time tunes. That explains why they have garnered so much success amongst the masses who go see them in seek to bust a move.

Recordings from the show are still up on www.mtvhive.com.
After spending a couple of years on an indefinite hiatus, The Shins re-emerged on the music scene as abruptly as they left it. Booking only a handful of carefully selected shows throughout the states, one of Manhattan’s venues made the final cut. After packing Terminal 5 like a can of sardines years ago, the band picked the minuscule building at 6 Delancey Street for its anticipated comeback. On September 25, the Bowery Ballroom hosted one of the three shows The Shins scheduled for the East Coast.

The Shins gradually shredded members until there was only one left, and front-man James Mercer faced the pressure of keeping the original soul of the band alive. As the date crept in, web blogs were running amok with rumors on how the only remaining Shin and the new band members would not live up to the expectations. Soon after the opening band Faces on Film left the stage, the crowd pushed in. Everyone was anxiously awaiting to see Mercer and the new Shins magically appear from the flanks. When they came on, a unison cheer tumbled about the walls of the Bowery. Nobody seemed to care about the member disparity, nor that a lovely woman had now joined the band’s ranks. It was all about how James Mercer and his new army of instrumentalists were able to pull through the set flawlessly. It was as if the old Shins had re-incarnated into the new ones, or swapped souls Freaky-Friday style.

With a setlist proper for 2007, the band gave the crowd a taste of the past. Having played tunes from their three LPs, Mercer and company managed to summarize 10 or so years in about an hour. Opening with “Caring is Creepy,” directly followed by “Australia,” “Mine’s Not a High Horse,” and “Phantom Limb,” the rapid fire of classics were a big “Look at me. Us. We are still The Shins!”

Covering David Bowie’s “Ashes to Ashes,” and Pink Floyd’s “Breathe” in the encore, it was made evident why the band is transcendental. It also killed the rumors of the band having lost its essence, because quite frankly, its obvious that James Mercer himself is The Shins no matter who is with him on stage.

Somewhere in America in 2009, Foster the People’s lead singer Mark Foster was making music for TV commercials to pay the bills. Things were bound to take a drastic turn after he made his song “Pumped Up Kicks” accessible to the public for free. Fast-forward about a year and you get the song on TV shows like Entourage and Gossip Girl. Fast-forward another year and you have Foster the People performing at the Knitting Factory and the Mercury Lounge in New York City. Fast-forward to exactly September 27 and 28 of 2011, and you have them playing two sold out shows at Manhattan’s Terminal 5.

Having sky-rocketed to the top of the Billboard charts, Mark Foster saw his band become an overnight sensation right before his very eyes. Foster the People successfully conquered about five of the coveted New York stages within 10 months of the current year. The first concert night at Terminal 5, New York’s band Cults and Georgia’s band Reptar seasoned the crowd and set the mood for what Foster and his people had in store for the public.

Alternating between his keyboard and dance-gliding around the stage, Mark Foster displayed his front-man skills the way a band’s lead man is supposed to. With a melting pot of sounds that cannot be described under a single genre, the music felt like techno influenced pop-rock, even rave at times. The band opened with the song ‘Houdini,’ instantly re-setting the excitement bar way up high, which had been lowered by the slow new-era folk sounds of Cults.

The set at Terminal 5 encompassed almost all the songs from Foster the People’s album “Torches,” including the mainstream success “Pumped Up Kicks,” which deals with a kid who goes on a killing rampage. The crowd went berserk upon hearing the single, leaving aside the fact that it deals with a horrid act of adolescent murder. It did not matter.

Foster the People’s music makes up for the lack of brilliant lyrics with their catchy hooks, paired with choruses that would stay with the listeners subconsciously. Add that to a great live sound and a magnificent light show not proper for an epileptic and you get yourself one of the most memorable gigs of the year.
The Worst Kind of Robbery

“A Mugger.”
“An Advanced Mugger.”
“A Hyper-Advanced Mugger.”
“A Super, Hyper-Advanced Mugger.”

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The Swing of Things:
“Round-the-Clock Rescue”

By: Perpetua Romain & Brendon Miel

Jazz
& poetry

Jazz & poetry
Live Music • Spoken Word • Dance Performances

Thursday
OCT 27

All Spoken Word Artists Welcomed
Food & Beverages Provided
*Free Admission*
Hosted by Ariel Leconte

SHOW STARTS AT 6:30
Presented by
Black Student Union
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
400 Paramus Rd. Paramus, New Jersey 07652
Tech-128
For more information call 901-336-4797
aleconte@me.bergen.edu

The Worst Kind of Robbery

The Swing of Things:
“Round-the-Clock Rescue”

What you’ll need:
1. Package of boxed yellow cake mix
2. can (15 ounces) pumpkin puree
3. can (12 ounces) evaporated milk
4. eggs
5. 3/4 cups sugar
6. 1 teaspoon cinnamon
7. 1 teaspoon salt
8. 1 cup chopped pecans
9. 1 cup butter
10. Whipped topping of your choice

To prepare:
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan.
2. Combine pumpkin, evaporated milk, sugar, eggs, cinnamon, and salt in a large bowl.
3. Mix well, and spread into the pan.
4. Sprinkle the cake mix over the top of the pumpkin mixture, and pat down.
5. Evenly sprinkle pecans and drizzle with melted butter.
6. Bake for 60-80 minutes, or until done.
7. Top with whipped topping.

