

GSUB Opens at Last!

By Mabel Montero

After three years of waiting, the Gilligan Student Union Building, also known as the GSUB, officially opened its doors to all the New Jersey City University students. The final electrical, plumbing, and fire inspections for NJCU's renovated GSUB have been passed and approved.

"I thought it was never going to be officially open. It took forever to look the way it does now. I'm just sad it took this long, I won't enjoy it much since I graduate this semester," said Maria L. from Jersey City, 37-year-old.

"I thought it was never going to be open, it took forever to look the way it does now"

The twenty-two million dollar building is furnished with high-end fittings, newly installed heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. The entrance is a social atmosphere that's characterized by its key design that features a flat screen TV and a modishly constructed staircase that leads to the second floor. The first thing students see is the bookstore on their left, and across the bookstore, thin client computer kiosks, in case any student needs to do a quick search.



Photo by Santo Sanabria

caption

Comfy chairs can be found throughout the GSUB where students can relax, read and hang out with friends. A small snack bar is situated next to the University Service Center surrounded by tables and chairs. The GSUB wall is lined with lights that make students feel like they are in a real restaurant."

"It helps because there's less people on the line up here, since a new snack bar opened downstairs," said 18-year-old freshman, Andre Viola who is undecided about his major.

On the first floor of the GSUB, students will find the offices for the Academic Services for Evening Students, Campus Life,

Student Government Organization, and the Dean of Students. Across the bookstore will be The University Service Center.

The second floor will house the Student Union Café, the Culinary Food Service office, the Round Table Dining Room, the Latino Cultural Center, a game room, and various multipurpose, conference,

and meeting rooms.

The third floor will be office of the Reverend Luke Edelen, NJCU's Campus Chaplain, the many student clubs and organizations, the Speicher-Rubin-Women's Center, the Counseling Center, the Family Resource Center, and more conference halls.

Continued on page 3

Inside...	
A Sad Farewell to Heath Ledger	
Page 7	
News	...Pages 1-3
Editorial	...Page 4
Opinion	...Page 5
Photography	...Pages 6
Entertainment	...Pages 7-8
Advice	...Page 9
Arts	...Page 10
Sports	...Pages 11-12

Barack Obama Holds Rally in Jersey City

By Marlen Gonzalez

Over 2,000 people were "fired up" to hear Presidential hopeful Barack Obama speak on Wednesday, January 9th in Jersey City.

"My voice is a little hoarse, my eyes are a little bleary, my back is a little sore, but my spirit is strong," the U.S. Senator from Illinois confessed to the packed gym at St. Peter's College. "I am ready to bring about change in America, how about you?"

"I've been waiting here for two hours and it's well worth it," said Raul Garcia, 28, a writing instructor and tutor at New Jersey City University from Jersey City. "[Obama's] really about cleaning the mess the previous administration left."

The Democratic candidate is running for president because of what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called "The fierce urgency of now." Obama said that citizens have lost faith in their government and will be happy to see that George Bush's name will not be

on the ballot come this November 4. The statement erupted into a crowd chant of, "O-BA-MA! O-BA-MA! O-BA-MA!"

"I think it's great to meet one of the presidential candidates, Senator Barack Obama," said Ismael Sid, 21, a political science major at St. Peter's College from Weehawken. "It's an opportunity we don't always get to have. I think it's important because it's one way of reaching out to the students and people especially those who don't want to get involved in politics."

According to a report published in the February 11, 2008 issue of Time magazine, 29 percent of the 18-to-29-year-olds surveyed would vote for Obama.

"I still have to do a lot more research," said Daniel Morte, 24, a media arts major at NJCU from Jersey City. "I want to see his actual plans and who he has selected as his cabinet. He has a really good chance, as well as Hillary."

If elected president, Obama said he would provide "every single person with healthcare at least as



Photo by Cristina Villaflor

Barack Obama making his way into St. Peters while photographers and supporters cheer him on in his run for President of the United States.

good as anyone in Congress." He plans to make college affordable by giving \$4,000 tuition every year to students in return for community service. Jersey City mayor Jeremiah Healy, Caroline Kennedy and Oprah Winfrey have endorsed Obama for presi-

dent. When a candidate wins a state primary or caucus, they win a certain number of delegates. In total, there are 4,049 Democratic and 2,380 Republican delegates. In order to win the nomination, a

Continued on page 3

NEWS

\$INGLES BEWARE...**... Enjoy Valentine's day if you dare***Singles at the NJCU campus community have discovered that a little chunk of change can buy one a whole lot of love.*

By Victoria Llerena

Valentine's Day, the traditional day for lovers has frustrated Americans with its bombardment of commercially sold products that lucrative businesses cash in from consumers' pockets. According to a 2005 Valentine's Day Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey, while the average American will spend \$97.27 on Valentine's Day, singles at the New Jersey City University campus community have discovered that spending time with friends, family, and oneself is the affordable way to welcome the 14th of February minus the anxiety.

"Valentine's Day is not only for boyfriends and girlfriends. It's a day for whoever you love like mother or daughter. It's also a day to love yourself. It's a day for love," said Jennifer DellaVecchia, 29, biology and chemistry major from East Rutherford.

DellaVecchia who grew up with a military father recalls having low self-esteem while growing up. She admits that her best advice to others with low esteem is to self-examine oneself on Valentine's Day.

"The first step to love yourself is to take a good look in the mirror, instead of focusing on the negative things, I focus on my accomplishments, what I'm able to give another individual," said DellaVecchia, "Focus on positive things, get involved in any organization, and join a club or a church that day."

Others like Alanna Rialdi, 19, special education major from Secaucus, receives chocolates every year from her father on this holiday.

Like Rialdi, who will be enjoying a sweet box of chocolates, Americans will spend \$1,011 billion on candy on the 14th of February alone. Valentine's Day candy is the number one growing candy market of all seasonal holidays. The top two leading industries that profit from candy sales are Hershey Chocolate and Russell Stover.

"We're gonna send anonymous flowers to each other," giggles Rialdi who plans to exchange flowers with a close girlfriend.

According to www.census.gov/Pressrelease, 15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day. UPS will import 14.8 million fresh cut flowers into the United States from Colombia, the nation's number one leading supplier for flowers. And, 65% of those buying flowers will purchase red roses. With 26,400 florists nationwide who employ 123,000 people, flower profits cash in an estimated \$301.2 million.

Jean-Claude Ngatchou, a computer science professor, says that on the 14th of February, he will be taking his wife out for dinner followed by a nice bouquet of roses.

Ngatchou falls into the 74% of married couples who buy and give gifts on Valentine's Day.

"One of the best gifts to give for

Valentine's Day is a handmade gift," says Ngatchou. "The best Valentine's Day gift to my family is to make them realize that I love them unconditionally. Valentine's Day should be manifested everyday of the year".

Unlike Ngatchou, Jake Sacker-

"45% of the population, between ages of 18-24, is least likely to buy Valentine's Day gifts"

man, 20, criminal justice major from Harrison admits he is single this year for Valentine's Day but does not plan on spending that day alone.

"I'll probably go out and party with friends down at Rutgers. They usually have Valentines parties and suites".

MarketResearch.com's business database estimates that 45% of the population, between ages of 18-24, is least likely to buy Valentine's Day gifts.

Regina Lugo, 25, biology major from Hoboken says the best gift she could give is just a phone call away.

"I always call my mom, I make that phone call to Puerto Rico."

Bettye A. Burroughs, 66, secretary in the computer science department, from Jersey City says that after her husband's death eleven years ago, she has spent

Valentine's Day with her eldest son.

"I'll just relax and watch TV. My son will probably give candy or take me out to dinner with his girlfriend"

Statistics show that 44% of Americans will celebrate Valentine's Day on a date night.

Chocolates, roses, cards, expensive date nights, and heart shaped cookie cut treats: Where does Valentine's actually take its origin form? One legend has it that Valentine's Day is a day to commemorate the anniversary of a Roman clergyman who secretly married young couples against the emperor's rule. The clergyman was executed on February 13, 270 A.D. Other sources argue the celebration began as a Roman fertility festival. The traditional practice of card giving began in the 1840's with Esther Howland, from Massachusetts, who began selling the nation's first mass produced Valentine cards.

