Faculty Finally Secures 4-Year Contract

JAMES O. DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

The BCC faculty had encountered zero job security for nearly three years, as a result of working without a contract. Finally, on March 29, 2016, the BCCFA (BCC Faculty Association) voted on a new contract during a union meeting. The meeting comprised of the entire BCC full-time faculty, along with several Faculty Association representatives. When it came time to vote, the proposal was approved unanimously by voice vote by the faculty union members.

Several factors came into play that caused the three year delay to secure a contract.

One of the issues was a prior legal consultant who had no experience working with higher education. The college had hired Marvin Goldstein as a legal consultant and board negotiator back in 2013, and maintained the position for the duration of the calendar year.

Goldstein, an already retired lawyer, was often said to have been hostile and worked unprofessionally.

“This thing got dragged out longer than anybody expected. We went almost 16-18 months with a guy who wasn’t working with scholastics,” said Michael Echols, Chair of the BCCFA Representative Assembly.

The change in the style of negotiations depended on how labor talks would work in the past, according to Echols.

“If you go back to many years ago, when we had one vice president who would negotiate, and the old president of our union. They would go into a room and yell and scream to each other, they’d knock out a deal, and go to Biagio’s and have a beer together. Those days are gone,” added Echols.

Goldstein was paid $545,000 during the entire duration, yet a contract was not settled during that timespan.

Goldstein was later replaced by a new legal consultant, Matthew Giacobbe, who many felt was more approachable and had years of experience working with higher education.

LAWRENCE M. FRANK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Medical students are getting the short end of the stick with Bergen’s new printing policy. It is no mystery that the majority of medical students are paying a fortune on their education. But now they’re going to have to pay even more, just to be able to have their work printed.

The 2012 average education expenses for medical graduates who were in debt was $170,000, and 86 percent of medical graduates report having education debt, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. On top of the financial hardships they have to be cautious of, they now need to keep an eye on how many pages they print, as to not exceed the 150 page limit and be charged a fee for what was recently free.

The new printing policy, formally known as Pay-to-Print, is now in full force. It is already set up and is affecting a certain amount of students. Some students were even unaware of Bergen’s new policy stating they had no idea they had to pay to print after exceeding 150 pages. They feel as if the school didn’t do enough to inform them.

Rudy Garland, an aspiring veterinarian, said, “I don’t think it’s fair honestly. I print out pages on pages for my classes and now I’m going to be paying for it on top of everything I already pay for.”

Pay-to-Print Hurting Medical Students?
Two new BCC Board of Trustees positions will be chosen within the next 30 days, according to Bergen County Executive James Tedesco.

“I am hoping by the May BOT meeting, those names will be up to the college board,” said Tedesco.

The terms of Trustee members James Demetrakis and James Napolitano expired on October 31 of last year, but they still served on the board due to a six-month holdover. An interview committee was put together by the County Executive, and resumes have been solicited from candidates throughout Bergen County.

Tedesco wasted no time in choosing his first appointee, as he placed Gerard Carroll, a professor at Bergen County Technical School, onto the board during the April 5 BOT meeting. The appointment would effectively replace Napolitano from the board.

“Just hope that my experience in education and working with students can bring something good to the table here, as well as understanding the curriculum and things of that nature,” said Carroll after being sworn in.

According to Tedesco, the number of potential choices for Demetrakis’ position has been narrowed down to roughly eight candidates by the Trustee Search Committee.

The Board consists of 11 total members, eight of which are appointed by the County Executive, two that are appointed by Governor Chris Christie and an Alumni Trustee that is voted on by the students. The trustees have monthly public meetings to oversee activities in the college. They have the duties to veto or ratify proposals that directly affect the college’s activities in the college. They have the duties to veto or ratify proposals that directly affect the college’s policies, budget, and the educational curriculum.

The search for trustees is done in accordance with The New Jersey Council of County College’s “Community College trustee Appointment Guideline,” which aim to provide depth, balance and diversity within the board.

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During the term of former County Executive Kathleen Donovan, there was criticism over the board not accurately representing the demographic of the college. Since Tedesco was sworn into office in 2015, returning trustee Germaine Ortiz (who previously served in 2005) was added to the board. The addition of a Hispanic female onto the board was well received, as 25 percent of students at BCC are Hispanic, according to the college 2015 fact book.

With the replacement of Demetrakis and Napolitano (who were appointed by Republican Donovan), it remains to be seen if the new trustee members fall more in line with Tedesco’s Democratic views which have, at times, been at odds with some of the college administration’s actions.

“We will always have disagreements,” said Tedesco. “But it doesn’t mean that you should stop supporting the college. My support of the college has never wavered. I want to make sure that everyone who wants a good education gets an education.”

When Tedesco was elected in office, he restored the college’s county budget to levels that had not been seen since 2010, after Donovan lowered the amount of money given to the college. However, due to a stagnation in state funding, the college still ended up having to cut 64 lecturers and 150 part-time positions last summer.

“I would say that it is unfortunate that in the economy that we are in, that happened in the county also. We had to lay off people also,” said Tedesco.

“I would leave it up to the educators as to where those cuts need to be made. I want to make sure that the educators are making decisions and not the bureaucrats and administration.”

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Tutoring Center Wins Program of The Year

NOURA DAKKA

Once again, our very own Cerullo Learning Assistance Center has won the award for top tutoring center in the country. The National Tutoring Association will present Bergen Community College’s tutoring center with the Program of the Year award at the annual conference held in Tampa, Florida this year, from April 1 to April 6.

With around 165 peer tutors assisting over 9,000 students in the last academic year, the CLAC has been helping students with 300 hundred different courses within Mathematics, Science, Writing, Languages, Humanities, and Music. The tutoring center offers one on one appointments with tutors, walk-ins, and even study groups for BCC students. The center now also has In-Class Tutor Model, where peer tutors attend certain courses and assist the class hands-on during the lectures.

“What makes the tutoring center work is honestly the fact that we offer consistent streamlined services, and that is accomplished by the tutors that are completely centralized,” said Margaret Maria Roiti, Manager of CLAC. The center’s main priority is to be “student centered and faculty oriented.” “A lot of our services have been created based on student and faculty demand,” added Roiti. Last year, CLAC won the National College Learning Center Association Frank L. Christ Outstanding Learning Center Award. Today, CLAC is working on expanding and working on improving the tutoring center for the better of BCC students. A grant given to STEM has made it possible for the center to update the technology in rooms L-106 and L-107 with smartboards to make it easier for tutors to present lectures.

Working there helped me grow intellectually. The direct interaction with the students and the co workers improved my communication skills and my leadership skills,” said Ravan Alhaw, a tutor at CLAC. She has been a tutor for one year now, and even though she graduated from BCC she still loves her job and is still tutoring. “Nevertheless, the supervisors are really understanding and helpful. They work with us to best help students, and provide all the necessary support,” said Alhaw.

BCC is the first in New Jersey for members achieving an associate degree for the past two years, and it is safe to say that CLAC is one of the reasons that this is attainable. “We wouldn’t be here unless if it weren’t for our students and we wouldn’t be here unless if our faculty and staff promoted us as much as they do,” expressed Roiti.

BCC students are welcome and encouraged to visit their tutoring center in Room L-125 of the Pitkin Education Center.

NEWLY REVIVED SAB HOSTS “2016 LEADERSHIP PARTY”

GABE WANISSIAN

The reformed Student Activities Board wanted no time in making their presence felt on campus, as they held an inaugural “2016 Leadership Party” for BCC’s student leaders. E-board members from various clubs and student organizations filled up West Hall on Thursday, March 24, a day hosted by SAB that unified the student body.

“We just wanted more community among the clubs on campus. We know they are active, but we wanted them to be amongst their peers and bond even more,” said SAB president Shamar Gil.

Planning for the event began around a month ago, in which members of SAB met on a weekly basis to lay the groundwork for the night. The time spent to craft it all together would lead right up to its starting time. “The entire team was here all day since 8 in the morning setting up over 1500 people,” said Gil.

What makes the event work is honestly the fact that we offer consistent streamlined services, and that is accomplished by the tutors that are completely centralized," said Margaret Maria Roiti, Manager of CLAC. The center’s main priority is to be “student centered and faculty oriented.” “A lot of our services have been created based on student and faculty demand,” added Roiti.

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JOIN THE TORCH Meetings every Tues., 12:30 p.m., SC-11C-D
Bergen Commencement to be at MetLife

After previously being held at the Izod Center and the Meadowlands Exposition Center, MetLife Stadium will be the location of Bergen Community College’s 47th Commencement Ceremony taking place on Thursday, May 19 at 10 a.m. The stadium located in East Rutherford, NJ, was chosen for convenience purposes and seating space. “It’ll provide a memory for students the rest of their lives,” said Managing Director of Public Relations Larry Hlavenka.

The keynote speaker will be Bakari G. Lee, who is the chair-elect of the Association of Community College Trustees. More than 6,500 trustees are represented by this organization. Last year’s speaker, Cid D. Wilson, was formerly on Bergen Community College’s Board of Trustees.

The Dean of Student Life Rachel Lerner Colucci gave more details on the ceremony itself. “It will take place centerfield with students seated there, with family and friends in the endzone.”

JOHN CALIXTE

EMILY WEIKL

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Faculty contracts

(continued from Pg. 1)

Education.

“Giacobbe seems to understand the process more than the former college negotiator, said Alan Kaufman, the Secretary of the BCCFA. “The contract took three years to negotiate because negotiations are difficult and complex,” added Kaufman.

The new contract will have several new items, such as increases in base salaries, sick leave payments, and minimum overload rates. In compliance with the NJPLF, 2010, members hired before May 21, 2010 will receive, on retirement, a maximum of $17,500 sick leave payment. Members hired after said date will have a maximum payment at retirement of $15,000 for accumulated sick leave.

Faculty salaries will be given a raise of $1,500, $1,800, $1,900, and $1,975, for each respective year in the contract.

Lecturers will be excluded from the above proposal. Furthermore, Faculty members will receive a five percent increase to their base salary upon receiving their terminal degree, such as a Ph.D., in their field.

Although it took a long time, I think that both sides are satisfied with the terms of the agreement. Now that the contract has been settled, we can get back to the business of education,” said the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. William Mullaney.

The contract proposal was officially ratified via unanimous decision during the April 5 Board of Trustees meeting.

