

# THE GOTHIC TIMES

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November 11, 2008

## An Election to Remember: OBAMA CAPTURES PRESIDENCY

By Marlen Gonzalez

After months of rigorous campaigning, Barack Hussein Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States of America on Nov. 4, 2008. He defeated Republican U.S. Senator John McCain with a landslide victory of 364 electoral votes to 162 at press time.

"I feel this is the best thing that has happened in this country in the past eight years," said Linda Klein, 26, a special education major from North Bergen. "I think it's a [...] change we all needed. He's more real than any other president. He makes you want to listen. He's a man of his word and will grant us change."

His election has come at a time where there is growing worry and dissatisfaction with the current administration, the volatile economy and the unpopular war in Iraq.

"I feel ecstatic because I feel like [Obama's] the right person to run



cnn.com

The new First Family: Barack, Sasha, Malia, and Michelle Obama greet the crowd on Election Night.

the country, especially after the Bush administration and also because he is the first African American president," said Keith Jackson, 21, a sociology major from Newton. "I cried; I felt like the struggles that minorities have gone through are coming closer to an end. This is a major step."

According to CNN, Obama won in New Jersey with 57 percent of the popular vote to McCain's 42 percent. In Hudson County that figure was even more staggering: 73 percent for Obama and 27 percent McCain.

"I was absolutely overjoyed," said John Roth, 42, a political science major from Jersey City. "We saw those Indiana and Virginia early returns that McCain was leading. I was a little concerned but once he won Ohio I knew it was all over. After that you could see the avalanche. By 11 p.m. you understood that it was all over and there was going to be positive

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## NJCU Mourns a Great Loss

By Jordan Lester

Professor Emeritus Robert A. Arey, of the English Department of New Jersey City University, died on October 15. He was 80.

"He was a larger than life figure," said recently retired Prof. of English Rita Tesler, a longtime colleague of Arey's. "He was a real Renaissance man. You could give him anything to teach. In addition, he knew about carpentry, about how to build things. He knew about jazz. He knew about movies, sports, politics. It was extraordinary what he knew."

He is survived by his wife, Christine, director of the Open Writing Lab in Karnoutsos Hall, and his son, Howard, of Manhattan.

Arey began teaching English in 1957 and became a full-time faculty member at Jersey City State College (now New Jersey City University) in 1967.

He retired in 1996 but continued on as an adjunct, teaching literature and film.

"He was a real film buff, and he especially liked the classics," said Howard, an artist. "He took great joy in sharing the films he loved with others."

Arey was named professor emeritus in 1998 and was a former chairman of the English Department.

"Bob was the spirit of kindness and generosity," said professor of English Emily Berges, now retired. "His kindness even extended beyond people. He was a real animal lover. There was a spirit of really caring behind all that he did."

Arey was an Army veteran of World War II who was stationed in Italy toward the end of the war. He was instrumental in establishing a teachers union at Jersey City State. He was president of Local 1839 of the American Federation of Teachers from 1969 to 1972 and 1998

to 2002 and chief negotiator for the union from 2002 to this year. He also served as president of the Council of New Jersey State College Locals from 1970 to 1972 and in 1986 was elected the first male president of the Hudson County chapter of the National Organization for Women.

"His role in the local union was as legendary as his dedication to his students," said Prof. of Political Science Joe Moskowitz. "I called him in the hospital a few days before he passed away, and I said 'What are you doing with your time?' He said 'What do you think? I'm grading papers. Students need timely feedback.'"

During a memorial service, several colleagues remarked on Arey's ability to engage in heated political debate without losing his temper or engaging in personal attacks.

"He was beloved, by all who



Photo Courtesy of Christine Carmody-Arey

Professor Emeritus Robert A. Arey

knew him," said Prof. Ivan Steinberg, of the Economics Dept. "Bob was a genuinely decent man, under all circum-

stances."

"The New Jersey City University has suffered an enormous loss," NJCU President Carlos Hernández said, commenting on the impact of Arey's passing. "He was a dear personal friend and esteemed member of our university community."

Arey was teaching a Literature and Film class this semester, which will continue with a faculty replacement. Impossible to replace, however, will be the intellect and spirit of the man who for four decades helped shape the institution.

"He had an elegant mind," said Professor of English Barbara Hildner, "that he put at the disposal of the university. He was a lovely human being, and a gracious and graceful role model."

Additional reporting by Gothic Times staff.

# NEWS

## From Boom to Bust:

### NJCU Professors' Take on the U.S. Economy

By Ivan Steinberg and Rubina Vohra

The current financial crisis is complicated because its launch is caused by a perfect storm. The Federal Reserve Bank, during the chairmanship of Alan Greenspan, allowed interest rates to drop to extremely low levels, providing easy access to liquidity to the financial system. In the middle years of this decade, we had negative real short-term interest rates. That means free money which in fact distorted the financial system. Not only commercial banks but other kinds of lenders also overextended themselves.

During the same time period, because of monetary deregulation and the Community Reinvestment Act, banks began to lend money to high risk borrowers requiring little or no down payment. They were engaged in the exotic mortgage lending that triggered much of the current disruption in the financial markets. At the same time, the Republican Administration was fostering asset ownership including ownership of one's private home which led to the implosion of the residential-real-estate market. During the same time period, we also experienced a boom in commodity/oil prices, especially six months ago when



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it looked like the next stop for oil was going to be \$200 a barrel.

It wasn't just a handful of wise guys on Wall Street who figured out what to do with the free money. People all over the housing and financial services industries figured out ways to wrench themselves up way too far. That is the

train that led us this far off track. This allowed the new gilded class of Wall Street to invent mathematical models of new financial instruments which caused the pyramid of cards to be built leading to the housing bubble and its collapse. The clever guys on the Wall Street, some of whom grad-

uated from leading educational institutions, designed mathematical models that no more than a handful of people can understand. Amazingly, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, and Bear Stearns—three of the leading investment banks—have been brought to their knees due to

greed, incompetence, or lack of common sense.

This is being further complicated by the enormous credit card debt of the average American family and the weakened economy caused by the deflation in consumer wealth and increase in personal debt. We believe that if GDP (Gross Domestic Product) declines over the next two quarters by 3 percent, the unemployment rate should hover around 7.5 percent. This could lead to a post-war recession. We will see the results of massive layoffs hit the economy in a way not seen since the end of the tech bubble. The choices could be a recession or a depression. The credit markets have been beleaguered by a severe lack of confidence in the midst of the mayhem in the global financial system. The outlook for the economy remains dark.

It's going to be several quarters from now to get the stability back.

As the struggle to contain the worst wild fire of Wall Street continues, non-financial companies are also showing the strains of a contracted credit market. The slow down in sales of automobiles, home construction, and services industries and the clear lack of capital gain's income to be reported in April will have a significant effect in reduction of

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## WORD ON CAMPUS:

### What are you most thankful for?



**Crystal Arreola, 23,**  
2008 graduate (Math),  
University  
Advisement Center,  
Jersey City

“Life. Having the love and support of my family and friends back home (in Hawaii) and here. My grandparents and parents; if they didn't meet then, I wouldn't be here.”



**Erin Corby, 22,**  
Senior,  
Psychology,  
North Bergen

“Being single because I can do whatever the hell I want.”



**Nirav Patel, 20,**  
Junior,  
Computer Science/Physics,  
Jersey City

“To live in the US. Even though people are saying it's getting f\*\*ked up I'd rather be here than anywhere else.”



**Krystal Sital, 21,**  
Senior,  
Creative Writing/Psychology,  
Bayonne

“I'm most thankful for being a woman. I love being a woman.”



**Lyle Hickman, 22,**  
Senior,  
Journalism,  
Plainfield

“The present.”



**James Signoretta, 20,**  
third year,  
undeclared, Bayonne

“I'm thankful for God. I'm thankful for my family, my friends. I'm thankful that I honestly have a relatively easy life on the outside. I have just enough to get by. I'm not rich and famous but not broke either... I wouldn't mind some extra cash though.”



**Jordan Fields, 21,**  
Junior,  
History/Education,  
Plainfield

“I'm thankful for having breath in my body... and that I'm still in school because a lot of people aren't, a lot of people start and don't finish. I still respect myself, I'm in good health, got family still intact, got a place to sleep. That's about it.”



**Madelin Castillo, 18,**  
Freshman,  
English,  
Bayonne

“I'm thankful for my mom because she's so strong.”

# NEWS

## From Boom to Bust

Continued from page 2

tax revenue that New Jersey will collect in 2009-2010 fiscal year. This will, of course, necessitate either an increase in state taxes or cut in state's spending.

Given the high property taxes that citizens in New Jersey currently pay, the political climate would indicate a cut in spending and, therefore, the state's system of higher education could expect a significant drop in appropriation which will lead to increase in the tuition to maintain services at the same level.

ACORN's militancy in pressuring Community as well as National Banks to lend money to less credit worthy families added fuel to the fire of the housing bubble. It is clear to most economists that in order for the economic situation to improve, housing prices must stop falling and become stabilized. New Jersey and the Northeast, in general, are much better off than Miami, Las Vegas, and Phoenix, where housing prices are still falling.

