



THE GOTHIC TIMES

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Bigger Than Campus Food

BY SHANELLE SMITH

Gourmet Dining has nourished the New Jersey City University campus for the past five years, providing food for every school event while managing to expand beyond just cafeteria food.

Gourmet Dining penetrated the food distributing business in 1987, fifteen years after the company's chairman Alfred Frungillo opened his catering company Frungillo Caters. Once a small company originating from Bloomfield New Jersey, Gourmet Dining now provides catering and food management services for prisons, hospitals, and corporations. They service several universities in the Metropolitan area including New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rowan University, Seton Hall University, and Manhattan College to name a few. The New Jersey based company signed a contract with NJCU in 2011 replacing their rival company and the university's previous vendor Aramark.

"We have the longest food contract ever held with the university, which says a lot about us as a company", says Anthony Cinelli the Director of Dining Services at NJCU.

Gourmet Dining doesn't just prepare meals for the on campus cafeterias, they also administer food to the faculty lounge, on campus Dunkin Donuts, and provide food for every event held by the university.

As a small company fighting for their position in the food service industry, Gourmet fought hard against some of the top names in the business. Aramark and Gourmet battled each other in court over a food contract with Essex county jail. Both companies presented their bid to Essex County in attempt to win the prisons contract; Gourmet's proposal of \$1.42 a meal per prisoner was slightly higher than Aramark's lower proposition of \$1.32 per inmate. Gourmet dining sued Aramark claiming their competitor is a "monopoly" that fixes their bids for business.

"It's pretty hard to determine if a company is running as a monopoly,

that type of accusation usually gets proved in court. Some of things the courts look at is, do they have power to set the markets prices and eliminate their competition," said Management and Global Business expert and professor of Rutgers Business School, Michael Barnett.

Another fight against Aramark in a New Jersey Court room lead to Gourmet Dining winning a contract with Monmouth County Jail, an agreement that Aramark held from 2004 to 2009. The County Board of Freeholders acted on the court order and awarded the contract to its lowest bidder, Gourmet Dining.

In 2014 Gourmet Dining aligned with Compass group, which was founded in 1929 as a food management business, making Gourmet a division of a larger company that operates internationally, servicing businesses in the United States and Canada. The Compass Group manages a larger range of business than their partner company, providing food for vending, museums, and stadiums. They also offer amenities such as janitorial services, patient transportations, and equipment solutions. The Compass Group and Gourmet dining are both privately traded corporations.

"As a private company you can do more. Private companies don't use public funding and they don't have shareholders to answer to. In private companies there's normally a group of people that own the corporation and makes all the decisions", said Barnett.

"What keeps us around is the quality of the food, the presentation, and consistency", said Cinelli.

Compass Group North America is a sector of Compass Group PLC which is the parent company that does business in 50 countries including Australia, South America, and Asia. Compass group and its division companies employ over 500,000 associates, bring in an income of about 17.8 billion pounds, and have over twenty companies under their umbrella according to their Compass's website.

NEWS

Year of Vietnam: Marking the 50th Anniversary of US Entry into War



War Memorial, Military Cemetery

Courtesy of Pixabay

BY DAVID MELGAR

Vietnam has left a long shadow over American culture, from a treasure trove of rock music and counterculture, to a distrust of authority and government that continues into the current conflicts in the Middle East. And yet many of us know so little, particularly those of us too young to recall what the 60s and 70s were like. Professor Louise Stanton of our Political Science department had an answer.

The Year of Vietnam program is meant to commemorate and educate on the war from an interdisciplinary perspective, stemming from a diverse planning committee facilitated by Stanton herself. Asking her whether she thought the Vietnam War was taught well, she replied quite concisely, “I think the Vietnam War is not taught.”

On the parallels between modern conflicts Vietnam, Stanton had this to say: “What we had hoped to do... was to connect the past and the present and leave it up to the students in the courses to draw parallels between the past and the present if they saw any.” It reveals a crucial and admirable nurturing of instilling critical thought and self-reflection on a war that’s been narrativized since its start.

And how could it not be? It feels absurd that the 1960s are now half a century away. Napalm and Agent Orange flared up in the nostrils of the public just in time for a whole new era of news—the images of the My Lai Massacre, self-immolating Buddhists, antiwar protesters and thousand-yard stares still haunt us today. Films like *Apocalypse Now* and *Full Metal Jacket*, books such as *The Things They Carried* and songs like Billy Joel’s “Goodnight, Saigon” are all reminders of the world we no longer live in but often echo.

Continued on page 3

The Vietnam War by the Numbers: Those Who Were Lost

58,220 American service members
38,224 Army
14,844 Marine Corps
2,586 Air Force
2,559 Navy
7 Coast Guard

1,556 New Jerseyites
130 from Hudson County
65 from Jersey City

483,000-1,419,000 Viet Cong
50,000-70,000 North Vietnamese Civilians
69,000-399,000 South Vietnamese/US/South
Korean Military
360,000-720,000 South Vietnamese Civilians

*Numbers regarding civilians: Viet Cong and the South Vietnamese forces are less verifiable and harder to pinpoint than U.S. military stats. Furthermore, these do not include Cambodians, Laotians or those killed by democide committed by any of the states involved.

NEWS

Continued from page 2

NJCU Professors Get Involved

Faculty across disciplines have gotten involved, including History's John Bragg (teaching *Beyond Boundaries*), Media Arts' Bob Albrecht (*Media Revolution of the 1960s*), Philosophy's Alfonse Borysewicz (*Philosophy of War & Peace*) and even Women's and Gender Studies' Liza Fiol-Matta (*Race, Class, Gender, & Activism*). Guest speakers also got involved. One of the first events was a lecture given in November 2015 by historian Dr. H. Bruce Franklin entitled "Why Are We Supposed to Forget the Vietnam War?" This was followed by February's "52 Reasons to Love a Vet," an art fundraiser for veterans. Most recently, Professor Alan De Fina gave a deeply personal presentation entitled "Vietnam: 'In Country'/In Me, My Journey - 1969, 2014" on being in high school during the war, surrounded by the cultural chaos of the time.