Whether it be the commemoration of a disobedient clergyman, sexual festivities, or old English style love cards, the celebration of Valentine's Day has welcomed cupid's mischievous love arrows as it is a holiday celebrated all over the world for over 15 decades. Statistics show that 61.5% of the population in the United States plans on celebrating this holiday. It is estimated that in 2008, romantic lovers will have spent \$13.70 billion.

NJCU Valentine Events for Students

The NJCU campus community has many activities taking place for Valentine's Day.

- Craig Morrison, Vice President of SGO Activities has arranged for a Hypnotist to perform at the Gilligan Student Union Theater R 129 on Wednesday, February 13th from 7-10pm.

- Alpha Phi Omega, National Coed Service Fraternity will be selling chocolates on Valentine's Day in campus.

- SGO Executive Board is sponsoring a one day seminar titled "Sex, Passion, Relationship, and Love" on Wednesday, February 20th GSUB Theater from 4-7pm.



Word on Campus

Photos and interviews by Santo Sanabria

Who do you think will win the presidential election?



Senior: Anthony Guerrero, 22
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Jersey City

I believe Hillary will win. She has a strong background in education. After Bush we need drastic change. Her advantage over competitors as former First Lady is a plus. Former president Clinton's reign in the U.S. was much better with better economy. It's about time the U.S. has a first female president!



Junior: Gabriela Hernandez, 20
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Jersey City

Of all the candidates Hillary Clinton will win her party's support, because she is very popular among the people and quite realistic about issues that need immediate attention in the U.S.



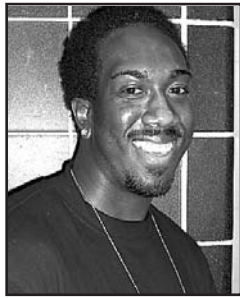
Sophomore: Sileeta Johnson, 24
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Hoboken

I think Barack Obama might have a shot at winning the nominations, especially after his victory win in Iowa. It's really too soon to tell because him and Hillary are neck and neck with each other. But one thing's for sure, this is the presidential race we've all been waiting for. This will definitely be historic.



Junior: Christine Wiebusch, 20
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Woodbridge

Hilary and Obama are the front runners in the Democratic race, and Huckabee, Romney and McCain are frontrunners for the Republican race. It is a close race at this point and still too early to really see who will get the nomination.



Junior: Jason Stafford, 21
Major: Psychology
Career: Youth Counselor

I haven't followed the presidential election news much at all these past few months. However, I'd like Barack Obama to win. If not him, then Hillary Clinton is my second choice. I don't want to seem ignorant because there is still a lot that needs to be considered by a voter before electing a president to office. But I think it would be great for this nation to finally have a female or African American male as its president."

NEWS

GSUB Open

Continued from page 1

"This building offers a lot for students. It's not just for students to eat, but also to enjoy time with their friends," said freshman Mercedes Capote, an 18-years-old arts major, "It's almost like a hang out spot, and it's an aid for all students living on campus and off campus."

The new GSUB building is fully functional to all students. It will have other services such as a self-service copy room, vending machines, ATM, a new Starbucks, a wireless network, study lounges and a student art gallery. "I'm not really on campus

much but when I am, I'm usually in the cafeteria. I'm happy it's open, it's a place to chill and relax. It's a stress free environment," said Jesse Vanegas, a 20-year-old freshman who's majoring in Sports Medicine.

The GSUB building has been filled with students who sit in the lounge, in the cafeteria, and students who even stand around and just talk to friends. From now on, NJCU students have a place to go to sit down and meditate on everything they have learned in the day.

"Meditate?" asked NJCU a student, "There's so much to do up in here, their aint gonna be any time for none of that meditation."



Photo by Cristina Villaflor

Obama Visit

Continued from page 1

Democratic candidate must win 2,025 delegates and a Republican must win 1,191 delegates. According to www.cnn.com, Senator Hillary Clinton leads the race as of Feb. 3 with 232 delegates while Obama has 158.

At the time of the Iraq war in 2002, Obama was not a U.S. senator. However, he did publicly oppose the war. If elected into office, he would bring the war in Iraq to a close and bring troops home. He told his supporters that

he would invest in cities like Jersey City and Newark instead of spending millions on war.

"I find Senator Obama's positions on 'conflict resolution' to be very inspiring," said NJCU fine arts Professor Brian Gustafson from Jersey City. "His positions on some of the most heinous situations on the globe (Afghanistan, Iraq, the never-mentioned-anymore Osama bin Laden) show strength and restraint at the same time. Simply put, he is not a bully."

Obama finished his speech with the message, "Nothing worth-

while has ever happened without hope."

"I came here to see what he had to say," said Melba Blanco, 24, a St. Peter's College graduate from Jersey City. "I wanted to see the reaction of the people. We need that hope back. He's here to bring hope."

Additional reporting done by Rossana Villaflor.

For more information on Obama's campaign go to www.barackobama.com.

For more information about the 2008 Presidential candidates go to www.cnn.com/POLITICS/

Junior Class Committee is Looking for YOU!

You want to have fun?
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mrozeneranc@njcu.edu

"Make Your Voice Heard By Your Actions"



VANESSA CUBILLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PLATANOS & COLLARD GREENS

Platanos & Collard Greens

The Hit Off-Broadway Play...

Coming to the Margaret Williams Theatre

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2008

Time: 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Location: New Jersey City University, Margaret Williams Theatre, J. F Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City

Platanos and Collard Greens, written by David Lamb and directed by Summer Hill Seven, tells the story of two college students, Freeman, an African-American man and Angelita, a Latino woman, both forced to confront and overcome cultural and racial prejudices while defending their bond from the biases held by family and friends.

For ticket info contact: ajohnson4@njcu.edu

Shakespeare company

The Merchant of Venice

West Side Theatre on the campus of NJCU
285 West Side Ave, Jersey City, New Jersey

Feb 21 – March 9

Thu/Fri at 8:00 Sat/Sun at 3:00

Theatremania.com or 866 811-4111

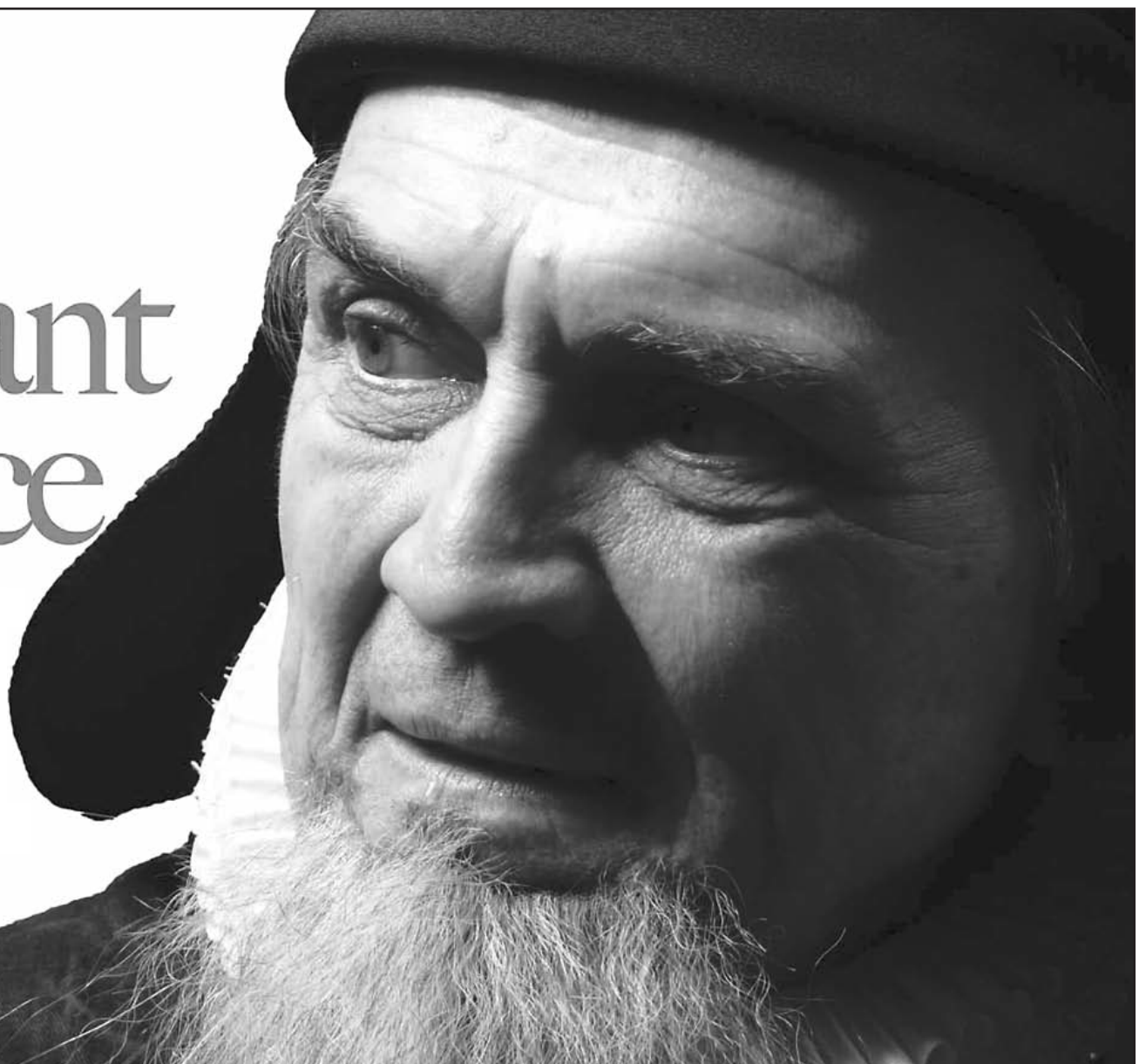
Tickets: \$30, Students, Seniors & Children \$15

