



THE GOTHIC TIMES

The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University

Volume XXXII, Issue 1

GothicTimes.net

January 2017

CONNECTING CULTURES ACROSS THE WORLD

Life as a Fulbright Recipient

BY JOSEPH SEVERINI

Last year, NJCU student Bridget O'Neill was awarded a Fulbright scholarship that gave her the opportunity to travel to Malaysia. The Monmouth County native spent 10-months doing an English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) at a secondary school. She looked forward to learning about the many different cultures and religions there, but ended up having to explain to her students in Malaysia that the U.S. is more diverse than what they see in the average Disney movie.

For the students of the rural community she lived, O'Neill was one of few Americans they had ever met in their lifetime.

O'Neill said, "Most of their

knowledge

of Americans

comes from

the media, but

specifically

Disney movies

and pop music. It was surprising to me, at first, that many Malaysians expected all Americans to be light-skinned with light hair and eyes. They were often baffled by my olive skin and my roommates black skin and would probe into whether or not we were 100% American." The initial assumptions made by her students motivated O'Neill to fulfill one of the main goals that comes along with being awarded a

Fulbright – to create a reciprocated understanding of diverse cultures between countries.

The Fulbright is a prestigious program that offers the opportunity for U.S. scholars to travel abroad. It also brings international scholars to the U.S. The program aims to give scholars a chance to explore the diversity and value of different cultures across the world.



O'Neill hunting for coconuts in Gopeng's Taman Herba (Herb Garden).

"... once I was here I found that I also really wanted to share about my home and what makes the U.S. and all of the cultures of our people so special too."

from different backgrounds.

"Perak, where I was placed, is one of the more diverse states," said O'Neill. "My school community is made up of Malay, Indian, and Chinese students who speak over five different languages and dialects and practice various religions and cultural traditions."

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Snowden Takes DC

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Dump Trump & Trump Op/Ed

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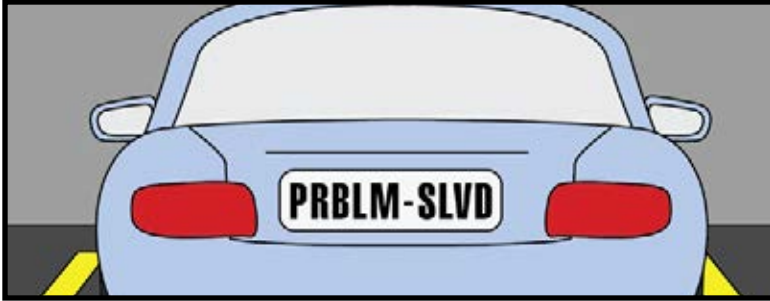
Rogue One

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NEWS

PARKING LOT CHANGES



Courtesy of Monica Sarmiento

BY ELENA E. ZEMAN

During the fall semester, some students had trouble with parking in lots 3, 6, and 7. Ron Hurley – Director of Public Safety discussed the reason for the changes with the parking equipment and what has been done to fix any kinks in the program.

Hurley said in regards to the complaints about the parking, “we realize we had some issues and we are working on them.”

Scan-Net, the old parking software, was installed in the early 90s and was supposed to be updated in 2001. Hurley said that this parking equipment was, “very old and constantly in need of repair.” Not only that, but the university was losing revenue and needed to find a new way to control parking.

During the summer of 2016, Scan-Net was updated and a new software took its place. TIBA, the new parking software, is run by an outside parking company called SP+. This software is said to “approve efficiency and profitability for parking.”

TIBA was installed in the beginning of June and the hopes were that any problems would be worked out before the beginning of the fall semester. Unfortunately, as is often the case with something brand new, there were still some problems when classes started in the fall.

Hurley said, “the issues have been addressed.”

He was adamant that any student complaints were taken into consideration and resolved. Some of the issues that came up with the new parking software revolved around customer service, software challenges, and decisions such as leaving the arms of the parking gates up during weekends. All of these were dealt with and the software challenges were discovered and are in the process of being fixed.

According to Hurley, there are weekly meetings for “the consolidation of parking plans.”

The new parking equipment is supposed to make the trip to and from school as easy as possible. The parking lots on campus are there to eliminate any issues with commuting to class, except traffic of course.

Hurley said, “We don’t want students to be upset. Students come first.”

Supermarket of the Future

BY ERIK S. ORDYKE

Amazon – the company most notable for their expansive website filled with just about anything one could ever need now has plans to create their own grocery store chain.

The grocery store, which would be called “Amazon Go,” touts the possibility of taking what you need to buy and upon leaving, Amazon proclaims: “No lines, no checkout – just grab and go!”

So, how exactly would this process work? Amazon says that the technology that will go into these stores is much of the same as what goes into another futuristic technology, such as self-driving cars. What the company calls “Just Walk Out Technology” has the ability to automatically detect when products are taken from the shelves, or put back, and keeps note of all items taken within your virtual cart. Upon leaving the store with these items, your Amazon account will be charged shortly thereafter. When entering the store, just lift your phone over a scanner and start shopping. You will need an Amazon account, a supported smartphone, and the soon to be released Amazon Go app to take advantage of this process.