Given the risk of a protracted slowdown, congress could pass a second stimulus package during its lame duck session. Among the proposals are cash assistance, extended job benefits, increased food stamps, and

more investment in infrastructure projects that would create jobs in the short-run. Others propose providing tax incentives and tax breaks.

The question is: Is it good for the country? Would it stimulate the economy? Will it harm the economy by increasing inflation? Or is one person's idea of stimulus another person's idea of pork? The lag time between passing legislation and when it goes into effect can lead to negative effects on the economy.

While our politicians are talking about the stimulus package, the U.S. federal budget deficit for the fiscal year 2007-08, ending in September 2008, had a budget deficit of \$455 billion. By comparison, the prior fiscal year deficit was \$162 billion. It doesn't take a genius to realize that in a recession, next year's federal budget deficit will be larger. Therefore, President-Elect Barack Obama will have a hard time finding money for any new programs or to reform the current Medicare and Social Security programs.

*\*\*\*Ivan Steinberg is an Associate Professor of Economics and has been working at NJCU as a full-time faculty member since Fall 1969. Rubina Vohra is an Assistant Professor of Economics who has worked at NJCU for over 10 years.*

## Obama's Historic Election

Continued from page 1

change in this great country of ours. [...] You could sense the joy."

This presidential election saw a record number of registered voters and voter turnout. Michael McDonald, a voting expert and associate professor at George Mason University, predicted the total would reach 133.3 million, a 62.5 percent turnout rate. According to CNN at press time, before Missouri was officially declared as being won by McCain or Obama, about 122.9 million people were said to have voted.

"It was wonderful to see people of all ages and races at my polling station and to wait an hour to cast my vote with my 81 year old mother," said Wonda Shipman an Associate Dean of Student Development and Campus Life from Plainfield who has worked at NJCU for the last 17 years. "Clearly she never believed that this day would come in her lifetime. I believe the message of hope resonated so strongly with all Americans, especially African Americans"

Young voters preferred Obama over John McCain by 66 percent to 32 percent—the highest share of the youth vote obtained by any candidate since exit polls began reporting results by age in 1976, according to CIRCLE (The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement), a non-partisan organization that promotes research on the political engagement of Americans between ages 15 and 25.

"I feel proud to be a part of that



Photo by Eric Thayer/Getty

Chicago's Grant Park was the place to be on election night, over 100,000 people crowded in to hear Barack Obama's victory speech.

young voting number," said Jon DiFiore, 20, a music performance major from Scotch Plains. "In the past the number of young voters

expected him to win because I knew many people who supported him," said Komal Zafar, 21, a journalism major from Jersey City.

*"I will never forget who this victory truly belongs to. It belongs to you. [...] A government of the people, by the people, and for the people has not perished from this earth. This is your victory."*

President-Elect Barack Obama

Nov. 5, 2008

has not been too high. The strong points in Obama's campaign directly affect the future of our generation. I think that his character was very inspiring to get the young voters registered and involved."

"I'm happy that he won and I

In a poll conducted by the "Gothic Times" in September of 2008, 89.6 percent of those 338 polled said they planned to vote for Obama.

Roth said, "His election was a moment that many of us have waited for a long time."

## NJCU Gets a Crash Course in Drunk Driving

By the NJCU Adventures in Journalism class

Students on campus were presented recently with a sobering reminder of the dangers of driving drunk.

On Oct. 9, the campus community was greeted by a smashed-up Volkswagen, parked just outside the Student Union building, as part of a display on the consequences of driving while intoxicated.

In addition, students were able to climb behind the wheel of a simulator, which replicated the experience of driving drunk. The experience seems to have suitably unsettled many of the students who participated, while others questioned whether the graphic presentation would be enough to change some drivers' habits.

"I believe drunk driving is extremely irresponsible behavior," said Anthony Holguin, 18, a biology major from North Bergen. "People shouldn't drive under the influence because most deaths happen because of it."

The presentation was sponsored by the Office of Campus Life and the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention committee (A.S.A.P.) at NJCU.

"The fact that car accidents are the number one killer of teenagers is a big issue," said Robert



Photo by Marlen Gonzalez

The Office of Campus Life and the A.S.A.P. Committee brought a car totaled in a real drunk driving accident to make their point.

Quinones, NJCU Assistant Director of Campus Life. "This is not a Jersey City issue or a New Jersey issue...this is a national issue that needs to be addressed. It is important to remember that

drunk-driving and drunk-driving related deaths are preventable. We can all play an active role in being part of the solution."

As part of the simulation, each student drivers was assigned a

blood alcohol level that approximated legal intoxication. Then, they were able to see just how impaired their judgment was as they tried to "drive" the car.

"Damn, this is crazy," said one

student, refusing to divulge his name as he emerged dazed from the simulator.

"I wanted to see what it was like to drive drunk," said Ariona Gadsden, 21, criminal justice major, Jersey City.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that there's an alcohol related traffic death every thirty minutes. The NHTSA reports that the percentage of 21 to 24-year-old drivers involved in fatal crashes due to alcohol rose from 30 percent in 1997 to 35 percent in 2007, the biggest increase by age over the 10-year period.

"Why would anyone want to put themselves in that position? It's not worth it," Gadsden said.

Due to the efforts of groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), hundreds of new DUI laws have been passed nationwide since 1980. All states have adopted 21 as a legal drinking age. Two-thirds of the states have now passed administrative license revocation laws, which allow arresting officers to seize the licenses of those who fail or refuse to take a breathalyzer test.

"Drunk driving is obviously unsafe," said Jean Carlo, 19, biology major from Teaneck. "The penalties are fair, because if you do something like that you deserve to be punished."

# OPINION

## A Few Thoughts on the Election

By Patrick Jarkowsky

What is obvious to everyone, regardless of party, is the overwhelming catharsis that our nation has experienced with the election of the first African-American President. It is important, however, to examine some of the other significant outcomes from our most recent election season.

### Put An End to the "White Primaries"

Since the Iowa caucus launched the Obama campaign, I doubt the President-elect is going to make any significant rumblings about the unfair nature of the Democratic primary process. But hey, I didn't compete in the caucuses so I guess I'll make the point.

The following are the racial demographics of the State of Iowa: White 91%, Black 2.5%, Latino 3.8%, Asian 1.6%, Other 1.1%. Iowa, as many of you know, is the first contest in the primary season. Although it is a non-binding caucus, the results of this race greatly affect who becomes the nominee of the Democratic Party.

The following are the racial demographics of the State of New Hampshire: White 93.8%, Black 1.1%, Latino 2.3%, Asian 1.9%, Other 0.9. New Hampshire is the first binding Democratic presidential primary. This race is essential with regard to building momentum out of Iowa or making a comeback (just ask Hilary).

The following are the racial demographics of the State of Nevada: White 59%, Black 7.9%, Latino 24.4%, Asian 6.0%, Other 2.7. The Nevada caucus represented the third race of the 2008 Democratic primary season.

Now the Republicans can do what they want. I'm not a member of their party so I will not preach to them about the fairness of their primary system. But to the De-



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mocrats, isn't it time we ended this nonsense?

Since 1964, African-Americans have voted for Democratic presidential nominees, with few exceptions, upwards of 80% of the time. Over the last thirty years, Latinos have voted for Democratic presidential nominees upwards of 60% of the time. So why is it that the populations of the first three primary states are so non-representative with regard to African-Americans and Latinos?

Democrats need to stop taking these groups for granted and institute a series of regional primaries. Instead of the Iowa caucuses, why not conduct a Midwest primary? Give those individuals in Detroit and Chicago as much of a voice as those in Des Moines. Instead of a New Hampshire primary, why not conduct a Northeast primary? Although most of New England tends to be "whiter" than the rest of the northeast, including states such as New York and New Jersey would boost diversity and add a sense of fairness to the primary season. To achieve the same results in the west, the party need only include California and New Mexico.

I know that there will be some individuals who will undoubtedly introduce the fact that a black

man won the Democratic nomination despite this unfair system. We must understand that the President-elect is the exception, not the rule. If the Democratic Party is going to continue to rely on the support of African-Americans and Latinos, we must give them a significant voice in choosing our presidential nominee.

### The \$600 million dollar man

After receiving the Democratic nomination, Barack Obama announced that he would forego public funding and instead rely on private donations. The argument by the Obama camp and its many supporters was that these donations were coming from average Americans and therefore it was kinda, sorta like public funding. Now if you buy this argument, if you think that it's sensible, then I will not try to dissuade you. You should consider, however, that a significant percentage of these donations were more than likely the result of bundling. Bundling occurs when an individual secures donations from a large group of other individuals and then forwards those donations to a candidate on his or her own behalf. The donations, in a sense, do not come from a large group of

individuals but instead from the individual organizer. These individual organizers use their fundraising skills to buy influence. Do not kid yourself; the President-elect was taking their money. He was taking their money so much so that he raised almost \$640 million. Like every politician, he will most certainly return the favor by lending an ear to the concerns of these organizers. But more importantly, do we really want to live in a country where in order to compete in a presidential election one must raise over \$600 million? I never thought the Democrats would be the ones to effectively kill the dream of public financing of elections...

