Laura Madera
Ad Manager

With the initiative of Ivan Wei, the NAACP will be reactivating its chapter at BCC. With a third of ABC’s audience members to voice their concerns, the NAACP aims to help acquire funds to support the organization. The club hopes to watch over the city’s landscape, and to offer opportunities to those who wish to join the body force that is the NAACP at BCC. The doors are open to anyone that is interested. Wei states: “If you want to join the NAACP or know of someone who wants to join, then contact Jorge Ivan by finding him at the NAACP meeting, or join the Facebook group called Social Justice at BCC. Join us as we make the world a better place.”

Antonella Sielicki
News Editor

The night of Jan. 12th, a BCC art student was robbed and then stabbed walking from a bus stop, located near Spring Valley Road and Route 4. The 19 year old woman, an international student hailing from South Korea, was approached by a man, who then took her money and multiple electronic devices, worth $200. Her attacker was described as a middle-aged Hispanic man, between 5’6” and 5’10”, with brown hair in a crew cut-style and a mustache. After being found by a passerby, she was brought to Hackensack University Medical Center where she remained in stable condition. The stab was located in her upper abdomen, requiring 38 stitches and she is expected to remain at the hospital for 3-4 months.

The NAACP of Bergen County is to get more equality in the world for all people. Everyone has rights and they should know them, said Wei when asked about his motives for reactivating this club.

As also stated in the NAACP website, in the organization’s original call 113 years ago, the founders of the NAACP declared that “Discrimination once permitted cannot bebridled… We call upon all believers in democracy to join in a national conference for the discussion of present evils, the voicing of protests, and the renewal of the struggle for civil and political liberty.” Today, the call is still the same.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join the body force that is the NAACP at BCC. The doors are open to anyone that is interested. Wei states: “If you want to join the NAACP or know of someone who wants to join, then contact Jorge Ivan by finding me on Facebook as Ivan Wei or join the Facebook group called Social Justice at BCC. Join us as we make the world a better place.”

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Because her family is in South Korea, she was visited by the president of the Korean-American Association of New Jersey, who has assisted in helping acquire funds to support her.

Upon her recovery, she hopes to return to classes at BCC. She had just started in the fall and was said to be passionate about her studies.
Caribbean Club Comes to Bergen

Hihesha Creary
Contributing Writer

Unbeknownst to most students, BCC once was home to a Caribbean Club, but for unknown reasons, it was abolished. Thanks to the current and proactive students at BCC, a new and improved club will be on campus.

The Caribbean Club has recently been re-established to provide a support system for students of Caribbean descent, as well as to educate the student body about the rich culture and traditions in that region.

“Our goal is to share our college experiences with fellow Caribbean students who are looking for comfort,” said Nicola Hinds, president of the new club.

This goal will be accomplished through the collective exploration of the common ancestry between islands and sharing the unique cultural aspects of each respective one. Throughout the semester, the club plans to hold weekly meetings in which members will discuss the current issues the Caribbean is facing as well as try native cuisines.

The club strives to host cultural shows, concert trips, and charity events. The club will also be hosting a fashion show, various cultural seminars, and exhibitions. Making everything fun while also educating its members is what the Caribbean Club is aiming for.

BCC is such a diverse school, but because there was no club for people of Caribbean background, there was an absence. Upon hearing that the club is returning, students are excited. “Doing stuff Caribbean style, yeah I’m down for that. You can’t go wrong with fun,” said Jo Minatsuki Martibag, a returning BCC student.

For any students that are interested and want to be part of BCC’s Caribbean Club, meetings are held every Thursday in room C-312 from 12:30-1:30.

STEM Up the Ladder

Michelle Santana
Contributing Writer

With the help of several professors and grant personnel, BCC is on its way to ‘STEM’ up the ladder to success in science and math. STEM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, helps students in those fields reach their greater potential. The grant was awarded to the school in order to ensure graduation and make transferring that much easier. The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the college $3,781,639 to fund the Graduation Pathway to Success Project; this five-year grant will aim to help the students in the above mentioned fields.

The Graduation Project to Success provides the opportunity for students to be able to smoothly transition from a two-year to a four-year institution. The electrifying element of the grant is that it will fund the creation of a STEM Learning and Innovation Laboratory that the students affiliated with the program will help to create.

Studies show that people with degrees in science, technology, engineering and math are more susceptible to finding better paying jobs and the new program at BCC will provide a step-up for those students. STEM degrees will not only help the students involved, but the professors as well. This will allow the college to become recognized for a successful program that enriches both staff and students.

STEM has the opportunity to become a fundamental program for the students and a passage to successful futures. With this jump start, BCC is looking at a prominent program that can give students the tools necessary to thrive in their studies.

The Graduation Pathway to Success is a building block to higher education and student success, which is something BCC strives on. The STEM grant might just be what BCC was looking for, as students with talent in science and math now have even greater opportunities.
Bi-Annual Book Exchange Benefits Students

Cathie Alber
Contributing Writer

For college students, one of the most expensive items that need to be purchased are textbooks. Every semester, new textbooks must be bought and costs can quickly accumulate. Purchasing a textbook can be difficult due to many factors, including when a professor specifically asks for a BCC edition that is only available in the bookstore.

The Student Government Association will be holding their bi-annual book exchange from Jan. 23 to 27 in front of their office in the new student center, A-101. Tables will be set up throughout the day for students to sell or buy books.

The book exchange is a very popular event at BCC, providing opportunities for students to not only save money, but also make money by selling books directly to students that otherwise would not be accepted by the bookstore.

The SGA Book Exchange has inspired the bookstore to allow students to rent their textbooks for the semester. When renting a textbook, students have the opportunity to save some money, but also make money by selling books directly to students that otherwise would not be accepted by the bookstore.

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The book exchange this past fall was extended by popular demand, giving students another solution to get the books they need, without having to deal with the bookstore lines or waiting for a book to arrive in the mail.

Not only is the book exchange a great opportunity to save some money, it is also a place to meet new people and socialize with your peers. SGA looks forward to another successful event this semester, so if you are looking for a specific textbook, check out the book exchange before resorting to the bookstore or buying online.

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College Council

Antonella Sielicki
News Editor

Upon taking a poll of ten students here at BCC, only one of them had ever heard of the College Council. Although the organization is fairly new and not too well-known amongst the student population, the College Council is one of the most important decision makers here on campus.

The College Council, along with the Student Government Association (SGA), and the Faculty Senate make up the “three-legged stool of power” here at Bergen, as chair Marilyn MacDonall said. “We want to bring ideas into something new at the college” she continued.

However, the College Council is unique from the other two legs in the fact that it is made up of students, faculty members, and the administration. This diversity is on purpose. The aim is to serve all the different needs of the community and promote fairness and equality from each viewpoint, whether it be a professor, a student, or a member of the administration. Because of this, the College Council is one of the most important decision makers here on campus.

Within the council, there is a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer that comprise the steering committee, serving in addition to the heads of the subcommittees. There are seven committees: facilities and finance, planning, budget and assessment, community relations, health and safety, policies and procedures, and campus culture and communication. Between all of the committees, all aspects of the campus are targeted.

Council meetings are open to the BCC community and are held on the last Tuesday of every month. For more information regarding the council, check out the official College Council page on the BCC website.

Updated office hours are posted on our office door.

At this time, we would greatly appreciate donations of gift cards – in any dollar amount – to local grocery stores in order to assist those in need. For more information, call 201-447-9257.

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One of the biggest issues that SGA will face on behalf of its students is the treatment of budget requests. Financial aid, while being a crucial factor in students’ lives, has come under scrutiny. The university has recently released an assessment sheet for review. SGA is expected to do so during their Feb. 7 meeting at 5 p.m. in Room Tech 128.

