

# THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

*Empowering the voice of the urban student.*

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Volume VI, Issue I

February 2017

FREE

## Valentine's Day Around the World

MAYTEE HOLGUIN  
STAFF WRITER

Valentine's day is an annual celebration in the U.S which usually consists of the exchange or gifting of flowers, teddy bears, chocolates and the usual romantic date for couples. It marks the day where those who have a significant other rank up on the romantics and those who don't, don't follow the norm of Valentine's, and make plans with friends. Valentine's Day is not only celebrated in the U.S but worldwide. Many countries like Colombia, Denmark, Brazil, South Korea, within others, have their own version of it, with their own traditions and are celebrated in different months. Here are some traditions that each individual country participates in to celebrate Valentine's Day.

In Colombia, Valentine's Day is known as "El Día del Amor y la Amistad" which translates to "The Day of Love and Friendship". It is celebrated every third Saturday of September and as the name says it, it is for both couples and friends to express their love and affection for each other, by way of gifts. A popular tradition that people in Colombia will participate in for that holiday is "Amigo Secreto" which is the same as secret Santa only for friends. This way everybody is included and they receive some form of gift.

Like the U.S, Valentine's Day in Denmark is celebrated on the same day with the difference of a unique tradition of sending pressed white flowers called snowdrops to a significant other or the custom of "Gaekkebrev" where couples send each other love letters and funny poems, if the receiver guesses the name of whoever sent the letter, they are awarded an Easter egg.

In Brazil, Valentine's Day is celebrated on June 12th known as "Dia dos Namorados" which translates to "Lover's Day" in which couples dine out, attend festivals and exchange small gifts like chocolates and flowers. Like in Colombia, this day is not only exclusive to couples and relatives and friends are also celebrated by sharing dinner with them.

Differently from the previous countries, in South Korea, their version of

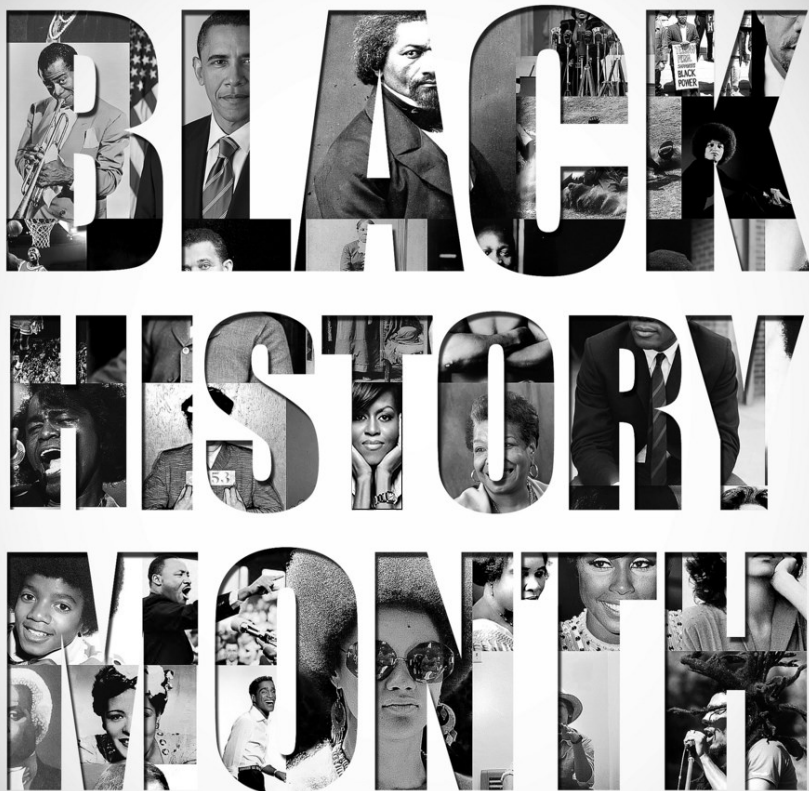


Valentine's Day starts in February with women gifting their significant other chocolates and flowers. In March, a second holiday known as White Day, where the men do the same but gift their lady a special gift of their choosing. Interestingly, Valentine's celebration ends with a third holiday in April known as the Black Day, particularly for single people who don't have a significant other and spend the day eating black noodles known as jajangmyeon.