Jessica Czarnogursky
Co-Editor

Now that we can safely pull out the hoodies and enjoy a warm cup of coffee, we can also indulge in all of the fall foods, mainly, pecans and pumpkins. Whether it’s mashed into a pie, or infused in a latte, either or can make any cold day that much warmer. For something that’s a great pick me up on a long day, or even something to bring to a relative’s thanksgiving dinner, this pumpkin cake is sure to please everyone!

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Pumpkin Crunch Cake

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Looking for the Ultimate Halloween Experience?

Kristen Pierce
Contributing Writer

If you grew up in America, chances are you have heard the story, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” What many people do not know is that Sleepy Hollow is an actual place and for us lucky Northern Jersey citizens, it is right here in Tarrytown. Sleepy Hollow is a beautiful attraction for all seasons but it is when Halloween draws near that this quaint and charming village really springs to life.

Settled in 1640, the well preserved town echoes a pre-revolutionary war period. With vast farmland, old stone churches, rolling hills and a mill to boot, the town is an aesthetically pleasing window into the past.

There is no shortage of exciting attractions to discover here, whether you are a history buff or a Halloween fanatic. In 1996, the village (then known as Northern Tarrytown), voted to rename itself Sleepy Hollow in order to pay homage to the inhabitant of the graveyard as well as to some of the names that inspired Washington Irving to incorporate them in his stories. An annual reading, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” is held at 8 p.m. the Friday and Saturday before Halloween, but visitors are advised to tread lightly for it is said that the headless horseman rides through these grounds come nightfall.

Adjacent to the Old Dutch church and burial ground, lies the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Here is the final resting place of Washington Irving, revolutionary war vets and wealthy industrialists like Andrew Carnegie and William Rockefeller. Maps of the grounds are available for free to anyone who wishes to explore without a tour, however, if a tour is desired there is an eclectic range to choose from. Visitors can venture into a 110 year old underground vault or hear tales about the cemetery’s famous victims and perpetrators.

For those that are interested in the arts, one can enjoy a lesson in deciphering cryptic cemetery symbols while learning about the cemetery’s artists. On the Girls Night Out Tour, a speaker talks about the cemetery’s famous and infamous women and their influential and at times shocking stories. The Night Tour is perfect for those who want a spookier ambiance.

Philipus Manor Museum is just a short walk away from the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Home to a 1900 year old manor that was originally a farming, milling and trading center. Interpreters in period costume invite guests to participate in activities of the 18th century. The property is equipped with a farm and a working gristmill. At night the manor is transformed into the haunted house attraction, Horseman’s Hollow. In effect the Sleepy Hollow attraction is recommended for children 12 and up.

The Haunted Hayride and the Great Jack O’lantern Blaze are strictly Halloween themed events. The hayride is active every weekend through October 29th from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The Blaze features more than 4,000 hand-carved and illuminated jack o’ lanterns and runs between October 1 and November 6. The Blaze is a very popular event and tickets sell out fast.

Sleepy Hollow is a village that encompasses the Halloween spirit. Just 40 minutes away from Bergen, this fun-loving town is a must see.

Five Fun Halloween Activities

Nicelle Zapata
Contributing Writer

Looking for something to do this Halloween? Check out these activities.

1. NYC Halloween Parade! Its been listed in the book “100 Things to do Before You Die: Travel Edition You Just Don’t Miss” by Neil Telippa. With over 2 million attendees along with 45,000 fully dressed partakers this single day, this single night brings in more than $60 million into the city. There are over 40 dressed marching bands, giant puppets and creative floats. This is the theme: The “F” of the Beholder.

2. Dutch Burying Ground, conduct free guided tours from Memorial Day weekend through the end of October.

3. Sightseers learn about the fascinating and mysterious inhabitants of the graveyard as well as visit some of the names that inspired Washington Irving to incorporate them in his stories. An annual reading, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” is held at 8 p.m. the Friday and Saturday before Halloween, but visitors are advised to tread lightly for it is said that the headless horseman rides through these grounds come nightfall.

4. For those that are interested in the arts, one can enjoy a lesson in deciphering cryptic cemetery symbols while learning about the cemetery’s artists. On the Girls Night Out Tour, a speaker talks about the cemetery’s famous and infamous women and their influential and at times shocking stories. The Night Tour is perfect for those who want a spookier ambiance.

