Coordinator Juhi Bhatt Resigns, Rutgers Bound

“...it was her time to move up in higher education, but we are going to miss her. She made a huge impact here,” said Greg Fenkart, Coordinator of Student Development.

Board Of Trustees Approves Support Staff Contract

A contract for the Support Staff Association was approved with an unanimous vote at the January Board of Trustees meeting. A level of stability has been restored to support staff workers, as the new contract holds for three years. It is effective from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. It is the first time this type of contract has been in place since June 2013. From 2013 until now, the support staff has been working under one year contracts.

“With the money, the million dollars that was paid to [Attorneys] Schepisi and Goldstein, many were embarrassed that nothing settled. That’s why when [Attorney Matthew Giacobbe] came in, it got settled much quicker,” said the head representative of the Support Staff, Al Legge. Giacobbe was hired in 2014 to work with all unions in Bergen. “Negotiations have been more amicable and productive since the new negotiator has been in place,” said Chairperson of Faculty Senate Dr. Alan Kaufman, and agreeing things are getting done more quickly after Giacobbe replaced Marvin Goldstein (the previous negotiator) in 2014. Also, long time support staff member, James Daly says that “These new contracts allow us to work with peace of mind.”

Inside the contract, it states that the support staff will have $100 added to their base salary as well as a 2 percent raise for the first year it is in effect. An additional 2.5 percent will be added to their salaries each year in the next two years. Changes were also made involving benefits, vacation time and the amount of days allotted for leave of absence. “We got a number of things Giacobbe saw that the college wasn’t doing. It would have been nice to get 2.5 to 3 percent for three years. But we ended up getting 2 percent and then 2.5 for the for the last two years. It is just a relief that is settled.”

“It’s been very productive and cordial and good dialogue all the way through with both support staff and faculty,” said Greg Fenkart in February to Vice President of Academic Affairs William Mullaney, progress for faculty contracts is also being made, but the negotiations are more complicated, so a date on when those will be settled cannot be estimated at this time.
Casinos May Be Heading Into North Jersey

CAROLINA ESTRADA

Two of New Jersey’s top legislative leaders, Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, met with Governor Chris Christie and have announced a deal on a bill of expanding casino gambling outside of Atlantic City, specifically in North Jersey, on January 11. This bill would need 60 percent of votes from the state Senate and Assembly before it can be put on the ballot in November.

So far the bill received the pass of the bill by a symbolic vote of 33-6.

According to NJ.gov reports, The bill would issue two casino licenses in Northern Jersey, and it would require the casinos to be at least 72 miles from Atlantic City. The casino license will first be available to casino-license holders from Atlantic City but they have a very limited window of 60 days to submit their proposals and must at least include a commitment of $1 billion. This addresses the concerns of Prieto, who fears New Jersey could get stuck with a saturated gaming market, and it would require the bill to be put on a voter ballot.

The governor said, “I condemn in the strongest possible terms this continued attempt to siphon off old business and jobs from Atlantic City. To think that the answer to an already overly saturated gaming market is saturating it even more is madness.”

To help protect against predicted loss of revenue from Atlantic City casinos, a tax revenue of up to $200 million a year is expected, to go to the redevelopment of Atlantic City if the bill passes. Up to 12,000 new jobs and millions of dollars in revenue is also expected for the state if the casinos are built.

If this bill passes through both chambers, it then would be required to be put on a voter ballot this November to change the state constitution, which has limited the casino industry to Atlantic City, since casinos were first legalized in 1976. However, according to a Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll released last year, New Jersey adults oppose casino expansion by 56 percent while 37 percent were in favor of it.

Illustration made by Rebecca Karpinski

"I think that the decision to be patient with this course shows good faith on part of the faculty," said Chairperson of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Alan Kaufman.

Concerns Arise Regarding “Success-101” Course

ADRIANNA CARABALLO

Success is a word that can be easily said but hard to define. It is so hard to define because its definition varies based on the values and morals of that certain person. Yet Bergen Community College offers a whole class called IST-123, or better known as Success 101, down as Success 101. Currently, the class is mandatory for all students who placed into EBS (English Basic Skills) and Developmental Math.

Many students feel that the class would be better suited for all first-year students to take and not just those who placed into remedial classes.

"The course provides students with direction through career exploration, self-assessment and to reform goal setting while strengthening written and oral communication skills," said Professor Carmen Torres.

However helpful this class might be, there have been issues with allowing students to take the class before taking the developmental course. Speaking to the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Alan Kaufman, “Two years ago in the summer, students were allowed to take IST-123 (Success 101) before taking developmental English placements. That’s a violation of college policy approved by the Board of Trustees. You cannot take 100 level credit courses if you have an EBS requirement.”

According to EBS policy, students are required to take their EBS classes their first semester. If students dropped their EBS class, they would have to drop from the college as well. "With the creation of The First Year Experience course, students may take both developmental and Success 101 classes their first semester. This is highly valued since there is a great effort being made to reform it.

"I think that the decision to be patient with this course shows good faith on part of the faculty,” said Kaufman.

The hope and faith in this course was also solidified by Cordell. "We do feel like there is value here in this course,” said Cordell.

The course closely follows the ideas and principles of Skip Downing, the writer of the required book for the class “On course.” Downing believes there are certain developmental qualities that make a successful student, such as accepting personal responsibility and developing emotional intelligence. These are concepts that one would think come naturally to others, and can almost be considered common sense. The sad truth is that many people, not just students, struggle with concepts such as those.

"The Success 101 class is critical to students because it focuses on strategies, habits and values necessary for students to achieve success in college,” Torres said.

