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A Center of Trust

NJCU's Children's Learning Center Relieves Parents while Teaching Children

By Ylesha Williams

Among the fierce everyday hustle of eager students on the New Jersey City University campus lays a marvelous place nestled at the base of Hepburn Hall. Though well hidden, the Children's Learning Center has been a big part of the campus since its development in 1982.

Upon entrance into the center is a greeting of bright lights and colors from every angle. The doors and walls are filled from top to bottom with the grand masterpieces of the little artists, whose scribble scrabble attracts many "ooos" and "aaws" from their caregivers. Pieces of construction paper serve as canvas to little Leonardo's while teachers become photographers and put together collages of the children at play. The shelves boast ample amounts of paint, glue, glitter, crayons, and markers in every color.

The Children's Learning Center serves not only the students of NJCU who are in need of child care, but also keeps its doors open to staff and alumni. There are many moms and dads who work



Photos by Marlen Gonzalez

Above, a Children's Learning Center play area, where George, 4, enjoys playing with dinosaurs.

and go to school in need of a safe, nurturing place to leave their children. The staff accommodates with services for each schedule.

With enough supplies to keep the kids busy in arts and crafts for hours, the center offers a lot more than just playtime. Each class has curriculum customized for each individual child. The staff consists

of one director and assistant director, certified teachers, graduate assistants, field placement students, work-study students and student volunteers. All of these people work together with the goal of making a difference in the lives of the most innocent on campus, the children.



"Coming to work every day and knowing I can make a difference," explained Ana Palma, 25, of North Bergen. Ana serves as Assistant Director and is also a Pre-K teacher. The young teacher with long black hair pulled up in a quick bun blushes as she describes what she has learned from working one on one with the children. "They all have different personalities, and you have to take each one of them into consideration. The children remember little things that you teach them."

There is an unspoken comfort on the faces of the parents as they quickly drop off their children. Hugs and kisses are exchanged and off goes mommy to receive her valuable education with the assurance her little one is being care for in close proximity.

"We encourage parents to drop off the kids in the morning, 'cause that is when we do most of our project[s]," Palma said.

The Children's Learning Center is open eleven months out of the year Monday through Saturday. With over one hundred children

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WORD ON CAMPUS:

What are you doing for Winter Break?



**Bonnie Sanchez, 24,
business accounting
major from
Jersey City**

"I'm going to go snowboarding, relax at home, catch up with friends and go to a bar and drink."



**Brandon Givens, 20,
economics major
from Union**

"I'm thinking of going to Canada with some of my friends. My mom went and she says it's really nice up there. I'm just going to enjoy myself."



**Mansoor Ahmad, 33,
math education
graduate student from
Jersey City**

"My plans are to go visit my uncle in Florida with my family."



**James "MJ"
De Los Santos, 19,
marketing major
from North Bergen**

"I want to spend time with my little sister in Florida. Also, I'll be working on my website, duhitscollege.com."



**Charlene Otero, 58,
Administrative Assistant
in the English department
from Jersey City**

"For Christmas I'll be home and after the holidays I'll be here in the English department. We don't get the pleasure of that break."



**Morgan Williams, 21,
journalism major
from Jersey City**

"Relax and hopefully get a job."

Interviews & Photography by Marlen Gonzalez

NEWS

California Revokes Same-Sex Rights

Gay Marriage Debate Continues

By Denise D. Gibson

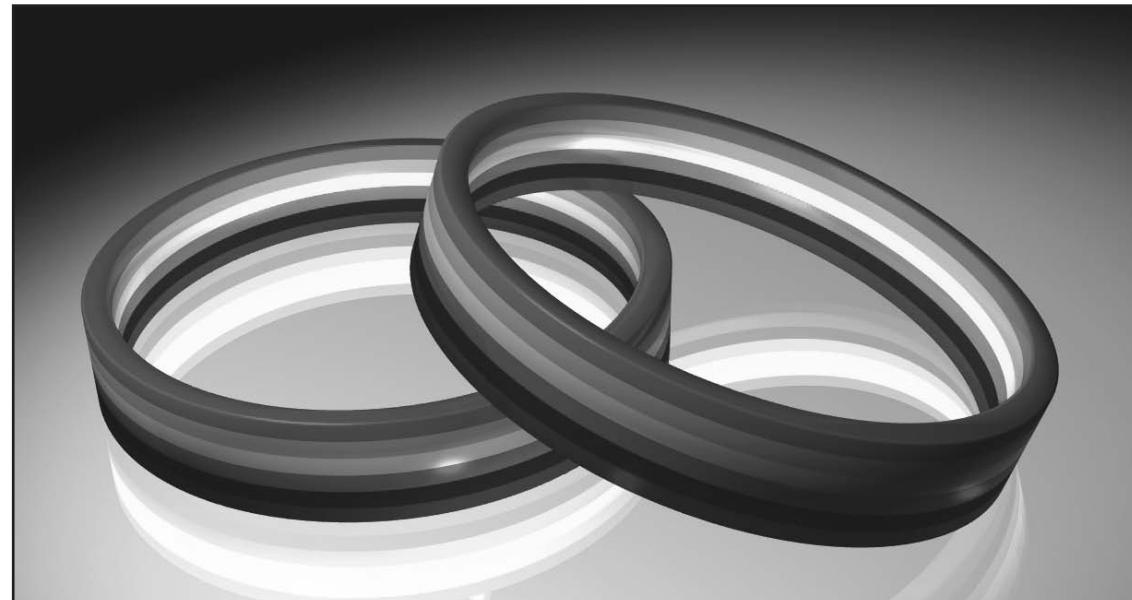
As of October 10, 2008, the Supreme Court ruled to legalize gay marriage in Connecticut making it third state to allow this type of union.

"I think it's a great thing. Three out of fifty states so far is a start," said Patrick Stein, 24, a psychology major from Frankfurt, Germany. "I think the United States is taking baby steps to catch up with the times. In places like Germany it has been legal for a while."

Students, like Stein, were happy to see the United States taking steps towards allowing all its citizens to have their natural American rights, which is to live equally. However, on November 4, California voted on for Proposition 8, which now cancels the law passed to allow gay marriage in the state.

There are people who believe that marriage should only happen between heterosexual couples.

"In a nutshell: I don't like the idea," said Everett Ellis, 25, a biology major from Irvington. "Marriage is a part of God."



Photos.com

There's nothing holy about two homosexuals forming a union as if to follow the Christian tradition."

"If any two people are sure about being together no one should have an opinion. Love is blind, it does not judge," said Latoya Moore, 19, a sociology major from Jersey City.

Catherine Camacho, 24, a biology major from Elizabeth, hopes for the best in the fate of gay marriage because she has a close friend who is a lesbian and is engaged to her girlfriend.

"It's good for all types of relationships to have equal rights no matter what their sexual orientation," Camacho said. "It would

be convenient if New York or New Jersey would legalize gay marriage for my friend's sake."

Couples living out of state are allowed to marry in the states that do authorize gay marriage.

"They, [homosexuals] want to attempt to suit the Christian tradition and social values such as having the final piece of the puzzle in the American Dream," said Ellis.