“It worked out, I believe, in the best interest of everyone. And I would hope that the future negotiations are cast in the same light,” said BOT Chairman E. Carter Corriston.

Faculty contracts //Henry Fowler

Bergen WiFi issues upset both students and faculty //Illustration by Jessica Rodriguez

JOHN CALIXTE

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Kim Ritchie, the Help Desk Manager of the Information Technology Services, along with the help of her colleagues, have emplaced a new secure wireless network this past June. Instantly the Wi-Fi appeared to be a major improvement from the way it was during the 2014-15 school year. According to Larry Hlavenka Jr., who is the Managing Director of the Office of Public Relations of Bergen Community College, the IT Department has taken big steps to improve our Internet access.

“There’s been a lot of transition there for the past few years, a few new directors and a lot of good changes,” said Hlavenka.

“The college is ahead of the curb on a lot of things, but there’s other things that we need to make improvements on, that not just at Bergen, that all colleges go through it,” said Hlavenka.

“Students at Bergen just might be a bit spoiled with the Wi-Fi they tend to forget that although it isn’t the best, we still have the luxury of going on any website without any hassles.

“Some schools, they’ll block social media or they’ll block Netflix, we don’t do any of that we don’t restrict access and we allow you to access Wi-Fi to five devices,” said Hlavenka. Better Wi-Fi on campus would mean unlimited bandwidths and according to Hlavenka, “It’s just not a possibility.”

No matter how impatient the students are, they will have to continue waiting, as modifying the Wi-Fi won’t happen overnight.

“It’s an evolution; it’s a process that doesn’t stop. The college is ahead of the curb on a lot of things, but there’s other things that we need to make improvements on, that not just at Bergen, that all colleges go through it,” said Hlavenka.

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Larry Hlavenka

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EMILY WEIKL

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No High Five to the WiFi

Bergen WiFi issues upset both students and faculty //Illustration by Jessica Rodriguez

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US UNLEASHES AIR STRIKES ON SOMALIA

Michelle Citron is a medical student who passed the 150 page limit in three weeks. “I used to be able to print something that was beneficial for me because I rent my textbooks, but now I’m going to have to buy my own print,” she said. “It’s gotten to the point where I have to go to my local library and print because it’s a lot cheaper there than it is here. I’ve never had a problem where I had to pay to print, and I’ve been to Ramapo and William Paterson.” When asked if she deems the 150 page limit to be fair, Michelle says, “I think it should definitely be more than 150 pages for health professions students.” Citron was also asked what would be a better way to handle the new printing policy, she states “Either have a higher page limit or have students who are printing way more than the average student monitored to make sure it’s Bergen affiliated. We pay enough already with our tuition.”

Some medical students can’t afford to pay for print, they’ve used all their money into their tuition.” says Professor Claire Cyrax, an adjunct in the nursing department. “Rutgers gives you a $30 printing card built into your tuition.” This is equivalent to 750 pages of black and white paper, since each paper costs 4 cents. Also double sided sheets have the same rate as the single. While here in Bergen, after 150 pages, black and white paper cost a dime each and double sided sheets cost 15 cents.

Michelle Citron was then asked what could be done to save money for medical students. “I think they should pay for the certain articles online for your class. Why pay over $100 for a book if you’re only going to be flipping to a certain article within that book? It’s a waste of space and money. If you buy them online, you can choose to print them out or not, and save tons.”

“It’s gotten to the point where I have to go to my local library and print because it’s a lot cheaper there than it is here.”

Nursing Student Michelle Citron

Larry Hlavencek Jr. the Managing Director of the Public Relations & Creative Services department, says “There are now printing 78 percent fewer pages in the free time printing labs and in the library’s it’s about 75 percent less pages printed.”

“If there are a group of students being disproportionately affected, we’ll investigate and see what warrants action. The key point is that this is the first semester with the new printing process, when we get all the data we can see if 150 pages is really enough. We can look at the percentages of papers printed by students and evaluate and change if needed.”

Chemistry Professor Brant Chapman believes the new printing policy was an acceptable way to handle the issue, but there could have been a better way to decide who pays money for the coin, on one hand, the cost of living has been rising every year, and Bergen’s been losing its income. But to get that money from the students is kind of an issue.” Chapman says “Its Idealism vs Reality. You want to make the best choice but you also have to be realistic, someone is bound to get hurt. While I understand what they did, I just hoped there would’ve been a better way of handling this.”

The past three years, there has been an increase in the cost of living of almost 2 percent a year. Because of this, BCC has seen a steady decrease in revenue. 2017 is expected to see a 3 percent increase in the cost of living. A couple options were put out there to cover these costs without raising tuition. This also promotes a reasonable usage of paper and printing. A large portion of the papers printed are waste and are thrown out. This will help Bergen control an escalating problem it had. According to the college, papers printed rose from 2.2 million in 2013 to 3 million in 2014, those numbers would have kept rising.

Granting all of that, there are still students being affected. At the moment, there are no plans to change the new printing policy.
# 2015-16 Public Safety Crime Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/4/2015</td>
<td>11:48</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Suspect In Custody of BCPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8/2015</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Wallet Turned in to Lost &amp; Found Cass Missing BCPD Appraised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8/2015</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td>Student Under the Influence of Marijuana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8/2015</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Parking Lot C</td>
<td>Student Arrested for Possession of Controlled Substance</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/8/2015</td>
<td>11:05</td>
<td>Paramus Campus</td>
<td>Argument Between Supervisor and Staff; Staff Felt Threatened by Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14/2015</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Student Removed from Class; Allowed Back in Class After Things Settled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/19/2015</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Dunkin Donuts</td>
<td>Disruptive Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/15/2015</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>L-321 Mens Room</td>
<td>Bias Graffiti in Mens Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/16/2015</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>S-153</td>
<td>Staff Member's Jacket Stolen from Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/16/2015</td>
<td>12:15</td>
<td>Financial Aid A-129</td>
<td>Disruptive Male Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/16/2015</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Library 3rd Floor</td>
<td>Male Student Disruptive</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/21/2015</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Testing Hallway</td>
<td>Disruptive Female Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/17/2015</td>
<td>2:40</td>
<td>Testing -127</td>
<td>Disruptive Female Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/19/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>W-271 A</td>
<td>Students Plagiarized Papers</td>
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<td>1/19/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>A-205a</td>
<td>Stolen Apple Mac Pro 15&quot;</td>
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<td>1/19/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>B-203</td>
<td>Theft of Textbook, Returned</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/20/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Male Non-Student Harassing Two Female Students</td>
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<td>1/9/2016</td>
<td>12/03</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Professor Harassed by Emails</td>
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<td>1/25/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Theft of Cellphone, Returned</td>
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<td>1/20/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Female Student Aide Disruptive</td>
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<td>1/27/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Male Student Harassing Other Male Student</td>
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<td>1/26/2016</td>
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<td>B Lot</td>
<td>Male Student Punched Out Rear Car Window</td>
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<td>1/28/2016</td>
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<td>Bursar</td>
<td>Female Student Disruptive</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
<td>Theft of Sweater and Wallet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
<td>Theft of Cellphone</td>
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<td>2/2/2016</td>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
<td>Female Student Assault</td>
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<td>A-118</td>
<td>Restricted Female Student on Campus</td>
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<td></td>
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201-493-4088
Criticising Neo-Masculinity and a Pro-Rape Blogger

SIMON SHKRELI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

About a week ago, I came across a trending figure on the internet, Daryush Valizadeh, or who he legally calls himself now, Roosh V. He is a blogger and self-proclaimed journalist who has recently gained attention from popular news outlets for openly advocating in the legalization of rape. Angered, but curious, I decided to read up on his blog to figure out what this guy is really about.

Roosh V. is the publisher of two blogs, his personal blog, and his secondary blog, “Return of Kings,” both of which have a similar intention to inform the public about the benefits of the idea of “neo-masculinity.” The question is whether or not Roosh V. truly intends to legalize rape.

The answer, according to his FAQ page, is no. “Legalizing rape is a notion so insanely absurd I never imagined that people would take it 100% seriously, including politicians. I don’t believe any form of physical violence against men or women should be legalized,” said Roosh V. “I’ve said that ‘How to Stop Rape’ was a satirical thought experiment so many times that it’s clear to me current misinterpretation of it by the media is deliberate,” said Roosh V.

After reading this, research wasn’t enough to fend off case against a man that caused so much controversy.

After reading more about him, it turns out that Roosh V is someone who doesn’t believe in rape, but someone who can possibly be much worse for society.

Let’s go back to neo-masculinity, the main idea of both of his blogs. Neo-masculinity is a code made up by Roosh V. to promote the advances of the heterosexual masculine man, using gender sexual roles and “game” as a solid foundation.

Some examples of his beliefs in actions are shown in the titles of his articles: “Why You Don’t Need To Understand Women,” “Guys Who Make A Lot Of Money But Still Don’t Get Laid,” and “How To Cheat On Your Girlfriend Without Getting Caught.” What’s odd about these articles is that there are so many of them that justify what it means to be a decent man in an intimate relationship, when it just shows the opposite.

If one would like to further understand how a typical neo-masculine man would look like, all you really have to do is think of James Bond, minus the skills of a spy, weapons, suits, charm, and intellect. All you get from a neo-masculine man is the sexist, alcoholic and sexually motivated schmuck. This is the type of person Roosh V is; someone who clearly lives in his parents’ basement. (spoiler alert: according to multiple news outlets, he currently spies, weapons, suits, charm, and promoting yourself. As a straight man, I have to tell you, most of Roosh V’s approaches on women are harsh and unnecessary.

The only thing I can agree on with Roosh V about advice on meeting new people (although he strictly likes to meet women for the sake of lust) is the comparison of confidence. The big difference being that he uses sexist beliefs and character mistreatment to emulate confidence, while most people should just be themselves, learning to understand social cues, and promoting yourself as the understanding person that you are.

So how do you stop Roosh V.? The same way you stop a drunk exoerpt from flirting with you at a bar: ignore him. Every movement, no matter how big, can decrease in internet traffic and support through lack of attention. Think about it, do you think Roosh V would really care if I called him a sexist Sacha Baron Cohen in a James Bond flick? In truth, Roosh V wants you to read his work, it’s his only source of income. So no matter who you are, you will come across someone who triggers your morals to gain attention.