The Amazon Go stores will be roughly similar to modern grocery stores, considering what you can purchase at the various locations. Amazon said that “ready to eat breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack options” will be available at the store, cooked and made fresh every day by chefs. Additionally, it is mentioned that products from popular brands will also be available for purchase, meaning the store will not consist solely of items from Amazon.

Customers could also purchase what are called “Amazon Meal Kits.” These are described as being designed by chefs and coming with all the ingredients you need to make a meal for two people in roughly thirty minutes.

Right now, Amazon Go is only available in Seattle, Washington. The store’s services are exclusive to Amazon employees, as it is still in development. However, this store is slated to open to the public in early 2017. Unfortunately, this location in the northwest is shown to be the first and only one to open in the near future. One favorable aspect for those of us that live here on the east coast and nowhere near Seattle, is that Amazon plans to eventually open 2,000 of these stores, therefore there is the possibility of one of these grocery stores of the future reaching us, and it is through Amazon’s ambition that waiting in line at a grocery store will be of the past and their stores will usher in a bright future for grocery consumers around the United States.

NEWS

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O'Neill said, "Both my roommate and I took the proactive route of working as educators and cultural ambassadors to our home country and made it our duty to expose our students and the greater community to the diversity that exists within the U.S."

Although O'Neill's students were active in following U.S. news and politics, she often had a hard time explaining the political strife that was occurring back in the states. In Malaysia, the vast majority of the population identifies as Malay Muslims, and O'Neill found herself having to clarify to her students and colleagues the issues occurring at home. She said, "They were often concerned about Islamophobia or whether or not it was true that Donald Trump wants to 'kick all Muslims out of your country.' I often searched for the words to try to explain, to defend, to reassure them, but they were not always there. I remember, for example, being pestered with 'why, why, why' after the mass shooting in Orlando ... and only being able to come up with a brief explanation of discrimination and hate."

Although challenging at times, O'Neill worked to fulfill her goal as a Fulbright recipient to create and maintain peaceful relations between the people of Malaysia and the United States, while still accomplishing a lot more for the people of Perak.

The top senior level class O'Neill worked with extensively to prepare them for their national exams.



Courtesy of Bridget O'Neill



The school administrators of O'Neill's host school, SMK Seri Teja of Gopeng, during an academic excellence celebration.

During her time in Malaysia, O'Neill established the Friend It Forward: Perak Peer Mentoring Program, an inclusive peer-mentoring program, where older students within the city had the chance work with younger students on issues occurring within the school and surrounding community.

While her Fulbright was filled with once in a lifetime experiences, O'Neill said her greatest memory was "conducting a unit within the classroom on Malaysian folktales and folklores. I worked with students on this topic for a period of one month to explore the structure of the genre, why it exists, and expose them to tales from around the world."

Upon completion of her Fulbright experience in November, O'Neill was able to learn a lot about the various people that make Malaysia's culture so rich, while also gaining an understanding of the value of all cultures across the world, including her own. She said, "The platform for cultural exchange is a central part of the Fulbright program abroad and it is something that I became very passionate about during my time here. When heading out ... I wanted to get to know the Malaysian lifestyle and the subcultures of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism that existed here,

but once I was here I found that I also really wanted to share about my home and what makes the U.S. and all of the cultures of our people so special too."

Snowden Takes D.C.

Courtesy of Shévaneé Cesar

BY SHÉVANEÉ CESAR

"If we only knew what the government wanted us to know, we wouldn't know very much at all."

— Edward Snowden

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NEWS

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Amongst a sea of over 1,000 college journalists, Edward Snowden was viewed as a patriot and whistleblower. In October of last year, the former National Security Agency (NSA) subject-matter expert gave a keynote speech via Skype from a makeshift studio in an unspecified place in Russia.

The Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) procured Snowden for their four-day National College Media Convention held at the Grand Hyatt Washington (a hotel five blocks from The White House) from Oct. 20 to Oct. 23. He discussed topics ranging from cybersecurity to human rights.

“The government is presuming a trust that very clearly no longer exists. [...] We’ve seen the government lie again and again even if they don’t intend to,” he said. “The benefits of being scrupulous in the operations of our government have much greater benefits than they do costs.”

After dropping out of high school, Snowden served as an intelligence subject matter expert for the CIA, NSA, and DIA for nearly a decade. In 2013, he sought the help of Glenn Greenwald (journalist for The Guardian newspaper) and Laura Poitras (documentarian and director of Citizenfour) to expose the U.S. mass surveillance programs run by the NSA and other intelligence agencies. These agencies were unconstitutionally seizing private records of billions of people that were not suspects of any wrongdoings. Snowden is currently living in exile under temporary asylum in Russia. If he returns to the U.S., he will be convicted and charged under the Espionage Act of 1917.

Regarding the mass surveillance programs, Snowden said, “I felt that these programs were clearly unconstitutional because they departed from the fourth amendment,” which prohibits the government from unreasonable searches and seizures. Snowden said that these issues, however, are not about Obama, but rather a greater issue at hand.

“We are living through the greatest crisis in computer security, and this is precisely because we have government ... elevat[ing] our offensive capabilities in our computer-based interactions, above our defensive capabilities,” Snowden said. The nation’s primary method of communication, searches, and storage of information is through the internet. As a result of being the most connected country on earth in terms of technology, Snowden said, “we have the most room to lose in a world where offense is easier than defense.”