Speaking to De Fina, one could easily see the value in approaching

Vietnam with so many different lenses. When asked about what he thought the average perception of the war was, he replied "Very little average perception! For a lot of people from the younger generation, it's just a chapter in a history book. And for those of us who were around during those times, it was a very real experience for us and we remember the turmoil the country was in and we remember our own personal turmoil over whether or not the war was the right thing." Something so mixed and polarizing in reaction deserves a fair amount of attention.

We spoke on the treatment and status of veterans ("I think there's more of an awareness now. But simply because we recognize something doesn't mean we've responded to it.") and the wounds the war left in American society ("There's always citizens who are against each other on the issue of war, there's always the divisions of families, there's psychological trauma in that"). De Fina's comments exemplified the need for the Vietnam war to be discussed in all frames—political, historical and personal.

One Soldier's Story

BY DAVID MELGAR

I had the pleasure in interviewing Vietnam veteran and member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Sanford Kelson, 71, now a lawyer in Pennsylvania. He spoke with great frankness in sharing his invaluable knowledge and perspective on such a vital subject.

On what the average American's attitude to Vietnam is, he said, "I think one thing I can say is most people might not even have an opinion on it... they only know soundbites. I know from time to time, I talk to people and one of the typical things people do when they find out you're a vet is [say] 'I thank you for your service.' Are you a chief executive of a major United States corporation? I never did anything for the average American... It's not that they're stupid, our system doesn't educate them and most people don't have an interest. Most people want to be entertained... We're a very tame population. Very few movies portray war accurately. Movies portray war number one and foremost as a good side and a bad side. People with white hats and people with black hats. We Americans always wear the white hats."

Kelson discussed history and media, from the propaganda that dominated the era (*The Green Berets*) to contemporary books being written on the conflict (*Kill Anything That Moves*), all of which displayed a deep passion for the war itself and the world it took place in. "Vietnam is one cog out of many cogs," he succinctly put it, when asked what he would tell college students about the conflict. "The Vietnam War was one war. The United States has been engaged in war from the beginning. I would tell them that by studying the Vietnam War it's not going to give them a handle on what's going on. They have to look at all these wars, see how they're all related... That type of conduct has been copied over and over and over again. Right after we took the continent



Courtesy of Sanford Kelson

of North America we went overseas... It was all about capitalism, we've been raping the world for cheap labor, resources, and markets. We aren't the only ones, but we bought into it greatly. I was taught history one at a time, not pursuant to any pattern. And I think there is a pattern, and it's imperialism. I find it despicable."

Vietnam should be remembered for the death and pain it caused, which have been too long overshadowed by political and economic matters. "Americans think of how America suffered in that war. We had 58,000 people killed in that war, hundreds of thousands of injuries—men lost arms, faces and everything. It was not a mistake, it was a war crime. We thought we killed 3.5 million of people. Vietnam claims it was over 5 million people. We have a long wall with names on it... The way to remember it is, we destroyed that country. We dropped more bombs on Vietnam than there were in all of World War II. We have to think not to do that to any other country again."

Most poignant of all perhaps was Kelson's answer to what makes a patriot: "Somebody that's not taken in by exceptionalism. The patriot cares about the way things are in his own country, he cares about the people in his country, that they have basic necessities met... these people live together in communities and they make up the fabric of a nation, treating each other with kindness and respect."

NEWS/FEATURES

Just One Drop is All It Takes

BY AIA KHIRY

To give students more opportunities to get tested and take care of themselves, NJCU offers free HIV and STD testing throughout the semester. Students and young adults often forget to get tested.

The Health and Wellness Center attempts to get students to understand that being cautious is vital in our lives. Some young adults take advantage of the opportunities offered to them and some do not. The test is not something pushed on students, but is available as an option.

Nerys Polanco, the HIV testing and counseling educator said, "Students and adults all have different reactions when they come to take the test. If [they] tested positive, we teach them how to go on about their life."

As of 2014, more than 8,300 men living in Hudson County were infected with HIV; of those, 573 ranged in age from 13-24. For women, nearly 3,200 women in Hudson County are infected with HIV; 303 of those women are aged 13-24.

In April, testing will be available on Monday, April 25th, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

More Than Just Books

BY SHEILA KIRVEN

Check Out the Works of Library Media Moguls in April

Library staff member, Isaac Platizky, and his brother, Sam Platizky, have produced three films: "Blaming George Romero," "Red Scare," and "Summer Cabin." The most recent one, "Summer Cabin," premiered April 7th at the Frank Theaters, South Cove in Bayonne. The other two films, "Blaming George Romero" and "Red Scare" are available to borrowed for three days from the Guarini Library (Periodicals Desk, 2nd floor.)

Be an Ally and/or Celebrant in April

Attend the 2nd Annual Lavender Graduation for all LGBTQ graduates on April 29, 2016 from 4-6pm in the Student Union Building lobby. Celebrate your accomplishment or that of your LGBT friends with music, food, performances, and fun! Call the Speicher-Rubin Women's Center for Equity and Diversity at 201.200.3189 for more information. Also, check out visit the library website for information on books and movies featuring, based on, and centered around the LGBTQ community.

Making Big Choices in May and June

Are you ready? The New Jersey Primaries take place on June 7th, 2016
Have you registered to vote? Make sure you can and are:

- A United States citizen
- At least 17 years old, and will be 18 by the time of the election.
- A resident of the State and county 30 days before the election
- NOT currently serving a sentence, probation or parole because of a felony conviction or are a pre-trial detainee or on bail pending appeal.

If you are a college student, you can register from your college's address or your home address. The deadline to register is 21 days before the election (May 17, 2016)

Get the voter registration form at <http://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voting-information.html>. Fill it out and mail it (postage free).

Not too sure who to vote for?

Check out <https://ballotpedia.org/> or <http://www.vote411.org/>

Keep track of election news by getting the New York Times app on your phone. Sign up at <https://myaccount.nytimes.com/verification/edupass> with your NJCU email.

