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THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OCTOBER 2012, ISSUE 20

BCC KICKS OFF ITS FIRST DAY BACK

BY IAN BORIM



Students flock to the G building on the BCC Fall River campus for first day of classes.

Any driver on Elsbree Street on September 4 could tell that class was back in session for students of BCC. Every lot surrounding the Fall River campus was packed, and cars flowed out into the street, signaling the start of a new semester.

Between long waits to find parking spaces, finish classes, and wait for new ones to begin, students could be seen crowding BCC's campus. The gray skies overhead had no bearing as the activity illuminated the school's atmosphere. Positive sentiment pervaded from every corner of the campus. New classmates were engrossed in conversation, old friends were catching up with each other, and BCC's gentlemen could be seen trying to win over ladies' hearts.

BCC President Jack Sbrega was positive about the first day's overall outcome.

"It's always exciting to see the campus come alive--It's wonderful!"

he said.

Inside G-Building, students queued for the bookstore in a line that extended across the building's wide atrium. Mobs waited outside the registration office.

"It's hectic--it's definitely crazy," General Studies major Devin Comeau said.

The long lines were frustrating for students and administrators alike.

"One thing I'm not crazy about is we have long lines, as you may have seen, in G-Building," said President Sbrega. "People can come in in August and get their books, but they're not thinking about school."

While this is a sound arrangement for the majority of those in line, complications inevitably arise at the start of the semester.

For Dan Collins, also majoring in General Studies, the most frustrating complication has been his finances.

STUDENTS SHARE THEIR DEAF STUDIES EXPERIENCES

BY KELSEY EDWARDS

Julie Jodion-Krauzyk of ODS Deaf/HH Services and Sandy Lygren, the head of the Deaf Studies program coordinated an event to help raise awareness on how deaf and hard of hearing students experience the world and the BCC community.

The event was held in late September on the BCC Fall River campus.

Seven BCC students shared their experiences with the help of American Sign Language interpreters and real time captioning.

The students spoke of

their different backgrounds, their experiences with the hearing world, as well as their hobbies and career goals.

Various technological advances that allow for better communication were also discussed

Students in Lygren's Deaf Culture class created posters that decorated the room aimed at deflating various myths about deaf and hard of hearing students.

One such myth, that Deaf people can't drive, was quickly shot down by all

speakers at the event.

Their ages varied, as did their majors, but they all had one thing in common; they are all very pleased with the experience of being a student at Bristol Community College.

Jose Pavao, a Deaf Studies and Human Services major said that there's great access for deaf students at BCC, and he hopes that the word gets out about the accessibility so that other members of the deaf community would consider studying here.

Adam Richard, who is studying graphic design, said there was a welcoming atmosphere at BCC and that he found other BCC students to be willing to adapt and eager to get to know him.

To better understand the deaf community, Lygren recommended going to deaf sponsored events on campus.

For more information on local deaf events, BCC students are encouraged to visit the Deaf Studies Facebook page, where events are regularly posted.

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KALE FEST HELD AT BCC'S FALL RIVER CAMPUS

BY ZACHARY CARON

The fifth annual Kale Fest was hosted by BCC's Fall River campus in G Building on October 7 from noon to twelve. Stephen Cabral, the face of Kale Fest, BCC LusoCentro and the city of Fall River invited people to come out for the afternoon and celebrate Portuguese food and culture.

Tickets for the Kale Fest were ten dollars and could be purchased at the door, or at Luso American Gallery of Antiquities Inc. Children 10 and under entered for free.

Stephen Cabral, BCC anthropology and sociology professor and president/curator of LAGOA, originated the idea for Kale Fest five years ago. Cabral had a gallery and had been doing local art events for some time, while noticing the decline of the economy. He recalls his grandfather telling him of soup and bread lines for the less fortunate during the Great Depression. Cabral's optimistic approach was sparked by his idea that it was the time to resurrect the soup lines and bread lines.

"I liked the idea of bringing people together to share food, soup, bread, wine, and conversation," he said.

