

UP IN SMOKE

BY JANE CHAPIN

New Bedford Campus Reporter

Beginning on June 7th Fall River students who want to smoke a cigarette will have to walk to their cars or out to Elsbree Street. Leading the campaign for a smoke free campus is Geri Hamel, Coordinator of Learning Resources, Nursing Department.

An online survey was conducted at BCC and out of the 670 students and facility who responded, 53% were in favor of a smoke free campus.

“The goal is to provide a healthy environment for students,” Hamel said.

Under the current regulations, students are able to smoke anywhere on campus provided they are 20 feet from the building as specified by state regulations. This law is not strictly enforced.

In fact you will often see a group of students smoking directly in front of

SMOKE, Page 4



BCC Cake Show/SkillsUSA (Photo by Ryan Michael Pease)

Let Them Eat Cake

Dream Cake Competition Held as Fundraiser

BY MIA TAVARES

New Bedford Campus Reporter

BCC held the third annual Dream Cake Competition and Show as a fundraiser to support the SkillsUSA competition. The theme was wedding cakes. The competition allowed students and professionals to introduce their work to the public. It was held at the Commonwealth College Center on the Fall River Campus on April 10th.

The show attracted competitors from Vermont to Connecticut. There were over 200 people involved in the competition, which included volunteers, participants, and visitors. SkillsUSA is a national organization that supports teachers and students preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations.

Each competitor was judged on their

professionalism, what kind of cake they designed, how many techniques were used, the cleanliness of the cake and fondant work, and the execution of the theme design. There were also many other very detailed guidelines to be followed that only fellow cake decorators could comprehend. Previous winners were allowed to enter for a non-judged show piece.

‘When asking for something, you give something in return.’

Assistant Professor of Baking and Pastry Arts at Bristol Community College, Gloria Cabral, who was in charge of the event says “My belief is when you ask for something, such as a fundraiser donation to help your cause, you should always give to some other cause.”

She used her experiences as a Boy Scout volunteer as an example, “when asking for something, you give something in return.”

This competition, designed to enhance the fascination in high-end cake design, gave the participants the funds they need for SkillsUSA, along with giving the public a great show and a memorable experience. Present at the event, and demonstrating Australian String work, was internationally

CAKES, Page 10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ENGINEERING STUDENTS	3
WILBUR WINS SEAT	3
SOCCER TEAM	5
LITERARY SUPPLEMENT	6
THE BIG QUESTION	8

Editor-in-Chief Sean Wilcoxson
 New Bedford Campus Reporter..... Jane Chabin
 Observer Contributor..... Meghan Abella-Bowen
 Fall River Reporter..... Eric Napoleoni
 BCC Alumni..... Brittany DeGagne
 Attleboro Campus Reporter..... Marissa Richards
 Sports Editor..... Angela Roelike
 New Bedford Campus Editor..... Chris Wilbur
 Observer Contributor..... Anita DeBrito
 Arts and Entertainment Editor..... Jamie Cadima
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 Faculty Senior Copy Editor..... Harvey Ussach
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sirs:

On Monday April 19th 2010 the unthinkable happened. One of our very own soldiers from Fall River was killed in Afghanistan. Sgt Robert Barrett was just 20 years old at the time of his death. He would have turned 21 on May 14th.

We mourn for the fallen soldier of the US Army National Guard, who was also an outstanding citizen of the community of Fall River. Sgt. Robert Barrett was with 8 other young men who were injured in the explosion.

He joined the Army National guard hoping to make a difference in other people's lives. Sgt. Robert Barrett was a graduate of BMC Durfee high school class of 2007. He was the executive commanding officer of the high school ROTC unit there.

Sgt. Robert Barrett was your average normal kid. He hated cleaning his room and going to class, except for ROTC. He would always annoy his parents but was never a trouble maker. He respected every one which was one of the reasons a lot of people warmed up to him and he made a lot of friends.

Sgt. Robert Barrett even at age 8 knew what he wanted to do so it wasn't surprising by the time he got to high school he joined the ROTC program just like his older sister Rebecca. He would go with his parents to watch her compete in the drill competitions held every year. He was one of the few handfuls of true Americans who fought for our country with such honor and dedication. When he was deployed to Afghanistan he went wanting to change things and to make any little difference he could.

Through his journey through this ugly war he found beauty that warmed his heart. This beauty was the innocence of the underprivileged children who had nothing. Sgt. Barrett, having the big heart that he did, set out on a mission to bring joy to these children.

These children did not ask him for anything but he wanted to bring them some toys seeing they had nothing. So the young soldier commented to his mother he would never complain about not having much of his own things.

Tragically the bombing took place before Sgt. Barrett could get any toys to the children. Another soldier gone too soon. If there was any way to put into words what Sgt. Barrett meant to all of us who knew him they would be exactly this: He was a true patriot who loved to serve his country with pride honor and courage.

He did not die in vain but as a true hero doing what he loved to do and would not have had it any other way. He was a wonderful father to a two-year old daughter. A loving son , brother, boyfriend, and an amazing friend to all of us who knew him .