Celebrate a Great Woman in July!

The Royal Mint of the United Kingdom is issuing a series of coins to honor the author / illustrator Beatrix Potter on the 150th anniversary of her birth (<http://www.royalmint.com/aboutus/news/beatrix-potter>).

Helen Beatrix Potter (28 July 1866 – 22 December 1943) was thwarted in her scientific pursuits. Potter's mycology study, "Germination of the spores of the Agaricineae," was presented to the Linnean Society of London in 1897 through a botanist member, because she was not permitted to attend the males-only meeting. In later years Potter was a conservationist devoted to preserving the Lake District in England.

Potter is remembered as the author of "The Tale of Peter Rabbit". Guarini Library has twenty-four of Beatrix Potter's children's book titles (Juv.P866), including "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" Check out these and Potter's biography, "Beatrix Potter, a life in nature" (PR6031.O72 Z62 2007) from the library.

FEATURES

Beyond All the Trash: More than Just a Garbage Man

BY JOSEPH SEVERINI

Think about finishing a delicious Friday night dinner at home. All of the leftover food gets discarded into the trash. Soon enough, the trash grows to the very top and the smell becomes utterly revolting. Fortunately, the succeeding day is a garbage day, and the waste will soon be taken by workers riding away on lurid, trash-eating, garbage trucks.

Armando Garced of Waste Management, a garbage man, who wakes up at two in the morning on a Saturday, kicking off a hectic weekend filled with endless amounts of garbage says this is “a surprisingly fun job.”

The Garbage Services Waste Management building in Perth Amboy, New Jersey employs the 64 year-old from Puerto Rico. He is someone you’d quickly identify due to his muscular build, olive complexion, and navy blue Yankees fitted covering his balding head. Garced shows up to the workplace half an hour early every day. He said, with a Spanish

accented English, “being early is the best thing an employee could be.”

Once it is time to begin, Garced jumps into the brownish-green truck; surprisingly quick for a man in his sixties, having to lift himself up five feet in order to get into the truck. As Garced departs the Waste Management headquarters, he points his index finger—missing a nail and about an inch or two shorter than average—at a map, “I always start by picking up the trash at points furthest away from headquarters, then work my way back towards the properties closest to headquarters.” He drives towards his first set of properties: a dozen or so residences that stood close to what appeared to be a small harbor or river.


“You see my finger?” he said, “When I was fighting in Vietnam, I accidentally cut my finger off with a machete.” Just five years after immigrating to America from Puerto Rico, Garced enlisted into the war. At just 19 years-old, Garced showed bravery and fortitude; enough to sacrifice his life and limbs for a nation he had only been a member of for a limited number of years. “America was my new home, it represented freedom for me and my family, so I wanted to fight to show my thanks for this country.” Even with a missing finger, Garced is ferociously able to pick up all the trash not captured by the giant claw, and throw it straight up and over into the landing pile of junk.

It would be safe to assume that Garbage Truck #19S1 is comparable to Garced having his own office cubicle; posted directly above the steering wheel are three mini photographs of other people. “In this picture is my only child, my daughter, Rose Marie... [she is my] whole world.” The second frame features a family portrait of Garced’s three young grandchildren. The third is a picture of Garced’s late wife, Anna, who passed away seven years ago from a heart attack. Garced points toward his wife as his greatest motivation, “She died on Friday the 13th... so I don’t like this number, I am superstitious.” Garced then points to the sky, and mentions that his wife is in a better place, and that she is with him every day during his time at work, home, and wherever else he goes, “an angel,” he calls her.

As Garced comes close to finishing his work day, he encounters a woman outside of a house he was picking up trash from. The woman asked Garced to take away old car parts and batteries. Garced tells the woman he is prohibited from taking items such as car batteries. The woman continues to raise her voice, getting more worked up over the situation. Garced’s demeanor becomes very stiff. For a moment, it appears as if he is going to do something he might regret, but he stops, he remains calm and instead turns around and heads back into the truck.

Garced handled the situation admirably. “I’m not going to fight with these people, let them be mad” he said. His reaction to the irate woman is a testament to his true character; Garced is a lover, not a fighter. He loves his family, his late wife, and his job. “Even when I deal with people like that woman, I still take away a lot of good from all of this.”



Beyond the thousands pounds of garbage he has to deal with every day, Garced proves to be a devoted father, grandfather, and husband. He is a man of great faith and a hardworking veteran, who has overcome many obstacles throughout his life. No matter how one might label Garced, or how he might label himself, one thing is for sure, Armando Garced is much more than just a garbage man.



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FEATURES

Habitat's Spring Break: Let's Build a House

BY NICOLE MARTE

Students were given the opportunity to spend their Spring Break working with community members in Corpus Christi, Texas to help alleviate sub-standard housing. Being able to contribute not only some extra muscle, but also their creativity, strategy, and technical skills 14 students and two administrators embarked the week-long trip for the Habitat for Humanity project, coordinated by the Center of Community Service and Volunteerism within the Office of Campus Life.

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit ecumenical Christian ministry that build houses with people in need. The organization has more than 1,400 local affiliates in the United States.

Valerie Ballestas said, "This trip was not like any of the trips I've taken from NJCU...[it] required time, dedication, and motivation. The end result was the satisfaction of seeing what we created with our own hands and knowing that we built a place where a family cannot only live, but also create lifetime memories of their own. I don't think I will ever get something like that anywhere else."

NJCU student, Shawn McCauley also said, "It was an honor to be with my fellow colleagues on this community service trip to Texas. The whole purpose of Habitat for Humanity is amazing, and I'm glad to have been a part of the construction of a house, knowing that there will be a family residing there making memories, celebrating holidays, having board game nights, and so much more...I hope to volunteer with them again in the future. I am glad my experience was with some amazing people."

This once in a lifetime trip was made available to all students, all it took was checking their NJCU email. An email was sent out with a list of requirements and a notice of the one-time fee needed to take on this amazing project. The fee included airfare, lodging, ground transportation, meals, and activities.