The passing of Proposition 8 has even caused celebrities to protest. Ellen Degeneres, a homosexual celebrity, was concerned about the validity of her marriage to her wife. Actor David Hyde Pierce (Dr. Niles Crane from *Frasier*) who confirmed his homosexual orientation in 2007 marched to protest against Proposition 8.

On November 15 comedian and actress Wanda Sykes came out to 1,000 protestors about her marriage to a woman, whom she married October 25. According to the *Advocate*, a popular Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) online magazine, she came out to the crowd with this surprising announcement.

"We took a huge leap forward and then got dragged 12 feet back," said Sykes at the rally.

For students who may be interested, NJCU has an organization, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Friends Association (LGBTFA) that can help with increased understanding of this topic.

A Center of Trust

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being serviced, the quality of childcare continues to grow. On November 30, 2005, the center achieved accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"Our teachers are certified, so we can offer quality education," Palma said.

With education being priority, the curriculum is well balanced with age-appropriate activities. The center has a Pre-K class that manages the four- and five-year-olds and a Preschool, which is made up of two- and three-year-olds.

A typical day at the center includes breakfast, group play, projects and story time, where the children are encouraged to pick out the books. After lunch, there is free play with each caregiver encouraging the children to build social skills. There is the constant reminder to the children to play nice and communicate. Sharing with friends is not enforced, but simply praised by the teachers; in return, the children are motivated to share.

"The best thing about working here is just their happy spirits," said Ajia Rivera, a 22-year-old work-study student employee at the center. "I can have a bad day and come in, and my whole day gets reversed," she smiled.

The center is located in room 101 in Hepburn Hall. For more information, please visit www.njcu.edu/dept/eclc/ or call 201-200-3342.

Parking Pitfalls Student Parking Woes Continue

By Jan Aguilos

Every morning New Jersey City University students rush to the parking lots in order to get one of the coveted spots. There are four parking lots for NJCU, but only two of them can be occupied by students: Lot #1, which is the Gilligan Student Union Building garage on Culver Avenue and Lot #3 on Westside Avenue, which is divided into Lot #3A and #3B.

The daily ticket rate for a spot at both parking lots is \$6.00 Monday through Friday and \$4.00 on Saturday (cash) – Sundays are free. The GSUB garage is \$4.00 Monday-Saturday and \$3.00 Monday-Saturday on Lot #3 with a registered pre-paid Gothic Card account.

Jovanni Ibarra, a 21-year-old sophomore and media arts major from Fairview, commutes to school five days a week, from Monday through Friday.

"Six dollars is a bit much," he says. "I'm spending \$30 a week on parking alone - not to mention the book prices."

Ibarra doesn't utilize the pre-paid parking plan with his Gothic card and pays the regular daily rate.

However, getting a pre-paid parking plan through the University Service Center at the GSUB saves money. A \$100 flat rate per semester is available for students who park at Lot #3, for both A and B. This rate is not applicable for the GSUB garage.

Dorm residents can opt for the flat rate of



\$135 per semester for the GSUB garage.

Danielle McGorty, a 21-year-old junior majoring in education from Secaucus, doesn't mind her commute from Secaucus so much as she minds her parking situation.

"The traffic is never bad," McGorty says. "To be honest, it's only bad by the time I get to the lot."

She has classes Monday through Friday and says that the GSUB garage is mostly full by around 11a.m.

"Several times, I've gotten into the [GSUB] parking lot because the gate has let me in," McGorty says, "and then I find myself as well as six other cars driving around in circles trying to find a spot."

She is not compensated for having already paid for the GSUB garage after she leaves.

However, the University Service Center does not receive many complaints about parking like McGorty's. Occasionally, students have complained about their Gothic Cards not working when they pay the ticket dispensers in the lots.



Aside from the \$100 flat rate pre-paid parking plan, students can attain a flex account on their Gothic cards. These flex accounts have no maximum or minimum. Students who pay by the flex account on their Gothic cards pay \$2.00 less for the GSUB garage and \$3.00 less for Lot #3 than paying with cash at the ticket dispensers in the lots. Flex accounts are applicable for more than one semester, unlike the \$100 per semester flat rate.

Ann Kaczka, a 21-year-old sophomore and media arts major from Bayonne, has the \$100 flat rate pre-paid parking plan with her Gothic Card.

"I don't pay by the day anymore because it's too expensive," she says. "I use the parking lot on Westside because the [GSUB] garage is more expensive."

Kaczka has afternoon and evening classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. She says that she occasionally takes the bus from Bayonne but doesn't very often since she has evening classes.

"A lot of media classes that I'm taking are night classes," Kaczka says, "so waiting [for the bus at] 10, 10:30, [or] 11 on Kennedy Boulevard at night is not the most inviting of prospects."

OPINION

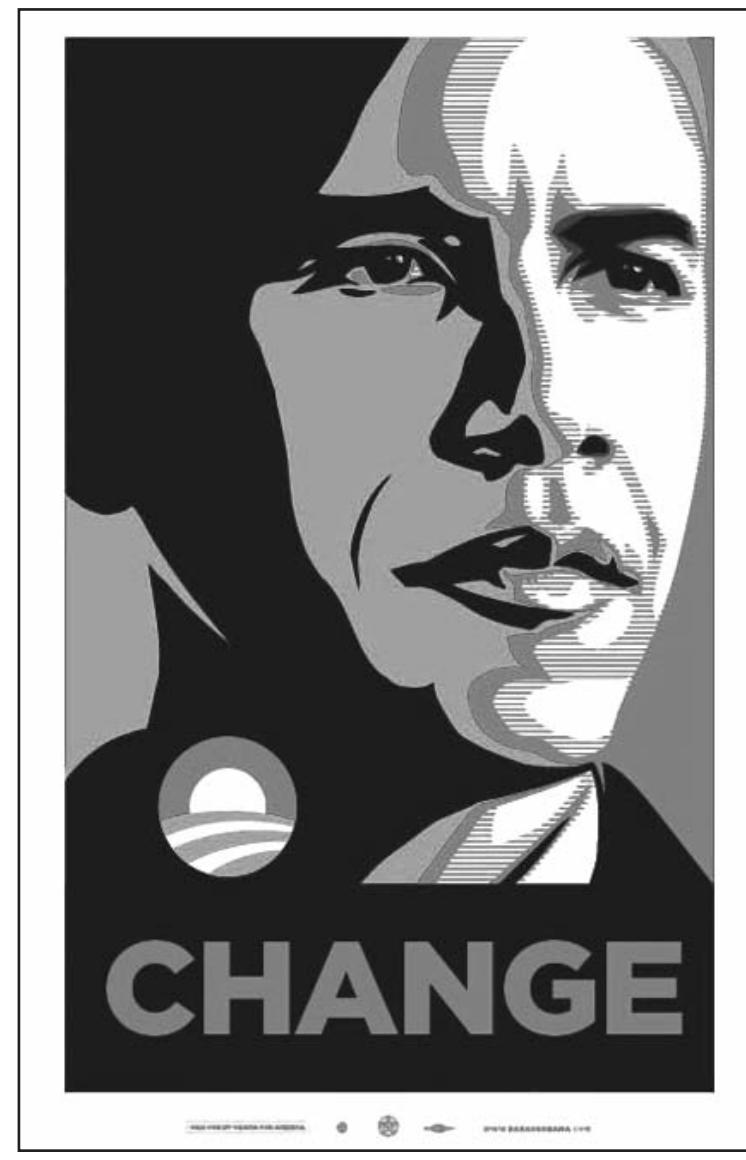
We've Made History! So What's Next?