He will truly be missed by his family and friends, his fellow comrades and the community of Fall River. Thank you Sgt. Robert

Barrett for your ultimate service to your country. You are a true hero. You will always be remembered. We are so proud of you. We love and truly miss you. Until we meet again, this is not really good-bye. We know you will be watching over us looking down from heaven.

Sincerely,

Jamie Cadima

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CHRIS WILBUR WINS TRUSTEE SEAT Students Vote NO to MassPIRG

BCC NEWS BRIEF

Chris Wilbur is the winner of the race for BCC student trustee, besting his opponent, Nelson Tamba.

Wilbur is a Commonwealth Honors student, a tutor and has been inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honors society. He recently served as the Editor-in-Chief of BCC's campus newspaper, The Observer.

The student trustee represents BCC students on the college's Board of Trustees.

"I need students to get involved, that way they can unite and with common voice speak up for what they want, what they need, and united, we can get it done." Wilbur said.

He is asking students to email him with their ideas and concerns. He can be contacted at cwilbur.mail@gmail.com.

By a slim margin, students voted NO on the referendum question to continue support for the MassPIRG chapter at the college. The referendum vote was 211 NO votes to 207 YES votes. Students did not support the continuation of the MassPIRG chapter at BCC which is funded by a \$9 per student, per semester, waivable fee on their tuition bill.

'I need students to get involved, that way they can unite and with common voice speak up for what they want, what they need, and united, we can get it done.'

Because of the No vote, BCC will no longer have a MassPIRG chapter on its campus. According to Kathleen Burns, BCC Director of Student Engagement, "Students on both sides of the issue were passionate and energized."

"This campus was engaged in healthy debate. This has been truly exciting, she said."

The voting took place through the accessBCC accounts for all students who currently take at least one credit course. The total number of students who voted was 508.

BCC Engineering Students Take Top Prizes, Headed To Hawaii Competition

BY MEGHAN ABELLA-BOWEN
 Observer Contributor

Eight BCC engineering students competed in the MATE New England Regional Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition held at Mass Maritime.

The team, consisting of Matheus Lelis, Lauri Lynn, Peter Mack, Derek Lagasse, Alex Furtado, Nick Powel, Ben Whittaker, and Thubalethu Nzuzza took home the following honors: 1st Place - Engineering Technical Report; 1st Place - Engineering Poster Display; 1st Place - Engineering Evaluation (Presentation) and 2nd Place - Overall Competition - Qualifies for the International Competition.

As the second place team they have earned the chance to compete at the 2010 MATE International ROV Competition to be held June 24-26, 2010 at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

This is the second year in a row that a BCC ROV team has competed in the regional competition and qualified for the International competition.

The team's instructor was Dr. Mike Meyers, and their mentor Alfred Censorio.

The team is very excited about the



Pictured are members of the winning engineering team. (Photo courtesy of the Engineering Club)

opportunity to compete in Hawaii. To do this they will need to quickly raise money to cover the cost of flights, dorm rooms, and food for the trip.

In order to help the students raise funds for the trip a special "Engineering Competition Team Fund" has been set up through the BCC Foundation.

Donations made to the "Engineering Competition Team Fund" are tax deductible and will be used specifically to support the BCC Engineering ROV Competition Team. If you would like more information about the competition, team members, or making a donation, please contact Meghan Abella-Bowen, Director, SMART Project at telephone extension 2576.

CHANGE TO FALL SCHEDULE ALLOWS STUDENTS MORE OPTIONS

BY ERIC NAPOLEONI
 Fall River Campus Reporter

This Fall, the meeting and activity schedules will be changing for the students, faculty, and staff of BCC.

Beginning in the Fall 2010 semester, BCC student, faculty, and staff, "Activity Hours" will shift to, Mondays, meeting times of 2:00 to 3:00pm then 3:00 to 4:00pm and Wednesdays, activity period 2:00 to 3:00pm then optional meeting time 3:00 to 4:00pm.

As a result to this change, students will now have a better chance to participate in academic and campus related meetings and activities such as observer meetings, Student Senate meetings and BCC Chorus Club.

"This change will allow students more ease when planning their schedules, giving them more flexible options," said Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sarah

Garrett.

BCC Assistant Professor of Clinical Laboratory Science, Paulette Howarth conducted an unofficial survey of how students felt about the change.

Professor Howarth also serves as the Bristol chapter president of the Massachusetts

Community College Council or MCCC. Howarth's survey revealed that the majority of students approved the shift.

"An overwhelming amount of students favored the change," said Howarth.

The Faculty and the Faculty Senate recently held a vote whether or not the "Activity Hours" should be shifted. "they all voted unanimously for the change," said Howarth, who was one of the faculty members that attended the vote. "Faculty wanted to make sure that the schedule was adequate for students," said Howarth.

"I want to emphasize that we shall review this change of format to ensure that it is the best option to promote holistic learning. To be sure, other attractive options at earlier hours are being developed, and we shall carefully consider all of them," President, John Sbrega said.