Snowden stated that the government cares more for political orthodoxy than national security. This issue, however, is not specific to the U.S., but rather one of politics. As technology advances, policy reform regarding the protection of human rights requires the joint effort of many and holds all responsible, because, as Snowden said, “people die. Policies are forever” — unless something is done about it.



Courtesy of Shévaneé Cesar

Snowden Addresses His Biopic

Snowden, the film by Oliver Stone is a biopic that was released last September. In the film, Snowden is shown infiltrating the information hidden under a tile on a Rubik’s Cube. Before the

keynote came to an end, Snowden addressed the questions raised on the accuracy of the cube by saying, “the only answer I can give — particularly in a room full of journalists — is that nobody knows.” All that was shared, was that he once “gifted his coworkers Rubik’s Cubes.” He is still under indictment and is wanted by the FBI, hence why no specific information was disclosed.

Snowden suggested the audience watch Citizenfour, a documentary of Snowden himself in the process of exchanging the information with Greenwald and Poitras in a hotel in Hong Kong. Text from the encrypted emails are shown, along with news footage from the U.S. discussing Snowden, and how he managed to attain asylum in Russia.

It was a surreal experience for him to watch his own biopic in exile. Snowden expressed that he hopes to one day be able to return to the only place he has ever known as “home.”

Conversations with ACP Staff

Amber Billings, the Digital and Design Coordinator for the National Scholastic Press Association and for the ACP was the individual who procured Snowden for the event. When asked about the process of getting Snowden as a keynote speaker, she said, “We wanted a star-studded lineup. I thought what he did was important so I decided to reach out to him [...] through the Freedom of the Press Foundation.”

Billings said that she communicated with Snowden’s lawyer, Ben Wizner, via email “about 20 times” from February through April — when it was finally confirmed that he would join the panel. She said that neither she nor Wizner ever discussed money. Snowden typically charges \$10,000 to \$15,000, said Billings. “Usually one of the first questions potential keynote speakers ask is how much we’re offering to pay, and that question was never brought up.”

Laura Widmer, the Executive Director at the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) and ACP, said the staff was thrilled to know that Snowden would be on the panel. “Keynotes at conventions of this size typically don’t attract large audiences, but Snowden broke the record,” she said. Every seat was occupied and nearly all the aisles were filled with eager listeners. Widmer confirmed that approximately 1,300 people from both public and private colleges across the nation were registered to attend the convention.

FEATURES

4 Places to See Before You Travel the World



London

Courtesy of Krystal Morris

BY KRystal MORRIS

The world has an endless number of must-see places, but before you go travel the world in 80 days, make these locations your foremost destinations:

1. Los Angeles, California – L.A. is home to a countless array of tourist spots. Three attractions only a couple steps from each other are the Dolby Theatre, the TCL Chinese Theatre, and the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Dolby Theatre opened on November 9, 2001 and has since hosted the Academy Awards, the BET Awards, the Emmy Awards, and two Miss USA Pageants. The TCL Chinese Theatre is another historic theatre that also has the handprints, footprints, and signatures of stars in concrete on display. The Hollywood Walk of Fame was made official in 1958 and now contains more than 2,500 stars along fifteen blocks of Hollywood Boulevard.

Another spot worth the trip from your hotel is the Griffith Observatory. Admission to the observatory is always free, which includes admission to the grounds, the telescopes, and parking. If you need somewhere to spend the day before staring at the stars, the Santa Monica Pier is a great place. You can rent a bike and ride down the bicycle path that runs

parallel to the beach and stretches on for miles, eventually taking you to Venice Beach, the same beach that Arnold Schwarzenegger trained to become a bodybuilder.

2. Chicago, Illinois – Contrary to popular belief, the “Windy City” actually has pretty nice weather in late August. If you take advantage of the good weather, you can hit several iconic places all in a day or two. In Millennium Park, you can see many different sculptures, including Cloud Gate, something you may recognize if you’ve ever watched Kanye West’s “Homecoming” music video. Your next stop should be made at the Willis Tower, formerly known as the Sears Tower, which is the eighth tallest building in the world and the second tallest building in North America. From the lobby you can catch an elevator that will take you to the 103rd floor, a height of 1,450 feet, at a speed of 1,600 feet per minute – the fastest in the world. Once you step off you will be able to step onto the Skydeck, a glass enclosure that allows you to see the street right below your feet along with the entire Chicago skyline.

3. Atlanta, Georgia – Despite what many believe, Atlanta isn’t just home to rappers. My favorite place to visit was the World of Coca-

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3 Must Read Books of the New Year

BY WHITNEY NEWTON

Milk and Honey

Author Rupi Kaur does a great job of putting into words the pain, loss, and hurt that many women feel. She covers topics such as rape, depression, relationships and family to name just a few. Reading the first page you will be hooked by her mesmerizing words and language that pulls you in. She also brilliantly pairs each poem with an illustration that is simple enough to not take away from the poem, but powerful enough that it adds to its profundity. “You are the Ikea furniture he never got around to making. The backup bookshelf that is too new to throw away but not nearly as tempting to open. He keeps you around just in case.”