These are only a few of many ways that other countries celebrate a significant other, relative or friend. It goes without saying that showing your love, affection and appreciation for another should not be left for only one day a year. Make sure to tell the people in your life how important they are to you.

Photo Courtesy of pixabay.com

## Black History Month Challenge



In Honor of Black History Month, Orator staff writer Nevin Perkins has created a social media challenge to recognize Black excellence. In order to participate in this challenge, you must wear black and honor a black leader of your choice on all of your social media outlets by using the hashtag #BlackHMC. Spreading unity and awareness is essential and this challenge has brought about an easy way to achieve this! The Orator encourages you all to participate! The Black History Month Challenge will be featured on Feb. 21 at The Hip-hop Utopia Exhibit in the Dineen-Hull Gallery and then again on March 3 to sum up the movement and introduce a new challenge for Women's History Month. @nev\_perks #BlackHMC

Photo Courtesy of knowyourmeme.com

## "Hip Hop Utopia: Culture and Community" Opens at The Dineen-Hull Gallery

CHRISTOPHER G.  
RODGERS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

JERSEY CITY--The Hudson County Community College Department of Cultural Affairs held a grand opening for "Hip-Hop Utopia: Culture + Community," an art exhibit that celebrates all aspects of Hip-Hop Culture, on Jan. 31, 2017. The exhibition runs through Feb. 21 at The HCCC Benjamin J. Dineen, III & Dennis C. Hull Gallery on the sixth floor of the Library Building and anyone who considers themselves a fan of hip-hop--needs to check it out.



Art work by Raphael Gonzalez (Photo by Onisti Payton | Orator Photographer)

The exhibit was curated by Michelle Vitale and Fred Fleisher and explores hip-hop culture on multiple levels including graffiti art, emceeing, deejaying, and fashion. Those in attendance have the chance to enter a contest to win a bombed out, fat-tire bicycle donated by Grove Street Bicycles in Jersey City. The exhibit is free of cost and open to the public.

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**Christopher G. Rodgers**  
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**Jonnathan Riera**  
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**Joseph Pascale**  
The Orator Club Advisor

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Humanities Orator Liaison

**POST CARD**

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Orator staff is proud to release our first issue of the spring semester 2017. February is Black History Month and March is Women's History Month. With that said, The Orator encourages the entire student body, faculty and staff to join us in recognizing and celebrating the countless achievements made by African Americans and all women alike.

*Christopher G. Rodgers*

**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**CROSSROADS:**  
Art and Literature by Students at HCCC

*The world needs your creativity!*

Send your creative writing to CROSSROADS and see your work published in HCCC's student literary magazine. We are looking for short stories, poetry, creative nonfiction, and one-act plays. Send your writing as an attachment or in the body of the message to [crossroads@hccc.edu](mailto:crossroads@hccc.edu).

We are also looking for student editors to help create the magazine.

Please contact co-advisors Joseph Pascale or Professor Allie Bach for more information: [crossroads@hccc.edu](mailto:crossroads@hccc.edu) or (201) 360-4370.