More information: www.ascnj.org or 201 377 5105

This program was made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Actors Shakespeare Company
NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY



EDITORIAL

Write on the Money

By Vanessa Cubillo

I'm sure by now everyone has heard a little bit about the writer's strike that is going on in Hollywood. Writers were getting stiffed over DVD sales and internet episodes and they wanted to get compensated for it. So the writers decided to strike on November 5th and that strike has been going on ever since, though it may be over soon.

I think writers sometimes are taken for granted especially when it comes to movies and TV shows. People usually think of the actors, directors, and producers before they think of the writers. Still, I would think that TV writers take pride in the work they do and are happy with any success that their work takes in. Sometimes people just don't understand how that feels.

Take for example at this year's Screen Actors Guild awards. E! reporter, Debbie Matenopoulos, asked Ricky Gervais if he was

jealous that Steve Carell was more famous than him despite the fact that he created his character and the series.

Yeah, it's true we will never have screaming fans in the streets; we won't be able to buy a private island, half the time no one will even know what we look like. As a writer, we go into this profession knowing that we won't be pulling in lots of money. Actually it's pretty much a known fact that writers don't make a lot, I think we're one step up from the starving artist. So yes, it's a rare occasion for a writer to become a billionaire. We all can't write Harry Potter. So then why do we want to do it?

We write because we have a passion for writing. As journalist, we want to inform the public and express our feelings about the world. As writers, we want to tell the world a story and utilize our imagination. Writing is not something that is done in hopes

of achieving a big paycheck; it is done because it's what we want to do. Many times people have tried to talk me out of majoring in journalism because I wouldn't be making a lot of money. Parents, not even my own parents, have told me to forget about journalism and take up nursing. I even knew a mother who wanted her son to become a nurse so badly because she was afraid her son would end up a janitor. Now nothing is wrong with majoring in nursing if that's something you want to do, but if you don't, why would you do it?

As college students, when you decide to pick your major choose something that you really want to do. Don't pick something because you want to earn a lot of money. Sure, being rich would be nice but if you don't enjoy what you do then what's the point? So here's to the writers of the world and to everyone who does something because it makes them happy.



www.google.com

Writers picketing in New York.

Get Politically Involved

By Dr. Fran Moran

I'm not going too far out on a limb if I speculate that it's more likely that you've voted for an American Idol contestant than a presidential candidate. First, presidential elections only come along once every four years, whereas Idol is an annual affair. Second, Idol makes it much easier to vote. And finally, only 41.9% of the 18-24 year olds in the country actually voted in the 2004 presidential election (as compared to 72.8% of the 55-64 years olds, and 73.3% of the 65-74 year olds; the geezers get to the polls). Indeed, turnout among younger voters has never topped 50%. So odds are, while you didn't vote in the 2000 or 2004 elections you have voted at least somewhere. Simon, Paula, Randy, and Ryan have reached you in a way that Kerry, W, Bill and Bob didn't.

Clearly any candidate able to boost turnout among younger voters stands to gain a considerable advantage, which is why every couple of years, pundits and politicians come to extol the importance of voting to a population they otherwise ignore. But as noted above, these efforts

have not been particularly effective. It seems to me that boosting voter turnout among the young may be a Catch-22 kind of issue: more of you would vote if politicians paid more attention to issues relevant to you; but politicians won't pay attention to those issues until more of you vote. So rather than joining the chorus urging you to vote (since such exhortations fall on deaf ears, which, now that I think of it, may also account for some of those folks in the early Idol rounds), I'm instead going to suggest a few other ways to participate in American political life that may get you around to voting sooner rather than later.

1. Observe: Pay attention to the world around you and you'll begin to see that politics is everywhere. Traffic control, road maintenance, school, all of these mundane affairs to some extent or another involve political decisions and political actors. The governments in Washington and Trenton can seem distant, and the policy decisions enacted irrelevant, but you can see their impact once you start looking.

2. Get Informed: Obviously you can't be everywhere or

watch everything, so the next best thing is to read books, newspapers, and magazines, watch or listen to the news, and explore the vast array of information sources available online. The point is if the politicians won't come to you on your issues, at least get informed about theirs, because those issues will likely impact you at some level.

3. Volunteer: All sorts of groups out there need your help. With a little digging around you'll find groups active on whatever issues concern you, so donate time or money and start making a difference.

Right now, voter turnout in American political elections is closely correlated to education, income, and age (as each of these increase, so too do the odds of voting). Yet American Idol annually demonstrates that folks outside these demographic variables understand the importance and power of voting, and they'll vote if they're interested. The audience is there, and I gotta believe that somewhere in the political landscape there's a Carrie Underwood or at least a Sanjaya Malakar waiting if you start looking.

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PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY PRESENTS...

*Finding The Love of
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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008

WHERE: GSUB 129

TIME: 12PM

Presented by:

DR. ANSLEY LAMAR

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

OPINION

DEMOCRATS HAVE CHOSEN AND THEY HAVE CHOSEN POORLY

By Patrick Jarkowsky

Garden State Democrats will have strutted out of the voting booth on February 5th, filled with that tremendous sense of pride that only comes when one has participated in the most essential of civic duties. They will have felt secure in the knowledge that by casting their vote, their voices will have been heard. Most likely, they will have voted for experience, Senator Clinton, or change, Senator Obama. While this may have been their intention, in reality, their votes would not have been cast for experience or change, but rather for the continuation of a political and economic system that has ruined this country. A continuation of the likes of our current corporatist-in-chief, President George W. Bush.

Sure, Senators Clinton and Obama will change policies if elected president. They will push their agenda and change the direction of the country. They will attempt to create some sort of universal health care system, invest in clean energy technologies, restore some of the constitutional rights that have withered away under the current administration. They will attempt to do all of the things that Democrats speak of doing. What they will not do however, is change the essential process by which politicians are elected and political dynasties are created. What they will not do is destroy the corporatist stranglehold that is crippling our once great nation.

One only needs to examine the issue of health care in order to understand why these two front-runners would not destroy the corporatist system. If you just listen to the rhetoric, it would appear that all of the three leading Democratic candidates support the establishment of universal health care. But how do these candidates propose to accomplish their lofty health care goals?

Senator Obama has called for the gathering of all concerned parties around a "big table." He assumes that as president, he would have the unique ability to convince pharmaceutical companies and insurance companies to accept the substantial loss in overall profits that would arise if his health care plan is implemented. This type of thinking displays a naivety that seems to run throughout Senator Obama's "big table" message. The notion that drug companies and insurance companies, which in large part have played a destructive role in our health care system, are going to forgo millions of dollars in profits in order to extend health insurance to some children in Jersey City is simply and utterly absurd.

We must also question whether Senator Obama's desire to bring about substantive health care reform is sincere. According to The Center for Responsive Politics, Senator Obama has accepted



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Presidential candidates, Clinton, Obama and Edwards before he dropped out.