By Fran Moran
Associate Prof.
Political Science Dept.

With the giddiness of Barack Obama's historic victory a receding memory, it's important to keep in mind that victory was not the end of the road. Yes, winning is an important and essential step, but it is merely a means to an end, and that end is governing. This was a historic election for many reasons, and those include the record turnout rate among 18-24 year old voters. But you new voters need to resist the temptation to step back and assume that those in charge will now set about doing what they promised they were going to do.

The enthusiasm and effort that many of you exerted in the campaign—following the news, talking to friends and family, perhaps working for a candidate, and of course voting—are still necessary, and arguably more vital now than before, for the real task is at hand. Obama and the Democrats campaigned on the idea of change, and more specifically on promises of middle class tax relief, affordable healthcare, energy independence, a successful resolution to US military commitments in Iraq, a foreign policy built on negotiation and coalition building, and economic recovery. So as our semester winds down and the new administration and new Congress prepare to assume power, we can ask ourselves “what next”?

Obama's win came with the largest Electoral College vote margin since Bill Clinton's re-election run in 1996. Moreover, the incumbent president, George W. Bush, has the lowest approval ratings of any president since the ratings have been tracked (basically since the Truman Administration, which until the present Administration had the lowest approval ratings record-



Hyperakt.co

ed). Furthermore, in Congress the Democratic Party has now scored impressive victories in consecutive elections (picking up 31 House seats and 4 Senate seats in 2006, and another 20 House seats and at least 7 and perhaps as many as 9 Senate seats in 2008) giving them sizable majorities in both chambers. Just for some context, to find an incumbent party suffering consecutive electoral defeats comparable to the contemporary Republican Party, we would have to go back to the Truman admin-

If you want to make enemies, try to change something.
Woodrow Wilson

istration (1950 and 1952). So the Democrats, for the first time since the first Clinton Administration, have control of the White House and both houses of Congress, and thereby have an opportunity to

You need to move from an engaged voter to an engaged citizen. You need to pay continued attention to the news out of Washington, to follow what your elected representatives are doing, and to let them know what you think of their actions.

capitalize on fairly broad public dissatisfaction with the Bush Administration and the Republican party.

In other words, these sweeping victories have set up the possibility for Obama and the Democrats to deliver on the “change” they promised. The Republicans may be able to thwart some initiatives in the Senate, but if the Democrats stay unified, Obama should be able to enact the programs he wants. Of course, that's a pretty big “if” up there. Some more context may be helpful.

In 1992, the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress and with Bill Clinton won the White House (after being out of the White House for all but 4 of the previous 20 years), and yet they were unable to pass much of anything in the Clinton campaign platform, including heavily promoted healthcare reform. Of course the party lost control of Congress in the next election (1994) and stayed out of power for the next decade, so it's possible that Democrats learned their lesson and will act more cohesively. But then again, this is the Democratic Party we're talking about so I wouldn't bet the mortgage on that (although, given the collapse in the housing market... but I digress). As Obama tries to move his campaign agenda through Congress he will no doubt encounter resistance from many quarters: Republicans, industry lobbyists, entrenched spe-

cial interests, etc. The groups that opposed the ideas in the Obama platform—the lobbyists and groups who have been thwarting healthcare reform, insurance reform, adequate education funding, development national energy policy, reducing and ending our reliance on oil—did not magically disappear on November 5. Change may come, but it will surely encounter resistance and require support.

Here is where you come in. You need to move from an engaged voter to an engaged citizen. You need to pay continued attention to the news out of Washington, to follow what your elected representatives are doing, and to let them know what you think of their actions. Call or write your Senators and Representative; or better link up with like-minded people and collectively let your representatives know that you are paying attention. If you're looking for something to do over the break, go online and visit the Center for Responsive Politics (<http://www.opensecrets.org>). It's a nonpartisan site that tracks campaign finance and track which elected officials have been receiving donations from which groups, individuals, lobbyists, and businesses.

The campaign was exhausting. The election was exhilarating. But only our vigilance and activism can ensure that the next 4 years are not as excruciating as the previous 8.

Gone Fishin' With Dubya

By Jan Aguilos

With the presidency of George “Duba” Bush winding down, I thought that it would be nice to invite him to go fishin’ with me. With all the attention going to Obama’s inauguration, let’s not forget the man that we all want to forget. A fishing trip with the worst American President in history sounds fun, right? Beats huntin’ with Dick Cheney!

Dear Prez Bush,

As an outgoing president, you must be racking your brain for things to do after your presidency ends on January 20, 2009. Why not go fishin’ with me, Dubya? I have no ulterior motive; I just want to catch some bass with you. Honestly, I’ve never gone fishing in my life – seems like a waste of time – but it seems like the kind of sedentary activity that you’re into. I’ll pretend to be a fisherman since you pretend to be a cowboy. Of course, I’m not the type of guy

who thinks that he’s automatically smarter than you are – you’ve got a Harvard M.B.A. for some reason.

I’m not trying to start a bromance with you – on the contrary, morally bankrupt bloopers aren’t my type. You’re supposed to be the Prez that the Average Joe can have a beer with, right? Why don’t you just hang out with regular Americans after your presidency ends? You can start off with me, and then you can go to a potluck with Cindy Sheehan and other parents of the dead soldiers that you sent off to fight two mismanaged wars. After that, you can have a slumber party in Guantanamo Bay with people who “hate us for our freedom.”

But the central tragedy to your presidency is your betrayal of faith. After 9/11, Americans became more patriotic than they’ve ever been. Your approval ratings skyrocketed and America had faith in you. As the years passed by, the taint of mismanagement and the ubiquity of corruption in your cabinet diminished the good standing you once had.

You’ll try to rewrite history after you leave office; you’ll come up with slick rationalizations of bad ideas – like how you tried to privatize health care and failed and how you bungled the response to Hurricane Katrina. Heckuva job, Bushie! It’s funny that the two most trusted people

you’re the first American President to brandish an M.B.A. doesn’t mean that you know how to be fiscally responsible. Ask yourself whether or not the middle class is better off now than it was eight years ago. I know that you’re not good friends with the truth, but maybe you can be honest with yourself.

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George W. Bush fishing.

in your White House are your wife Laura and Barney the Scottish terrier – and one of them isn’t even a person. You can probably think of a million ways to defend the failures of your administration, but no matter how

much wrapping paper you put on a fish it’s still gonna stink after eight years.

Sincerely,
A friendly American

P.S. Forget the fishing trip.

CULTURE

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

A Christmas Q&A

By Patrick Jarkowsky

Why do we celebrate Christmas on December 25?

The Romans began celebrating their end of the year holiday, Saturnalia, a week before the winter solstice. Named for Saturn, the god of agriculture, this festival consisted of a month long feast of food and drink, resembling modern Mardi Gras and Carnivale.