At first students were wary of the concept of having to pay a fee, but the Center of Community Service and Volunteerism assisted students in arranging fundraisers that would benefit them and reduce the cost of the trip.

"The trip...allowed for me to help build a home for a family, as well as bond with a group of very amazing individuals/peers in a way that could not have been possible in any other social context. The sense of togetherness that came with this experience made me feel part of a new family." Said student, Diana Mejia.

As NJCU's motto suggests "Enter to learn; Exit to serve," students should feel more encouraged to help serve their community.

For more information, contact: [Habitat for Humanity at www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org) or NJCU Campus Life at www.njcu.edu/campuslife



NJCU students in Texas during their Habitat for Humanity trip.

Courtesy of Robert Quinones, Campus Life

FEATURES

Hairspray: Behind the Scenes

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NJCU New Jersey City University
2039 Kennedy Boulevard
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BY MADELINE RUBIN

Set in 1960s Baltimore, “Hairspray” follows the story of 15-year-old, dance-loving Tracy Turnblad who rises to instant stardom when she auditions for a spot on the “Corny Collins Show,” and against all odds, wins.

“Tracy is bullied because she is heavier,” said Emily Hand who plays Tracy in NJCU’s production. “In a way, she’s a rebel because she doesn’t let it get her down and she just wants to have fun.”

NJCU student performers were in rehearsal for the production since February, with the show opening on April 8 and closing on April 16.

“I pick each production based on the current needs of the majors,” said Professor Marc Dalio, the show’s director and NJCU’s Coordinator of Musical Theater Studies. “I chose “Hairspray” because it embraces infectious, energetic dance. I wanted them to move, and I wanted them to infect the audience with the urge to join them. Of the 25 musical numbers, 20 of them involve high octane movement.”

But Tracy’s rebellion goes further than refusing to accept body shaming. The “Corny Collins Show” only allows “colored” dancers a spot once a month. Tracy’s first day on the show she questions this practice by proposing integration. “She’s naive and doesn’t understand why everybody can’t just get along,” Emily said.

With all the vibrancy of the 1960s, the show tackles some of the era’s darker topics. “The irony is that most companies use this show as an excuse to be more diverse,” Dalio said. “Due to the already diverse nature of NJCU, typically I cast colorblind, but because this show is about race relations, it forced me to be more conservative in my casting choices by having defined ‘white’ characters and ‘black’ characters.” At a time where discussions on race are taking center stage, Dalio’s decision to do “Hairspray” comes at the perfect moment to allow students the opportunity to add to the conversation by exploring this topic through the emotionally expressive forms of song and dance.

The cast started the rehearsal process back in February, spending countless hours learning each musical number and the corresponding choreography with painstaking precision. I was impressed with the high level of talent present in the cast, and with their individual and collective passion and dedication to perfecting every scene. “This show is lights on all the time,” said dance captain Catrina Stevens. This was evident as I watched the cast give it their all, even though it was 8:30 on a Monday evening during a rehearsal. They seemed captured within a kind of group cohesion that only comes from working collectively for so long on a project that everyone cares so deeply about.

This comes down to the good leadership from Dalio, the director, and Brian Rivell, the choreographer. “There are 35 majors,” Dalio said. “No matter in what role they are cast, whether they are the lead, or manning the second spotlight, they are important, they are at rehearsal, they are involved.” He obviously adheres to the saying “There are no small parts, only small actors.”

“Hairspray” Cast List

| | |
|---|--|
| The cast includes: | J. Roy Graquitenia |
| Tracy Turnblad - Emily Kathryn Hand | Evelyn Gonzalez |
| Corney Collins - Davis Lemley | |
| Edna Turnblad - Marcelo Leal | Motormouth Gang: |
| Penny Pingleton - Kristina Platé | Azudei Dubois |
| Velma Von Tussle - Veronika Vidal | Paola Perez |
| Amber Von Tussle - Carly Hatcher | Miriam Navarette |
| Link Larkin - Dillon Feldman | Eva Martinez |
| Seaweed J. Stubbs - Sammy Olmedo | Kyle Blocker |
| Motormouth Maybelle - Shari Gill | Kirk Lambert |
| Little Inez - Brittany Santos | Amelia Valentin |
| Wilber Turnblad - Alex Maldonado | |
| Mr. Pinky - Oscar Mendez | <i>Creative Team/Crew:</i> |
| Dynamites - Azudei Dubois, Paola Perez, | <i>Director - Marc G. Dalio</i> |
| Miriam Navarette | <i>Musical Director - Sariva Goetz</i> |
| | <i>Technical Director - Duane McDevitt</i> |
| | <i>Choreographer - Brian Rivell</i> |
| Nicest Kids: | <i>Associate Choreographer - Na'jee Esmond</i> |
| Catriona Rubenis-Stevens | <i>Light Design - Maruti Evans</i> |
| Elizabeth Buback | <i>Stage Managers - Anthony J. Bruno and</i> |
| Erica Verga | <i>Kirsten Ayala</i> |
| Gerson Checo | |

A&E

A History of the World's Finest

BY DAVID MOSCA

What is a vigilante? Some would say it's someone lost in the scramble looking for their own gratification. A vigilante is someone that can be defeated or locked up. But what if someone became something more than that? What if they became an ideal? Something else entirely that couldn't be stopped. They become a legend. This is the story of someone who was incorruptible. A man who used fear against those who preyed on the fearful. By day, Bruce Wayne is a wealthy business magnate, playboy, and philanthropist who lives in the corrupt Gotham City. By night, Mr. Wayne takes down the corrupt as the Caped Crusader, Batman. We've all heard the story about the night a young boy witnessed his parents' murder in Crime Alley. But what captured our imaginations was how that boy grew up to be a man who promised to rid his city of the filth and corruption that took away his parents.

