Write Your Own!

By Kevin Leiva

Students have been there. Teachers have suspected it. We all know it happens, but enjoy pretending that it doesn’t. Time and time again, students ask other students to write an assignment for them. Some of these cases involve different schools. Others are classmates, doing each other “A favor.” Regardless, it’s a behavior that is mutually destructive- and both parties should learn not to allow it to happen any longer.

Firstly: according to an anonymous student experienced in this issue, it starts off small. The kind friend contributes posts and updates here and there, helping out with an online class and its rigorous updates and mandatory comments. Little by little, they are expected to do more and more.

Soon the friend grows dependent on the daily assistance. Their work ethic becomes worse and worse. So it happens: the student who felt compelled to help his friend is now taking the entire online class on his shoulders. This entire headache for credits that will never go to his transcript, for work he will never be credited for.

This is a problem. For starters, students who pass these courses online due to friendly contributions from a knowledgeable friend are not being instructed. In future courses, they will be expected to retain information they never even learned!

Secondly, students who do the extra work aren’t benefiting. They will have to (Continued on Page 7)

A Face Behind the Glass Window

By Thomas Feliciano

Growing up in Darkar, Senegal, artist Ibou Ndoye learned his artistic talent at home. His mother, a dressmaker, guided his vision of color with expert training. She asked young Ibou to fetch her a red fabric from the market. It had to be just the right hue, which was difficult in a sea of red cloth. The test worked out in his benefit, as glancing over Ibou’s work, the first thing that jumps out at you is color. Color behind glass.

Ibou’s glass painting is more than a Senegalese tradition. His culture views glass, or windows, as the most important reflection of society. First of all, it’s transparent, so everything is visible behind it. Also, glass is fragile, which shows the delicate nature of even something we use for protection, as a teller sits behind a window or a windshield protects our bodies from outward harm.

People can interact with glass in different ways. Ibou presented an example of hiding from a debt collector, and how one would glance out the window in a different manner than if they were expecting a guest. For all these reasons, Ibou uses glass and he calls it “the medium that doesn’t lie.” Another way of looking at it, Ibou said, is the “broken glass culture” where we live. However, “a room without a window is a prison.”

Ibou works on more than glass. He is constantly experimenting with a style he describes as a fusion between modernism and traditionalism and a mixture of various cultures. Some of his

(Continued on page 3)
SGA and Dr. Rose Urge Professors to Give Back

By Thomas Feliciano

No matter your religious affiliation, the American tradition goes that Christmas is a festive time of giving. During the holiday season, many children eagerly await the day they’ll unwrap the gifts they marked on their list. But for other children, Christmas is a time of sadness. Not because they dislike the holiday itself. Instead, these children are morose because they are without a traditional family setup or come from a family in dire straits. For families under the poverty line, St. Nicholas, Chris Cringle, and Santa Claus are not a reality. That is why PCCC has instilled in their professors the tradition of giving. At their holiday party on Thursday, December 10, 2015, the air in the mood was relaxed. The Visions staff attended the event with their faculty adviser Dr. Waldeyer.

At the door, each member was greeted with a smile. Inside the party, there was food, entertainment, and good company. Even Santa himself showed up with gifts for those in attendance, flanked by two elves. Of course, PCCC professors took these roles themselves. Chair of the Humanities Department, Ed Mosley fulfilled the role of St. Nick. But professors who attended the event had another reason to enjoy their annual holiday party.

Away from the classroom and in each other’s company, the professors found themselves taking advantage of the more laid-back atmosphere and taking a full step into the holiday season with the right direction.

Still, there was one obligation upon their shoulders. Each professor and PCCC faculty member had to provide a gift that would be distributed to a child in need. That is beyond the gift of education they provide their students in the classroom.

The President of Passaic County Community College, Dr. Steve Rose, initiated this policy. He asks that his professors embody the holiday spirit.

Although Dr. Rose embraces this tradition of giving, he relies on the Student Government Association to collect the actual gifts.

At the door this year stood SGA Vice President Ramona Padilla among other members of the SGA and OSA. They greeted each professor with a smile and encouragement for delivering their gift.

Padilla was excited by the turnout of gifts for this holiday party. Their next step was to donate the presents to Eva’s Village for the ultimate distribution. The SGA enjoys their ability to participate in this wonderful PCCC tradition.

The students of PCCC should also realize they are on the receiving end of a gift. As seen at this year’s holiday party, the faculty of the main campus in Paterson are one big family. When seen together, having fun and smiling, it’s easy to forget how hard the professors work. Like anybody else, they need a break and time to relax. The students should understand the ultimate gift they receive is more valuable than the gifts donated for the toy drive.

The gift of an education is invaluable. And beyond this, PCCC is a family who strives to help each member grow into the sharpest version of themselves.

The fall semester comes to a head with the holiday season. No better way to welcome in this time than beginning at the workplace. This year, the professors let their hair down and opened the doors wide for the New Year. Their final stop before the end of the semester was a toy drive that bears their love whilst remaining under the flag of anonymity.

Professor Risher Shares Message of Hope

Professor Caffie Risher spoke at The Blue Christmas Worship Service at Princeton Seminary in December. Prof. Risher shared a message of Hope and Healing during this season, which is difficult for so many dealing with hurt, loss, pain, trauma, etc. Her message was encouraging and Princeton Seminary was blessed for the reminder to turn to the Psalms as we cry out to God from our various places of pain and look forward in great anticipation to the joy that is sure to come in time.

BUILDING RESUMES, BUILDING CAREERS

By Thomas Feliciano

On Thursday, February 4, the Business Club met in A210 as preparation for their upcoming Resume Writing Workshop. A total of around 20 students and faculty gathered in the room for snacks and expert guidance.

Tom Moore of Passaic County Community College’s Career Services Department spoke to the students and gave tips and advice for landing top-tier jobs after they complete their studies, or as they move on to their next school.

