

Paw Prints

Our New King & Queen

By Maxiel Tavaréz

From the hundreds of people sitting in the stands to the constant Bruin pride that was being displayed, the North Bergen High school homecoming game was quite the success. It was a night to remember, especially for the seniors who were being honored.

WHERE WILL THE FUTURE TAKE YOU?

By Ashley Mejia

On October 12th, representatives from over 40 colleges and universities gathered at Schuetzen Park (3127 Kennedy Blvd.) to give North Bergen students an idea of what each school has to offer prospective undergrads.

Each institute and organization had tables decorated with informational pamphlets and gear to attract students. The outgoing representatives were knowledgeable and answered many questions throughout the night. Students were able to leave their email addresses to be informed of any upcoming events and opportunities.

Dipali Shah, senior, said that she thoroughly enjoyed her visit. "I went in knowing what college I wanted to attend and came out with far more options," she stated. *(Continued on page 2)*

The competition was not only tough for the homecoming finalists, but for the football players as well. Our Bruins played against the Union City Eagles, one of our biggest rivals.

While our varsity football team gave it their all on the field, the seniors encouraged the team cheering and dancing. Their excitement was evident and amused those watching.

The cheerleaders and marching band were another source of encouragement for the team and entertainment during the game. Most were left in awe of both groups' abilities to perform in such cold weather.

After many cheers and the marching bands carnival inspired performance it was finally time to crown our homecoming king and queen. The anticipation was high and the competition was tough. However, Jeydah Jenkins and Matthew Almonte came in first place and received their well deserved praise.

Almonte also took a moment to give a special speech about his previous aid who unfortunately passed away last year. It was beautiful moment for both winners.

The football game became hectic for a short period after, as attendees in the stands grew restless and rowdy. Thankfully the short interruption did not change the atmosphere of the game.

In the end, despite the football teams hard work and dedication, we did not win. But, of course, there is always next year!

TODAY'S
THOUGHTS FROM
TOMORROW'S
LEADERS



Covered in Pink

By Yerlin Montoya Gomez

The American Cancer Society estimates that about 1 in every 8 women gets cancer, making it 252,710 new cases in 2017 alone. Though men are less likely to suffer from breast cancer, the mortality rate for men is much higher than women due to the lack of awareness.

In 1985, the American Academy of Family Physicians, Astrazeneca Healthcare Foundation, and Cancercare Inc. came together to promote awareness for breast cancer. Ever since then, the month of October has been dedicated as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM).

In 2011, Dr. Mitchell Brown established October 18 as Breast Reconstruction Awareness (BRA) Day to shed light on mastectomy surgeries. Women were encouraged not to wear a bra for the 24-hour period, using the hashtag #NobBraDay on social media to keep the campaign trending.



Although the campaign began as a way to show support for those who have had mastectomies, controversy quickly surrounded the event as people felt woman posting topless photos was sexualizing the campaign instead of bringing more awareness to it.

Nonetheless, each year many celebrities donate and raise money for breast cancer awareness and prevention. Athletes like Serena Williams and Lebron James are huge supporters of the cause and show their support by switching out their normal gear for pink uniforms. Even the WWE Company replaces the ropes around their wrestling ring with pink ones.

For those who cannot, or choose not, to alter their entire outfit, wearing a pink ribbon also shows support for breast cancer awareness.

Charlotte Hayley, a survivor of breast cancer, popularized the use of a peach-colored ribbon in an effort to raise awareness. The ribbon spread from supermarkets and word-of-mouth to catching the

attention of former first ladies.

Despite an overwhelming number of awareness campaigns today, a cure is still yet to be found. In the future many hope to not celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness but the cure of breast cancer.

“We need people—patients, doctors, scientists, politicians, investors, families—to make a fresh start. We must create a new system of data collection and an open, online, broad-range database about patient histories that will provide information invaluable to those who’ve been given a death sentence. Patients as well as doctors must contribute,” said Laurie Becklund, an activist against the romanticization of cancer until her death in February 2015.