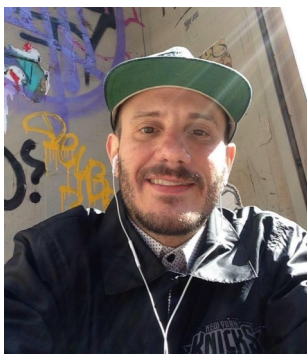
Sponsored by the Writing Center and Sigma Kappa Delta

Deadline: March 13

## Meet The Orator 2017

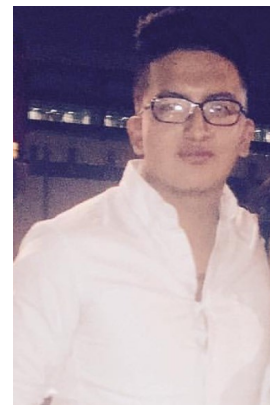
### Staff

#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Hello, my name is Christopher G. Rodgers. I've always had a passion for sports and recently decided to pursue a career in sports journalism. I also enjoy writing about Politics, Music, and Film. I work part time as an Editorial Intern & Staff Writer for The Jersey Journal. @CGRsports

#### PRODUCTION EDITOR



Greetings! My name is Jonnathan Riera Puma. I am a Computer Science major. I enjoy learning about business and technology. My goal is to one day become a successful investor, entrepreneur, author, and an inspiration to others. Follow my ventures @ repairbutlers.com and pumadigitalmarketing.com

#### BRANDON CAULEY



What's up, my name is Brandon Cauley. I am a liberal arts English major, and a huge sports fan. Being apart of The Orator gives me a big platform to speak on sports and sometimes, social issues. My goal is to be a sports commentator. Follow me on Twitter @MisterBran\_

#### NEVIN PERKINS



What's up people? I'm Nevin Perkins, a first year liberal arts major here at Hudson County Community College. I enjoy reading and listening to great music. I will do my best to bring you updated news on social justice. Peace. @nev\_perks

#### OMAR DWIDAR



Hi, my name is Omar Dwidar, a creative news writer who studies liberal arts. I'm looking forward to transferring and continuing to study journalism. Post graduation, I would like to pursue a career as a freelance journalist. I've been running my own tech. website for three years, [techphilosophynetwork.com](http://techphilosophynetwork.com), check it out!

#### MAYTEE HOLGUIN



Hi, my name is Maytee Holguin (My-tay). I am an English Major here at Hudson County Community College and I am excited to be a part of The Orator. If you don't find me reading a book, you will find me daydreaming while listening to music.

#### ONISTI PAYTON



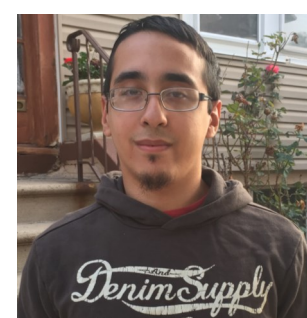
Hello, my name is Onisti, and I am a graphic arts major here at HCCC. I'm a interested in photography and I am happy to be part of the Orator as a photographer. I look forward to taking photos for The Orator.

#### ADAMA HUCHARD



Hello! My name is Adama Mike Huchard and I've been studying at HCCC for almost a year and a half as an engineering science major. I like to write about important social issues, and am very excited to be a part of the Orator staff with so many brilliant people. @MikeHuchard.

#### MICHAEL PARDAL



Hi, my name is Michael Pardal and I am an English major. I joined The Orator because I enjoy writing about sports and talking about my ideas. I have loved watching and playing sports for most of my life so The Orator helps me express my feelings especially towards national sports.



**CORRECTIONS:**  
Notice an error? Please submit all corrections to The Orator Editors at [orator@live.hccc.edu](mailto:orator@live.hccc.edu)



# Space X Plans to Build a Martian Civilization

OMAR DWIDAR  
STAFF WRITER

This story started way back in the 1960s, when NASA and the Soviet Union started to send out spacecrafts to discover the mystery planet, Mars. Those space trips took place in our world, looking for life on another planet besides Earth because of what humans have done to the environment with fossil fuels in the time between the 1700s and 1800s until now. These carbon dioxide emissions that come out of any type of fuel when it burns it conquers our planet "Earth," in terms of climate, atmosphere, and environmental disasters. In addition, this causes diseases in humans and also gives animals and plants a hard time that leads them to extinction. Movies and TV shows about Mars have amazed us over the years on how this planet is awesome and would be incredibly interesting to live on. Since then, this became a lifetime dream for every child, teenager, and adult.