Also in attendance was the Chair of the Business Department Tom Cox, Assistant Dean Peter Hynes, Liz Harrison of the Center for Student Success, and Doreen Piece, the Coordinator of Learning Support at the Gateway Center. Professor Khaloud Kourani, the advisor for the Business Club, and its President, Helwa Aibars, were also in attendance.

Aside from resume building advice, Moore also informed students about professionalism with regards to their on-line presence, such as a proper business E-mail address and LinkedIn page. This event was all part of the Business Club’s mission at preparing PCCC students for success after college.
other work appears on surface metal or canvas. Most convey the simple message of masks. That human beings wear a different mask for each occasion: whether it be at school, work, with family, or with friends. This is perhaps best seen in his massive painting on paper titled, “A Face is a Face.”

Also on display are some of Ibou’s other glass paintings, including two self-portraits, a painting of two children playing outside, and other works describing the importance of sunrise and sunset.

Ibou explained that Senegalese people see the sunrise as a time when evil spirits join the world, and they leave this plane at sunset. As such, people go to work with the sun and come home when it sets to stay occupied during this time.

In Ibou’s fishermen community back in Senegal, the men who leave for work each morning paint a message on their boat. These are something positive, that can act as inspiration to the long day of work ahead.

The artist explained that the men in his village, singing and dancing as they left in the morning were in the same good humor at the day’s end, even if they didn’t catch any fish.

Ibou sees the messages as a type of art, one that helps these fishermen focus on their task. He said, “Art is knowledge, and if you think knowledge is expensive, then try ignorance.” He also sees art as a way of teaching and bridging the gaps between various cultures.

Beyond his own art work, Ibou spends time volunteering with children, elderly, and individuals with special needs. He appreciates the opportunity to help those in various stations in life achieve some type of artistic expression.

Ibou said that all people are broken in some way. Using art for the greater good, the painter hopes to heal some of those wounds.

In celebration of Black History Month, the Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council at Passaic County Community College presented A FACE IS A FACE, an exhibition by the Senegalese artist.

On February 4th, from 4-7 p.m. students and staff of the PCCC community had the opportunity to meet the artist in person at a reception in the Broadway Gallery.

The Public Speaking Phobia

By Brielle Ortiz

Public speaking can either be a college students’ favorite or worst class ever. Whether it’s a simple group presentation on a silly topic in 5th grade or a serious solo speech being the center of attention in a class of 20 or more other students, there are those who are very confident and can present with no problem at all and there are those who sweat from the beginning to the end and stutter the entire way through.

I interviewed students who have taken the Public Speaking class at Passaic County Community College and tapped into their experiences.

Santiago Restrepo, 20, Criminal Justice major took public speaking spring semester of 2015. When asked how was his overall experience, he said “Overall? It was eye opening. I always was really confident and been great at bullshitting my presentations in high school.

However, in this class I came to find out how bad I was at speaking at a crowd who made me the center of attention. I learned a lot through the class though.”

Restrepo shared how he received an overall B in the class and described the class as “a breeze, once you get the hang of it and do your work on time.”

When asked if there is any advice Restrepo would have for future students who have yet to take the class, he said, “Take it! It’s not the hardest class. I recommend for anyone who wants to overcome their fear and as well become better at speeches. You grow as a person.”

Nayley Moran, 20, Communication major, took public speaking over the summer, online. Moran’s overall experience was “Great! At least for me. Because it wasn’t in a class and just three people.”

When asked how was she compared to her first and last speech, Moran said, “On my first speech, I was extremely nervous. However, the fear decreased throughout each time.”

Moran received an A- as an overall grade from the class. Moran also shared advice for anyone who has yet to take the class, “to probably let my other classmates see so I can get advice and comments from them.”

When asked how she was compared to her first and last speech and she said “Not really much of a difference. Maybe just acquired a little more skills to speak in public and not get nervous. But I did well in the class.”

When asked what would she change about the class, what would she change, Moran said, “The only thing I would change would probably be to be given more time to create speeches because short notice can mess you up and make you nervous.”

She also ended the interview by saying, “Its definitely a necessary class for everyone, no matter what the major might be or if it’s a requirement or not. It’s a useful and helpful class that will prepare you long term as an adult.” – Samantha Hernandez

“Its definitely a necessary class for everyone, no matter what the major might be or if it’s a requirement or not. It’s a useful and helpful class that will prepare you long term as an adult.” – Samantha Hernandez

Christina Sanchez, (Continued on Page 6)
Big Tobacco’s Worst Nightmare
By Devin Frasche

Sanchez had just enrolled in a 12-week course. “My goal is to just get my degree,” stated Sanchez. While she has just graduated high school she was discouraged she buckled down and enrolled in Passaic County Community College in the English program. Sanchez is currently taking 18 credits and an English program. Christina Sanchez: Full-Time Powerhouse
By Jordan Chase

“I definitely look at a set of stairs differently”

William Kennedy, 23, Owner of The Secret Handshake, saw an opportunity with the booming new industry and took action. It all started when a co-worker introduced him to vaping, which put his pack a day smoking habit to a complete halt. “I started to feel better and stopped coughing up wads of mucus like I used to, and started saving a lot of money,” Kennedy explained. After he started vaping, Kennedy was saving $300 monthly.

Kennedy enjoyed designing new flavors that he enjoyed and eventually started his own company. This young entrepreneur spoke to knowledgeable people in the industry in order to ensure an impeccable and safe product. When asked about what a novice should do to gain knowledge in the industry in order to provide a safe and convenient way to enjoy their own lines of e-liquids that are made in a large scale laboratory or clean warehouse, one of which is The Secret Handshake.

“I definitely look at a set of stairs differently”

Sanchez doesn’t like the world of writing sheSanchez: Full-Time Powerhouse
By Jordan Chase

Being a full-time student is difficult. Being a full-time parent is difficult. It’s hard to imagine any one who is all three, but Christina Sanchez, 28, has been doing it for nearly two years now.