In December of 2011, SGA introduced a program that seeks the employment of a Diversity Dean and would require training for both students and faculty. This proposal has been placed in the hands of the County College of Morris. Students, for review. SGA is also hosting another Town Hall Meeting on campus, where the students can give their input. This meeting is expected to take place around the second week of April.

This physical separation never overwhelmed as I was stepping over the threshold of the classroom. I had been so proud of myself for being able to accomplish this feat. I knew that journalism was my passion, and I was determined to pursue it.

In the spring of 2012, I became a member of the faculty. This was a decision that I had made in the fall of 2011. I was excited to be a part of the Torch in the fall of 2010. The same spirit of accuracy and timeliness that is so important to the students is also important to the faculty.

The SGA's Diversity Committee has also drafted a proposal that seeks the employment of a Diversity Dean and would require training for both students and faculty. This proposal has been placed in the hands of the County College of Morris. Students, for review. SGA is also hosting another Town Hall Meeting on campus, where the students can give their input. This meeting is expected to take place around the second week of April.

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OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

THE TORCH

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 2012

Meet The E-Board

Antonella Sielicki
News Editor
Major: Journalism
Past in Torch: Staff Writer fall 2011, News Editor spring 2012
Plans for the paper: Provide the most accurate and timely news to the students, as well as keeping it an interesting paper that is enjoyable to read. I will also do my best to keep the readers informed on all sides of a topic, so they may be able to decide where they stand themselves.

David Gonzalez
Sports Editor
Major: Communication Arts
Past in Torch: Contributing writer fall 2010, Staff writer spring 2011, Sports Editor fall 2011 and spring 2012
Plans for the paper: Continue to highlight student athletes, and other athletic programs available to all students, giving the sports news from the student’s point of view. Go Bulldogs!

David Gonzalez
Sports Editor
Major: Communication Arts
Past in Torch: Contributing writer fall 2010, Staff writer spring 2011, Sports Editor fall 2011 and spring 2012
Plans for the paper: Continue to highlight student athletes, and other athletic programs available to all students, giving the sports news from the student’s point of view. Go Bulldogs!

Anthony Sganga
Copy Editor
Major: Biology
Past in Torch: Staff Writer fall 2010, Features Editor Spring 2011 and fall 2011, Co-Editor spring 2012
Plans for the paper: Keep students informed on what goes on campus, no matter how controversial the topic may be. Our responsibility is to the students and only the students.

Jessica Czarnogursky
Editor-In-Chief
Major: Literature
Past in Torch: Staff Writer fall 2010, Copy Editor spring 2011, Co-editor fall 2011, Editor-in-Chief spring 2012
Plans for the paper: Keep the paper about the students and BCC, publish it on time and with the best journalistic accuracy and interest.

Laura Madera
Ad Manager
Major: Broadcasting
Past in Torch: Staff Writer fall 2011, Ad Manager spring 2012
Plans for the paper: To publish every issue with the utmost quality, becoming an acclaimed source of information among the students.

John Sapida
Features Editor
Major: Journalism
Past in Torch: Staff Writer fall 2011, Copy Editor spring 2012
Plans for the paper: To assure that The Torch is published with high accuracy and no errors.

Karl Reyes
Online Editor
Major: Journalism, Political Science, English
Past in Torch: Staff writer since fall 2011, Web Editor spring 2012
Plans for the paper: To provide The Torch with a web based medium that will produce high quality material. The standard of journalistic excellence is to be expected.

Arturo Sangregorio
Photo Editor
Major: Fine and Performing Arts
Past in Torch: Staff writer fall 2010, Photographer spring 2011, Photo Editor fall 2011/spring 2012
Plans for the paper: I plan to continue providing The Torch with well edited pictures, thus providing the reader with a newspaper that is not only enjoyable to read, but also to look at. I also plan to keep reporting on the music scene, making suggestions on artists and bands I think you guys should keep an eye out for.

Lew Wheaton
Advisor
Job: Assistant Professor, Journalism, in the Department of Communication
Past in Torch: Has been advisor to The Torch since fall 2008
Plans for the paper: To help make The Torch the best student newspaper in New Jersey and to win national recognition for our efforts

Adriana Szaboova
Co-Editor
Major: Mass Comm.
Past in Torch: Layout Editor fall 2009~Present
Plans for the paper: To attract attention with the best visuals in each article and attract readership.

Nita Lim
Layout Editor
Major: Liberal Arts
Past in Torch: Staff Writer fall 2011 and spring 2012, Layout Editor spring 2012
Plans for the paper: To enhance The Torch newspaper’s overall quality and attractiveness.

Laura Madera
Ad Manager
Major: Broadcasting
Past in Torch: Staff Writer fall 2011, Ad Manager spring 2012
Plans for the paper: To publish every issue with the utmost quality, becoming an acclaimed source of information among the students.

Christine McDonald
Layout Editor
Major: Liberal Arts
Past in Torch: Layout Editor fall 2009~Present
Plans for the paper: To attract attention with the best visuals in each article and attract readership.

Jessica Czarnogursky
Editor-In-Chief
Major: Literature
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Bookstore Improves Service

Jessi Lozano
SGA President

It appears that every time someone talks about the bookstore at Bergen Community College, most of the commentary is negative with issues such as high prices, long lines, book voucher delays and frustrated staff. Due of this, many new students avoid it. However, these comments, seemed to be spread by individuals who have had one or two bad shopping experiences, are affecting the view of the bookstore. However, many students are unaware as to why certain policies are in place.

The long lines outside the bookstore, for example, are due to maximum capacity standards. Having a low number of people in the bookstore at one time also acts as a safety precaution and allows shoppers to have an overall better shopping experience.

Students can avoid the lines by going to bookstore early in the morning or arriving during the times when classes are in session.

Another option is shopping online at www.e.follett.com and submitting the information about your school. By ordering online, students can either pick up the books at the store or have them mailed directly to their home.

Although the prices are high, it is not the fault of the store. The publisher and Follett assign all prices for books. The bookstore does not have the power to increase or lower the price of the books. Due of this, students do have the right to shop for books elsewhere, such as Chegg, Amazon, eBay or any other bookstore.

Another concern of students is the slowness of financial aid processing for the use of book vouchers. Sometimes financial aid does not update the program that is used by the bookstore that allows the cashier to access the student accounts to make purchases. Students become frustrated when they get all of their books and then come to find out that their financial aid does not cover them.

To avoid this, students should make sure to have a photo of their financial aid. A Bergen ID is easier to scan as well as preventing confusion because the student ID number is easily visible. Before picking up books, students should go to a register and ask a cashier to check the status of their financial aid.

The bookstore normally has four full time staff and about 6 student employees, but currently, during rush periods, they have hired about 20 BCC students in order to keep the bookstore running smoothly and efficiently.

Bookstore employees are willing to help their customers, and the convenience of it being right on campus is beneficial to all students.

With this knowledge, students can clear up any misconceptions they had about the bookstore. Be sure to pass along this information along to any other fellow students with the same misconceptions.

Find out more at wpunj.edu/campusvisit.

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A Secular Motion

Your next discovery.

David Gomez
Staff Writer

“You don’t have to be in the pew every Sunday to know there’s something wrong in this country.” This part of Rick Perry’s presidential campaign commercial is at least arguable.

In his ad, the Texas governor goes on to address the repeal of “Don’t ask, don’t tell” as it contradicts against children openly celebrating Christmas and using prayer in school (one case was recently filed toward Christian prayer.) “As president, I’ll end Obama’s war on religion and I’ll fight against liberal attacks on our religious beliefs,” he said. What he claims is being done to his “heritage.”

