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College Students' Cash Crunch

Costs rising on essentials

By Jordan Lester, Christina Johnson and Denise Gibson

Tuition

Students enrolled in Fall 2008 classes at New Jersey City University will probably notice an increase in the amount of money they will pay for tuition this year.

NJCU President Carlos Hernández says this year's tuition increase is the direct result of New Jersey's reducing its appropriation to higher education over the past ten years.

"I know it's a very difficult period for students," Hernández says. "It is not something that we take lightly."

Tuition has been increasing every fall semester, and will probably continue to do so. Last academic year, tuition was \$269.85 and this year is \$288.75 per credit for undergraduate courses.

This year's graduate courses will cost \$520.50 per credit as opposed to last year's cost of \$486.45.

"Every July, the Board of Trustees get together and decide how much the tuition is going to increase and [the new rates are] usually released in July," says Mariana Jaramillo, a program assistant in the Bursar's Office.

The full time undergraduate per semester admissions rate changed from \$4,077.54 and rose to \$4,363.00 according to Tuition & Fee Rate charts available at NJCU's Office of Associate Vice President for Finance and Controller website.

Seniors who are beginning their



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fourth year at NJCU may remember that in their freshmen year of 2005-2006, full time undergraduate tuition was only \$3,520.20 per semester.

In spite of these increases,

from seven percent almost up to 10 percent [at some schools]. We are at [a] seven [percent increase ...] and we are among the low."

Since the tuition increased, some students have to pay more mon-

City.

NJCU freshman Adam Granell, 19, says that since tuition has increased, he does not drive and instead takes public transportation, which, in turn, has put him on a

school necessities.

"The fact that the tuition increased makes it harder to afford books because I have other bills and a child to provide for," says Shanette Taylor, a 20-year-old early childhood education major and sophomore from Jersey City.

Granell says it is hard for him to afford books and that "even the used books are too expensive."

There are mixed opinions, however, as to how students will ultimately react to the tuition increase.

"Why is there a need to keep increasing the tuition especially if this school is not in demand like other universities?" asks Ramsey. "I know someone who is mad about the tuition increase."

"I believe if you are a determined student, it just means cutting back on luxuries, for example, skipping the nail salon. If you are this determined student than the tuition increase would not affect you," Taylor says.

Most students determine their going to college based on affordability. Some fear the recent tuition increase will discourage students even more.

"It is hard enough to convince our youth to go to school and further their knowledge," Taylor says. "Do not make money another excuse for them to turn the other cheek to education and go down the wrong road."

Food

The increasing cost of food is taking its toll on America, and even students are feeling it.

Dietary staples such as bread, cereal, and milk cost 8.5 percent

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**"I know it's a very difficult period for students."
— NJCU President Carlos Hernández**

NJCU remains the least expensive public college in New Jersey.

"NJCU continues to be the most affordable of all the public universities among all the colleges in the entire state," Hernández says. "Tuition has been raised

outright and others have to take out more loans.

"This is affecting me because I have to take out another loan to pay my tuition," says Octavia Ramsey, a 21-year-old psychology major and junior from Jersey

tighter schedule. He says it has caused him to "not have a social life and not spend enough time with family."

As a result of the tuition increase, students said that it is difficult for them to afford basic

Election 2008: NJCU

'Candidates' on Campus

By Marlen Gonzalez

This fall, the New Jersey City University community will be able to witness a live presidential debate and election without even having to leave campus. Four NJCU students will star as the presidential candidates in the Great Debate 2008 on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 12-2 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room on the second floor of the Gilligan Student Union Building.

A moderator of the mock debate will ask one to two questions per candidate on issues such as homeland security, the environment, healthcare, and education. Each candidate will have up to one minute to respond to each question.



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At the end of the debate, the audience will elect one of the candidates by secret ballot. A second president also will be selected based on his or her performance (i.e. portrayal, delivery and knowledge on the issues).

"The goal is to increase political awareness and encourage political participation," says Renata Moreira, a Jersey City resident who is Assistant Di-

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A Note from the Editor

Dear students, faculty and staff,

Welcome to another new academic year at New Jersey City University.

After a short summer filled with sizzling campaign trails, soaking rains, and a record-smashing Olympics, I hope you are ready to sit back, take a breather, and enjoy the first issue of the 2008-2009 *Gothic Times*.

As this year's *Gothic Times* Editor-in-Chief, I look forward to helping this newspaper continue its tradition of being a source of invaluable insight and information to NJCU.

I became a part of *The Gothic Times* staff only a month into my freshman year at NJCU in fall 2005. After working my way up from being the paper's proofreader/fact-checker to being its Managing Editor in 2007, I can honestly say that I am proud of what this newspaper has become and even prouder to be its Editor.

This past summer, as a testament to our commitment in helping make the lives of those of the



ERICA MARIE MOLINA
Editor-in-Chief

Photo by Felix Molina

NJCU student body a bit easier, my staff and I decided to devote the entire first issue to the higher costs of living and how to cope.

In the coming year, everyone and anyone at NJCU, students and staff alike, should feel free to become involved in our — your — university newspaper.

As always, I am looking forward to doing a lot more for *The Gothic Times* and our readers this coming year. If you have any ideas, do not hesitate to contact us at gothic-times@njcu.edu.

Have a great year!

Sincerely,
Erica Marie Molina

NEWS

College Students' Cash Crunch

Continued from page 1

cent more than they did last year according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. Increased food prices not only stem from the rising costs of fuel needed for its transportation, but also from bouts of bad weather during a critical periods for crops.

As a result, the average consumer is forced to pick up the slack. This can be exceptionally difficult to a student who needs to be mindful of her expenses.

"[Students are] thinking about tuition, books [...]; and then you have to spend money on parking and have to eat something," says Shatayia Dingle, a 21 year-old Jersey City senior majoring in biology. "The only reason I eat [on campus] is because I'm here all day."

Food prices have risen an average of 41% since October, and show no signs of letting up anytime soon. It is easy to see how

to go home and cook my own food and bring it [to campus]."

It is unsurprising students find it more economical to tote their meals with them to campus. Others avoid eating on the grounds at all.

"I don't really eat here [on campus]," says Giovanni Veloz, an 18 year-old freshman and criminal justice major from Englewood. "I don't think the prices [of campus food] are that bad, but I don't really eat here because I try not to spend my money."

Gas

High gas prices are not good news for NJCU, where less than one percent of the school's approximately 8,600 students live on campus.

Students have always had to mull over the expected stressors such as their grades, jobs, and personal lives. Paying for gas is yet another stressor that is taking a



Photo by Cristina Villalor

they spend their money and especially on how they handle their gas consumption.

"I limit myself on where I go now," says Tamika Harris, 28, an English major from Newark. "I let my gas tank go all the way down to E[empty], then fill it up."

People who live in New Jersey

spend on gas is to take more classes online or to carpool to campus.

"If I was a student commuting and watching gas prices go up every week, I certainly would take online courses," says Michael Moriarty, Associate Director of Academic Career Planning and Placement.

The good news for NJCU commuters is that, on average, New Jersey has been known to have the lowest gas prices in the nation. Also, as more and more people stop driving and start walking, prices will continue to fall as they started to do in July—but for how long, no one knows.

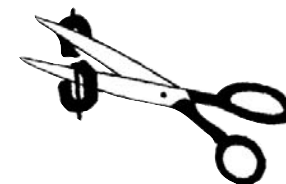
"You become more conscious of where you travel and when you travel based on gas prices," Moriarty says. "Before all this, we didn't think about that stuff, but

now we have to give it consideration."

For helpful information on where to go for the most inexpensive gas in and around New Jersey, go to:

www.gasbuddy.com
www.newjerseygasprices.com

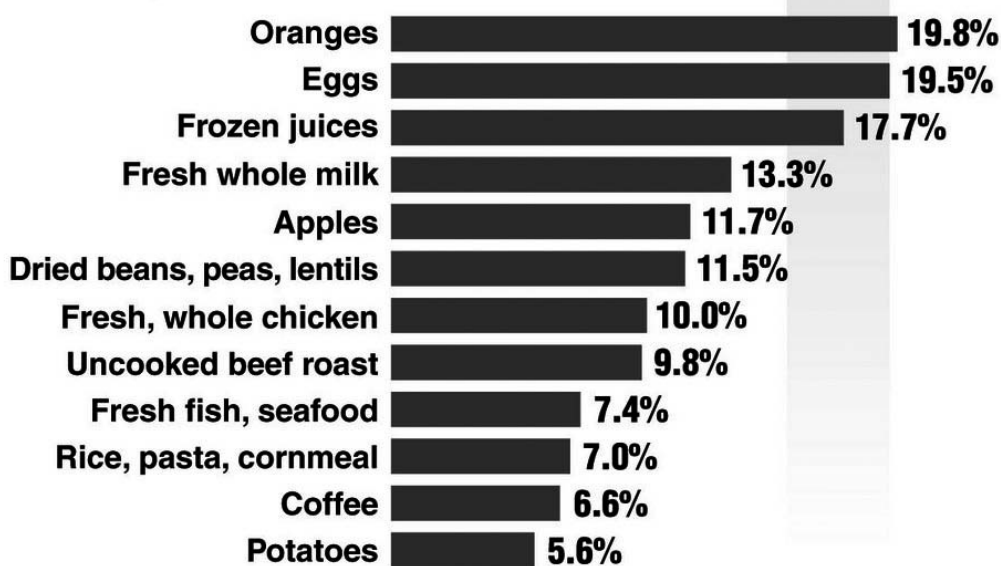
Editing and additional reporting by Erica Marie Molina.



Check out the rest of *The Gothic Times*' September issue for more on rising costs and how to cope.