Sanchez was born and raised in Paterson. After graduating high school she wasn’t sure if college was right for her so she began to work. Over time she got married to her high school sweet heart, had 2 children – Alia (2) and Anthony (8) – and dabbled in all kinds of work before settling down at a blood bank, uptown in Montvale. Returning to school wasn’t something Sanchez had ever imagined herself doing.

“I just followed the road everyone else was taking,” said Sanchez. However, over time she realized that road was not for her. Sanchez began a love affair with writing and reading that made her realize that accounting wasn’t for her. Writing was.

“I just became obsessed with reading,” said Sanchez. “But eventually you run out of good books and I just thought to myself, ‘I could write better,’ so that’s what I set out to do.”

Specifically writing fiction. Before returning to school Sanchez attempted to write her own work and pursue editing jobs in her chosen field but found it extremely challenging without any prior experience or a degree. Rather than be discouraged she buckled down and enrolled in Passaic County Community College in the English program.

Sanchez is currently taking 18 credits and believes that family is not only important but necessary.

“It isn’t easy finding time to juggle personal and student life,” admitted Sanchez. “But my family is really supportive. They don’t always understand how much work I have to do, but they’re always there for me.” Sanchez stated that she makes time every Sunday just for family by enjoying a nice brunch with her husband and children.

Attending school can be a financial strain but Sanchez is getting financial aid and is a member of the college’s XAE Chi Alpha Epsilon. However, money isn’t what motivates Sanchez. Re-inventing the wheel, I know I won’t make more than $60,000 a year,” says Sanchez. “But I’d rather make $60,000 doing something I like than a $100,000 doing something I don’t like.”

One thing’s for sure. If Sanchez doesn’t like the world of writing she can always open up her own time management firm instead. She’s proven that with hard work and a determination to succeed, that anyone can return to school.
Late January Storm: After Assessment

By Kevin A. Leiva, EMT

As a state certified Emergency Medical Technician, I am required to keep up with facts concerning States if Emergency. I was on duty, and responding during the last New Jersey state of emergency.

From January 23-24, New Jersey got a massive amount of snow. Over twenty six inches depending on where. Deaths occurred throughout the state, as well as damages to property. The damages flooded entire coun-
ties, fell trees and power lines, contributed to car accidents and deaths.

Governor Christie requested the following amounts in damages per county:

- Atlantic County: $2,294,483
- Mercer County: $4,732,611
- Bergen County: $7,456,765
- Middlesex County: $7,293,870
- Burlington County: $4,754,251
- Monmouth County: $9,271,521
- Camden County: $2,971,946
- Morris County: $4,281,244
- Cape May County: $4,207,200
- Ocean County: $6,419,301
- Cumberland County: $913,00
- Somerset County: $1,435,551
- Essex County: $7,975,382
- Union County: $4,621,985
- Hudson County: $10,886,929
- Warren County: $419,709
- Hunterdon County: $2,736,849

There were over 14 deaths reported throughout the east coast directly caused by the storm, but that figure did not include people who died in accidents, or froze due to being stranded or being out of power.

One woman even died outside of a Burger King, across the street from an Ambulance company in Hackensack.

This storm should be used as a learning tool for us—during a State of Emergency there are a few things one should keep in mind:

- Do not rush to collect Gasoline. Half a tank is plenty, and during the storm no one should be going anywhere anyway.
- Do not leave your home during the snowfall.
- There is no reason to panic and go to supermarkets, stocking up on perishables. This only causes traffic and chaos-coupled with anxiety, and human error, this behavior is unnecessarily risky.
- If your power is out, stay indoors. Rooms with lower ceilings will stay warmer. Wear layers, and cover up.
- Stay warm!
- Do not consume alcohol during freezing storm weather-it allows errors in judgment and can increase the risk of hypothermia.
- If you become stranded or stuck in a vehicle during the storm, call 9-1-1, and look around—if there is a public area with heat and shelter, head there. If not, use your own car’s heating until Emergency Services can pick you up.
- IMPORTANT: Once you are home. Stay there. Only Emergency personnel and plows should be out during a storm.
- MOST IMPORTANT: One bad decision does not usually get you injured or killed—a series of bad decisions does. During a state of emergency such as the one we experienced, use common sense, and avoid poor choices.

Perks of Community College Attract Students

By Gemima Pierre-Louis

Students are attracted to community college for many perks—one of them being their location; the second is the easiness of getting financial aid or affordable tuition, the third being the flexibility and an array of associate degrees.

Community colleges are pathways to great careers.

Following is a sampling of community college students from Passaic community college.

Royce Deleon 20, a graphic design major at Passaic county college chose that major because it is in high demand. The degrees offered there facilitate job placement. He chose the community college mainly because of its location; he lives nearby and gets to go home between class-es to eat or sometimes eats at Blimpies across the street.

As a computer geek he finds computer design very fascinating, more like a hobby. Deleon is a full-time student at the college and also works full-time. He gets caught up between work and school and does not have time to participate in any of the school events.

Muhammed Izeiroski, 21, a computer assis-tant at the school library was attracted by the ease of financial aid. He eats at Subway usually. He attends the poetry club, although too private to share his work but would like to see more people at the poetry club meeting.

Myriam Estrada, 22, mother of two boys, is taking three classes this semester and plans to obtain a degree in economics. She takes early classes then goes to work. She works in a national local branch. Unfortunately, Estrada stated, she does not stay in the school long enough to eat on campus or in the vicinity.

Helwa Aburas, is the president of the Business Club. Aburas is majoring in business administration, is a full-time student and works part-time. Aburas takes classes two full days a week.

Between classes she tries to catch up on things and does homework. And is trying to be good at time management. She eats at Wendy’s or snacks from home or at any local store. PCCC is closer to home, convenient and cheaper than a four year institution.

Aburas sees herself as a business personality and actually managing her own company, that is her long term goal. She is a few steps on the ladder. She is reaching one bar at a time.