*"I promise the readers of this section that I will view an Obama presidency with the same critical skepticism that I afforded the Bush administration."*

### R.I.P Republican Party

If not for the election of the first African-American president, my next point would undoubtedly be the most significant outcome of the 2008 election season. That point, quite simply, is that the modern Republican Party is dead. The 2008 elections have relegated the Republican Party to a regional party. The Deep South and some of the plain states are the only regions that supported the Republican candidate. In fact, with the defeat of Connecticut Representative Chris Shays (R), the Republican Party has lost

every single House seat in New England.

Now I understand that the Republican Party is not simply going to vanish. There are many Republicans left in the Congress and many Republicans in Governor's mansions all across America. However, the combination of neo-conservatism, radical Christian-ideology, and unabashed corporatism has alienated the majority of the American people. Again, I'm not part of the Republican Party so I'm not going to comment on the inner-workings of their party. But to Democrats, now is the time to engage the American people and persuade them, through thoughtful rhetoric and rapid results, that the Democratic Party can solve the many problems facing America.

And to the doubters, understand that demographics are on our side. The transient nature of the modern American population allows for greater diversity in the interior parts of our nation. States like Virginia and North Carolina continue to receive many northeastern transplants. The same can be said for states like Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. These western states continue to receive many west-coast transplants. Over time, these many states will gravitate towards the Democratic Party. Democratic strategists should seize this opportunity and begin to focus on funding and recruiting in these regions.

Of course I have many other critiques and observations but I didn't want to completely rain on the Democrat's parade. I promise the readers of this section that I will view an Obama presidency with the same critical skepticism I afforded to the Bush administration. I hope that every other commentator, journalist, or would-be-journalist will do the same.

## The End of Cowboy Diplomacy

By Jan Aguilos

A new dawn in diplomacy has arisen with the election of Barack Obama. After eight years of being lost in the woods, Obama can reverse America's decline on the world stage. Campaign slogans such as, "Change We Can Believe In" lead me to believe that he possesses the leadership skills necessary to restore the world's faith in America. But our foreign policy can't be built on buzzwords alone. The electoral courtship has come to an end. Now, the commitment to global leadership begins.

Iraq – America's new four-letter word. Peace is possible in that country, but it will be an imperfect peace. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is more of a pragmatic politician than an America-basher. Obama can start our extrication from Iraq and empower the Maliki government and the Iraqi people to resolve their own internal conflicts. Unfortunately, there won't be a victory party with American soldiers kissing nurses in Times Square. We must take what we can get.

Talking to Iran is crucial if we

are to secure a more stable Middle East. We don't like the Iranian leadership, but they are powerful in the region. Our two countries can agree that their neighborhood benefits by having a stable Iraq. Another key to establishing peace in the Middle East is by fostering peace and respect of human rights between Israel and Palestine.

Obama's vaunted speech in Berlin, Germany this summer in front of thousands of foreign Obamaniacs was a good omen. Issues such as the environment and the global economy, emphasize the impor-



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U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama, left, talks with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, right, in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, July 21, 2008.

tance of an American-European partnership. Western Europe understands that the U.S. is a counterbalance to the resurgence of Russian power. No matter how much the French and the Germans

complain about American leadership, they'd rather deal with us than Vladimir Putin and his Man Friday, current Russian President, Dmitry Medvedev. The Bush administration has not been prudent in its affairs with our neighbors in Latin America. Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez is concentrating his power and rails against America regularly while the Castro brothers still rule the island of Cuba. Obama would be smart to pay attention to this side of the globe. Countries such as Mexico and Brazil remain important trading partners. We can no longer afford to neglect them.

Obama's State Department has an opportunity to positively alter our relationships with African countries. Zimbabwe has been getting a lot of press this year because of Robert Mugabe's stranglehold on power, but there are many Mugabes in Africa. Various African countries still suffer

from civil conflicts, Sudan's government still perpetrates genocide and Obama's ancestral homeland of Kenya is still seething from ethnic conflicts. We can only hope that Obama's connection to Kenya will lead to real communication with the troubled African continent.

The rise of India and China as economic centers in today's globalized world requires Obama to have a keen awareness of the shifting balance of power in the 21st Century. Pakistan's political turmoil and proximity to Afghanistan makes it a focal point in world affairs. Osama bin-Laden himself is hiding in the mountains of Afghanistan or Pakistan; therefore America needs to foster cooperation with these two countries.

Obama's presidential inauguration will mark the end of Bush's cowboy diplomacy. President-elect Obama needs to prove that he can be a Commander-in-Chief and not just a Commander-in-Charm. After all, he can only be a novelty once. Obama needs to hit the ground running so the sun doesn't set on our hopes for change.

*"Obama's presidential inauguration will mark the end of Bush's cowboy diplomacy. President-elect Obama needs to prove that he can be a Commander-in-Chief and not just a Commander-in-Charm."*

# EDITORIAL

## It's Far From Over...

The confetti and balloons have stopped falling and victory speeches have already been made all over the United States, including the most important one.

There are certainly people out there this week who are relieved

solved. The United States is still in two wars; it is still in trillions of dollars of debt; it still has not succeeded in guaranteeing health insurance for all citizens.

There is no way out of your obligation as an American. In spite of how you envisioned this elec-

tion in your country just because your pick is not going to be President—all (if anything) is not lost.

Be informed in the future months. Watch the news. Better yet, READ the news. Information is the only way through which you can earn and keep your place in a free society such as ours. Refuse to turn into one of those people who can name all of the past winners on "Project Runway" and explain the time travel plot on "Lost" but cannot name our state's U.S. Senators or locate Israel on a map.

Never settle. Be persistent and question everything—and everyone. Always question your opponents as well as your sympathizers. Question yourself: "Why should I agree with this? Is there a better solution? Can I think of a new way to solve this problem?"

Then share the answers with one another and come to your own conclusions.

Arguments against this new way of thinking through the next presidential term and beyond might be, "Why bother? I'm only one person"; or, "I don't have time for protests and petitions. It's not my job, anyway"; or even, "I don't care. This President does not affect me."

If everyone in the country chose not to try to bring about change because they are mere individuals, no one would be working to-



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that America's choice has been made, happy that their choice on the presidential election ballot prevailed. On the other hand, there are still millions of people who feel shocked, saddened, and defeated.

Whichever group you fall into, now is not the time to put aside your victor's rally posters, thinking you have done your part. Nor is it time to hang your head and give up on American politics all together.

Your duty as a citizen is just beginning.

You heard right. Whether your candidate won or lost, this country's problems are far from being

tion ending, remember that both candidates promised us change. You have to make sure they make good on those words beginning in January.

Do not be ignorant of future events just because you feel, since your pick will be in office soon enough, all will be fine in his hands. And do not think there is no use in knowing what is going

*"Information is the only way through which you can earn and keep your place in a free society such as ours."*

### THE GOTHIC TIMES

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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.

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ward improvement. It is your job to be a critical thinker and to understand political choices. Who will stand up for you otherwise? Finally, think about why millions of people voted for the first time ever last week if the next President will not affect them.

It is your turn to become vigilantly informed and to use your information to take action. As

soon as you stop doing so, you forfeit your right to have this country represent you. As soon as you stop reading, questioning, or trying to get answers, your fate is entirely in other people's hands. It is in the hands of those who are involved, active, and possibly against everything you believe in. At that point, then everything really IS over.

# 11th Annual Graduate and Law School Fair

Academic Career Planning & Placement Office

### Advantages of Attending:

- ✓ Talk face-to-face with school representatives.
- ✓ Obtain information & applications.
- ✓ Get a head start on admission requirements.
- ✓ Learn about financial aid.

**Thursday, November 20, 2008**

**Gilligan Student Union Building**

**Multipurpose Room,**

**2nd Floor**

**2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

### Partial summary of participating Schools:

- Caldwell College
- Centenary College
- College of Staten Island
- Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Georgian Court University
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Montclair University
- Mercy College
- Metropolitan College of New York
- Monmouth University
- New Jersey City University
- New York Law School
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- Pace University
- Rutgers University (Newark)
- St. John's University
- The College of New Jersey
- The College of New Rochelle
- William Paterson University of New Jersey

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## ENTERTAINMENT

## My Favorite Rapper Wears a Skirt

By Lyle Hickman

“Hip hop is dead.” The spitefully nostalgic hip hop puritan’s motto has gone mainstream: “hip hop is dead.”

While the blind masses ride the torch-bearing, pitchfork-pointing bandwagon, condemning post-1999 mainstream hip hop as a menacing monster, there are many others who don’t agree with that notion.

Enter Eternia.

“Eff what ya heard.”