Food prices on the rise

Percent change in prices for some common food items, June 2006 to June 2007:



Source: U.S. Commerce Department

Graphic: Angela Smith, Judy Treible

© 2007 MCT

Source: www.mcclatchydc.com

students have taken notice, Dingle being one of them.

"I go food shopping with my mother and sometimes we spend \$180 on nothing," she says.

This is a matter rooted far deeper than in rising gas prices. Climate change is one cause that is out of an individual's hands. One only has to think of American cyclones and Asian storms for proof. The annual natural disaster count has doubled from 200 to 400 disasters a year in the past two decades.

Ethanol, a corn-derived alternative to gas, is another factor. More demand for the corn crops means other crops can be cultivated only at a high price. This, combined with the fact that higher corn costs affect the prices of feeding livestock such as cows, increases many food product costs for the consumer.

"You just have to do without the frills," advises Isabel Copuyoc, a 51 year-old visiting nursing student from Christ Hospital who resides in Jersey City. "I always try

toll on the commuter population's financial condition.

Yvette Pompilus, 22, an early education/English major from Newark says she budgets herself by paying at least half of her cell phone bill to keep the account in good standing so that she can afford filling up her gas tank to get to school and work every day.

"I even walk to work sometimes

"You become more conscious of where you travel and when you travel..."

– Michael Moriarty

to save on how much gas I use in my car," she says.

High gas prices cause students to think differently about how

usually prefer their own personal transportation instead of waiting for a bus, train, or taxi to get them to where they need to go. However, many of them have had to change their habits and start leaving their comfort zones for public transportation or even walking more often because of the cost of gas.

"I definitely go out a lot less, and try to find ways to use my car less," says Veronika DeLeon, 21, a secondary education/history major from Hoboken. "I walk to work since it [my job] is in the same city I live in."

Students, like many drivers, have their preferred locations for buying gas.

"I don't buy gas anywhere near the school," says DeLeon. "There is definitely a difference between gas prices in the downtown and uptown parts of Hoboken. I go out of my way to go across from downtown to go uptown to get gas and pay a cheaper rate."

The next possible steps that students may consider to save mon-

IMPORTANT DATES SEPTEMBER 2008

September 1	Labor Day: University Closed.
September 2	2008 Fall Semester classes begin.
Sept. 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	Add/Drop only for registered students.
September 8	Final day to drop a course(s) for 100% refund of tuition at the Registrar's Office, H-214, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Canceled courses are dropped by computer for 100% refund.
September 9 to 15	Period to submit Pass/Fail forms at Registrar's Office, H-214. Forms available outside office.
September 23	Final day to withdraw from a course(s) for a 50% refund of tuition with a "W" grade(s) at the Registrar's Office, H-214.
September 30	Deadline to file for January 31, 2009 Undergraduate Commencement.

Source: <http://www.njcu.edu/dept/registrar/calendar.html>

NEWS

Help is in Hepburn Hall

By Erica Marie Molina

With tuition increases becoming the norm, students at New Jersey City University need all the financial help they can get. Unfortunately, many students do not know where to go for help.

Fortunately, Joseph Roberto is only a phone call away.

"I want to educate the students so they can understand the [financial] process and that there are a number of grants and scholarships available if they apply."

Roberto, who became NJCU's Director of Financial Aid in March 2008, has 34 years of experience under his belt in helping students understand their finances.

"There's no such thing as a dumb question," he says.

One of Roberto's first goals is to make sure that all NJCU students, "no matter what their income," fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is a government form required in order to be considered for almost any kind of aid.

The FAFSA is made available every January 1 for the following academic year. The application for 2009-2010 will be available January 1, 2009. The annu-

al priority filing deadline is April 15.

Students should note that the FAFSA is filled out for free on a government website; money should not be paid to any com-



Photo by Erica Marie Molina

Joe Roberto

mercial website claiming otherwise.

After the FAFSA is submitted, students will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) containing an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), which is used to determine a student's financial need for grants.

"I take full advantage of financial aid," says Eboni Collington, a senior and 21-year-old psychology major from Jersey City who receives government grants.

"We have a number of students who are eligible," Roberto says.

An important federal grant for students to consider is the Pell Grant, from which a full-time student can receive anywhere between \$890 to \$4,731 for the 2008-2009 year.

Another grant is New Jersey's Tuition Aid Grant (TAG), which can award NJCU students anywhere from \$1,628 to \$6,036. The deadline for first-time TAG recipients is October 1, 2008. The regular annual deadline is June 1.

Roberto emphasizes the use of FastWeb, a free source for scholarships, grants, and internships featuring information on over 1.3 million scholarships worth over \$3 billion.

"The money is out there," Roberto says. "If you qualify for grants and scholarships, get those on your account before you consider the loans."

Loans, which eventually have to be paid back with interest, should only be considered after a student has exhausted all other resources.

"I think every student needs a

FASTWEB.COM'S TOP TEN SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

10) Apply only if you meet all the scholarship requirements.

9) Complete the application in full.

8) Follow directions.

7) Neatness counts; use photocopies of your blank applications to practice filling them out.

6) Make sure your essay(s) makes an impression.

5) Watch out for deadlines.

4) Make copies before sending out forms.

3) Give everything a final "once-over."

2) If you have questions about the application, call the sponsor.

1) Remember: your scholarship application represents you.

Source: www.fastweb.com

way to help pay for their education," Roberto says. "With the costs of colleges going up every year, families should take advan-

tage of any assistance available."

"Demand to speak to somebody [in financial aid]," Collington says, "because there's money out here. [Students] should get all the money they can get."

"[Students] should get all the money they can get."

— Eboni Collington, Senior, 21

For more information, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov or www.fastweb.com or call the Financial Aid Department at 201-200-3173.

WORD ON CAMPUS:

Have the rising costs of living affected you? If so, how?



Cindy Gerez, 22, Junior, Business Administration, Perth Amboy

"It has [affected me] a little but not much. [...] I work as a peer counselor for OSP, so that helps; it hasn't affected me as much as other people because I have a job and income coming in."



Kathy Del Nodal, 37, Junior, Secondary Education/Biology, Secaucus

"I'm buying a lot less things, food-wise and gas-wise, and going on less vacation. Everything's going up [in costs]."



Jahyde Love, 19, Junior, Musical Theatre, Newark

"I catch the bus now a lot because gas is really ridiculous. The cost of living hasn't really changed anything. I just work a little more so I can have a little extra money in my pocket just in case. Tuition is really ridiculous compared to what it was when I started; it really did go up a lot. The government wants everybody to have [an] education, but they make it harder for anyone to even attempt to go to college."



Santos Rivera, 20, Junior, Accounting, Jersey City

"I've had to cut down on gas, so I don't have a car anymore. No more fast food—[I] stay home and cook. [I] stop wasting money on shoes and fitteds. I'm not taking classes for the summer and [I'm] working. That way, I can take a class next summer."



Jessica Mora, 21, Junior, Political Science/History, Secaucus

"Vacation-wise, [I] can't go nowhere. Instead of driving, I have to take public transportation. I have to cut down on cigarettes and I'm thinking about quitting. [I] couldn't take as many summer classes as I wanted to."



Nick Morolda, 21, Senior, Music Composition/Business, Lavallette

"As a student, I basically have to prioritize. I just found out they didn't accept one of my loans, so I can't keep attending the class I was in. I'm fighting it because I just dropped \$250 in gas coming here. [...] People aren't going out as much. Down the shore you don't see as many kids because they can't afford to take the trip. Gas prices are affecting how students spend their summer and their time."



Annabell, 26, Senior, Criminal Justice, Elizabeth

"Instead of going to the cafeteria, I might make a sandwich and bring it. Parking doesn't help; I think it's a lot, especially with tuition going up. Four dollars a day is a lot considering all prices are going up but we're not getting paid more; and employment has declined so it's a snowball effect. I just have to watch with little things like lunch and driving here."



Andre Revolus Jr., 26, Senior, Psychology, Montclair

"Gas prices keep me home more often, but I think it kind of turned out good in a way because I spend more time with the family and bond with them more. But I don't like gas going up because I have to drive from Montclair to Jersey City. I can survive, but I hope it goes down so other people can afford it. I know tuition went up, so I'm kind of happy fall is my last semester."

Interviews & Photography by Jaclyn Foglio

OPINION

Why the current economic downturn is good for America: Lessons in laissez-faire economics

By Patrick Jarkowsky

There is a plague upon this nation. This plague has existed since the days of Hamilton and Adams. It is a plague that, through force and manipulation, has succeeded in destroying the ripe fruit of egalitarianism. This plague knows no sympathy for our dreams of equality. The singular purpose of this plague, which has to this date proved successful, is the eradication of the middle class.

Since the late 1970s, those in power, whether in Washington or on Wall Street, have slowly but diligently destroyed the middle class. This middle class, a product of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal policies of the 1930s, came to prominence in the late 1950s and continued to flourish well into the 1970s.

It is this middle class that championed the civil rights movement and opposed the conflict in Vietnam. It is this middle class that sought to change the direction of this country and indeed the entire world. It is this middle class that was targeted and systematically destroyed by fascist elements in our society.

The weapon of choice for these fascists is the so-called free-market. It is the doctrine of laissez-faire economics.

The deregulation of the housing and petroleum industries, championed by these free-marketeers,

ment policies. They deride the actions of the government, placing blame for all of the aforementioned economic disasters squarely on the shoulders of what they believe were poor governmental regulatory policies.