5. Still have a bit of screams left? Then check out the最新的 Halloween attraction, the Great Jack O’lantern Blaze is just a short walk away from the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Home to a 1900 year old manor that was originally a farming, milling and trading center. Interpreters in period costume invite guests to participate in activities of the 18th century. The property is equipped with a farm and a working gristmill. At night the manor is transformed into the haunted house attraction, Horseman’s Hollow. In effect the Sleepy Hollow attraction is recommended for children 12 and up.

Trick or Treating, Not For The Collegiate?

Alphonus Delgra
Staff Writer

Many of us at Bergen Community College remember our times trick-or-treating during classes. When we were kids, Elementary schools usually had parades for Halloween for the kids to show their costumes to their parents. Years later in a college setting, it’s trick-or-treating still the same.

There’s too much change from trick-or-treating as a kid versus as an adult. The setting of a college does not give off an atmosphere that trick-or-treating should be encouraged. The mindset of a college student would not be to treat Halloween as a holiday to search for candy, giving the reason that it’s something to do when they were kids.

College may be too serious of an atmosphere for such festivities. During Halloween, college students are mostly focused on their course work, projects, papers and in some cases, students just breeze through Halloween like it was just a normal day. However, students should learn to enjoy each holiday that comes around and Halloween is no different.

A good reason for trick-or-treating is that it helps to take a break from students’ usual studies. It gives us time to reminisce about when we were younger and even just engage in trick-or-treating during classes. Some professors would bring in candy to distribute in the spirit of candy giving, minus the costume.

Now, instead of trick-or-treating, some college students choose to celebrate Halloween on campus. It is a great way to socialize and you do not have to walk all over the neighborhood to get the candy. However, there are still people out there that are candy hunt despite their age. It becomes more of a tradition to dress up and continue on to set an example for the kids.

Even though we see trick-or-treating as adults in a different manner via professors/ bosses giving out candy and through costume parties. It may not be on the same scale as when we were kids, but we can do enjoy the candy nonetheless.

Images courtesy of mercampus.com, Illustration by Jaslyne Pichula

Does your reaction differ when you were a kid to trick-or-treating?
Present Reality, Not Past Memory

Jessica Czarnogursky
Relationship Columnist

As sung by the band Alkaline Trio, in their song, “Calling All Skeletons,” “Here it is again, yet it stings like the first time.” For any of you who have ever had our dreams based on mortally important hearts, cracked, crushed, or the like, we know that no matter how many times we go through something, the sting and the memory of each and every time is still excruciating.

The same rule applies to our relationships, as we’ve all already figured out and experienced. Though our ex has been out of our life for over a year while with our current partner, we can’t help but compare, contrast and inevitably weigh the options. Now we all know (because every ounce of society has told us so) that comparing is wrong, cruel and ultimately the downfall of most relationships. But, we’re all human and such comparisons are inevitable to our nature. So what do we do?

On a first date with a brand new interest, sometimes it’s hard to not think back to past first dates, past loves and what each of them had or didn’t have. Especially if this date is going poorly, your mind could dangerously wander to places that should have been burnt with all of those cliché pictures of the two of you. While this partner may be taking the wine, dine and romance route, the past one had the perfect mix of sugar and spice, and was ultimately a lot more thrilling at first. You should never start comparing partners, especially when you’ve only known and seen very little of them.

Each and every person has a different approach, a different style (though most may result in the same ending – happy or not), so it’s only fair to give them a chance to show you their cards, before you toss your deck in for a new one. Besides, wouldn’t you be pretty annoyed if you were trying to make casual chat – with the hopes of something more – and the person on the opposite side of the table has their head stuck in a two-year old memory?

Secondly, don’t make standards for your current partner, unless they are ones you yourself have set down long before making the choice to date. If you have the criteria that your man has to be tall, dark and handsome, then let that be your standard, not one that you suddenly have based on the ‘fan-fives’ you’ve had with an ex. Your relationship is supposed to be about you, your wants, your needs, your desires and ultimately (in a successful one) your partners too. So skip the checklist of what your last three girlfriends looked like, wore and did for you, and stick to some wholesome qualities, or at least ones that don’t make you seem so shallow and have your date running.

Finally, if you’re the type who likes to bring up the past, or uses it like a college student would use a reference book, internalize it, or save it for when your back at your apartment with nothing but your dog and laptop to talk to. It’s good to think about the patterns you’ve had with exes, especially if you see yourself developing one that could ultimately be your ruin. But what isn’t good, is when you start vocalizing them and turning them into excuses and reasons why you can’t be happy now.

The past is the past and there’s really nothing we can do about it. We can learn, we can grow and we can find out what not to do, who not to be with, and why we should always let a healthy balance of heart and head lead us on the right path. The first step to doing that is to treat each relationship as you did with your very first one – no matter how long ago it was – with no prior notions and all of the love and hope you can possibly muster.

Do You Engage in Classcest?