“That was a tidy slogan,” says Eternia, “I don’t even listen to it.” “Whattup, N.J.!” says Eternia, an emcee from Toronto, Canada, and a “true purveyor of the art and culture,” that is hip hop. Eternia boasts to the hip hop puritans, “I introduced to me, guaranteed I’ll blow any preconceived notion or judgments they may have, right out of the water.”

“I don’t judge hip hop solely on how pop culture depicts it. I know the bubbling scene,” Eternia states, “I’m in it.” Raised in Toronto by a father with past aspirations of rock stardom and a classically trained pianist mother, Eternia’s interest was inherited. With three full-length musical projects, “Where I Been—The Collection,” “It’s Called Life,” and “Where I’m At - The Setup,” Eternia’s music has spread from Canada to the United States and abroad.

This past summer, Eternia was a headliner for the “We B Girlz” Festival which toured numerous sites throughout Europe such as

Berlin, Copenhagen, Hamburg, and Turkey, home to Eternia’s Assyrian father. The “We B Girlz” Festiva” also featured fellow hip hop icon Dr. Roxanne Shante and world respected lyricists Bahamadia and Invincible (an all-women line-up). While on tour, she lost most of her voice and caught a head cold, but managed to retain her gratitude for the experience. “Every day is a blessing,” she says confidently, “every day is magic.”

Graduating from Ryerson University with Bachelors Degrees in Broadcast Journalism and Sociology, Eternia explains, “It gave me confidence to do what I al-

gle off “It’s Called Life” which features her younger sister, Jessica Kaya.

“Love” documents abusive relationships, specifically one between her own mother and father. Raising awareness for Amnesty International’s Campaign to “Stop Violence Against Women,” Eternia chose “Love” as a single. She’s also worked with the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS 411 Initiative, as an artist and an activist, performing and speaking recently in Mexico City and at high schools throughout Canada to raise HIV/AIDS awareness and concerns for women’s equality.

“It’s global, ...really, this love

*“It’s global...really, this love affair I got going with Hip Hop.”*

ready do - speak to people.” Songs such as “Death,” “You Ain’t Real,” “Struggle,” “On and on,” and “Love,” to name a few, delve deep into subjects—ambition, oppression, passion and betrayal—beyond the typical surface touching musicians in the genre.

The genuine delivery consistent in Eternia’s music makes each song a mirror, reflecting high-definition descriptions of what she sees while writing. “I would have no albums, no songs,” she asserted, “if I wasn’t comfortable putting my life on record.”

Referring to herself as “an open book,” Eternia’s songs are mostly based on her life, even the harmoniously gloomy “Love,” a sin-

gle off “It’s Called Life” which features her younger sister, Jessica Kaya. “Love” documents abusive relationships, specifically one between her own mother and father. Raising awareness for Amnesty International’s Campaign to “Stop Violence Against Women,” Eternia chose “Love” as a single. She’s also worked with the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS 411 Initiative, as an artist and an activist, performing and speaking recently in Mexico City and at high schools throughout Canada to raise HIV/AIDS awareness and concerns for women’s equality.

“It’s global, ...really, this love affair I got going with hip hop,” Eternia says, referring to her international travels and tours. “The NJ hip hop scene has nurtured me greatly,” Eternia points out, “I find it to be more organic and ‘underground’ (for lack of a better word) than the super-industry, capitalist focused vibe of music in N.Y.C.”

The former North Bergen, N.J. resident is currently finishing an upcoming album with Moss slated to drop Spring 2009. She’s also working on another album with Apathy of the Demigods and Army of Pharaohs who has worked with Linkin Park’s Mike Shinoda, 7L and Esoteric, and Jedi Mind Tricks.



Photo by Jessica Gonzalez

Eternia, the female emcee from Toronto Canada.

Honest expression, precise delivery, and a voice that demands attention might be the reasons why fans at Eternia’s shows wear her trademark “My Favorite Rapper Wears A Skirt” shirt.

When asked if she had any

words for New Jersey City University students, she sent the following message: “I love y’all...and if you don’t know who this is...come visit me!”

For more information, go to [www.myspace.com/eternia](http://www.myspace.com/eternia)

## Girls: A Bizarre Work of Art

By Mohammad Hassan

With the idea of creator-owned comics becoming more common, many talented young writers and artists are entering the field, trying to come up with the next big thing. The idea of being in complete control over their work is allowing talented new writers and artists a haven to fire their imaginations. With companies like Image Comics, IDW Publications and Dark Horse Comics, which publishes *HellBoy*, giving complete creative control to the writers and artists of their creations, it is no wonder that some of the most bizarre, yet interesting, comics are appearing in their catalog. Enter *Girls*, a science fiction/drama comic book published by Image comics and written, and drawn by Jonathan and Joshua Luna.

*Girls* tells the tale of a young man named Ethan, who is suffering with his inability to deal with the opposite sex in a small southern town by the name of Pennystown. One night, drunk in the local bar, he takes out his frustration on the entire female population of the town and ends up thrown out of the bar. Driving home in anger and frustra-



www.comicsbulletin.com

tion, he meets a beautiful and enigmatic girl who literally changes his world and turns the entire Pennystown upside down. As an alien being who has come to this town in a giant sperm that has covered the entire town in an indestructible glass dome, she wants the female population of Pennystown as a source of food for the giant sperm.

This almost apocalyptic scenario forces the surviving members of Pennystown to stick together as long as they can, hoping maybe some kind of miracle will save them from this nightmare. This series is no doubt one of the most bizarre comic titles published in the last few years.

*Girls* has a very clean and simplistic art style which gets the job done without showing off, unlike that of incredibly stylized artists like David Finch or Michael Turner. *Girls*’ strength lies in its dialogues, and the attention that is given to the carefully constructed story. From the moment it starts, the story keeps sucking the reader in and does not let go. Its dynamic and multi-faced characters are extremely real and make you care for them. The witty one-liners will bring out a smile constantly, especially in the first issue, which

contains a brilliant use of sexual innuendos. It seems like the Luna brothers have a PhD in gender studies because their observation of gender roles is so brilliant and spot on that one cannot help but wonder how they managed to write this book. While the book has a fair amount of nudity, it is never used as a means to sell the book, but rather is an integral part of the book.

However, the book is meant to be enjoyed by adult readers. Excessive female nudity, graphic violence and female/alien cannibalism makes it strictly an adults-only read. So if you want to read an extremely bizarre and well-written comic book, buy *Girls* right now. The series has been collected in four paperbacks and a slipcase coffee table-sized hardcover that was released some time ago which packs the entire story, plus bonus materials like interviews and sketch galleries, making it a great collector’s item. Comic books like *Girls* are a constant reminder that independent comic books are rapidly becoming a viable medium for great storytelling. Someone looking for a great and well-written comic book does not have to look at DC or Marvel anymore.

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Silly Season in Politics

By Jan Aguilos

2008 has been a Presidential election year for the record books and comedy shows. The nexus for politics and satire has strengthened, feeding on a marathon Presidential race and ample news coverage. Even the large number of presidential candidates in the very beginning of this race (back in early 2007!) mirrored the Not Ready for Prime-Time Players.

The culmination of all this satire is Tina Fey's dead-on impression of Alaska Governor, Sarah Palin on Saturday Night Live. Palin was this election's Republican Vice-Presidential nominee and a neophyte on the national stage. SNL has experienced a ratings upsurge this year, starting in late February, after the 2007-2008 Writer's Guild of America strike ended.

Before Fey's Palin, SNL's Amy Poehler received praise for her portrayal of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton as a spurned candidate during the Democratic Primaries.

"They humanized her a little more," says Diana Lieb, the Chairperson of Political Science Department at New Jersey City University, "Hillary needed to lighten up."

Yet Fey's Palin was more biting, like in an SNL skit where Fey's Palin asks her interviewer, Katie Couric, for a lifeline when she's stumped by a question. Tina Fey's Palin also asserted that



Amy Poehler as Hillary Clinton with the real Hillary Clinton on Saturday Night Live.

she can see Russia from her house in an earlier skit and was referred to as "Caribou Barbie."

On cable, Jon Stewart has achieved much success on The Daily Show, a Comedy Central program. After many Emmys and years of gushing critical reception, Stewart has become a media darling for hosting his

fake-news show which skewers national politics.

In the 21st Century, when viewers grow more cynical and skeptical of real news coverage, Stewart serves as an Edward R. Murrow-style truth teller. What's different is that Stewart is not a journalist like Murrow, but a class clown with intellectual wit.

"Good comedy is superbly intellectual," agrees Prof. Lieb. "It takes a great deal of intellect to bring that type of humor to the table. You just can't be your average 'Joe Six-Pack' and get into that part of the entertainment business."

However, many comedy shows are seen as left-leaning. Jon

Stewart is often characterized as a liberal based on his criticism of the Bush administration for the past eight years. Stephen Colbert, the host of Comedy Central's The Colbert Report, hosts a faux-Conservative comedy show and has an equally liberal bent.