Some of the more powerful, upper class Romans chose to focus their more subdued celebrations on the god of the unconquerable sun, Mythra. This god, born of a rock in a pastoral setting, worshiped and attended to by shepherds, was said to be born on the Roman winter solstice, December 25.

Although the pagan Romans continued to worship their many gods, the influence and practice of Christianity began to take hold in the Roman Empire. Early Christians did not celebrate the birth of Christ; in fact, the Bible makes no mention of the birth date of Jesus. However, as Christianity became more prevalent, devoted followers began to speculate as to when their savior was born. In the 4th century, church officials, capitalizing on the already established pagan traditions, settled on December 25 as the birthday of their savior.

What is the significance of the Christmas tree?

During the winter solstice, Norse people celebrated the Yule festival. Since evergreens were the only plants that could survive the harsh Norse winter, the Norse



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people viewed these trees as a symbol of persistence. The evergreen tradition was also common in German societies. In 1840, Queen Victoria of England married Prince Albert of Germany. Although the traditional English Christmas did not include a Christmas tree, Queen Victoria adopted the traditions of her husband and included evergreens in her family's Christmas celebration at Windsor Palace. This tradition did not catch on until 1848, when an engraving was released that featured the royal family posing with their decorated evergreen. Americans quickly adopted this tradition. Today, it is an integral part of our Christmas celebration.

What are the origins of Santa Claus?

Germans once again play a sig-

nificant role in explaining the origins of one of our Christmas traditions. During their winter festival, the German people would gather indoors to escape the wrath of Oden, a pagan god who would fly through the night sky, casting judgment upon the people below. However, a more direct connection can be found in the generosity of the Greek/Turkish Orthodox bishop, Saint Nicholas, and the Dutch gift-giver, Sinter Clause. On December 6, Saint Nicholas Day, good children would receive gifts and bad children would receive nothing. The Dutch brought these European traditions to America, where they would be transformed into the modern version of Santa Claus.

At first, American versions of Santa Claus ranged from a pagan sorcerer to a drunkard, traveling

through the towns on a turkey-drawn sleigh. In 1863, Thomas Nast, a cartoonist for Harper's weekly, created a version of Santa Claus that greatly reflected the robber barons of the 19th century. However, the story of Santa Clause, reindeer and all, was created before Nast's 1863 drawing. In 1822, Clement Clarke Moore, a minister, wrote "A Visit from St. Nicholas," better known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas." In this well-known story, Moore details Santa's journey down the chimney and introduces Santa's beloved reindeer.

Did Americans always celebrate Christmas?

American Puritans in Boston, following the lead of their English counterparts, outlawed Christmas in 1659. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five

shillings! The stifling domination of the Boston Puritans did not, however, spread to all American colonies. The Jamestown settlement of Virginia, lead by Captain John Smith, whole-heartedly participated in the Christmas celebration. In fact, this merry group of revelers was the first to drink eggnog—a drink that gets its name from grog, any drink containing rum.

After the revolution, when all things English fell out of favor, Christmas was seen as a vestige of the old world and was roundly rejected by the American people. From 1789 to 1849, the U.S. Congress actually sat in session on Christmas Day! It wasn't until the early 19th century, when most Americans began to feel the emptiness associated with the lack of an end-of-the-year celebration that Christmas began to reemerge as an important holiday for the new American nation.

Why do we eat candy canes during the Christmas season?

Legend states that candy canes were originally invented in 1670 by a choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany. These sugary delights were used as a method of keeping children quiet during church services. The legend also states that these treats were at first enjoyed in simple stick form, but were later bent into a cane shape to represent a shepherd's staff. In the early 1900s, Americans added the red stripes to the candy cane, transforming the once boring white cane into the Christmas icon we all know and love.

THE VIRTUAL STUDENT CENTER AT NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

The Virtual Student Center (VSC) is an electronic tool that centralizes campus and external support services into an interactive electronic format accessible to students via the NJCU homepage and the GothicNet portal.

<http://web.njcu.edu/dept/vsc>

NJCU is committed to providing its student population with the resources needed to meet and exceed their academic, leadership, and career goals. With that objective in mind, the VSC's interactive academic/student support service site is the online guide to:

- Accessing online academic assistance in math, statistics, writing, literacy and the sciences
- Locating on-campus Student Support Services available at NJCU including tutoring services and study skills assistance
 - Acquiring information about your major including scholarships, research opportunities, and internships
 - Accessing quick-links to Campus Life and NJCU student clubs and organizations
 - Learning about the various NJCU Learning Communities

For more information,
contact Rafael Gajilan,
University Service
Center Coordinator,
via email at
rgajilan@njcu.edu.



ENTERTAINMENT

Quantum of Solace: Less Quantum, More Solace

By Gustavo Lazo

Casino Royale, released in 2006, had quite the impact on moviegoers. We were introduced to Daniel Craig's James Bond, who played him with a hint of realism, irony, and dark humor. The film went to great lengths to avoid many Bond clichés, and it paid off. Two years later, we have *Quantum of Solace*, which can only be defined as an entertaining mess. When we watch an occasionally compelling scene with Craig and Judi Dench as M, or Craig and Jeffrey Wright as CIA operative, Felix Leiter, we are reminded moments later of how directionless the story is in the big picture, as well as spending time comprehending the action sequences in serious need of re-editing. Even the theme song, performed by Alicia Keys and Jack White of The White Stripes, is off-putting and off-key. Still, in the end, I was entertained enough. Perplexing, isn't it?

The film begins moments after the final minutes of *Royale*, with

Bond discovering the identity of the mysterious Mr. White and extracting information about the organization he works for. Bond is looking for vengeance over the death of Vesper Lynd, *Royale*'s Bond Girl. Also, a "philanthropist" named Dominic Greene is doing bad things, apparently, but you know only this when he spits out a one-liner with that exotic accent and does the evil grin. In this mess, we meet the beautiful Camille (Olga Kurylenko), the vengeful Bond Girl who lacks the charm and personality of Vesper, which was probably the point. Even by the end, we sense no real attachment between her and 007. The more interesting character, an agent played by Gemma Arterton, meets an interesting fate that pays homage to the classic *Goldfinger*. Occasionally, we get action scenes that range from confusing (a rooftop chase in Italy), to decent (the opening scene), to the best *Quantum* has to offer (an aerial dogfight in the Bolivian desert; the final fight scene).

Daniel Craig is undoubtedly su-

perb as Bond. In this installment, he is more somber, and clearly tortured, but it's how cold, meticulous, and methodical he is in his actions that make his enemies fear him and the audience love him. His defining moment in *Quantum* occurs when he holds a dying man in his arms, sympathizing, only to casually place his corpse in a dumpster a minute later, removing money from his wallet. Credit should also go to Dame Judi Dench, who does so well opposite Craig. Their chemistry is so admirable that the audience feels that tension, ready to cut with the proverbial knife. The same can be said about the scene between Craig and Wright who share, quite possibly, the most frigid three minutes on-screen before an action scene begins.

Scenes between Bond and Greene (Mathieu Almaric) barely qualify as captivating, and their most enthralling scene is their final one. *Quantum of Solace* suffers because it is merely an action film featuring James Bond, rather than a James Bond film. It makes for



a decent action film, and I would probably watch it again wondering how I react to it a second time. Also, the themes of the oil business and anti-imperialism may not be to everyone's liking. I didn't hate this film, only disappointed, especially because I knew *Casino*

Royale would be a hard act to follow, so *Quantum* ends up being nothing more than a sequel. Craig and Dench make it work, though, but maybe the writers can come up with something better after marathon viewings of *From Russia with Love*.