What took him by surprise was of all his events the kale festival emerged as the most popular and grew a life of its own.

Eighteen local restaurants and six bakeries hailing from Fall River, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Dartmouth, West Warwick, and Pawtucket entered their dishes in competition. According to Cabral, there are three or four new entrants this year. The competitors included restaurants new to the food scene as well as local favorites. Some of the competitors include Blount Clam Shack (Fall River), five year-running finalist Pasta House (Fairhaven), Terra Nostra Restaurant (Fall River), Sagres Restaurant

(Fall River), and Fall River Grill.

The restaurants entered their kale soup for the blind taste competition in two categories. The first category was the island sopa portuguesa, which is made from backyard garden vegetables and kale. Caldo verde, the second soup category, originates from Lisbon. It consisted of shredded kale, a potato purée base, and a single slice of chouriço linguça.

Chef Gloria Cabral, BCC culinary arts professor, will not only judge the taste of the soups, but the appearance as well.

"I look at the soup, if it looks good, I can assume it tastes good," she said. "I have my understanding of what kale soup should taste like. I want a lot of flavor, and something that brings back memories."

Chef Cabral was also responsible for the new addition of the sweet bread competition this year. Sweet bread is yellow in color and is made with a flour and egg mixture. It is more often than not found on tables during the Easter season and is associated in the Azores with the Feast of the Holy Ghost.

Besides Chef Cabral, other judges are Chef John J. Caressimo, Ro-

berto Medeiros, President of MO-SAICO, and Manhattan celebrity food writer/Swansea native, David Leite, author of the award-winning cookbook, *The New Portuguese Table*. Guests can also contribute to the Peoples' Choice Awards, which are based on popular vote.

"The competitors take the competition very seriously--we have all the dynamics of a family feud," Cabral said.

The top three restaurants were awarded with a variety of soup and bread ceramic dishes designed by Azorean craftsman Eduardo Gouveia.

"[The prizes] are not the American trophy," Cabral said. "They are handcrafted and a way of reinforcing and revitalizing tradition among people who care, who have skills, and are willing to share that skill."

There was live entertainment

at Kale Fest, featuring Providence storyteller Len Cabral; Magic Mike Estrella with the Azorean Petting Zoo from Dighton, MA; Out of the Gutter comedy from Fall River; and local music groups such as Ilhas De Brumai and The Saint Cecilia Philharmonic Band from Fall River.

The Kale Fest started in New Bedford and remained there for two years. It then moved to Fairhaven for a year, and now it has landed at BCC.

"I'm so happy to see that concept took route," Cabral said. "It's not just about kale soup, it's about community. I am proud of (the) collaboration of BCC and LusoCentro. It's a community based operation; we worked with city, state, and local restaurant industries, and gained a broad base of commercial support of other family owned and operated businesses."



Hungry festival goers sample varieties of kale soup at the Fifth Annual Kale Soup Festival at BCC.

TRANSFER AFFAIRS READY TO HELP

BY AMANDA MACDONALD

Many students at BCC have aspirations of transferring to a four year college or university after completing their transfer requirements or obtaining their Associates Degree.

Offices in G Building offer advising and staff are prepared to help students succeed and accomplish their goals at four year universities. Advisors can be seen by appointment and contacted by directly going to G200, or by calling Susan Raposo at 508-678-2811 ext. 2234.

Many students find the transfer process stressful, especially when considering where to begin--however, the transfer process begins on the first day of a student's first semester--the day students create and begin building their "Transfer Portfolio."

This consists of on-campus and extra-curricular activities in which the student takes part, such as student clubs, student government, and student leadership opportunities.

"Building up your transfer portfolio is just as important as good grades," Director of Transfer Affairs Eileen Shea said.

"When you walk into a room at Harvard, everyone there has a 4.0 GPA [grade point average]," Director of Student Engagement Kathleen Burns said. "The distinguishing factors are the opportunities you seized prior to applying to competitive four year colleges and universities."

Burns is also the advisor of the Student Ambassadors program and understands the importance of co-curricular activities and student leadership.