Students are required to look deep into themselves and write about the strengths and weaknesses surrounding their lives, among other things. BCC student Julia Young gave a student’s perspective of the class. “I found it very useful. It was a laid back class and I found the journals interesting because they asked my questions about myself I hadn’t thought about. As a student, I liked it for pointing out what I was lacking for staying on track.”

On top of its regular assignments, there were some that are created for the professors to get to know the students better. “Some were very personal. But I didn’t mind, I understood that asking those personal questions can help teachers see if their students are going through a rough time and may need a counselor or just someone to vent to,” said Young.

Illustration made by Rebecca Karpinski

"I think that the decision to be patient with this course shows good faith on part of the faculty," said Chairperson of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Alan Kaufman.

If the state doesn’t receive proposals that meet the criteria after 60 days, other license holders will be allowed to bid.

Not everyone agrees to building casinos outside of Atlantic City casinos, a tax revenue of up to $200 million a year is expected, to go to the redevelopment of Atlantic City if the bill passes. Up to 12,000 new jobs and millions of dollars in revenue is also expected for the state if the casinos are built.

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**Students Get Involved on Club Day**

**MICHELLE CORREA**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With over 50 campus clubs to choose from, Bergen Community College truly offers something for every student to find an interest in. This day brings many students together at the student center to frame their college experience through joining a club in which they can make a difference. Students have an opportunity to meet and interact with most of these groups on club day, which this year took place on Thursday, January 21 and the 26.

On Thursday, each club had a good amount of students asking questions and signing up as well. The Italian Club, led by student Nadia Vaso, provided a great example of the diversity found on the campus as not everyone in the Italian club was actually Italian, said Vaso. Vaso also informed The Torch that this year the Italian club is planning on taking more trips, one they have in mind is to a museum.

The Future Business Leaders of America club was also a very interesting club that provided a much needed college on money. President Munutha Rana briefly explained how the club focuses on current events based on economics and finances. They host informative events and have presentations from time to time. These clubs on campus give students the chance to create and take responsibility for the campus community and make a difference for those future student leaders.

Joining a club or organization enhances leadership skills and the development of learning outside of a classroom by offering social and cultural ideas that give a new aspect to education for students as well. The clubs and organizations at Bergen Community College empower and inspire students to achieve their goals and become vital worldwide citizens past their collegiate journey.

**Coordinator
Juhi Bhatt Resigns
Continued from front page**

Bhatt began her tenure at BCC on January 2011 as a graduate intern at the college.

After she finished her master's degree at Montclair University on May 2012, she became a part time employee. “Even though I had other job opportunities, I passed them because I was hoping Bergen would hire me full time,” said Bhatt.

That wish came into fruition on December 2012, when she was hired for a grant funded position that worked within Judicial Affairs, as well as the offices of Student Success and Student Life.

“Her presence was felt here immediately. A long timer like myself was kind of refreshed to see her enthusiasm and her work ethic. It revitalized my energy, and it’s something that we all absorbed. That will carry on with us even when she leaves,” said Fenkart. Fenkart added that searches to find a replacement will be underway soon.

“Juhi is the kind of person who you can go to at 4 p.m. and you need a letter of recommendation that is due at 5 p.m., and she will do it. She did that for me. She’s incredibly hardworking and selfless,” said student Noemie Broussoux-Coutard.

That hard working attitude inspired students such as Shamar Gill, a full time international student and employee of the college. “I am putting myself through school so it is pretty hard, but Juhi was able to help me find work with a job at student life. She is an incredible mentor,” said Gill.

“I don’t think that I’ll meet students that are as hardworking as the majority of the population of the students that go here,” said Bhatt. “I had the privilege of not working when I was in college, so I see these kids who are taking fifteen credits while working three jobs and say ‘how are you doing this?’” she added.

Along with Student Life and Judicial Affairs, Bhatt was also a former SGA co-advisor, a campus wide president of the student occupational output as a Career Counselor. Bhatt credits the work within Student Conduct as one of the most rewarding of them all.

“Those interactions of figuring out why the student might have done something wrong at the moment. But then down the road, I see them mature and transition into Rutgers, or Montclair or wherever they decide to get their four year degree? That is definitely not only a big highlight, but a pleasure to see,” said Bhatt.

“I hope I have the experiences that I gained here and see them at a Big Ten school like Rutgers,” said Bhatt. “But the relationships that I made here with people will always be a little
Clinton’s Woes Will Allow Sanders to Win

Just like the Democratic issued a statement on January 4 arguing primaries eight years ago, Clinton was that Sanders was being soft on Wall slowly being chipped away by a rising Street by taking “a hands-off approach.” Barack Obama; that was until January Sanders fired back in a speech that day, 7 2008, when she started to go after pointing out that Clinton has benefited Obama for being a “dreamer” at a rally from Wall Street campaign contributions and “very generous speaking fees” from Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders’ meteoric rise to relevancy for the Democratic Presidential nomination. It was only months ago when Sanders was treated by Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton as a sort of harmless internet viral rain shower going to drive away her supporters by the boatload. An example of this was when her statement would prove to be a critical Congress as laid out, it would ensure mistake by Clinton’s campaign, as every single citizen in this country has she saw her lead with minority voters, single pay insurance, along with doing and arguably the entire 2008 election, away with costly private insurance dissipate before her very eyes. Today, we have Clinton arguably following the same mistake with being too lenient on guns was met with Sanders, as her campaign has enacted more backslash, as Sanders holds a D- a multi-pronged attack towards Sanders approval rating from the National Rifle Association, as well as vetoing bills that released. Just like with Obama, her would allow military grade weapons in misinformed insults are going to drive Vermont numerous times as senator. away her supporters by the boatload. What has been the result of all of An example of this was when her Sanders’ Campaign contributions campaign’s chief financial officer skyrocketed, making $3.1 million in between January 12-16; a record in any four day pre-primary span. It has also led to Sanders being the odds on favorite to win the first two states in the primaries, and while Clinton and her campaign have on record that it would not bother them, it should. The idea of a close race will be a thing of the past, just like in 2008, if Clinton continues to make the same pseudo-truth attacks on Sanders like she did to Obama. All it is doing is wetting the mouths of a starving and angry Democratic population. They are hungry for revolution.