CONCERT REVIEW

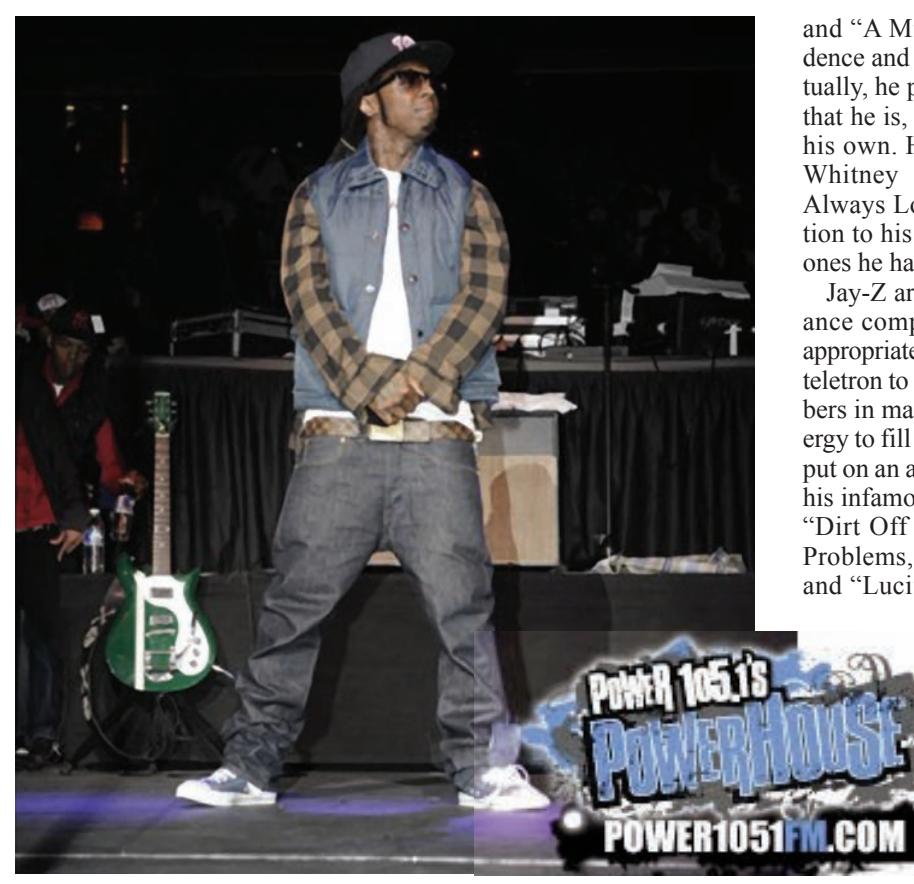
Powerhouse with Jay-Z and Lil Wayne

By Leanne Aciz

As a frequent concert attendee, I am always excited when I am granted the opportunity to enjoy a performance by an artist I've never seen before. On October 1, I was lucky enough to catch the Powerhouse 105.1 concert featuring Jay-Z, NeYo and Lil Wayne. With Lil Wayne (Dwayne Carter)'s recent skyrocketing popularity and catchy songs, I didn't mind spending \$85 in order to see him alongside the original Mr. (Sean) Carter, Jay Z in hopes of seeing them perform their collaborated song named respectfully "Mr. Carter."

The concert almost didn't take place, which would have left a lot of New York and Jersey fans quickly turning their back on rap's new brain-child. A night earlier, in Boston, JayZ and Lil Wayne were obligated to play a concert when Lil Wayne absolutely refused to perform due to his avoiding the metal detectors inside the arena. However, the Boston show went on, with Jay-Z playing two sets to make up for Lil Wayne's carelessness which set the tone for their concert the next day in East Rutherford.

Regardless, the concert-goers at the IZOD Center were in for a pleasant surprise. Not only did Lil Wayne show up, but all of the acts performed wonderfully. Ne-Yo impressed the crowd with his seemingly impossible dance moves and by singing his hits "Miss Independent" "Closer" and



"Because of You." While I am not that big of a fan of Ne-Yo, I couldn't help but dance along to his singing and appreciate this newcomer being able to hold his own against big-timers like Jay-Z and Lil Wayne.

Lil Wayne put on a gritty, raw performance full of grunts, both-hands-grasping-the-microphone-wails and evil laughs. There was not one second of his set that I was disappointed and for as long as he was on stage, the entire arena

was on their feet singing and dancing along to his songs. His charisma and swagger seemed to have mesmerized all of those watching him on stage, and the songs he chose to sing seemed very appropriate. While strumming along to an electric guitar (let me make it clear, he was NOT actually playing it), he sang "Shoot Me Down" full of emotion with tears brimming in his eyes. Lil Wayne sang "Got Money," "I'm Me," "Lollipop"

and "A Milli" with such confidence and enthusiasm that eventually, he proved to the audience that he is, indeed, in a league of his own. He ended his set with Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" as a dedication to his fans and of the loved ones he has lost over time.

Jay-Z arrived for his performance completely prepared with appropriate videos to show on the teletron to the crowd, band members in matching outfits, and energy to fill the entire arena. Jay-Z put on an amazing set by playing his infamous classic hits such as "Dirt Off Your Shoulder," "99 Problems," "Hard-Knock Life" and "Lucifer." One noteworthy surprise guest was DJ AM, who had been in a tragic airplane crash about a month earlier, but insisted on getting back on his feet and joining Jay Z's tour. The best surprise appearance of the night was when

his wife, Beyoncé, came out and interrupted his performance to sing "Single Ladies" while dancing, holding up her ring finger to proclaim, finally, that yes, she and Jay-Z are married. Jay-Z's energy was contagious and it was impossible to not sing along and enjoy his set.

One of the main things that Jay-Z and Lil Wayne both discussed was the upcoming election. During Jay-Z's set, pictures of Obama began flashing on the

screen and all of a sudden the stadium erupted into cheers. Jay-Z remarked proudly, "Rosa Parks sat on that bus so Martin Luther King could speak, so Obama could run, so we could fly." Fans began to chant rapidly and salute Jay-Z and the pictures up on the teletron, which concerned some audience members nearby who remarked that the crowd was reminiscent of Hitler's followers. Jay-Z also felt the vibe as well because he quickly noted after singing "Minority Report" (his tune that famously bashes Bush that was also performed while pictures of his were jeered on the teletron), "I'm not telling you what to do. I'm telling you what I'm doing." His endorsement and impressive speech about Obama had left an impression on the crowd, along with hope and excitement.

Unfortunately, I never got to hear "Mr. Carter," the live-dual version, because Jay-Z and Lil Wayne never played alongside each other which was disappointing.

I'd like to thank Jay-Z for being the only performer I've ever seen in East Rutherford at Giants Stadium, Izod Center, or the late Continental Airlines Arena, for knowing that he was playing a show in New Jersey, and not in New York. He also personally thanked each section of the arena at the end of the show, specifically pointing out and talking with fans while still on stage, showing why the East side remains loyal.