In this case, what the presidential nominee calls for is respect for impositions of religion, which is what we’ve seen in a number of cases involving politics. The right to ‘openly’ celebrate Christmas and pray in school isn’t being restrained, nor is it imposed. One can assume then that this is his aim, especially since he doesn’t mention any religion other than his own. This is the kind of implausible statement many candidates, evangelicals, and citizens alike have said in defense of their unauthorized right in infusing religion with public policy.

The same imposition was seen after President Obama delivered his Thanksgiving address to the nation. The religious, as well as the press, blamed him for not mentioning God. However, if he had done so intentionally, the president would be setting a standard that would benefit all if followed. Though no policies were involved, what is seen here is yet another example of religion’s tendency to rear its head where it does not belong, to not mention a diverson of matters that are actually significant.

Religion has been infused with politics as far back as anyone can remember. Today, candidates for the presidential election are expected to boast their faith because, in many ways, voters are persuaded to vote for those who share the same divine beliefs. This is an unhealthy tradition; in fact, it’s something to look down upon. It is written plainly in the Bill of Rights under the first amendment, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

However, the main attitude of the country is enough to make one believe such a law exists. This amendment does protect secularists, in that freedom of religion can also mean freedom from religion; there should not be an inflection by those who seek to make their holy beliefs the law of the land.

It would surprise some to find that many of the founding fathers were in the idea of secularism. The Enlightenment, an era devoted to reason and advancement of knowledge, had two famous idealists, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. In addition to influencing two of the most important figures in the American Revolution, it was this era that influenced our Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. Many of the founding fathers were deists, which would disprove the idea that this is at all a “Christian nation.” To have one religion rule the nation would be nothing short of fascist and it’s safe to say that the opposite is what the founders had in mind.

The only healthy motion to set is one of secularism. For too long has there been religious intolerance and intimidation in topics where there should be no say. For those who claim their religion is being undermined or suppressed can look to the Bill of Rights to find no right protecting religious intervention in unrelated affairs. It is about time that we allow religion to dictate nothing but itself.
Toll Increases or Highway Robbery?

Antonella Sielicki
News Editor

Driving home on the parkway, I was appalled to see a toll fee raised just a year ago, was raised again to $1.50. Though that may not sound like a substantial amount, but when you take that road everyday, it most definitely adds up. The state of New Jersey has hiked tolls by 50 percent on both the Garden State Parkway and 53 percent on the Turnpike.

The raises are the second part of a two-phase toll increase adopted by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority while under former Gov. Jon Corzine back in 2008. The tolls will go towards a 10 year program, costing $7 billion dollars that will include widening the two roads and other construction projects that will help decrease traffic and increase safety. While this all sounds optimistic, the current raise is astronomical when taking our country’s economic struggles into consideration.

Cathleen Lewis, Director of Public Affairs for AAA New Jersey Automobile Club said, “Our roads need to be repaired, and we need to find ways to fund that.” Unfortunately, the only way that seems to be working is toll hikes, which hit commuters right in the wallet. People are okay with increases to tolls and the gas tax as long as it’s going to the right places. And right now it’s not going to the right places."

With BCC located only minutes off the parkway, the new tolls are going to affect students especially. “The recent toll hikes have only served to burden my wallet. While it would be understandable to do so if the money was actually being spent on highway renovation, I have little faith that is how it is being used. Talk about highway robbery!”, said Karl Reyes, a journalism student commuting from Clifton. For a student who comes to school five days a week, spending $1.50 a day for the tolls adds up to an extra 15 dollars out of their wallets weekly. With minimum wage at only $7.25, that’s roughly two hours of work alone. This is an expensive students do not need.

The tolls have not only gone up in New Jersey, but New York as well. Due to the fact that BCC is one of the most distinguished community colleges in the tri-state area, many out-of-state students make the commute as well. For example, the George Washington Bridge is now at a staggering 12 dollars for those without EZ-pass, and 9 for those with it. For the students who were hoping to transfer to a university in the city and cannot afford to dorm, the toll may alter their decision.

As college students caught in this recession, we are hit the hardest. With trying to afford books and tuition, it is already a struggle to continue our education. Now, as gas prices are rising as well as the tolls, I can’t help but wonder if perhaps public transportation is the way to go.

An Uncertain Future

Alison Wynn
Contributing Writer

Just three miles away from BCC at the Meadowlands, the economic sinkhole formerly known as Xanadu is causing many problems for environmentalists and the taxpayers of New Jersey. This site that resembles a jigsaw puzzle gone wrong will end up costing almost two billion dollars.

Throughout the years, three different developers have left the project. The new developers, the Triple Five Group, have received $200 million in tax breaks so far. They are currently trying to do image control by altering the color of paint and the name of the mall from Xanadu to American Dream.

But is it a lost cause? Most of the jobs created for the people of New Jersey will only minimum wage. It will also be the “largest producer of greenhouse gas emissions in the state” according to the Sierra Club, one of the largest environmentalist groups in America.

The Meadowlands are important to our local ecosystem. What many people do not know is that they contain the largest wetlands in the northeast, which are home to many different species of birds, fish, and animals. The marshland protects us from floods by decreasing the amount of floodwater through spreading it over a larger area.

The most recent issue arising from the megamall that is sparking debate is that an additional five acres will be destroyed in order to build a water park. NJ Sierra Club member, Jeff Tittel, stated, “It’s ironic that you’re putting a water park in the wetlands.”

In the end, what is to stop the developers from wanting even more land? New Jersey should not waste this precious land. It should be protected.
Helpful Hints for New Students

Antonella Sielicki
News Editor

Entering a new school can be an overwhelming experience, especially one with over 30,000 students like Bergen Community College. It is quite easy to get lost in the shuffle and may not realize all the school has to offer.

For example, there is a fine dining restaurant with discounted prices that is run by the culinary students in Grier Hall. Another hot spot on campus that should be checked out is the Buehler Trust Observatory, which hosts open hours for RCC faculty and students to use their telescopes.

Here are some other helpful tips for new (and even returning) students to make this semester less overwhelming:

- Wages are labeled and color coded accordingly: L is the Library wing and is beige; C is the Cafeteria wing and is yellow; A is the Administration wing and is blue; S is the Science wing and is green; and finally, B is the Business wing and is purple.
- File for financial aid early; the earlier you apply, the quicker it will be processed.
- As you approach the semesters, always update your back-up plans, of course.
- A is the Administration wing and is blue-green; S is the Science wing and is green; and finally, B is the Business wing and is purple.
- Check out the happenings at the Bergen website to see if your class is still being held.

Perspectives: New Year’s Resolutions

Laura Madera
Ad Manager

New Year’s resolutions: they do not work for everyone, but that does not mean they do not work at all. As with everything in life, resolutions can depend on the approach taken and of course, its important to start with the end goal in mind to avoid getting lost along the way.

Making resolutions is a way of prioritizing and putting perspective into what is considered important. Each new year brings the hope and charm of the new and the unknown. What is there to expect of this New Year? All that you wish and dream, if only you resolve to do so.

The New Year is the perfect time to renew and revise previous resolutions or make new ones. At this time, one can afford to not look back and start anew. This is the only time when you officially have a clean slate and a cleansed mindset. No, the past is not erased, but there are 365 unused days before that you are much more important. A full year for you to make it happen exactly how you want it to happen (with a number of back-up plans, of course.)

Maryann De Pinto
Staff Writer

Facebook has grown to be a major part of life for many to speak their minds and share memories with each other. For the outgoing, this means hundreds of real life pictures of friends having fun. However, for some countless others who don’t lead an overly social life, Facebook is being used to fabricate a better life identity in role-playing.