What is it like to live on the red planet?

Mars has a harsh climate in comparison to earth due to the high percentages of carbon dioxide (95%) on its thin atmosphere, and the solar energy is less as it is a little bit farther from the sun. So that proves that the oxygen numbers (0.13%) are low. The problem isn't just the idea of having enough of the sun's heat to warm up this planet, the gravity field of this planet is just 38%, which isn't even close to Earth's 100%. The formation of water is ice because this red sanded planet has a very thin atmosphere accompanied by low pressure that helps to create a cold surface that lets water evaporate or freeze, and the much bigger problem is the cosmic radiation that causes different sorts of brain damage in the long term that could lead to brain cancer, which makes it kind of impossible to live on this planet.

Have any living organisms every inhabited Mars?

The answer to this question might be difficult, but scientists and astronauts from NASA and other space agencies have proven that this planet from billions of years ago had a warm and wet environment that could unveil a secret life of unspecified species of "Aliens" that used to be living there or even could still be living there. The dilemma of this planet is its atmosphere, as mentioned, which transports its native gases quickly to space, but the bright side of this story is that there are flowing water somewhere; the unfortunate is that it is still classified as "unknown yet," but at least this gives us a glimpse of possibility to live in the land of the martians.

On Tuesday, September 27, 2016, the 67th international Astronautical Congress was held in Guadalajara, México. Elon Musk, CEO and Chairman of Space X, brought yet another master plan to build an entire city on Mars, and the first flights to it will be available to book by 2023. In this conference, Musk shared his vision of the future on how he will reuse rockets every two years, including its booster and gas tanker.

Full Reusability, Refueling In Orbit, and Propellant Production On Mars:

Rocket System Architecture:

The company's key elements are to reuse rocket parts. First the ship launches, then the booster heads back to earth in 20 mins, gas tankers refuel the ship, and after that, the ship deploys an array of solar panels to generate energy to help the rocket bypass the interplanetary coast of Mars, which is accompanied with the high pressure of the magnetosphere that carries a shield of radiation to protect the planet being from destroyed. Next is the red planet arrival, following up with propellant production (gas or fuel) on Mars, and the final stage is the ship returning to Earth. This reusability gives the space-

ship the ability to maintain its steady performance (500,000 of Speed). All of that could sound like magic to many ordinary people.

-12 up to 15 uses pre ship that lasts up 30 years of use

-100 per tanker

-1,000 uses per booster

Pricing Roadmap:

The early space flights to Mars will carry around 100+ passengers as Musk claims, which by year 2 will achieve 10,000 trips. If the craft didn't use the sequence of refueling on its visit to orbit, that would increase the price of the ticket and would cost the company a hand and a leg to produce rockets that are five or ten times bigger in size. Additionally, if they didn't produce the propellant on Mars, it would force them to increase the ticket price by a half percent of the total price. Musk did start a funny conversation by pointing out ticket prices have dropped from \$10 Billion to \$100,000 per person; an ambitious Statement by Musk, "Cost of Trip to Mars = Median cost of a house in the United States," which is still a pretty steep price for a flight, but I hope he realizes that not everyone can afford to pay this kind of money.

Funding this project:

The California-based company is funding its project by their cooperation with the government (NASA), and they also will raise money through kickstarter crowdfunding. Musk says he is accumulating assets (money) to develop a multiplanetary living space. That goes beyond Mars exploration, which makes us becoming a multiplanetary species who can live on any planet from the solar system (Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto). Musk predicts that by 2060, which is 40 to 100 years from now, this planet will have a sustainable city full of resources colonized by millions of people, but from his talk, he won't go to Mars until it is 100% safe to go there.