SPORTS

Charlie Brown Court Dedicated

Hundreds of friends, family, former players and Gothic Knight basketball supporters were in attendance on Saturday, November 15, as New Jersey City University officially dedicated the arena floor at the John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center in honor of retired men's basketball coaching icon Charlie Brown, '65 (M.A., '85).

The event capped a two-day celebration of Brown's career, and was preceded by a four-hour retirement dinner on November 14, which will directly fund a "Coach" Charlie Brown Endowed Scholarship Fund for NJCU students.

"Some have reached out to me in recent weeks," Brown said, "to let me know their feelings on the [court dedication] and they felt it was deserved. They're all excited about it, as are members of my family."

Before NJCU's 78-74 victory over York College (NY) on Saturday afternoon, the official unveiling ceremonies were held. Brown's youngest son, current NJCU head coach Marc Brown, was joined by 1991 graduate and team captain Jeff Jordan on one sideline. The namesake of the building, John J. Moore, '56, a 1989 men's basketball Hall-of-Famer and former NJCU Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was joined on the other sideline by his wife Carmela Moore. Both are long-time Gothic Knight supporters and



Photo by Richard Ryals

Charlie Brown along with Lillian Hernández, wife of NJCU President Hernández.

friends of Charlie Brown. Each group removed a floor covering as the crowd counted down for the official naming of "Charlie Brown Court."

Brown, accompanied by Mrs. Lillian Hernández, wife of NJCU President Dr. Carlos Hernández, then tossed a ceremonial first opening tip on the newly dedicated floor.

"God has blessed me and my family and given me the opportunity to do something special that I have enjoyed," the coach said. "I have been rewarded not just with wins but companionship with players who have become friends of mine."

Following the game, Brown was presented with one final gift as a spotlight beamed down on

the darkened floor, and his family uncovered a portrait taken with the lettering on the floor in the foreground.

NJCU became the first school among the 25 Division I, II and III institutions in the state to dedicate its game court to a coach. Brown is now one of only a handful of coaches anywhere in the United States in Division I, II, III or NAIA history to have a court named in his honor.

Said Brown, "I look back sometimes and I came to work every day and did what I thought was right. I never thought I'd be rewarded in this way."

Courtesy of Ira Thor & www.njcugothicknights.com.

THE GOTHIC TIMES

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GSUB, 2039 Kennedy Blvd, Room 301
Jersey City, NJ 07305
201-200-3575
gothictimes@njcu.edu

Policies of The Gothic Times

Letters to the Editor are welcome from any member of the campus community. Editors reserve the right to edit for space. Please address all correspondence to Editor of *The Gothic Times* in GSUB, 2039 Kennedy Blvd, Room 301. We cannot guarantee the return of any submissions. If you wish to have the letter returned, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Letters to the Editor can also be sent to gothictimes@njcu.edu. All letters must be typed and include full name, age, major/occupation, class year, and hometown. A letter submission does not guarantee publication. *The Gothic Times* looks forward to hearing from you.

The adviser of *The Gothic Times* is not responsible for the content or the opinions expressed in the newspaper. All editorial content is subject to the review of *The Gothic Times* Editor. All opinions expressed on the Opinion Page, and those held by advertisers, are not necessarily those of *The Gothic Times*.

This paper is printed on recycled content newspaper.

ENJOY NJCU SPORTS?

If you'd like to contribute to our Sports Page by writing, reporting, photographing, and/or editing, shoot us an email at gothictimes@njcu.edu.

Composite NJCU Sports Schedule

December 2008 – January 2009

DAY	DATE	SPORT	OPPONENT / LOCATION	TIME/RESULT	DAY	DATE	SPORT	OPPONENT / LOCATION	TIME/RESULT
Wed.	12/3/08	Women's Basketball	at Montclair State University ** Montclair, NJ	5:30 PM	Wed.	1/14/09	Men's Basketball	MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
Wed.	12/3/08	Men's Basketball	at Montclair State University ** Montclair, NJ	7:30 PM	Wed.	1/14/09	Women's Basketball	at Manhattanville College Purchase, NY	7:00 PM
Sat.	12/6/08	Women's Bowling	at Jeanette Lee Invitational (Host: St. Paul's University) Lawrenceville, VA	10:00 AM	Sat.	1/17/09	Women's Basketball	KEAN UNIVERSITY * Jersey City, NJ	2:00 PM
Sat.	12/6/08	Women's Basketball	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-CAMDEN * Jersey City, NJ	2:00 PM	Sat.	1/17/09	Men's Basketball	KEAN UNIVERSITY * Jersey City, NJ	4:00 PM
Sat.	12/6/08	Men's Basketball	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-CAMDEN * Jersey City, NJ	4:00 PM	Mon.	1/19/09	Men's Basketball	at Trinity College (CT) Hartford, CT	7:30 PM
Sun.	12/7/08	Men's Indoor Track and Field	at Seton Hall University Games South Orange, NJ	9:00 AM	Wed.	1/21/09	Women's Basketball	at Ramapo College ** Mahwah, NJ	5:30 PM
Sun.	12/7/08	Women's Indoor Track and Field	at Seton Hall University Games South Orange, NJ	9:00 AM	Wed.	1/21/09	Men's Basketball	at Ramapo College ** Mahwah, NJ	7:30 PM
Sun.	12/7/08	Women's Bowling	at Jeanette Lee Invitational (Host: St. Paul's University) Lawrenceville, VA	10:00 AM	Thurs	1/22/09	Men's Volleyball	LEHMAN COLLEGE Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
Mon.	12/8/08	Men's Basketball	BERKELEY COLLEGE Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM	Sat.	1/24/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field	at Wesleyan University Invitational Middletown, CT	10:00 AM
Tues.	12/16/08	Women's Basketball	at Farmingdale State College Farmingdale, NY	6:00 PM	Sat.	1/24/09	Women's Bowling	at Lady Bulldogs Classic (Host: Bowie State University) Laurel, MD	10:00 AM
Tues.	12/16/08	Men's Basketball	at Farmingdale State College Farmingdale, NY	8:00 PM	Sat.	1/24/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field	at Wesleyan University Invitational Middletown, CT	10:00 AM
Sat.	12/20/08	Women's Basketball	vs. Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (in Pasadena Caltech Classic) Pasadena, CA	12:00 PM	Sat.	1/24/09	Women's Basketball	RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE * Jersey City, NJ	10:00 AM
Sun.	12/21/08	Women's Basketball	at California Institute of Technology (in Pasadena Caltech Classic) Pasadena, CA	12:00 PM	Sat.	1/24/09	Men's Basketball	RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE * Jersey City, NJ	5:00 PM
Sat.	1/3/09	Men's Basketball	at College of Staten Island Staten Island, NY	2:30 PM	Sun.	1/25/09	Women's Bowling	at Lady Bulldogs Classic (Host: Bowie State University) Laurel, MD	7:00 PM
Wed.	1/7/09	Women's Basketball	WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY ** Jersey City, NJ	6:00 PM	Mon.	1/26/09	Women's Basketball	at John Jay College New York, NY	10:00 AM
Wed.	1/7/09	Men's Basketball	WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY ** Jersey City, NJ	8:00 PM	Mon.	1/26/09	Men's Basketball	at John Jay College New York, NY	5:00 PM
Sat.	1/10/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field	at Yale University Invitational New Haven, CT	10:00 AM	Tues.	1/27/09	Men's Volleyball	BARUCH COLLEGE Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
Sat.	1/10/09	Women's Bowling	at Terriers Knockdown (Host: St. Francis College) Staten Island, NY	10:00 AM	Wed.	1/28/09	Women's Basketball	at Rutgers-Newark ** Newark, NJ	5:30 PM
Sat.	1/10/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field	at Yale University Invitational New Haven, CT	10:00 AM	Wed.	1/28/09	Men's Basketball	at Rutgers-Newark ** Newark, NJ	7:30 PM
Sat.	1/10/09	Women's Basketball	at The College of New Jersey * Ewing, NJ	1:00 PM	Thurs	1/29/09	Men's Volleyball	BROOKLYN COLLEGE Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
Sat.	1/10/09	Men's Basketball	at The College of New Jersey * Ewing, NJ	3:00 PM	Fri.	1/30/09	Women's Bowling	at Kutztown Invitational Reading, PA	3:00 PM
Sun.	1/11/09	Women's Bowling	at Terriers Knockdown (Host: St. Francis College) Staten Island, NY	10:00 AM	Fri.	1/30/09	Men's Volleyball	CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
Mon.	1/12/09	Women's Basketball	NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY Jersey City, NJ	6:00 PM	Sat.	1/31/09	Women's Bowling	at Kutztown Invitational Reading, PA	10:00 AM
Mon.	1/12/09	Men's Basketball	NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY Jersey City, NJ	8:00 PM	Sat.	1/31/09	Women's Basketball	at Rowan University * Glassboro, NJ	1:00 PM
					Sat.	1/31/09	Men's Basketball	at Rowan University * Glassboro, NJ	3:00 PM