Role-playing is a form of creative writing or sometimes acting in which a person takes on a character and writes under their name. It is an alternate identity that liberates people enough to be able to write scenarios they may otherwise never experience.

For example, people may post pictures from various websites which have no names attached and tag themselves and their friends thus creating a fictional moment in that person’s life.

- Take advantage of the tutoring center as well as the math and writing centers. Both programs are free and are always willing to help you!
- The library is a great source for resources. Computers are available for use and the librarians are more than willing to find information for you, especially for research papers.
- Registering for classes is free and can be a great alternative to paying for a membership somewhere else.
- Get a locker so you do not have to carry all your textbooks back and forth to class.
- Student Life and the Student Activities Board are always hosting fun and free (if not, cheap) events for students.
- Check out the bulletin boards!
- Become involved - with over 60 clubs and organizations, there’s something for everyone!
- Use ratemyprofessor.com to find a teacher who works well for you.
- For example, there is a fine dining restaurant with discounted prices that is run by the culinary students in Grier Hall.
- Another hot spot on campus that should be checked out is the Buehler Trust Observatory, which hosts open hours for RCC faculty and students to use their telescopes.

Perpetua Romain
Staff Writer

New Year’s resolutions are just goals resulting from the celebration of annual traditions. Every year, society is programmed to believe the start of a new year means a new life and a clean slate to do everything differently “this time around.”

As the year goes on, other traditions come into play by way of holidays, in which many resolutions lose their meaning and become obsolete. As the year comes to a close, mischief and immorality takes the main focus, then comes the sense of traditional family values. Afterwards, the focus becomes the New Year’s resolutions which can, at times, bring out the worst in people, and finally it’s back to a clean slate as if the entire year along with every action or practice did not actually occur.

In order to create change or start a fresh new mind set, it takes strong will and dedication to maintain goals. Why consider an attainable goal in the middle of the year and continue to practice the bad habits for the rest of the year, just for the sake of commencing January 1? The time to start is now, with a mindset that it will more than likely take trial and error to achieve, however with appropriate baby steps, these bad habits can be kicked.

No matter when the decision is made to improve one’s life, there will always be 365 days until the next point. Deciding to quit smoking on March 3 and striving not to touch a cigarette throughout the next time you meet March 3 does not lessen the dedication one may want to put forth from January 1. It is also more realistic to set short term goals, starting with accomplishing goals monthly, increasing to bi-annually and finally annually.

Each new year can truly bring something new to the table of life, yet one should not stay stagnant until then.

Facebook: Do These People Exist?

This phenomenon has grown to such a level that Facebook has sent bulletins to role-playing individuals asking them to stop. Role-playing is against Facebook’s guidelines for giving factual information for the purpose of identification. When asked about role-playing as a hobby, an anonymous source is quoted saying “As kids we play make believe for fun, as teens we just don’t want to give it up yet.”

Most role-players seem to be firmly grounded in their day-to-day existence and take on this new identity as a hobby to make friends who also enjoy role-playing. It is rare to find someone who uses it in exchange for Facebook; many choose to identify the profile as fake.

Some may think these individuals are out of their minds, but really it’s an ingenious way to escape an otherwise uneventful existence. Role-players tend to be creative writers who don’t have the patience to write full length novels. Their true identities are frequently found on other sites.

Laura Madera
Ad Manager

New Year’s resolutions: they do not work for everyone, but that does not mean they do not work at all. As with everything in life, resolutions can depend on the approach taken and of course, its important to start with the end goal in mind to avoid getting lost along the way.

Making resolutions is a way of prioritizing and putting perspective into what is considered important. Each new year brings the hope and charm of the new and the unknown. What is there to expect of this New Year? All that you wish and dream, if only you resolve to do so.

The New Year is the perfect time to renew and revise previous resolutions or make new ones. At this time, one can afford to not look back and start anew. This is the only time when you officially have a clean slate and a cleansed mindset. No, the past is not erased, but there are 365 unused days before that you are much more important. A full year for you to make it happen exactly how you want it to happen (with a number of back-up plans, of course.)

It is no wonder why so many people have such cynical attitudes towards New Year’s resolutions, or any resolutions at all. Consider the following tips from a SPEC Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely.

Do not set yourself up for failure and then blame anyone other than the one staring back at you in the mirror. Instead, help yourself be effective. Take advantage of the fact that you have a whole new year ahead and work hard so that everything else falls into place.

Perpetua Romain
Staff Writer

New Year’s resolutions are just goals resulting from the celebration of annual traditions. Every year, society is programmed to believe the start of a new year means a new life and a clean slate to do everything differently “this time around.”

As the year goes on, other traditions come into play by way of holidays, in which many resolutions lose their meaning and become obsolete. As the year comes to a close, mischief and immorality takes the main focus, then comes the sense of traditional family values. Afterwards, the focus becomes the New Year’s resolutions which can, at times, bring out the worst in people, and finally it’s back to a clean slate as if the entire year along with every action or practice did not actually occur.

In order to create change or start a fresh new mind set, it takes strong will and dedication to maintain goals. Why consider an attainable goal in the middle of the year and continue to practice the bad habits for the rest of the year, just for the sake of commencing January 1? The time to start is now, with a mindset that it will more than likely take trial and error to achieve, however with appropriate baby steps, these bad habits can be kicked.

No matter when the decision is made to improve one’s life, there will always be 365 days until the next point. Deciding to quit smoking on March 3 and striving not to touch a cigarette throughout the next time you meet March 3 does not lessen the dedication one may want to put forth from January 1. It is also more realistic to set short term goals, starting with accomplishing goals monthly, increasing to bi-annually and finally annually.

Each new year can truly bring something new to the table of life, yet one should not stay stagnant until then.

Everyone can be perfect online.
A Woman Without a Man is Like a Fish Without a Bicycle

-Gloria Steinem

Who needs a man?
I do not understand women who spend too much time primping
Emotionally limping, distraught over imperfection.
Why invest so much care into making him aware
That you are there, with your soul laid bare, when he does not care?
(Except about himself)
Spend more time on sowing, so your life can keep growing
So you know where you are going, others will see you glowing.
(Take care of yourself)
You will see what you will become
from the work you have done
The honors you have won and the path you have worn

By: Alyson Ann Cina

The Brain Drain

John Sapida
Features Editor

Jesse Kurtz
Contributing Writer

Whether you are a new or returning student, everyone gets lost on campus at some point. Do you know which offices and other places on campus can help you during your time at Bergen Community College?

Try figuring out the following riddles to find the most important resources a Bergen student needs:
1. You need to find your place, but don’t worry, I am surrounded by people that make you feel safe.
2. Apply for me! There is no fee. It will take a while, so fall in line.
3. You can’t pass your classes without the books you need. To buy, rent, or sell, I am all you need.
4. Computers and books all over the place. What more could you need to study at your own pace?
5. To be or not to be, that is the question. Don’t miss out on all the Bergen stages action.
6. Where else can you find some food while enjoying the company of those you choose?
7. Advice can be hard to find, however, this is the place where you can find the people who are there to guide.
8. A, B, C or all of the above. I am the place where you should get the grade you may or may not love.
9. Don’t know where to go when it seems like numbers are just unbearable? You learn a new thing everyday. If you need a helping hand, come here and you don’t have to pay!
10. While school just started, you might already be thanking of what classes are needed. Want to get ready for next semester? Come over and choose your courses.
11. You want to join a club, but don’t know how. This place will provide you with the information that will make you go wow!

Did you know them all without looking at the answers below? If so, your wit is amazing and you kept your brain from draining.