I Know This Much Is True

Wally Lamb is an author that has perfected the craft of keeping a plot interesting and always evolving without giving the reader too much to take in at once. Thomas and Dominick are two characters that you may not have anything in common with on the surface, but you will find yourself relating to them in many ways the deeper into the novel you get. Whether it is Thomas trying to find ways to cope with his mental illness or Dominick trying to keep his family together, both characters will keep you engaged in their stories.

Teaching My Mother to Give Birth

Teaching My Mother to Give Birth gives readers a small passage into a world that is unknown to us. Warsan Shire’s poetry talks about being children of immigrants and how she balances keeping the culture she derives from, while also balancing her new life. It is a book you will always come back to read again and it is just as powerful each time.

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Tutoring and academic support are offered in the following areas:

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Begins**

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January 30, 2017

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Appointments can be made by phone or at The Hub's
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For more information, please visit The Hub's reception desk.



The Hub: Centralized Tutoring Services
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Cheap Things to do Near Campus

BY KASEY JOHNSON

Did you know Jersey City has tons of cheap, fun spots that are all under \$20 or even free?

On Tuesdays, the Hudson Mall movie theater has \$5 tickets to see newly released movies. Yes, you heard right, \$5 – how cool is that! It is a very easy commute from the university, as it is right along the State Route 440.

If you don't drive, you can catch the 440 shopper bus that drops you off right in front of the mall entrance, or you can take a short walk straight down the block from NJCU.

There is also a mini arcade and some massage chairs as soon as you walk into the theater. Their food choices are super cheap and there are several bundles that include a drink and popcorn for less than \$10. In the same 440 Hudson Mall, there is a new Hibachi Buffet with all-you-can-eat at one low price. It is a bit more on weekends, but still under \$14. There is plenty to choose from – Chinese, Japanese, American, fish, pasta, fruits, vegetables, ice cream, cake, hibachi (with the choice to have the food cooked right in front of you). The service is good and the restrooms are clean.

If you're looking for some outdoor activity, Liberty State Park is a free, beautiful area with a wonderful view of the Manhattan skyline. You can see the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the new Freedom Tower all in one location. There's a huge playground for the kids and plenty of wheelchair/stroller accessible paths. Summer picnics are definitely a plus here. Camping, biking, jogging and boating are all available, but it can also be a great place for a quiet walk or jog in during winter.

FEATURES

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Cola, which is a museum that showcases the history of Coca-Cola and shows assembly line machinery that help manufacture the different products. At the end of the tour you are able to taste all 64 products offered by Coca-Cola, most only available in certain countries and receive a glass Coke bottle. Just across from the World of Coca-Cola is the Georgia Aquarium, the largest aquarium in the Western Hemisphere and the largest aquarium in the world from 2005-2012. The aquarium houses tens of thousands of different sea creatures, and is the only place outside of Asia to have whale sharks.

If you feel like taking a step back into history, the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site is the place for you. The site includes several buildings; King's childhood home, Ebenezer Baptist Church, both of which can be toured, and a visitors' center that serves as an archive for King's life and his role in the Civil Rights Movement.

My last suggested destination is not for the light-hearted. The "I Heart Bodies" was a pop-up exhibition that you may be able to catch if you're in Atlanta at the right time. The exhibition displays every single aspect of the human body, from the nervous system to the skeletal system. It sounds pretty average, right? The thing is, all of the nervous, skeletal, respiratory,

circular, muscular, and cardiovascular systems that are displayed are from actual bodies, cadavers that were donated to science. If you can handle that fact, you will find the exhibit very interesting and informational.

4. London, England – If you want to start off easy, some of London's most iconic spots are right in the same area. When you go to see the London Eye, with just a simple turn you can spot London Bridge, Big Ben, and the Palace of Westminster. If you have the time set aside, a tour of Windsor Castle is a great way to spend a few hours. The castle was built in 1070 and is the longest occupied castle in Europe, now serving as a weekend home to Elizabeth II. With the help of a handheld audio device and your own set of headphones, you're able to walk through the endless rooms of the castle with information and history pouring straight into your ears, erasing the worry of possibly missing what the tour guide is saying or trying to keep up with your tour group.

After your tour is over, you may be able to catch the changing of the Queen's Royal Guards procession. Traveling here would require buying a not-so-cheap plane ticket, but it will be worth it. London can be the stepping stone needed before diving into other foreign travel.

A Night at the Art Gallery RECLAIMED

BY REGINA HERNANDEZ

Curated by Etty Yaniv and Michal Gavish, "Reclaimed" is a fascinating art exhibition, that featured many amazing talented artists.

Sylvia Schwartz's art piece showcases nature through various ways of cutting and pasting paper together. Schwartz's art is intricate and it explores the many sides of how we interpret nature. Etty Yaniv is a wonderful hostess and mind-blowing talented artist. Her artwork will have you lost in a trance of endless curiosity through its feature objects that elaborate with climate changes, including mixtures of textures and layers as the materials come together and offer many different dimensions. Ben K. Voss'

drawings are enthralling; Voss draws on graph paper and it showcases his creativeness and freehand. His art ranges from colorful maps to video games and architecture. Michal Gavish is not only a talented artist, but also has a background as a scientist. His portraits are very remarkable; he uses a mixture of science and art to become one. Gavish shows a sunset of vibrant colors masking the structure of DNA. John O' Connor is an artist who currently teaches at Sarah Lawrence College. O' Connor creatively transforms numbers, texts, and web pictures into sculptures and drawings.