All of you, as a member of society and general public, have to ignore what is being said, and the rest will follow, if not for his downfall, but for your sake of paying attention to more important things in life. In other words, don’t ever read another Roosh V. article, whether it would be a primary article or an opinion article by someone like your truly.

As with every great invention that is met with skepticism, the development of vaccines are no different. “Anti-Vaxxers” is what they are called, and the followers of this movement, which consists of around five percent of the American population, seem to not have any scientific source to base their decisions on. Vaccines were invented to prevent infectious diseases, and in times when diseases evolve quickly, not vaccinating is dangerous.

One of the arguments that anti-vaxxers make against vaccination is that the research done on the vaccines before they are classified as safe and effective is not “enough,” or “reliable.” However, many of them will claim this without citing their sources or explaining what makes them reach this conclusion. According to the official website vaccines.gov, 90-99 percent of vaccines applied during childhood produce immunity effectively.

As Dr. Alisa Hidieg, states in an article for ghc.org that vaccines prevent lifelong issues, that rare to suffer an allergic reaction, and that it also protects the people that surround the individual.

However there is a common sentiment amongst anti-vaxxers which is that “vaccines cause autism.” That is simply falsely spread information, as there are no respected medical findings to support that claim.

Megan Sandlin, a 20-year-old mother of two, explains in an article written for voicesforvaccines.org that one of the reasons she opted to be anti-vaccine was that she was shocked that they contained all of these “nasty-sounding ingredients.”

“I didn’t understand much of what I read, but it did sound pretty scary,” she said. She didn’t know what she was reading, so if it sounded scary, it was because the research began only after anti-vaxxers had already told her that vaccines were composed of horrible ingredients. (Continued on pg. 9)
Politics has Become Theatres

GEORGE R. GUERRA

Political efficacy has been on the decline in this country for some time and with a lack of citizenry that has been in political process, we also see a dramatically decreased voter turnout. This can likely be attributed to a general sense of apathy towards the system, a system most Americans claim to be frustrated with, yet can’t agree on how to fix. It’s in this vague frustration that a candidate like Donald Trump makes sense, providing vague buzzword responses to questions and not taking a real stance on issues.

Trump is a liar and just looking at him annoys me. Let’s get that out of the way now so that you, the reader, know where I stand. So it begs the question, why do I keep looking at him? Maybe it’s because much like the Kardashians or Taylor Swift, he seems to be everywhere I look. Unlike your typical A-list celebrity however, his name is always plastered next to a picture of his puckered face over some xenophobic, fear-mongering, or otherwise untrue statement. Another important distinction to make is that Trump is not an entertainer, but instead the frontrunner for the 2016 election, and that is indicative of an intensely unsettling shift in what attracts voters. This campaign has garnered a lot of attention, both domestically and internationally, because what began as a most sacred transfer of power from one leader to another in a nonviolent, democratic fashion, has devolved into a vicious circus. The candidates are getting more attention for their stances on one another’s penis sizes rather than their stances on the issues which really matter. You don’t need a large penis to run this country. In fact you don’t need one at all, and that’s not a statement of support for Hillary Clinton because she’s just as guilty of pandering to the soundbite crowd, just a statement of fact; it’s irrelevant. Yet when Trump didn’t bother showing up to the GOP debate, and instead held a fundraiser where he rebutted Marco Rubio’s comments about his penis size, that debate saw an almost a 50 percent decline in viewership, because it just wasn’t going to be as entertaining as the first.

As to who’s to blame for this, I would first place the blame on the media. When Marco Rubio was speaking to professionals, to start websites, “I was accused of being brainwashed and told that my girls were getting autism and have terrible reactions. It hurt. I now view the anti-vaccine movement as a sort of cult, where any sort of questioning gets you kicked out.”

- Megan Sandlin

Anti-Vaxxers

(continued from Pg. 8)

things. “My research was very skewed. I was going into it with preconceived ideas—my anti-vaccine friends had put ideas into my head, such as not trusting government websites,” she admits later on.

Sandlin opted after doing more research and speaking to professionals, to start vaccinating both of her kids. “I was accused of being brainwashed and told that my girls were going to get autism and have terrible reactions. It hurt. I now view the anti-vaccine movement as a sort of cult, where any sort of questioning gets you kicked out,” she said.

Another argument that anti-vaxxers use is that many of the diseases we vaccinate against have not been seen in decades in developed countries. Yes, and guess what is the reason for that? You would be correct because it is the actual vaccinations themselves.

According to UNICEF, smallpox is the only disease that has been eradicated completely. According to WHO, six other dangerous diseases are under control thanks to them - diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, yellow fever and whooping cough. Although some of these diseases are rarely seen anymore, new diseases are always evolving, and if people don’t go in with the mentality of preventing, they can spread pretty quickly. They can also become very dangerous, like the zika virus, which there is no vaccine against yet, but there should be eventually. Another argument that anti-vaxxers use is that many of the diseases we vaccinate against have not been seen in decades in developed countries. As to who’s to blame for this, I would first place the blame on the media. When Clinton interrupted Bernie Sanders during the debate and he cut her off by saying “excuse me, I’m talking,” stories were released by multiple media outlets analyzing the statement. Some were in support, some claimed it was rude, others claiming it was sexist, but few and far between cared that Sanders and Clinton were both making an important point about the Wall Street bailout. It’s sexy of a story, so media outlets will find drama in a statement made by a candidate just trying to state their point.

The other group to blame for this political dinner theatre is the American people. This is what we watch, it’s what we respond to, and Christ help us, it’s what we’re voting for. We have literally become so apathetic that we don’t care about the issues and are willing to put our trust in the candidate that said the boldest thing this week. It’s no way to pick a leader and it’s no way to treat an inalienable right, that men and women all over the world fight and die for every day in efforts to secure democracy for their own homelands. Maybe this is just the natural progression of democracy and complacency, and maybe in fifty years there will be a Ukrainian Trump that is voted into office, because the Ukrainian people just don’t give a damn anymore. Or maybe, it will happen in Iraq, or Swaziland. However, here and now, democracy should mean something to us. It’s a right that we take for granted, and if we don’t realize that soon, it may not just be Americans who pay the price.
Despite Signed Contracts, BOT Needs Revamp

THE TORCH
VOLUME 24 ISSUE 7 | APRIL 2016

Dear Student Body,

Commencement is right around the corner! If you have not already done so, do not forget to confirm your graduation status with your web adviser. Commencement is at Metlife Stadium on May 19; so save the date! I want to share a quote that I found in this week’s edition of New Jersey Press Foundation, which may be helpful as you look forward to the future.

“We Have to Finish Up Strong!”

SGA President Laura Zottarelli

There are a lot of exciting events coming up in April. Student Government Association’s Athletics Committee will be hosting BCC’s annual Spirit Week the week of April 11-14. There will be a lot of fun activities going on throughout this week, so stop by A-101 to get involved! SQA’s Diversity Committee will be hosting a Diverse Day in the Ciccione Theatre on April 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be served and chairwoman Ramone Badou has invited a special guest speaker. It will be an event that you do not want to miss! This month, you will notice students going around asking for your signature or and even pitching their slogan… It’s election season! Applications are a part of the 2016-2017 Executive Board for the Student Government Association will open up to the entire student body April 8. We encourage everyone to reach out to any of the E-board members for more information regarding each position as well as talk about our experiences first-hand. It is a great opportunity to step out of your comfort zone, get involved, and expand your network. If you do not feel uncomfortable reaching out directly to us, please email us at studentgovernment@bergen.edu. Although SQA is finishing up a few of our last initiatives for the year, we still appreciate any suggestions from students so that it can be brought forth to the next E-board. On behalf of the current Executive Board and SQA, we want to wish everyone running for position in clubs and racing to the finish line of this semester a very special good luck!

Sincerely,

SGA President Laura Zottarelli

THE TORCH
v. 24, i. 7

Chairman of the

THE TORCH is the official student newspaper of Bergen Community College. The purpose of THE TORCH is to report on the events at BCC and the local community, and to offer the BCC community a forum for expression. The opinions expressed in THE TORCH are not necessarily those of THE TORCH. All the materials submitted to THE TORCH become property of THE TORCH.

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

Editorial and Opinion Pieces

As an open public forum, the Torch welcomes guest opinion pieces and letters to the editor from any member of the Bergen Community College community. Materials should be submitted to eictorch@gmail.com or delivered to the Torch office, SC-111D Paramus, NJ 07652-1595. Submissions may not exceed 600 words and letters to the editor should be 200 words or less. Readers are encouraged to contact us if they find any mistakes in any edition of the Torch.

It appears that there was no end in sight. Lo and behold, the administration began to come to their senses in ousting Goldstein, and hiring a new legal consultant in Matthew Walter. And whilst all of this had worked contractless. For once, administrators and the faculty had come to see the bigger picture, and were able to make a bipartisan settlement that our United States Congress could only dream of achieving.

It came as a shock to many; back in 2013, the college unsuccessfully secured a contract for the faculty, as they fruitlessly spent over half a million dollars on legal consultants Marvin Goldstein and John Schepis. The decision to hire Goldstein (a legal consultant with zero experience in the educational field) proved to be a foolish one, and hundreds of thousands of dollars from student tuition was flushed down the drain. The tension carried into Spring of 2014, when the Faculty Senate passed a two-to-one vote (104 of the 165 votes) of no confidence in current BCC President B. Kaye Walter. And whilst all of this was happening, administration continued to get raises through 2014 and 2015. Still, our professors, along with the college’s support staff and professional staff, worked without a contract. And it appeared that there was no end in sight.

However, not all is rainbows and sunshine. In order for the college to function optimally, a change to the college’s Board of Trustees, which has largely misrepresented and disrespected the best interests of the students, is absolutely necessary.

(Continued on pg. 11)

Co-editor-in-Chief

Gabe WaniSSiam

During the aftermath of the BCC faculty union voting to ratify a four year contract, there was a tangible sense of peace and ease that has not been felt on this campus in quite some time. This feeling was such a departure from the harsh climate that had existed on campus during the nearly three years that our professors had worked contractless. For once, administrators and the faculty had come to see the bigger picture, and were able to make a bipartisan settlement that our United States Congress could only dream of achieving.


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10 Options
The Torch

La Esquina Latina: El Efecto de la Visita de Obama a Cuba

LUCIA RUBI GODOY

La visita a Cuba realizada por el Presidente Barack Obama el pasado 20 de mayo ha creado muchas preguntas y dudas entre la comunidad latina. En su primera visita hecha por un presidente americano desde que Calvin Coolidge fue en 1928.