As the president of the business club, she spends a great deal of time resourcing for the clubs and mentioned that she would like to attend many campus activities but cannot spare the time. She added that she is, taking advantage of the degree offered at the community college to build on toward her more advanced classes at a four-year institution.

Victoria Macucci, 20, of Clifton whose parents are from Dominican Republic is an English ma-jor at PCCC with plans to graduate and transfer to a four-year institution to be an English teacher. She stated that it is a great beginning to start at PCCC. She is currently working towards her substitute teaching certificate for a job that lines up better with her ultimate goal.

Macucci works full-time and takes as many classes as she can bearing in mind that she must maintain a good grade point average to attain her goal.

Suzette Brashaw in her twenties, a native of Jamaica, is a full-time mother, wife and em-ployee. She works the night shift and comes to school from work to pursue her nursing degree.

The load of classes that she carries varies per semester. Bradshaw is taking one class this semester as she prepares to take the testing re-quired for this program.

She said that her husband is very sup-portive of her schooling.

She takes care of her kids between class-es. Someone needs to make the proper sacrifices to get to their ultimate goal. One day or class at a time. PCCC has great a foundation of tomorrow. PCCC has a great foundation for tomorrow. It has a good nursing program, said Bradshaw, who also plans to transfer after obtaining her degree and wishes to finish up school while the kids are young.
Federal authorities are accusing Devry University of lying to students. The federal trade commission is suing the college because they were promoting false information to the public. Devry University stated to the public that 90% of students that graduate find jobs in their fields. According to goodcall.com, the false advertisements made by the college discusses that graduates were working in their fields when they were not.

Since the US department of education found out what Devry was doing with the false advertising they told the college to stop advertising student’s employment outcomes.

As colleges like Devry create deceptive practices, the government is taking actions on putting an end to these negative acts.

Also, online sources state that the enrollment at Devry will decrease due to the fact that the college does not stick to their word about jobs and income rates according to CNN. Students at Devry owe massive amounts of money in loans.

According to huffingtonpost.com, Devry College is not the only college going through this but it does bring the school’s rating down. Santa Ana, a college in California, is under the scope and is facing bankruptcy, falsifying job placements, altering grades and attendance.

Corinthian Colleges, a network with 13 colleges, closed its doors because they faced a lawsuit with Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and several state attorneys. Not only they were shut down completely but were also fined $30 million by the department of education for displaying false job rates.

With all this going on it shows that colleges are making money while hurting student’s pockets. Students took out thousands of dollars in loans to then be introduced to false advertisements in which those negative practices would hurt the college enrollment.
Athletic Options Limited at PCCC

By Jorge Leon

Prospective students, who consider Passaic County Community College as an option for their education, may change their mind once they find out the school does not offer many athletic options. Currently, the Panthers represent the school in 4 sports categories: Men’s Soccer, Women’s Volleyball, Men’s and Women’s Basketball.

Many Passaic County residents attend other community colleges because they offer more athletic options and have the required facilities for athletes to perform different sports. Playing sports at the college level is important to any student that has been practicing sports since childhood, and continued to play in High School before making a decision about college.

“IF I had my own transportation to go to another college such as Bergen County Community College, I would have done it because I wanted to keep playing baseball. It is a sport I have been playing my whole life and who knows where it could take me,” Mario Terrero, 20, Radiology student says.

Terrero wants to transfer to a 4-year university so he deliberately plans to join the baseball team. “Playing baseball in a Division I school is not that far from the major leagues. Not only that, you can also earn scholarships.”

Playing a sport in college is a huge decision for students. College athletes need strong time-management skills to keep up with school, practices and games. In addition, some athletes also have at least a part-time job.

Adrian Arias, 17, Computer Science major at PCCC understands the school does not offer many options because it doesn’t have the required facilities for other sports. “On top of that, some students are not really interested in sports because they also work, and it is really hard to balance time between school and sports. I’ve been through that.”

...we need to recruit a certain amount of people depending on the sport of their interest and then create a club so we can submit the request to the school and wait for their approval.”

Arias was part of the soccer team last season. “I decided to join the soccer team because I am an active person and since baseball is not offered at PCCC, I didn’t have any other option. My family is from the Dominican Republic, so you know baseball runs through my veins.”

Throughout the years, students have tried to add a sport of their preference to the school but in order to do this, they need a certain amount of interested people and this has hardly happened.

“I am sure there is a lot of good players that aren’t able to show their skills because the school doesn’t offer the sport they practice,” Kleber Macias, 19, Electrical Engineering Technology Major at PCCC stated. Macias was also part of the soccer team in 2015. “I am glad the school has a soccer program, so I can keep playing the sport I love.”

Daniel Gutierrez, who coached the PCCC soccer team a few years ago says that the school is eligible to add any other sport but it is a long process. “We have tried to add more athletic options in the past, but in order to do that we need to recruit a certain amount of people depending on the sport of their interest and then create a club so we can submit the request to the school and wait for their approval.”

He mentions the school tried to add sports such as: lacrosse, baseball, cross country, women’s soccer, etc.

Gutierrez, who is the current Fitness Instructor at the school remembers many years ago a group of around 20 players would get together in the gym and started kicking a ball around, and that is how the soccer program was launched.

He also states that it would make no difference to add new sports if the school does not have the required facilities for players to practice and play home games.

Jeffrey Barrenechea, 24, Assistant Men’s soccer coach thinks the school would find a way to add more sports and acquire the needed facilities if students showed interest and wanted to play competitively.

According to Barrenechea, sports are not easy to handle in terms of rules. “A school might not be obligated to have sports, but once they do they must follow Title IX. This is a law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.”

Barrenechea is glad the college athletes can stay in shape for the upcoming season by practicing their favorite sport in the school’s gymnasium and train in the fitness center.

Students Working Part-Time Minimum Wage Jobs

By Darwin Espinal

A lot of students are working part-time jobs to be able to pay for bills or buy food. There are a lot of things that college students need a weekly income for. Some students are doing it because they have to do it and not because they want to do.