For more information about your Gothic Knights Sports Teams go to www.njcugothicknights.com

ARTS



28TH BLACK MARIA FILM + VIDEO FESTIVAL

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Look for Maria in '09

By Daniel Morteh and
Willa Goldthwaite

In a couple of months, students of New Jersey City University will witness the 28th Annual Black Maria Film and Video Festival in the Margaret Williams Theatre. Featuring short films ranging from experimental to animation and short features, the festival is an asset to aspiring young filmmakers in NJCU's Media Arts Department. Over \$10,000 in prizes is awarded annually to independent filmmakers participating in the festival.

"We get roughly anywhere from seven hundred to a thousand submissions a year," said Louis Libitz, the Assistant Director and Program Coordinator of the Black Maria Film and Video Festival for the past two years. "They go through a rigorous pre-screening process, and then we have four to five individuals who will jury the work. They are prominent figures in media, film, video, and in the art world in general."

Raised in Jersey City, Libitz graduated from the Media Arts Department at NJCU and then went on to obtain his MFA in Art Video from Syracuse University. In addition to working for the festival, Libitz is an adjunct professor of Foundations of Media Design at NJCU.

The Black Maria Film and Video Festival was named after the world's first motion picture



Photo by Daniel Morteh

Assistant Director Louis Libitz at work.

film studio, the Black Maria, built by Thomas Edison in 1893 in West Orange, New Jersey. Founded in 1981 by John Columbus, the festival begins at

NJCU and then tours for six months reaching approximately sixty national and international venues. Practically, every individually curated program is present-

ed in person by Columbus, who is now the Festival's Executive Director.

"We are interested in works that reveal an inventive, insightful,

and uncommon spirit," Libitz said.

Black Maria, which is held at NJCU in February of every year, stands apart from other New Jersey film festivals such as the Cape May Film Festival and the Trenton Film Festival. It is the longest running film festival on the east coast, as old as the Sundance Film Festival. The Black Maria focuses on short form films and supports independent filmmakers, staying away from mainstream entertainment.

"We're different from Sundance, since we're dedicated to the short form," Libitz said. "A lot of the films we have are done on an individual basis and not as a collaborative art form, which film [usually] is. But a lot of the pieces you'll see at Sundance are in more of a major film orientation of a crew."

The film festival has helped the careers of many independent filmmakers by granting them credibility and jumpstarting their transition from guerilla filmmakers to award-winning directors and producers.

"It gives the students that are in media, whether they are focusing in film or video or animation, the chance to see the inner workings of a film festival," Libitz said. "It is a good thing for them."

For more information, please visit www.blackmariofilmfestival.org

Call for Artists/Writers

Support our school newspaper!

The Gothic Times seeks artists, photographers, and writers to contribute to the Arts section in the upcoming semester.

Take advantage of this opportunity to be featured in *The Gothic Times* and have your work published!

All original work will be considered. Please e-mail willa_njcu@me.com with submissions or request for more information.

Arts Calendar

December 8 at noon
Hepburn Hall, Room 202
Lecture by Dr. Kevin Concannon
Yoko Ono Imagining Peace, 1966–2008

December 15 – January 19
The Gallery at the Visual Arts Building
High School Senior Art Exhibition
(organized by Matthew Lahm)
Opening reception and awards ceremony:
Dec. 15, 5:00 – 8:00pm

JERSEY CITY
58 Gallery www.fifty8.com
Gallery esORO www.esorogallery.com
Lex Leonard Gallery www.lexleonardgallery.com

NEWARK
Rupert Ravens Contemporary (above) www.rupertravens.net
Newark Public Library www.npl.org

NEW YORK CITY
Studio Museum Harlem www.studiomuseum.org
Museum of Modern Art www.moma.org
P.S.1 www.ps1.org
Brooklyn Museum www.brooklynmuseum.org

Other Events www.thel-magazine.com

Chelsea Gallery Guide www.citysearch.com/feature/37254/



ADVICE

Dealing with Holiday Stress

By Alissa Koval-Dhaliwal, Ph.D.
Psychologist
NJCU Counseling Center

Ask NJCU students what images come to mind when they think of the "holiday season" and you're likely to hear about shopping excursions, decorating, parties, family gatherings, religious observances, cooking, and gift exchanges. However, for many of us, holidays can also be draining, disappointing, lonely and tense. Inability to be with loved ones, financial worries due to increased spending, family conflicts, increased demands on one's time, and not having enough personal space can all contribute to stress overload.

Being realistic about one's expectations can help reduce stress overload. Here are some things you can do to help keep the "holiday blues" in check:

Don't aim for "the best holiday season ever." This is a set up for disappointment.

Be practical about what you can and can't do. Make sure what you commit to is truly manageable, given your daily obligations.

Break larger tasks down into smaller tasks, and pace yourself.

Plan a holiday budget and stick to it. In addition to gift expenditures, account for the "hidden costs" of extra transportation use, celebratory foods and beverages, charitable donations, extra phone calls to friends and family, greeting cards, and postage. Consider some festive activities that incur little spending, such as attending public school concerts, walking or driving around to view holiday decorations in your neighborhood, or going to New York City to enjoy store window displays.

Spend time with supportive people. If you're unable to be with loved ones, reach out to others who may be in the same position and make a plan to keep each other company.