A pesar de que este fue sólo el primer intento de establecer relaciones tanto diplomáticas como comerciales con Cuba, ya se están especulando con los posibles beneficios que podría trae para la comunidad Cuba de abrirse el acceso a información, comercio y turismo.

Una de las ventajas más importantes que traería convencer a Raúl Castro de poner más impulso en las relaciones con los Estados Unidos sería la reunión de las familias Cubanas. Muchos Cubanos dejaron la isla cuando eran jóvenes en busca de una nueva vida. Especialmente para aquellos que formaron nuevas familias con la ideología que probablemente nunca verán a la que dejaron atrás. Esto supondría una mejoría emocional muy importante, al poder reunir a hijos con sus padres y el resto de sus parientes.

Pese a tener acceso muy limitado a información relacionada con investigaciones y experimentos internacionales, Cuba se encuentra en una posición aventajada respecto a avances médicos y biológicos, que de ser exportados, podrían significar un gran progreso para la medicina internacional. Entre estos logros se encuentran cuatro vacunas diferentes contra el cáncer y “kits” reactivos que permiten descubrir enfermedades metabólicas en bebés recién nacidos.

Otra de las cosas que Cuba ha mantenido a lo largo de los años, ha sido la cultura automovilística. Cuando en 1959 el comercio entre Estados Unidos y Cuba fue interrumpido, los coches de moda eran entre la clase media urbana eran los modelos americanos como los “Chevys” y los “Studebakers.” Desde entonces, sin importancia posibles, los Cubanos no han tenido más remedio que mantener sus coches funcionando como fueran. Asimismo, con el partido comunista habiendo restringido todas las actividades comerciales, solamente la gente con las mejores conexiones se podía permitir comprar coches nuevos así aun, estaban limitados a adquirir automóviles soviéticos. La encuesta más reciente realizada en 2007, señaló que solo dos de cada 100 cubanos poseen un automóvil.

Sin embargo, entre las preocupaciones de los latino se encuentran los posibles efectos negativos que puede tener en Cuba el desarrollo de una relación comercial con Estados Unidos. Una de las cosas más importantes que se ha protegido en Cuba, gracias a la falta de comercios con Estados Unidos, es la conservación de especies exóticas que habitan en la isla. Algunas de estas especies son autóctonas y se encuentran en peligro de extinción. Si permanecen vivas, es en parte gracias a la ausencia de industrialización masiva provocada por el capitalismo americano. Si las relaciones con Cuba mejoran considerablemente, el comercio internacional de la isla podría crecer hasta el punto de alterar el ecosistema del país, causando tal vez la pérdida de algunas de estas especies exóticas.

A pesar de tener buena educación, nada supera la oferta de oportunidades que se reciben al tener permitido el contacto con otros países. Esto no sólo permite encontrar mejores oportunidades, sino que abre el espacio para promocionar éxitos y compartirlos con el resto del mundo. Si bien muchos pueden verlo como el sacrificio de una parte de la cultura de cada país, el beneficio que viene de estos intercambios puede ser más grande, siempre y cuando los cambios importantes no afecten negativamente el ritmo de la naturaleza o la vida diaria de un país.

Editorial: Revamp

(Continued from Pg. 10)

necessary.

Countless times, the Board has unanimously voted to pass resolutions that have had little to no input from the college’s faculty. One example is the “First In The World” grant, in which 500 remedial math students could have been in danger for the sake of a “study.” Of course, this grant was created without input from the math department. The college administration has since admitted that they rushed the grant, and have agreed to postpone enacting the study, until its procedures are approved by the college math department. But the problem should have been avoided altogether.

Or even the Pay-to-Print initiative back in May 2015, when it took the outcry of several student organizations to snap some sense into the board, in which they finally took it off the agenda. The initiative was then reworked over the summer. Had the original proposal remained, we would not have received the 150 page allowance.

Also, who could ever forget the time when the revised employee code of conduct was passed by the board in September 2014? Several professors spoke up at the board meeting in protest, citing the lack of collaboration with faculty members to put the ECC together, as well as criticising the vague and unethic language found within the Code.

With County Executive James Tedesco stating that two new trustee positions will be appointed by the May BOT meeting, it is highly implicative for the college’s future that we get the right people to hold these seats. I am calling on County Executive Tedesco to appoint trustees that will work in the best interest for the students, and only the students.

One board position however, the Alumni Trustee, is entirely up to you, the students. Unfortunately today, the position has seemingly become nothing but a figurehead. In the past, Alumni Trustees like Victoria Tahhan frequently spoke out against questionable decisions made by the rest of the board, as well as having a great working relationship with the Student Government Association. It has not been the same with our current Alumni Trustee. That can all change with the student vote, as the SGA elections will be coming up soon; it is crucial that students get to know their candidates.

But it is even more crucial as tuition-paying students, (even Bergen County tax paying citizens) that we are well educated on the College’s internal affairs. That is the only way we can assure that signed contracts, and new board members do not just end up being empty promises. Stay Based Bergen.

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OPINIONS

Editorial: Revamp

(Continued from Pg. 10)

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Find your future self
Seven Women—Seven Countries—Seven Stories

**FOREWORD**

Seven A Documentary Play is an emotional innovative documentary directed by Kathryn Newcomb Osborne and written by Paula Cisneros, Catherine Filloux, Gail Kriegel, Carol L. Black, Beth Margraf, Anna Devere Smith and Susan Yankowitz. "Seven" introduces you to seven brave women whose devastating life experiences drove them to change history and stand up for women’s rights and justice. With determination, courage and effort towards human rights. Her participation in her country’s movement, she became a congresswoman and dedicated her time to help her community. In 1995, she obtained a law degree to help her family. In 1995, she turned her tragic life into a Warrior. From her family’s financial status, she brought the audience into the reality of De Leon’s life and struggles.

Fourteen years later, Mai’s story was featured on a TV show. She was so moved by the story of Mai that she decided to make a documentary about her. She asked Mai to tell her story, and Mai agreed. She was not only a Warrior, but also a mother. She was married to a Muslim man, who was accepting of her decision to tell her story. Mai was not afraid to speak out about her experiences, and she knew that her story could help others.

Mai’s story is not unique. There are many women who have faced similar challenges and have stood up for their rights. These women are not only Warriors, but also leaders. They have used their experiences to help others and to change the world. Mai’s story is a testament to the power of women and their ability to overcome any obstacle.

Seven A Documentary Play is a powerful and moving story of seven brave women who have stood up for their rights and for the rights of women around the world. It is a story of strength, courage, and determination, and it is a story of hope. It is a story of seven women, seven countries, and seven stories.
The Relatable Counselor

GABE WANISSIAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As Bergen’s Academic Counselor Tim Foote left the “jock” table at his high school reunion to go talk to another group of friends, a few had remarked to him saying, “There goes Tim going to the other side again.” Upon hearing it, Tim had thought “what the hell did that mean?” but it had been a reaction he was all too familiar with.

Never fitting into any specific group or clique, Foote was still one of the more well liked people growing up in Pine Bush, NY due to his quirky sense of humor and honesty; the same traits that make him easily the most requested counselor at Bergen Community College.

“I just like people, and humor was something that I always fed off of,” says Foote. It is also his relatability that has made him universally liked. When he wasn’t on the baseball team, he was playing instruments, collecting records, or doing theatre. The “out there” personality is known by many, as he’s notorious on campus for wearing eye catching ties and brightly colored outfits. “Kids will laugh in the hallways sometimes. I love it. I get a kick out of it,” says Foote.

Foote speculates that his out of placeness possibly stems from the fact that he was adopted. His father, a World War II veteran, and his mother, an artist, had become educators and adopted three kids; Foote was the third and youngest adopted child.

“My family didn’t have much, so my siblings really strived to make money,” said Foote. “My family didn’t have much, so my siblings really strived to make money,” said Foote.

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Professor Adriane M. Raff Corwin speaking at the Tedx talks held at BCC.//Henry Fowler

TEDx Talks Get Personal with BCC

ADRIANNA CARABALLO
STAFF WRITER

TEDx is a nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging others to make change in their life and in the lives around them through compelling speeches. Bergen Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa once again brought one of these TED Talks to the school.

The event ran from 9 a.m - 4 p.m. on March 8, and was broken up into three sessions with one large break in between the first and second session. Each speech ran for about 15 (the limit being 18) minutes and kept a fast and positive pace.

The theme of this TED Talk was Narrative Matters: using story to make change, motivate and inspire the audience through their voices and their personal stories. Which is exactly what the guest speakers did.

Revolutionary actress Ali Stroker moved the audience with her candid story. Stroker experienced a car accident when she was just 2-years-old; since then, she has been bound to a wheelchair. Performing in Glee and the Glee project, she is the first person in a wheelchair to perform on Broadway. In her session “If there’s a wheel, there’s a way,” Stroker came out on the stage singing a beautiful song called “Touch Me” from the musical Spring Awakening.

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Stroker told the audience at the end of her talk that the song gave her a sense of comfort and normality. She went onto explain in her session how limited she used to feel being in a wheelchair, but then realized she was just as capable as everyone else. Stoker used her charm and comedy to tackle a very sensitive subject and seemed very comfortable sharing these deep topics with the audience. She even described the fear she had with being in an intimate relationship to the audience.

“My body is perfect,” Stroker told the audience. “My chair is my secret weapon, it never holds me back,” Stoker added.

Vulnerability and anger is fuel to fight and keep fighting “Feel the frustration, feel the pain, and sit with it–” Stroker said in her closing words to her session.

Stroker was not the only TED Talk speaker taking limitations and turning them into opportunities. The bionic woman, Dr. Tal Millet also experienced a car accident. Since then, she has worked as a mentor for companies to help them enhance their nonverbal communication skills.

(Continued on pg. 19)
This month, the spotlight is on Andrew Fenwick, a driven young 21-year-old Bergen Community College student with a hunger for change. Fenwick originally did not want to attend Bergen. However, when his mom became sick, he changed his mind, and started attending BCC in the spring of 2014. “Since she has Alzheimer’s, there’s only a certain amount of time. I want her to see me graduate,” he says. He really wanted me to go to school, so that’s why I came to school. My first semester, I was really fortunate to have great classes, so I fell in love with school and education.”