Of course, Colbert is tongue-in-cheek with his political bias, whereas Bill Maher of HBO's Real Time with Bill Maher is unabashedly liberal. The lines of fact, opinion, and entertainment are often blurred on these comedy/talk shows, so viewers must always be keen on separating fact from fiction. Everyone, from Leno to Letterman, has their own political biases.

Still, we need to laugh to keep from crying.

"The last eight years of this government has done such harm, incalculable harm," says Prof. Lieb. "But on the other hand it has just been a treasure trove for satire."

Satire usually democratizes democracy and free speech, but not always. One only has to research the minstrel shows of the 19th Century, when white men performed in blackface and maliciously mocked African-Americans. Or take the cartoons that Nazi propaganda spread in 1930s Germany to villanize Jews.

Nevertheless, comedy and satire are positive products of free speech. The First Amendment is one of the pillars of this nation, so class clowns across America should take note.

## Hip Hop Festival Ignites Jones Beach

By Anthony Miles

Hip Hop hit Jones Beach in style with this year's Rock The Bells festival on August 4th. Jones Beach theater was graced with a variety of old school hip hop artists like A Tribe Called Quest, The Pharcyde, De La Soul, not to mention some of today's greatest rap artists like Nas, dead prez, Mos Def, Talib Kweli, Method Man and Redman.

New comer, Kidz in the Hall, opened this year's show lasting all of twenty minutes when problems with their technical equipment caused the performance, to the dismay of the crowd, to be cut short. Cheers and chants ensued, however, when dead prez hit the stage. dead prez, who also suffered from technical problems, voiced their anger at the sound staff and after five minutes ran backstage until

the problem was fixed. The crowd grew furious, but prez kept the crowd in line from backstage, poking fun at the sound staff and all their mishaps.

Later, Immortal Technique hit the stage and blew the crowd away with his trademark 9/11 taglines before bragging to the audience that he was worth \$13,000,000 and it was all thanks to faithful fans that support his independent label, Viper Records. When the performance was over, Immortal jumped into the crowd and walked right out the front of the theater seemingly unafraid of the 10,000 screaming fans that engulfed him and his entourage.

DJ Green Lantern, one of music's hottest producers, provided music to move to, while Mike B from Cypress Hill hit the stage to egg on patrons to make sure they watch out for the surprise guests making their way into the arena. There was even a thunderous "De La Soul" chant started by some eager fans.

Shortly after Mike B left the stage, a mysterious black Maybach car rolled up onto the grounds of the arena. Mike B gave the crowd a look as if to say "Guess Who?" then snuck backstage making way for Supernatural, one of today's living legends of hip hop.

Supernatural announced that Aafrika Bambaataa would be performing on the small stage when De La Soul was to perform. The hype for De La Soul's four o'clock



www.myspace.com/rockthebells.com

performance, however, overpowered Bambaataa's set as most fans stuck it out in the arena patiently waiting for the members of De La Soul to perform.

The short break gave many a chance to visit the concession stands where Aafrika Bambaataa could be heard. His hit song "Renegades of Funk" took over the parking lot; the site of the second stage. It was a b-boy block party complete with break dancers and true fans of the Zulu Nation.

Newcomers like Murs, rocked the parking lot for a small crowd of hip hop aficionados with his George Clinton-esque dreads, West Coast bravado, and unforgettable antics. Back on the main stage, De La Soul's performance kept the audience dialed in from the very start with special guests Biz Markie, Slick Rick, and Dres from Black Sheep who came on to round out the onslaught of star power.

All credit goes out to The Pharcyde, who came through as special guests and performed their

song "Runnin'". And I can't forget Method Man and Redman who gave festival goers a great performance while promoting their new movie, "How High 2," scheduled for release next summer and their "Blackout 2," album that hits stores soon.

Real fans of the hip hop music festival, Rock the Bells, might know that ODB's last performance came at the festival's 2006 concert, so it was no surprise when Wu-Tang Clan's Raekwon and Ghostface Killah flooded the stage with close friends and family. Their performance was a real memorial, a hip hop tribute for a fall-

*It was a b-boy block party complete with break dancers and true fans of the Zulu Nation.*

en rap star. Raekwon and Ghostface reveled in the crowd's intensity and asked patrons to put their lighters up in remembrance.

Nas' performance hit the mark as he performed tracks from most of his early albums. He even blessed fans with tracks off his new and most controversial album to date, the title of which was recently changed to "Untitled," because of its blatant use of

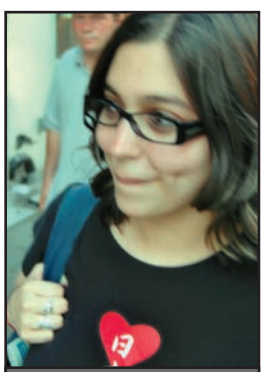
the N-word.

Amazingly, Jay-Z made a special guest appearance and absolutely stunned the crowd when he crept from behind the huge curtain. The performance was electrifying and monumental. The two rap giants collaborated on the songs "Success," and "Black Republicans," opening up the door for more memories, making an already spectacular event that much more.

The festival finally wound down after nearly 10 hours of music with the last performance of the night by headliners, A Tribe Called Quest, who have not performed in New York City in over 11 years. All the members of A Tribe Called Quest hit the stage and played all their greatest hits. "Find a Way," was definitely the highlight of the night, keeping the party going. Mos Def even joined the Tribe for a few of those tracks.

And I can't forget Busta Rhymes' busting out on stage for the song "Scenario," which quickly became a medley of Busta's early songs' like "Put Ya Hands Where My Eyes Can See," closing smoothly with the Daft Punk sampled, "Touch It Remix."

All in all, Rock the Bells was a great festival with all-star performances and guest appearances by some of today's hip hop greats. With great bands and even better music, Rock the Bells, seems like a sure bet for young hip-hop heads to check out every summer.

VANESSA CUBILLO  
Entertainment Editor

# CULTURE

## 'A Nation of Immigrants'

By Jan Aguilos

The United States is called a melting pot, yet the term "melting pot" has become so cliché that it has almost lost its meaning. Our country is the most diverse in the world but we take it for granted. It seems like there are too many people who keep forgetting how diversity starts from immigration.

"I think diversity is very important," said Lydia de La Rosa, a 34-year-old senior and double major in media arts and biology at New Jersey City University, "because you get to know other people's culture, language, [and] food." She emigrated from the Dominican Republic in 1991, and now lives in Bayonne with her mother and teenage son.

De La Rosa currently works at a hair salon in Newport Mall and is also a trainee for the NJ Transit Light Rail. Her co-workers and friends are ethnically mixed and include fellow immigrants from different regions of the world, which she very much appreciates.

"You get to interact with so many other cultures that make you feel like you're in their [respective] country already," she asserted.

But that interaction is not always pleasant. Prejudice and downright xenophobia, which is, according to [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com), "a fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign," lurk in America. It has affected many immigrants, like Dania Alce, a 21-year-old health science major with a minor in po-



[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

litical science from Jersey City. She arrived in the U.S. in 2003 for political asylum from Haiti with her mother and twin sister.

After escaping the political turmoil in Haiti, Alce was confronted with the intimate turmoil of ignorance from a few of her high school classmates.

"When I was in high school, it was very depressing for me because I got bullied a lot," she said. "Many people said I'm

'boat people' even though they don't know how I came to this country."

She is currently a junior and has a positive view of NJCU. "People [at NJCU] accept your accent," she said. "The professors are very supportive, and I like it."

The Pew Research Center, in a February 2008 report, estimates that the U.S. population will reach 438 million in 2050, if cur-

rent trends in population growth continue. (Right now, there are more than 300 million Americans). Even more notable is that 82 percent of that growth will come from immigrants and children of immigrants.

We already live in a nation of immigrants, but the 21st century is likely to mix up America's ethnic make-up more than it has

lishing company and lives in Elizabeth with his wife, a fellow Ghanaian, and two children. He stated that his young kids are very much Americanized.

Yet Americanization may be seen as a confluence of different cultures. "I feel like I have the power of having two cultures," said de La Rosa, "the benefits of having two different cultures."

*"Prejudice and downright xenophobia, which is 'a fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign,' lurk in America."*

been from the previous waves of immigrants from the 20th and 19th centuries. Americanization can be spotted around the world. Famous American emblems such as the American flag, McDonald's Golden Arches, and Mickey Mouse can pop up almost anywhere.

Acceptance of and assimilation into American life is a tricky process. "Not everything American is superb," said Daniels Tornyenu, 34. "America is great in a lot of ways," he added, "but in a lot of ways it's not the best place."

Tornyenu, also the Advice editor for The Gothic Times, is a senior and double major in journalism and media arts. He arrived in America about nine years ago. Currently, he works for a pub-

Some immigrants can usually balance two cultures and tend to be strong believers of the American Dream.

"If you were born here and raised here you don't really see it," said Alce, who eventually hopes to be a diplomat and exponent for Haiti. "When you come here, you see the dream of Democracy – when you can decide what you want in life."

"Immigrants can be called ambitious," said Tornyenu. "The frames of reference are wider than some of those born and bred in this country."