BEN K. VOSS -

Q- Is there a part two, that corresponds to your art piece such as a poem? If so, I would love to hear the poetry!

FEATURES

A- I am lifted into the sky above the city, the mountains, the factories and the oceans. I pass through many clouds and the sky becomes darker and darker until I find myself in outer space. Behind me the planet glows with life and I continue past other planets, moons and stars. Exiting our galaxy I am soaring. Speeding through the farthest reaches of outer space, colorful ribbons of light create a tunnel around me. Blurred galaxies whiz by on the periphery. This goes on for what seems to be hours. A bright light appears ahead of me, coming closer and closer. I am soon engulfed in the light. It is overwhelming and vast. But in an instant the light is gone and I have somehow slipped outside of the universe into an unknown space. I see other universes around me, some quite close and others in the distance. Some are beginning while others are thriving and even dying. Throughout the space I feel the worlds communicating. Their messages are alive, shifting in color, forming, combining; something is being built.



Courtesy of Regina Hernandez



MICHAL GAVISH –

Q- How long did it take you to complete your artwork?

A- This piece took about one month to complete.

SYLVIA SCHWARTZ –

Q- What is your inspiration for your piece?

A- It is important to me to merge the human made or human presence with what exists already in the physical natural world. Perhaps this is part of my need to find placement – to find stability and security.

JOHN O'CONNOR -

Q- Visually I get a sense of a point of time that is current and modern. What was going through your mind during the process of your art piece?

A- I was thinking about (very relevant now, with Trump's use of language and mixing of the personal, public and military) the mutation/ etymology of our language-how certain charged words become normalized.

YOU'RE SPEC-TACULAR

BY LUZ MAYORAL

Fellow specs of the world, I can quite literally see all the struggles your beloved glasses cause you. It has been raining lately and the amount of time I have had to spend cleaning the water off my glasses is making me borderline insane; it is way too tedious, especially when you still have those smudges.

Bad weather can really amplify your already impaired vision, which sucks, but what is worse is trying to put them back on after a hot shower. They fog up so fast, it just leaves you disappointed in yourself for even trying. If you are anything like me, you are not deterred and you keep on trying anyway.

Another tricky thing about glasses is that if you lose them, they are extremely hard to find again, especially on a bed or the couch. You look and look, pat the area around you, and nothing. You look at all the obvious places it could have fallen or got wrapped into, but you still cannot find them. I swear it's like they camouflage themselves on purpose just to frustrate me.

Speaking of frustrations, have any of you been blinded by the sun, then thought about wearing sunglasses to help? Yeah, me too, but they only help you look ridiculous trying to pull off wearing your sunglasses over your glasses. Doesn't stop me from still doing it anyways, however,

I still need to see where I'm going. Unless you buy prescribed sunglasses, you are stuck with the choice of either squinting off the glare of the sun, but being able to see or be covered from the sun, but not being able to see clearly. Decisions, decisions.



Courtesy of freeimages

Should we add more to the ridiculousness? Let's see, when you get accustomed to constantly pushing up your glasses when they start to slide off, the habit won't go away even when you're not wearing them. Your brain does not register that they're not on your face so your hand comes up to poke you in between your eyes – in public – where everyone can see your failure. The sigh that leaves you is a great indication of how often it happens. I feel you.

It's not all too bad, though. Besides them getting stuck in your sweater when you're removing said article of clothing or the indentions they leave on your face, it does help you see clearly and look fashionable at the same time. You get to change your look every year. Going to those eye exams are really awkward, though, with all that equipment close to your eyes and breaking into a sweat because you're taking too long to decide if slide one or two is better. Yikes. They are really a struggle, but if you've been wearing glasses for a long time, they really do become a big part of you.

OP/ED

Dump Trump: The Land of the Afraid

BY ELENA E. ZEMAN

Many have come to terms with the inevitable – Donald Trump will become the 45th president of the United States. However, many are still not only skeptical, but afraid of the power that Trump will have at his disposal.

Trump’s campaign brought entertainment value to American politics, but that’s all it was supposed to be. Many people did not predict that he would win.

People have found their own ways in coping with the news of Trump’s win against Hillary Clinton. Some rationalized his plans for the United States and tried to find a common ground with the future president. Unfortunately, many others are frozen with fear at the reality of how their fellow Americans voted.

It is not just the fear of everything that Trump has explicitly stated in regards to women, illegal immigrants, and other marginalized groups, but also the fear of what he could be capable of. Upon the announcement of Trump’s victory many people burst out in tears because they could not believe that he had won. Illegal immigrant groups reached out for safe spaces because they were truly afraid. Furthermore, hate crimes increased significantly during this time.

The President of the United States should inspire hope, change, and progress for the American people; however, Trump inspires hate and racism. A large portion of his campaign was based on tearing down

groups of people and making them feel worthless and unwelcome in America. That is not what our country stands for!

The United States was created by immigrant groups who were looking for freedom and a better way of life. Our great country is known as “the land of the free” because everyone is welcome to come and pursue their hopes and dreams. Trump is making it seem that some groups of people are less than others and that they should be persecuted and kicked out of the country, which is uncalled for.