\$261,784 from the pharmaceutical and health care industries and \$390,513 from the insurance industry. Having donated such a large amount of money to Senator Obama's campaign, the pharmaceutical, health care, and insurance industries would seem to have the upper hand when negotiating around President Obama's "big table."

Although Senator Clinton has proposed a mandate for all Americans, we must question whether she can deliver on this promise. According to The Center for Responsive Politics, Senator Clinton has received \$269,436 from the pharmaceutical and health care industries and \$525,938 from the insurance industry. Furthermore, many of Senator Clinton's current and former advisers are linked to the Glover Park Group, a prominent lobbying and public relations firm. At the top of Glover Park's client list are many prominent pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA). Considering the fact that she has not only accepted such large amounts of money from pharmaceutical, health care, and insurance companies but that she has willingly and knowingly employed such a large amount of former pharmaceutical, health care, and insurance lobbyists in her campaign, we must question whether Senator Clinton's desire for universal health care is sincere or whether it is empty rhetoric.

As for Senator Edwards, it is clear that he does not agree with Senator Obama's "big table" proposal nor does he agree with Senator Clinton's decision to employ former pharmaceutical, health care, or insurance lobbyists. Dur-

ing the most recent New Hampshire debate, Senator Edwards made a clear distinction between his position and the position of his opponents. "These entrenched interests — whether you're talking about oil companies, drug companies, gas companies, whoever, — have a stranglehold on this democracy and they are having an incredibly destructive force on the middle class. The problem is you can't — take their money and then challenge them. It doesn't work. You have to be willing to actually stand up and say no — no to lobbyist money, no to PAC money." Senator Edwards further emphasized his desire to exclude former lobbyists from his administration. From "the first day that I'm president of the United States there will be no corporate lobbyists working in my White House." If elected, Senator Edwards will take on these entrenched corporate interests. With the help of the

American people and the advantage of the bully pulpit, President Edwards will force pharmaceutical companies and drug companies to restructure their respective industries in order to bring a system of universal healthcare to the American people.

This issue of universal health care will remain important well beyond the Democratic primaries. More importantly, it serves as an essential point of contrast between Senator Clinton, Senator Edwards, and Senator Obama. The difference in the nuts and bolts of their respective plans is important but somewhat subtle. What is not subtle is the manner in which these candidates will fight for health care. What is not subtle is the \$261,784 Senator Obama has received from the pharmaceutical and health care industries and the \$390,513 he has received from the insurance industry. What is not subtle is the

\$269,436 Senator Clinton has received from the pharmaceutical and health care industries and the \$525,938 she has received from the insurance industry.

I must echo the concise and eloquent remarks of my choice for president, Senator John Edwards, and ask an important and essential question. What's the point of replacing a bunch of corporate Republicans with a bunch of corporate Democrats?

As Democrats, do we want a candidate that accepts enormous donations from the pharmaceutical companies, health care companies, and insurance companies? Do we want a candidate that accepts \$567,950 from lobbyists (Senator Clinton)? Do we want a candidate that accepts \$220,550 from oil and gas companies (Senator Clinton)? Do we want a candidate that accepts \$194,750 from America's largest nuclear company and votes in favor of a controversial energy bill that delivers billions of dollars in subsidies and tax breaks on its behalf (Senator Obama)? Do we want a candidate that acts independently and is not beholden to corporations? Do we want a candidate that will fight against corporate interests or do we want a corporate shill?

In his 1936 acceptance speech, President Franklin Roosevelt, a fierce opponent of the corporatist agenda, quoted an old English judge when he remarked, "Necessitous men are not free men. Liberty requires opportunity to make a living—a living decent according to the standard of the time, a living which gives man not only enough to live by, but something to live for." As Democrats, if we have chosen Senator Clinton or Senator Obama, which at the time of this article's drafting seems the likely outcome, we have chosen corporate interests over our own best interests. If we have chosen Senator Clinton or Senator Obama, we have chosen to remain a nation of necessitous men.

EDITOR BIO: Meet the Opinion Editor

Nothing is better than self-expression through words and one's writing. It is an uplifting feeling to know that through writing, our voices can be heard. Everyone has opinions. Some keep it inside, while others are too opinionated for their own good. Those who know me well, see that I tend to be the latter. Those who do not would probably guess that I am a quiet and reserved individual.

Not only is writing a pleasure to me, but it is also a release. A release from the every day stresses of life, which consumes our minds, bodies, and souls. Currently, I am majoring in journalism. Initially, I explored



CHRISTIE AVILA

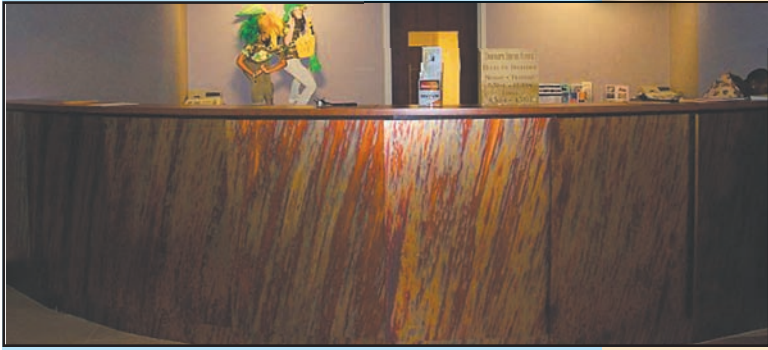
my options, but then I reevaluated what I wanted from life and that is to write. As a transfer student, I've come to realize that choosing to major in journalism was the best choice I made in my academic career. It has opened me up to the endless possibilities of reaching out to people through my writing and giving others the opportunity to do the same.

As the Opinion editor for *The Gothic Times*, I hope that students will feel confident enough to voice their thoughts and opinions through writing. Just think to yourself, if some of the greatest thinkers of time wrote, why not you!

PHOTOGRAPHY

New Year, New Beginnings

By Santo Sanabria



ENTERTAINMENT

What's Up With Young Hollywood?

By Angelito Yambao Jr.

By now you all should be aware of what happened to the very talented Heath Ledger. Unfortunately, the entertainment industry lost a rising star at the very young age of 28. While there are many questions surrounding this tragic death, many are speculating that drugs had something to do with Ledger's passing. Unfortunately it wouldn't be the first time Hollywood has been rocked with such terrible news. One can speak of the incomparable Marilyn Monroe, or the death of the very young River Phoenix. Many of us who follow the entertainment industry often wonder when will the celebrities, especially those of "young Hollywood" learn? When will they clean up? The answer to that question is most likely never. Sad isn't it?

In my opinion a lot of this falls on the pressures of stardom. Many of these stars come into the business wanting all that comes with stardom and yet most are not ready for it. They enjoy the money but perhaps not all of the attention. Some might also say that perhaps these celebrities have nothing better to do with all their money.

Many of us entertainment followers have been keeping a close eye on the likes of Britney Spears, Amy Winehouse, Lindsay Lohan, and yet we lose Heath. I for one am very disgusted. In the sense that I feel that something has to be done about all of this. Many are aware of the scandal that rocked the wrestling world when former WWE world champion Chris Benoit committed double murder suicide and the rest of the industry was engulfed in a steroid scandal. The drugs seemed to be the focus here and not the actual deaths, which again brings me to the athletes vs. celebrity drug use angle. We have spent so much time listening to people complaining about Barry Bonds and others taking steroids to enhance their athletic performances and yet Britney is still topping the charts. Why is it that athletes are questioned all the time about their drug use and yet when a celebrity does the exact same thing they get sent to rehab and then let out to do it all over again? Unless you're Amy Winehouse who has yet to go to rehab and perhaps it's about time.

If it's the fact that celebrities are mere entertainers, is it not true that athletes are just as much entertaining. While I understand that it is cheating for athletes to take performance enhancing drugs, isn't it also illegal for anyone, celebrity or not to smoke crack. (Alleged Amy Winehouse reference).

So what it basically boils down to is if Hollywood doesn't learn from all of this and cleans up we will be hearing more terrible news about the downfall of celebrities. It may sound pessimistic but is probably true. These stories sell newspapers and get viewers to watch T.V. but there is already enough depressing stuff going on in real life. Let the entertainers entertain.