Corrections from December

- The “Students Will Now Pay to Print” article on page 1 stating that students will have a 125 free page allowance was incorrect. The correct amount is 150.

- The caption for the photo in the “Students Will Now Pay to Print” article on page 3 misspelled and incorrectly attributed Violet Surdyka, Interim Coordinator of Veteran and Military Affairs.

- The photos for the article “A Leader Begins With You” on page 13 were taken by Alyssa Blundo.
My Encounter With Struggling Youth in Bergen County

SAMUEL DESIND
Contributing Writer

Last week, I met with Julia Orlando, Director of the Bergen County Housing Health and Human Services Center which is located in Hackensack, New Jersey next to the Bergen County Jail. The Center opened in 2009 and provides housing for up to 90 homeless residents of Bergen County and distributes over 73,000 meals a year.

As I sat in Mrs. Orlando’s office, she received a phone call. A police officer from Oradell, New Jersey had just arrested a 23-year-old male we shall call “John.” John had been trespassing in an abandoned house on Kinderkammack Road. He was not looking to harm anyone or steal valuable belongings. Rather, he was looking for shelter, a roof to escape the elements. The officer informed Mrs. Orlando that the police were familiar with John, as they had picked him up several times before. At one time, he had been setting up a tent and taking shelter in local parks. More recently, he had been dating a woman in the area. When the relationship ended, John found himself homeless.

John was with the officer who was calling Mrs. Orlando and the officer briefly spoke with him on the other end of the call. Mrs. Orlando explained to me that homeless people in local suburban areas are a very common scenario here in Bergen County and many of them are young. As a result, her position with regard to allowing youths into the shelter had to change.

“The heroin epidemic, [in Bergen County] is worse than it has ever been before,” Mrs. Orlando stated. She went on to explain that the increase of available drugs such as prescription pills, heroin and other lesser known street drugs, such as synthetic marijuana, have caused major problems with the county’s youth population. She warns that the pure, strong and inexpensive heroin showing up in northern New Jersey will cause more problems.

In many cases, parents lose patience and deny residence to their own children, essentially pushing them onto the street where they are more likely to get involved in destructive activities. While it is not clear if drugs contributed to John’s situation, it did become apparent from Mrs. Orlando’s conversation with the police officer that John’s mother would not allow him to return home. Fortunately, the Oradell police officer graciously agreed to transport John to the shelter to receive a hot shower and a meal until she learned more about his situation.

Mrs. Orlando allowed me to wait until John arrived at the shelter. About 10 minutes later, he arrived and was directed to the cafeteria. John was wearing a black jacket, a black shirt, ripped jeans and carrying a black backpack containing all of his belongings. He looked scared, tired and lonely; smelling like he had not showered in weeks. His fingerprints were scanned to determine whether he had been to the shelter previously.

“How are you feeling today, have you eaten anything?” asked one of the interns working on John’s intake paperwork.

“I had a doughnut this morning but that’s all I ate today,” he replied. Another intern arrived at the table where we had sat down and handed John a juice box. Feeling a little better, John described to me his passion for creating music. Among his possessions was a laptop that he used to compose electronic music whenever he found a place to plug it in.

Meeting John and seeing the pain he was experiencing, made the 2013 statistic of the 431,549 New Jersey residents under 24 in poverty real to me, and even more heartbreaking that John has been homeless for five years. Previously, he had lived at a shelter in Union County, which he referred to as a “ghetto.” He also took shelter in Plainfield, where he said he watched someone die.

John had no access to food on a daily basis for several weeks. He is not alone in this regard. While many residents in Bergen County may not be homeless, for them food security remains a real concern. Donating food to local pantries is one way to help food insecure families in our community.

“I have nowhere else to go. I’m sick of this. I just hope they take me here,” John muttered, upset and frustrated with his predicament; not knowing if he will be allowed to stay at the shelter. Mrs. Orlando explained that municipalities within Bergen County have the ability to contract, or sell off, their affordable housing requirements to other towns, causing some areas of the county to lack much needed low income housing. It turned out that John was not a resident of Bergen County. He was given food, clothes and a shower, but was not allowed to remain at the shelter.

Phi Theta Kappa at Bergen Community College is now working with Mrs. Orlando to educate residents about the factors that are contributing to homelessness in Bergen County. Working with Brian Hemstreet, the Manager of Media Technologies at Bergen Community College, Phi Theta Kappa is producing a documentary highlighting how education is impacted by poverty and how education can be used as a means of redirecting the lives of our community’s youth to empower them to achieve brighter futures.

“We hope to host a seminar to help residents at the Center learn the basic skills needed to find employment and take advantage of opportunities such as financial aid and other assistance programs available at Bergen Community College,” states Natalia Gonzalez, President of Phi Theta Kappa.

It was by chance that I learned of John’s plight. This rare opportunity, provided by Mrs. Orlando, who does not regularly get involved in situations like John’s, exposed me to a common problem in this county; the issue of homelessness and hunger, which generally go unnoticed in the wealthiest areas of Bergen County and in our state.