This new relationship that runs between the Paramus and Lyndhurst campuses became Fenwick’s gateway to getting involved with the student government. Because he lived near the Lyndhurst campus, he took most of his classes there for his first semester, except for one night class he took at the Paramus campus. One day, the shuttle bus at Paramus never came, which made it a huge effort for him to get home. He later told his professor the situation, and asked to leave early because the shuttle hadn’t been running and he didn’t trust it to arrive on time. Elif Karacayir, the SGA Treasurer at the time, overheard and said, “That’s an issue you should bring to student government.”

This led to his involvement in Student Government; he started going to Board of Trustees meetings even before he became a senator. He then met Juhl Bhatti, the previous Coordinator of Judicial Affairs, at a senate meeting, who offered him a job on campus. “So it was kind of just a ripple effect of meeting one person after another telling me, ‘Do this to get more involved.’” He has since worked as a desk attendant and is now a permanent aide in the Student Life Office.

Fenwick won “Senator of the Month” in September 2014, the first official month of being a part of SGA. “It hit me really hard. This isn’t a club. I become a representation of what administration and faculty members see as students. This isn’t just a school organization, it’s impacting and dictating how students’ lives play out at Bergen.”

This realization is now driving Fenwick to run for Alumni Trustee. The Alumni Trustee is a position that allows for a BCC alumnus to sit on the Board of Trustees, the major decision-making board at the college. “I would like to have a presence here on campus. I feel like no one knows who the current Alumni Trustee is. As Alumni Trustee, I would like to come here and engage the student body as often as I can. I would like to meet with the E-board of SGA, because I think the main role is to be the student representative to the BOT but also relaying information back to students.”

His inspiration is former Alumni trustee Victoria Tahhan. “One day I would like to be like her, as strong as her. I would definitely love to fill in her shoes as being a strong Alumni Trustee. I still think there’s issues that can affect the student body. I could make a difference being a strong Alumni Trustee.” One issue is the shuttle bus not receiving any funding from the county by the BOT. He now sits on a committee to make sure the shuttle receives enough funding to continue its services.

There have been a few setbacks for Fenwick, especially when expressing a new idea only to have it shot down. He came up with the idea of having a Student Trustee on the Board. That idea was quickly shot down. But the biggest setback for him was running for SGA President in Spring 2015, but not winning. However, that didn’t knock him down, because he believes that success isn’t measured by how many accomplishments one gains, but by gaining learned experience.

Fenwick says BCC taught him to be a good student and a leader. Leaving High School with a 1.8 GPA, Fenwick is a History major graduating with Honors and a 3.5 GPA to go to TCNJ or Rutgers, and plans to get his Ph.D one day.

**Living in a Parallel History!**

*INESS RABAH  COPY EDITOR*

Fenwick is a highly involved student at BCC looking to make a difference, even after graduation/Iness Rabah

**FERNANDO VAZQUEZ  STAFF WRITER**

Imagine waking up in the morning in San Francisco, in 1962. You look the same as you left it last night. You wake up to your morning necessities and getting ready to go to school and ask your dear mum for a blessing while stepping out the door. Walking in the street seems the same, but once you take a look at the street poles on the Main street, you notice all the signs written in three languages, English, Japanese, and German.

You see the police as the Japanese Kempeitai and on occasion, the German Staatspolizei (Gestapo) police officers walk by. You’re nervous; you’re carrying in your book bag, one of the most prohibited books of the P.S.A. (Pacific States of America). When you’re at the newsstand, one of the newspapers’ front page states “Adolf Hitler Resigns!” Bormann becomes new Chancellor of the Fatherland.”

Instead of San Francisco, California, it’s now San Francisco P.S.A. A. Phillip K. Dick’s twisted science fiction novel “The Man in the High Castle” consists of odd scenarios and facts about it.

In this twisted and parallel historical fiction novel, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt was assassinated in 1933, leading to the continuation of the Great Depression and the U.S. isolationism. Therefore, the U.S. military’s capability was insufficient in stopping the Nazis from conquering the rest of Europe and the Japanese from conquering Oceania.

By 1947, the U.S. and the remaining Allies surrendered. By the 1960s Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany were the world’s superpowers, with Japan establishing as the Pacific States of America (P.S.A) from the West Coast, with the remaining Rocky Mountain States now as a neutral zone, between the P.S.A and the Nazi-occupied territory on the East Coast. Meanwhile, Adolf Hitler, though alive, is suffering from advanced syphilis, and Martin Bormann has become Chancellor of Germany, with four high Nazi leaders having exterminated the tribes in Africa.

The Nazis drained the Mediterranean to make room for farmland, developed the hydrogen bomb, and designed rockets for extremely fast travel across the world as well as travelling to space, having colonized the Moon, Venus, and Mars.

Throughout the book, we are introduced to many characters who frequently make important decisions using predicting messages they interpret from an old Chinese book that is used for fortunetelling known as the I Ching. Many characters are part of a resistance group who work to loosen the hold the Axis powers have over the U.S., and they are inspired by the banned, but popular novel, “The Grasshopper Lies Heavy,” which depicts an alternate history in which the Allies won World War II, an approach that amazes and entertains its readers. If you ever wondered how different things would be if the Axis powers won the second world war, this book is the answer.

Dick’s Historical fiction answers what-if’s about history //Amazon
**The Ron Mazurek Memorial Scholarship Concert**

The Ron Mazurek Memorial Scholarship Concert was founded due to the passing of Bergen Community College Professor, Dr. Ron Mazurek back on April 26, 2007. Mazurek was also a composer and founding member of the New Jersey Composers Guild as well as the International New Music Consortium. Mazurek ’s compositions have been performed across many countries including the United States, Japan, Europe, and Korea. One of his compositions, “Final Bell,” was even nominated for a Grammy award.

On March 11, all students had to do was pull five dollars out of their wallet to gain access to another performance by The Ron Mazurek Memorial Scholarship Concert. This performance was called “Within the Strings.”

The performance started off with classical violin music performed by the Brooklyn Camerata, a professional chamber orchestra based in Brooklyn. It was actually their debut performance. However, the pressure clearly never got to them, as their performance was very lively and energetic, especially the Eina Khimji performing songs such as “The Ocean” and “Gallow’s Pole” by London band Led Zeppelin. This part of the show sounded more like classic rock rather than classical, which is something to be enjoyed.

Another part of the show that caught people’s eye was artwork that would be shown in the background during multiple songs, including Eina Kleine. This artwork was done by Cheryl Fantacone’s 2-D Design (ART-122) and Graphic Design (ART-260) classes. As great as the performances and overall content was of the show, it had multiple flaws. There were several times that the conductor of the music, or even the MC himself had to temporarily pause the show to address private issues. Furthermore, there was a severe lack of energy among the speakers and the overall feel of the show. Unless there was music being played, there would be no energy felt whatsoever.

However, the biggest and most unforgivable problem came in during the middle of the show, after the Brooklyn Camerata’s first session. The show then shifted from live performances, to lazily showing two audio videos. The first sounded very nature-like, with chicken clucking noises, while the second sounded evil and haunting. This completely broke up the pace of the show. About 10 people got out of their seats and left the show during this.

Overall, “Within the Strings” had enjoyable content, music, and especially performances, which made it a good enjoyable show. However, bloopers, lack of energy, and the lazy showing of video clips, rather than more live performances, field it back from being great.

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**BCC Honors JKW Students in 41st Annual Ceremony**

Every year, the first week of April marks the beginning of Honors Week, and the annual recognition ceremony is celebrated on the first Monday. All current Honors students are cordially invited to this event and they may bring a guest. Students will receive the “JKW School of Honors Certificate of Recognition” in recognition of their outstanding academic work, and the “Dual Honors Certificate of Recognition” for those who are also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Hardworking and excellent students were, yet again, acknowledged during the Annual JKW School of Honors Recognition Ceremony last March 28. The ceremony was held at TEC-128, where a record of more than a hundred students and guests have attended.

The ceremony was introduced by Dr. Maria Makowiecka, the director of the JKW School of Honors, by welcoming those who were present and congratulating those who were to receive a Certificate of Recognition “in honor,” said Dr. William Mullaney, the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Professor Jennifer Lyden also conducted an art auction of student paintings in which the proceeds will benefit the Steven K. Chang Honors Alumni Network Scholarship fund. One of the most remarkable pieces that was sold was a painting that started the bidding at $10 and was later on sold for $250. While students and guests were enjoying dinner, Dr. Robert Dill, a professor of Environmental Science at BCC, discussed different ways how everyone in the room, specifically the students, can make a difference to this world that we live in. “Empower yourself; don’t be afraid to learn,” he said to those students who were present in the ceremony regarding seeing ways to change the direction where this messy planet is heading. “We can do better,” he added. “And it’s your job to do it.”

The certificate presentation took place at the end of the ceremony and Honors students were called one by one to be congratulated by Dr. Makowiecka. Those who also received the Dual Honors Certificate were once again called to highlight their accomplishments.

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**Religion in Suburbia**

Has suburbanization changed the way we perceive religion and its practices? For a panel including four different religious leaders, it was discussed how essentially religion is no longer the center of people’s lives but rather an issue of controversial debates.

Suburbanization occurred after the great financial influx following World War II; urban areas became suburban and there was a different mindset that came along with it. It lead to towns becoming much bigger and people living farther away from centers of worship. During the 1950s, the church was the center for many people’s lives, but currently is not as strong as it used to be.

Reverend Peggy Niederer discussed how membership was becoming an issue. Reverend Niederer mentioned the term “church”, and how historically, people thought of church as a place that we go, but it’s not a place, rather it’s the people.

“Church can be anywhere and anytime. It’s about people sharing together their faith. It is about being a cohesive community,” he said.

Among the questions asked towards the end of the presentation, one of the topics is how religion has changed since 2007. Dr. Eric L. Wasser, of the Fair Lawn Jewish Center described an activity in which a class had to differentiate the wedding photos of a heterosexual marriage and a homosexual marriage. And to his surprise, none of the children made any comment about the obvious difference between the hetero and homosexual marriages.

“None of the kids mentioned that one is man and a woman, and the other is a woman and a woman, it did not register to them, they see the world in a different way than the previous generation.”

Priests mentioned how their biggest challenge is to understand how the younger generation thinks.