River Phoenix (dead), Britney Spears (rehab), Heath Ledger (dead), Amy Winehouse (rehab), Lindsay Lohan (rehab), Chris Benoit (dead)

WHAT WE'LL MISS ABOUT Heath Ledger

By Leanne Aciz

The body of 28 year old Academy Award nominee Heathcliff Andrew Ledger (also known as Heath Ledger) was found in a Soho apartment on Broome Street on January 22nd, 2008 at 3:35pm. Ledger had an appointment for his regular massage and his masseuse was concerned that he hadn't shown up which was unusual. Theresa Solomon, the housekeeper, allowed the masseuse, Diane Lee, inside the loft and both were shocked to find Ledger naked, face down, surrounded by pill bottles. The contents in these bottles were Ambien, a sleeping aid in which Ledger had spoken publicly about before, Valium, a derivative drug, and Zoloft, an antidepressant. When paramedics showed up to the loft, the actor was already in full cardiac arrest, and their attempts at CPR were unsuccessful. Sadly, he was pronounced dead at the scene, leaving behind a two year old daughter, Matilda, and thousands of fans.

Heath Ledger leaves behind a legacy that fans will not soon forget. Born in Perth, Western Australia, Ledger made waves when he acted as a gay cyclist in the Australian drama, *Sweat*. Ledger became famous for his role in *10 Things I Hate About You*, a romantic comedy based on William Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, which catapulted him into stardom, earning him the role as one of Hollywood's "sexiest actors." Be-

tween 2000 to 2005 he starred in *The Patriot*, *Monster's Ball*, *A Knight's Tale*, *The Four Feathers*, *Ned Kelly*, *The Order*, *Casanova*, *Lords of Dogtown* and *The Brothers Grimm*.

Ledger received many awards, most notably, "Best Actor of 2005" the New York Film Critics Circle and the San Francisco Film Critics Circle for his acclaimed performance in *Brokeback Mountain*. *Brokeback Mountain* is a popular movie about a ranch hand, Ledger as Ennis Del Mar and a rodeo rider, Jake Gyllenhaal as Jack Twist, who fall in love, despite their commitments to their wives/girlfriends. Critics and the media criticized the 'homosexual' aspects of the film, insisting that mainstream America was not ready for such a realistic/"different" situation, yet the movie encouraged many people in the gay community to embrace who they are. The first movie in theatres to glorify a homosexual relationship between two men, it became a hit that was accepted much more than expected.

His upcoming movies that will be premiered after his death include The-life-of-Bob-Dylan movie, *I'm Not There*, the sequel to *Batman Begins*, *The Dark Knight* in which Ledger plays "The Joker" and a movie he was in the middle of filming when he died, *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*. Ledger was working on an adaptation of *The Queen's Gambit* by Walter Tevis, which would have been his first movie as a director.

While Ledger was popular with women fans who adored



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Heath Ledger as the Joker



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Heath Ledger
1978 - 2008

his good looks and male fans who idolized his roles in movies (*The Joker* and *Casanova*), Ledger had a terrible relationship with the media. When he wasn't being accused of spitting on paparazzi, he was trying at all costs to avoid them. While he was used to acting, which enabled him to be "somebody else," he wasn't prepared for the spotlight. His relationship to the paparazzi came to a climax when he and Michelle Williams were squirted with water guns on a red carpet premiere in Sydney, which proved that the love-hate relationship between Ledger and the media was not ending any time soon.

At the time of this article being written, there were a lot of rumors being spread around about Ledger's death. There has been mention of an overdose, suicide, him being in Mary Kate Olsen's apartment when he died as well as him having pneumonia. Rumors of drugs being the reason why Michelle Williams separated from him after giving birth to Matilda have been constant and it is hard to tell the truth from the lies. It is true that Heath Ledger had a substance abuse problem and that he had been attending AA meetings in

New York, giving everyone the impression that he was working hard towards sobriety. Once, in an interview, Ledger publicly noted that he had been taking Ambien while filming and that it was 'no longer' working to help him fall asleep. All of his abuse problems seemed to be far away after the birth of Matilda, who friends and family remarked was Ledgers pride and joy. While some news outlets reported that his death may be due to pneumonia, others are reporting that illegal drugs may have been the cause.

NYPD police reported that so far there is no evidence suggesting suicide or 'foul play'. Until the toxicology reports come in, no one knows for sure whether or not the death was intentional or a terrible accident. Regardless, this is a senseless tragedy. Hollywood has lost an incredible actor, his fans have lost a role model, and Matilda has lost a father.

When speaking of Matilda, "having a child changes every aspect of your life - for the better, of course. I feel, in a sense, ready to die because you are living on in your child" — Heath Ledger.

ENTERTAINMENT

American Idol or American Joke?

By Mary Paone

“America has spoken. The votes are in.” Those are the words America waits to hear at the end of competition for American Idol. What started off as a promising and positive reality show seems to have turned into an American joke, where the best don’t always seem to win.

A new year, a new season, and a new group of wannabes try out for their chance at fame. Names like Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Chris Daughtry, Fantasia Barrino, and Clay Aiken have all graced the stage over the years. These names have all been successful after their run on American Idol. Three of whom have been the American Idol winner. But what about those who win, but don’t live up to the hype? We can just ask Ruben Studdard, Taylor Hicks, and Katharine McPhee (she wasn’t even a winner, just a runner up).

Ruben Studdard had a successful debut album, as did the runner up for that same season, Clay Aiken. Ruben’s last album tanked and his record label decided it was time to get rid of him, so they dropped him. Clay Aiken on the other hand just debuted on Broadway in “Spamalot.” Studdard was dubbed the “Velvet Teddy Bear” by Paula Abdul during season 2 and only won by a mere 130,000 votes, the closest in American Idol history. But did Studdard win simply because we liked the guy? Was the vote not based on his voice? He wasn’t a powerful

singer like Aiken. But we fell in love with his personality and persona. We loved the fact that such a sweet and smooth voice could come out of someone like him. But that seemed to be the only appeal he had. All of Aiken’s albums have outsold Studdards, and with his run on Broadway just beginning, Clay Aiken seems to me like he’s sticking around for awhile.

What about Taylor Hicks and Katharine McPhee? You might even be asking yourself who these people are. If you didn’t watch American Idol like I did, then you probably don’t recognize the names. Taylor Hicks won season 5 and Katharine McPhee came in at second place. Hicks automatically scored a record deal and soon after McPhee was signed to a label as well. McPhee’s album was released first followed soon after by Hicks. Both failed miserably, resulting in them being dropped from their record labels, though McPhee claims that she left on her own (I’m sure that’s what really happened).

But season 5 did bring us someone that all of you may recognize, well, at least the name anyway. Chris Daughtry was the 4th runner up in season 5 and a day after being voted off by America, he was offered to be the lead singer of the band, Fuel. He turned it down, and a few months later scored a record deal with his own band. His band, Daughtry went to sell over 1 Million copies of their debut album in its first week. It was nominated for a few



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The new season of American Idol promises to be bigger and better than the last. The TV sensation is watched more than the presidential debates.

Grammy Awards and even scored a few other music awards. But how can that be? Daughtry was voted out of the competition. Again, America seems to have voted for their favorite persona, and not necessarily the best vocalist.

Season 7 of American Idol just began and it will be fun to watch and see what kind of characters cross the stage and what kind of vocalist wins the competition. What better way to spend your Tuesday and Wednesday nights than watching a bunch of untal-

ented idiots who think they can really sing make fools of themselves on national television. You know I will be tuning in. Who knows, maybe it will be like the first season (the Kelly Clarkson era) and the best singer might actually win!

MUSIC REVIEW

America, Are You Ready for Leona Lewis?

By Angelito Yambao Jr.

The answer should definitely be a NO. Surprised? Well you definitely should be. For many American POP/R&B fans the name Leona Lewis shouldn’t ring any bells, but soon enough she just might be your favorite singer.

If you’re not aware of the hit TV reality series, American Idol, which catapults a virtual unknown artist into the spotlight almost as fast as McDonalds can crank out thirty double cheeseburgers, but what you may not

know is that American Idol isn’t the only talent show the infamous Simon Cowell does judging duties for. The X-Factor is quite similar to American Idol but with one very recognizable difference. American Idol did not have Leona Lewis on their show.

What also sets her apart from any contestant from any show Simon has been on, is that he literally had nothing bad to say about her, which is a rare feat. Following one of her performances, Cowell said, “You are, absolutely, the best contestant I have ever had across any of these shows, and that was an amazing performance.”