Working part-time as a student can mess up your schedule, and can make it harder to make time for studying and homework. It also makes it harder to meet deadlines at times when you have to be at work instead of where you need to be. And that is somewhere finishing up your work for school.

Anthony Abreu, age 21 attending Lincoln Tech, said that his work schedule makes it really hard for him to focus on studying and that’s not good because it just means that he’s not going to get any closer to graduating if he fails any of his classes due to work.

Although some students seem to suffer from the work and school schedule, there are some out there that are really trying to make it work. Alexis Ascanio, age 19, attending Essex County College tries to take time off work to make more time for school.

More people said that trying to make more time for school than work is better than vice versa. Gregory Abreu, a former PCCC student, stated that trying to focus on a minimum wage job rather than college school work does not make any sense to him. A minimum wage job can easily be replaced if you get fired because you call out to study some more.

... it was too hard to work and go to school at the same time so he decided to drop and join the Navy.

Hendry Blanco, BCCC full-time student just started attending college. He stated that being a full-time student is very beneficial when you’re trying to finish school fast without any distractions. It also means that you have all the time you need to finish the work the teachers give you and you then have no excuse to not finish it.

Being a full-time student has its benefits but when it comes to it is a lot of students attending community college and not sorting to have a job. Students need to commute to school every day so that means that they will have pay for transit. Even though gas is cheap here in New Jersey, it’s not free so the students need to make money in order to pay for it.

Some students are even working full-time and only going to school part time in order to pay for their school tutions. Daniel Blanco, attending ECC stated that he is not eligible for financial aid which leaves him no option but to pay out of pocket.

Carlos Jimenez, former BCCC student, stated that going to college is not an easy task and working part time while going to school just makes it harder. In fact it was too hard to work and go to school at the same time so he decided to drop and join the Navy.

Once he gets back from the Navy he says that he will attend college since the Navy is going to pay for his college education. It was too much for him to pay by himself so he did the next best thing to have some help when one does not qualify for financial aid.

Write your own!

(Continued from page 1)

The fact is: this is cheating. Both students risk disciplinary reprimand, and that is not worth it.

Friends do not let friends take such a great risk at their own expense.

For more information on plagiarism, and its potential consequences, consult the PCCC Student handbook, found online at PCCC.edu, or at the library, and above all else, remember to write your own!
Spring Break: A Time Off for Weary Students

By Lismery Luna

During the spring semester, it’s difficult to find a time to relax and recharge completely. Students feel that by March, most of their motivation for school is missing. This is where Spring Break comes in. It is a time for many students at Passaic County Community College to relax and renew, to get excited for what’s ahead.

Caroline Salazar, 25 yrs old, Exercise Science Major will “take advantage to refresh and recharge from stress and school,” she said. Instead of going away now, Salazar will go on a personal trip at the end of June. “I will be going to the Virginia Islands, Saint Thomas actually, for six days,” she stated.

The Virgin Islands are important to Salazar because “It is the island I want to get married in. I’ve been planning this trip for years and it’s been something I wanted to do for a long time. And it’s special since I’m going with my girlfriend as well,” she said.

For her, it is also a chance to see the sights - “I also saw pictures on a website and the water looks amazing... so blue and clear, un-like the water here,” she stated.

Salazar planned her trip carefully - “I used workingadvantage.com and cheaptickets.com. I have used them before for my trip to Miami and they’re great,” she said. “I look for the best deal, economically; I also look at days and times to compare prices and flight days”

Salazar planned her trip carefully - “I used workingadvantage.com and cheaptickets.com. I have used them before for my trip to Miami and they’re great,” she said. “I look for the best deal, economically; I also look at days and times to compare prices and flight days.”

Salazar defines a successful spring break as “a time for getting motivated for summer, a time to relax, a time to get wild and crazy for a bit, but use the time to focus-reward yourself for hard work,” she said.

Donald Delaon, 29 years old, Sociology major plans after his final semester “transferring in the fall time-hopefully,” he said.

Delaon plans to do “cooking, doing yard work, four wheeling, and Bonfiring in Upstate New York,” he stated. For his trip to Long Beach “Bonfiring; game nights, go to bars, cooking, and hot tubing. Actually there’s hot tub at both places, so that will be nice,” he stated.

Delaon is going away because he misses a lot of the things he used to do - “I work and go to school; I want to relax and decompress. Being outside is a nice form of exercise, like walking and yard work so I get that in as well,” he said.

Delaon has been planning his trip to Long Beach since “Thanksgiving,” while the time to go Upstate New York is more of “spontaneous, if they’re free, and I’m free, I go,” he said.

In order to have a successful spring break Delaon stated that he would “Get in some reading, see friends, no itinerary planned out, no over planning. De-stress and relax, you come back more stress-free.”

Unlike Salazar Delaon has used travel sites like Airbnb, Kayak, and Expeedia -“they’re good we used [them] before,” he said. According to digitaltrends.com, the best travel sites for finding a way to get there are: Kayak, Skyscanner, and Expeidia, Orbitz, Airfarewatchdog, and Momondo.

Although, the best sites to find a place to stay are Oyster AirBnbs, Hotels.com, Trippadvisor, and Priiceline.

Finally, the best travel websites for finding fun activities during your trip, according to digitaltrends.com are Eater, In Your Pocket, Gogobit, Tripit and Yelp.

Neha Darji, 20 years old, Nursing major has exciting plans for spring break.

“I’m planning or trying to go to Puerto Rico with my best friend,” she said. Darji has been “looking for deals but there aren’t enough and I’ve been saving up since October,” she stated.

Darji plans to “relax, go sightseeing, and tan by the pool, but mostly relaxing” during the break.

However Darji has been “trying to get more stress-fail.”

“An international Honor Society for two year schools and any school that has an associate’s degree,” De Jesus said.

In his new position as the SGA President, Delaon will be responsible for planning events, working with the Student Senate, and representing the student body to the administration.