Both homelessness and hunger require greater attention. Currently, the shelter’s 90 resident capacity is full and there is no sign that will change anytime soon.
Your Vote Doesn’t Count, Until You Vote

GABE WANISSIAN
February 2016

There is a growing mindset amongst today’s youth that is crippling the growth of the United States of America; that voting does not matter. This stems from the idea that American politics is a filthy game that is not worth getting our hands dirty for. Well, it is hard to dispute the idea that our political leaders have been bought and paid for by corporate interests, the idea that the electoral college system is a faulty one, and that we have had elected officials deliver nothing but empty promises. But this “dirty game” is failing the American people because the American people have abandoned it. That is why it is not a coincidence that the United States is the 19th least corrupt country in the world according to Transparency International. Interestingly enough, New Zealand, which was ranked as the least corrupt nation on Earth, also averages a 73 percent voter turnout according to a Pew research poll. In contrast, the United States appalling voter turnout of 53.6 percent ranks some of the lowest for all developed countries. It is clear that the best form of “policing” is a politically engaged population. For the 2016 presidential election, one can only hope that this will be the year that we can see more enthusiasm, not only within the typical voting demographic, but especially with the youth.

And yet still, some will argue that all the candidates choose to from are essentially the same. However, a clear example of that opinion being a misinformed one is the 2014 Florida Governor election, in which Republican Rick Scott narrowly defeated Democrat Charlie Crist by 1 percent. As a result, 700,000 Floridians were left without health insurance, as Scott was in adamant opposition of Obamacare.

And to the people who were once engaged, but became discouraged due to their candidates not delivering on their promises, one has to look at the fact that politics is a long term race, not a sprint. While the two major parties have had average turnouts, the 2010 and 2014 midterm elections resulted in only 40.9 and 36.4 percent turnouts respectively. What America needs to realize is that if your preferred presidential candidate wins, you must continue to vote for the people who are in favor of their policies. It is only then, that they will be able to work with Congress efficiently to enact some change.

It is a change that could very well happen in our lifetimes, if today’s young adults were willing to make that shift unfold. Yet, a long running survey by Pew Research done on people ages 15-24 from several countries including the U.S., France, and England which found that over 22 percent believe that society’s problems can only be fixed by revolutionary force. Yes, a revolution is needed, but not in the form of fiery pitchforks outside somebody’s yard. Rather than short-term fads like the Occupy movement, the disenfranchised youth must look at the resiliency of the Civil Rights movement that was relentless in their approach to break down barriers.

The upcoming presidential election has revealed to us that there are still many obstacles and clean ups that need to be made in this new semester! We want to remind everyone that our hands dirty for. Well, it is hard to dispute the idea that our political leaders have been bought and paid for by corporate interests, the idea that the electoral college system is a faulty one, and that we have had elected officials deliver nothing but empty promises. But this “dirty game” is failing the American people because the American people have abandoned it. That is why it is not a coincidence that the United States is the 19th least corrupt country in the world according to Transparency International. Interestingly enough, New Zealand, which was ranked as the least corrupt nation on Earth, also averages a 73 percent voter turnout according to a Pew research poll. In contrast, the United States appalling voter turnout of 53.6 percent ranks some of the lowest for all developed countries. It is clear that the best form of “policing” is a politically engaged population. For the 2016 presidential election, one can only hope that this will be the year that we can see more enthusiasm, not only within the typical voting demographic, but especially with the youth.

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The Rivals, the most famous play by Richard Brinsley Sheridan and directed by Bergen's own Thomas O'Neil, delivers consistent laughs all the way through to the end. It deftly demonstrated wit, and was carefully balanced with attention and delicacy in conveying the tale of how the love lives of the Nobles of Bath are increasingly complicated by their own foolishness.

As far as the stage direction and set design are concerned, both were outstanding. The musical transitions between scene changes as the servant characters move the props was a clever touch that allows the audience to remain immersed in the show, as none of the actions seem out of character. The music was period appropriate and everything seemed geared towards generating as authentic and engrossing an experience as possible.

Jon Aponte stars as the Coachman, a character who, although he plays a minor role, is the first to be introduced to the audience. In his initial performance opposite Jonathan Rueda, who plays Fag, the devoted if somewhat bumbling servant of Captain Jack Absolute, he adds to one of the spectacularly performed period comedies.

John Kroner takes center stage as Captain Jack Absolute, a man who despite being of noble birth, poses as a poor man to win the affections of the overly romantic Lydia Languish. This plot is under constant threat of collapse, in part due to the young captain's own hubris. Kroner's performance was comprehensive in its embrace of the period, almost reminiscent of Ryan O'Neal in Barry Lyndon.

Nicole Gallin plays Lydia Languish, a girl who cannot get past her romantic notions of giving up her wealth to live in poverty with her beloved Captain Absolute. She later realizes that he has been playing her for a fool and is in fact rather wealthy. Gallin's performance captured the irony of the character and Gallin's talent was demonstrated in Lydia's melancholy.

A personal highlight of the play was Jessie Jones' Mrs. Malaprop, an iconic character and the namesake of the word "malapropism". The performance is sufficiently boisterous and strikes a great note between being naturally comical and the mischievous behavior of Lydia's only other confidant, the duplicitous Lucy. This character, played by Ashley Driscoll, creates the distinct impression that she might just be the most competent character in the play. Despite her undaunted self-assurance, she never fails to get paid, and pays the other characters against one another. Driscoll is impressive in her ability to switch between being subservient to Lydia and demonstrating her character's true controlling nature, and has outstanding onstage chemistry with Dakota Librescu, who plays the brash Sir Lucius O'Trigger.