At a time of great upheaval, the American Dream seems to slowly disappear. Yet, because Americans are the people of all peoples, we see that many still believe in it.

## Thanksgiving and Its Course

By Amanda Rasslan

The holiday season has arrived when the smell of turkey and a homemade meal is laid across the table. Families and friends gather together in front of pumpkin pie while reminiscing with laughter and catching up on new things. Distant relatives come together and celebrate their family traditions. In American culture today, this national holiday is celebrated in myriad ways, but still carries its essential meaning.

"I play football early morning then take a short view of the parade," said Roger Williams from Bayonne, NJ, who is a 21-year-old junior, majoring in physical therapy. "Afterwards my family gathers to eat and catch up on old times and new stories. We play games, and get ready to prepare Christmas events," said Williams.

This year's Thanksgiving holiday will start off for many with the 82nd Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Families and

friends enjoy the, football games, food, and company. Thanksgiving is a time where everyone gathers with one another and celebrates in their own way.

Another student also celebrates this day of thanks with good food and good company. "Early morning I go to church and head on over to my family's house to celebrate Thanksgiving, and catch up on old times and stuff ourselves," said Peter Aleman from Secaucus, NJ, who is a 23-year-old senior, majoring in business marketing. "The next day I'm ready for Black Friday."

Thanksgiving came about when the English colonists, known as Pilgrims, traveled for two months overseas barely surviving. When they reached Plymouth Rock, they harvested and created a feast. An invitation to the Wampanoag Indians was sent to join them in a thankful feast with games and merry making. Their meals contained cabbage, seafood, corn, and squash before our mash pota-

toes and cranberry sauce were created. Duck was their main meat for their course as opposed to our traditional "Tom the Turkey."

As the post-Thanksgiving holiday season approaches, it is time for families and friends to get ready to shop. The day after Thanksgiving sales nationally known as "Black Friday" is where the fun begins. "I watch the Macy's parade Thanksgiving morning and later on my family gathers and eats dinner," said Sarah Mahmoud from Bayonne, NJ, who is a 20-year-old sophomore majoring in accounting. "Then we get ready for the next morning to go shop on Black Friday."

There are churches and organizations where community service is done to offer food to shelters where the less fortunate can have a thankful meal to eat. When President Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a national holiday, it spurred families to create their own traditions. So eat well, shop happy, and remember to say thank you.



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# ADVICE

## How to Cope with Stress

By Alissa Koval-Dhaliwal  
Ph.D., Psychologist

Stress is an unavoidable aspect of life. Whether we're overwhelmed by academic demands, job responsibilities, financial concerns or struggles with loved ones, our bodies respond in predictable ways. Physical symptoms include headaches, insomnia, muscle tension, gastrointestinal problems, high blood pressure, low sex drive, heart palpitations, trembling, sweating, fatigue, and appetite changes. Emotional symptoms include irritability, fearfulness, social withdrawal, crying easily, impaired concentration, and forgetfulness.

While stress can't be fully eliminated from our lives, it can be minimized. Here are some strategies for reducing your stress level:

### 1. Prioritize

Figure out which tasks need to be done today, which can be accomplished later in the week, and which are not necessary to do until later in the month. Break complex tasks down into more manageable parts and do what needs to be done first.

### 2. Anticipate

Prepare for impending stressful situations. Practice for upcoming events that are likely to be challenging, such as exams, oral presentations and difficult conversations. In addition, learn to expect the unexpected; allow some extra room in your schedule to absorb unanticipated

### 3. Shift your attitude

Pessimistic attitudes about yourself and the world around you interfere with your ability to cope. Examine whether your negative thoughts are based on fear or fact. Take note of what you have to be grateful for and look for the learning opportunities inherent in each challenge. Focus on the things you have the power to change rather than on those which are beyond your control.

### 4. Relax

It's impossible to be stressed and relaxed at the same time. Participating in activities that calm you provides a respite from stress symptoms. Yoga, tai chi, meditation, prayer, deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation exercises, and guided visualization techniques are great ways to achieve tranquility. Setting aside time each day for relaxation rejuvenates us and inoculates us against stress.

### 5. Live healthfully

Like cars, bodies handle stress better when they are well-fueled, tuned-up and don't sit idle for too long. Eating balanced, nutritious meals at regular intervals, getting enough sleep to feel refreshed upon waking, avoiding self-medication through alcohol and other drugs, and getting regular aerobic exercise are all important buffers against stress.

Need more assistance with managing stress? The staff at the NJCU Counseling Center offers free and confidential counseling for registered students. Call 201-200-3165 or stop by GSUB 308 to make an appointment.

# Historic Run For President Might Be Over

*The Time to Tee-Off Your Political Activism...Is Now!*

By Daniels Tornyenu

Unless we got a repeat of the drawn out, Supreme Court-mediated Bush v. Gore 2000, by the time you read this article, the 2008 presidential election, historic by all accounts might be over. And boy, what an election!

As a people, we were blessed with two wonderful candidates on whom we hanged our hopes and aspirations. I know you answered dutifully, the call to contribute to our long-running democratic process of choosing a leader over us.

In a polarized election as this one, what was the decider for you?

Is the candidate you supported cooling his feet 'til he takes his path of office in January? Or are you wringing your hands over his loss and singing post-election blues? A foghorn might get you noticed but may not get your point across. Be fired up to bring attention to your concerns and don't risk drowning out your voice as a result of passive idealism. Politics is a verb and a contact sport. There is no substitute for hard work. These are some of the things you need to do:

### 1. KNOW YOUR REPRESENTATIVES:

The outcome of this election may change who your political representatives are. That notwithstanding this is certainly the time to continue pushing for the passionate issues that shaped your vote. Get your concerns clearly articulated to your representatives. Some problems in our communities remain unsolved not because of deliberate neglect on the part of our representatives but because of the lack of their aware-

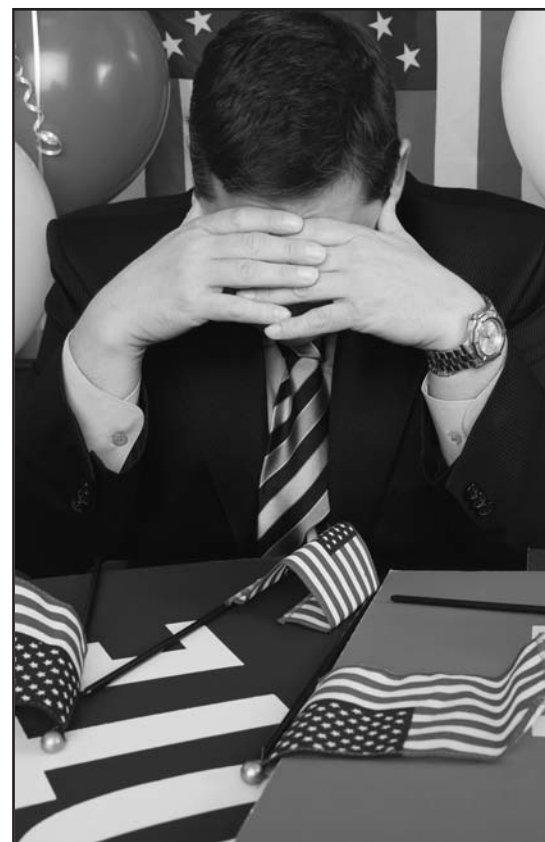


Photo.com

ness of the problem(s). Petitions do work if you highlight them and are relentless in your pursuit of getting them noticed. www.Nj.gov is the state's official site that lists directories for local, county as well as federal government.

### 2. GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY POLITICS:

The elected candidate's victory may be due more to his brilliant organizational skills than his professional experience. Community activism and organization gets you the intimacy necessary to know the people and their problems. Politics is a costly undertaking but active community participation exposes you to grassroots funding techniques, a

critical edge that Senator Obama wisely exploited. There is a wealth of community benevolence and seemingly endless supply of funding awaiting individuals who work hard and know where to look. Get involved: www.hudsondiversity.org.

### 3. JOIN NJCU CAMPUS POLITICS:

The New Jersey City University

political community lists great areas of active political participation. From helping in soup kitchens across the state through documenting voters' concerns to erecting roofs over the heads of people, you will be surprised where your interest leads you. You may begin by calling the NJCU political science department at 201 200-3231.

*"Is your candidate ready for office...  
or are you singing  
election postpartum blues?"*



## 13th Anniversary Gifts from the Heart Project

November 10 – November 26, 2008

Holiday times are right around the corner, and once again the Gifts from the Heart Committee is planning to collect, gift-wrap and distribute new or nearly new clothes and toys to the needy children and families in our Jersey City community. All donations will go the following agencies:

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

call: Sergio Villamizar at Ext. 2170.

Sponsored by the New Jersey City University Division of Student Affairs and SGO in partnership with the offices of the President and the Dean of Students

**Hudson Cradle:** a home for infants whose lives are affected by drugs, HIV, and child abuse.

**Let's Celebrate:** community organization that provides a wide range of services to the Jersey City Community through programs including four (4) soup kitchens, and 16 food pantries.