"The transfer process begins on a personal level," Shea said. "Transfer affairs and our advisors can aid in the technical part of the process, but the transfer process ultimately begins with the student."

The BCC transfer affairs website (<http://www.bristolcc.edu/students/transfer/>) contains many resources regarding the transfer process.

"I would advise students check there first," Eileen Shea said. "The resources there are invaluable and a lot of questions can be answered by checking the website."

Resources on the Transfer Affairs website range from searching for colleges and finding the right match

to the financial aid process and recommendations of universities that could apply to a student's major.

"College visits are a vital part of the college search as well," Shea said. "My daughter and I toured Boston University and before the visit she was excited about attending, after the tour she decided it wasn't the school for her."

Scholarships are another factor that occupy the minds of transfer students. There are many scholarships available specifically to community college students.

BCC graduates transfer to competitive universities and continue on to achieve their goals.

"Students wonder what the value of BCC courses are," Director of Civic Engagement Jennifer Boulay said. "Our courses transfer to places like Brown University. If they weren't legitimate or just as challenging they wouldn't be accepting our credits."

"Students ask me if BCC is (and community college in general) will prepare you for a four year college," Shea said.

"The work load will increase once you transfer, but you will also

be taking junior level courses. BCC offers challenging courses and competitive programs, as well as a strong liberal arts basis."


There are many upcoming events regarding transfers. Every week there are several colleges that come to BCC to speak with students and talk about what they offer, and how relevant the college would be to the student's major.

On Monday, November 5, Transfer College Day, more than 50 colleges and universities will be coming to speak with BCC students. No appointment is necessary. The representatives will be in the Commonwealth College Center, G Building, in the lobby at 10:00am.

Also, at 5:30 on Wednesday, November 7 in the Siegel Health Technologies Building, [C Building], there will be an evening Transfer College Fair with many representatives as well for students who cannot attend the Transfer College Day.

Any questions regarding Transfer Affairs can be directed to Eileen Shea (508-678-2811 ext. 2229) or Susan Raposo (508-678-2811 ext. 2234).


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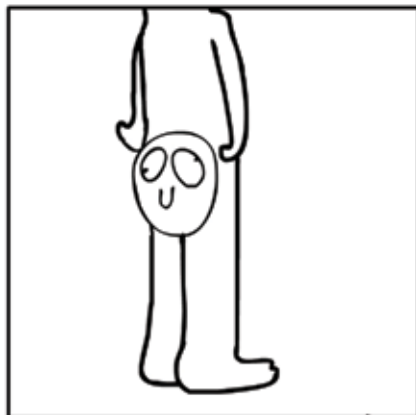
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WE'RE BACK!

It's been a LONG summer and now we can kick things off again as the fall semester begins! You might notice a few changes to the comics section here! Truth is, I (the artist, Nick Brand) want to make these comics slightly more appealing to to anyone who reads them! So that means better jokes, better layouts, and MUCH better quality of the cartoons! Another significant change is the comic series "Nicky Boy on Campus" I decided to just scrap that idea, and use my main "Nicky Boy" series. Why? I felt that force feeding college themed jokes towards the audience was completely unoriginal. I think sticking to some jokes that pertains to popular trends (new or old) is possibly the best way to go! (no, I will not get into politics) So with that said, if you have any questions, or comments about my work, feel free to contact me at supernickbrand@gmail.com. Enjoy what you see guys! See ya in the next issue of the Observer!



NICKY BOY!



NICKY BOY!



NICKY BOY!



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BCC LITERARY MAGAZINE, *PREVAILING WIND*, GOES DIGITAL

BY VICTORIA MORAD

BCC offers many different types of clubs and activities for students to partake in. One of these groups happens to be BCC's very own literary magazine called *Prevailing Wind*.

This online journal consists of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, memoirs, photography, artwork and more. All of the creative pieces published are the works of current BCC students.

Prevailing Wind can be found at <http://blog.bristolcc.edu/prevailingwind/>.