For more information, visit www.cancer.org.

Where Will the Future Take You?

By Ashley Mejia

(Continued) “Although I’ve never been interested in the army or modeling, I just couldn’t pass up the opportunity once I learned all the things that they offered.”

The event, though highly informative, was a lot to take in for some. “The moment I walked in I was instantly overwhelmed with the amount of people that showed up,” said Megha Shah, senior.

Despite the event space being packed, students were able to explore various options for their futures. Students who never felt comfortable studying out of state left with a new perspective. The best part about this whole event is that it was for everyone, whether you want to go to a culinary school, try modeling, or even join the army.



Halloween: The Frightening Past

By Diamin Nicole Torres

While many children and adults celebrate Halloween today, most know little to none about the autumn holiday's ancient history.

The origins of Halloween date back to the 2,000-year-old Celtic new year's festival, Samhain (pronounced Sow-in). Celtic tribes celebrated Samhain on November 1st to mark the end of summer and the beginning of the dark, cold winter—a time of year often associated with death. Celts believed that on this night the divider between our world and the spirit world was at its thinnest, which allowed the ghosts of the dead to return for one night.

As the reigning religion in Britain changed from Paganism to Christianity, so did the holiday. Samhain became known as All Saints Day and

October 31st was named All Hallows' Day, what we now know as Halloween.

Despite the shift, the people of the British Isles and Europe still believed that the spirits of the dead would mesh with the living on All Hallows' night. Many worried that evil spirits would cause problems or hurt them.

To avoid trouble, people wore costumes that looked like ghosts or other evil creatures to trick the spirits into not harming them. They also left food and wine on their doorsteps to keep roaming spirits distracted.

The tradition was passed on as the English settled in North America and developed into the fun, candy-loving holiday we now know.



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HALLOWED ROOTS

By Antoni Gonzalez

During the 17th Century, Europeans would dress up in what they considered to be 'demonic' clothing and go from house to house *souling*—their version of trick-or-treating where the poor went from house to house praying for the home's deceased family members in exchange for food. They hollowed out turnips and used them to collect the food they received at each house.

As the tradition continued in the American colonies, the turnips were exchanged with pumpkins because they were native to the land. Early-Americans would even start bonfires to call forth the spirits in the area, adding to the pre-existing customs.

Though the holiday isn't used to celebrate the dead anymore, Halloween still holds a fright factor. Watching scary movies and going to haunted attractions are just some of the new traditions we perform today. Decorating our houses with cobwebs and fake blood splatters is another way many get into the holiday spirit.

From Notebooks & Pens to Clowns & Skeletons

By Jeydah Jenkins

North Bergen High School presented their annual Haunted Hallways fundraiser on October 24th. Despite the heavy rain and cloudy skies, the event was surprisingly well attended. The turnout resulted in a total \$7,200—the most money any class has raised in the event's history.

As the crowd walked into the high school, they were guided into the *Game of Thrones* decorated auditorium until it was their turn to explore. The themes for this year's main rooms consisted of a haunted church, a creepy carnival, a slaughterhouse, and an asylum.

The haunted church was filled with demonic nuns, possessed church patrons, and dark figures in devil masks. The dark room was lit by a variety of candles and decorated with crosses, as organ music could be heard amongst the screams of those who dared to enter. "I think the scariest part were the nuns dancing in a circle to crazy music," said an attendee. The room, created by seniors Arianna Diaz and Daibelis Acevedo, was one of the biggest thrill-filled rooms, as it was held in Cafeteria A.



After the haunted church, attendees entered the slaughterhouse and asylum. Although these two scenes were held in smaller rooms, the frightful fun levels were just as intense.