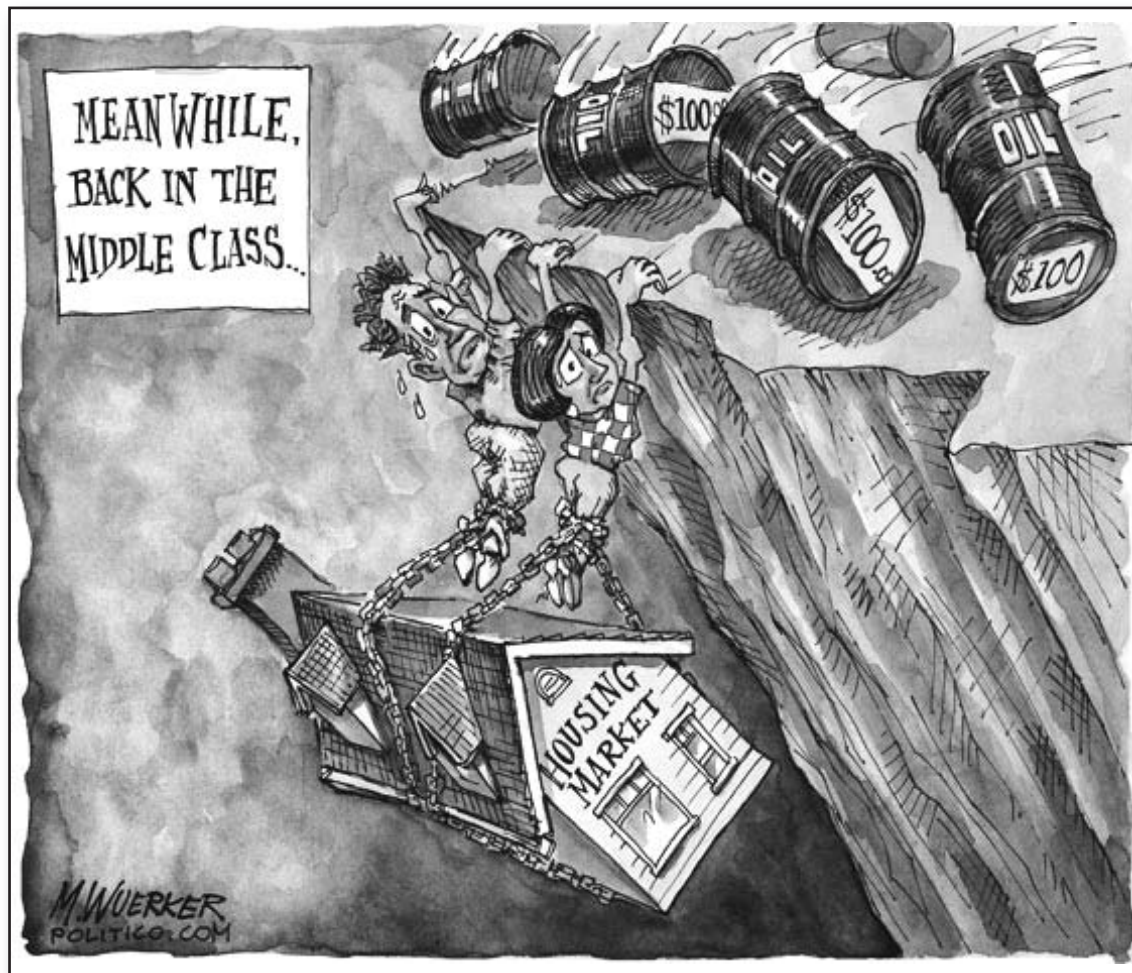
The reality, quite simply, is that these free-marketeers don't simply espouse a different idea of how government and business should coexist. They relish in the fact that the economy will fail, that it will eventually bust. They relish in this fact because it is the boom that allows them to prosper. The bust is insignificant to them; their moneys will undoubtedly find a new home.

So who does this economic bust hardest hit?

The father of three who invests what little money he has in the markets, hoping to make a decent profit so that he can send his children to college. The newly married couple whose mortgage payment suddenly skyrockets to an amount they find unaffordable. The single mother who has to put what little groceries she can afford on a credit card that charges her an interest rate that borders on usury.

These are the victims of the economic bust. These are the victims of the laissez-faire economic system. These people are the middle class.

If you're wondering why this middle class is so important let



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better wages and improved working conditions.

The rise in wages transformed the peasant societies. These once lowly individuals became a society of socially mobile citizens. These socially mobile citizens became better educated and sought to transform their society, hoping to prevent the degradation of their newfound wealth and knowledge. The hopes of these socially mobile citizens created what we today call the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation.

The second rise of the modern middle class came after the bloody and unfortunate rape of the New World. European conquerors exploited the abundant natural resources found in the Caribbean and the Americas. These resources, most importantly gold, fueled the European economies, and in the process, created centralized wealth in Europe. This centralized wealth spilled over into the remnants of the first modern middle class. As a result, another cultural and societal upheaval spread across Europe. The emergence of this societal upheaval created what we today call the Age of Enlightenment.

Enlightenment thinkers; Enlightenment thinkers heavily influenced the American Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

I think we can all agree that events such as the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, the Age of Enlightenment, the American and French revolutions, and the civil rights movement have greatly benefited our collective societies. The only group that found fault with these events was those elites who trembled at the idea of an educated, productive, wealthy middle class. This middle class transformed society, destroying the status quo that favored the elites.

My hope is that this latest economic downturn facilitates a change in the way Americans view economics, that it facilitates a modern Age of Enlightenment. My hope is that a modern American Revolution emerges, one that no longer supports these free-market capitalists or their ridiculous economic policies.

I'm not advocating a socialist or communist system of government. Those systems of government suppress individual liberty and dissuade the entrepreneurial

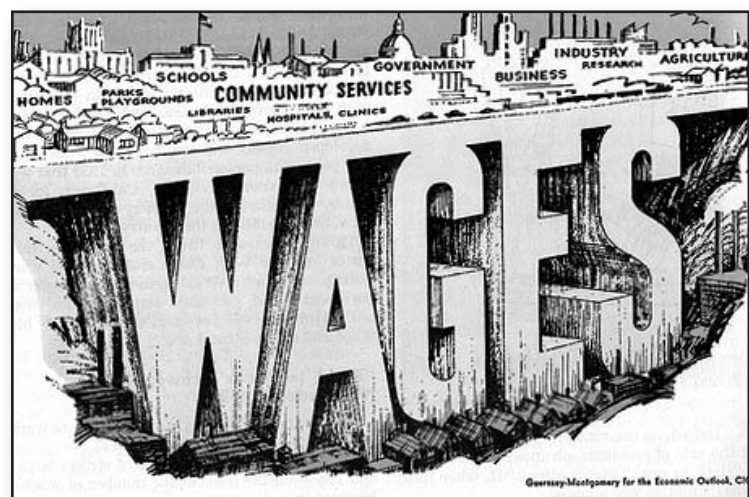
tion while simultaneously allowing industry to flourish.

I'm not advocating a system that doles out government checks to the lazy and the unmotivated. What I'm envisioning, instead, is a government that promotes a living wage for its citizens. A government that safeguards its citizens from the dangers of a laissez-faire system. A government that promotes unions and the equalizing affects or collective bargaining.

And to the economists and the future titans of industry who think that this type of system will stifle the growth of the American economy, I offer the following anecdotal information for your consideration.

If businesses produce goods and services and the citizens of this nation cannot afford the goods and services produced by businesses, than who will fuel our enormous consumer economy? It seems a sensible undertaking to ensure the relative prosperity of the middle class. A prosperous middle class will be able to afford the goods and services offered by business. A prosperous middle class will be able to invest in the stock market. Their investments will fuel an economic boom that is based on sound economics, not devious laissez-faire manipulation.

I understand that there will be many individuals who will find fault with my observations. To those individuals, those that call this a conspiracy theory, I offer the following rebuttal: It is a feeble mind that surveys a series of related events and rejects correlation for the false comfort of coincidence.



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is largely to blame for the current economic crisis. The resume of these free-marketeers includes the Great Depression, the recession of the 1980s, and the dot-com bubble of the 1990s/2000s. Their laissez-faire system, by design, seeks to limit the amount of government regulation over industry. As a result, economic speculators control the economy, indulging in bouts of unbridled greed, attempting to emulate the robber barons of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The modern champions of this economic system, most notably Milton Friedman, former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, and current Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke, blame most if not all of these economic blunders on poor govern-

us, for a moment, examine how society has benefited from the rise of the middle class.

The Black Plague, which caused the devastating depopulation of 14th century Europe, paved the way for the rise of the first modern middle class. Since there were fewer laborers available, the la-

borers naturally demanded a higher wage for their toil. The laws of supply and demand were firmly in place, and as a result, the peasant classes of Europe received

The affects of the Age of Enlightenment created both the French and American Revolutions. Many of our founding fathers borrowed the ideas of En-

spirit of their citizens. What I'm envisioning, instead, is a government/business relationship that allows the government to set rules that protect the citizens of this na-

“My hope is that this latest economic downturn facilitates a change in the way Americans view economics, that it facilitates a modern Age of Enlightenment.”

EDITORIAL

Why We Watched the Olympics

While Americans were cheering on the likes of swimming phenomenon Michael Phelps, gymnast Shawn Johnson, and runner Bernard Lagat, others chose not to watch the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

Basing their decision on basic human rights and morals, numerous politicians, celebrities, and citizens alike did not watch or attend the games and instead drew attention to the country's political views.

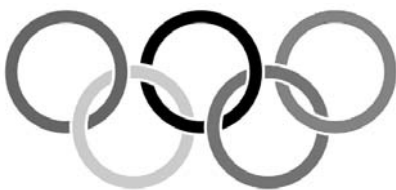
The People's Republic of China, however, did not need others to point out its flaws. This, they did themselves. Once the clock started counting down to the Games of the XXIX Olympiad beginning on August 8, 2008, more and more attention was placed on the communist country and its policies.