Nita Lim
Sex Columnist

Let me construct for you a scene. It is a classroom with bare beige walls. The teacher walks in, student and teacher gazing into each other’s eyes. In community college, this may just be the most romantic setting you could find.

Community college, this may just be the most romantic setting you could find. You whispered likes, nothing serious, just flirtation. Then some time passes, you sit in front of the instructor. Late students scurry into the classroom with bare beige walls. The instructor is likely for this to happen, but while at a community college, it is more effective.

First, think carefully about what is really “bothering” you before you start looking up all of your aches and pains. Chances are if you think first, then read the medical research, you will be less likely to come up with “well, I think I feel this too,” or diagnosing yourself with a cluster headache rather then the tension headache you really have.

Next, do not automatically assume that you have come down with some sort of incurable plague the second you start to feel more drowsy or lethargic then usual. Look at your life patterns; are you eating enough of the right foods, getting daily physical activity, and above all else, sleeping for enough hours? You may be running yourself down, and in cases like that, should step back from the hectic schedule, get some TLC and then seek some sort of medical guidance.

WebMD is a great tool to aid the average person in figuring out why their body just does not feel right, or why they are having a problem concentrating. With that being said however, exercise caution. If you are truly sick, in pain, etc, it is best to call your doctor, rather than trying to diagnose yourself. Just a simple phone call can save you a lot of suffering, and could also save you a lot of worrying that your symptoms match WebMD’s definition of something deadly.

Web Hypochondria: Are you contagious?

Jessica Czarnogursky
Co-Editor

If you type “coughing” into the search engine on WebMD.com, you’ll come up with searches that discuss everything from an abrasive cough (due to things like allergies) to hemoptysis (coughing up blood). So who’s to say that while reading the symptoms to a more serious form of what you are presently feeling cannot get you thinking in your mind, and your panic meter to shoot through the roof?

No person would readily admit to being a hypochondriac, reading the symptoms of something entirely different of your own and forcing yourself into thinking you have them is no help to yourself. While WebMD is a trustworthy, incredibly useful site, there is some caution to adhere when browsing through the archives and trying to pinpoint exactly what is wrong.

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Don’t Cuff for a Season, Cuff for a Reason

Randy Hale
Contributing Writer

Cuffing Season— the season in which everyone is getting coupled up, usually around when the weather is beginning to change and it is getting cold outside. Since when did love become a trend? They say this is cuffing season, but when the summer comes it will all be over. Many believe that similar to the change of scenery that the seasons bring, they likewise want to switch up their views on how a relationship flows. This time of the year can spark popularity contests among young men and women our age and has become a topic of many conversations. The season of cuffing has been manipulated to the extent where individuals use it for a means of exposure, publicity and respect. Girls may go after the jocks or the guy with the possible future. Guys generally go after a girl just because he knows so many other men want her. When forming this relationship never forgets that the decision you make, you will have to deal with. Not others around you; therefore, if your relationship is taken seriously, then don’t talk about it, be about it.

Love is a rare general trait that is made to stand forever, but in these contemporary times, some may place a beginning and ending limit, a start and finish, break up and then get back up again when they feel the time is right. Love is not a game, so the one you cuff, shall be the one with whom you shall never play, therefore; you must be prepared stay with the one in which you have chosen. Not saying that this is an easy task. It does take work, for love can continually be a fight, but if it’s something you want, you will continue to keep it on good terms and this will continue to make you happy.

Weather and time of the year should never be the deciding factor for loving someone. Once you love it, hold on to it. A healthy garden does not grow without nurture and consistent attention, therefore; when cuffing make sure it’s one that, like a garden, continue to plant the necessary seeds to help fertilize this garden of love.

Secondly, do not (like a trend) follow it because everyone else around you are doing it. Each situation and bond has its own set of rules and regulations, which doesn’t happen as often as it should. Men degrade a woman’s worth when they do not talk about it, be about it. The fact that there is this time of the year called “cuffing season” can also have a bad influence on those who are really feeling another individual. Two individuals could be falling for one another but the fact the season pushes for it, could hold many relationships back from their full potential. It could feel like a rapper selling himself out for platinum plaques. Don’t believe the hype.

Men, don’t base love off of a certain time of the year. You can never be told when to love, how to love, these are things that develop and can unravel at any given time. Be an individual and step into a relationship when you know that forever love is what you’re ready to give your partner. Don’t cuff for a season, cuff for a reason.

Get Your Cuff On?

Laura Madera
Contributing Writer

Out of the many trends that have come and gone in this world, there is a specific one that has been making itself known here. Anyone heard of cuffing season? I sure had not. After a little bit of research, I learned all there was to know about the practical and maybe even understandable, but nonetheless offensive, concept of cuffing season. Whether it is cuffing season— a summer with? Do not talk about it, be about it— a summer with you still being together.

This does go out to women too. Those of you ladies out there letting yourselves be the momentary fix and/or are doing the same to men.