NO SMOKING? *Are You Joking?*

BY SEAN WILCOXSON

Editor-In-Chief

What will really happen on June 7th?

Will all the students and faculty who smoke realize that smoking is bad, and that they should put down the pack for good? With the smoking ban in place, with big signs crossing out that symbol of a cigarette, how will it affect campus life? The hope is to tell people what they already know: smoking is bad.

We all know smoking is a highly addictive substance. We all know it is very hard to quit. Ask anyone who smokes how many times they tried to quit, but could not stop because of the powerful control it has over the body.

I used to smoke cigarettes, and I enjoyed it for a while. But the price I paid was way too much. Even when I knew I was addicted to the nicotine and all the chemicals that are in cigarettes, I still could not stop. Until I finally made up my mind and was ready to quit completely, little or nothing could help me. No law on smoking will help a smoker quit.

So what is the real reason for the smoking ban? Is it the trash that accumulates from all the cigarette butts? Is it the sweet scent of smoke that blows around the campus? Or is it just convenient to do since everywhere else in America is doing it?

Look at other places in the world like Europe. They seem to have missed the big point that smoking is harmful, because they are allowed to smoke anywhere inside or outside. So what is the big deal?

Smokers are people, just like non-smokers, and it seems like they are being treated less than. Just because the people who do not smoke take an unkindly view towards smokers doesn't mean there has to be a ban on smoking, think about the people who smoke. They are addicted to nicotine, now you are forcing them to find another place to smoke or else, just so non-smokers can enjoy the fresh air? Second hand smoke is harmful yes, but is it harming the lungs when walking by a cloud of smoke? We breathe in toxins everyday, go by a work site with dust, or go a big city with all the pollution, it is the same thing.

In today's world, our reality, there are things that we use as vices for pleasure. Most of these pleasures are harmful. Smoking is a small pleasure that one gets when stressed out, feeling anxious, or just bored. It is their own choice, it is legal, and if they can only

smoke in their cars then they are only harming themselves. Smoking is everywhere: magazines, television, and film. Advertising has created a monster in society that exists everywhere: smoking is not that bad. Regardless of personal opinions on this issue, now there is a smoking ban to try and stop this monster from living at Bristol Community College.

I hope people will wake up to the fact that they are slowly killing themselves when they smoke a cigarette, but I just do not see that happening with a smoking ban. It puts a band-aid on an infected wound that will not heal unless each individual who smokes realizes they are addicted and wants help to quit. A ban only frustrates them and pushes them away when what we should be doing is pulling them in, talking to them, trying to reach out and grab at least one smoker who might be having problems quitting.

That is my opinion, and it is only this. They say words are weapons, that words can change people. These words are shot at the addiction and the thumb-sucking society that we have become. Ban something that is advertised everywhere. I ask: **"What is the point?"**

Have some thoughts on these articles?

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►Smoke

Continued from page 1

entryways to many of the buildings on campus. As one student said, "It's irritating to have to walk through a cloud of smoke when I want to enter a building."

Smoke free college campuses are a growing trend in the United States. According to the American Lung Association there are currently 231 Universities and Colleges in the US that have implemented 100 percent tobacco free campus policies.

"Our aim is to encourage students to be more conscious of their own personal health and the health of the community," Hamel said.

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Chorus Club Looking For a Few Good Voices

BY BRITTANY DEGAGNE
BCC Alumni

Looking for a break from work and school? Come to the Chorus Club, where students' voices make music come alive.

The Club meets twice every Thursday, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., in H129, then again between 7 and 8:30 p.m. If students can't make it to one, they might make it to the other. The Club is open to current students and alumni.

According to Professor Alan Pearlmutter, "Here at the Chorus Club students can practice their vocal skills with a variety of musically styled songs."

"We need a core group of dedicated singers who can come every week to work [sing] soprano, alto, and [we need] men who sing bass or baritone," he said.

According to Pearlmutter, a sufficient number of Club members might result in a concert.

Anyone interested is asked to contact Dr. Pearlmutter at (508) 678-2811, ext. 2242.

HASBRO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO HOLD BAKE SALE

BY MARISSA RICHARDS
BCC Attleboro Campus Reporter

Hasbro Children's Hospital is a hospital for children who have been diagnosed with all types of cancer.

BCC students are hoping the community of Fall River will help raise money through a bake sale to help these families at their time of need.

The staff of the hospital works so hard with these families to bring joy to these children who are going through a rough time in their lives.

Students are asking for donations of one toy or bake food for the sale.

All proceeds from the bake sale will be donated to the Hasbro Children Hospital.

Students hope to have the bake sale on the BCC Fall River campus. Flyers will be posted around campus with more information.

PHI THETA KAPPA MEMBERSHIP ADVANCES OPPORTUNITIES

BY CHRIS WILBUR

New Bedford Campus Editor

If you're like me, Phi Theta Kappa was an interesting and intriguing name that snared some attention in my early attendance at BCC.

In my earlier semesters, I was curious as to what it was and how I could join. It turned out, Phi Theta Kappa found me. I learned if your GPA is above a 3.5 and you have 30 credits under your belt, you are in, and are notified by mail.