“My colleagues and I see how they share ideas with other religions and other perspectives. Religion often can be judgemental. They don’t want to feel like they are being judged, and see religion as this place where they are being judged. No one likes to be told they are sinning. There has to be a nice way to say it.”

Many church seekers have no affiliation to any denomination of religion, and just wander from mosque, temple, church and synagogue. Often, these people have a bad experience at a certain church and decide to not come back.

Rev. Niederer discussed how places of worship come with opportunities and challenges, how when it’s difficult, we just leave. Her concern was that 87 percent of our population is finding fulfillment in other things, but not through their faith, not by connecting or attending church.
What’s Cooking at BCC?

ADRIANNE COLEMAN NATOLI & FNU IQRA
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Walking through the Pitkin Education Student Center, red and orange balloons greeted students at the tables lined in preparation for the Women’s History Month events. The day after International Women’s Day (March 8), an all day event was held here at the school, the theme of which being, Celebrating Women in the Arts. The day’s activities consisted of a number of events, most notable, a culinary competition. The competition is one of several events sponsored through the Multicultural Affairs office to celebrate women and their accomplishments. Starting at 9:30 a.m., three contestants were given four hours to prepare a soup or salad, an appetizer, an entree and a dessert, with each dish representing a different country. The overall theme was inspired by an opening theme: “Uniting Globally”. Each dish reflected a different cultural theme, which included: Cuisines of Africa (New England, Panama or Pacific, Southern, etc) for the soup or salad, an Asian appetizer, an Indian or Middle Eastern entree, and a French dessert. Three impartial women chefs were selected to judge the four course meal.

Upon reaching the second floor, one was greeted by the sumptuous aroma that lead to room C209. Inside the kitchen (where the contestants were preparing the food), Jennifer Leifkin, student of Business Administration in Hotel Management scurried from the oven to the refrigerator. “Do we have any salmon?” she asked. There was no answer. Back over to the oven she scurried, pulled out a tray of roasted butternut squash chunks, vegetables and strips of bacon for her dish of butternut and bacon soup.

Lucretia Zorat, student of Hotel Restaurant Management, gets plenty of experience working at Bergen’s Gourmet Dining Restaurant. Her menu began with a crab Louie salad, an appetizer of Asian meatballs with pineapple slaw and Kofte (Turkish meat) with Bulgur (grain) and pita wedges with garlic sauce.

Fnu Igra, student of Natural Science, Math & Biology prepared an entree of Asian International rice and a dessert of French biscuit trifle.

Organizers included Janette M. Dishuk, M.A., R-DMT, CMT, advisor to the BCC Women’s Club, Sherry Wilson, Technical Assistant and Dave Cohen who played a big part working for the event. The top three participants were Igra enrolled in Associate’s of Natural Sciences, Math and Biology, Lucretia Zorat enrolled in the Program of Culinary Art, and Jennifer Leifkin enrolled in Associate’s of Business Administration degree.

The three panel judges were Rama Ginde, Chef/Owner of Wamahbe Chef, Cresskill, N.J. Christine Nunn, Executive Chef and Co-Owner of Picnic on the Square in Ridgewood, N.J. and Dana Cohen, Corporate Chef, Haier America. After much tasting and talking amongst themselves, the consensus was there were three prizes for three winners.

The food was amazing and made it difficult to choose. Jennifer won a $100 gift certificate to Chef Central; Igra won a $50 certificate to Fairway and an autographed copy of “The Preppy Cookbook” by Christine Nunn and Lucretia won a day in the kitchen with Christine Nunn at Picnic on the Square in Ridgewood.

Panel Discusses Women in Business

LAWRENCE M. FRANK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s Women’s History Month and Bergen Community College brought some special guests to the student center. From people giving crucial business advice, to Bergen’s very own talent, BCC really showed just what women can achieve.

Christina Gels, the first business woman to speak out in the student center said how she had a secure job as an accountant but wasn’t fulfilled in life. It wasn’t until she followed her passion of gardening that she got the best of both worlds in her new profession in horticulture. She says it is possible to make a living doing what you love. Her advice for today’s youth is “Just get going. Discover your strengths, research and go for it.”

Professor Toni Plantamura-Rossi spoke next and was extremely passionate about what she does. She’s the proud owner of several Dairy Queen near serve shops, and she’s very successful, but not without hard work. She says the biggest reason she does what she does is to see the smile on her customers faces. “Appreciate what you have, people before have made it so much easier for us,” said Plantamura-Rossi.

There are women who have invented things that have changed the world as we know it, and in honor of women’s history month, here are a few invented by pioneer women.

- The car heater, that essential device to keep your fingers warm while you text. Life-saving constructions such as the fire escape and life rafts; the foundations for the beloved Wi-Fi refrigerators to hold your precious food; kevlar which has over 200 different uses (the most important of which is to stop bullets); and last but not least, Monopoly, the best and worst cardboard game to have ever been created.

Speaking of things being created, Plantamura-Rossi said, “women worked with men without recognition women are the unsung heros. If you’re willing to work hard, be flexible and hands on you’re going to be successful, because hard work is the key to life.”

As the event went on, the student center was delighted with a culinary food tasting competition. Dishes were served from appetizer sized, entrees and dessert. They were all rated and usually given some compliments.

There were some really innovative dishes. One of them looked like pink fettuccini alfredo with strawberries.

As the event closed, they finished off with some poetry and Bergen’s dance crew and musicians. It was a fitting close to an inspirational day. If there was something this event could leave you with, it’s to express your talents and pursue what you love.
In celebration of Women's History Month, the F-Word club co-sponsored a panel involving women in STEM related fields. The panel took place in the Pitkin Building, where students and professionals discussed challenges women face in the scientific community. They also discussed career opportunities that STEM fields have created over the years. Some of the panel members were Tracy Sullivan from the Mathematics department, Estelle Epstein from the Physics department, Elena Tartaglia from the Biology department, Anita Verno from the IT department and William Klappert from the Aviation department. A crucial activity at the panel was the naming of inventors. A mix was passed around as audience members named inventors like Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison. Many inventors were mentioned but all of them were men, which the panel pointed out. The purpose of the short exercise was to show how academia can be biased when it comes to crediting women scientists and inventors, to the point where the public doesn’t know a single woman inventor. Afterwards, a short video created by Microsoft was shown with young girls doing the same exercise the panel audience did. Lo and behold, none of them could name any women inventors either. The girls in the video expressed an interest in science, but were discouraged because they never saw women represented in STEM. The panelists also talked about growing fields like aviation. “Flying has become safer than ever before because of advancements like more efficient and less crowded cockpits. We need almost half a million pilots within the next 20 years. Private companies like Boeing, Virgin Galactic and SpaceX will need pilots in the future,” said Professor Klappert. Drones and their future applications, like transporting packages and recording, were also popular discussion topics at the panel. Each panelist also emphasized the extreme significance of math in each of the STEM fields and if someone wants to pursue a STEM related field, they have to put the hours into mastering mathematics first. The old negative stereotype of the nerd and geek who is thought of as lame to his peers was also mentioned, and how that deters many from pursuing STEM careers, as well as the difficulty of STEM in general. As STEM progresses and replaces more and more jobs, the need for increasing numbers of scientists, engineers and mathematicians will become crucial in our ever changing world. Interest in STEM starts in the home and with the young. The academic community and the scientific community need to make sure they are doing their job in inspiring the next generation of STEM professionals. Many youths are discouraged and uninterested in pursuing these fields because their demographic is underrepresented in STEM. In order to meet the quota for these growing careers, both communities need to inspire youths by exposing them to professionals of their own demographic; one day, they can pursue the same thing.

The forgiveness project

During Women's History Month, several events at Bergen Community College were held in honor of women. On May 3rd, the third international exhibition, “F.W.O.R.D: Stories of Forgiveness” was brought to campus to present forgiveness as “a healing process, a path out of victimhood and a journey of hope.” The exhibition, which has no relation with the F-W.O.R.D club on campus, was founded in 2004 by the journalist Maria Cucucuzno as a way of countering the rhetoric retaliation at the time by collecting stories from victims and perpetrators who chose to resolve conflict through dialogue. This exhibit shows images and personal narratives of forgiveness in atrocious situations. Gayle Kirschenbaum was selected by the U.S. ambassador of the project to come in as the speaker at BCC. She graciously led the talk that encouraged students and other attendees to open up and tell their own stories of forgiveness. “I applaud people for being able to open up about their lives in front of other people in a non-private way,” said Kirschenbaum. Kirschenbaum was invited to participate in the project, when the founder met her in England, screening her documentary, “Look at Us Now, Mother!” The movie is a personal experience about the transformation of a highly charged mother-daughter relationship from hatred to love. The movie is opening up in a few markets, and we are building a movement focused on forgiveness and healing, particularly between mothers and daughters,” said Kirschenbaum. Since the beginning of the month, a “wall of forgiveness” was set up in the student center with blank posters and color sharpies hanging by the sides, where students were encouraged to write what they forgive someone else about. The events encouraged forgiveness as a way to overcome pain and suffering, showing students a prospect of happiness behind the forgiving of those who did them wrong.

The torch reviews Bergenstages production of the clouds

“The Clouds” by Aristophanes, is an interesting choice for Bergenstages latest production. Ancient Greek theatre, though universally regarded for its historical significance, has not received the same level of cultural attention over the years that has been received by the likes of Elizabethan theatre or even early 20th century theatre. While some might attribute this to the fact that many Greek plays have been lost in time, it is also likely that the art of theatre has been revised since then, and those ancient performances are somewhat clumsy and antiquated by comparison. It is for this reason that the Director of this Production, Professor Ken Bonnaffons, issues a pseudo-disclaimer in the playbook that the play will maintain a somewhat more contemporary flair, something to keep the play fresh, despite its rigid structure, and in this regard the play is successful. All of the cast performances are on point, and to anyone who saw Bergenstages production of “The Rivals”, John Kroner knocks it out of the park once again, this time as the elderly Strepsiades. His performance was outstanding, and costume designer Marie Natali did an fantastic job outfitting the cast. Herberth Rojas stars as Phidippides and once again demonstrates a real knack for physical comedy. Physical comedy that often happened close to the ground in this specific performance, which made it impossible to see from the back row. It is in those small buccsips that “The Clouds” occasionally fell flak. The set design was outstanding, but much of it was difficult to observe. The performances were great, but the contemporary flair was hit-or-miss, often times adding an element of fun to the performance, and occasionally seeming bizarre and contrived. Outstanding performances, outstanding costume design, and outstanding set design, coming together in a way that is enjoyable, but still not Bergenstages at their best.