**Do you have Bergen related questions and need advice? Send a message to To reb’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/bergentorch or email your inquiries to ictorch@gmail.com and have your concerns answered in the Torch Student Newspaper’s newest feature, the advice column: Perpetua’s Prescription.**
Bergenstages opens the spring season with “The Heiress” by playwrights Ruth and Augustus Goetz. The production will be directed by Bergen Community College Professor James Bumgardner and will premiere on Feb. 23 in the Ender Hall Lab Theater, E-101.

The cast of The Heiress features both new and veteran Bergenstages actors and actresses. BCC freshman, Eireann Ingersoll, coming off her Bergenstages debut role as Mary in “A Man for All Seasons” will play the lead role of Catherine Sloper, the heiress who falls in love with Morris Townsend, played by Bergenstages veteran actor, Alexander Rivera. The heiress sacrifices her fortune to marry for love.

“You can expect romance, intrigue, betrayal, and heartbreak,” said Ingersoll. Rehearsals for The Heiress began about a week before the spring semester started and since then, the cast has been working hard to put this production together as they only have roughly a month to prepare for opening night. “With great commitment and dedication from the cast and crew, we will rehearse evenings and weekends until opening night! It’s quite a whirlwind but we have the cast that can do it,” says Professor Bumgardner.
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Would you marry for love or money? This is the question that audiences should have in mind when they see The Heiress. "I think you can expect some fine performances from our students. It’s a wonderful show and we hope the audiences walk out of the theatre debating over Morris’ intentions: Does he love Catherine or does he just love her money?" continued Bumgardner.

The Heiress will be shown from Feb. 23-25 and March 1-3 at 7:30 p.m. with a pair of 2 p.m. matinee shows on Feb. 25 and Mar. 3. Tickets are $10 for general admission and $7 for students and seniors.

Aside from the upcoming production of The Heiress, Bergenstages will also hold auditions for the spring musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. This show will be directed by Professor Mary Clifford and will open on April 12.
**Enter the Friend Zone**

**Karl Reyes**  
*Online Editor*

“You’re such a good friend.”

When uttered by a love interest, this cordial act of acknowledging a friendship between two people can be interpreted as the precursor of entering what is known as the “friend zone.”

The friend zone, or the derogatory form “friend zoned”, is when an individual enters into a relationship with their unreturned affections.

For many, the thought of being regarded as only a friend is incomprehensible. When interactions become skittish, the repercussions are typically numerous, there are a few steps that can help to alleviate the harsh reality of being turned down.

First, it is important to note that there are no absolutes when dealing with such matters. After all, just because a person does not reciprocate your feelings does not necessarily mean it is permanent.

A key facet to consider is to never expect anything from a friend. In the end, knowing the comforts of friendship is the key.

Your brain, speeding heart and sweaty palms have decided that for the rest of the semester this was going to be your favorite class. Whether it is a grueling 3 credits, this has officially become your favorite day of the week.

From experience, this newfound crush can either be good or bad. These crushes do not always take place in classrooms; at times, they happen at bus stops, labs, or perhaps with a friend’s friend; you always have lunch with in the cafeteria. When you are lucky, soon you will become this person’s ‘friend.’

Conversations will ensue out of the blue. You will see signs of mutual chemistry every time you talk, but you may start to hesitate about asking them out. This is where a wrong step can mortally wound you.

If all of the above applies to you this semester, try to act on it before it is too late. If you think you have found something that can go beyond a simple friendship, pursue it. Ask for a phone number, go to the cafeteria or grab a coffee together. Take it slow, but keep it steady. You will have an entire semester to score those ten dollars. It may be easier said than done, but have hope that it is worth trying.

In the end, you will feel so much at ease at least have the person say: “Sorry, but I am not interested,” than to forever wonder: “Was this person the one?” or “Did I have a chance?” Go for it! With the odds of one out of two, can who go wrong? However, if you do not try anything, then you stand no chance at all.

**Love, Health & Sex**

**Arturo Sangregorio**  
*Photo Editor*

Picture the following: the first day of the semester, you have new classes, new teachers, you have found an incredible parking spot (not on the grass) and are early to your first class. You feel pretty good. Your eyes are fixed on that classroom’s doorknob.

When uttered by a love interest, this cordial act of acknowledging a friendship between two people can be interpreted as the precursor of entering what is known as the “friend zone.”

There are only 24 hours in a day and for a college student, that may never have been the case. There is no traffic, you found a primo parking spot, the grass has healed, you are early to your first class. You feel pretty good. Your eyes are fixed on that classroom’s doorknob.

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**Sweet Dreams are Made of These**

**Jamie Kurtz**  
*Staff Writer*

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**The Art of Asking Someone Out**

Dr. Clete Kushida, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at the Stanford University Medical Center, expresses, “In the student-age population, studies have provided these helpful tips:

- Go to bed early
- Stay out of bed - Don't study, read, watch TV or talk on the phone in bed. Only use your bed for sleep.
- Limit naps and wake up early

on the weekend - Sleeping in later on Saturdays and Sundays will make it very hard for you to wake up for classes on Monday morning.

-Avoid caffeine and eating a large meal before bed.

Most people underestimate the power of sleep, but just as exercise and nutrition are essential for optimal health and happiness, so is sleep. With college students just getting out of winter break and getting back into their hectic lives, hopefully these few tips can lead you to a restful night of sweet dreams.
Valentine’s Day – a joyous occasion which commemorates the intimate bond between two individuals.

For many, the day is punctuated with gift giving and quality time with that special someone in their lives. As for the remainder that do not have a date for Valentine’s Day, it is quite common to experience feelings of loneliness, especially during the “winter blues.”

While there is no cure all in these regards, there are some generally accepted ideas on how to take the sting out of being single on a day that glorifies couples:

Nothing can be achieved by sulking over not having a date on Valentine’s Day. If entering a relationship is on the agenda, go out and start looking! Remember, there are many single people out there, and it is not too outrageous to say that singles have the propensity to go out and mingle on Valentine’s Day.

If the choice is taken to remain single, go out and enjoy the day with other single people. It is also more ideal to be in the company of loved ones, such as friends and family members.

Avoid reminiscing on past relationships or about “the one that got away.” Doing so on any other day is hard enough and can only be exacerbated on a day such as Valentine’s Day.

If there is an absence of a date, take solace in how much money that is being saved. This holiday is a consumer based one, and companies react by raising prices to reduce overhead and increase their profit in.

Keep in mind that a lot has changed since the holiday’s incarnation in circa 496 A.D. Much of the eure values that comprised Valentine’s Day have long since disappeared. In their stead arose an overly-commercialized, superficial, and completely arbitrary interpretation of what romance should be.

It is important to remember that Valentine’s Day is not about flowers, chocolate, or jewelry, but love. Love does not necessarily have to be for someone else, but rather, can be for oneself. Because In the words of the great Oscar Wilde: “Who, being loved, is poor?”

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Fashion Update: Color Blocking

Matthew Charles Friedberg
Staff Writer

Ever wonder why people are looking more and more like candy canes these days? This style is referred to as color blocking and it is a fashion that’s ridiculously in! Ever wonder how to do it? Here are some simple steps to color blocking.

Color blocking is achieved by taking two or more blocks of color from an outfit that do not mean that everyone else does. Think about the subject matter and how well you are acquainted with the recipient.

In cases of an emergency, it may be OK to send out a massive text about a shift that you’re desperate to get rid of. Sending work related texts every day is just plain annoying and your coworkers will regret exchanging numbers with you.

The next topic is more commonly used as a more formal method of communication than texting. If you are emailing someone, odds are you are not connected with the person in a casual way. Be sure to scan your content before sending.