I attended the induction ceremony recently, another email will notify and invite you to this. It was spectacular. We were able to meet and eat with other society members, and watched a ceremony reminiscent of the mysterious inductions of secret societies, seen by me of course, only in film.

We each strode across the stage, in spotlight, to take a lit candle and take the flame back to our rows. We stood bathed in

the glow while chapter President Rodrigo Santos spoke of the societies values and virtues.

I was able to talk to Rodrigo later. He told me of the many scholarships Phi Theta Kappa members are eligible for, and how prestigious the symbol appears on transcripts for transfer.

"Because of being a Phi Theta Kappa member, I have been accepted into every school I have applied to. Boston University, UCLA, Northeastern, USC, WPI, and every school has given more than 5000 in scholarships."

Rodrigo is in the process of trying to grow the chapter. Through fundraisers for charity, he has been able to raise the treasury funds and hopes these will fund future Phi Theta Kappa endeavors.

"We are going to start the year with

new funds in the chapter, which is called Beta Eta Phi, and are going to initiate more charity projects."

One student spangled with extra-curricular activity including the student senate and various clubs, Joe Frias, was previously the New England Regional Officer-at-Large. He was able to attend national conferences to polish his leadership skills.

Having just returned from Atlanta with the student senate, I can feel the immense satisfaction of attending nation-wide conferences, and the thrill of traveling and sharing ideas.

In seeking out more information on Phi Theta Kappa, Frias had the last word.

"Contact Eileen Shea who oversees our transfer affairs on our campus, she is a wonderful person always willing to answer all of your questions," he said.

GOOD SPORTS

STUDENTS GETTING A KICK *Out of Bristol Bees Soccer*

BY ANGELA ROELLKE
Observer Sports Editor

The Bristol Bees Men and Women's soccer strikes back into action into a new season this upcoming fall.

The men's and women's team are in Region 21 of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

Both teams also play against other junior colleges in Massachusetts, as well as Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

For the men's league, David Allen is the coach who helped guide the team to an 11-2-0 regular season record.

As a graduate of Westport high school where he played soccer, basketball, and baseball for all four years, he also has a B.S. from Salem State College and a M.B.A from University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

When he is not coaching, David is the Director of Financial Aid at BCC.

From the women's team, the captain Alisha Souza commented on the dynamics of playing college soccer.

"I feel that it is my responsibility to take upon self not only as an honor but a leadership role to make our girls a strong team,"

Souza said.

"It is my responsibility to keep things drama free and that once we step on the field we become sisters and have a goal to be the best team on the field that day. It is my duty to make all of my teammates captains of our team and to lead our future players," she said.

"At times it can be a lot to handle but I try to take every opportunity that I have to

get things done and to not procrastinate," she said.

College athletes do not get special treatment. Often they have to work twice as hard.

This upcoming fall is a new year and a new beginning for something great, something fans of soccer will not want to miss.

Come watch the Bristol Bee soccer teams compete for the national championship.



(Photos courtesy of College Communications)

THE OBSERVER LOOKS AT THE ARTS AND WRITING

BCC Literary Journal

Prevailing Wind

The *Observer* is proud to present the literary and artistic work of students from across our three campuses. The works presented here represent selections from the BCC literary journal, *Prevailing Wind*, as well as selections submitted by students directly to *the Observer*.

The *Prevailing Wind* is a semi-annual online publication of Bristol Community College student-authored prose, poetry, photography, artwork, reviews, and non-fiction. They are open to all types of works from conventional to highly experimental.

All enrolled students at any BCC Campus are welcome to submit their work for consideration to Prevailing.wind@bristolcc.edu.
www.BristolCC.edu/prevailingwind

Bones

How long do bones take to decompose?
Off the marked trail
a story tells itself
in bear scat and the velvet of antlers,
in white bones among long-lasting
spring snow, in signs speaking
a more ancient language.
A complete skeleton,
young Roosevelt elk or white-tail deer
lies settled on open ground,
spine pressed to earth.
Whatever spirit it held close inside
left, moved out when the first or perhaps
last breath met bear,
strong raking claws,
feral scent--sweet as freesia
for all I know.

How long the season
of grief? When it appears
it comes riding the backs of bears and
lives on mountains snowy year round. It comes
perched on the tip of a rib,
sits inside a cage laid bare of vital organs,
filled only with
wide Colorado sky.

Denise DiMarzio

This poem first appeared in *Hurricane Alice*.

“Kabuki Actor Strikes a Pose” Chad Kaplan, Alum



HERO

(To my father, March 22, 1958-April 11, 1997)

A man of honor and courage
A man of pride and integrity
A man of fear and anguish
A man of passion and desire
A man filled with hopes and dreams
A man with a heart of gold
A wonderful husband and an outstanding father
My hero.

by Jamie Cadime

Harvest

Call your grandparents halfway through July to find out if the berries are blue yet; “as always” your grandmother chimes. Pull down the old mountain bike in the garage, check the chain, pump up the tires and ride the eight blocks to their house. Keep your mouth closed when the black flies buzz your sweaty neck. Wish you didn’t feel uncomfortable in shorts, curse summer sun and insects. Drag your bike up the steps to the backyard and enter the cool house. Hug your grandmother, who smells like baby powder and flowers. Listen to war story number three from your grandfather. Laugh at the right points when he gets excited and red faced. Turn away when he gets watery eyed about troops still fighting. Help them get lunch on the table: thin soup and toasted sandwiches just like you like them.