Librescu has a style and charisma as Sir Lucius that is unmatched, and an Irish accent so believable that I was shocked to find that he was not in fact an immigrant. This was made even more impressive when Anthony Altavilla, who The Torch caught up with after the show, confirmed that there were no accent coaches and instead all the actors had to improvise their own.

When asked what the most difficult part of the performance was, Altavilla responded, "Faulkland's character is a really complex, and at times contradictory, character. He is in love with a woman he can't possibly get past her romantic notions, and his insecurity." When asked about what the most fun part of the performance was, Altavilla said that it would either have to be closing night or opening night. Closing night due to the culmination of all the work and refinement of the rehearsals and previous performances, or opening night due to it being "the moment when it all came together."
A Guide to Transferring from Bergen

LUCIA RUBI GODOY

Bergen Community College has been recognized two years in a row for its high graduation rates. However, one thing that is not backed up, don’t go into consideration until they are almost done with their Associate’s degree is, “what happens after Bergen?”

Many of the students that we see during every commencement plan to transfer to a four-year university. Transferring to a four-year university is a process completely detached from what we accomplish during our time at BCC. For several reasons, transferring should be on the minds of the students from the moment they enter community college, whether or not they know what they’re going to do after graduating.

1. Maintaining Good Grades
One of those reasons is their grade point average (GPA). A common misconception among many students is that grades don’t matter much because they are still only at BCC. Wrong. This is only applicable for students fresh out of high school, who get a second chance at rebuilding their GPA once they arrive at BCC. Once a student transfers, this is not the case, which is why one should be sure to work hard from the beginning. Most four-year universities have higher GPA standards, and this means that performing poorly at your community college, will lessen your chances at ending up at the university you want to attend.

2. Creating The Best Resume
Another reason to stay on top of your game from the beginning, is your resume. Your resume will increase your chances of getting accepted into your dream school. Getting involved with clubs and/or organizations better your resume and universities like to see students who have gotten involved. For example, if you were a member of 60 active clubs and organizations every semester, you’re not being able to find something you like, it is not an excuse. More clubs also take into consideration, not only your GPA, but also community and social involvement as well; leadership positions and hours of community service and volunteering are looked at when the time to pick a recipient comes.

3. Fill Paperwork, Get Aid
Scholarships and financial aid are a privilege, not a right. Filling out applications and following up with the necessary paperwork for financial aid may be tedious, and confusing, but nobody is going to do it for you. It may sound unbelievable, but there are people in community college who do not receive financial aid because “the application was too complicated.” Students will miss out on the opportunity to get money to pay for their classes, because they did not want to put in a few hours of work to figure out how. This is why we have the financial aid office and workshops, where students and other staff members can facilitate the process, or at least guide you through it. Scholarships are the same. You put in the time and effort, apply as many as you can, and maybe receive some. But if you don’t apply, you are guaranteed to get none. According to unews.com, approximately 1 percent of college freshmen receive full financial aid. Unfortunately, this is nowhere near the number of students who need it. Thankfully, some four-year schools offer tuition waivers based on different needs that would cover part of the student’s tuition.

4. Avoid Debt For Bachelor’s Degree
Another aspect related monetarily to transferring, is the cost of the schools. This should not be the only criterion by which you choose your four-year school, but it is important to have in mind student debt and how much of your costs financial aid will realistically cover. Always have in mind that students who live out of state, pay higher rates. If you are planning on pursuing your education even further, really consider postponing that Ivy League for when you reach your master’s degree or PhD. This is not to discourage anyone from attending Ivy Leagues, but students should keep in mind that the potential debt that can be accumulated from attending a state university is certainly different from the debt a student would accumulate from attending an Ivy league, and that is a debt that you may possibly want to postpone until you reach the higher periods of your education, or avoid altogether. Student debt is no joke. Many of our generation’s parents are still dealing with their student debt; it’s a headache that can potentially haunt you for a very long time. According to the website ticas.org, 69 percent of graduating seniors in 2014 had student loan debts of approximately $30,000 per borrower.

Consider factors such as distance, size of the school, number of students, and most importantly, the quality of the program or major that you want to pursue. There is no secret formula to finding the perfect school. It is highly recommended to visit schools of choice for open house tours, and to make appointments with your transfer counselors (fake advantage of the resources offered in your school). They have the knowledge and quick access to information, like what programs are offered at other schools, requirements and application deadlines.

A good idea is to visit a transfer counselor as soon as you have an idea of what your major should be, or even when you feel you need some information regarding the future. They can provide all the information mentioned above, and help you figure out exactly what requirements you need to complete in order to graduate. Also, visit an academic counselor, they are where it’s at if you need someone to help you distribute your requirements in your remaining semesters.

Dr. Geoffrey Sadock, who received the U.S. Professor of the Year for New Jersey Award at the end of 2015, gave The Torch advice for the younger generation.

He started teaching in 1965 (the same year Bergen Community College was founded), he was a grader at Tufts University and occasionally taught. After having taught at BCC since 1972, and being on one of the most popular professors amongst honors students (He co-founded the college honors program in 1975), Dr. Sadock admitted that he felt competing for the U.S. Professor of the Year Award made sense during this time. “I had the sense that I was coming to the end of my career, and I thought that if they found me competitive and I won it would be a chance for recognition,” said Dr. Sadock.

Having followed the advice of William Bullock, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Sadock started preparing a paper to submit. “I didn’t know how much paperwork was very extensive,” said Dr. Sadock.

“For example, it required an up-to-date resume which I hadn’t used my resume in decades, and when I brought it to the VP of counseling officer here, Larry Hlavanka, he looked at it and burst out laughing because it was done on a typewriter,” he said.