Word spread quickly of China's determination to appear successful and unified to the world at almost any cost.

As the Boston Globe reported, "More than 1.25 million people in Beijing — at times as many as 13,000 people a week — have been evicted [to make room for construction] since the city won its Olympic bid in 2001, according to the Geneva-based Center on Housing Rights and Evictions."

With more than one million of China's people losing their homes so that 1.3 billion could celebrate its numerous medals (the majority gold after just the first few days of the games), the Chinese were a bit reminiscent of Myanmar after its catastrophic May cyclone.

When United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited the country to gauge its damages, the government was sure to have its



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now infamous blue tents set up in a neat row with their inhabitants camera-ready.

Just two days before the games began, Joey Cheek, a U.S. Olympic gold-medal speed skater, had his passport revoked by the Chinese government. They did not want Cheek, the founder of Team Darfur, an athletic coalition against the region's genocide, to bring attention to the Sudanese crisis, to which Chinese weapons are connected.

Despite all this, George W. Bush became the first American presi-

dent to attend an Olympic games in a country other than his own.

In an August 11, NBC interview between Bob Costas and Bush about the games and China's politics, the President said, "[...] it's important to make sure that America is engaged with China even though we may have some disagreements."

That said, the Olympics had to, and did, still go on.

One had to wonder, with all the controversy surrounding the Olympics this year, what its audience, made up of millions around the world, was thinking. Were they ignorant of the country's political stances or indifferent toward those who are suffering?

The answer for most of the viewers is "No."

Perhaps the Visa commercials were not so far off after all with their conspicuous "Go World" advertisements.

The bottom line to viewers in and out of China was that athletes, after all their hard work, should not have been made to endure any more hardships because of their country's shortcomings.

Whether Olympians are being pushed to greatness or pushing themselves, their achievements will always be their own.

Great Debate 2008: 'Candidates' on campus

Continued from page 1

rector for Special Projects and Chair of the Great Debate Committee. "[...] It's] really to have fun with the process [and] to engage students and staff in national politics."

Moreira has been involved in this project since it first began in 2000 when she played a presidential candidate while a student at NJCU. She was also a campaign manager in the 2004 debate.

be Bob Barr (Libertarian).

"My first thoughts about [the debate] were what a good opportunity it would be for me [to] be more active on campus activities," says Madelynne Dela Rama, 21, Creative Director for the Republican team and an art major from Jersey City. "[The debate will make] students more aware of the positions and views that each candidate has, and have students more involved in current events."

dates about their platforms directly. This debate also marks the introduction of campaign special advisers and creative directors.

"I am helping by creating signage ranging from postcard or posters," says Justin C. Scriven, 32, Creative Director for the Libertarian team and a digital design and illustration major from Bayonne. "Hopefully, these events will inspire [those] people to take part in the real election who were thinking of sitting on the sidelines this year."

This year, according to rockthevote.com, "[T]here are 44 million 18-29 year olds eligible to vote — more than one-fifth of the eligible voting population."

"I think that it's extremely important for young people to get involved in politics," says Patrick Jarkowsky, 29, a political science major from Belleville. "It seems that Senator Obama has stirred the spirit of the youth. I hope that this newfound excitement is not short-lived."

Nationally, the polls show that

Senator Obama is leading with 47 percent to Senator McCain's 41 percent, according to CNN's National Poll of Polls taken August 13.

"This upcoming election is the biggest in recent American history," says Ernst Grand-Pierre, 30, a political science major from Jer-

sey City. "I'm hoping that this will help students realize the person we elect will be the master of our destinies for the next four years. We have to make sure we get the right person for the right job."

For more information about the 2008 presidential election go to rockthevote.com.

"This upcoming election is the biggest in recent history."

— Ernst Grand-Pierre, 30, political science major

"Since then I have been very involved in national politics," says Moreira.

Joanne Antoine will be playing Senator Obama (Democrat), Alex Neilson will be Cynthia McKinney (Green), Patrick Jarkowsky will be Senator McCain (Republican) and Ernst Grand-Pierre will

For the first time the debate will be preceded by two town hall meetings to be held on Tuesday, September 23, from 10-12 p.m. and Thursday, September 25, from 7-9 p.m. Both meetings will be held in GSUB Room 129 and are open to the public. The audience will be able to ask the candi-



MARLEN GONZALEZ
Managing Editor

Introducing our Managing Editor

If anyone had told me that I would become Managing Editor of *The Gothic Times*, I would not have believed it. I remember the first day I volunteered to write a last minute article. Since then I've never stopped. During my first year at the paper, I wrote news article after news article.

One month after that fateful day last year, I was asked to become Managing Editor. "Me?" I asked. I felt honored and shocked. I took the role and was glad I accepted.

As second in command, I handle the papers' finances and serve as *The Gothic Times* representative to the Student Government Organization on campus.

In addition to being a part of *The*

Gothic Times, I love to read, watch movies and travel. I have studied abroad in Barcelona, Spain, for the 2006-2007 academic year. Most recently I took a journalism course in London this past summer.

Since this is a presidential election year, *The Gothic Times* will make sure to keep everyone up to date on the candidates and their issues. If anyone has any story ideas, comments, or questions feel free to contact me at mgonzalez13@njcu.edu.

At the paper, I am helping create a little part of history — sounds cheesy, I know. But, these newspapers will be around forever — on print and online. Now that's amazing. Time to make history.

THE GOTHIC TIMES

2008-2009 Editorial Board Members

Editor-in-Chief Erica Marie Molina
 Managing Editor Marlen Gonzalez
 Opinion/Editorial Editor Patrick Jarkowsky
 Entertainment Editor Vanessa Cubillo
 Arts Editor Willa Goldthwaite
 Culture Editor Christie Avila
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Policies of *The Gothic Times*

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

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

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

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ARTS

Art Majors Ask:**‘I finally graduated...now what?!’**

By Jan Aguilos

Art Majors ask themselves this question as they ponder of the paths they might take after getting that B.F.A. or B.A.

One option is the NJCU Art Teacher Certification Program (ATCP), which primes students pursuing a B.A. or B.F.A. to become art teachers in the state of New Jersey for grades preschool through 12.

It's coordinated by Professor Winifred McNeill and is linked with the undergraduate courses

“You do not need to go into any debt for grad school and you can actually get paid to go.”

– Rebecca Feranec, NJCU M.F.A graduate

of study in the Art Department. Applicants of the program must have a minimum G.P.A. of 2.75 and two letters of recommendation to qualify.

There are a total of 76 credits in the ATCP in which students

must meet requirements in general study courses, art classes, art history, and studio classes.

Active student membership in the Art Educators of New Jersey is required, active student membership in the National Art Educators Association is strongly advised, and students in the ATCP put in time at the school (preschool to high school) that they are placed in for one day a week for 13 weeks during a semester and another two weeks at the end of the semester.

The College of Education Writing Assessment as well as a Praxis exam must be taken; applicants of the ATCP must also undergo a portfolio review. To check it out, go to the “Quick Links” of the NJCU website and scroll down to the Art Department page. Look for the Art Teacher Certification Program in the Program category of the page.

Two other paths are the M.A. and M.F.A. degrees at the NJCU Art Department. Graduate classes are \$520.50 a credit – so an M.A., which is a 39-credit degree program, costs \$20,299.50. The 60-credit M.F.A. at NJCU costs \$31,230.

“You do not need to go into any debt for grad school and you can actually get paid to go,” says Rebecca Feranec, who attained her

M.F.A. at NJCU earlier this year. Feranec had a graduate assistantship and taught some undergraduate classes.

The Graduate Studies Office in Hepburn Hall administers financial aid and assistantships for graduate students.

More info on grants and fellowships is plentiful in the net, e.g. www.collegeart.org, www.chronicle.com, www.njartscouncil.org, and www.nysca.org.

Printmaking Professor Martin Kruck serves as a Graduate Coordinator, a liaison between the Graduate Office and Art Department at NJCU. He provides info on admission requirements and consults grads on picking classes. Kruck chairs a committee of faculty to vet applicants – their portfolios, resumes, educational background, and admission essays.

If the applicants are admitted to either the M.F.A. or M.A. degree programs, Kruck monitors the progress of the graduate students.

“Graduate level Art History and seminar courses are three hours long, studio classes may be between five and six hours, once a week,” says Professor Kruck.

He adds that grads should work on their thesis and research out of class for 20 hours a week. Ap-

“Many companies hire creative types... to ‘think outside the box’ even if the person has little training in the field.”

– Rebecca Feranec, NJCU M.F.A graduate

plicants must have had a 2.5 G.P.A. in undergraduate courses to qualify for the M.A. degree program; applicants must have a 3.0 G.P.A. in undergraduate studies to qualify for the M.F.A. program. There's more info on the Art Department page of the NJCU website.

NJCU painting Professor Hugo Bastidas says that graduate classes aren't crowded: “Four to nine [students]. It's not very big, it's a smaller situation [than undergraduate classes].”

When asked what factor was preeminent in the lives of artists he said, “It has to do with sacrifice.”

On jobs, Bastidas tells students to find any quality job: “Anything that affords you time to be an artist.”

Some find themselves in construction, as he did for a time in the '80s.

Besides a short stint as a commercial artist, Bastidas was a welder, which made sense since he studied sculpture. Rebecca Feranec wrote and sold radio ads for a short period of time after getting her B.F.A.

“Many companies hire creative types just to bring someone on their team to ‘think outside the box’, even if the person has little training in the field,” she said.