In 1939, Bob Kane, a gag cartoon artist, was approached by DC Comics and asked to create a new superhero so that DC could build off of the success of their already popular character, Superman. Kane teamed up with writer Bill Finger and together they created one of the most popular characters of the twentieth century. However, when Kane first designed Batman, the character bore a much similar resemblance to Superman. He wore red tights with black boots and a domino mask. There was no cowl. No gauntlets. No gloves. Instead of a cape, Batman had wings. Kane gave the character wings after being inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci's sketch of the ornithopter. When he showed the sketch to Finger, they redesigned it by adding the cape and cowl, gloves, and changing the red costume to gray and black. The bat was ready to make his debut in Detective Comics, an anthology comic book series much like DC's similar series Action Comics. On March 30th, 1939, Detective Comics #27 was released featuring Batman on the front cover. Readers were introduced to "The Case of the Chemical Syndicate," their first adventure that would feature the Dark Knight. Today we know Batman as someone who would never kill, but in 1939 the Caped Crusader had no problem with taking the lives of his enemies. The popularity of Batman would cause DC to turn Detective Comics into a Batman exclusive title, much like they already had with Superman for Action Comics.

By the 1940's DC decided to soften up their Batman stories. It was decided that he would no longer kill or use guns. To further this new portrayal of the Caped Crusader, Batman would be given a kid sidekick known as Robin, the Watson to Batman's Sherlock. Known by his real name as Dick Grayson, the addition of Robin would change Batman from a grim crime fighter to a father-like figure. Both characters had lost their parents to murder. With the birth of the Dynamic Duo, some of the most insidious villains would be introduced to the Batman's rogue gallery. They were known as the Joker, the psychotic criminal



mastermind who wore clown face paint, and Catwoman, the whip-carrying burglar who stole from the upper class. Both villains would appear in the newly published Batman #1 in the spring of 1940, nearly one year following the debut of the Dark Knight.

During the 1950's, Batman would receive a treatment much similar to Superman where his stories would take a more science fiction approach, where Batman would fight aliens and robots, which was very bizarre by Batman standards and even at time where science fiction was a staple in the media. However, the 50's were notable for introducing the famous Bat-Family of characters which featured not only the Dynamic Duo and their faithful butler, but also Bat-Girl, Batwoman, Ace the Bat-Hound, and even a magical imp known as Bat-Mite. By the 1960's, Batman began to endure tough times. Sales for Detective Comics were dropping, almost to the point of facing cancellation. It was in fact almost decided that DC was going to kill Batman altogether. Instead, changes were made to the Caped Crusaders look in order to turn the tide. The famous yellow oval was added around the bat insignia as well as an overhaul to the Batmobile. Sales would begin to soar high again when the famous Batman television series made its debut in 1966. Starring Adam West as the Caped Crusader with Burt Ward as Robin, the colorful series was well noted for its campy nature. Despite this fact, the show garnered a new generation of Batman fans and the characters popularity peaked at new high.

In 1968, the television series was cancelled and it was decided that Batman would return to the basics. Robin would disappear for some time and Batman would fight on his own again. The overall dark nature had returned but most of the Dark Nights rogues weren't present. Batman would be fighting petty thugs and solving mysteries just as he did in his early adventures. By the 70's, new villains would appear and in time the classic ones would return. It was also during this time that DC made a deliberate effort to distance Batman from the campy nature of the 60's television series. The grim nature of Batman was returning, and that couldn't be more apparent in 1986 when Frank Miller (famous for "300," "Sin City," and his work on "Daredevil") presented The Dark Knight Returns, the story of a middle aged Batman who returns to crime fighting after 10 years of retirement. Like Superman, Batman's origin story would be updated from time to time. Tim Burton's "Batman" films would also keep the Dark Knight on the top of the industry. Throughout the Caped Crusaders career, unlikely alliances would be made, and partnerships would come to an end. There would even be others who would have their time in the mantle of the Bat. However, the Batman's fight to rid his city of crime would always remain prevalent.

A&E

The History of the World's Finest: Batman

Timeline of Villain Appearances:

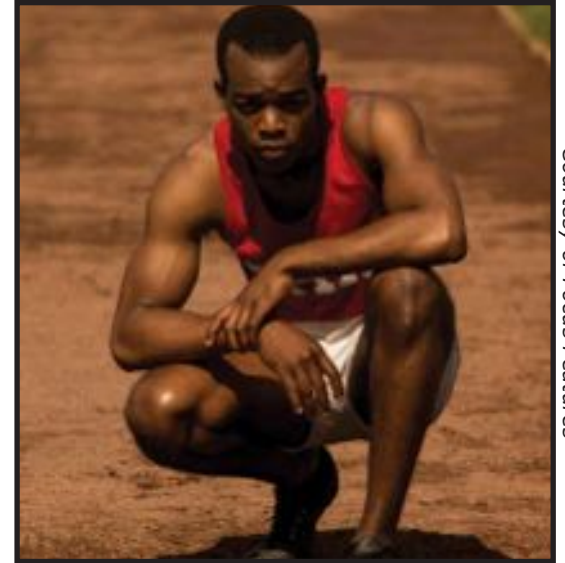
July, 1939 – Doctor Death
 February, 1940 – Hugo Strange
 April, 1940 – The Joker, Catwoman
 June, 1940 – Clayface
 September, 1941 – The Scarecrow
 December, 1941 – The Penguin
 August, 1942 – Two-Face
 October, 1948 – The Riddler, The Mad Hatter
 June, 1950 – Deadshot
 February, 1959 – Mr. Freeze
 June, 1966 – Poison Ivy
 June, 1970 – Man-Bat
 June, 1971 – Ra's al Ghul
 March, 1983 – Killer Croc
 August, 1985 – Black Mask
 June, 1992 – Victor Zsasz
 January, 1993 – Bane
 September, 1993 – Harley Quinn
 January, 2003 – Hush
 October, 2011 – The Court of Owls

Timeline of Batman's History:

March 30, 1939 – Batman makes his debut in Detective Comics #27
 July, 1939 – Batman's utility belt is introduced in Detective Comics #29
 September, 1939 – The Batarang and Batplane are introduced in Detective Comics #31
 November, 1939 – Detective Comics #33 is released, featuring Batman's origin story for the first time
 1940 – Batman #1 is released
 - Detective Comics #38 is released. Dick Grayson, the first Robin, makes his debut
 - Gotham City is first mentioned by name in Batman #4
 1943 – The 15-chapter Batman serial is released, starring Lewis Wilson as Batman and Douglas Croft as Robin
 - Alfred Pennyworth, Batman's butler, makes his debut in Batman #16
 1951 – "The Man Behind the Red Hood!" storyline is published, featuring the earliest known origin of the Joker.
 1952 – "Joker's Millions" is published in Detective Comics #180
 1956 – Detective Comics #223 is released, Batwoman makes her debut
 1961 – Betty Kane, the first Batgirl, is introduced
 1966 – The "Batman" television series, starring Adam West as Batman and Burt Ward as Robin, airs on ABC
 1983 – Jason Todd, the second Robin, is introduced
 1984 – Dick Grayson becomes Nightwing in Tales of the Teen Titans #44
 1986 – Frank Millers "The Dark Knight Returns" is published, featuring Carrie Kelly, the first female Robin and the famous battle between Batman and Superman
 1987 – "Year One," is released, retelling the origins of Batman
 1988 – "A Death in the Family" is released. Jason Todd, the second Robin, is murdered by the Joker - "The Killing Joke," by Alan Moore of "Watchmen" fame, is released. The Joker shoots Barbara Gordon, Bat-Girl, paralyzing her and attempts to drive Police Commissioner James Gordon insane. The Joker's origin is updated.
 1989 – Tim Drake, the third Robin, is introduced
 - Tim Burton's first "Batman" film is released in

theaters. Starring Michael Keaton as Batman and Jack Nicholson as the Joker

1990 – "The Return of the Joker" is published in Batman #450-#451
 - "Batman: Gothic" is released
 1991 – "Batman vs Predator" is released
 1992 – "Batman: The Animated Series" airs on television and creates the shared DC Animated Universe. The series was noted for winning several Emmy awards and is recognized for the debut of Harley Quinn.
 - "Batman Returns," the sequel to Tim Burton's first Batman film is released. Michael Keaton reprises his role as Batman.
 - Jean-Paul Valley, also known as Azrael, debuts in Batman: Sword of Azrael #1
 1993 – "Knightfall" begins. Batman's back is broken by Bane. Jean-Paul Valley takes over as Batman for the time being.
 1994 – Dick Grayson takes over as Batman. Bruce Wayne fully recovers and returns to the role.
 1995 – "Batman Forever" is released in theaters. Val Kilmer stars as Batman with Chris O'Donnell as Robin
 1996 – "Batman: Black and White" is published
 - "The Long Halloween" is published. Batman searches for the serial killer known as Holiday. Retells the origins of Two-Face
 1997 – The infamous "Batman & Robin" is released in theaters. George Clooney takes on the role of Batman with Chris O'Donnell reprising the role of Robin and Alicia Silverstone as Batgirl.
 1999 – "Dark Victory," the sequel to "The Long Halloween," is released
 - "Batman: No Man's Land" is published
 2002 – "The Dark Knight Strikes Again," the sequel to Frank Millers "The Dark Knight Returns," is released
 2003 – The storyline "Batman: Hush," is released. Batman and Catwoman begin a romantic relationship
 2005 – Christopher Nolan's "Batman Begins" is released in theaters. Christian Bale stars as Batman
 - "Under the Hood" is released. Jason Todd, the second Robin, returns from the dead
 - "All Star Batman and Robin" begins publication
 2006 – "Batman and Son" is released. Damien Wayne, the son of Batman and Talia al Ghul debuts as the fourth Robin
 2008 – "Batman R.I.P." is released
 - "The Dark Knight," the sequel to "Batman Begins," is released in theaters. Christian Bale reprises the role of Batman. Featuring Heath Ledger as the Joker and Aaron Eckhart as Harvey Dent/Two-Face
 2009 – "Whatever Happened to the Caped Crusader," the imaginary final story of Batman, is released
 2011 – "The Court of Owls" storyline begins. Batman takes on the Court of Owls, Gotham City's illuminati
 2012 – "The Dark Knight Rises," the final installment of Christopher Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy is released. Christian Bale finishes off his role as the Batman. Featuring Tom Hardy as Bane and Anne Hathaway as Catwoman
 - "Death of the Family" is released. The Joker returns to take down the entire Bat-family.
 2013 – Damian Wayne, the fourth Robin and Batman's only son, is killed by the Heretic in Batman Inc. #8
 - The "Zero Year" storyline begins, once again updating Batman's origin.



Courtesy of Focus Features

Race movie Still Image

Black Man Can Run!

BY ISAIAH HAMILTON

The movie "Race" presents itself as a tale of adversity. The movie digs deep into the life of Olympic track star Jesse Owens, including many things people may not have known about him. It was a great representation of his life and of the era he lived in. The movie was very well put together. One of the controversies in the movie is the fact that Owens rose as a great athlete at the same that Adolf Hitler was trying to make the world his.

As a young boy from segregated Alabama, Owens never had confidence in himself. He never knew he would become the first black male track star in history. The movie, like many biographical films, tells the story of his family background and how that interweaved with the struggles he encountered being one of seven children. Son of a sharecropper and grandson of a slave, Owens also battled many health issues, like pneumonia and severe congestion. There was no telling where his athletic ability would be able to take him because of that.

Owens is played by up and coming actor Stephan James, who is a good fit for the role. His body type and voice make him seem a lot like Jesse Owens. Other significant people in Owens' life appear as characters in the movie. Jason Sudeikis plays Owens'

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A&E / OP/ED

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coach Larry Snyder. His role gets a good rating because as a coach he showed his tenacity, charisma and how much he cared about Owens. The controversy was obvious because during those times there was segregation. So for a white man to protect a black man's image was definitely a positive thing that allowed this to be a great movie.

When doubted, Jessie Owens shows the confidence he has gained in himself. The movie showed a lot of things that motivated him into what he could become. Prior to entering the Olympic Games, Owens lived in Ohio and ran track at Ohio State University. The part of the movie that shows his beginning races at Ohio State University, gives us a good example of Jesse Owens progress as a track athlete. Owens set the tone for track athletes today.