If the season was really all about the desire to love and be loved, you would realize that it seems to evade you exactly when you are looking for it. Don’t you know that the best of things come when you least expect them and that this spontaneity adds to its appeal? Some people just can not stand to be alone, which doesn’t happen as often as you think. Men degrade a woman’s worth when they scrutinize them with such selfish intent.

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How To: Avoid the Mid-Semester Slump

As a student starting a new semester, one may be getting back to some old habits. Habits that may include going to school early, getting extra help at the tutoring center, or even spending extra time in the library to get some extra work done. While these are all good qualities that a student can have, there is still one habit certain students fall into during the middle of the semester. What is the mid semester slump? The mid semester slump can be interpreted as many things. One way of interpreting it is when a student decides to skip a few classes, miss a few homework assignments, or even decide to just autopilot through class and not even bother to try. This slump, seems to be able to put students in the cellar and not even bother to try. This slump, the mid semester slump, can be noticed to usually start right around the middle of the semester. The first few symptoms of this are having an urge not to go to class for whatever the reason may be. Some students feel that since they haven’t missed a day yet, that they are automatically given the right to skip classes.

The mid semester slump can be prevented by starting early, getting extra help at the tutoring center, or even spending extra time in the library. The first few symptoms of this are having an urge not to go to class for whatever the reason may be. Some students feel that since they haven’t missed a day yet, that they are automatically given the right to skip classes.

Feeling Like a Mystery?

John Sapida
Staff Writer

BergenStages’ fall 2011 season will be starting with a murder mystery by one of the most acclaimed mystery and crime writers of all time, Agatha Christie. On Oct. 28, Nov. 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 at 2:00 p.m., BergenStages will present its opening production of Agatha Christie’s “The Mousetrap” directed by Prof. Ken Bonnaffons. The Mousetrap first premiered in October 1952. It is still running today, its 59th year in the St. Martins Theater in London, England. Without giving away too much, The Mousetrap is a play set in Berkshire, in an old manor which was converted into a hotel by its owners. On a day when the characters are stuck in the manor due to a snowstorm, they discover that one of them is a wanted murderer, but are unable to identify who. With more than 23,000 performances to date, it has been the longest running play in the world and is one of the most sought after shows in the world. Its thrilling writing and suspenseful scenes are sure to compel any audience and take them out of their seats.

Auditions for this production took place mid-September and the cast is working hard to give justice to one of the most timeless murder mystery plays written. Come and see what BergenStages has to offer and check out its opening production of The Mousetrap at the Ender Hall Lab Theater, E-101.

Also, watch out for other productions and auditions that are coming up this fall season such as the production of Robert Bolt’s “A Man For All Seasons” and the Theater Club’s annual Vaudeville Night. Ø

Represent at Model UN

Allyson Ann Cina
News Editor

Model United Nations (Model UN) is a club that simulates the activities of the real United Nations (UN) in conferences around the world. Students learn about important international issues and develop ideas on how to solve them by representing a UN member state in conference and drafting resolutions on issues.

The college’s Model UN club is entering its fourth year since its inception. During its short life-span, it has already sent representatives to two annual National Model UN conferences in New York City, representing Monaco and Costa Rica.

The new president, Jannyl Perez, wants to see the continued success of the club, stating she will take the club “two steps forward” this year. Perez is looking for a small group of core group of members who will dedicate themselves to preparation in order to make a stronger showing at the next conference in the spring.

She also wants Model UN to be a place where students can prepare to move beyond Bergen into a four-year school and onto future success in their careers. The Executive Board of Model UN is President Jannyl Perez, Vice-President Stephanie Orguiera, Treasurer Adrian Szabos and Secretary Eli Epstein. The advisor to Model UN is Professor Solomon of the Business Department.

An important way Model UN prepares its members is through the many networking opportunities that come from being associated with the United States of America (UNA-USA). The professional organization hosts multiple events each year, giving Bergen students the opportunity to meet people interested in international relations and already working in the field.

SAB's Haunted Happenings

Jamie Kurtz
SAB President

I hope everybody has enjoyed their first month of school; S.A.B. sure has! The events you saw during the month of September is only the beginning of what is to come.

October is the month of light and money.

October can be interpreted as many things across the country; the mid semester slump. This slump, the mid semester slump can be interpreted as many things. One way of interpreting it is when a student decides to skip a few classes, miss a few homework assignments, or even decide to just autopilot through class and not even bother to try. This slump, seems to be able to put students in the cellar and not even bother to try. This slump, the mid semester slump, can be noticed to usually start right around the middle of the semester. The first few symptoms of this are having an urge not to go to class for whatever the reason may be. Some students feel that since they haven’t missed a day yet, that they are automatically given the right to skip classes.

Another symptom is simply just feeling too lazy to study for a test or quiz or do any homework. One of the most common thoughts that goes through a student’s brain is the idea that making something up at a later date is okay. This is what usually drives students to think that some professor will end up taking care of them. Unfortunately, this does happen sometimes but there are still a few professors that will not take any sub story and simply not care about what happened to that student.