Courtesy of freeimages

I applaud the people who are trying to look on the bright side and find the good in our soon to be President Trump. It is virtuous to have hope, but unfortunately, I do not have any when it comes to this matter. Some say that it is not the worst thing that could happen to our country and that we will persevere, but I believe that they are wrong.

There is no certainty about what will happen when Trump is inaugurated into office but if anything he has said throughout his campaign is true, there will be a lot of chaos. We can expect him to begin his process of deporting illegal immigrants and further spreading hate about Muslim groups, the LGBTQ community, and women. Furthermore, his choices for his cabinet further point to the fact that the rich will get richer while the poor will remain poor.


We need to join together as citizens of the United States and not let his hatred influence our own actions.

AFT Local 1839 Scholarship

The Donald J. Silberman Endowment Scholarship is awarded based on:

- financial need
- academic achievement (GPA of 3.0 or higher)
- two written statements, three pages each
- 10 or more hours of volunteer service to a social justice organization within the past year
- must be enrolled as a full-time NJCU student


For an application packet, contact
AFTLocal1839@njcu.edu or (201)-200-2216.




Applications for the 2016-2017 academic year are due: **February 1, 2017.**

NJCU ATHLETICS CELEBRATES
NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORT DAY 2017

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2TH
10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.




- PARTICIPATE IN SPORT ACTIVITIES LED BY NJCU ATHLETES AND COACHES
- GET INSPIRED BY MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKERS
- INTERACT WITH GOTHIC KNIGHT STAFF



GENDER IDENTITY/EXPRESSION?
DOES IT INTERSECT WITH THE STRUGGLES OF YOUR RACE/ETHNICITY, CLASS, ETC.?

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH HAVING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS & SIGNIFICANT OTHERS?
DO YOU JUST WANT A SAFE SPACE TO TALK, CHECK IN AND EXPRESS YOURSELF?



LGBTQIA+ SUPPORT GROUP
THURSDAYS STARTING
JANUARY 26TH 3-4:15 PM
THE PRIDE CENTER GSUB RM 321

FACILITATED BY:
JENNIFER MULLAN PSY.D COUNSELOR
N.JCU COUNSELING CENTER

REBECCA VICENTE, MSW, LCSW
SPECIAL NEEDS COUNSELOR
A. HARRY MOORE SCHOOL

OP/ED / A&F

KEEP HOPE ALIVE, AMERICA

BY DAVID MOSCA

Remember when we all found out that Donald Trump was running for president? We laughed and laughed. The billionaire from a reality show was running for president. As time passed, he was still in the race and then became the candidate for the Republican Party, even after every outrageous remark that had constantly spilled out of his mouth. It wasn't funny anymore. The election came and what we all thought was a joke has now become a reality—Donald Trump is the 45th President of the United States. It is perhaps the greatest practical joke in American history.

The panic has now set in. We are hearing Americans say things like "Oh God! I need to move to Canada!" or "America will be a crater by the end of 2017." What more can be said? Everyone's worst fear became reality.

But do not cry America, here's something to think about: it is not the end of the world. The United States has been through so much: the American Civil War, WWI, the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, WWII, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, 9/11, the Recession, and guess what? America is still here and still thriving.

Trump becoming President of the United States is nothing new. We've all been here before and we can get through this just as we have every other obstacle that has stood in this nation's way. What haven't we already heard about Donald Trump? From being a clown or being Hitler, it's all been said. Does anyone remember what happened when Barack Obama became President? People thought he would hand us

over to Muslim extremists. Recall the time when people found out his middle name was Hussein? Everyone freaked out from that. People even went as far to say that he was a Nazi! Think about that one for a minute. Everything that's been said about any president's past is only being said again. What's the difference here? Nothing. Nothing has changed.

It's easy to get swept away by all the chaos and negativity. Some people even thrive on that. The bad always outweighs the good. Even now, when America seems more divided than ever, try to remember one thing—Americans don't give up. Now I know how cliché that sounds, easier said than done, right? And here's another cliché with some truth to it: for anyone who feels afraid or uncertain about where we're heading, you're not alone. Even as bad as things may seem, remember to stick together. Be thankful for what you have. Never forget your loved ones. Fight the good fight. Stick up for the little guy. We've been through this before and we can get through this again. Remember, Trump isn't going to be President forever. Four years will go by like that! And if nobody is happy about the job that he's done, then they can just vote for someone else in the next election.

Giving up never helped anyone. Remember how unhinged this nation was after the devastating attacks on September 11th, 2001? After all the grieving and paranoia, we got through it. We survived and we'll tell our children and our children's children about it. They will read about it in the history books. This is just another chapter for the history books. We will persevere. And maybe, just maybe, in the end, we will laugh.

"Loving" Movie Review

Courtesy of freeimages



BY RENEE BEHR

Directed by Jeff Nichols, and based on a true story, *Loving* is based on the Supreme Court case of *Loving vs. Virginia* in 1967. The movie is about an interracial couple, a Caucasian white man named Richard Loving (portrayed by Joel Edgerton) and an African-American and Native American woman named Mildred Jeter Loving (portrayed by Ruth Negga). The two were married within the District of Columbia, but shortly after they were arrested in the state of Virginia because interracial marriage was illegal in the state at that time. Despite all the hardships the couple endured, they stuck together because they truly loved each other. The film *Loving* represents how love unites people. This movie makes people think about what it means to love or to be loved. The film *Loving* demonstrates that true love has no shape, size, color, or gender. The actors and actresses in the film portrayed themselves to be so vulnerable, which was relatable and really correlated with the film's theme.