During his time in office, Delaon plans to advocate for student rights, increase participation in student organizations, and promote community involvement.

Delaon recognizes the importance of student involvement in the college community, stating, “I believe that being an active member of our college community is essential to personal and professional growth.”

With this in mind, Delaon plans to work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all students.

For more information on the SGA and how to get involved, visit the SGA’s website at www.pccc.edu/studentaffairs/sga.

Delaon encourages all students to participate in these opportunities and to take on leadership roles within the college community.

“PTK reaching out to students

(Continued from page 1)

On February 11th, there was a meeting that took place in the Pater-

son Room, located in Paterson campus lunchroom, at 10 AM and 5 PM.

During the meeting President De Jesus addressed the goals, moti-

vation, and policies of this Honor Society.

“Recognize and encourage academic achievement of two-year col-

lege students,” said De Jesus.

This mantra is reflected throughout the Honor Society’s presentation about its policies.

De Jesus mentions there are certain requirements to meet to be a member of this Honor Society. The requirements include a minimum of 12 college level credits, maintaining a minimum of 3.5 Grade Point Average, enroll in a degree-seek program at PCCC, and adhere to the Honor Society’s moral standard. Finally, every student must pay a $60 one-time fee to be an official member of the Honor Society. Then a new Phi Theta Kappa member can receive a membership certificate and ID card.

In the meeting De Jesus talked about how the Honor Society offers many perks besides scholarships. The perks include Golden Key membership pin, 8 percent off of “GEICO” car insurance, and free enrollment in “collegefish.org,” a website that helps students search for scholarships.

Being a member of the Honor Society provides opportunities to participate in local chapter activities.

De Jesus touched on jobs students could potentially obtain through this membership. This program gives Phi Theta Kappa members the opportunity to become part of a network of nearly 3 million fellow scholars and servant leaders which essentially opens doors for any Phi Theta Kappa member to have a chance for a job.

Phi Theta Kappa members can participate in programs like “Honor-

ors in Action” to learn and practice problem solving skills, “Leadership Development Studies” to understand leadership profiles, film studies and experiential exercises, “Pearson Student Advisory Board” to work with Pearson executives and product development teams to give feedback and make changes to their products and services, and "Community College Completion Corps" to encourage students to complete their community college majors.

If anyone would be interested in the “Phi Theta Kappa Honor So-

ciety” any student can ask questions about Phi Theta Kappa membership in the student activities office.

Anybody can also visit their Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube pages.

For more information and registration go to “www.ptk.org.” It also includes information about events taking place for Phi Theta Kappa, scholarships, and contact in via their email and phone number. On the website anybody can visit the Phi Theta Kappa official online store to buy apparel and merchandise. Although some items are sold exclusively for members of the Honors Society.

For information on Chapter meetings for Phi Theta Kappa, go to http://www.pcc.edu/prospective/academics/honors-at-pccc/phi-the-
ta-kappa.
By Royce De Leon

History of Black Panthers

The Black Panthers were just like the Ku Klux Klan. The Black Panther Party was just a violent communist group that the government had to shut down. The Black Panthers were a bunch of anti-police thugs. A terrorist group.

All of the statements he has two things in common. They have been in circulation in the media these past few weeks and areundeniably false. Who are the Black Panthers then?

According to Panther: The Black Revolution by Panther Members, The Black Panther Party for Self Defense was the “largest black revolutionary organization that ever existed.” The Black Panther Party was formed in 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, California. The Panthers formation was an effect of the civil rights movement which had begun more than a decade before.

Despite multiple Civil Rights Acts such as the Acts of 1964 and the Voting Rights act of 1965 having been passed, African Americans continued to suffer economic and social inequality. These conditions lead to urban uprisings which were met with an increase in use of police violence.

The Civil rights movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, practiced civil disobedience and passive resistance. Malcolm X, wanted a more coherent strategy than any black leader and wanted social and economic change by any means, even violence if necessary. It was under this philosophy that the Panthers emerged.

The Black Panthers were the first group who made the battle about more than desegregation but about the fundamental economic problems people faced everyday. The Panthers decided to take up their right to bear arms and to carry out the philosophy of self defense, by policing the Panther. The Panthers were educated and exercised their right to bear arms if they could, on one occasion even stating the distance they could stand to see a police officer carry out their duty.

The Panthers knew that community programs were of key importance. The first being a Free Breakfast for children program that was eventually adopted by the United States government later.

The success of the group combined with their political views and activities brought them under first from the American government. The FBI unleashed their full force upon the group by using COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program) against them. By 1969, 25 Panther members had been killed, leading to the eventual demise of the Black Panther party in the mid 70s. The FBI eventually apologized for “wrongful uses of power.”

Beyoncé and the controversy

The Black Panther Party still exists in history, as a revolutionary political party for the civil rights and empowerment of African Americans. Beyoncé Knowles wanted to show that same message in her music and she chose the Superbowl Halftime Show as her platform. Beyoncé did so in a timely matter by releasing a new single, “Formation” accompanied with a video, hours before her performance. The video paying homage to the “Black Lives Matter” movement.

Beyoncé and her 20 back up dancers performed wearing distinct black leather and chain outfit and a black beret, similar to the uniforms worn by the Black Panthers. The dance incorporated them forming into an X on the stage. Accompanied by them raising their right hands in a clenched fist, a symbol connected with Black Power. In the back a few members held up a sign that read, Justice for Mario Woods, man who was killed by police in San Francisco.

Fox News conducted an interview with Mayor Rudy Giuliani the following morning. When asked about his views on the performance he stated, “I think it was outrageous; she used it as a platform to attack police officers.” His words resonated through the media outlets many having similar opinions and others being in support of Beyoncé.

Police officers, public officials and celebrities also voiced their opinions on the performance. The National Sheriffs Association Executive Director Jonathan Thompson said in a statement about the performance that “It’s inciting bad behavior.” TV host Andy Cohen praised Beyoncé on twitter while others criticized.