When it comes to avoiding this slump, it will take a lot of effort at first but it will put many students on the right track in life and give them good standards of how to act academically in school and possibly later on in life.

The first step in avoiding this slump is to simply show up at the Friday meetings which happen every Friday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. in the Business Department.

There is no such thing as a good day of class to miss. Woody Harrelson once said, “90 percent of success is just showing up.” This quote is true to any job, class, or any other type of commitment.

Another way of escaping this mid semester slump is to cut out bad habits during the school year such as watching too much television, hanging out with your friends too much, and even just plain goofing off. Cutting habits like these will significantly change a person’s daily schedule and give them more time to study and excel academically.

There is always a time in our lives where we regret things that we have done. Whether it be trying harder in a class or merely just showing up more, if you follow these steps in avoiding this slump, there won’t be any regrets.
FEATuRES

Helpful Hints

Matthew Charles Friedberg
Staff Writer

Men! Nothing shows someone’s personality better than clothing. When it comes to fashion there are so many do’s and don’ts, especially in the world of men’s fashion.

So, to really grasp what fall/winter fashion is all about, three topics are going to need to be covered. The first is casual—nothing gets a woman’s attention like a well-dressed man. Next is business—this is going to be an integral part of college, as well as the future. Finally, accessories. Yes, men can accessorize too.

We will begin with casual. Casual does not mean wearing a tank top and flip’s, if it’s still happening, it’s time to kick it up a notch. Try sporting a nice pair of khakis, or dark wash straight leg jeans. The khakis can go with pretty much any outfit because they keep it casual, but also bring a rugged look to an outfit. The dark straight leg jeans look clean with any combination of clothing because the dark wash not only has a intimate look to it, but also creates a nice anchor to the look.

Next article of clothing that must be noted is the shirt. To elevate a person’s style, it is quintessential to stop wearing dollar suit can look horrible if the fit is wrong. Contrary to belief, a suit from Target can look fantastic if the fit and accessories are done correctly. One mistake that people normally make while getting pulled over by a police officer. The one mistake that people normally make while getting pulled over by a police officer. The one mistake that people normally make while getting pulled over by a police officer.

Another fact that must be noted on casual clothing is the fit. Whether a guy’s got six pack abs or a belly, the clothes on his back will always look better if it fits well. Most people have been buying a size or two too big their whole lives, try a size down.

Also, keep in mind that when the temperature really begins to drop, it is time for a driven jacket. Try shopping at Century 21 in the Bergen Town Center, they have nice jackets for the winter that come with hangers. Buy a size down, nothing looks worse than a guy walking around with a jacket that fits like a bag.

Let’s discuss business attire. The suit should be slim fit, two buttons with only the top done and it should not have lapels bigger than two inches. Another important aspect of the suit is tailoring. It is very important that the suit is tailored correctly because even a three thousand dollar suit can look horrible if the fit is wrong. Contrary to belief, a suit from Target can look fantastic if the fit and accessories are done correctly.

When it comes to color, guys are afraid of some fun in their wardrobe. A little bit of color never killed anyone. To begin, pick one article of clothing, the tie, the shirt etc, and throw a little color into the mix. When it comes to the shirt keep it slim fit or fitted. I guarantee that you will look better in a well tailored suit than one that looks like you took it from your father’s closet in 1998.

Accessories are very important to a man’s wardrobe, especially in the wintertime. When the temperatures fall to arctic conditions, it is time for a hat. In the winter time, a nice wool hat should do the trick. It will not only keep the ears and head warm, but it will also provide the wearer with a nice sophisticated look during the cold winter months.

Another accessory is a scarf. A lot of men are a little frightened to play around in this department, but, in fact, scarfs are sophisticated looking and can anchor almost any look.

The next accessory is shoes, and while it can be argued that shoes are not an accessory they really are because anyone can throw on a pair of cross trainers, but it’s about picking a pair and looking good in them. Shoe’s are an integral part of any man’s outfit.

When it comes to suits, wear a rounded bow tie up dress shoe; keep in mind that wingtip brown is in right now and these shoes will go fantastically with any outfit. When it comes to casual shoes, go with a nice lace up, nothing to fancy and no trainers. If it’s snowing hard, do not be afraid to break out the boots, just do not wear a pair of Timberlands with a Theory suit.

Last but certainly not the least, the watch. Men are not concerned as much these days with knowing the time as much as keeping with tradition. A timepiece is part of being a guy, and one should be warn with every outfit. A classy watch with a chronographic or skeleton face will do just fine. Just remember to keep the entire wardrobe in mind when purchasing a timepiece.

So, three basic aspects of men’s fashion have been covered. It should be enough to get anyone started, but what’s most important is to only buy things that you love. If you do not, you probably will not end up wearing it. So keep these tips in mind to elevate your style, and have some fun with fashion. After all, its not just clothing, it is a visual extension of yourself.