(Continued on page 12)
Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the most important leaders in the Civil Rights Movement. He is especially known among most people as one of the most influential nonviolent activists in the U.S. What a lot of people don’t know, is that Civil Rights wasn’t the only thing he advocated for. He was also a huge activist for the war on poverty/capitalism and was against the Vietnam war.

Right before Dr. King was assassinated, he was planning a new march and campaign called, “The Poor People’s Campaign.” In this march, he wanted to bring the poor people of all racial backgrounds, together in Washington and set demands on Congress to help fight for economic equality. He was killed before he could be on the march happen, but the march carried on with Ralph Abernathy.

Dr. King wanted the government to end poverty in the United States by providing each citizen with a universal basic income. In his book and last speech, “Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community?” He said, “Each seeks to solve poverty by first solving something else.” He believed the best solution was to give Americans money directly. “One day we must ask the question, ‘why are there forty million poor people in Socialist countries like Sweden, Finland, and Norway?’. He continued to say, “The government’s previous efforts to eradicate poverty were too small and that they were only trying to attack the root of the problem and failing. Some of those issues involve providing better housing, better education and offering support for families. But Dr. King thought it was too indirect. In his book he said, “So it is time to think of a new strategy to deal with poverty and to stop blaming the poor for their condition.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. called, “The Poor People’s Campaign.” In this campaign, he was planning a new march and campaign to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube.

His advocacy didn’t end with just the Civil Rights movement as he was mostly known for but he fought for peace and for the poor, evident with the work he was putting into The Poor People’s Campaign right before he was killed.
Surviving Three Dictatorships

FERNANDO VAZQUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

French cartoonist and former contributor for the satirical French weekly Charlie Hebdo, Riad Sattouf wrote and illustrated his graphic novel, “The Arab of the Future”. The novel consists of interesting drawings on Sattouf’s multicultural past. The first two parts of Sattouf’s four-part graphic novel memoirs were published in French in 2014 and the first part in English last year.

Although he was born in Paris in 1978, Sattouf grew up in various Middle Eastern countries. First in Libya, where his father had a job as a professor, and then in his father’s hometown in Syria, a village called Ter Maaleh. With his estranged childhood, Sattouf’s graphic novel memoirs refer to his father’s faith and belief that an Arab nationalism would modernize the region. Sattouf does a good job of putting the reader in his shoes. When first reading the graphic novel, one is place into the mindset of young Sattouf. Sattouf explains how his parents met in The University of Paris, AKA Sorbonne. Sattouf reminisces on his childhood in Paris, how he had “long, thick, silky platinum blonde hair,” and random strangers on the street were impressed by his appearance; they would carry him like he was their own. He had a different experience in Syria, Sattouf suffered bullying in school and at home by his father’s family due to his appearance. He witnessed terrifying and odd occurrences; little boys would be seen deflecting bullets in the street, throwing rocks at donkeys, and pitchforking stray dogs; women would sit idly by as their sons beat up their cousins; and psychotic children would follow his family through the streets with sticks. As for little Sattouf’s delicate French mother, Clementine, these things were too much for her and she pleaded with Abdel, Riad’s father for them to return to France.

“The Arab of the Future” consisted of all these experiences; different cultures, different national identity, memories, unkind living conditions and living in both a democratic society and a society ruled by a dictator. He was pulled back and forth between Giscard D Estaing’s France, Gaddafi’s Libya and Assad’s Syria. Sattouf’s graphic novel gives us a unique look into how life is for someone’s who’s lived in such drastically different places, and the trials and tribulations one such person faces.

Importance Of Teaching

One of the things that distinguishes Dr. Sadock is that when some professors recommend his courses to students, he is first hand recommendation from professors who had the courses themselves. “It’s a wonderful thing about being a mentor when it comes to education is that you are in a way like a parent, but it’s not the same experience because you will always be there, but with a mentor there is a point when the mentee acquires everything, and then they become peers. And that’s very sweet,” he explained.

When asked what helps with the energy to continue teaching his classes semester after semester, “it’s an exciting thing,” he said. “I’m very privileged. I get to do something that I really love doing. I don’t know of a correct answer. That would be the stupidest reason. I get to have the opportunity to empower students with information, with knowledge, but also, I can teach them something about thinking, and about raising questions, something that’s useful in their lives,” he added.

As a teacher and mentor, he knows the most important goal is to stay true to one’s vocation. “I would say to all the professors that there are many temptations to abandon the correct focus,” he said. “This is a service vocation; we serve our students.”

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Fallout 4, Rescue and Revenge

Adrianna Caballo  
Staff Writer

Fallout 4 is an open world post-apocalyptic role playing game that plays with the idea of revenge and restoration. The game is developed by Bethesda Game Studios and published by Bethesda Softworks, the same makers of the critically acclaimed game Skyrim, and the previous Fallout games. The events of Fallout 4 take place 10 years after the previous game, Fallout 3.

The player takes the role of the sole survivor from Vault 111 who was frozen for over 200 years. The beginning of the game starts off in a peaceful 50’s-like society in Boston, Massachusetts with the player spending time with their husband/wife (depending on which character you pick) and baby boy, Shaun. Things turn dark when bombs drop during the war and destroy everything. To save their family, the player brings their family to Vault 111 to begin their journey to find them.

Another new feature in the Fallout series is the option to start a relationship with certain characters by earning their trust and raising their affinity. There are a total of 12 characters that can be romanced, and doing this opens up special dialogue, quests and perks with that certain character. Fallout 4 is not all about shooting anything that comes in your path. There is a large focus put on reconstructing the wasteland you are given by building settlements and buildings. This feature is new to the Fallout series and gives a great amount of depth to it with the concept of personalization and creation.