A&F

A STAR WARS PREQUEL THAT DOESN'T ACTUALLY SUCK

A ROGUE ONE REVIEW



Courtesy of Disney/Lucasfilm

BY EMMANUEL LEBRON

If for some reason you read the opening crawl for A New Hope and thought “I wonder what THAT story was like”, then wonder no more.

In *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, Felicity Jones stars as Jyn Erso, a young woman whose father, Galen Erso (Mads Mikkelsen), was snatched away from her years ago by Empire thug Orson Krennic (Ben Mendelsohn). Jyn, essentially orphaned and driven underground, is left to make her way in the world alone. But she finds a purpose when she meets rebel fighter Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) and his reprogrammed-security-droid sidekick K-2S0 (voiced by Alan Tudyk, channeling the dry wit of Marvin The Paranoid Android). And later joins the Rebellion and with a rag tag group of loveable rogue misfits, embarks on a plot to steal the plans to the Death Star.

A pretty straightforward tie in to the Star Wars mythos, the movie feels very much like an adaptation of the Expanded Universe novels that gained popularity in the late 90’s -early 200’s.

It was a look at what the rest of this universe is up to without pesky Skywalker drama in the way.

Although one of the real flaws in this movie is that it honestly, despite its claims as a standalone, wouldn’t actually make any sense unless you were already deeply invested in Star Wars lore. (Sentence fragment) The movie IS filled with nods and cameos to the rest of the trilogy, and other books and spin -offs, both subtle and glaringly sho-horned in. K2 starting to say “I have a bad feeling about this.”? Cute. Nods to the REBELS cartoon? Great. Darth Vader himself showing up for an extremely memorable scene? Fantastic, albeit extremely fan service-y. C3-PO& R2-D2 standing around for an obligatory forced cameo, not so much.

And I guess I should point out the undead elephant in the room.

Disney apparently has access to digital time travel necromancy. They showed it off briefly during *Ant-Man*, where a young Michael Douglas

had a brief cameo in a flashback before old Michael Douglas showed up in present day. They used it again when a baby-faced Robert Downey Jr. appeared in “*Captain America; Civil War*.” But both those times the scenes were less than a few seconds long and the camera never lingered enough for you to dwell and realize the wonderful yet horrifying implications of the fact that CGI has gotten this advanced.

Rogue One takes this technology and kicks you in the face with it. Peter Cushing spends more time as Grand Moff Tarkin in this movie, posthumously, than he did in the original *Star Wars*. When he showed up the first time, I thought it was neat. But then he came back, and had entire scenes with General Krennic, with dramatic close ups, and snippy dialogue. As if someone at Lucas Arts was so proud of the fact that they had mastered the uncanny valley effect of recreating the image of a long dead actor they would not let you forget it.

And then at the very end, once you’re over the fact that Disney now can revive the dead with computers, there’s an inclusion of a younger version of someone who passed on recently, which re-watching it now seems like some sort of pre-tribute to a beloved character who’s actress had just passed on.

I look forward to more “stand alone” side stories from the star wars universe, but hope that future installments stray further away from eras and times that would necessitate “continuity cameos” recreated with jarring cg likeness of people who are no longer with us.

Overall, the message of the movie seems to be that when faced with a tyrannical Empire whose views you oppose, you should rebel and fight for what you believe in. Which considering the current state of politics is kind of poignant.

“*Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*” doesn’t exactly break new ground, but does a fairly decent job of doing what it was meant to do- give us “Hope”.

Or at least something to hold us off until Episode VIII.

A&F / SPORTS

METALLICA: HARDWIRED... TO SELF-DESTRUCT THE REVIEW

BY DAVID MOSCA

Metallica's tenth studio album, *Hardwired...to Self-Destruct*, serves as a testament to what Metallica has always been: the true pinnacle of heavy metal music. And how fitting it is that such an album serves as their big one-oh! Their first double album, *Hardwired...to Self-Destruct* could be looked at as a culmination of Metallica's past and the present. Simply put, this is the love child of their first four albums (*Kill 'em All*, *Ride the Lightning*, *Master of Puppets*, and *Justice for All* rolled into one). Their past work has now been reborn into its own.

With their *Whiplash/Holier than Thou*-like opener, *Hardwired*, it's pretty clear what this album is: it's hardwired! From start to finish, there is no letting up. Each track is an unrelenting runaway train crashing through its opposition. *Moth into Flame*, the album's second single, is clearly the standout track, much thanks to Kirk Hammett's lead guitar riffs and James Hetfield's vocals. Even the intro for *Here Comes Revenge* gives a throwback to *Master of Puppets* *Leper Messiah*. Each track's composition almost offers some sort of reference to the past that diehard fans are sure to point out. The album's closing track, *Spit Out the Bone*, clearly does what the title says: it chews you up and spits you out with no remorse. Rob Trujillo's bass solo could almost fool anyone



Courtesy of freeimages

into believing that Cliff Burton, the band's original bass player whose untimely death is still mourned by metal heads everywhere, had returned from the grave.