How To: Keep Your Cool When Getting Pulled Over

Sam Halabi
Staff Writer

The one mistake that people normally make while getting pulled over by a police officer for whatever reason is panicking and getting nervous. Some may even get a ticket for simply just over reacting. Here are the best tips on how to deal with a police officer for whatever reason is tr...
Shazam Encore
[Internet Connection Required] – Ever sit in a restaurant and/ or work and listen to the music playing as you wait? You hear a song that’s so familiar whose title is on the tip of your tongue, but you just can’t get it out? Shazam Encore is the app for you. It allows you to find the name of the song and artist of anything that would alter your mood, no matter where you are. Your PC, phone, or any other device is able to catch the name of your favorite music, which is perfect for opening up a database to find the title of the song. This app searches its database from over five million songs! With Shazam Encore, you can deserve a radio station that streams the music you’re looking for and those similar to it on your device!

Pandora Radio
[Internet Connection Required] – Feel like listening to some of today’s hits? Maybe Broadway? Classical? Hip Hop? Rap? Maybe you want to hear from your favorite artists such as Maroon 5, Drake, Gym Class Heroes, Christina Aguilera, Eminem and my personal favorite, The Script? Just put in the name of your favorite songs and artists and before you know it, Pandora Radio creates a “radio station” that streams the music you’re looking for and those similar to it on your device!

Adam Jensen, the main character of Deus Ex: Human Revolution

It’s Great, But Not a Revolution

Deus Ex: Human Revolution is a first person action/RPG game for PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 and PC. Set in Detroit in the future, the game focuses on Adam Jensen, the security manager for Sarif Industries. This company focuses on human enhancement, utilizing technology to enhance the body such as replacing an arm with a prosthetic with added strength and protection.

Recently the company has been under attack by humanist groups known as “purists.” This group is completely against anything that would alter their “natural” humanity and those already enhanced (aka augmented). By the time you start the game, Sarif Industries suffers from a firestorm. Jensen tries to stop the intruders but almost ends up dying.

During the next six months, Jensen undergoes major augmentations, mostly on his arms, head and legs. Once those six months pass, Jensen is thrown into the middle of a hostage situation. The augmented person that did this to him as well as the group that was behind the attack on Sarif Industries.

The graphics are done well in this game, showing detail in its environment. The city does have a good steam-punk vibe to it and the fashion and architecture display that theme vividly. The voice-overs are also good, they add life to the atmosphere that is already shown in the graphics in the game. No voice actor is over-the-top or under-worked.

While the story is very engaging to the player, the game play does not match. As the genre of action/RPG suggests, Human Revolution plays like a shooter with stealth components in addition to RPG-like character progression. To compare it to other games, it reminds me of Splinter Cell, in which you get to make the game encourages you to be more stealthy than direct. There are also good rewards when you manage to get past an area without being detected.

You can still engage hostiles with your guns and augmentations. Combat is alright, yet one detail that stands out is when in cover, when Jensen fires, it’s a suppressive fire but he doesn’t look over the cover to see where it hits. As a result it takes longer to kill an enemy.

Besides sneaking around and combat, there is a hacking mini-game that you play to access computers and unlock doors. You have to hack your way through a mini-maze to get to your destination. As you perform more actions, there are chances that the computer may catch on and chase to your original position on the mini-map.

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Comedian Sparks Laughter on Sitcom

David Gomez

Staff Writer

On the set of a TV show, a husband walks into the kitchen to the applause of the audience. He opens the fridge to grab a beer, looks around, then grabs the bottle by lining the cap on the edge of the kitchen table, then pounding on the top with the bottom of his fist. Immediately, his wife walks in. "I didn’t open that on the kitchen table did you?" "Nope," the husband responds. "Are you lying?" "Yes," why do you do that?" "The opener is right in the drawer!" "Yeah but the table is right here." "Louie...I love you." "...Why would you say that?"

Comedian Louis C.K.'s show on FX, "Louie," is similar in many instances. There is a higher expectation in situation comedies that is desperately needed.

The scene described above is from a recent episode that illustrates Louie's main goal which is an unfeigned take on reality. An embodiment of the comedian's life, the character Louie struggles with raising his two children, encountering people from his past or present and dating whilst being a divorced father.

The show stands out above sitcoms that all seem to fall to the stale and unoriginal idea of broadcasting lives of characters who would never exist. Shows such as ABC's "Scrubs" and NBC's "The Office" never fail to deliver overwhelmingly trite catchphrases and cliché predicaments that make the viewer well aware they are watching a sitcom.

Louis C.K.'s "crossing-the-line" comedic style, as some would describe it, is much more than just shock humor. In fact, "Louie" is about experiencing life as it is: weird, random, depressing, gross, inconvenient, beautiful and hilarious.