On the “sacrifice” tip, Professor Kruck has an optimistic bent. “With these sacrifices come rewards; one has exhibitions, receives notoriety, profits from sales, and so on,” he said. “Personally, I feel I've sacrificed a mundane life for my career as an artist and educator.”

Students can go to events at museums, like the Jersey City Museum, to network and orient themselves in the local art scene. There are many organizations showcasing young artists, like Newark-based ALJIRA and City Without Walls.

So go forth, young artists, stop pondering and start moving. As Rebecca Feranec said, “An art degree can be quite the interesting and unpredictable adventure.”

Featured Artist: Dahlia Elsayed

By Jared Martin

Last semester, NJCU welcomed its second resident artist, Dahlia Elsayed.

“The Artist in Residence component of the Visiting Artist Program creates opportunities for an emerging artist from the region to come to the NJCU community for a one month long intensive stay,” explains Professor Gustafson, chair on the committee for the program. “During their time here, the Visiting Artists are asked to give a lecture on their work, perform one workshop with a class in the Art Department, have an open period of time to review and critique students' work and have an open studio at the end of the residency period. In return, resident artists are given access to the facilities in the Art Department and awarded a stipend to create their work.”

During her time here, Elsayed could often be found working alongside students in the printmaking room of the Visual Arts Building. Here she took advantage of the silk screening facilities, swapping techniques and ideas with the students, and creating a series of text based prints such as Big Rigs. Like much of her art, these pieces were drawn from her surroundings, documenting the internal and external environments of memory and place. Ever approachable, Elsayed agreed to be interviewed, allowing those who did not get a chance to work with her or attend her lecture a glimpse into her world of conceptual cartography.



Mid-March 2007 (detail) by Dahlia Elsayed.

Photo by Dahlia Elsayed

Elsayed's creativity started early on. As she recalls, she started making comics in about the fourth grade, when she was drawing and writing to entertain her sister and friends. The use of pictures and words together just made sense to her, perhaps because storytelling was so important in her family. Stories replaced all the physical things like furniture or gardens, which were left behind as her family moved across countries and cultures in the past three generations.

Today, Elsayed makes anything from book art and works on paper, to large-scale installation paintings. In these works, she of-

ten includes elements of maps and charts. “Maps are storytellers too,” she says. “They pick and choose what information to represent that is important to whoever is the author of the map.” Much like a cartographer selecting facts, figures, and images to present as facts, Elsayed uses topography as a tool and visual language to map out the things that mean something to her. In her case, the information is often abstracted, measuring things that can't possibly be measured, like memories and feelings.

Little bits of autobiographical information are often strewn

throughout her pieces, presenting personal sentiments or mundane details from her life. These phrases and facts, while referencing the things she knows, are edited so they can be read in a more metaphorical way. “I think that is why people can connect with it, because they are seeing something that refers specifically to them in reading the metaphor,” she explains.

This open-ended linking of words to images and feelings, while used in most all of her artwork, is particularly evident in her text only paintings of landscapes and portraits. The landscapes, with phrases like “last

minute of sunset” allow the viewer to evoke their own picture, created from their own set of memories and experiences. The portraits on the other hand, are created out of parts of biographies she has read, with listings word for word and page numbers. They are similar to the landscapes in that it is possible for the viewer to form their own interpretation of the subject, but it also creates an interesting condensed version of the subject's life, governed by the pages devoted to a certain activity.

With all this text, it is of little surprise that she always writes before painting, gathering ideas for the work. She then narrows down and edits the writing until it few lines that will be used in the painting.

In addition to her paintings, Elsayed has also worked on outdoor installations that include the participation of locals for content or construction. Working outside and with other people, a fun excursion from the studio, also gives her a chance to extend her themes of place and memory to the outdoors in a way that makes sense in a specific place.

A place that Elsayed often describes in her work is the state of New Jersey, where she has spent most of her life. Noting its location outside of New York she says, “It's been really rich to think about living in a place that exists solely in relation to another place. This makes these towns around me change as NYC changes.”

Continued on page 7

ARTS

Arts Calendar

JC Fridays: Friday, September 5, 2008
www.jcfridays.com

The Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery at NJCU
 (Hepburn Rm. 323)

Kaleidoscope: Abstraction in 10 Ways
 September 8 - October 17

Opening Reception, Sept. 8, 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Participating artists: Takako Azami, Veronica Juyoun Byun, Jieun Zaun, Elizabeth Gilfilen, Elizabeth Onorato, Katsuhiko Saiki, Kyoko Sera, Soonnam Kim Singer, Charlee Swanson, and Katie Truk.

The Visual Arts Gallery at NJCU
 (Visual Arts Building Basement)
 NJCU Faculty Art Biennial Exhibition
 September 10 - October 15

Artists' Reception, Sept. 17, 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

* Both exhibitions will participate the Jersey City Artists Studio Tour on October 4, Noon - 5 p.m. *

"Deliverance" THE ART OF BEN JONES,
 1970 - 2008

Jersey City Museum Main Galleries
 September 18, 2008 - February 22, 2009
 Opening Reception: September 25, 2008

The 18th Annual Jersey City Artists' Studio Tour is being presented by Pro Arts and the Jersey City Division of Cultural Affairs on October 4-5, 2008 from noon to 6 p.m.

Please email Rebecca Feranec, Studio Tour Coordinator, at rebecca.proarts@gmail.com with any questions or inquiries.

Find more music and arts events at
<http://www.destinationjerseycity.com/calendar.php>

Saving on the Cost of Art Supplies

By Willa Goldthwaite

With rising gas prices and the state of the economy in general these days, we are all looking for ways to save money wherever it's possible. In addition to tuition and textbooks, art students must also shell out money for lab fees for studio classes and for art supplies. Each studio class comes with a long list of required materials.

Luckily, most professors understand that many of us cannot afford to dole out this kind of dough especially all at once at the beginning of the semester. Many of them will give a list of suggested materials and a list of required materials or offer suggestions for alternatives.

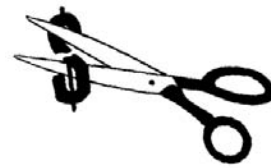
Jerry's Artarama has been consistent in offering the lowest prices in the area; they have five sales per year plus additional in-store clearances and an everyday

10 percent student discount. They do offer a catalogue for phone orders that is through the warehouse and not affiliated with the retail store.

If you shop wisely, you will find there are always ways to save, even if stores are not having blowout sales. Many stores offer mail order catalogues with a lower operating cost and clearance items. Almost all stores also offer a student discount with valid ID of at least 10 percent.

Also keep in mind that there is a difference between cost effective and cheap. You don't want to get something that is just inexpensive because you will also notice the difference in quality. Student-grade supplies are often a good way to go, especially if you are buying the supplies just for a class.

Students may also choose to put in a little more work and mix their own inks or paints or stretch



their own canvases. Avoid buying pre-packaged kits. Buying items individually is surprisingly cheaper and you only have to buy what you really need.

Check out this article on "Awesome Traditional Art Supplies on the Cheap," for more suggestions and reviews of quality supplies: <http://news.deviantart.com/article/33911/>

Blick Art Materials
 1-5 Bond Street
 New York, NY 10012
 Phone: (212) 533-2444

Jerry's Artist Outlet
 Essex Green Plaza
 Route 280 & Prospect Ave
 West Orange, NJ 07052
 Phone: (973) 669-0995

Introducing our Arts Editor

Willa Goldthwaite, 22, is a fourth-year full-time student at NJCU and a BFA candidate with a concentration in Printmaking. Raised in Teaneck, New Jersey, she moved to Jersey City in 2006.

As I start in on my second year as Arts Editor for *The Gothic Times*, I look to my peers for inspiration. I will do my best to represent the Arts of NJCU including the Fine Arts and Visual Arts as well as Media Arts,

Performing Arts, and Music.

My mission is to represent as well as inform the NJCU campus. I feel that a large part of what makes NJCU unique is its diversity. In order to reflect that diversity in the arts page, I need to hear from NJCU students.

The more response I get from readers, the more effective I can be in achieving an accurate illustration of the arts community here on campus. Please feel free to contact me at willa_njcu@me.com.



WILLA GOLDTHWAITE
 Arts Editor

Featured Artist: Dahlia Elsayed

Continued from page 6

This change is documented in a piece called Locals Only, which was recently on display in the Jersey City Museum's SPRAWL exhibit. In this piece, she incorporates the usage of map imagery with words, labeling the landmarks to represent the transformation of her childhood neighborhood into the rapidly developed place it has become.

As NJCU's second Artist in Residence, one of Elsayed's goals was to learn about the neighborhood and area surrounding the campus, as well as to see what our art students were thinking and continue with her own work. She says of her experience, "I was happy to be working in the print shop, and got to meet students who were interest-



Photo by Dahlia Elsayed

Dahlia Elsayed

ing, and who were also interested in sharing some ideas and talking about work and process."

In giving advice to these students, Elsayed stresses the importance of finding the balance between "doing your art, and doing the work to support your art." In addition, she says, "Just get out there and see as much work

as you can. We are really lucky to be living in a part of the world where so much creative work is accessible to us."

For more information about Dahlia Elsayed, visit dahliaelsayed.com

To view the full interview, see the online version at www.gothictimesnetwork.com



ADA Welcomes New Academic Year

By Lizette Louis,
 Art & Design Association
 President

The Art & Design Association's mission is to provide both professional and social opportunities to its members. This is an organization in which students from all disciplines can come together to develop themselves as artists and designers.

We are here to strengthen the NJCU art community, establish relationships and network ourselves to a larger community. We stand firmly on the belief that there is more to be gained from individual artists and designers acting as a collective.