See black plastic bags full of dress shirts and curtains that your extended relatives expect your grandmother to mend. Get a little angry just like your grandfather does. Walk around this house with its clean smells and old pictures. Touch every figurine. Run your hands across every smooth surface. Admire the bathroom mirror. Memorize the order of everything so that the house can be kept this way, even the tired rosary beads and braided palm leaves. Wish you could relate to their faith, to them.

Use the same washed out Cool-Whip container as you have for the past sixteen years to hold the berries. Chat with your grandmother in the suffocating air about your grandfather’s fear of dementia. Gossip about the neighbors. Pick the blue orbs from their soft stems and drop gently into the Cool-Whip bowl, every hollow plunk a victory of the season. Rub your aching back after about twenty minutes that will only get sorer as the picking goes on. Learn about the city you grew up in again from a woman of eighty years who can stoop bent nearly in half for an hour, seemingly without pain. Try not to think about the cancer. Laugh with her as she shoes greedy insects away from her topped-off pail.

Return to the house to clean the berries. Spread a dishcloth across the counter top to pour berries onto. Roll them gently under your palm to rub off the stems and leaves. Set aside a handful to snack on while your grandmother pours the sorted pile into a saucepan with lemon juice and sugar over medium heat. Freeze half of the berries for Thanksgiving blueberry bread, muffins and pies. Wash out the Cool-Whip bowls in preparation for the steaming sauce that makes pancakes a summer ambrosia. Promise yourself to write down the recipe the next time you visit.

Look out the back window as a platoon of birds dives at the picked branches, poking hungrily for ripened morsels and pecking at half green buds. Accept the cooled blueberry sauce container and plastic bag of fresh berries slipped into your hands. Hug your grandfather awkwardly who stays seated at the head of the kitchen table; wish him a good week.

Feel the door handle rougher than when you arrived. Hug her tighter when you leave. Wave.

Harvest by Sarah Martin



“Broken Vision” Rebecca Marion Seed

"oh hulk"

there he stands
green, tall, inelegant,
picking up cars
and smashing them against buildings.

what makes you passionate,
is what i want to ask him.
mr. hulk, can you tell me
why you destroy so much?

yes, there is an enemy standing before you,
caped and stereotyped,
but you destroy as you please,
lifting skyscrapers at their base
and tipping them over to crush folks.

no other superhero is known so well
for being ugly and mean,
for being unlovable and hated.
they imagined that you couldn't feel,
that your heart was weak.

you should have turned
your aggressions on banks,
on military bases and shopping malls.

oh, hulk, why didn't you wear a mask?
why didn't you come up with
tricks and riddles
obscure and tangent plotlines
based on how you were mistreated years ago
the type of plot
that stays with the reader?

oh, hulk,
why weren't you a bad guy?

“oh hulk” by Benjamin Tepolt

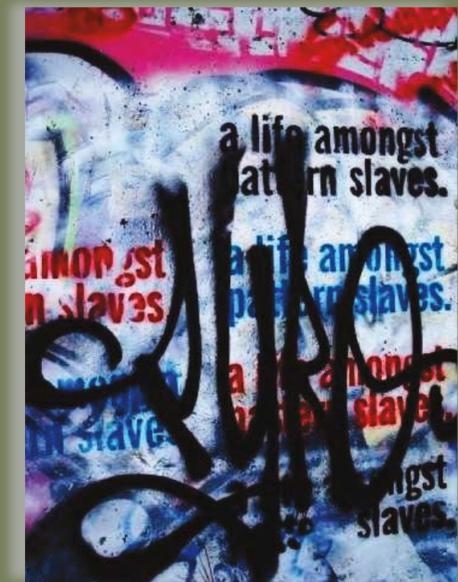
“sexism”

“Ah, I love that clip-clop, clip-clop sound of high-heels on a woman. It turns me on. For the longest time, whenever I heard that noise, I was almost completely sure that some mule or cow was going to turn around the corner. But no, it’s not a cow. It’s a woman. It’s a woman who is wearing footwear that deforms the body that makes her sound like chattel, making the same clink-clank as chains or shackles. Now, I know the purpose of it. It was never to make women look elegant or attractive. It was to make them look submissive, controlled, dominated, and, where need be, punished again and again. I love high heels—and, by extension, I love all fashion magazines, news stations, and political parties.”