Hardwired...to Self-Destruct wasn't something that was concocted because Metallica needed to make a buck or because they were contractually obligated to do so. This was an album that was made because Metallica loves to make music. This wasn't them wondering "How can we top our last album?" This was them saying "Hey! Let's make an album because we love to play! It'll be fun!" and the end product shows. Of course, this isn't an A+ album. But granted, it is a Metallica album where Metallica sounds like Metallica. Much like a Motorhead album, where Motorhead simply sounds as they always have (which isn't a bad thing), Metallica does the same here. But just because it's not an A+ doesn't mean it's not solid. It is truly fine work. The deluxe edition even includes some goodies such as a re-recorded version of "Lords of Summer," the band's digital and limited edition vinyl single from 2014. Also included are several covers, amongst them are Iron Maiden's *Remember Tomorrow* and Deep Purple's *When a Blind Man Cries*. There's even live versions of some of the band's more classic hits. A solid job by Metallica. *Hardwired...to Self-Destruct*, I give you a B+.

3 LEGENDS

BY D'ANGELO BARROW

This past fall, the 2016-2017 NBA season started. Even though it's a new season the NBA will never be the same again. Losing not one, not two, but three NBA legends. Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett and Tim Duncan all retired at the end of last season or later. Some had farewell tours such as Kobe Bryant scoring 60 points at his home arena on his last game. Or on a hot summer day, just decided to announce his retirement like Tim Duncan did. The way that each player announced their retirement does not conclude what an effect they had on the NBA.

Commitment is something you rarely see in the NBA nowadays, but for these three legends all having 20 plus year careers. Other than Kevin Garnett leaving to the Boston Celtics from 2007-2013 have stayed loyal to one team. Kobe with the Lakers, Duncan with the Spurs and Garnett returning to the Timberwolves. All three of these players were considered franchise players during their prime. Kobe Bryant's 20 year career with the Lakers has been spectacular, bringing home 5 NBA championships. The same goes for Tim Duncan who also won 5 championships with the Spurs. Kevin Garnett who although took the Timberwolves to the playoffs multiple times did not win a championship as a member of that team.

That doesn't take away the fact that his career with the Timberwolves was spectacular. Adam Silver who is the commissioner of the NBA had said "He held himself to the highest standard and preparation for a remarkable 21 seasons" he was referring to Kevin Garnett in that statement.

When it comes to talent all three of these players should pop in your head. These three legends are all ranked in the top 20 on the all-time scoring list for the NBA. While both Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett being power forwards and Kobe being a shooting guard goes to show how much talent these three players had on the court. As much as they did on the court, they were influential off the court as well. The Kobe and Vanessa Bryant foundation is a public charity that goal was to help improve children and families in need. The Tim Duncan foundation which first event was in 2000 has raised over 650,000 dollars for breast and prostate cancer. Kevin Garnett donated 1.2 million dollars to the Katrina relief fund. Garnett's actions off the court actually won him the NBA citizenship award in 2006. These three players have impacted the game in more ways than can be imagined. I can't tell you what their next steps in life after the NBA would be, but I cannot imagine that they can stay away from basketball forever. The new era of players should look up to these franchise figures for guidance. For the rookies and younger players, the NBA wouldn't be the same if it was not for these three legends setting the precedent for a healthy and successful career.

SPORTS

WORLD SERIES CHANGES

BY ISMAEL J. RAMOS-PEÑAHERRERA

On November 30th, Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association agreed to a new collective bargaining agreement through 2021 that will bring forth one significant change: home-field advantage in the World Series will no longer be decided by the winner of the All-Star Game.

Home-field advantage will now be awarded to the team with the best regular-season record. The All-Star Game has been deciding who has more home games in the Fall Classic since 2003. Prior to that, home-field advantage in the World Series was alternated between the American and National Leagues each year.

The stipulation was created in order to have the game mean something, hence the slogan “this time it counts.” The 2002 All-Star Game that ended in a 7-7 11 inning tie, which prompted the crowd to boo and throw bottles onto the field, was the main reason for the rule’s creation.

“This energizes it. This gives them something to really play for,” said then-MLB Commissioner Bud Selig after owners approved the now former All-Star Game policy by a 30-0 vote in January 2003. “It was not and should not be a meaningless exhibition game.”

But many fans and players were not on board with the idea that the outcome of an exhibition game would have an impact on the final championship series of the year. It seemed like a crazy concept since other sports leagues like the NBA and NHL don’t have that



Courtesy of freeimages

implemented into their All-Star Games.

Fans vote for the players who will start in the Midsummer Classic and that sometimes turns into a popularity contest, rather than voting for the absolute best players during the first half of the season. The MLB All-Star Game is meant to be a celebration of the sport for the fans, and now it will truly be just that.

Some other changes to note in the new CBA are that the 15-day disabled list was reduced to a 10-day DL and teams will now pay the luxury tax if their club’s payroll exceeds \$195 million. That number will continue to gradually increase to \$210 million by 2021.

The basic tax rates will be 20 percent for first-time payers, 30 percent for those who go over a second time and 50 percent for the third time or more.

For the past three seasons, teams have been paying the luxury tax if their payroll surpassed \$189 million.

Also, smokeless tobacco will be banned for all new MLB players.

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