The Summer/Fall issue is now up and *Prevailing Wind* is

debuting a brand new format. With this issue readers will notice new features, such as guest contributors and interviews. Here the staff will share works and interviews from faculty and alumni of BCC.

Chrisanne Souza is the faculty advisor for the literary publication.

"The students] take it seriously, [but] we have a lot of fun," Souza said.

Souza believes that *Prevailing Wind* has made a positive impact on BCC.

"*Prevailing Wind* is very valuable and positive," she

said. "Research shows when students have a connection to the school they stay in college."

Meetings are held every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in B117, located in the writing center. Souza is happy to accommodate students who are unable to attend meetings.

Prevailing Wind is currently accepting submissions of all kinds. All creative works are accepted. Submissions and other questions can be sent to prevailing.wind@bristolcc.edu.



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Constitution

Discussed at BCC

BY AMANDA MACDONALD

On September 24, 2012 Professor Dwight Duncan, honors graduate of Georgetown University Law center, professor of bioethics, constitutional law, religion and the law, and legal ethics at UMass Dartmouth Law School, came to BCC to lecture about the Constitution and its importance to society.

Professor Duncan spoke about the importance of understanding the Constitution and a brief history of the document.

The study of the Constitution is offered in various classes at BCC, such as Criminal Procedure and Criminal Law and other classes for Criminal Justice majors.

"Many people make interpretations about the Constitution," he said. "Few people know what the Constitution actually says. Voters are so often misinformed."

He went on to explain various amendments within the Constitution and their objective meanings (free from bias or personal interpretation)--more specifically, the Bill of Rights.

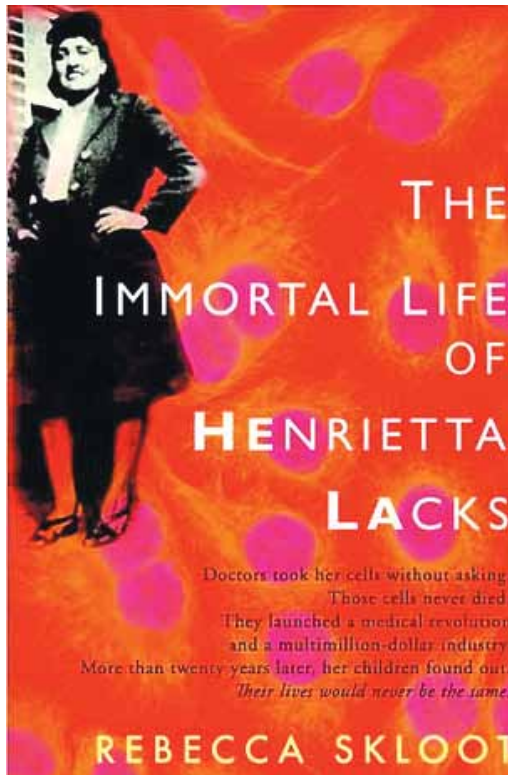
Duncan also addressed social issues such as gun laws, same-sex marriage, censorship, and equality in the "American Dream" (health, wealth, and the pursuit of happiness).

According to Duncan, understanding the Constitution and its provisions educates citizens about their government and helps ensure that they will vote on issues at the polls.

"It's not enough to vote for a candidate because you think he looks cool," he said.

THE LIFE THAT KEEPS ON LIVING

BY SARA PEREIRA



Nowadays, “fine literature” is loosely defined by novels such as *Fifty Shades of Grey* and *Twilight*. On rare occasions, however, avid readers find themselves picking up a book that truly blows them away.

BCC has made the right decision in choosing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot as BCC’s One Book.

Before cracking the cover, I knew I would be intrigued by this novel. Immediately, my first question was, “Immortal life? How is that even possible? Why was this not headline news?”

Henrietta Lacks was not always called Henrietta. Sometimes, she is called Henrietta Lakes, Helen Larson, or Helen Lane. She was a woman born in 1920, and she died in 1951, at just 31 years old.

When Henrietta gave birth to her son, she noticed she had begun to bleed profusely and a lump formed on her cervix.