The impact of women in STEM was the topic of discussion at this panel// Genesis Fuentes

The wall of forgiveness became an outlet for students to express themselves// Lucia Rubi Godoy

Outstanding performances,\nOutstanding costume design,\nOutstanding set design, coming together in a way that is enjoyable, but still not Bergenstages at their best.
The Relatable Counselor

Continued from pg. 14

“Everybody said ‘do business, do business, you’re probably going to make a lot of money!’ and I probably would have, but it wasn’t for me. Regardless of what I ended up doing, it needed to be helping people.”

Foote then gave teaching a try, as well as child psychology, but it wasn’t until, on a snow day, he ran into an old friend (who had formerly been a Minor League pitcher) that now worked as a counselor. “I had been working as a mailman as a side job, and all of a sudden I hear ‘Footie how are you doing man?’” he recalled. The conversation led to his friend recommending he take a job as a counselor back at Long Island University, and the rest was history. “If he wasn’t home for a snow day… It’s those freaky moments like that make you believe in fate,” he said.

Today, Foote’s office in A-118 contains plenty of papers, snacks, photos of his hiking trails and Boston Red Sox games - it’s perhaps this casual down to earth environment that keeps people at ease. “It’s about people being comfortable in here. I don’t try to tidy up the place and come off like I got my s–t together. I am who I am, and I guess they like that.”

Foote’s style of counseling, while light hearted and humorous, is very direct and sometimes brutally honest. So much so, that one student once called him “the nicest ***hole ever,” he laughed. “I try to give them the tools, but I don’t have the answers, that’s how you help,” says Foote.

At times, he enjoys it more than the students, citing his profession as being his natural source of euphoria. “One kid came the other day and said ‘I want to see you again, I feel like we bonded’ after only one visit, It wasn’t the first time someone said that, but that moment I said ‘wow. It’s a high sometimes.’

TEDx talks get personal with BCC

Continued from pg. 14

According to Millet, “We are all Bionic entities, we have the ability to see clearer,” she said in her session “It’s in your hands: the power of body language.” Millet tested the audience’s bionic powers with a perception experiment through a powerpoint presentation. She also gave the audience some hands-on tools for catching the meaning of body language and how to use it properly. One of her tools was “the seven-second rule.” She explained that humans only have seven seconds to adjust our body language to strengthen the rapport from whoever we are speaking with. She stressed that idea with her business advice to the audience. Convey confidence, shake hands, put on a smile and feel powerful were some business skills that Millet gave.

“Allow your Bionic powers to lead the way,” said Millet as she closed her session.

Many more TEDx speakers gave their personal stories of tribulations and triumph to the audience. The speakers hope that the students of BCC took something away from what they had shared and found a way to apply it in their own lives. During the TEDx event it was announced that BCC is also going to be a part of the “Inside out project” for the second time. The project is part of a global movement taking people’s stories and photographs to turn them into works of art. It will cover the walls of BCC.

Student Comic Strip: Red Wolf Recovery!

Illustration by Sammy Almaita
It has been said that the artist must suffer for the art and that is why it is called “Pain-ting.” The same can be said about music. David Cabassa, a Bergen Community College student, has recently released an Extended Play, a recording that is longer than a single, but shorter than an Album or LP, usually consisting of three to five songs. His EP, “This Art Hurt Me” captures melancholy themes such as goodbyes, loneliness, and breakups.

In his fourth song, “Farewell Friend,” he uses his Indie/Shoegaze guitar style with Singer-Songwriter style of singing. He also uses many early 90s Emo influences in the EP. Taking a total duration of eight months to complete, Cabassa wrote the music, recorded it in studio basement, mixed, mastered and produced the EP.

Attempting to have his work remain in its true to its authenticity, Cabassa worked on it own his own. That approach itself is something that is unique, and stands out in today’s modern music. Very few musicians take this approach, and many describe this path as being stressful and emotionally tiring. Prior to recording, Cabassa spent much of his time writing the music, working with a schedule, Cabassa spent three months solely on recording, two months on mixing and mastering the songs and the rest of the duration on writing.

Despite using the standard recording software Garageband, Cabassa is still able to convey the feeling of loneliness and melancholy. Cabassa regarded the finishing of the EP was as satisfying as an artist finishing a painting.

The EP is composed of the tracks, “She was Found Under the Pepper Tree”, “I Feel Fine Again” (and thank you for the memories), “Guilt Trip” and “Farewell Friend.”

Cabassa has described how his music classes at BCC have benefitted him as a musician. From learning about how notes and intervals work, to lessons on organ and piano, he applies what he has learned into his music. Cabassa is currently enrolled in “Class Piano” sight reading classes which he used in writing “This Art Hurt Me.”

When examining Cabassa’s style, one can notice his background in both music style and lyrical prose. He uses mathematical and shoegaze guitar style because of the frequent use of guitar pedals.

Cabassa makes a powerful ending with track 4, “Farewell Friend.” Sampling excerpts of the television show “Arthur,” he creates the disconnection felt upon losing a friend, saying the song is about a friend you no longer have connections with. When asked how he writes his music, Cabassa responded, “I was messing around with different riffs and trying different lyrics. A musician can be inspired by anything, and it’s what hits you at the moment. Anything can impact you, and I just wanted to capture that feeling.”
Peyton Manning, The NFL’s all-time leader in career touchdowns (539), passing yards (71,940), and quarterback wins (186), finally announced his retirement on Monday, March 7 at the age of 39. The career of a five time NFL MVP award winner, a two time Super Bowl Champion, a Super Bowl MVP, a 14 time Pro Bowler, and a seven time first team All Pro officially came to an end.

“There's just something about 18 years; 18 is a good number, and today I retire from pro football.” Peyton Manning took to the podium on Monday, March 7 in an emotional news conference as he made his retirement official.

Manning was drafted first overall by the Indianapolis Colts in 1998 out of Tennessee, playing his first 14 NFL seasons there; winning one Super Bowl and four MVP awards. His rookie season did not come without hardship, however. While he did break rookie records for completions (326), and attempts (575), passing yards (3,739) and touchdowns (26), he threw for a league worst 28 interceptions as his Colts limped through the end of that season with a 3-13 record.

These early bumps in Manning’s career were soon to be followed by a level of success that only few have matched in NFL history. He won NFL MVP in 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2009, and silenced critics who believed he could not win a big game by beating rival Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in the AFC title game in 2007, moving on to beat the Bears and winning the 2007 Super Bowl.

Manning was fortunate enough to play in 227 straight games for the Colts, starting at quarterback and avoiding large scale injury for the first 13 years of his career. On September 8 2011, Manning’s streak came to an end, as he underwent a spinal fusion to repair a damaged nerve in his neck that ultimately weakened his throwing arm, costing him the entire 2011 season and essentially ending his time with the Colts franchise.

Many questioned whether Peyton could be the same Peyton after so many surgeries. The Colts went on to draft Stanford University stud, QB Andrew Luck, ultimately leading to the release of Peyton Manning, who eventually signed a five year deal worth 96 million dollars with the Denver Broncos.

Manning quickly shook off any lingering rust and concerns about his health, as in 2012, he led the NFL in completion percentage leading the Broncos to the AFC title game and winning Comeback Player of the Year. He compiled a total of 55 touchdown passes and 5,477 passing yards, two NFL single season records, and won his fifth MVP award in 2013. He was able to lead the Broncos to the Super bowl against the Seahawks where they came up short.

2014 was nothing short of record breaking, as Peyton passed Brett Favre’s career win total at QB with 509 wins and breaking the career passing yards record, also held by Favre. Manning was slowed by a foot injury at the end of the 2014 season and it seemed like a dark ending to an illustrious career. Manning returned the next season, in which he faced unfamiliar situations. Manning was on the bench for most of the season, but once the playoffs began, Manning put on his cape and lead the Broncos to an eventful story book ending with a Super Bowl against the Carolina Panthers.

Peyton is seen by many as the best quarterback of his generation. He will be remembered for not only his play on the field but for his superb sportsmanship and respect for the game. He ended his retirement news conference with an “Omaha,” which he is notoriously known for saying at the line of scrimmage. The game will miss you Peyton Manning, Omaha.

The Legacy of Peyton Manning

ANTHONY KHELIL

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Summer Sessions take place at our Jersey City Campus located at 2641 John F. Kennedy Boulevard.
What is wrong with New York Basketball?

Adam Grassani
Sports Editor

When looking at New York sports teams as of late, there is definitely some improvement that is bound to happen, in comparison to past seasons. In hockey, the Rangers and Islanders are destined to make the playoffs and play each other in the first round. Even the Devils seem to be rebuilding swiftly. And with the baseball season fast approaching, both the Yankees and the Mets are prepared to light it up. As a whole, things in New York sports seem to be getting brighter, except when it comes to their basketball teams.

Let’s be real here. Both New York basketball teams, the Knicks and the Brooklyn Nets, flat out stink. While the New York Knicks didn’t get off to a terrible start in 2015 with Kristaps Porzingis looking like the opposite of what many fans thought was a bust of a first round draft pick, it’s been all downhill ever since the new year began. They currently stand with a 28-43 record for third to last place in the Eastern Conference. Furthermore, Porzingis hasn’t looked the same since the All Star break, shooting 38 percent from the field (he hasn’t shot 50 percent since January.)

If you thought the Knicks were bad, you haven’t seen anything yet. Compared to the Nets, at least record wise, the Knicks look like a playoff team. The Nets stand with a 19-51 record, the third worst in the entire NBA. Not only that, the Nets never have had a legitimate “good part” of their season. The Nets had with Porzingis. Instead, the Nets started with a record of 1-9 to the season. There have been very miniscule parts of the Nets season that resemble competitiveness, and that if you look closely, there are any at all.

However, this does raise a very intriguing question. What does the future hold for both of these teams? Which team is headed in a better direction?

Looking at the Nets, they could possibly be in the worst situation of any team in the league. Trades again with the situation they’ve put themselves in, but they have two choices, you hide and wait or expensive. With the Nets started with a record of 1-9 to the season. There have been very miniscule parts of the Nets season that resemble competitiveness, and that if you look closely, there are any at all.