The new academic year of

2008-2009 ushers in an optimistic executive board who will see this mission through; Lizette Louis - President, Madelynn Dela Rama - Vice President, Kelly Cuenca - Secretary, Nicole Contreras - Treasurer, Rosanna Villafior - Public Relations, Narsico Espiritu Jr. - SGO Representative and Professor Brian Gustafson-Advisor.

We plan to expose the NJCU community to various forms of art and design by organizing gallery shows and holding events in order to develop and to build stronger ties with the other student organizations on campus. We will also be organizing workshops that will aid in professional development.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Dark Knight: Disturbing, Thrilling, Fantastic

By Vanessa Cubillo

This summer has certainly been the summer of the superhero. From comic book heroes like Iron Man, to newly created heroes like Hancock, it looked like America was looking for a hero. However, out of all the hero movies that came out, none were as powerful as *Batman: The Dark Knight*.

From the very minute the movie begins you're already on the edge of your seat. Gunshots, screams, terror, creepy clown masks. The movie wastes no time getting right into the action. The city streets of Gotham are still filled with dastardly criminals and the citizens are looking for someone to save them.

While Batman, played by Christian Bale, has made all the criminals of the city cautious of their wrong doings, he is not enough to keep the city clean. Luckily for Gotham City they have Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), the enthusiastic district attorney who has made it his mission to make Gotham a safer place. Police sergeant, Gordon, played by Gary Oldman, is also eager to crack down on the crime lords of Gotham and has enlisted Batman to help him out.

Unfortunately for everyone, their adversaries have hired a mentally unbalanced, psychopathic clown.

Heath Ledger's portrayal as the Joker is just fantastic. Dressed in a purple suit and smeared makeup, every scene with him in it is a scene worth watching. He's funny and entertaining, yet frightening because of his unpredictability, unstableness, and creepy laugh. Without his presence in this movie, it wouldn't be as great as it is.

Christian Bale's reprisal as Batman is decent. He definitely has the physique of a superhero, but seriously, what's up with his Batman voice? Every line he delivers as Batman is done in a rough growl. Good thing Bale knows how to nail being a rich playboy.

This time around, the character of Rachel Dawes is played by Maggie Gyllenhaal. Gyllenhaal adds more strength and class to Rachel making her look like more than a love interest. Being one of the few female characters in this movie, her performance is greatly appreciated because she isn't one who melts for a man in a mask.

Bruce Wayne's staff makes for an excellent crime fighting team.

Alfred (Michael Caine) and Lucius (Morgan Freeman) make for great confidants and helpers to Wayne, showing that prominent actors can play a subtle role in a movie.

Still, a great superhero is defined by the caliber of villains they have. With the Joker and Two-Face, this makes Batman look like the best of the best. Harvey Dent's transformation into a villain is one that is compelling and not cheesy, unlike previous Batman villains (think Uma Thurman as Poison Ivy).

Eckhart's performance as almost two different characters is remarkable. He is believable as being an upstanding citizen with a zeal for justice, and he is believable as a distraught, revenge-seeking psycho.

Christopher Nolan's approach to the Batman movies is more of a dramatic approach to this comic. The previous Batman movies have always had a comedic element to them. Nolan takes that away to focus on the psychology and reality of the life of Bruce Wayne and Batman. Seeing how great the Dark Knight is, shows viewers that the appeal of superhero movies is not over, and when done right, can be an overwhelming success.



www.google.com

The Revolution Will Not be Televised

By Brenda P. Caba

Immortal Technique was born in a Peruvian military hospital and later migrated to Harlem, NY. After some minor run-ins with the law he was arrested and sent to prison for a year and a half. There he wrote his first album *Revolutionary Vol. 1*.

Once he was paroled he started doing battles in the New York City hip-hop underground scene. Battle after battle, Immortal Technique would rip his opponents apart with his vigorous voice and rigid lyrics. After saving enough money from the battles he distributed his first album on his own with no gimmicks or major record label.

Fast forward eight years and Immortal Technique is still going

strong in the underground. His third album, *The 3rd World*, is proof that he is still on top of his game. Immortal Tech joins forces with D. J. Green Lantern, whose beats are as forceful as Tech's rhymes. The dynamic duo blend together to make some great tracks that include; "Death March," "Harlem Renaissance," and "the 3rd World."

The 3rd World delivers what Tech is known for, which is his raw lyrics and his talk of revolution; the revolution of paying attention to seeking the truth. He wants our generation to wake up and see what is going on around us. You can hear the anger in his voice with every verse.

His songs tell stories about corrupt America, the harsh realities of growing up in Harlem, and the



www.google.com

Underground hip hop artist,
Immortal Technique

injustice that has been done to the lands and people of Latin America.

Immortal Technique does not shy away from his Latin roots. Not since the late Big Pun has a gifted Latin emcee shown the au-

thenticity that Immortal Technique speaks through his lyrics. This can be heard in the song "Golpe de Estado" which literally translates "to state of emergency." Tech raps in Spanish throughout the whole song, describing the day to day struggles of people living in Latin America.

In "Harlem Renaissance" Tech breaks down gentrification in Harlem as well as other inner city boroughs. "Harlem Renaissance, a revolution of trade, Modern day slaves, thinking that the ghetto is saved, so they start deporting people off the property, ethnically cleansing the hood, economically."

And this is just the hook of the song! Tech is basically saying how they are building multimil-

lion dollar homes and no one who lives in Harlem can actually afford these homes.

If you have not heard of Immortal Technique I suggest you open your ears. This is one emcee that is actually saying something that we need to hear. You will not hear him on Hot97 or Power105.1 because he is just too real.

Tech does not rhyme about fake fights, or how many women he has had. No, instead he is speaking to us, telling us to pay attention to our politics. To ask questions. He reminds us with each song that life is not as simple like other rappers want to make it out to be.

I heard somewhere that Immortal Technique was just a rebel, and I think he is a rebel with an important cause.



Five wallet-friendly links for the fun, frugal-minded student

By Erica Marie Molina

1. On the first Friday of every third month (March, June, September, December), museums, restaurants, and small businesses across Jersey City host free events such as poetry readings, film screenings, and art galleries to celebrate local culture.

www.jcfridays.com

2. If you use the Light Rail, check this website's Savings section under Club Savings + Cool Stuff for discounts at Jersey City, Bayonne, and Hoboken restaurants, among others.

<http://www.mylightrail.com>

3. Jersey City's official website can always point you in the direction of fun and frugal entertainment with its Cultural Affairs Calendar.

<http://www.cityofjerseycity.com>

4. The name says it all.
<http://www.freenyc.net>

5. Check with NJCU's own Music, Dance, & Theatre department throughout the school year to find out about free or inexpensive concerts and plays to be held on campus in Ingalls Recital Hall, Margaret Williams Theatre, and The Black Box Theatre on West Side.
<http://web.njcu.edu/sites/mdt/Content/default.asp>

ENTERTAINMENT



Cover art for issue #1 of *All Star Batman and Robin the Boy Wonder*. www.google.com

'All Star Batman and Robin' A Darker and Disappointing Knight

By Mohammad Hassan

When Marvel comics revived their classic super heroes with their Ultimate line of comic books, fans across the country were delighted simply because it allowed them to enjoy these characters without having to worry about the past 4 decades of continuity.

However, many comic book readers, like myself, were wondering when DC comics would do something similar to their own classic characters. Then in July 2005, DC comics launched their All Star line of comics which allows famous artists and writers to write about famous DC characters without having to worry about the regular continuity.

The first title published in this line is *All Star Batman and Robin the Boy Wonder*, which is currently written by Frank Miller and illustrated by Jim Lee. At first it sounded like a dream team combination simply because of Frank Miller's previous work on the character.

Miller, who redefined the Batman mythos with his landmark book, *The Dark Knight Returns*

and *Batman Year One*, simply disappoints in this re-imagining of the dynamic duo.

Anybody who is familiar with his *Sin City* graphic novels will see an instant resemblance between the two titles. It's basically a *Sin City* story told in a Batman costume.

Miller's Batman throws constant insults towards the young Robin and feels pleasure in beating up the bad guys. It's as if Miller has let loose a darker, angrier, and sadly, a more sadistic Batman onto Gotham's criminals.

But it's not just the characterization of Batman that is disappointing; it is the way Miller is handling major DC characters in the series. For example, when Wonder Woman is first introduced in the series, her first words are, "Get out of my way, you sperm bank," and is portrayed as an extremely sexist character.

Green Lantern is portrayed as an idiot with a power ring; it's as if Miller just doesn't like any one except Batman. Miller, who already destroyed Superman with his *Dark Knight Returns*, is do-

ing the same thing for the rest of the DC characters. It's as if Miller was trying to make these characters incredibly tough but failed miserably at it.

But it's not just the side characters; it's the personality of Batman himself which just doesn't seem right. For example, Batman calling himself the "Goddamn Batman" every few pages, treating young Robin like a drill sergeant, being embarrassed about calling his car the "Bat mobile", the list goes on and on regarding how awful this book is in the writing department.

But Jim Lee's brilliant drawings have saved this book from being just an awful Batman story. Gotham City has never looked this good and his Batman is simply a majestic figure who looks even more fearsome when he is standing in dark shadows. Also, his Wonder Woman and Black Canary are as sultry as they can get.

In the end, this book is just a big waste of talents. I am sure that Miller can write better dialogues and he has, but in the case of *All Star Batman and Robin*, Miller has dropped the ball.

Jersey City Draws Large Crowd for APW Music and Arts Festival

By Vanessa Cubillo

Liberty State Park attracted flocks of music lovers on August 8-10 with their first All Points West Music and Arts Festival.

The three day festival featured various musicians from Duffy to Jack Johnson, and displayed art submitted by local artists. The festival drew in a massive crowd from New Jersey and mostly, New York.