The best part of the movie is the scene where Owens is runner up in the 100 yard dash. He ran it in 9.4 seconds which tied world records. The crowd, his coach, and teammates go crazy. Jesses Owens died March 31, 1980. This story is compared to the stories of other black athletes that have been told in film; interweaving the hardship they went through as a result of being black. For example, the Jackie Robinson movie "42," which tells the life of Jackie Robinson and his road to success. "Race" gets **4 out of 5 stars**.



Courtesy of Pixabay

Get Focused

The Gothic Times newspaper and website are recruiting new team members! Are you interested in photography, writing for the web or writing longer pieces for the newspaper? Do you want to create short web videos or contribute to our new podcast?

Our meetings are held every Thursday at noon.

Located in GSUB (Room 301) The Gothic Times is a completely student-run publication with a full-time advisor. Students involved in the newspaper learn real-world skills and team work. They collaborate with the editor in chief to meet deadlines and leave with a greatly enhanced resume.

If you are interested, come to a meeting or reach out to the editors at gothictimes@gmail.com or to the faculty advisor, Theta Pavis at tpavisweil@njcu.edu

African American History Should be a Major

BY SHANELLE SMITH

The United States has approximately 2,500 four-year colleges and over 20 million African American students enrolled, yet less than 200 of these institutions, including NJCU, offer African American Studies as a major for a Bachelor of Arts.

Growing up as an African American, I have witnessed a struggle for most blacks in America: a lack of education provided to them on black history in elementary and high schools. This problem engrossed me and made me want to pursue my degree in African American Studies when I was entering college. Surprisingly, when it came time to choose a school, my options drastically decreased, as only a minuscule number of colleges offered African Studies as a major. Discovering the lack of education offered on black history in prominent universities advanced my desire to know why the vast history of Africans is compacted down to one chapter in children's social studies books, and offered only as an elective or minor at most colleges.

A course in Intro to African Civilizations offered here at NJCU demonstrates the importance of Africans and their influence in the rest of the world. The course teaches the African's discovery of metals, use of fire, and an establishment of government that is still used universally. Offering courses like this, which highlights the beginning of a civilization, is just as important as the required psychology and sociology classes most universities offer as majors.

"Those courses should definitely be offered as a major," said Xenia Collazo, a 37-year-old senior and business management major. "I took a class on African American women's lives and it was one of the best courses I have taken and I enjoyed it a lot, even though I'm not black. It gave me an insight on the lives and culture of Africans here and back in Africa."

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OP/ED

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Often, a degree specializing in Africana studies is viewed upon as useless in the job market, a notion that reigns untrue. A degree in African studies offers the same skills as other areas of academia. It provides students the ability to think critically and analytically and research inventive skills in addition to providing insight into the black culture. The degree can be used in almost any field, ranging from education, communications and media, and government policy. Scholars include W. E. B. Du Bois, Angela Davis, and Carter G Woods: an author, journalist, and historian (who was one of the first scholars to study African American history). Each of these scholars have proved that one can experience lucrative careers with a degree in African American Studies.

“African Studies remains relevant and necessary even in an age where we think we are post racial. We see this demonstrated through the Black Lives Matter movement, the opening of the National Museum of African American History and for an understanding of African American history that is larger than the black experience we see in America,” said Rutgers University’s Associate professor Kim Butler.

African American studies and programs were established in the 1960’s as a result of activism done by students and faculty members who felt their culture was not being represented in an academic setting. The scarcity of Pan African studies programs within schools and the lack of financial resources provided for the studies all appear to be a part of a larger political issue. Whatever the reason being, there is no doubt that African American Studies should be widely accessible in all universities to help the advancement of the African race by removing social stigmas through education. Expanding school curriculums to include African American Studies as a major will provide students with a deeper understanding of American culture, its history, and how it developed.

Stopping the Urge: Sexual Harassment

BY NICOLE COLON

I was sitting in a Title 9 training session focused on sexual harassment when the instructor said, “One in five women have experienced sexual harassment.” I looked around at my friends and co-workers, I counted six of us, including myself. “I am a statistic,” I thought.

I became livid. I thought back to the previous week: I was in New York City, on my way to an art show, waiting for the F train on West 4th street. The train arrives and in front of me, a man is pushing his and his bicycle’s way out of the train. I noticed him trip and jerk forward, and then his hand is on my thigh, on my backside. His hand squeezed at my flesh and when I turned to look at him, he was smirking. “It was just an accident.” He said.

With nothing more than a flip of my finger, I let him go. I wanted to cry, not because it had happened, but because I had not done anything to prevent this man from doing the same thing to another woman. I was angry with myself; I had frozen when I am usually very brash and outspoken when it comes to this matter.

I thought of the time my friends and I went to a club in Texas a few months prior. A man walked up to us and made as if he were going to kiss us. I warned him several times that this was not funny and that he should walk away. He insisted that it was a joke and continued, leaning his face toward mine. I stuck my fist in between us, despite my better judgment, I threatened him with violence. Only then did he understand that what he was doing was not funny.

After the instructor finished the presentation, my friends and I reconvened to discuss what we’d just learned in the training session. What that conversation quickly became was a swapping of stories in which we recounted moments in our lives that we had been sexually harassed. So although I had thought I was the one out of the five, in reality, we were all one of five women who had experienced verbal or physical sexual harassment.

NJCU alumna, Holly Hensley, shared one of her stories: “I was on a date with a woman at a bar, and when we started kissing, some guy took pictures of us with his phone. We told him

to stop...He continued snapping photos, so we moved away from him. We felt violated. He acted like our intimate moment was a performance for him. It wasn’t. No woman, or person, should feel reduced to an object for another person’s consumption.”

People have actively denied sexual harassment has happened because no physical contact was made, but any type of interaction in which one or more parties is left feeling uncomfortable after the fact can be sexual harassment. Just the other day I was walking out of the Guarini Library and a man sitting with his friend at one of the benches called over to me.