## The Golden Rule

NEVIN PERKINS  
STAFF WRITER

We as humans have created a world where presentation is key and image is everything. Completely absorbed with the outer image of a person, we have descended into a social-status judging society. The first question for common small talk is generally 'where are you from?', or 'what do you do?' We use these and similar factors to determine a person's worth on the social totem pole. Homeless people are the main targets of this cruel belittling tactic. The majority of human beings treat them as if they are below us. Homeless people are isolated as if they are a different breed of beings.

On January 22nd I had the pleasure of interviewing a homeless drug addict. Before I gathered the courage to speak with him, he was experiencing a drug-induced hallucination. He was staggering up and down my street screaming at the top of his lungs, telling his mom that he did not want to clean his room. Hearing this affected me so deeply, however, my feelings of pity alone were not enough to motivate me to interview him. It was my friend's ridicule of him that pushed me into action.

In a split second decision, upon approaching the homeless man, I decided to interview him on

Donald Trump. I figured the President would be a universal enough topic for us to engage each other. It took some time and effort to spark the conversation. I could tell the drugs had a strong hold on him. Initially he could not understand me. Admittedly, I was just pleased I helped him to stop screaming. Then something amazing happened. I used the word "My opinion?" he asked in shock. He was puzzled that someone would ask for his insight on such a matter. The man easily began to tell me how he felt with some very good insight. After a brief discussion, we parted peacefully. It upset my heart when I heard him screaming for his mom after walking about 20 steps away.

My message to you is that we ALL matter. There is constant chaos with race and gender issues on the subject of equality. It amazes me that with all the fighting for justice we still treat homeless people as insignificant beings. My only regret is that I could not permanently dismantle his hallucination. However, I take pride in the fact that I tried. I believe we all need to. The world would be a much better place if we all would abide by the Golden Rule.

## "Hip-Hop Utopia" Photo Gallery



Photos by Onisti Payton





Tom Brady

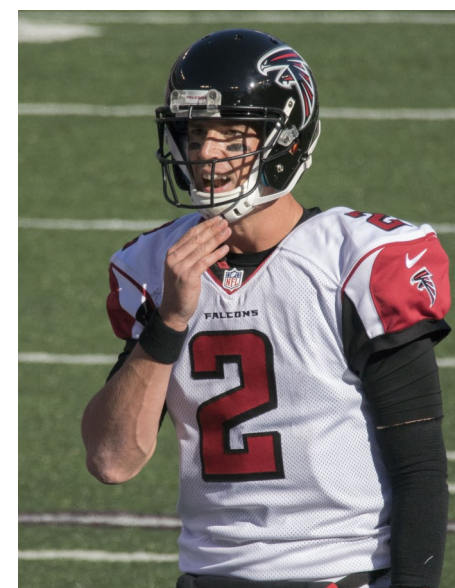
## Greatest Super Bowl Comeback

MICHAEL PARDAL  
STAFF WRITER

On February 5, Tom Brady and company overcame a 25 point third-quarter deficit to beat the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 in arguably the greatest Super Bowl of all time. Super Bowl LI was also the first time the game went into overtime ever. At the beginning of the game, New England looked down and out while Atlanta's offense and young defense seemed to be cruising by with score of 21-3 at the half. Fans around the world thought that it would be a one-sided game in favor of Atlanta, but most forgot that New England was still led by the great Tom Brady and head coach Bill Belichick and should not have been slept on even if it was a rocky first half. At the start of the third quarter, New England slowly chipped away at the score but Atlanta also added on to their total as well resulting in a 28-9 score at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter was the Patriots quarter. The Pats' began that quarter with extreme momentum and heart on both sides of the ball. The defense held the top scoring Atlanta offense to zero points while the offense went out guns blazing racking up 19 points to tie the game at 57 seconds left in regulation. The smoking hot Pats received the ball first in overtime with only needed a touchdown to win the game. Tom Brady did what Tom Brady does and that was win. He led an impressive drive down the field resulting in a final play only 2 yards away from the end zone and just handed it off to the running back James White for the victory. With that Super Bowl victory, Tom Brady and Bill Belichick became the first quarterback/head coach duo with 5 Super Bowl victories together. After this incredible performance, NFL fans should view or at least consider the only 5-time champion quarterback Tom Brady as the G.O.A.T.