**Women Rising:** provides services to children, teens, and families in need, including support for battered women.

**WE NEED:** New or nearly new winter clothes, toys and complete games in good condition, ribbons, wrapping paper, decorations, gift bags and boxes...

**DROP OFF** your donations from November 10th to November 26th at one of the following locations:

- The John Moore Athletic Center
- The Office of Campus Life, GSUB 111
- The Early Childhood Learning Center, Hepburn Hall 101
- The Learning Center, Hepburn Hall 112
- The Health & Wellness Center, Vodra 107.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for wrapping and decorating packages on Tuesday December 2nd from 9AM – 4:30PM in the Gothic Lounge (H. 202).

**STUCK WITH A RESEARCH QUESTION  
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?  
HELP IS AVAILABLE:**

*Q and A NJ Student DEMO*

Come to a quick QandA NJ demo for students and learn more about how to use the online library and New Jersey's 24/7 chat reference service.

Thursday, November 6  
4:00 pm-4:30 pm  
Thursday, December 4  
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Demo sessions will be held in the John V. Machuga Technology Center on the 1st floor of the library. If these times don't work for you, I'd be happy to set up individual sessions.

Contact me at 201-200-3473 or lkortz@njcu.edu.

**QandANJ.org**



**Got a  
Question?  
Get a Live  
Answer.**



Powered by the New Jersey Library Network

[www.gothictimesnetwork.com](http://www.gothictimesnetwork.com)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FALL VACCINES**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17th**  
**(3:00pm - 5:00pm)**

*(GSUB, 2nd Floor - MPR A)*

**Flu: \$25.00**  
**Pneumonia \$45.00**  
**MMR or Hep B: \$75.00 ea**

**CASH OR CHECKS MADE TO  
PASSPORT HEALTH  
NO INSURANCES ACCEPTED  
MUST BE 18 or OLDER**



**LIVE**

**TRAVEL**

**APPLICATION DEADLINES**

FALL Semester: April 15th  
SPRING Semester: October 15

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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STUDENTS AND STUDY ABROAD

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Jersey City, NJ 07305  
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## ARTS

## Yoko Ono Comes to NJCU

By Narciso Espiritu, Jr.

**Y**OKO ONO IMAGINE PEACE is one of the more high-profile events to take place at New Jersey City University. Featuring a chronological following of John & Yoko's Year of Peace and focusing on thematic ideals of peace and love, the exhibition is concluding its tour at the NJCU Galleries this fall.

The exhibition has traveled to a myriad of universities including University of Texas, San Antonio Art Gallery in San Antonio, TX, and Samek Art Gallery in Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. The exhibit is curated by Kevin Concannon and John Noga from the Mary Schiller Myers School of Art at The University of Akron in Ohio.

For many, Ono was wife of the late John Lennon, member of world-renowned band, The Beatles, but for a dedicated few, the Japanese artist and musician is something of an idol. Describing the exhibition's opening on Sunday, October 26, as "tense" is an understatement. The third floor of Hepburn Hall, where the Lemmerman Gallery is located, continually filled with more and more people even after Ono appeared.

The people gathered can be described as varied, including the young and old, professional and aspiring, the art appreciator and music elite (even pin-button enthusiasts would be welcome because of free "IMAGINE PEACE" buttons available at the entrance of the gallery). Everyone on Hepburn Hall's third floor was anticipating Ono's presence,



Photo by Anrei Degenhardt

*Imagine Peace* buttons gifted to viewers at exhibition.

but they just met more anticipation. However, Ono's delayed arrival gave way for all visitors to examine, admire, or criticize her works of peace.

The work (available for viewing until December 8, 2008) encompasses the artist's work with John Lennon and some of her more recent work; Ono's career spans six decades, from the 1950s to the present. Throughout her career, she has strived to develop new art forms and moves freely between mediums and genres.

During the 1960s, Ono was an important artist in Fluxus, Performance Art, and Conceptual Art. Much of the work, for example, "War Is Over!" seems like



Photo by Anrei Degenhardt

documentation, because it was more of an event than the usual art one would imagine. The work sought to involve as many people as possible in believing in a message of peace.

In her personal communication to Dr. Midori Yoshimoto, Gallery Director at NJCU, Ono details the exhibit's goals, "The presentation had dignity, simplicity, and beauty of the spirit which touched people." The event took place around the world and was presented in various languages, and in a time of war, during the Vietnam War specifically, "War Is Over!" was a very motivating message for everyone.

In many ways, "War Is Over!" is a very contemporary idea. For the past decade, different parts of the world have fallen into conflicts of war. The emotions in contemporary America reflect the emotions and thoughts in the time of the Vietnam War.

Dr. Robert Albrecht, a professor in the Media Arts Department, describes this reflection, "In some ways it is like the Vietnam Era [...] During Vietnam, a lot of young people started asking, 'Why are we in Vietnam?' 'Why are we killing people?' [...] 'Why are we sending our young men there to die?' [...] At the same time, a lot of young people [...] that I meet [as a professor] are asking the same questions."

"War Is Over!" is a message for peace, and with the change in administration that comes with the Presidential Election of 2008, people are hoping for a return to more peaceful times. IMAGINE PEACE visualizes the hope that many still carry today.

## Poetry Corner

## Pinot Grigio

By Gothic Voz

*Hello...Hello...  
Is anyone there?  
Mind shadows,  
soul echoes  
Art dancing into the  
swirling night*

*Send men to fight  
One man come day  
of night  
Tried to cut myself  
If this was paradiso*

*As the stars Pinot Grigio  
My piccolo is heavy  
Feet carried me far  
We will chirp, not speak*

Please send your original poetry to be included in our Poetry Corner. All are welcome. E-mail submissions to willa\_njcu@me.com.

## Featured Artist: Kathy Bruce

By Jared Martin

**E**nduring the high winds and cold temperatures of the fall and winter, one member of the New Jersey City University community will remain outside until spring for the benefit of the environment. This woman, created from bamboo by artist Kathy Bruce, will stand in the sculpture garden, collecting leaves in the fall to be composted over four months and used as soil for planting in the spring.

The outdoor sculpture is one way Bruce has contributed as the University's Artist in Residence for the Fall 2008 semester. In addition to creating artwork, Bruce gave a lecture on her recent pieces, critiqued students' work, led a workshop with the sculpture class, and was available to discuss her practice with students.

Like all students in the art department, Bruce has to deal with limitations in time and space in making her art. Her four-week residency at NJCU gives the New York City artist the space needed to create large-scale, outdoor sculptures that could not possibly be completed at home. For this reason, Bruce is constantly writing proposals for and participating in residencies across the nation.

Sites such as LAND/ART in New Mexico provide vast amounts of land where artists can respond directly to the environment, freely creating pieces that fall within certain parameters. For example, they may engage the community or embrace natural destructive forces, two factors Bruce is keenly aware of. She works with her own ideas and aesthetic, choosing subjects and materials befitting to the space and amount of time provided.

The temporary, outdoor installations Bruce creates incorporate materials that are, if not found in nature, as close to natural as possible. Associations with cycles and life spans, aspects that tie into environmental and women's issues can be drawn from the metaphor of the female figure and the effects incurred over time as nature acts on the works.

Most of Bruce's installations are built in a way that allows them to be recycled, with parts being reused or relocated for other purposes. For instance, a wooden sculpture may become a shelter for birds as it is moved from public display into the forest, a change that intrigues the artist, and gives the work a life of its own.

In addition to her sculpture, Bruce also works on public proj-

ects such as designing decorative art for train stations. The permanent public works are often site-specific and based around necessity. Her personal works are collages dealing with similar themes, composed of images from science, art, poetry and literature. The collages are more intimate, often acting as a diary.

The results of Bruce's time spent at the University will extend beyond her residency through her influence on the students as well as the installation she leaves behind as she transitions into other investigations.

"Ms. Bruce's work in the sculpture garden is a visually compelling form that members across the NJCU community will be able to enjoy," says Professor Brian Gustafson, who heads the Visiting Artist Program.

Gustafson's sculpture students worked with Bruce on a project that brought the class together to utilize space in the sculp-

ture garden. "Since her work addresses both environment and time, I believe it will be fascinating to watch how this work can be appreciated with the change of the seasons." Having raised awareness of public outdoor art and how it can enhance the environment, Bruce's stay, though temporary like her work, will continue to make an impact on the community.