The Torch gives this game 8/10
Uber’s "Surge Price" Causing Controversy

ADRIAN YLLATOPA
Co-Editor

This New Year’s Eve, people all over the country complained about ride sharing company Uber and its “Surge Price” tactic, which caused people to pay hundreds of dollars for rides that usually cost a fraction of that. People took to twitter and other social media outlets to complain about paying sometimes a fare 10 times more than the average.

On busy days and times where demand for Ubers are higher than usual, the company releases a notice on the app saying that it is a “Surge Price” time which means that the cost of an average rate is more. The per-minute charges also increased and the minimum fare is also increased. So what would usually be a $30 fare could easily become over causing controversy ever since it was first used a few years ago. Now, other ride sharing companies like Lyft are joining in on the “Surge Price” bandwagon to increase their profits during high demand times.

Within a few years, Uber has gone from an unknown, small, tech startup to a behemoth company. The company has been causing controversy wherever it goes. Uber has been known to cause taxi drivers to riot since they cannot compete with the massive influx of people that visit Utah, keep up with demand.

Now, for Sundance Film Festival, Uber is introducing a new form of transportation for the app; helicopters.

BRENDAN DALY
News Editor

Celebrating David Bowie

In Bowie’s childhood neighborhood, fans gather around a mural painted by Australian street artist James Cochran.

Credit: Niklas Halle’N/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Right Photo: Foot traffic streams past Uber offices on Market Street in San Francisco. (Karl Mondon/Bay Area News Group/TNS) //MCTCampus

The Force Awakens is still grossing tons of money and will soon break the current record for all-time box office.

Within six weeks of the motion picture release, Star Wars: The Force Awakens has over $2.1 billion dollars. The newest rendition of the film series continues the pattern of breaking records and beating out any other movie currently playing in theaters. A month and a half later, the movie is still grossing over $2 million a week domestically.

Every film in the Star Wars series has been a box office hit, each one getting bigger and bigger. But with George Lucas no longer at the head of the production of the series, many people were concerned with how the new director will take the series. With a Rotten Tomatoes score of 99 percent and an IMDb score of 8.4/10, it appears the new director has done just fine. According to George Lucas who compared selling the franchise to his deathbed.

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Star Wars: The Force Awakens is still grossing tons of money and will soon break the current record for all-time box office. The movie was released worldwide in over 40 nations. While the movie currently holds the domestic box office record of almost $900 million, the majority of the films income is coming from overseas, making just over one billion dollars. The movie has grossed over $100 million in Germany and China, which are some of the major overseas box offices.

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The Force Awakens is still grossing tons of money and will soon break the all-time records set by TheTitanic and Avatar. So at this point, it is fair to say that the newest rendition of the Star Wars franchise has earned all the hype it got.
Daily fantasy sports is a gambling craze that is running wild, and it’s coming for your children. Okay, maybe not, but if you are a 35-year-old sports bar goer, there is a chance that your pockets have been deprived of cash due to this shady practice. You have seen the advertisements for DraftKings and FanDuel plaguing network television for quite some time, and it is happening for a reason.

All major professional sports in the United States have some sort of investment into the multi-billion dollar companies. Perhaps numerous news entities such as Fox News, Time Warner Cable, Comcast, and ABC (parent company for ESPN) have. But hey; news companies are not exactly known for ethical business practices, so that is not the surprising part.

But it has lead to the $15 billion advertising bombardment that appears every 60 seconds on network television according to Business Insider. Essentially, unless you have the memory of a goldfish, you are being subjected to a form of advertisement Chinese torture.

What’s worse, is that this “daily fantasy sports” is a wolf in sheep’s clothing; it is gambling in every sense of the word. Even when the United Kingdom placed gambling sanctions onto both companies, even after Nevada (Las Vegas everyone?) courts officially declared these sites as gambling, you would think that they would show some humility and admit that they are a casino addict’s worst nightmare; right? Well, you would as long as Pete Rose has a chance to be reinstated into the MLB.

“Everytime you talk to our users, what comes through loud and clear is that it is an entertainment product that is based on skill, and it is not gambling,” said FanDuel CEO Nigel Eccles.

The sheer level of deception of these companies to avoid legal trouble stems from a butchered bill that was passed by Congress in 2006 that imposed a ban on online gambling. The catch? They left out fantasy sports, as it had not become a serious online commodity at the time.

So with all of the shenanigan flies that surround this heaping pile of gambling manure, the saving grace here would at least be for the players enjoying their winning fees. Sure, if you are a professional poker turned fantasy sport aficionado player Cory Albertson.

“Over the past few years, I’ve made millions of dollars playing these games on sites like DraftKings and FanDuel,” said Albertson in a Wall Street Journal editorial. “But that is because I am a professional.”

He is not kidding, as Albertson, along with the rest of the 1.3 percent of players that win 93 percent of the winnings, do this as a full time job. “I use homemade algorithms that use up to the minute statistics and player projections, along with the hourly weather forecast and wind. I spend hours a day to study this,” said Albertson.

“Let’s cut to the chase here. Playing daily fantasy sports games for money is gambling. And it should be regulated.”

By  staff writer Ayssa Blundo
Mike Piazza, Ken Griffey Jr. Voted into MLB Hall of Fame

Yet another MLB Hall of Fame Ballot is upon us so far, and two key names have been voted into Cooperstown. Those two are superstar outfielder Ken Griffey Jr. and catcher Mike Piazza, the former receiving 437 out of 440, or 99.3 percent votes from the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) ballot. This surpasses Tom Seavers’ 425 out of 430 (98.8 percent) votes to make Ken Griffey Jr. the largest voting percentage out of any player voted into the Hall of Fame in MLB history.