Henrietta’s doctor took a sample the lump and it was discovered that she suffered from squamous-cell carcinoma of the cervix.

She spent much time in and out of hospitals to be treated for her cancer, and during one of her examinations, two kinds of cells were removed from her cervix without her consent or knowledge--healthy cells and cancerous cells.

Her cells were to be researched and studied as a part of an immortalized cell line--Henrietta’s cell line is called the HeLa cell line.

The HeLa cells are in high demand to this day. They have contributed to the research and cures of a number of different ailments ranging from cancer to AIDS, environmental variables to the effects of radiation.

The demand for the cells have grown.

Scientists have grown over 20 tons of her cells--Henrietta Lacks could not have weighed more than 150lbs. That means there is more of Henrietta now than there has ever been before!

Henrietta’s family is a true cast of characters, and their personalities come alive on the pages. By the end of the novel, *Henrietta Lacks* is not simply a group of cells from a woman who once was.

She is not an enigma. She is a person, whose blind contributions have changed our modern world and the way we cure it tremendously.

Skloot has resurrected the woman behind the cells. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* is balanced, compelling, fascinating, and full of heart. Not only does it tell a tale, but it educates and enlightens.



Henrietta Lacks

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OPINION

BCC HITS THE RED CARPET FOR THE EMMY AWARDS

BY ZACHARY CARON

The 64th Primetime Emmy Awards took place on September 23 on ABC. Jimmy Kimmel hosted the show. As much as many critics praised Kimmel's hosting – I must completely disagree.

The pre-taped opening skit included nominated comedy actresses punching out his newly acquired Botox. I found the segment to drag and not funny at all.

Some of Kimmel's other bits throughout the night fell flat such as his own "In Memoriam" tribute, accompanied by Josh Groban's slowed-down piano cover of One Direction's "What Makes You Beautiful," Kimmel throwing his parents out of the theater since they promised him he would win an Emmy for his show (which he did not), and the host's prank which included *30 Rock's* Tracy Morgan

"passing out" on stage in a lame attempt to attract hysteria and viewers.

The funniest presenters included *Mad Men's* Jon Hamm and *30 Rock's* Tina Fey "forgetting" her glasses and humorously misreading the prompter. *Park and Rec's* Aziz Ansari spoke in a fake British accent as he presented *Homeland's* Damian Lewis's win, who is British. Ansari said "I feel like people take your acting more seriously when you're British."

Seth Macfarlane also had a funny presentation, briefly speaking in his voice of "Stewie" from *Family Guy*, as he confessed jokingly to missing the practice for the awards as he forgot which microphone to stand in front of.

The highlight of the night had to have been the *Modern Family* taped

segment, which facetiously revealed that five-year old Aubrey Anderson-Emmonds, who plays Cameron and Mitchell's adopted Vietnamese daughter "Lily," is the biggest diva on the set and is referred to as a "little monster" as she insults, pranks, and threatens her fellow cast mates off screen.

Now on to the night's winners.

Modern Family won Best Comedy for the third year in a row; Eric Stonestreet and Julie Bowen won for Supporting Actor and Actress, respectively, for their work on the show. It surprises me the show was not nominated for Best Writing for a Comedy, but it did win the Emmy for Best Direction for a Comedy. I'm a huge *Modern Family* fan, so I was

happy with these wins.

I was also happy with Julia-Louis Dreyfus's Best Lead Actress in a Comedy win for HBO's *Veep*. John Cryer won Lead Actor for *2 and a Half Men*; Louis C.K. won Best Comedy Writing for his show *Louis C.K.*

It was a big night for Showtime's new show *Homeland*. The show just ended its first season, and usurped the four-year reigning Best Drama winner *Mad Men*. *Homeland* also collected wins for Best Lead Actress in a Drama (Claire Danes), Best Lead Actor in a Drama (Damian Lewis), and Best Writing for a Drama. Maggie Smith (*Downton Abbey*) won for Best Supporting Actress in a Drama and Aaron Paul (*Breaking Bad*) won for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama.

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