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It’s been a rocky start to the season for Bergen Community College’s softball team. As of writing, the Lady Bulldogs have yet to win a game this season, losing back to back doubleheaders against Northampton on the road and Ocean County at home. On March 19 at Northampton, the Bulldogs remained in the hunt for the win for the majority of the first game. Jamie Pines lead the way, driving in four runs, and Bergen found themselves going into the ninth inning tied 13-13. However, Northampton scored in the bottom of the ninth, walking off 14-13. The second game would be worse. Bergen had a 4-3 lead going into the fourth inning when Northampton would score 12 runs, running away with the 15-4 win in a game that ended in the fifth inning due to Region XIX’s eight run mercy rule.

Then came a cold and windy March 29, when the Bulldogs would play their doubleheader against Ocean County; it’s a doubleheader they would like to forget. Bergen had a 2-1 lead in the first inning, until the top of the second where Ocean County scored 14 runs. The Lady Bulldogs would go on to lose the first game 19-3.

Mother nature clearly had an effect on Bergen’s play in both games, and not in a good way.

The wind was blowing strong towards left field, which carried most of Ocean County’s fly balls over the fence; the team hit a grand total of eight home runs in both games. Furthermore, Bergen’s defensive game was very weak, dropping several fly balls that could have been outs.

"I think that some of the hits wouldn’t have been home runs today, had the wind not been pushing them out," said Bergen softball head coach Mallorie Gilbride. "I think that it affected our players judging where the balls were."

The second game would be even worse for Bergen. This time, they not manage to score a single run. Ocean County was able to turn a 1-0 lead into a 17-0 lead in the third inning, going on to win by a whopping score of 20-0.

Bergen lost all of their games of the season so far by a combined score of 58-20. Three of them ended early due to the mercy rule. They currently stand with an 0-4 record. Bergen will go on the road to face Middlesex County on Saturday, April 2nd before coming home the following day to face Camden County, both meetings of which will be double headers.

"I think that we’re heading to just improve on everything that we’ve done wrong so far."

**Dedovich Rises from Good to Great**

JoHN Calixte Staff Writer

Deana Dedovich is quite fortunate, currently, she has been at the right place at the right time. She being so works for BCC’s Athletic Department, where she is the assistant to the head honcho of athletics, Jorge Hernandez. Dedovich is also the head coach of the cross country team, they currently stand as the reigning regional championships. Dedovich wasn’t always sure as to what she wanted to do, however, she was certain that she wanted to coach in the near future.

"I knew once I was done with school, I wanted to coach," said Dedovich. "I always wanted to coach. It all worked out perfectly on how it’s supposed to be."

Inspiration is often hard to come by, but for the former Torch Online Editor, her softball coach at Bloomfield College inspired her highly. Similar to Dedovich, she climbed the ladder and went from coaching to being an athletic director; it heavily inspired Dedovich to do the same.

"It made me realize well, I want to be an athletic director," said Dedovich. "I kind of followed his footsteps."

Being so versatile and athletic at such a young age helped pave the way for her career today. Dedovich played basketball, softball, soccer and ran cross country. "That helps me out in the position now in understanding the need of each sport and not just knowing about baseball and softball...so it worked out for a reason."

Nothing as retiring as an athlete and now being a coach, Dedovich appears to be a fair coach; she’s unbiased and is open to hear what her athletes have to say.

"My major positive things about coaching is that I get to talk to my athletes," Dedovich said, describing her coaching style: "You don’t want to be a dictator; you want to get their input and make sure that they’re happy, but also understand where they’re coming from."

Since becoming one of the major cornerstone pieces in Bergen Athletics, Coach Dedovich has high hopes for the athletic department. She is determined to expand the horizon of the athletic field and bring in more sports and bring back the sports that are no longer in active; she was disappointed seeing the intramural teams get cut.

In the eyes of many, Dedovich made it all the way, but she doesn’t feel like she has. She feels like she has a lot more to conquer. This thrive to achieve more and stay hungry clearly shows why she was the best candidate for the job; her goal is nothing short of regionals.

So far her goal is working, this past fall the cross country team and Bergen’s Soccer team won Regionals. Both sports are now Region XIX Champions. When it comes to coaching however, Dedovich’s goals differ from many coaches. For her it isn’t to develop better individuals nor winners; it’s to make better student-athletes.

"My goal is to develop great student-athletes, you have to be a great combination of both because in the long run, sports will help your life with time management, respect for authority, and hard work," said Dedovich. "All of these life lessons are going to turn to something better for you. I’m blessed to be working in sports, every day I love waking up for my job. I love working with the young adults. I always wanted to be active in sports and working side by side with Jorge still shocks me."

After changing her major several times, Dedovich is proud of her efforts and looks forward to the future and what she has to offer. Having once juggled a job and a sport all while being a student, she is living proof that anything is possible and hard work does pay off. She has high expectations for Bergen Athletics and only time will tell what she brings to the table.
Baseball Bulldogs Bats Bark in Home Opener

April Schedule for Men’s Baseball

Sat. 9   at Rowan College at Gloucester County 8:20 PM, 2:00 PM
Sun. 10  Northampton Community College 3:30 PM
Tue. 12  at Brookdale Community College 3:30 PM
Thu. 14  Middlesex County College 3:30 PM
Sun. 17  at Lehigh Carbon Community College 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM
Tue. 19  at Union County College 3:30 PM
Sat. 23  Cumberland County College 12:00 PM, 3:00 PM
Tue. 26  Ocean County College 3:30 PM
Thu. 28  Borough Community College 3:30 PM
Sat. 30  at Atlantic Cape Community College 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM

Bergen Community College 5-3. The Bulldogs watching during the home opening day //Claudette Alcobar

Wrestling: Coach Kochakji, Man of the Year

Coach Kochakji is the man of the year on 2016 //Luis Ari Lopez Wei

ANTHONY KHELIL/staff writer

It was a beautiful day for baseball as our Bergen Bulldogs opened up their season at home, as they took on Bronx Community College. The crowd rose for the National Anthem before pitcher Bryan Rodriguez threw his first pitch for our Bulldogs on a cool day, which featured some clouds and wind.

Bryan Rodriguez or “B-Rod,” which his teammates enthusiastically call him, fired in a strike to begin the game. Rodriguez struck out the first batter he faced. However, he had a rocky inning in the top of the first as Bergen went into the bottom of the first down 3-0. B-Rod was able to accomplish a rare feat, as he struck out four batters in the first inning, as a result of a dropped third strike in which a Bronx batter was able to reach first safely.

Outfielder James Fitzgerald got off the 3-0 score in the bottom of the first inning with a single, which was followed by a double from infielder Lewis Beato. Shortstop Junior Nasi was able to drive in Fitzgerald from third with a sacrifice fly, as Bergen was able to get on the board, down 3-1 headed into the top of the second.

After a rough first inning, Rodriguez was able to make quick work of Bronx Community College recording another strikeout in the process, he had five strikeouts through two innings. In the bottom of the second inning the Bulldogs were able to load the bases when James Fitzgerald came through with a bases clearning double. Fitzgerald was able to then score on a pass ball the very next pitch and our Bulldogs now led Bronx Community College 9-3 at the end of the second.

In the bottom of the third James Fitzgerald recorded another base hit and now had three hits through three innings. Catcher Jordan Jackson was able to drive in two runs in the third inning and Bergen was now up by eight runs as they led Bronx 11-3.

Rodriguez continued his dominating performance striking out two more batters to set the Bronx batters down with ease in the top of the third inning. In the top of the fourth, he added another strikeout to his bunch, recording his eighth strikeout in the top of the fourth. In the top of the fifth Bronx was able to manufacture two runs, as they tried to scratch away at Bergen’s lead. Rodriguez finished the inning with another strikeout, limiting the damage and holding Bronx to only two runs in the inning. Rodriguez pitched five strong innings, striking out 11 batters in the process, as he was relieved by Christian Garcia to begin the top of the sixth inning.

“I don’t think it’s really about me,” said James Fitzgerald. “I think the team played very well today. I think that we did what it took to win. I think Bryan Rodriguez came in and got the job done. He pitched very well. We hit the ball hard. If you hit the ball hard you win. That’s it.” Garcia struck out the first batter he faced, and pitched three scoreless innings, exiting the game with four strikeouts, as he shut out the Bronx bats. The bottom of the eighth inning began with a bunt single by Junior Nasi, in which he was able to advance to second on a throwing error made by Bronx. At the end of eighth, Bergen led 11-5 as right hander Blake Smith entered the game and closed it out for the Bulldogs. Smith was able to close out the game as a Bronx hitter lined out to center field, and Bergen came out Victorious in their 2016 home opener.

“I think we’ve got a great group of guys on this team.” Fitzgerald said after the confidence boosting win. “I think we have the potential to win the whole region this year. Make it down to North Carolina and play in the college world series. So we’ll see what happens.”

LUCIA RUBI GODDY/online editor

Wrestling Coach Ed Kochakji, who was named “2016 Man of the Year,” by the NJCAA National Tournament. Having been nominated to the Hall of Fame by the NJCAA two years ago, this is the first time that Coach Kochakji is named Man of the Year.

“Each region nominates a coach that has helped out wrestling and helped out kids, their team, and has shown a great interest in the sport,” said Coach Kochakji. “I’m sure the program will be in good hands. That’s it.”

“Wrestling is a type of sport that you do it for 24 hours, you gotta be fully dedicated.” “It’s a sport that it’s a way of life,” he added. The coach explained that training, diet and discipline all play important roles for a good performance.

“As far as coaching, it’s about the kids. What you put into a program, is what you are gonna get out,” said Kochakji. “If you put one percent in, you’ll have a good team. And if students keep their grades up and show dedication and come to practice, everything will work out fine.”

Leaving the team in the hands of Chris DiSanto, who works at the testing center and had volunteered to help the Coach out for two years.

“I’m sure the program will be in good hands in Chris’s hands,” he said. “I hopeicking gonna continue teaching, and probably just not coach for a while, it takes a lot of time and effort. I’m getting older and I think this is a young man’s game, I believe coaches should be young to be able to relate with the student athletes.”

When he was asked what advice he would give to young wrestlers, Kochakji said, “Wrestling is a sport of discipline all day long. You gotta be fully dedicated.” “It’s a way of life,” he added. The coach explained that training, diet and discipline all play important roles for a good performance.

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