Like Louis C.K.'s comedy, the show follows no agenda. As random as "Louie" tends to be, it is relief to see a show that, like life, is naturally funny and doesn't feel forced and scripted. The taboos on race, sex, and raising children that Louie presents on the show are as funny as they are honest and legitimate.

Warrior Fights Its Way Up Box Office

Sam Halabi

Staff Writer

In a country where the sport of boxing has increasingly lost interest and the rise of mixed martial arts (MMA) has taken the nation by storm, the movie Warrior has exceeded expectations by captivating millions around the nation.

The story takes place in Pittsburg and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Two brothers, Tommy (Tom Hardy) and Brendan (Joel Edgerton) are both at different times in their lives and at different places as well. The audience can see the film through both brothers led completely separate lives. Tommy had left to live with his mother, who herself left an estranged and formerly abusive alcoholic father, Paddy, played by Nick Nolte. As Tommy returns home to face his father who he hasn't seen in years, it is known that Tommy had reached a new low in his life and was facing tough times.

As for Brendan, he was also facing a low point in his life. With exceeding medical bills from his daughter, Brendan and his wife found it increasingly hard to pay off all the bills and are unable to come up with the money.

With both brothers having no other options, they both join an MMA tournament called Sparta, in Atlantic City with a $5 million reward to the winner. Both Tommy and Brendan are unaware that they would see each other at the tournament.

A video showing Tommy taking apart a champion while sparring gets posted on the Internet, which partially explains why Tommy is able to enter the tournament. As for Brendan, with the injury of a prime-time fighter, Brendan decides to take his place in the tournament.

A story filled with courage, inspiration and is packed with incredible fight scenes. As mixed martial arts has quickly become the sport that has captivated the nation, Warrior, is the movie to see.

The Long Awaited Comeback of Blink 182

Tyler Burns

Staff Writer

Eight years ago, Blink 182 released their self titled album. The release marked a major departure from their usual chuggy, half-poking pop-punk sound. With most of their fans hitting an older age or growing up, the album connected with their audience perfectly and went on to be described by most as their “magnum opus.”

Shortly after its release and a few huge tours, the band broke up abruptly supposedly back stage before a show. Since then, Travis Barker almost died and brought the band back onto the speaking terms. “Neighborhoods” is the album they have come back and created. It’s different than what they’ve done in the past for sure.

Neighborhoods starts with “Ghost on the Dance Floor” one of the songs that is based around a slow chorus and verse. Thankfully, the album picks up after with “Natives” and the very catchy “After Midnight.”

As the album continues though, the songs begin to blend together, sort of overrun by Tom Delonge’s vocal parts. “Heart’s All Gone” stands out as a definite throwback to the Blink 182 of the nineties. Mark Hoppus’ vocals are still killer and his bass riffs are as well. The album throughout has its interesting moments, mostly because of the keyboards that sound like they have left behind by Robert Smith himself. “This Is Home” makes perfect use of them, for sure. The repetitive chorus is so catchy you hate it. Sadly, the keyboards and catchy melodies do not really work as well for songs like “Love is Dangerous” and “Even If She Falls.” Though, the latter does have single potential.

Overall, the album is definitely a departure from their previous sound. The lyrics and music, itself, lacks the density of their eponymous effort. The problem can be pinned to the loss of Jerry Finn, (R.I.P) their producer of most of their albums throughout their career. Neighborhoods is definitely a solid effort, but still falls short for a Blink album.
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Antonella Sielicki  
Contributing Writer

Ryan Arnold started out as a sprinter in high school before he moved on to Cross Country. He ran all four years for the Rutherford High School track team, which he graduated from in 2009. Now, as a sophomore at Bergen Community College, he is running Cross Country for his second year during the fall, as well as track & field in the winter and spring.

Arnold is quick to admit he just loves to run. In a meet, “It’s the thrill of blowing past my opponents.” Whether it’s a seven to 12 mile run through the Saddle River Park, or a competition with a Bulldog victory at stake, Ryan runs hard. His passion for the sport is undeniable. With a season spanning from the beginning of August to the end of November, Ryan does it all while juggling a full course load. His only complaint; “Bergen doesn’t have a winter track team.”

This year he put his knowledge and talents to use by sharing them with his teammates. Ryan is a team player and a role model for the underclassmen who joined the team. Five days a week, rain or shine, you can find them ready to practice, or compete on the weekend. All meets and invitationals require some traveling, as to date, BCC does not host invitationals. On a team whose preseason started with only two members, they’ve come a long way and Ryan has stuck through it the entire time. In his third year here at Bergen, he is undecided about what he wants to major in but knows for sure he definitely wants to continue running at another school. He has already proven himself to be a good strong leader.

Head Coach Laura Durso puts it this way, “This is guiding his way into running at a four year university.” Ryan is the team’s top runner once again this year.

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BCC's Vincent Romeo tries to score against Brookdale Community College.