“sexism” by Benjamin Tepolt



“Flood” Drew Furtado



“Writing on the Wall” Rebecca Marion Seed

“Oh Hulk” and “sexism” by Benjamin Tepolt, along with the photos and artwork appear by arrangement with *The Prevailing Wind*, the semi-annual online publication. “Harvest” is by Sarah Martin, a student currently in a BCC Creative Writing Seminar. The poem, “Bones” is by QUEST Writing Lab Specialist, Denise DeMarzio and the poem “Hero” is by BCC student and *Observer Arts & Entertainment* Editor, Jamie Cadima.

SHOES AND CLOTHING COLLECTED FOR AFRICA

BY CHRIS WILBUR
New Bedford Campus Editor
Boxes of old shoes and clothing have been seen around campus this month below signs reading "Shoes for Africa." Student Trustee Michael Hull initiated the project and enlisted the aid of students, Abu Moro and Thubalethu Nzuza.

Students and instructors from local Duffee and Bishop Connolly High School, as well as Resiliency Prep helped.

From March 22nd to April 27th, 500 shoes were collected, which will be eventually shipped to Africa, specifically Senegal, and in

the wake of the recent earthquake, to Haiti as well.

Hull said that people in these communities often have no shoes at all, and even well-worn second hand shoes, are a huge improvement.

Abu Moro said increased global awareness was brought to the high school students by the project and that by participating, they were able to take part in the very essence of community service.

"I have believe it is our responsibility to help the unfortunate ones in our societies," Moro said.

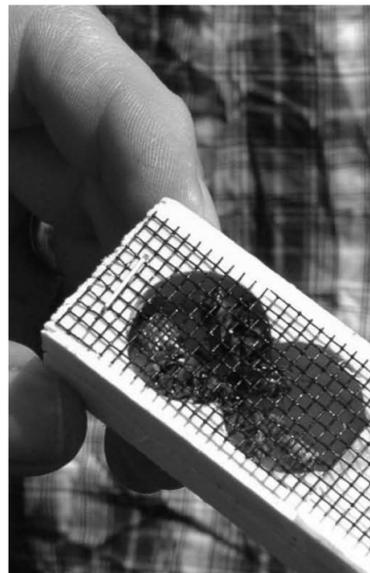
THE BEES ARE BACK... THE BEES ARE BACK IN TOWN

BCC NEWS BRIEF

BCC welcomed another set of bees to its Organic Agriculture program.

The bees have been brought in from Georgia. Bees serve as an integral part of pollinating and growing flowers, plants and vegetable.

Beekeeping Instructor Everett Zurlinden demonstrated the installation of bees into a new hive as well as discussed the environmental and management issues for bees.



(Photos courtesy of College Communications)

THE BIG QUESTION?

SUMMER PLANS

"If you could go anywhere this summer, where would you go and why?"



KEVIN JEROME
"Russia, ...because it's cold."



PATRICK MCCARTHY
"Las Vegas, Pro. poker tournaments."



MATT PIMENTEL
"I would take my family to the Azores to see where my father grew up."



KEVIN CABRAL
"I would go to Las Vegas and enter the World Series of Poker 10"



AMANDA AGUIAR
"Anywhere air-conditioned"



PAT NEE
"Sun, S'mores"



DAVID DEGRACE
"I would take my son to Disney Land, because my father never had the money to..."

HELP STAMP-OUT BULLYING TODAY

BY BRITTANY DEGAGNE
BCC Alumni

(Editorial Note: Prompted by the recent suicide of high school student Phoebe Prince, the Massachusetts State Legislature this month unanimously approved sweeping measures to crack down on school bullying. The legislation's strict mandates for reporting student harassment make it one of toughest in the country. According to a recent Boston Globe article, the legislation included broad prohibitions, "against any actions that could cause emotional or physical harm, including text messages and taunting over the Internet. It also mandates antibullying training, for faculty as well as students, and requires that parents be informed of incidents at school." The legislation is being sent to Governor Deval Patrick, for his signature. Patrick praised the bill and said he would sign it immediately.)

Help! Help! Someone is bullying me! Is anyone listening? Is anyone there? Where do I go? What can I do?

What defines bullying? What affects does it have on our children? How can we as parents and teachers help our children from being bullied?

Bullying, has become a problem in the United States, affecting one out of every three children. According to researcher Paul R. Smokowski, M.S.W., Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "Researchers and clinics have found out that bullying can be a serious threat to a child's development and could also lead to school violence usually in the adolescent years."

There are many ways to define bullying. The first aspect, is aggression. Aggression means, when a bully harms the victim to where the child can not defend themselves. A bully attacks their prey, because they want dominance, control, and power over their victims.

Next we will go into the some of the types of bullying. According to Smokowski "Physical Bullies are students are action oriented and use direct behaviors." They usually fall in the boy category. An example of this, is: different forms of hitting children. Ranking second is "Verbal Bullying" which means ridiculing children, using harassment phrases, and vulgar language to cut the victim down to size.

Third is called the "Relational Bullies." They are usually girls who exclude or reject children from sports, activities, and social groups. This makes the child feel left out of place, alone and sad. Last, but not least, are the "Reactive Bullies."

According to Smokowski, "They are very difficult to identify, because of the various things they say and do on an innocent victim. Things such as impulsiveness and taunting to fight."