Her music can be compared to a blend of Mariah Carey meets Whitney Houston without all the craziness that surrounds them. Vocally she is just as good as any of the “American Idol” contestants, if not better. Yes I said better than Kelly Clarkson and Katharine McPhee combined.

Her debut album entitled *Spirit* was released in the U.K. on November 9, 2007 and has been certified platinum five times over. In February of 2007 she signed a record deal with Clive Davis and is set to release five albums internationally under Davis’s J Records, and who

knows perhaps she is set to take over the world.

Her hit singles in the U.K. include a cover of American Idol season 1 winner Kelly Clarkson’s “A Moment Like This.” This single as well as her second single entitled “Bleeding Love” topped the charts at number one which only helped sky rocket her into the British music scene.

Some other notable songs include “Whatever it Takes,” “Take A Bow,” and “Angel” among other songs that are just beautifully sung and well written. This writer definitely labels Miss Leona Lewis as the artist to watch out for in 2008 and perhaps beyond.

Actually just get the album, it’s well worth it. Look for her debut American album to be released sometime this spring.



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Leona Lewis is making her way in the music biz thanks to winning British Star making Show X-Factor.



ANGELITO YAMBAO, JR.
Entertainment Editor



Songs to download....Legally:

- Bleeding Love
- Whatever It Takes
- Take A Bow
- Angel
- Homeless

ADVICE

Let's Talk about Sex...

How Soon is too Soon?

Once Upon a Valentine's

By Wassila Ayoub

Ah, Valentine's Day is a day set aside for millions around the world to celebrate the spirit of love and feelings. For many people, Valentine's Day is the day for love, for others, it is a day that brings memories of pain and sadness. NJCU students shared memories of love and affection as well as flashbacks of heart shattering stories that happened to them on previous Valentines.

Valentine's Day is a day when people show love regarding any relationship.

Prisis Wahba, 22, a biology major defines Valentine's as, "a day when love is in the air." As a former employer at Walgreen's, she said, "Specifically on Valentine's Day, everyone at Walgreen's acts nicer towards each other."

According to the website www.stvalentinesday.org, the origins of Valentine's Day are traced to ancient Roman Empire. It is said that in the Rome of ancient times people observed a holiday on February 14th to honor Juno—the queen of Roman Gods and Goddesses.

Although Valentine's Day is suppose to be a day of joy it isn't always a happy holiday.

Deena Fadel, 20, a psychology student, associates Valentine's Day with images of massive explosions. Deena equates Valentine's Day with memories of assassination of the former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Harriri. She said, "I remember vividly when Lebanon's Prime Minister was assassinated on Valentine's Day."

The memory of being dumped on Valentine's Day can be painful, but as a person moves on, the sorrow eases and the memory becomes funny.

"I got dumped on Valentine's Day. I thought he was joking, but he was dead serious," said Olivia Batraki, 26, an English and education major. "Thank God I was dumped because I would have never met my husband."

Maysa Abdel Halim, 21, biology major said, "I'm looking forward to my first Valentine's with my fiancé of two months." Halim hopes Wael, her boyfriend, surprises her with a Gucci bag.

For all NJCU students, take advantage of this Valentine's Day and express your love to every relationship around you whether it is your mother, father, sister, brother, grandfather, grandmother, or a friend. Happy Valentine's Day! May every Valentine Day bring only memories of love and affection!

By Candice Pepe

Hey, we've all been there. Every time you try to focus, all you can do is start dreaming of those lips you want to kiss. You want to scream what's on your mind, while trying to conceal that smile that gives the secret away — you're ready to have sex. The moment will either be everything you've ever dreamed of or, your worst nightmare.

With the smell of roses in the air, some are stocking up on condoms. According to a poll taken by SmarterSex.org, 45% of visitors of the site think of the holiday as a 'major sex day'. The next largest opinion is at 27% for Valentine's Day is a 'romantic holiday'. So if you're thinking of heating up the bedroom, make sure you're not just a victim of Cupid's bow.

"It's all about trust and being comfortable with that person... Communication is the key to a relationship, especially when you're taking it to the next level," said Darrell Reid, 23, a history major from Jersey City.

SmarterSex.org says that a healthy relationship consists of respect, honesty, trust, and good communication. SmarterSex.org added, "Partners need to be able to talk about whether they are comfortable with the level of sexual activity they are considering BEFORE the fact."

For some it's a question of how



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Are we ready to go to the next level?

long they should wait. Time depends on the relationship and the person, says Ashley Zapotosky, 19, an education major from Wallington, "For some people it could take months, for others, weeks."

So, ready for sex? Now what do you do? "It's a nervous feeling, because you don't know if they're ready too," said Reid.

"I think it's best to approach the situation face to face," said Brianne Johnson, 22, an Education major from Bayonne.

According to SexInfo101.com

you should respect the decision your partner makes, that is, if they're not ready. Let's say, you reveal your most sensual desire, and your partner begins to alertly agree and accept. Well, then it's probably a good time. But before you go jumping right into it...

"Gain some experience ahead of time. You want to have explored foreplay for quite awhile before you take the plunge. Having a good understanding of how your and his/her body works as well as having played together will take away much of the tension," states-

SexInfo101.com.

No matter where, how, and when you do it, safe sex is the best way to go. SexInfo101.com says that 80% of infected Americans (with the AIDS/HIV virus) don't even know they have it. Gonorrhea strikes 150 people out of every 100,000 Americans, and sexually transmitted diseases are diagnosed 12 million times a year in the U.S. alone.

For many students who are frustrated and not sure if they are ready, but are curious, oral sex can ease frustration. It's safer than penetration (as long as there are no cuts in the mouth) because you can't get pregnant and no virginity is reconciled. However, STD's can still be transferred, so here are some quick tips from SexInfo101.com:

- Use condoms or dental dams whenever possible

- If you decide to roll the dice on the first tip, avoid ejaculating in someone's mouth

- If you see something suspicious, put the fantasy on hold until a doctor clears it

- Floss and brush regularly — but not right before oral sex

- Above all, get tested and know your status, so that you can help protect others

"Don't let any outside forces make your decision. Do some soul searching and make sure this is what you want to do, because you can't get it back," cautioned Reid.

Valentine's Cliché

By Lyle Hickman

As February 14th approaches, corporations are estimating how much they can capitalize off to Valentine's the populace on Valentine's Day. Such a day is a vital pillar of romance in the American cultural calendar, where cards and candies are given and the deepest, most intense acts of intimacy are performed in order to sustain this tradition. American society pressures its people to profess their affection and accompany it with trinkets, sweets, and everyone's favorite, red roses! As these crimson idols of affection are exchanged, people are supposedly fulfilled with love. I beg to differ.

This holiday could be a day for observing love and celebrating its sustenance. However, I now view it as a commercialized day of profit and not one of introspection, discourse, and love with the significant other.

Why should you spend money on roses on Valentine's Day? Why should you engage in sexual acts on Valentine's Day? These were my thoughts for years, as I spent eighteen consecutive Valentine's Days alone, without a valentine. I arrived at the answer which most of a pressured society shares, because everyone else does.

Can you imagine how much revenue is accumulated on a yearly basis from Valentine's Day? Can you fathom how many people have felt pressured to succumb to this day and en-



gage in sexual acts or choose somebody as their valentine so they weren't lonely?

People sometimes fall into the trap of conformity on Valentine's Day, when their relationship is ambiguous, and the trinkets and intimacy are just there to fill the void or present proof of the presence of love in the relationship. I am no connoisseur on love, but I am its laborer. Something as abstract as love is genuinely felt by someone. Those in love are not skeptical. Like a moment of clarity, a person in love has a realization of love's existence in the relationship. Once in love, laborers of love work eternally, conjuring new ways to satisfy their significant other, beyond Valentine's Day.

The aim of love is to give and to please, and not just physically, but also emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. Let this Valentine's Day be one in which time is spent understanding who your significant other is as a being and not one of blind indulgence.

As a person in a long distance relationship,

my focus is developing chemistry through communication. More attention is directed toward discourse in which we tap into each other's mental reservoir. By becoming familiar with the innermost workings of my significant other's mind, I am able to be a better partner.

Cognizant of my love of hip hop, my girlfriend gave me a hardcover notebook that she covered with graffiti which she designed. A box of chocolates or a red teddy bear with heart shaped candies would not have that same affect.