If your email is intended for a friend or relative, make sure to use proper grammar — no acronyms please—and be sure that your information is clear and precise. Clarify your email subject matter in the subject line. Do not perpetuate a forward especially if it could offend or annoy your recipients.

If you are one in a number of recipients on an email, respond to sender, not to all. Replying to all could be confusing to others and may botch the purpose of the email.

It is hard to critique anyone’s social skills when speaking of Facebook. This vastly popular social networking website has been criticized by many for its ability to hinder people’s interpersonal communication skills. It is hard to keep yourself in check when this website is a part of the body. Just remember: use dark colors where parts are being concealed, and avoid horizontal stripes and use brighter colors where parts are being exposed.

One important thing to note before the color blocking begins is that bright colors are great, but they can also change the color blocking begins is that bright colors are great, but they can also change around it with yellow shoes and a yellow hat? The attention would not be on the black shirt now had orange color around it with yellow shoes and a yellow hat? The attention would not be on the black shirt now had orange colors are great, but they can also change around it with yellow shoes and a yellow hat? The attention would not be on the black shirt now had orange colors.

The holidays are over and everyone is getting back into the swing of the semester. However, February is here, so make sure to forget that special someone when Valentine’s Day comes along.

Egged Muffins with Ham and Cheese

Jesse Kurtz
Contributing Writer

The holidays are over and everyone is getting back into the swing of the semester. However, February is here, so make sure to remember that special someone when Valentine’s Day comes along.

You might be thinking, “What can I do to make this day for my special someone?” One idea that you can do to cherish the moment with your loved one is to make them a surprise breakfast to start your romantic day. A quick and easy way to make a delicious breakfast is to create egged muffins with ham and cheese.

You will need:
- 6 eggs
- 1/2 cups milk
- salt/pepper (which ever other seasonings you like)
- Canadian bacon
- 4 English muffins
- cheese (any kind of your choosing)
- fine grated Parmesan cheese

Procedure:
- First, cut the English Muffins, then toast them until they are light brown.
- Mix the eggs with the milk, salt, pepper, and whatever other seasonings you choose.
- Next, place the toasted English muffins on a baking sheet.
- Slice some Canadian bacon (enough for the English muffins), and place them on one half of the English Muffin
- Add slices of the cheese you like on top of the bacon.
- Then, pour the egg mixture on top of the English muffins.
- Lastly, put it in the oven to bake until the eggs are cooked and the cheese is melted.

Once the muffins are ready, place the English muffin halves together and serve. To spice up the presentation and impress your special someone, make sure to accompany it with a glass of juice and a rose. Bon Appetit!
Procrastination: The Art of Keeping Up With Yesterday

Adriana Szabova Co-Editor

Thomas Jefferson once said, “Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.” Jefferson was referring to a little thing called procrastination.

We have all been guilty of procrastination. Every one of us has put something off until the last minute, then crammed it in the time we had left, creating stress. With a few simple steps, you can avoid creating unnecessary stress for yourself and get back to living your life.

Time management can help with this problem. Of course we all know those select few that push things to the last second and then manage to whip up an amazing project. For those of us who do not possess this talent, here are some simple steps towards good time management:

After getting the assignment, task or creating a goal, be sure to write it down in a calendar or somewhere in constant sight. A monthly calendar or phone reminders are perfect. This will ensure the task is remembered.

The next step is to plan in advance. If a term paper is due in three months, make a goal to research one week. Maybe create an outline one week and write a page the next. As you immerse yourself deeper into the paper, you will find that writing pages will soon become no burden.

The next step is the most important. After creating a plan, force yourself to stick to it. Focus on one thing at a time, one goal at a time. This may be easier for some, but for others this will be the most difficult.

Acknowledging distractions and even feelings is important and a huge step. Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites are huge distractions. We all have lives, jobs and families which may all together become taxing and time consuming. To avoid any stress, plan to finish the project two weeks in advance to have some room to play around with.

If long term goals are a challenge, try a fall back plan. Focus on smaller goals. Weekly goals, even daily goals are a way to stay on track. Also, when students feel like they have accomplished something, no matter how small, it makes the student feel better. It is another form of motivation.

An important part to this step is to reward yourself. It may sound silly, but we all do things for rewards, whether it be a grade or a salary. A simple reward can be buying yourself something small or going out with friends. Using this incentive system, students are in a way bribing themselves to finish their own work. Think of it as motivation.

Once the project is complete, inform your boss, professor or whoever gave you the task. By letting them know, they may accept it early and give you extra points or even review it for you and tell you what corrections to make. This is a step that many people lose due to procrastination.

In the end, it is up to you to stop procrastinating. Only you can take charge, no one else. If you find yourself still procrastinating, do not be afraid to ask for help. People are willing to help.

We Apologize for the Inconvenience but the Image will be put in Tomorrow

Arturo Sangregorio Photo Editor

I have a wild confession to make: I am nearsighted, and have been suffering with this inconvenience for about 10 years now. Back when I was only 13 though, I had little to no say on what my glasses would look like.

Things, of course, changed when I obtained my first job and paid about $400 for a pair of Prada frames with anti-glare coated lenses. A couple of weeks after this pricey purchase, my dog devoured my expensive glasses, just as the week of finals began.

I was broke and I needed a quick fix, so my eye doctor suggested contact lenses. After four years of having to put these plastic things on my eyes, the time came for me to purchase glasses again. I wanted a pair that looked great and fit my needs, without having to pay $400 all over again. That is when Warby Parker came in.

Taking their name from two of Jack Kerouac’s early characters, Zagg Parker and Warby Pepper, Warby Parker is a company that was created with the purpose of providing the public with “boutique-quality, classically crafted eyewear at a revolutionary price point.”

The twist is that they ingeniously came up with a method to make the store come to you via their website. This method allows you to bid “adieu” to your beloved Lenscrafters store, and welcome Warby Parker into your house.

How does it work? Simple. Visit their website and browse through their catalogue of high-quality and incredibly cheap, yet well designed frames. Chances are, you already know what your ideal frames would look like, and Warby Parker will have something similar.

However, if you are as indecisive as me, the guys at Warby Parker have come up with a revolutionary idea to help you: their Home Try-On program. This program allows you the option of selecting up to five frames to have delivered to your house for free. You are allowed to keep the frames for five days and show them to your acquaintances or take pictures and post them on your Facebook. Once you get some opinions and make up your mind, send the frames back to Warby Parker and place your order.

After you have completed this simple process, a pair of great looking frames will be on their way to you, costing only $95. Your new frames will also include your prescription lenses and an anti-glare coating. Upon receiving your new specs, everyone will start complimenting you.

The brand snobs will begin to ask you if your new frames are Prada or Ray-Ban to which you may proudly respond: “No. They are Warby Parker!”

On a final note, it is important to mention that Warby Parker is charitable and donates a pair of glasses to a person in need every time you make a purchase. Not only will you be doing your looks and your savings account a big favor, but you will also be letting someone in need enjoy the perks of perfect vision.

How about that for a triple whammy!
The spring semester is now beginning and the Student Activities Board is ready to get back into the swing of things with our returning executive board: Jamie Kurtz, president; John Sapida, vice president; Jesse Kurtz, publicist; Matthew Cordero, president; John Sapida, vice president; Jeff Montano, treasurer; Karen Krouse, president, Catalina Robles, vice president, Jeff Montano, treasurer; Miranda Mutillo, secretary. Their executive board, that now consists of returning executive board: Jamie Kurtz, president; John Sapida, vice president; Jesse Kurtz, publicist; Matthew Cordero, secretary.