There was speculation that Griffey could have been the first player to receive a unanimous vote. However, during a conference call, Griffey stated he couldn’t be disappointed.

“I can’t be upset,” Griffey Jr. said, according to ESPN. “It’s just an honor to be elected, and to have the highest percentage is definitely a shock.”

Griffey Jr. was recognized as a legend during his 22 seasons playing baseball. He was known for his power, hitting 630 home runs during his career, which is currently good enough for sixth place on the all-time list. Furthermore, he made his presence known in the Home Run Derby, winning the competition three times, the most out of anyone in history. He was in the MLB All Star game 12 times and was the game’s MVP in 1992. He was no slouch in the outfield, winning 10 Gold Glove awards. Lastly, he was named the AL MVP in 1997.

Unlike Griffey Jr., this was Piazza’s fourth time on the ballot. A player needs at least 75 percent of votes from the BBWAA to be elected into the Hall of Fame. Piazza was 28 votes away from making it last year but finally got in this year with 83 percent of the votes.

“Incredibly special. Wow. I sat here with my mouth on the floor,” Piazza said to MLB Network. “Yogi Berra had like four ballots. Joe DiMaggio had three ballots. And so myself being sort of a student of the history of the game, and having respect for the process, it was nail-biting at times, but I had a tremendous amount of support throughout my career from the writers and the fans.”

Piazza has quite the resume as well. He hit for a career average of .308 with 427 home runs and 1335 runs batted in. He was named the NL Rookie of the Year in 1993. Like Griffey Jr, he was a 12-time All Star and the All Star game MVP in 1996.

Griffey Jr. and Piazza will officially be inducted into the Hall of Fame on July 24.

The Golden State Warriors are currently having one of their best starts in a NBA regular season. The reigning NBA champions stand at a 43-4 record as of this writing, which is the best record in the league, as well as one of the best starts in league history. They started the season undefeated until December 12, when the now 20-29 Milwaukee Bucks ended the Warriors’ winning streak with a 108-95 win. This stopped Golden State at 24 consecutive wins, surpassing the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls’ 16 consecutive wins for the best start in NBA history. Golden State has been lead to their wins by reigning league MVP Stephen Curry, who has been taking the league by storm, averaging 30 points and 6.5 assists per game.

One of the teams who fell victim to the Warriors were the Cleveland Cavaliers. The two teams squared off in the NBA finals last June, and could possibly meet there again this postseason for a finals rematch. With LeBron James intending to bring a championship to Cleveland, many are beginning to wonder if it’s still possible. Even with the trio of Kevin Love, LeBron James and Kyrie Irving on the Floor, Cleveland still got beat by Golden State in both games they played this season. On January 18, the Golden State Warriors embarrassed the Cavs in Cleveland, beating them down 132 to 98; they put up 100 points prior to entering the fourth quarter.

NBA analyst Charles Barkley is skeptical of Golden State, believing the play style the Warriors emplace made them incapable of winning a title.

“They’ve had a terrific season,” Barkley stated, “But I don’t like jump-shooting teams. I don’t think you can make enough jumpers to win four series in a row. I’ve said that for 25 years, not just now. I think you physically manhandle them inside.”

So far, Barkley hasn’t been correct, and the Warriors just might win back to back titles this season.

87% of our graduates are employed or in graduate school
The Bergen Community College women's basketball team has come a long way since the start of the season. Despite having had a rough start and some lost games at the beginning of the season, the Lady Bulldogs have picked up their shooting percentage; they have shot 34.2 percent since returning from winter break, a big improvement from their 27.8 percent before the break. These were wins the Bulldogs desperately needed. Coming into the game, the team had lost all of its games so far in the new year and was on a four game losing streak. They lost 74-64 to Camden County College, 76-68 to Union County College, and 73-59 to Cumberland County College. The loss to Cumberland was especially ugly, as Bergen had a strong lead going into the half, only to get nearly doubled up 44-24 in the second half.

The Bergen men's basketball team got back on the winning track with two back to back wins. One was a close 77-74 win on the road against Middlesex Community College. Quincy Watahe recorded a double double, dropping 18 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Louis Pena had a great game as well, scoring 17 points and 14 rebounds. These were wins the Bulldogs desperately needed. "It feels like the girls have come a long way as far as working well together as a team, learning all the shots and chemistry on both ends of the court," said coach Tracey Green. "We've been working all season on improving the shooting percentage."

The team's most immediate goal is to enter the regional tournament, which starts the week after the last road game, scheduled for February 16. The importance of maintaining peak performance over the holidays was especially crucial to ensure they were competitive teams that they wouldn't have to play against otherwise.

"Passaic [Community College] just dropped their program, and we lost two games that we could've won, that would have helped us in getting into the tournament," said coach Green. "It was a good team win. Everybody got involved. It felt good."

"You have to be .500 in order to get into the tournament, but right now we are 6-10, hopefully after today it will be 7-10," explained the coach. "We've got to string together a few wins in order to enter the tournament, because that is always the goal," she added.

After the win against Camden with 28 points on our favor, another game against Atlantic Cape, that was scheduled for Saturday, January 23 was postponed due to the snowstorm. When asked what kind of precedent the team has for the next season, the coach explained that although six of her players are sophomores and are graduating this spring, another six are freshmen, and they likely be coming back for the next academic year. "It's always good to start with a lot of experienced players," said coach Green. "It's a great group of girls, friends with each other, so it's a really good group of players to work with. They make it fun. They are very dedicated."