Reaction of the PCCC Community

The community at PCCC seems to also be split on whether to support or oppose the political message Beyoncé issued. Some completely oppose what she did. Mellantine McFarlane, a 23-year-old English major, believes that the performance afterwards online and thought it was horrible. “I am not a fan of Beyoncé and I don’t think she should be doing her whole becoming ghetto thing.”

McFarlane finds Beyoncé dead wrong for choosing that platform. “Her people tend to jump on an issue or name sometimes without knowing all the facts behind it.”

For others the message was amazing. Kate Morales, a 19-year-old Journalism major, admits she loves Beyoncé and watched the video for the song seconds after its release and watched the performance live. When asked what message she interpreted, “Dude - its stop shooting us, stop all the police brutality,” she bluntly stated.

Darvin Cruz, 21 and a graphic design major, caught some of the performance live and agrees with Morales. Cruz knew a bit about the Black Panthers and approved of Beyoncé for taking a stand and using their image. “She’s putting it out there, the violence and police killings of unarmed black people, the police shouldn’t be killing anyone,” he said.

The image of the Black Panthers didn’t resonate with Ortiz as it did with others. Some did not understand any of it until later after all the reaction. Brielle Ortiz, a 19-year-old Communications major, saw the show but didn’t think much of it. “It was all over the place and I just didn’t like it, and I’m not a big fan of history so I didn’t really know who the Black Panthers were,” she said.

An Eye for the Lens

By Royce De Leon

Photography is a particular form of journalism involving photography and journalism. The later, Journalism, is something that can accomplish. Photography on the other hand seems to graphic design and finally Journalism when all options. “It’s very difficult to find work; I’m too skinny for real manual jobs that would pay one else’s sake.

Kate Morales of Paterson, NJ. has that eye.

At the age of 14 with a cellphone Morales states that she does not boost, although Morales states that she does not know how to edit any of her photos simply because “I don’t know how to edit.”

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Skateboarding Creates Positivity in Paterson
By Noah Chamberlain

When I first started going to school in Paterson, I was both nervous and excited. I didn’t know anybody and drove an hour away from my hometown of West Milford. I never had any reason to come down to Paterson but now my friends and I do.

As any skateboarder thinks, I was excited to go to a new area because of the possibility of new skate spots. West Milford is a fairly rural area compared to most of North Jersey. At first I was petrified at all the bums and loudmouths that I wasn’t accustomed to in West Milford.

In one of my classes in my first semester at PCCC, I noticed there was a student that rode his skateboard to school. Skateboarding creates an unspoken language like no other activity and we quickly became friends.

Darius Sample, 21, majors in physical science at PCCC. He lives in Paterson and has his whole life. Sample brought me skating and I was quickly a part of a crew of around 20 skaters. At first I was intimidated because I was the only white one, but most of them were more excited to meet me than I would have expected.

“Skateboarding has impacted my life by teaching me life lessons like patience, knowing your limits and breaking those limits – which result in the best feeling imaginable. Primarily, skateboarding has impacted my life by meeting new people I would never have gotten to know otherwise because of skateboarding,” Sample said.

“Skateboarding also grants me relief from any stress I have in my life. Whenever I’m on my board nothing else matters.” Sample also said skateboarding has created opportunities within Paterson. Sample is now a sponsored skateboarder by Underground Skate shop. “It’s the best feeling having people have your back when you’re doing your thing and having fun,” Sample said.

Marques Johnson, 19, majors in liberal arts at PCCC, is a friend I met through Sample. “Skateboarding has taken me away from all the negative influences I’m surrounded by growing up in Paterson,” Johnson said.

So far every skateboarder I’ve met in Paterson are more hyped on skateboarding then the people I usually skate with. These skaters skate every day, even with these brutal windy winter days. I’m also surprised how when we arrive to a skate spot everyone skates it. There’s certain days where I wouldn’t want to try to jump a set of stairs and I’ll be the only one sitting down to skate in Paterson at first. “I didn’t know what to expect because all I’ve heard about Paterson has been negative,” Donnelly said.

“Skating in Paterson is great because you’re surrounded by so many kids skating and it seems like that’s all they want to do in a place where they could be doing much worse things,” Donnelly added. “Skateboarding has made me more tough and independent and I see that in all of these kids,” Donnelly added.

Brian Woodard, 19, is an environmental science major at Ramapo College. Woodard’s parents are from Midland Park which is a few towns over and it took some convincing for them to allow their son to go skate in Paterson. “There isn’t much positivity surrounding the town. I give the skateboarders from there a lot of credit because they are so infatuated with skateboarding that they don’t want to bother with any illegal business,” Woodard said.

Darwin Espinal, 21, is a graphic design major at PCCC from Paterson. “Skateboarding has greatly impacted my life by making me more active and enabling me to make the best out of the area I live in,” Espinal said. “Skateboarders can be great role models and steer kids away from getting involved with the wrong crowds.”

Kevin Barthold, 20, is a student at William Paterson from West Milford majoring in graphic design. “Skateboarding opens up your perspective to seeing things in a different way. A simple ledge can entertain you for hours where otherwise would just be a place for someone to sit,” Barthold said.

“As far as skateboarding in Paterson goes it can get a little sketchy sometimes but there’s always a crowd of skaters at the spot. Downtown is great because all the skate spots are condensed within a few blocks. I wouldn’t have any other reason to be in Paterson other than to go skate,” Barthold said.
Boy do we love sports. It is so beloved that here in the US we have entirely different channels dedicated to them, like ESPN, NBA TV, NFL Network, and so on. According to a sample poll of nineteen students asking what their favorite sport is-six chose basketball, four picked soccer, baseball and football tied at three, while two do not watch sports, and one picked fencing.

The real question isn’t what someone’s favorite sport is but why we choose to play it, what makes us watch, and why sports are so important to our society? According to TrueSport, studies show that we start playing sports as kids because it is fun. To continue more recent studies show that sports are played to improve skills and to have positive interactions with peers.