“Hey Miss,” he said. I was going to ignore him, but I was on campus and sometimes people are lost or have a question because they had seen me at the tutoring center or at another event. I turned to him and he said, “Why don’t you give us a smile?”

I answered, “no,” and walked away. Although the comment had not been sexual per se, it was still unwarranted. I was left thinking about my outfit: Was it too tight? Was it too short? Am I showing too much? I had been complimented several times during that same day because of my outfit, and I was feeling very good because of the way that I looked, but that small interaction made me regret putting on the clothes that I had.

It is incidents like these that I would urge people to think about during this month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). I have been fortunate enough to not have had these incidents escalate, but others, women and men alike, have not been as fortunate.

Professor Tracy Riley, of the Women and Gender Studies Department, says on the issue: “Sexual harassment is the result of a social structure, not simply the bad behavior of one individual. If we want to stop sexual harassment, we must together undertake the long, hard task of extricating our families, our religions, our governments, and our schools from our current patriarchal system which privileges men and boys over women and girls.”

If you are a witness to an incident or are involved in an incident, speaking out against this type of behavior can be a start to some day stopping it completely. If you are seeking help or advice about an incident, NJCU offers support in the form of the Women’s Center located in GSUB 318.

SPORTS

Baseball and Softball Teams have Historic Starts in 2016 Season

BY ISMAEL J. RAMOS-PÉNAHERRERA

NJCU's baseball and softball squads got off to impressive starts on the diamond this season.

The baseball team opened up their season to a stellar 12-4 record in March, just a half game behind the 1980 team that began the year 12-3-1 after its first 16 games which set the record for the best start to a season in school history. They concluded their first ever trip to Puerto Rico for the 2016 Clemente Cup Baseball Tournament during spring break with a 4-2 record. The Gothic Knights finished the month on a five game winning streak.

Some of the standout players in the month were senior first baseman Andrew Niech, freshman shortstop Nick LoGatto, and freshman right-handed pitcher Ray Liguori.

Niech was named New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Player of the Week in the sixth week of the season. He batted .420 in March to go along with five homeruns and 26 RBIs (runners batted in). Niech also got at least one hit in every game in the month in what was quite a hot start. LoGatto won NJAC Rookie Player of the Week in the fourth week and had an on-base percentage of .372 early on. Liguori wiggled out of trouble in the month of March going undefeated at 2-0 with a 2.62 ERA after walking 15 and giving up 24 hits in



Andrew Niech
Alexander Sill



Triumph on the Green: Golf Team's Success in Competition and Academics

BY ELIEZER FLORES

Spring is here and with it the NJCU men's golf team has teed off their second half season. Second year coach Brian Ferrante holds almost all the major golf records in school history. In the six year existence, Coach Ferrante tenure has improved the team's game and academics. In 2014, his first season, the team's cumulative grade point average was 3.18 in the fall semester. It was the second highest GPA in school sports history and the best for any men's team. Ferrante's success is attributed to the highly ranked recruited classes. The upcoming school semester features commitments from highly ranked recruits.

Coach Ferrante's recruiting success stems from his past playing as a selling point to potential new players. He uses it to his advantage as some students recruited are from out of the area. Ferrante is native from Woodbine, NJ in Cape May. He can relate to recruits

24 innings. He was also named NJAC Rookie Pitcher of the Week in the fifth week.

The Gothic Knights on the softball side of things went 11-5 in their first month of the season. It was their best start since 2001 when they began that season with a 15-5 record. They also capped off the month by winning its final 8 games. At that time, it was the team's longest winning streak in 17 years and the third longest in the program's 36-year history.

Equally astonishing, their 11 wins already exceeded both the 2015 and 2014 season win totals combined when those teams finished 5-33 back-to-back. They actually got off to somewhat of a shaky start when they began their season in the Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. They finished the trip 3-5 after dropping their first three in blowout fashion to a combined score of 21-3. The ball club quickly turned it around though, blowing out the next three teams to a combined score of 24-2 with a pair of shutouts.

After coming back from South Carolina, the NJCU offense exploded when it went on a stretch where they won by mercy rule in five straight games. They dominated the Yeshiva University Maccabees 16-2, pummeled the Brooklyn College Bulldogs 13-1 and 18-0 in a doubleheader, and took down Lehman College in their home opener in another doubleheader 13-2 and 11-1. Their pitching was also outstanding.

Some of the players that stood out early in the season were junior first basemen Brittany Paulikas and freshman right-handed pitcher Christina Mezey. Paulikas won NJAC Player of the Week in the second week of the season and ended the month batting .556 with two homers and 18 runs batted in. Mezey won NJAC Rookie Pitcher of the Week in the fourth week and finished March with a 5-3 record and 53 strikeouts in 45 innings. She also had an ERA of 2.33.

Courtesy of Ira Thor



Zach Buchholz
Bobby Williams



Courtesy of Ira Thor

from out of the county. These two factors help him recruit players from upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Southern NJ, or neighboring counties. The main reason Ferrante chose NJCU is the comradery and tight knit feeling that permeates on campus. "The school sells itself to recruits and I have to make sure they visit the campus," Ferrante said, "NJCU's campus is very friendly and students will feel part of a family."

Growing up playing, working in and teaching at numerous golf clubs has bestowed Coach Ferrante connections valuable within the sport. Most players coming to NJCU are on scholarships. The majority are business majors that have found that NJCU's educational appeal enticing then that of a division one or two schools. "The students that have been recruited are talented enough to play in division I or II," Ferrante said, "They came here to get an education first."

It is the golf's team third season in the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) as an associate member. The CAC is the top conference for golf in NCAA Division III in the country. Though success in the conference is tough for a very young team attain, improvements is undeniable. Freshmen Alexander Sill and Bobby Williams are examples of the strides made as each merited the CAC Weekly Honor Roll last semester. "Right now I want the freshman to mature as players and men to set a culture of success within the program," Ferrante said. When asked how long it will take to win a championship Ferrante responded, "As I see us competing (winning) for a championship in two to three years."