The last room was a creepy carnival consisting of killer clowns, red balloons, and a glowstick path to guide people through the madness. The theme itself was based off of our school's marching band show "Something Wicked This Way Comes." "I thought it was a fun way to represent our

marching band. It was fun being the person that gets to scare people instead of always being scared," said senior Destinee Delgado. This room was another favorite as it was held in Cafeteria B.



Regardless of the fact that Haunted Hallways rooms are typically a senior tradition, the Class of 2019 provided a 'not so scary' room for younger children who were too frightened to go the scary route. Volunteers from the junior class painted faces, played games, and gave out candy. "Haunted Hallways was great this year and I can't wait to see what the students come up with next year," exclaimed an excited parent.

Dancing the Night Away

By Daibelis Acevedo

On Thursday October 26th, North Bergen High School held their annual Senior Masquerade. Although the name of the event implied it was only for members of the senior class, all students were welcome.

The event took place in the cafeteria. While the room wasn't decorated, there were lights of all colors flashing around the room and onto the students coming from the DJ's setup.

Long ago, students wore costumes to this event. Nowadays, the students choose to wear their own clothes and dressed spectacularly elegant for the evening. Girls in dresses, skirts, and heels. Some of the men even dressed in suits. It was all very glamorous.

The DJ played a great variety of music. Songs like "El Beeper" by Oro Solido and "Bodak Yellow" by Cardi B played as students danced and sang along. The jumping crowds made it feel like an actual

party. Some students carried their friends on their shoulders when a good song came on, to show their excitement.

About 500 students came out to show their support and have a great time doing it. The dance took place from 7pm-9pm, and students were charged \$5 at the door to raise money for the senior class. "Last Senior Masquerade and definitely one to remember," said Brenda Sierra, senior.

Tournament of Bands

By Karel Gonzalez

The theme of this year's marching band performance was a dueling circus act called "Something Wicked."

The premise of the story is that two twins (played in the show by real-life twins Amanda and Arlene Garcia) were abandoned at a circus as babies. Both of them grew to have the same goal—to become the Ringmaster. The only problem is, there can be only one.

Eventually, one of the twins (Amanda) fulfills her dream while her sister (Arlene) plots to betray her and take control of the circus. In the end, the two sisters come to odds and try to conduct the circus together in a clash of melodies. The audience is then left with a question: which sister won?

The concept behind the story is to show that evil doesn't always prevail.

The music, choreography, and costumes for this particular performance were put together with painstaking care. The drum line were the clowns, the color guard represented the acrobats, and the twins both wore intricate ringmaster's outfits—Amanda in the 'good' version and Arlene in the 'evil' version.

The first competition of the season took place at Rutherford High School on October 7th. It ended up being our first win of the season. Our score was an outstanding 85.375 (out of 100). Mr. Connor, the director of the marching band, was uplifting and positive afterwards, stating that it was "one of the best performances."

The second competition took place at Hanover Park High School on October 14th. We managed to walk away with second place in visual performance and

first place in music. Overall, we received a score of 85.765, a mere 0.390 more than the first competition, showing our improve. In addition, our school won an award for best percussion.

The third competition took place at Union High School on October 22nd where we came in fourth for visual and third for music. With an total score of 86.45, we came in third place which was a bit of a disappointment to all involved. However, Mr. Connor raised morals by reminding everyone that our performance was significantly more difficult compared with those of the other groups involved.

The last competition, the Atlantic Coast Championship (ACC), took place in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on October 28th. The ACC's tend to be the most emotional competition for the fact that they're a marching band's last performance of the season. It's also special for the senior students competing, as it is likely their last competition ever.

The North Bergen marching band was the last group to perform that the night, and it was clear they put everything they had into their performance. Once they finished and walked towards the back of the stadium you could see emotions rising, some cried knowing that this was it for the seniors and the season.

At the end, we won fifth place (out of eight groups) with a total score of 87.295—the highest score we had achieved all season.

Even though we didn't walk away with the first place trophy, everyone left the arena that day with their heads held high. We may have worked hard during the season, but we definitely had fun while doing it.



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