Oh and guess what, she didn't wait until Valentine's Day to do this!

For those in relationships giving Valentine's Day too much relevance, here's how you can lessen it. Do not let a holiday dictate when and how you show love to another being, especially your significant other. Try something unorthodox. The reason why most of you are in relationships is because you love your partner's individuality. Waiting until Valentine's Day to do something extra for your partner is too predictable and lacking in creativity. Do not wait! Take your significant other to that kickboxing class that they have mentioned more than once or prepare a candle-lit bubble bath for them at an unexpected time. The results of these acts will definitely trump the results of just giving a cliché bouquet of red roses.

If you make continuous, consistent efforts to convey your love to your significant other, this year, Valentine's Day will just be Thursday!

ARTS

Art and Design Association Hosts Holiday Unity

Live Art, Music, & Prize

By Willa Goldthwaite

As a nice closing to the fall semester, the Art and Design Association sponsored a Holiday Unity event in the Visual Arts Building. The event was held on the evening of Friday, December 14. In the spirit of the holidays, the entrance fee was waived for anyone that brought a gift for the toy drive. Elements of art and hip-hop came together in an assemblage of different activities throughout the building.

There was a bit of something for everyone. There was a movie screening in the basement lecture hall where students served free popcorn and had a bake sale. Most of the action was held in the painting studio where all of the easels and desks were cleared out to make room for a two-circle break dancing battle. B-boys and B-girls with some amazing talent came out from all over New York and New Jersey to celebrate the unity in our community.

There was a DJ and also an art sale, with vendors from the community as well as work from NJCU students on display and up for silent auction. Mostly it was a preview for the holiday art sale to follow the next day. Outside in the sculpture yard, a graffiti battle took place. NJCU students participated in all the events. And although these were battles going on, it was all for fun, and not extremely competitive.

Now we are all looking forward to seeing the break-dancers and graffiti artists getting back together for another "Cypha in da Hood" on January 25 for a Spring 2008 Kick-Off, another NJCU Art and Design Association production. Admission will be \$5 for students and \$10 for guests. This event will also include an open mic session that will showcase spoken word artists.

There will be a \$200 cash prize for the battle event as well. So come support these guys and have fun!

JC Fridays

By Willa Goldthwaite

Art House Productions of Jersey City brings us JC Fridays, a day of free arts events in downtown Jersey City on the first Friday of every season. These events include fine art, music, performance and film with discounts and special promotions offered in many of the participating facilities. Everyone will have a good time on JC Fridays because there are fun parties for young people with food and drinks in the evening as well as family-friendly events during the day.

Here's a little recap of December 7's event, to get you excited for the next one:

CANCO Lofts hosted an Arts Extravaganza including an art auction featuring 50 artists from the US, Canada and Russia, live theater, dance, magic, and music with free hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Every event held at CANCO so far has been a great experience, so all we can do is hope that they will continue their support of the arts.

The Grassroots Arts Facility held a three-floor party, including the Toy Eaters Studio with art and live music, the Lex Leonard Gallery with a preview of the Surface Changes show curated by Tenneal McNair, and the Urban Living Room Gallery with work by visual artist Hiroshi Kumagai and



music performance by Chico Mann. The vibes were great as usual as artists of all measures gathered in the space. As soon as Chico Mann started, it was a full-blown dance party.

Other Exhibitions:

Papa Gora Tall at the John Meagher Ronda Gallery at City Hall

Raymond E. Mingst at Curious Matter

Miru Kim at 919 Gallery

Little Wonders: An Exhibition of Small Works at LITM

J.W. Fesken's "Ehullek Tragedies" at 58 Gallery

The next JC Fridays is scheduled for March 7 2008 - Don't miss it!



Photo by Richard Ryals

Great bands make JC Fridays a great time for all.

A Feminine View on Feminism

By Willa Goldthwaite

On the afternoon of January 20, the Jersey City Museum held a panel discussion, *Sunday Sampler GIRLS GONE WILD: Tupperware Parties to Riot Grrrls: The Feminine Mystique Panel*, coinciding with the current show, the *Feminine Mystique* on display in the main gallery upstairs. The collection of women's works addressing feminist issues in response to the book, *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan (1963) will be up through February 24. *The Art Talk* was a free event, complete with reception following the lecture with refreshments.

On the panel for the lecture were four of the thirty-five artists participating in the show,

Alison Weld, Aliza Augustine, Jessica Lagunas, and Swati Khurana, along with Dr. Midori Yoshimoto of NJCU. Among topics within the theme of feminist art that were discussed were theoretical vs. studio art, the balance between concept and art-making, anger as fuel for art-making, and a brief analysis of the 'F' word (Feminist).

The women spoke about if and when gender is considered when organizing exhibitions. Apparently it doesn't happen often enough because although women represent 50% of the world population, they only represent 20% in galleries. This doesn't make sense especially considering that there are more female MFA graduates every year.

The word "feminist" tends to have many negative connotations, discouraging young

artists from calling themselves or their art "feminist" even if it could be. The women on the panel called for a reclaiming of the word, and reassured us that we are entitled to do so. The meaning of the word after all depends completely on one's perspective.

The marginalization of women is a major issue, even in this day and age, but the art world is making big strides. The Brooklyn Museum just recently opened the world's first Feminist Art Center.

Also check out <http://www.jerseycitymuseum.org/> and <http://feministartproject.rutgers.edu/> for more information on *The Feminist Art Project*. The Jersey City Museum will host the first 2008 meeting of the New Jersey chapter of The Feminist Art Project on February 6 from 6-8pm.

Arts Events Calendar

FEBRUARY 2008

What's Happening NOW

The Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery (H 323)

Character Recognition by Myra Greene

January 22 - February 27, 2008
Artist reception: February 4, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Artist Talk at 5:30 p.m.

Visual Arts Building Gallery (100 Culver)

currentBIND "Charting Junctures in Metal and Ceramics"
January 22 - February 26, 2008
Opening reception: January 22, 4:30 - 7 p.m. Artists' Talk at 5:30 p.m.

Jersey City Museum

27th Black Maria Film and Video Festival
February 3, 2008 @ 2pm

URBAN IMAGE Showcase
February 7, 2008 @ 7pm

Professional Development Workshop for Artists: Curatorial Panel and Discussion
February 10, 2008,
Reservations required.

Sunday Sampler: "Threads" Wearable Art Fashion Show
Presented by *_gaia women's art collective*
February 24, 2008 @ 1pm

Lex Leonard Gallery

A Fool in the Eyes of God
Opening reception:
February 16, 2008 @ 7-11pm

Canco Lofts

PUBLIC ACTS: Soft Wall Performance
February 23, 2008 @ 7pm

UPCOMING Events

Jersey City Museum

Target Thursday Lucky Sevens: Art Jam w/ NJCU
March 6, 2008 @ 7pm

Spring 2008 Exhibitions Opening
March 20, 2008, 6-8p

New Jersey City University

Professional Development Workshop for Artists "I've Got Talent, Now What?"
Small Galleries
March 24, 2008 @ 7pm



WILLA GOLDTHWAITE
Arts Editor

Looking for more?

Check out these links:

NJCU Art Galleries
<http://www.njcu.edu/dept/art/galleries/>

JC Fridays
<http://www.jcfridays.com/>

JC Downtown
<http://www.jcdowntown.com/>

Pro Arts
<http://www.proartsjerseycity.org/>

NJCU Art & Design Association
<http://www.myspace.com/njcuartndesign/>

Jersey City Museum
<http://www.jerseycitymuseum.org/>

Newark Museum
<http://www.newarkmuseum.org/>

Red Saw Gallery
<http://www.redsawart.com/wb/>

City Without Walls Gallery
<http://www.cwow.org/>

SPORTS

Lady Gothic Knights Sport a New Look

By Gem Jefferson

Despite a 6-14 record on the season, fans can rest assured that the future is bright for women's basketball at NJCU after the facelift the roster underwent during the winter vacation.

The Knights added four new players after the fall semester; three of them are freshmen and sophomores. The current team is already young as Angela Fitzgerald, the Knight's leading scorer (14.9), is a freshman and Tania Greenleaf, the third leading scorer (11.9), is a sophomore.

There are only two seniors on the team, Natasha Clackley and newcomer Vanessa Vargas Espinoza, former Ramapo standout.