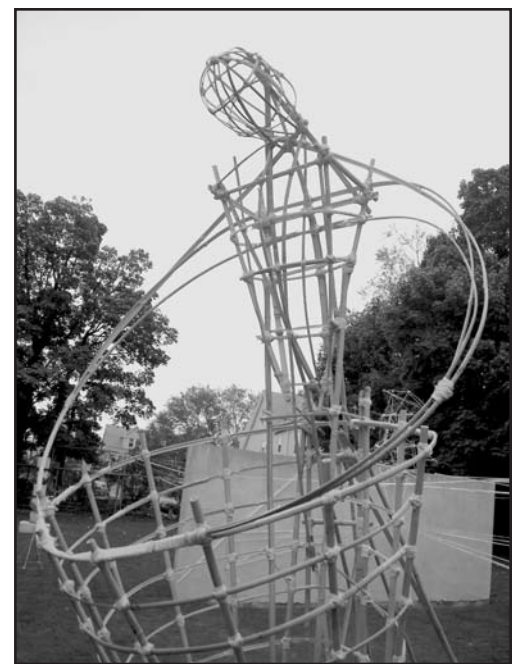


Photo by Kathy Bruce

**Bruce's Composting Vessel at NJCU Sculpture Yard.**

## ARTS

# 'Deliverance'

## The Art of Ben Jones

### 1970–2008

By Jared Martin and Daniel Morte

On September 18, 2008, one of the most acclaimed artists in both the Jersey City area and the country at large, Ben Jones, marked forty years of artistic contribution with his retrospective show "Deliverance," at the Jersey City Museum in downtown Jersey City.

Jones, a Paterson native, has been creating paintings and installations connected to African and African-American culture as far back as the late seventies. Coinciding with his career as a painter, he has also been a professor of art at New Jersey City University, inspiring generations of hopeful artists.

"Ben Jones's work is the reason why words were invented," said poet and former pupil K. Desiree. "As someone new to the art world, this is art I can understand. It is relatable to all ages."

"Deliverance" was the Jersey City Museum's biggest and most successful opening event, with over eight hundred guests accounted for. Many of those who attended know Jones personally, coming from parts of the world that were just as diverse as the artist's work. From young children to admired artists and polit-

ical figures, all came to pay homage to Jones' career and life's work.

In this retrospective, the collection of art represented spans at least a generation of change in the social forces of the country, as well as a lifetime of phases in the artist's own journey. Varying in medium, the work embodies an aesthetic that is both personal and collective, combining images drawn from spiritual, social and cultural subjects.

Here, Africa is the starting point not just for human civilization, but a base for an entire universe and thought system, expanding ideas of science, music and the cosmos in its entirety. Early works take on themes of this continent, including the tradition of portraying power and spirit.

In *Four Black Faces* (1971), colorful abstract patterns are painted over casts of the artist's own face. Displayed on the wall like ceremonial masks, they peer outward with one open eye, an allusion to the dualities of life such as the unconscious and subconscious, or the worlds of the living and the dead. This piece, like others in the show, presents a mix of modern materials and treatment with traditional forms and imagery, suggesting a search for identity of which one step in



*Four Black Faces* by Ben Jones

Photo courtesy of the Jersey City Museum

the process is documented.

The most recent work shown belongs to the "Blood Series." Based upon the multitude of references to blood in the Bible, the artist successfully conveys the physical and spiritual properties of this symbolic element in pieces such as *Washed in the Blood* (2006). Various shades of red have been manipulated through dripping, staining, and splattering paint across the white surface, creating an abstraction that is at once controlled and chaotic. A number of pieces in the series incorporate symbols

from or mimicking non-Christian cultures, demonstrating the universal nature of blood in cleansing and purification.

As an activist and artist, Jones visually links spirituality and politics, magnifying these fundamental human issues. The wisdom gained over the last forty years of creating art, teaching, being involved in the community and traveling across the globe is apparent in the presence of his visually and conceptually deep work. Of course, like anyone who is truly on a mission, this is only the beginning for Jones.



*Blood Spirit #1* by Ben Jones

## Hallelujah! A Buried Treasure in Cinema

By Jan Aguilos

The classic 1929 film "Hallelujah!" was screened at the Margaret Williams Theatre in Highburn Hall on October 29. "Hallelujah!" was directed by legendary filmmaker King Vidor and was the first major Hollywood film with an all African-American cast. It is the journey of a young black man named Zeke who falls in love with a cheating temptress named Chick who just can't just change her ways.

This screening was part of New Jersey City University's 80th anniversary celebration. On hand for the screening was Donald Bogle, film historian and author of books such as *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies and Bucks: An Interpretive History of Blacks in Films*; *Dorothy Dandridge: A Biography*; and *Primetime Blues: African Americans on Network Television*. John Columbus, Director of the Black Maria Film and Video Festival (based at NJCU), introduced Bogle and interviewed him in a Q & A at the event's tail end.

"We read his books in my Race and Ethnicity in Film class," said Summer Wosu, 23, "so it was great to apply the concepts to a film of the period and then have him be there to discuss it." Wosu is a senior that majors in Media Arts at NJCU and conversed with Bogle after the Q & A.

"I thought I got pretty good questions from the students tonight," said Bogle. "I was happy to hear the points that they were making, and also to know that they've been reading my

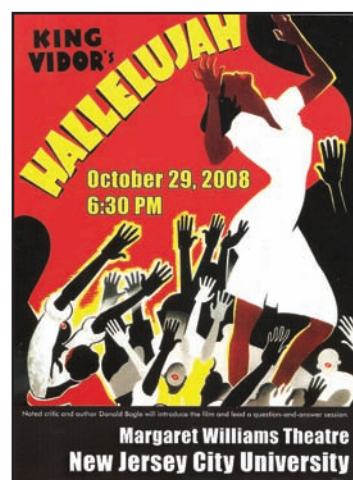


Photo by xxx

King Vidor's "Hallelujah" was the first major Hollywood film to feature an all African-American cast.

books."

NJCU's Media Arts department set up the screening and the theatre seats were filled with media arts majors, such as Adam Hindi. Like the rest of the audience, Hindi appreciated Bogle's acumen.

"He knew his stuff," said Hindi, a 21-year-old sophomore and aspiring filmmaker from Union. "He entertained us [and] everybody was listening to him, He was a pretty good speaker."

Professors from the Media Arts department also had a favorable view of the director.

"Bogle's ability to frame his discussion about the film so comprehensively for a wide audience really added another dimension to the viewing experience," noted Professor Nick Eferiades. "This is a great education in a more ca-

sual situation."

Hallelujah! was not a big box office success when it was first released. However, the director nabbed an Academy Award nomination for his efforts. Vidor lobbied hard for the making of this film in MGM Studios and ultimately made the film without a salary.

Also noteworthy is that "Hallelujah!" was an early sound picture; Vidor's first, in a period in which silent films began to be replaced by talkies. It's impossible to deny the film's artistry and competence of the cast. Daniel L. Haynes plays the lead, Zeke, and a 16-year-old Nina Mae McKinney plays Chick, a hurricane of a temptress. Vidor shot the exterior scenes of this film in Tennessee and Arkansas and even hired locals to play extras and other small roles.

There are stereotypes of black men and women within the movie but it is important to see the film for its strengths and artistry. "Hallelujah!" was released decades before the advances in civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s, but is part of the evolution of African-Americans in film. From the racist portrayals of D.W. Griffith's "The Birth of the Nation" and Al Jolson appearing in blackface and singing "My Mammy" in "The Jazz Singer," Hollywood has a spotty record in its depiction of African-Americans.

Thankfully, "Hallelujah!" is a human tale and is lauded for its artistry and innovation. And NJCU students and professors discovered a buried treasure in cinema.

## Arts Calendar

### NJCU Galleries

*Yoko Ono: Imagine Peace*  
Featuring John and Yoko's Year of Peace  
October 27-December 8

### Film screenings

Visual Arts Building  
Auditorium  
*The U.S. vs. John Lennon*  
November 6, 5pm  
*Films by Yoko Ono*  
November 18, 6pm

### Do's and Don'ts Workshop

Professor Dittrich  
November 11, 5 – 7 pm  
VAB Room 221

### Business of Creativity Lecture

Jessica Weber  
November 12, 12:00 noon  
VAB Room B08

### Gallery Workshop

Julie Seibert  
November 17, 5 – 7 pm  
VAB Room B08

### Lecture (Highburn Hall, Room 202)

*Yoko Ono Imagining Peace, 1966–2008*  
Dr. Kevin Concannon  
December 8, 12pm

### Newark Arts Council

570 Broad St., Newark  
*Red Badge of Courage (Revisited)*  
October 26-November 28

### City Without Walls

Newark, NJ  
*The Price of Freedom*  
October 25-December 19

### esORO Gallery

107 Brunswick St., Jersey City  
*Conflicted*  
November 1-22  
www.esorogallery.com

### Walsh Gallery

Seton Hall University,  
South Orange  
*Paperwork*  
November 10-December 13  
Opening reception Thurs. Nov. 13, 5-9pm

Look for upcoming events at:

Lex Leonard Gallery,  
Jersey City  
www.lexleonardgallery.com

The Landmark Loew's  
Jersey Theater  
www.loewsjersey.org

## CALLING ALL PAINTERS!

LITM in downtown Jersey City will be hosting a show entitled "Little Wonders" on Dec. 2. Deadline for submissions is Wed., Nov. 19. All work must be under 14 in.

Please send jpeg files to [andrea@litm.com](mailto:andrea@litm.com)