The park was set up as half a music festival and half a carnival. Three music stages were spread out throughout the area; Blue Comet, Bullet, and Queen of the Valley. Along with the music stages, they had carnival games and video game tents around the area as well.

One video game tent was promoting a new video game called "Little Big Planet" and the other featured the popular games, "Rock Band" and "SingStar."

A very enjoyable section was the Misting tent which had misting water spray out of giant colorful flowers. This was a good stop for

those hot days. This area also had a mini stage where DJs provided music for the hot people cooling off.

Saturday's lineup included many fun indie acts to make the \$89 ticket price seem worth it. The day started with the earliest act, Lily Hollbrook, going on at 12:45 p.m. on the Queen of the Valley stage.

The Queen of the Valley stage hosted more of the lesser known acts like British rock group, Your Vegas and alternative folksy singer, Nicole Atkins. Also on that stage was K'NAAN, a hip hop musician who has stayed under the radar because he doesn't represent the sound of mainstream hip hop.

The next stage, the Bullet, had acts that were a little more known like recently popular, mini sensation, The Virgins. The most well known band gracing that stage was hip hop, jazz group, The Roots. Their set was, by far, the most entertaining set of the night with their blend of style and their mixture of instruments.

The last stage, Blue Comet, showcased the most popular acts that undoubtedly drew in the largest crowds. One of these bigger acts was Southern rockers, Kings of Leon. They, like most of the attendees, wanted to delude themselves and pretend they were in New York.

"They say this place is New Jersey, but you all sound like a bunch of New Yorkers!" said lead singer, Caleb Followill. Of course, he could probably tell that the majority of the crowd was from New York.

The very last act of the night was the headliners, the British rock act, Radiohead. Their two-hour set thrilled the fans who waited the whole day to see them. Also, since this was the last day that they were playing the festival, Radiohead made sure they satisfied their fans.

From the music, to the games, to the great works of art displayed, All Points West was a nice music festival to add to New Jersey. Hopefully, if this festival returns to New Jersey next year, the ticket prices will go down just a little.



Photo by Vanessa Cubillo

Black Thought from The Roots performing on August 9 at the All Points West Music Festival.

Introducing our Entertainment editor

I'm certainly no stranger to *The Gothic Times*. I've contributed articles to many sections and have been in charge of many sections as well.

Now I'm the section editor for the Entertainment section for the first time. Even though this is my first time running the Entertainment section, I did run the Music

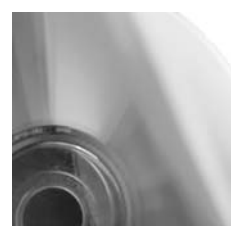
section before and that section was my favorite one to work in.

I believe true entertainment is in the movies, music, television, etc, and not in watching the private lives of the people who make them. So, while I have this position, I will make sure to have articles that focus on the entertainment.



VANESSA CUBILLO
Entertainment Editor

Love Entertainment?



Like to write?

Contact Vanessa Cubillo at vcubillo@njcu.edu

CULTURE

Changing habits in changing times

By Christie Avila

Many students at New Jersey City University would like to keep up with the latest trends, gadgets, clothing, cars, and other consumer goods, but have mixed feelings now with our slowing economy.

"If people want to buy the latest Acura or Lexus, I say go for it," said Gustavo Lazo, a 23-year-old journalism major from Bayonne. "Now if you'll excuse me, I've got to download the latest single onto my iPod Touch and hop into my Acura MDX."

It is common for students to want to go out and buy the latest things either to flaunt them or just to have them. These can be anything from sneakers, to iPods, to designer bags, to phones.

One thing is for sure: keeping up with the latest and most popular ticket items can burn a hole in one's pocket. With the costs of living getting higher and higher, many have cause to stop and think twice before they go off and splurge. Oftentimes people know how to budget, but get lured into wanting to acquire lifestyles much like the rich and famous.

"I'm a bargain hunter," said Kristina Benites, a 19-year-old student majoring in psychology from Jersey City. "Yet, I could understand the possible greater appeal of keeping up with materialistic possessions instead of planning out a state of living."

According to *The New York Times*, "Americans are cutting back on everything from cars to food to name brands products, the Federal Reserve said[. . .] in another sign that the economy could slow significantly as money from the federal stimulus



www.google.com

check dries up."

The federal stimulus check was an economic stimulus payment that was given out between the months of May-July 2008 to more than 130 million households. The federal stimulus checks were given

to aid Americans during our economic hardship. Ultimately, President Bush wanted to provide some sort of monetary relief to citizens in hopes that our economy would improve. The unfortunate downfall is that money al-

ways runs out.

"Our economy sucks right now, and we may as well do what we can to help clean the mess our President made," said Lazo.

Cutting back on spending, shopping around for the best deals,

and snipping coupons are some ways people are coping with rising costs.

The July 2008 report of The Beige Book is a summary of commentary by the Federal Reserve District on current economic conditions. The Federal Reserve System is divided into 12 districts and each district has its own federal reserve bank which serves as lenders to commercial banks and issue federal reserve notes.

As the July 2008 report stated, "Consumer spending was reported as sluggish or slowing in nearly all Districts, although tax rebate checks boosted sales for some items." Such districts mentioned include Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, and San Francisco.

In the past, many people considered to be part of the middle class have succeeded in providing comfortable lifestyles for themselves and for their families in spite of overall economic downturn.

According to www.cnnmoney.com, U.S. Sen. (N.Y.-D) Charles Schumer said, "Middle class families are the engine of our economy, but their earning power and economic security has actually declined in the last seven years."

Since earnings and spending go hand-in-hand, if there are fewer earnings, there will be less spending. Along with feelings of uncertainty about consumerism, saving for a rainy day also gives off feelings of uneasiness.

"I feel that it is wise to save money," said Peter Singletary, a 24-year-old media arts major from Jersey City. "But it's easier said than done."

"Our economy sucks right now, and we may as well do what we can to help clean the mess our President made."

– Gustavo Lazo, 23, journalism major



CHRISTIE AVILA
Culture Editor

A Welcome from our Culture Editor

As culture editor of *The Gothic Times*, I would like to welcome everyone to the Fall 2008 semester. I also want to say that I am pleased to be working, again, with another incredible group of people. Great appreciation goes to all the writers that have written in the past and continue to write for our various sections.

To me, culture is part of life. It includes just about anything and everything. We all live and think differently at the same time we share similar ideas, passions, and experiences.

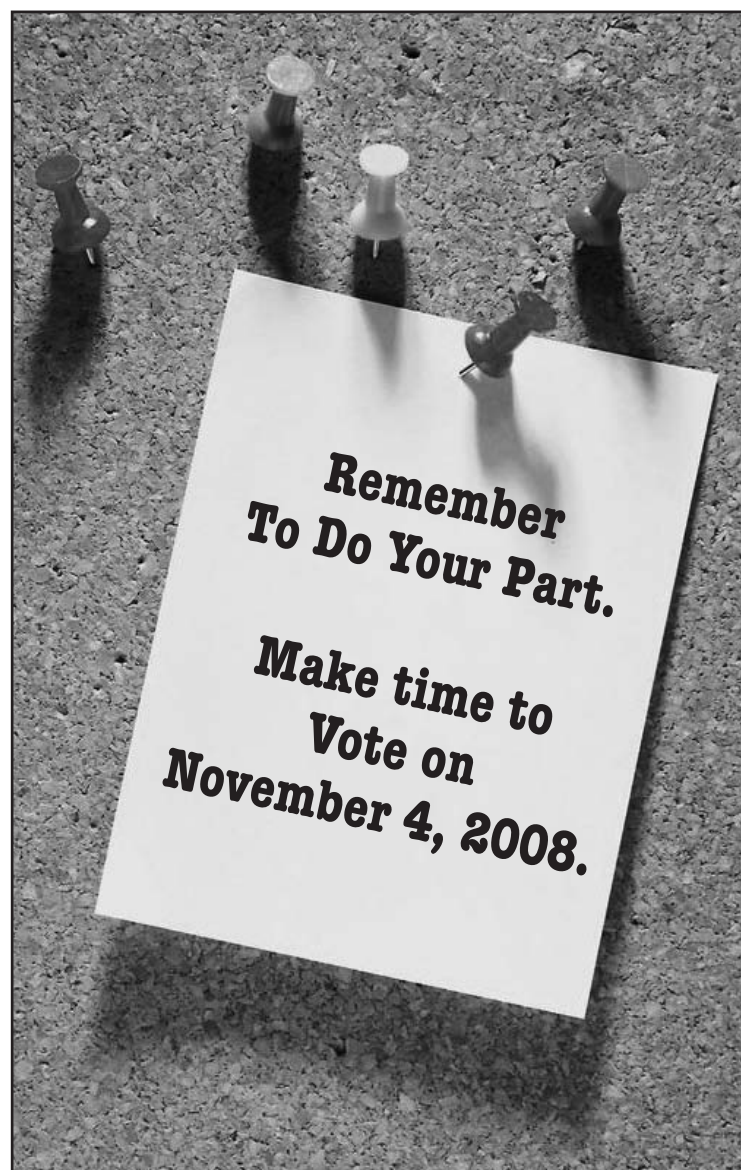
My goal as culture editor is to ensure that each writer's message is clear and accurately presented. Writing allows the freedom to feel and share those feelings with others. *The Gothic Times* staff hopes to provide you all with interesting and insightful reading material.

If you have an interest in writing for the Culture section, feel free to email me any time at: christieavila@gmail.com. I will be looking forward to hearing from all you prospective writers!

BE INFORMED & MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD
AT THE NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING!