This year's Super Bowl was a game that no one will ever forget.



Matt Ryan  
Photo credits to Keith Alison via Flickr

## What Does "Most Valuable Player" Even Mean?

BRANDON CAULEY  
STAFF WRITER

The most valuable player (MVP for short) is a staple in American sports. The MVP is given to the player who not only succeeded in the statistical categories, but impacted the team's performance as well. Hockey, the NHL to be exact, is the only sport that has a different format, having two different MVPs, one in the regular season, and one for a team that is on a playoff team. The NCAA is the only the only sports association that has their own "MVP" type award. Most notably, football has the Heisman Award, and basketball has the Most Outstanding Player.

For years now, I have had a legitimate gripe about what to call this award. MVP is given to the best player in their respective leagues, not given to the player most valuable to one's team. There is an obvious difference between who is most valuable, and who is most outstanding. Baseball will not be included in the upcoming examples. Why? Because baseball is more individually based, even though we have the beauty of Sabermetrics that bring us the WAR (wins above replacement: a statistic that summarizes a player's total contribution to their team, per FanGraphs) statistic, it was overlooked in the past American League MVP voting. Mike Trout (LA Angels) won the award, but had a lower WAR than Mookie Betts (Boston Red Sox), the runner up for the award. The Red Sox had the more wins, so the choice for Mookie to win should have been blatantly obvious.

In the NBA, you, I, and everyone else knows who is the greatest player in the world, that being LeBron James. Any opinion that differs is irrelevant, and should never be able to talk basketball again. When was the last time LeBron James won an MVP? 2013-14. People will argue that if the MVP actually was what the name states, LeBron would win MVP every single year, and who can disagree with that? Take LeBron off the Cavaliers, and they are a 6-8 seed AT BEST.

Per ESPN, since LeBron returned to Cleveland in the 2014-15, the Cavaliers are 4-18 when LeBron does not play. We saw this back when Kyrie Irving was carrying the team, and they ended up with a lottery pick, no hate to him, he's a bad man. Anyways, I was a little disappointed when Stephen Curry became the first unanimous MVP in the association's long history. Now do not get me wrong, Curry had a video game type season with all of the three's he made, but there's no way he is more valuable to the Warriors than LeBron to the Cavs, especially now more than ever with the Warriors addition of Kevin Durant. LeBron has a history of carrying teams, put him on any team in the NBA (yes, even the 76ers), they are an automatic contender.

Onto the NFL, where there are a couple of guys who can make an "MVP every year" argument for. I can make it for Matt Ryan, Drew Brees, or even newly crowned GOAT Tom Brady. Speaking of the GOAT, besides Aaron Rodgers or even Drew Brees, Tom Brady is the most irreplaceable player in the NFL. Yes, Jimmy Garoppolo came in for three games, and looked pretty good, but who knows how long that was going to last. Since 2001, the Patriots only missed the playoffs twice, and one instance was where he missed the season due to an injury. I do not want to hear the "system quarterback" nonsense people want to use to discredit Brady. It is old, and pretty ignorant. Moving on, Tom Brady made a miraculous. Would Jimmy G or Jacoby Brissett be able to do the same thing being put in the same situation? I highly doubt it.

So how do we solve this issue at hand? We have two separate awards, MVP and MOP. There has to be clarity on what the award really stands for. This brings more opportunities for more guys to capture awards on not so good teams, example: Mike Trout, or Anthony Davis of the New Orleans Pelicans. If someone wins the both awards in the same year, so be it. The main thing fans like myself want is clarity, and I think that we deserve it.