We all hope you will enjoy “Welcome Week” and we encourage you to sign up for some of the clubs and organizations on campus, including the Student Activities Board. If you want to make friends, run events, make memories and see a whole new outlook on Bergen Community College, then join the SAB and help make BCC a more enjoyable environment for the student body.

February is the month of romance, and we have events for you and your special someone. On Valentine’s Day the Student Activities Board is hosting it’s annual flower sale and photo booth. Come and give some flowers to your crush or take some funny pictures with your friends. Either way, you won’t be bored.

During February SAB will also be hosting our monthly Karaoke and Bingo. These events are totally free and open to all students, so join us and win some prizes while you play. These events will take place in the Student Center, and the dates will be announced later on.

Aside from our known events, SAB will be trying to start some surprising new ones. If all of this intrigues you, join the Student Activities Board now, you will not regret it. Our first meeting will be Feb. 6 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. The location is still unknown, but email us at bergen@ yahoo.com for updates of what is happening around campus. You can also follow us on twitter, BergenSab, or friend us on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/BergenSab.

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Looking Back: Best Tracks of 2011

1. Adele (Rolling in the Deep)- 2011
2. Gotye (Somebody That I Used to Know)- 2011
3. LMFAO (Party Rock Anthem)- 2011
4. Foster The People (Pumped Up Kicks)- 2011
5. Florence & The Machine (Shake It Out)- 2011
6. Jennifer Lopez (On The Floor)- 2011
7. Rihanna (We Found Love)- 2011
8. Lady Gaga (Born This Way)- 2011
9. Far East Movement (Like a G6)- 2011
10. Nicki Minaj (Super Bass)- 2011
**Upcoming Gadgets Hold Promise**

**Anthony Sganga**

Copy Editor

It seems with each passing year, the world of electronics and gadgets exceeds even the wildest of expectations. By early indications, 2012 will be no different, with Apple, Microsoft, and Android offering a bevy of new and innovative devices. Apple looks to build on previous years by reintroducing an iMac with a Thunderbolt port. The release is expected on Feb. 24, a symbolic date, being what would have been the late Steve Jobs birthday.

The new iPad is also rumored to have a hi-resolution display with 2048 x 1536 pixels. New features are also said to include a faster processor, longer battery life, and a thinner body.

Later on in the year, Apple plans to follow tradition with a summer release of the iPhone 5. This iPhone is likely have a larger 4-inch display, faster processor, more memory and new design. Look for the new iPhone in late June or early July.

More surprising, Apple may also release their own brand of high definition televisions. These TVs are rumored to feature a Siri integration and link both television with the Internet, music, games and social networking.

In the PC industry, consumers should look forward to the release of Microsoft's newest operating system, Windows 8. Following the success of the release of Windows 7 in 2009, Windows 8 looks to be drastically different in both interface and programs. Mimicking the Windows Mobile interface, the new operating system looks to bring the user and computer closer making it easier for touchscreen use.

Video games also look to take a step forward this year with Nintendo updating the Wii. The Wii U will feature 1080p graphics, a large improvement over the first Wii, which only went up to a standard 480p. The system will also have a touchscreen controller and larger memory.

This year looks to be an exciting year for electronic consumers with many improvements throughout the market. Be on the lookout for these devices in the upcoming months.

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**2011 Video Game Wrap Up**

**Chris Raghoboar**

Staff Writer

2011 was a year full of well-made video games. All factors in consideration, this was the year of the sequel and prequel in the video game industry. Let's run through the five biggest games of the year.

1. The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim (PC, 360, PS3)

Latterly the biggest game of the year, Skyrim is a highly realistic, open world RPG. Faced with the task of completing its mission, this game put the world as its base to explore. The world of Skyrim is one that envelopes you for a very long time, just watch out for the arrows!

2. The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword (Wii)

Marked the 25th anniversary of The Legend of Zelda franchise. Nintendo chose to celebrate the landmark by releasing what is arguably the best entry since The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time. Armed with the most precise Wii controls to date, Skyward Sword is the most beautiful, epic, and fun Zelda game made to date.

3. Gears of War 3 (360)

Five years ago, Gears of War changed the game by bringing a chainsaw to a gunfire. The third and final installment, this epic Gears of War Trilogy delivers with an intense story, addicting multiplayer, and great visuals, making a worthy conclusion to an amazing series.

4. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 (All platforms)

Modern Warfare has evolved into a franchise of its own, and MW3 is the latest installment. Castleing a history of shattered entertainment records and went on to gross $1 billion faster than “Avata.” Fun, addicting and great-looking too, Modern Warfare 3 is a game that almost lives up to its hype.

5. Batman: Arkham City (PC, 360, PS3)

This follow-up to the acclaimed “Batman: Arkham Asylum” finds Batman in his most thrilling quest yet as he tries to break out of Arkham Asylum. Immense and detailed world, an enhanced fighting system, and perfect acting make this one of the best Batman entries across any entertainment medium.

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**Renaissance Portraits Come To The Met**

**John Sapida**

Features Editor

Leonardo da Vinci once advised: “How to make a portrait after seeing the subject only once: You must commit to memory the variations of the four different features in profile, which would be the nose, the mouth, the chin, and the forehead.”

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is hosting masterpieces of Renaissance portraiture in a special exhibit called, “The Renaissance Portrait from Donatello to Bellini.” Located in the second floor of the Metropolitan Museum of Art near the European Paintings Wing, this special exhibit will continue until March 18.

Renaissance portraiture became prominent between the 15th and 16th centuries, most notably in Florence, Italy. During the Renaissance, portraits were a rarity and were only available to rulers and historical figures. These portraits were not only distinct to the identity of the subject, but were often created to be memorable and passed down to the next generation. Now, for the time being, these portraits have been passed down to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The exhibit features masterpieces by an array of artists including Botticelli, Verrocchio, Leon Battista Alberti, Donatello, Giovanni Bellini, Leonardo da Vinci and more. Surely this group of artists would attract some attention.

One of the more popular masterpieces on display was a sketch of Lorenzo de Medici by Leonardo da Vinci. Monted by Queen Elizabeth II for the exhibit. The sketch was done with ink on paper and was most likely based on a portrait of one of the most prominent leaders in Florence. His palace contained many pieces of art including marble busts of the Medici family.

This exhibit is only one of the many held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Met is closed on Mondays and holidays, but is open Tuesday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission to the Met is $25 for adults, $17 for seniors, $12 to students and free for children 12 and under.

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**Unique Look Into the Author of America**

**David Gomez**

Staff Writer

The death of author, journalist, and polemics Christopher Hitchens, has left the fight for reason without its strongest and most provocative spokesman. His devotion to reason as an end in itself, and his collection of writings he left behind. Among them is the authentic biography of our third president and author of the Declaration of Independence, “Thomas Jefferson: Author of America.”

Hitchens’ biography of this revolutionary man portrays him as a person, unlike many historical texts about founding fathers. These texts give dull summaries of their role in the American Revolution. In Hitchens’ outstanding piece, we are given a look into Jefferson’s character.

Hitchens acknowledges Jefferson’s presidency as one of the most crucial in American history. “It is in the highest degree improbable that the United States would exist as we know it today, or even as we knew it a century ago,” said Hitchens in the biography.

With his nation-building chapters such as the Louisiana Purchase, Barbary Wars and the Lewis and Clark expedition to the West, Jefferson began to expand the country. He also organized a system for transportation for all sectors of the economy to accommodate our expansion.

This person, as we come to learn, was a man who felt strongly about science and reason, which is reflected by his credulity toward religion. Regarded as an Enlightenment thinker for his devotion to reason, Jefferson approved of and was inspired to lead this nation down the road of secularism.