SEPTEMBER 8, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
HEPBURN HALL, ROOM 202

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BOARD SECRETARY,
HEPBURN HALL, ROOM 308.



ADVICE



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Images from www.photos.com

Pinching Pennies & Cutting Corners *Pennies Saved are Dollars Stretched*

By Daniels Tornyenu

We are in tough times, and, since a student's income can barely keep pace with an agile inflation, curbing expenses seems the only sensible way to survive in the short term. The following are 8 (habit-altering) ways in which that can be achieved:

Quit smoking

Financial necessities make compelling reasons to quit a noxious habit like smoking. Perhaps affordability, not health, might help you kick smoking. So, if you find yourself struggling to purchase a pack of Camels or Winstons, know it is time to quit if even to save.

Get a moped

These low emission machines evolved over time, many having shed their pedals. Some come with stealth technology, topping 30 mph though licensing regulation for operating them vary from state to state. I saw one recently

that was pimped out; solid chrome wheels, mufflers and all. It's main virtue? A cool 60 mpg. Sizzling savings, huh?

CLEP out of classes

If you know the material of a basic class on campus, this is an economically smart option to save hundreds of dollars on a single class. CLEP (or College Level Examination Program) exams can take the place of 3- to 6-credit undergraduate courses. It only costs \$70 per exam plus a low administration fee determined by the school administering the exam(s). For example, U.S. Politics or Elementary Spanish can be replaced by exams in American Government or Spanish Language Level 1, respectively.

For information, go to: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html.

Get rid of that thundering muffler:

An ear-shattering muffler not

only vexes your neighbors by triggering their car alarms unnecessarily but also impacts your bottom line. The jury has been out that a thundering customized tail pipe reduces your gas/mileage ratio. Even a dimwit knows that those flared mufflers aren't hot anymore and hardly make your vintage Corolla a hot rod.

Shop around for textbook deals:

Need I remind anyone that textbooks cost an arm and leg these days? A recent finding by Pearson Education says few courses require much more than a mere 35-45 percent reading of a prescribed textbook. Many textbook

"If no used textbooks are available in the school store, go online!"

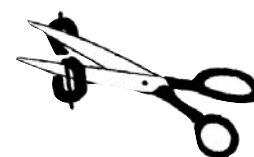
publishers offer digital versions of their books for just a fraction of the hard copy price. Most college libraries keep reference copies of textbooks. If no used textbooks are available in the school store, go online! Sites such as amazon.com, abebooks.com, and half.com have great bargains.

The (home) food angle:

Instead of buying lunch from the cafeteria or the food truck, why not make a sandwich or bring last night's dinner to campus? The Commuter Lounge at the far end of the GSUB has a microwave and fridge for student use only.

Do you really need to drive?

If you only need a couple items from your neighborhood grocery store, bike or walk rather than drive. You not only save on gas in such power walks, you improve your metabolism too.



Many health experts blame our ever expanding waistline on our sedentary lifestyle. Please leave the car alone; walk sometimes and save.

Avoid expensive dates

Be creative in steering your date from high-end eateries to an affordable one. A \$150.00 dinner wouldn't send sparks flying when the chemistry isn't there. All it takes is a little smoothness and a rugged determination to keep things within your means. Your date will appreciate you for taking her to get a special \$15 sub out of town. Long after she savors the last morsel of that special sub, she'll remember the time, flavor, and mood of that day.

Be wise. Heed my advice.



Introducing our Advice Editor

Hi, my name is Daniels Tornyenu, a journalism student in my senior year. As a teen in Ghana, I was witness to the cyclical violent overthrow of one government after another. Often at their peril, dedicated journalists protested the concomitant atrocities of such changes. A few survived recurrent jail terms for clamoring the rule of law.

Today, Ghana is a thriving democracy with open elections once every four years that lead to smooth transitions of leader-

ship. Ever the eyes, ears and enforcers of the peoples will, progressive journalists successfully wrestled the media from the government, freeing up radio, newspaper and television from government control. These journalists are my heroes.

For me, there can't be a greater honor than join the public discourse as a steady voice of reason for the distinguished Gothic Times. As I look forward to your questions and concerns, I can promise you an exciting semester.



DANIELS TORNYENU
Advice Editor

Voter Registration FAQ's

In order for a person to register to vote:

- he/she must be a United States citizen;
- be at least 18 years old by the next election;
- be a resident of the state and county 30 days before the election;
- must not be currently serving a sentence, probation or parole because of a felony conviction.

If you qualify and if you live in NJ go to www.NJElections.org and click on the link Register to Vote. There you will find a listing of counties. Click on the county you live in and print the form in whichever language you prefer. Fill out and mail. The deadline for registration is 21 days before the election.



GOTHIC TIMES

SAVE THE DATE GREAT DEBATE 2008

Thursday, October 2, 2008 12–2 p.m.

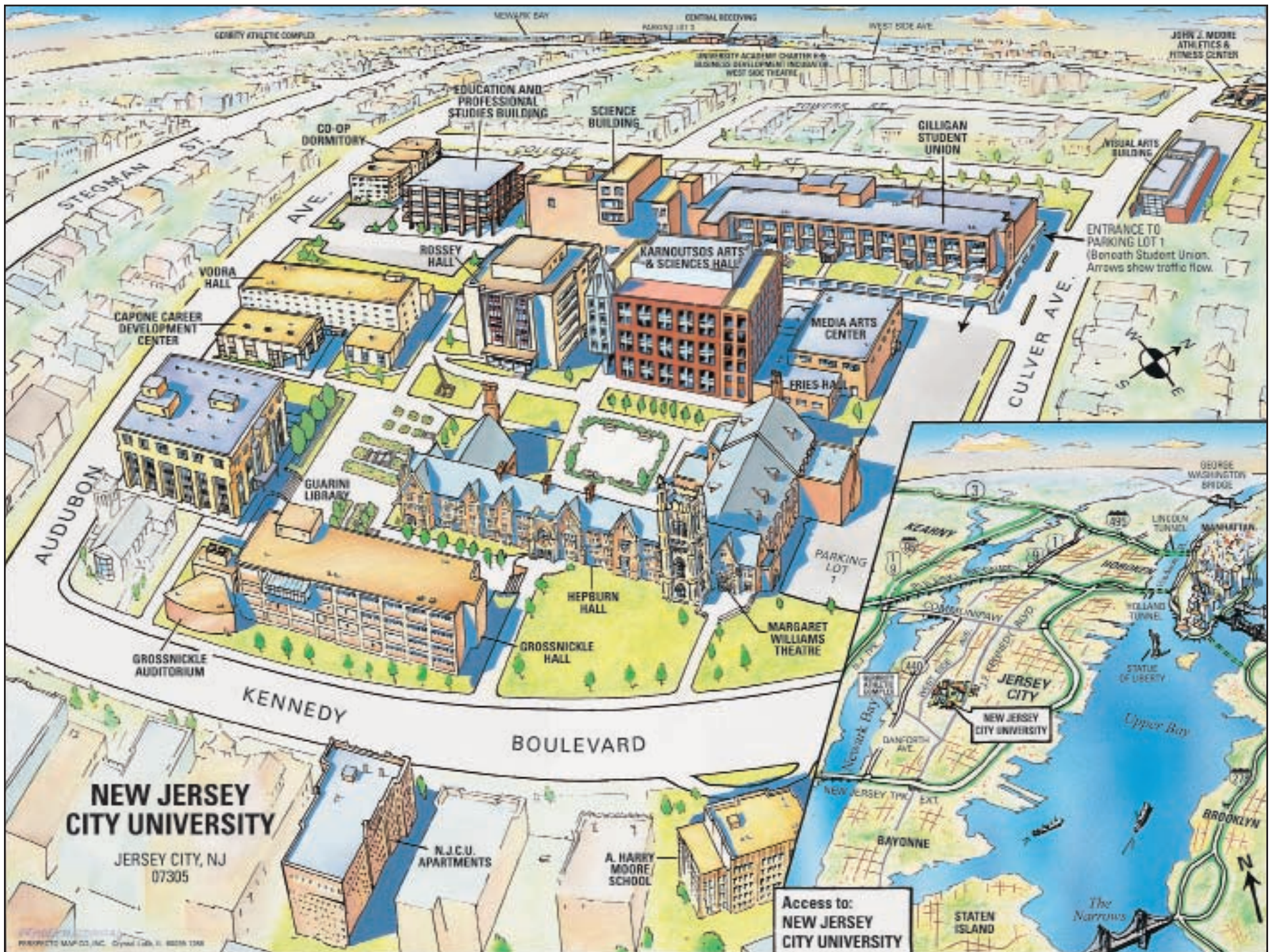
NJCU's "Great Debate 2008" Features Students as the Presidential Candidates of the Democratic, Republican, Green, and Libertarian Parties

Special Guest Moderator

Each "Candidate" Covers
Homeland Security ★ Education ★ Healthcare ★ the Environment

The audience will "elect" one "president" by secret ballot. A second "president" is selected on the basis of his or her portrayal, content, and delivery. LOOK FOR TWO PRE-DEBATE TOWN HALL MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER.

To get involved call 201 ★ 200 ★ 3585



DO SOMETHING. WRITE. NOW.

The Gothic Times needs you!

Having articles in *The Gothic Times* newspaper is a great way to have your voice heard and make a difference on the NJCU campus.

And remember, *Gothic Times* contributions are also good opportunities to add to your résumés and portfolios.

Sections writers, photographers, and artists may contribute to are News, Opinion/Editorial, Arts, Advice, Culture, Entertainment, and Sports.

If you are interested in helping out, please email us at gothictimes@njcu.edu. Please tell us your name, major, email address, phone number, and to which section(s), if any, you would prefer to contribute. Thank you.