Sports are also played for child development, according to a recent study, not just the young children when it comes to developing motor skills, teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. According to TrueSport, “Sports can be a critical aspect of childhood development if taught, organized, managed, and led in a manner consistent with sound developmental principles.”

Sports included with childhood development and plain fun is a great motivator. When athletes play on teams for one common goal of winning a game or sometimes a championship it pushes them to play harder.

But sports aren’t always played in order to enjoy it. Sometimes people like to relax for a couple hours to watch a game of basketball. According to Sports.Mic the reason we watch sports are for three specific reasons— we feel dopamine, we feel pleasure, and it feels like we are playing.

According to ASAPScience, “After watching your team win, levels of testosterone skyrocket, especially compared to experiencing a loss.” To those who follow teams that win often it is common to feel like a winner yourself when a team you love wins all the time. Sometimes stated, “there is no distraction because in that feeling in their lives especially when other moments in their lives aren’t potentially great.

When our team wins a wave of dopamine gives us overwhelming pleasure that can make people feel good for a whole day, to weeks, to months. The pleasure we experience when we watch our favorite team or athlete is a feeling that most will never forget and it affects us daily. According to ASAPScience, “We’re looking to recreate the physiological excitement [we can’t seem to forget” from big team wins.”

Do you notice that at any time when we watch sports it sometimes feel like where right there on the field with the players while in actuality we just sitting down watching a screen? According to Sports.Mic, “Cells in the brain called mirror neurons activate when sports fans watch games. Mirror neurons help people understand the actions of others and allow people to put themselves “into another’s shoes”— in other words, to feel empathy.”

It is why when you might talk to a sports fan when referring to their favorite team they might say “we won.” Sports allows us to be part of a bigger community even if you’re not physically playing on the team. The fact that anyone can be welcomed to join no matter the team or sport is the nature of sports itself.

We now know why people play sports and why people love to watch sports but what is it about sports that makes it so popular not just in the U.S. but around the world? Why are sports loved, and it can be a problem.

Throughout the school semester, students come and go from class to class - later asking themselves, what happened? They failed a class for being too distracted and blaming the professors. The real reason to why students at the end of every semester fail is because students are usually on their phone and not paying attention. Many students at Passaic County Community College (PCCC) see that multitasking and learning as a problem.

“When I’m in class, I do see many of my classmates go on their phones and scroll through their own social media,” said Ortiz.

Sandra Ortiz, a 20-year-old, Psychology major at PCCC, sees a downside on multitasking and learning. While you are on any social media, not only can it be a distraction, it can make you lose time that you can use to do important school work and learn.

“My study habits depend on how much free time I have available,” she said. “I try to do study or do my work in between classes, before heading to my job, and leaving my job.”

Ortiz said, social media, or any other form of digital activity, effects others in classrooms in ways that they won’t pay attention in class or to the professor. Any kind of notification or vibration from their phone can cause anyone to lose focus.

Ortiz also said, any digital activities or social media is a distraction because certain people rather go through their phones instead of taking an hour or so to get educated and it can be a problem.

Another Passaic County Community College student, Kalvin Hernandez, a 20-year-old, major in Teacher Education stated, “I see a downside to this because although college students may not realize it, social media is very distracting while trying to complete school work or trying to pay attention in class. Reyes also said, as well as not concentrating on my task, if I have my phone on and “multitask” I take longer to do my main task.

“I personally turn my phone off while I’m studying because if I have my phone on and close to me, I’ll feel the need to pick it up and just scroll through Facebook,” said Reyes.

Reyes, although, believes that everyone is different when it comes to multitasking and learning. Therefore, there are some people who can do school work and be on social media while others don’t have that ability.
General Neutral Bathrooms: Worth It?
By Jordan Chase

Going to the bathroom: everyone does it, but no one thinks about it. However there is a demographic that struggles with using public restrooms every day. Transgender and gender non-conforming people often must choose between using a bathroom that does not match their gender identity or risk being assaulted or harassed in the bathroom that does match their identity.

To be transgender means to go beyond the gender one was assigned at birth. Most don’t know that there is a word for people who are not transgender. To be cisgender is defined as accepting and identifying with the gender one was assigned at birth. However some individuals find that their identity does not match with the one given to them at birth which opens up a Pandora’s box of struggles such as deciding which bathroom to use.

For some transgender people having to choose between the men's and women's room is a lose-lose scenario because they do not identify as either a man or a woman. Silas Julian, a 20 year old design major, identifies as agender.

“I’m not at home, I’m not away. I’m a non-binary person. I can be either or neither. I have a lot of fluidity and I can present as whatever I want, but I can also present as whatever I feel like.”

Julian, at 20 years old, is a perfect example of the idea of fluidity of gender. Julian is not only a perfect example of the fluidity of gender, but also a perfect example of gender fluidity.

So the question stands. Where does our English competence become right or wrong.

Professor John Agleo, of the University of Georgia studied the evolution of American English versus British English, and found that in many ways, American English is more conservative- that is closer to the original English than British English. This is due to the kinds of people who originally immigrated- very conservative pilgrims.

Yet the way our English differs from British English is the slang. We freely create verbs, and add endings to pre-existing words liberally. In reality-there is nothing wrong with this, English was meant to be spoken this way. It was a very creative, expressive language, structured to evolve with the patterns of daily speech within the culture. Neither the American nor the British way is right or wrong.

So the question stands. Where does our English competence become problematic? Is it the way we teach it? Is it not emphasized enough? Feel free to chime in with your thoughts at news@pccc.edu.

As for why can’t the English learn to speak?

(I continued from page 1)

English language.

To become a part of #TeamVISIONS contact: news@pccc.edu or come to our meetings Thursdays, Room A205 1:30pm - 2:30pm in the Office of Student Activities 3/10/16 3/16 4/7/16 4/14/16 4/28/16

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