Most bullies no matter what type have no empathy towards others, only low-self esteem and insecurity. To them, it's just a joke. They hate school and show poor achievement.

"One study shows that 7 percent of the United States eighth graders stayed at home once a month, because of fear of getting bullied,"

Most children suffer from peer abuse and have aggressive attitudes. According to Smokowski, "Being weak and frail the child falls into the trap and can not defend themselves.

Other factors that contribute to this is fear and being unsuccessful in sports and activities." Withdrawal from classes or schools and crying are just a few of the symptoms, the victims feel that they have to do to get way from the pain.

Smokowski says the side effects of a child that has been bullied are suffering in silence, anxiety, depression, and being more sensitive in an unhealthy way. Also, poor communication, and self-esteem. The victims are very lonely and feel abandon, because they have no friends to talk to. Then, the negative thinking process leads to the blaming thyself game, being a failure, and feeling that the child is not good enough to fit in. Also depression and eating disorders kick in. It becomes so bad for the child, that they do not want to go to school. For, the children are terrified to be bullied by other students.

"One study shows that 7 percent of the United States eighth graders stayed at home once a month, because of fear of getting bullied," Smokowski says. No matter if the child is in the playgrounds, hallways, restrooms, and classes, it's hard for them to be safe. Cutting oneself, less sleep, nightmares, and suicide are very important to be on the lookout for, when severely bullying occurs, especially in the adolescent years.

After, hearing all this, one might assume that this information is part of why, it is so important to have help for our children. As you hear these guidelines please take into consider-

ation of what you can do. First: Teachers must take action through phone calls to the parents when a child is being constantly bullied and taunted. If untreated this could lead to physical abuse. Secondly, there should be a parent and teacher conference with the victimized child and decide what is the best for him/her.

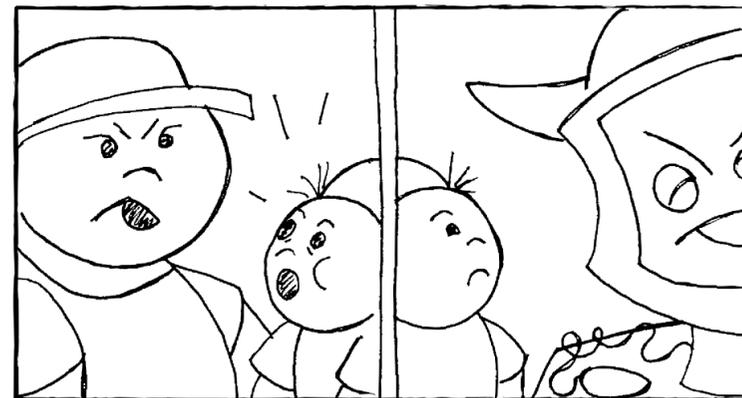
Third, school administrators should allow bullying programs in their schools to help prevent more innocent children from being hurt.

One example should be a bully program with a policeman/sheriff showing and explaining what are the consequences for someone who engages in bullying a child. Also, what can happen when a child is bullied. This could benefit everyone and perhaps decrease bullying.

The fourth suggestion is: If the problems get worse and intense to where the child can not handle it anymore, than he/she should see a counselor. The student inflicting emotional abuse should be forced into anger management or be expelled.

Bullying is indeed a big problem in the U.S. Unfortunately, we can never stop bullying from happening, but we can help prevent it! I once was bullied for a long period of time. I am not here for myself. I am simply here for the children. If we do not help them, than who will? I have been through it and would hate to see children going through that same problem. So, together, let's help stamp out bullying today.

BULLYING THEN AND NOW



TUESDAY WITH MORRIE CHOSEN AS BCC ONEBOOK SELECTION

BCC NEWS BRIEF

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom was chosen as the BCC OneBook selection for the Fall 2010 semester.

The book chronicles the wisdom and guidance given to Albom by his friend and mentor, college professor Morrie Schwartz, who is facing his own imminent death.

The OneBook project is now in its second year. It gives students an opportunity to participate in an all-college reading experience.

Faculty are encouraged to adopt the book into their curriculum and to participate in various campus-wide events relating to the book.

Students and faculty were given an opportunity to vote for the book of their choice for the OneBook selection.

►Cakes

Continued from page 1

renowned cake artist and author, Toba Garrett.

Ms. Garrett is the Master Chef-Instructor at the Institute of Culinary Education in New York City. She is also the author of *Professional Cake Decorating*, the first text book designed to educate all who are interested in the cake design profession.

Demonstrations from Ms. Garrett as well as other decorators were given to teach

the community about foods, food science, and flavors.

Along with the demonstrations and the cake show itself, were raffle baskets and bake sales. Separate fundraisers were also done to give back to the community, including a raffle for St. Anne's Hudner Oncology Foundation and local scholarship.



(Photos by Ryan Michael Pease)

One-On-One With MARTY ESSEN

BY CHRIS WILBUR
New Bedford Campus Editor

Marty Essen, author of *Around the World in 90 Minutes* and a top college speaker for 17 months straight spoke at BCC in April.