Espinoza has made an immediate impact on the team scoring 14.5 points per

game (second on the team). She also recorded the third known triple-double in NJCU basketball history on January 28 and tied the single-game three-point record with six January 30. She was named to the PrestoSports/MBWA Women's Honor Roll that week, the only player to earn that honor this semester.

The other newcomers, freshman Ny'Anne Mitchell and sophomores Shayla Daniels and Rosaly Diaz have shown promise, playing effective minutes and increasing minutes each game.

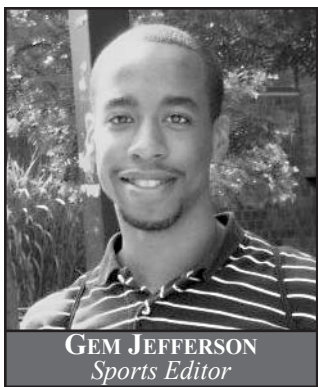
The Knights have won two of their last three games and are now completely healthy as Fitzgerald and Clackley recently returned to action.

NJCU will be back at home February 16 at 6 p.m. when they host William Paterson at the John J. Moore Athletic and Fitness Center.



Sophomore Guard, Tania Greenleaf

Photo by Richard Formica



GEM JEFFERSON
Sports Editor

If you are interested in writing for the Sports Section contact me at:

gem.jefferson@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR GOTHIC KNIGHTS SPORTS TEAMS GO TO WWW.NJGOTHICKNIGHTS.COM

Men's Volleyball Schedule

- 2/7/2008 City College of New York New York, NY Thurs. 6 pm
- 2/9/2008 **14th Annual Gothic Knight Men's Volleyball Invitational**
- 2/13/2008 **SUNY-New Paltz** * Jersey City, NJ Wed. 7 pm
- 2/16/2008 SUNY-New Paltz* New Paltz, NY Sat. 12 pm
- 2/16/2008 Emmanuel College (at SUNY-New Paltz) New Paltz, NY Sat. 2 pm
- 2/17/2008 **Yeshiva University*** Jersey City, NJ Sun. 12 pm
- 2/17/2008 **Medgar Evers College** Jersey City, NJ Sun. 4 pm
- 2/19/2008 Polytechnic University* Brooklyn, NY Tues. 7 pm
- 2/23/2008 **Lancaster Bible College** Jersey City, NJ Sat. 1 pm
- 2/27/2008 College of Mount Saint Vincent* Riverdale, NY Wed. 7 pm
- 2/29/2008 Villa Julie College Stevenson, MD Fri. 6pm
- 2/29/2008 King College (TN) (Division II) Stevenson, MD Fri. 8 pm
- 3/1/2008 Hilbert College Stevenson, MD Sat. 10:30 am
- 3/1/2008 Philadelphia Biblical University (at Villa Julie College) Stevenson, MD Sat. 12:30 pm
- 3/6/2008 **Hunter College** Jersey City, NJ Thurs. 7 pm
- 3/8/2008 **Vassar College** Jersey City, NJ Sat. 2 pm
- 3/12/2008 Stevens Institute of Technology* Hoboken, NJ Wed. 7 pm
- 3/14/2008 City College of New York @ York College Tournament Jamaica, NY Fri. 5pm
- 3/15/2008 York College @ York College Tournament Jamaica, NY Sat. 9 am
- 3/15/2008 Sacred Heart University @ York College Tournament Jamaica, NY Sat. 11 am
- 3/15/2008 **Hunter College @ York College Tournament Sat. 3 pm**
- 3/19/2008 Ramapo College *Mahwah, NJ Wed. 8 pm

* = conference game

Bold = home game

SALSA Y SABOR CLUB
 SPRING 2008 – MEETING/LESSON SCHEDULE
 MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS– 3:00–5:00
 FRIES HALL BASEMENT DANCE STUDIOS
 CONTACT: XAVIER ATENCIO–PRESIDENT–XAVMED14@AOL.COM
 (PROFESSIONAL DANCE INSTRUCTOR/CLUB ADVISOR–BETTY GERENA)

SPORTS

Knights Losing Momentum as Playoffs Draw Near

By Gem Jefferson

After starting the season 11-4, the Knights have lost three of their last five games, two of which came against the two top teams in the New Jersey Athletic Conference, Richard Stockton and William Paterson University.

NJCU is 13-7 (5-3 in the NJAC) on the season, which is tied with Montclair State University for second place in the NJAC North Division. If the teams finish the season tied, NJCU holds the tiebreaker after a January 23 victory over the Red Hawks.

Junior guard Dana John, NJCU's all-time leading three-point shooter, leads the team in scoring with 17.7 points per game. Senior center Marques Hill averages eight points and a team leading 6.5 rebounds on the season.

The Gothic Knights' rotation has

recently changed as junior point guard Kevin Tucker and freshman forward Derek Miller have started the last three and two games respectively.

NJCU has been consistent throughout the season and have not lost back-to-back games this season.

There are four games left this season, all of which are conference games. Two of those games are against teams the Knights have already beaten (Rutgers-Newark and Montclair State University), one against William Paterson (undefeated in the conference) and one new opponent in Rutgers-Camden. These last four games will have a profound effect on the NJAC tournament that will start February 26.

The Knights will be at home February 16 when it hosts William Paterson at the John J. Moore center at 8 p.m.



Photo by Richard Formica
Freshman Forward, Derek Miller



Photo by Richard Formica

Junior Guard, Kevin Tucker

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Vanessa Vargas Espinoza

In a week, she recorded NJCU's third triple-double of all time with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists and tied the record for three-pointers in one game with six, and was named to the PrestoSports/MBWA Women's Honor Roll. Vargas has 947 points for her career (Ramapo and NJCU combined) and has four games left to reach the 1,000 point mark.

Photo by Richard Formica

Men's Basketball Schedule

- 2/9/2008 Rutgers University-Camden* Camden, NJ Sat. 3 pm
 - 2/13/2008 Rutgers-Newark* Newark, NJ Wed. 7:30 pm
 - 2/16/2008 **William Paterson University*** Jersey City, NJ Sat. 8 pm
 - 2/20/2008 **Montclair State University*** Montclair, NJ Wed. 6 pm
- * = conference game **Bold** = home game

Criminal Justice Club Of New Jersey City University



Invites you to a **Domestic Violence Workshop**

Guest Speaker from

Women Rising of Hudson County

When: Wed., February 20, 2008
Where: Student Center room 317
Time: 1pm-3pm

...Light Refreshments will be served ...

After slow Start, Knights catch Fire with 3-game win streak

By Gem Jefferson

The Men's Volleyball team has run off three straight wins after a 1-3 start to improve to 4-3 on the year. The Knights are 2-0 in the North East Collegiate Volleyball Association Metro Division with decisive victories against Brooklyn College and SUNY-Purchase.

Freshman setter and Bayonne native, Justin Beaumont has at least 40 assists in all but two games this season (he played one game as an attacker). Junior middle blocker, Kevin Rodgers recently notched his 19th career double double in a victory versus conference opponent SUNY-Purchase with 20 digs and 18 kills.

The Knights return to action Saturday, February 9 at 9 a.m. when they compete in 14th Annual Gothic Knight Men's Volleyball Invitational at John J. Moore Athletic and Fitness Center.

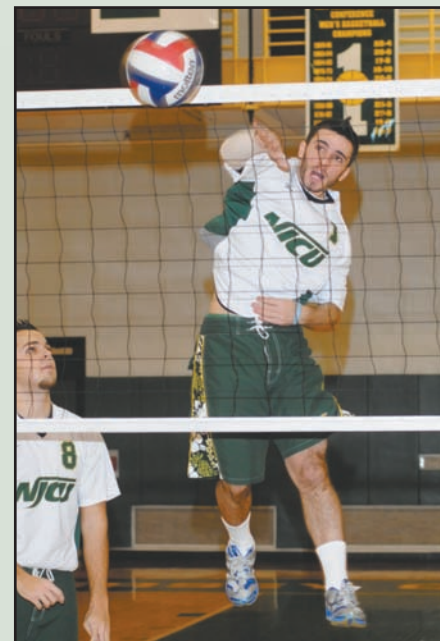


Photo by Richard Formica
Freshman Setter, Justin Beaumont

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR GOTHIC KNIGHTS SPORTS TEAMS GO TO WWW.NJGOTHICKNIGHTS.COM