There is, of course, the summary of his political role, but Hitchens reminds us of the grip and grain and how revolutionary our revolution was.

Within the life of a man who showed very little sense of humor, Thomas Jefferson is the author of America in the sense that he authored the Declaration of Independence. However, in this biography we are shown that he is an author in many more respects.
Crunch Time For Ice Cold Bulldogs

David Gonzalez
Sports Editor

Halfway through the season, Bergen Community College’s women’s basketball team record stood at 6-8. Losing three straight games before the winter break, has made it a long season for Head Coach Tracy Green and company.

Bergen’s last win came at home on Dec. 15 against Cumberland County College. At the time BCC had a record of 6-5 with a league record of 5-4. Since then, losses on the road in league play has cut their winning record down to 6-12 and 5-10 respectively heading into the Break.

The Lady Bulldogs last regularly scheduled game of 2011 came by way of a December 22, 61-44 loss via Glaster County College. Bergen would not play another game until the new year.

Jan 12, the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) gave Bergen their first loss 49-47. Followed by a Jan 19, win over Camden Community and a Jan. 24, 74-52 win over Brookdale.

“It’s a long span and tough to keep them focused,” said Green.

Bergen has to go 7-5 after the break to make the playoffs. Over this stretch, Bergen will have five rematches of teams they beat in the regular season.

“Hopefully, we can make the playoffs,” said Odalen.

Basketball is poised for a second-half comeback.

Leadership

Legacy of Leadership

Jesse Kurtz
Contributing Writer

Twenty year-old Yojaira Orozco, co-captain of the Bergen Bulldogs women’s basketball team, is a team player that deserves to be recognized.

Yojaira’s father helped fuel her interest in sports starting in the sixth grade.

When asked why she chose basketball, she responded, “Because I didn’t make the cheerleading team.”

Throughout high school Orozco was also a part of the cross country and track teams, where she was not only on the varsity team of all three, but captain of them as well.

Now, being in college, Orozco has taken all that she learned with her. She is currently a small forward for the women’s basketball team. As co-captain, Orozco keeps the spotlight on her teammates, saying, “I am proud of my team.”

After practicing hard for days, team member Tia Cangialosia had made a half court shot, impressing not only the rest of her team but Orozco as well. Although she feels her team could always do better, especially when they come together, she is very proud.

In order for the Bulldogs to make the National Tournament, they need to have a record of at least .500 in either their league play or within their overall standings. This accomplishment would have special meaning to the team and Orozco believes they are more than capable of achieving this goal.

When asked why being a part of sports and the basketball team important to her, she stated, “[you learn] teamwork, and how to work well with others and different types of people, it builds character and prepares you for life,” said Buonomo.

For more information on BCC sports, teams schedules and standings visit www.region19.org.

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Bulldogs Poised For Mid Season Blitz

David Gonzalez
Sports Editor

Midway through this season, BCC’s men’s basketball team Head Coach Matt Odalen takes account of a 6-11 record. “Early on, we had a lot of ups and downs,” said Odalen. “There were a few games we should have won early on.”

Odalen attributes those losses to the unexpectedly departures of some key players. Now, with things looking up, with the inclusion of the crucial center position, but they lost some much needed height as well.

The team is smaller than they originally planned on in presession and since size is something you cannot coach, some major defensive and offensive adjustments had to be made. Bergen was forced to play small ball.

Regardless, Bergen got off to a 0-3 start. By losing five of their first six games and splitting their next 10, Bulldog Basketball is poised for a second-half comeback.

“We had some tough losses,” said Odalen.

On Nov. 8, the second game of the year, Bergen lost an away game in New York to Queensborough Community College, 98-101 in overtime. Another tough loss came at the hands of North Hampton County Community College at home on Dec. 10.

“Yes, we dug ourselves into a little bit of a hole, but we’ve fought back a little in the second half,” said Odalen.

Bergen played well against Ocean County Community College on Dec. 20. Bergen led throughout, but Ocean came back and handed BCC a 76-64 loss. Two days later, Dec. 22, Bergen was down 17 at the half to Union County Community College, however, the Bulldogs fought back fiercely to end up winning the game.

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The New England Patriots have a score to settle with the New York Giants after the Patriots’ loss four years ago in Super Bowl XLII after their hopes for a perfect season were shattered.

At 18-0, many analysts considered the 2007 Patriots the greatest team in NFL history, gaining comparisons to the legendary 1972 Miami Dolphins, the only team ever to go undefeated.

The Giants’ victory was a lightning strike to the heart of the New England Patriots and their fans, a strike which left an indelible mark of 18-1. That lightning will not strike again in 2012.

The New England Patriots will win this year’s Super Bowl by a predicted score of 32-17 led by the best quarterback in the league, Tom Brady. In a game now dominated by quarterbacks and how well an offense performs, the Patriots have more offensive weapons than any defense in the league can handle.

With two of the leagues top tight ends in No. 87, Rob Gronkowski, and No. 81, Aaron Hernandez, the player mismatches will prove to be too much for the New York Giants’ defense to withstand.

In addition to the tight ends, Tom Brady has a fundamentally sound running game in No. 42, Benjarvis Green-Ellis, and two great wide receivers with No. 83, Wes Welker, and No. 84, Deion Branch.

With the Giants’ front four posing a major threat to Brady’s explosive offense, the New England offensive line will prove they can protect their future hall of fame quarterback.

Although the Patriots’ offense has been receiving a lot of hype this season, their defense has made the biggest comeback of any team in the postseason.

So be advised, the Giants’ offensive line has given up too many sacks in the playoffs, and those types of problems don’t magically disappear.

Super Bowl XLVI: Who Will Win?

Giants

Anthony Sganga
Copy Editor

After the conclusion of one of the most thrilling NFC Championship Games to date, the New England Patriots will take on the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLVI on Feb. 5.

While the Patriots enter the match-up as three point favorites, the Giants are by no means an underdog. It is even a possibility that they may walk away with a fourth Lombardi Trophy. Here are some factors that will play a role in deciding the Giants’ destiny.

During the NFC Championship Game, the Giants’ offense showed that they can be resilient, even in the face of a top defense. After being sacked six times, No. 10, Eli Manning, still found ways to hit his receivers, No. 80, Victor Cruz, and No. 88, Hakeem Nicks, made receptions even in the tightest of spaces.

This quality will need to be shown again as the Patriots’ No. 75, Vince Wilfork, a key contributor in New England’s 23-20 victory over the Ravens, will surely find ways to disrupt the Giants offensive line and have Manning throw out of the pocket.

Continuing with the offense, the running duo of No. 27, Brandon Jacobs, and No. 44, Ahmad Bradshaw, will need to have a strong showing in order for the Giants to keep the Patriots in check.

If New York’s running game can be consistent, this will allow long drives that will keep No. 12, Tom Brady on the sidelines where he is least dangerous. If the two backs can combine for more than 150 yards, a Giants victory becomes much more probable.

On defense, the Giants have shown increasing strength since their Christmas Eve win against the Jets. Since then, the Giants defense has allowed an average of 13.4 points per game.

Another factor on defense will be if the Giants will be able to pressure and sack Tom Brady like they did in Super Bowl 42. Brady is susceptible under pressure and is prone to throw an errant interception that could mark the difference between victory and defeat.

Still, given these factors, when the final whistle is blown at Lucas Oil Stadium its 24-20, Giants.

Patriots

Sam Halibi
Staff Writer

The New England Patriots have a score to settle with the New York Giants after the Patriots’ loss four years ago in Super Bowl XLII after their hopes for a perfect season were shattered.

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