Essen, who chronicled his journey around the world, captured the experience in photographs. Catching rare and interesting insects, animals and everything else creeping crawling and stalking, he presented the experience to the BCC audience via projector, the scene resembling something of an IMAX adventure to the world's most extreme places. The performance, which moved from the Amazon rain forest to the Antarctic, was presented in Essen's characteristic pizzazz, full of floor crawling, wall to wall running, and generally wildly exaggerated gestures to highlight his points. Since his extravagant adventure, Essen has been presenting the experience to audiences nationwide, from large to small.

Essen is a successful writer who self-published his book, a gifted performer booked solidly and winner of awards.

Q: (Wilbur) What barriers have you run into while producing your book?

A: (Essen) *With new authors, major book publishers want to do things "on the cheap" (i.e. short book, no photos, etc.). I felt my project deserved more than that.*

Q: (Wilbur) What were your solutions?

A: (Essen) *I bypassed the major publishers, started my own publishing company, and signed with a national distributor. That allowed me to put out a first-class product to my specifications. The end result was that *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet: Exploring the Seven Continents* became a successful, six-time-award-winning book.*

Q: (Wilbur) What is the best advice you can give to young writers?

A: (Essen) *While it's important to listen to suggestions from experienced professionals in the writing business, you must also trust yourself. If you truly believe you are right, don't be afraid to break the rules!*

Q: (Wilbur) What can college students do to broaden their horizons in terms of traveling and generally making their dreams come true?

A: (Essen) *With regards to travel: Keep in mind that the best trips are not necessarily the most expensive trips. Even though I have traveled all seven continents, one of my all-time favorite adventures was a road-trip to the top of Canada. For that trip my only expenses were food, gas, and an occasional hotel room. As for making dreams come true: I don't know if there is a one-size-fits-all secret formula for that. For me, it's hard work, perseverance, and thinking several steps ahead.*

Q: (Wilbur) Are you doing what you absolutely want to in life?

A: (Essen) *No. If I could do anything I wanted, I'd buy up every radio station that runs Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck and then blow the listeners' minds by promptly changing the format to something factual and thought-provoking. Other than that, yes. I'm having a lot of fun and making a good living at the same time.*

Q: (Wilbur) What has been the best experience on your journey?

A: (Essen) *Spending two incredible hours with humpback whales off the coast of Antarctica. We were in a Zodiac (a large rubber raft), and the humpbacks played with us. They would surface and come right at us. Just when it looked like they would knock us into the water, they'd dive underneath us and surface on the other side with a great big blow!*

Q: (Wilbur) What made you decide to follow your dreams?

A: (Essen) *While everyone has regrets, I don't want to review my life on my 80th birthday and say, "If only I had . . ."*

Q: (Wilbur) Future Plans?

A: (Essen) *For the past three years I have been traveling the United States, speaking at colleges. I'm having a blast doing that, so hopefully I can continue on the college lecture circuit for many more years. Eventually I'll write another book. And, of course, there are many more places on my must visit list: New Guinea, Costa Rica, Galapagos Islands, etc.*

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BCC STUDENTS CELEBRATE International Festival

BY ANITA DEBRITO
Observer Contributor

Hundreds of people explored other cultures, asked questions about countries and took pictures at Bristol Community College's International Festival, on Tuesday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students from 14 countries set up tables in G Building to display unique articles, such as money, pictures and jewelry from their countries.

Adult students learning English at the downtown Fall River campus also had the chance to come and enjoy the festival, considered by many one of the best days of the academic year.

The first event of the festival was the Language Workshop. Students from the Advanced ESL Conversation class taught the sentence "We wish for peace in

the world" in their own languages including Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Spanish and Farsi.

"ESL students enjoy the Language Workshop. They love the chance to be the teachers and for the teachers to be the students," said Diane Manson, International Club advisor.

After the Workshop, International Club Co-Presidents Song Chen and Joemayri Colon Contreras introduced BCC Vice-President Sarah Garrett, who welcomed everyone and inspired students to sing "We are the World." People then watched a fashion show with students dressed in traditional clothes and listening to Armanda Arruda singing in Portuguese, and to the band "Before Breakfast."

After all the entertainment, it was time for the international lunch, prepared by students at home and brought to the festival.

"The food was amazing. I had the chance to try food from other countries that I can't

find in any restaurant," said Chen.

The festival ended with people dancing to Puerto Rican, Cape Verdean and other types of music--even to the "Macarena."

Comments about the festival were up beat. Advisor Jacci Barry said, "International Day festivities are a wonderful way to showcase not only the diversity of our col-



(Photos courtesy of the International Club)

'We wish for peace in the world'

lege community, but the spirit of our international students."

Co-President Colon Contreras called the festival "terrific" and thanks all the students and teachers who worked hard on it.

This semester, the International Club

has also set up a Cape Verdean display in the library where people can learn more about the island nation.



(Photo courtesy of the International Club)



(Photo courtesy of the International Club)



(Center and bottom right and left photo by Ryan Pease)