Watch your alcohol intake. Remember that alcohol is a depressant, and excess drinking will leave you feeling tired and down.

Do something for others who are experiencing misfortune in their lives. Helping others gives us a sense of meaning and purpose, distracts us from our own troubles, and helps us to recognize the things we are grateful for in our own lives.

Take care of your body. It may be tempting to overindulge in holiday treats or to skip workouts, but healthy eating and exercise plans are great buffers against stress.

Celebrate the holidays in new ways. Developing fresh traditions can be as enjoyable as participating in old ones. Change is a part of life; even when we don't choose it, we can empower ourselves by taking an active approach in adjusting to the transformation.

Don't aim for 'the best holiday season ever'... it is a set up for disaster

The Icing on the Cake

A Sizzling Term Paper Delivers Hot Expectations

By Daniels Tornyenu

Death and taxes may be the two solid certainties in life but for a college student, a TERM PAPER is easily the third constant.

An NJCU instructor once confessed to me that "there is a visceral connection between a great term paper and a student's final grade." I couldn't agree more. But how do you make a term paper count if you are a struggling writer? The following tips can help you turn in a crisp, well written term paper that will nudge up your grades by a letter:

Think Topic Through: Too often, many of us get excited about a word or phrase in a topic and run with it without first thinking through the subject matter. Do a thorough reading of the topic before you begin.

Write Exhaustively: Once you define the topic, write freely and exhaustively without pause. Train your mind to resist the itch to edit words, lines, grammar etc. at this stage of writing. Save that for later but for now just write down every little detail you know about the subject. It is on-

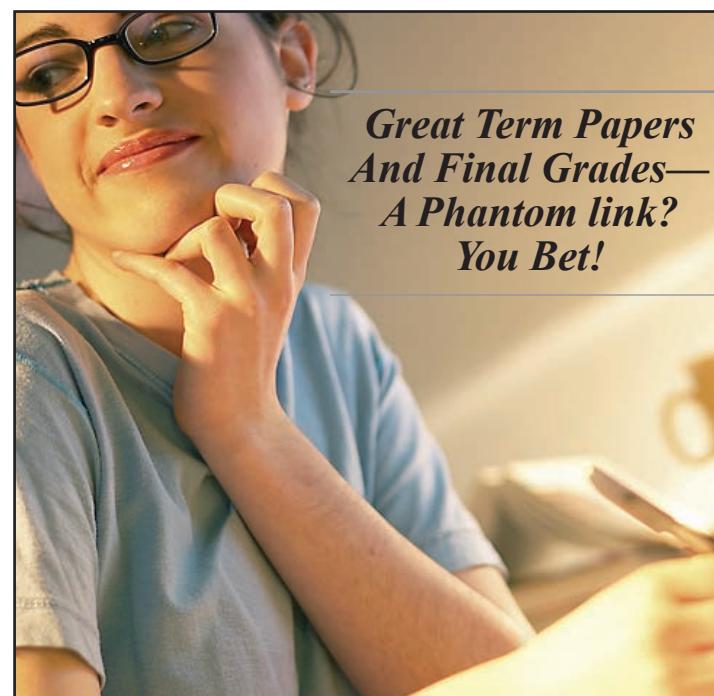


Photo.com

ly when you write down enough material on your topic do you begin to see patterns emerge. Trim these patterns and connections during editing to get the core material for a great essay.

Seek Help: NJCU boasts a formidable crew of peer tutors as well as adjunct faculty in its two ma-

jor writing labs in the Karnoutsos building. Because you are assigned one hour slots – a quarter of which is set aside for the "extra-tutoring" issues – it is wise to come prepared with your work. Great as they are, tutors can't work magic with a blank paper. Call 201-200-3476

for more info.

Take a Stand: Nothing vexes an instructor more than a diffident writer who vacillates from point to point without taking a definitive stand on a paper that can't be presented otherwise. Make your case, however unpopular, and defend it.

Rewrites Are Mandatory: Make brevity and clarity the focus of your rewrites and edits. Get friends who are unafraid to give their honest opinion to proofread your paper and take their inputs and suggestions seriously.

Libraries at Your Finger Tips: One of the coolest joys of the internet age is the great resource it places in the hands of the individual. Students can access the Guarini Library online at www.njcu.edu/Guarini/home.htm (the phone number is 201-200-3030). Also, if you have specific research quandaries in the middle of the night, it might help to go to www.qandanj.org. If it is practical, you may save yourself some time from the commute and work from home.

Nothing closes a semester like an excellent term paper. Until next semester, be well. I thank you for your support.

... Go Forth Bearing (Smart) Gifts

Spend Less, Connect More This Holiday Season

By Latisha Barrett

I consider myself a perennial shopper giving throughout the year and not much of a seasonal shopper awaiting occasions in order to give. Being a student in an economy with the highest job loss in many years makes giving especially challenging during this holiday season. With careful planning and some creativity however, giving gifts to your loved ones should not be a burden.

Here are a few ways you can give more and spend less without breaking the bank.

Make a List of The People Most Deserving of Your Gifts:

One virtue of a carefully thought out list is the way it minimizes the risk of opportunistic purchases. As you make your list, you tend to visualize the items that would make the best gifts for each individual on your list. Buy gifts for only those who are most important to you.

Make a Budget and Stick to it.

For every dollar you plan to spend save fifty cents. Set a realistic spending goal that doesn't require you using money that will leave your bank account dry or credit cards maxed out.

Give a Sweet Treat. Bake several dozens of cookies and put them in decorative tin cans purchased from the dollar store. Give this



Give a New Years Gift. Some of the best savings have been known to take place after the holidays when prices are often slashed 75% and up. For example I purchased a nice black dress last year from Macy's usually marked \$90.00 for \$6.48. Gifts given after the holidays make great surprises because they are least expected.

Use Coupons. Don't be afraid to shop using coupons for every penny discounted is a penny saved.

Going out of Business Deals. Shop at local or national chains that are going out of business. With the economy in such a frenzy stores all around us are going out of business. But be careful however, and continue to shop around as prices may not be slashed as deep as we would like them to be.

Give Love. Monetary gifts are valued though to give love is priceless. We are often bombarded with material things when what most of us are searching for is love.

Remember guys the holidays are a time for sharing and cheer. Do not search your wallets; search from your hearts. The gifts we remember most are the ones that touch us on an emotional level. This holiday season make your gifts connect. Happy Holidays!!!

to friends and coworkers. If you really want to make an impression top each can off with a colorful bow and include a nice personalized card. You will be surprised how much people enjoy baked goods as gifts.

Shop on The Clearance Rack. Head for the clearance rack before even looking at the sale items. Last week I purchased an eighty dollar Oneida silverware set for \$18.35 on clearance at Kohl's. Guys remember the early birds catch the worms maxim; the best clearance items are out first thing in the morning.

Make your gift connect: Give Love

Shop online. Often our favorite stores have better deals online. I've also found that online websites have a wider selection and better sale bargains. If you are worried about shipping and handling visit Overstock.com. This website sparks a budget bandit's interest because the shipping costs are as low as \$2.50 per order.

Recycle. Has a friend or family member ever admired a small trinket or item that belongs to you? If it is an item you can live without clean it up and put it in a nice holiday bag and give it out as a gift.