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NJCU Answers Call to Action

By Erica Marie Molina & Christina Johnson

On April 13, 2009, the New Jersey City University community was finally able to witness and take part in the product of countless volunteers and diligent organizing led by Dr. William Calathes, an NJCU criminal justice professor and activist: the teach-in.

“I think it’s the first time ever that different constituent groups throughout the university came together,” said Calathes, who has worked at NJCU for 23 years, “and they came together for one purpose and one common aim, and that was to face directly [...] the challenges of the budget crisis.”

Held in various locations throughout the Gilligan Student Union Building, the teach-in was NJCU’s response to the combined effects of the economic downturn and New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine’s proposal to cut state funding to most state colleges and universities. In his FY 2010 budget, NJCU will lose about \$1.5 million in funds from the government, which, according to NJCU President Dr. Carlos Hernández, will bring the total school budget to about \$29.1 million. This budget would be smaller than the one NJCU had in 1998. Should the budget be approved this summer, NJCU may have to compensate by raising tuition and granting employees furloughs—unpaid workdays.



NJCU protesters picket on campus on April 7, 2009.

Photo by Christina Johnson

In his opening remarks to a crowd of about 700 people, approximately 500 of which were students, Hernández acknowledged the need for proper funding of entities such as hospitals, etc, but asked, “When will we become a priority?” The President pointed out that when he began to work at NJCU about 36 years ago, the school received 70 percent of its budget from government appropriations; now it receives about 20 percent.

John Krawczyk, a 20-year-old student from Bayonne double majoring in criminal justice and professional security, helped organize the teach-in, which took less than four weeks to plan with the help of about 20 more criminal justice majors and the AFT Local 1839 Executive Council, which is headed by Dr. Joseph Moskowitz of the Political Science Department.

“I feel New Jersey higher education is near and dear to my heart because a lot of other students won’t be able to attend [college],” Krawczyk said. “A lot of other students like me wouldn’t be able to afford tuition.”

Hernández referred to a statement he made a year ago, in which he said that, had NJCU received \$7.4 million more from the government, then each student at NJCU could have saved \$1,300 on tuition.

Numerous activists and social leaders were invited to address the teach-in.

Eva Bonime, a representative

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WORD ON CAMPUS:

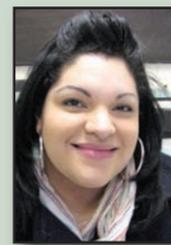
What did you learn today?



Patrick Feniello, 20,
Sophomore, Jazz Studies,
Red Bank, NJ
Nothing, why?



Charles Yarbrough, 24,
Sophomore, Photography,
Louisville, KY
Decatur is actually a suburb of Atlanta and not a separate city.



Jennifer Matos, 25,
Senior, Psychology,
Hinesville, GA
I learned that you can't try to rationalize irrational behavior.



Dyana Garrison, 23, Junior,
Psychology, Jersey City
In my Psychology class today, I learned about adolescence and how the brain is still developing and growing until you're 19 or 20.



Felix Metius, 28, Senior,
Communication design,
Melbourne, Australia
Today I learned that if you don't manage your time correctly, then you will be like a one-legged man at an ass-kicking contest.



Tiffany Grevious, 19,
Freshman, Film,
Bushkill, PA
What I learned is that you should check the date on your light rail ticket because some people give you year old tickets and you can get a ticket from the cops. So check your dates!



Cynthia Frazier, Jersey City, Cafeteria Night Manager
I learned that you cannot judge a book by its cover. People are not always what they appear to be.



Anthony Dianora, 21,
Senior, Music,
Medford, NJ
There are things you need to learn outside of school, and those are usually the most important things.

Interviews & Photography by Jaclyn Foglio

NEWS

Petition Aims to Help Students

By Monique Redman

One hundred thousand signatures are needed by May 17 to help extend benefits of the federal bailout to students, for the Reduce the Rate petition, sponsored by Reverend Jesse Jackson, and for the Rainbow Push Coalition. On Sunday, March 22, Jackson announced on his *Keep Hope Alive* radio talk show that he and others will join together in a march to Washington D.C. to petition Congress and President Barack Obama.

According to a spokesman for Reducetherate.org, the organization's platform and goals include the following:

- Reducing interest rates on all student loans to 1%. If banks can borrow at 1% or less, then so should students.

- Extending the grace period before loan repayment begins from 6 months to 18 months for students who graduate, since it takes an average of 6 to 12 months for a graduate to find a job.

- Ending the penalties assessed to schools for student loan defaults. Schools should not be held accountable for students who don't pay back their loans.

- Increasing Pell Grants to cover the average yearly cost of a 4-year public institution instead of the amounts in the current stimulus package: \$5,350 starting July 1 and \$5,550 in 2010-2011.

"We're calling it 'The Rainbow PUSH Education Stimulus Plan.'" Jackson said at reducetherate.org. "It is a simple-yet-sweeping plan to help families

finance college costs that are steadily putting higher education out of the reach of most Americans. Our proposal is that students holding and applying for college loans should be offered interest rates that do not exceed 1 percent—the same favorable terms now being offered to the large corporations under the federal bailout plan."

President Obama's current stimulus package proposes the following in regards to student loans:

- Increase the Pell Grant by \$500 from \$4,850 to \$5,350.

- Increase work study funding by \$490 million.

- Increase student loan limits on unsubsidized Stafford Loan by \$2,000.

- Provide \$50 million to the Department of Education to help them administer student aid and loan programs.

President Obama has also proposed creating a new tax credit of \$4,000 in exchange for 100 hours of community service.

According to Dr. John Melendez, the NJCU Vice President of Student Affairs, "This is a proposal that should be explored. If we are giving benefits to banks, why not give it to students?"

Jackson believes that the lowering of student interest rates to just one percent will directly address affordability.

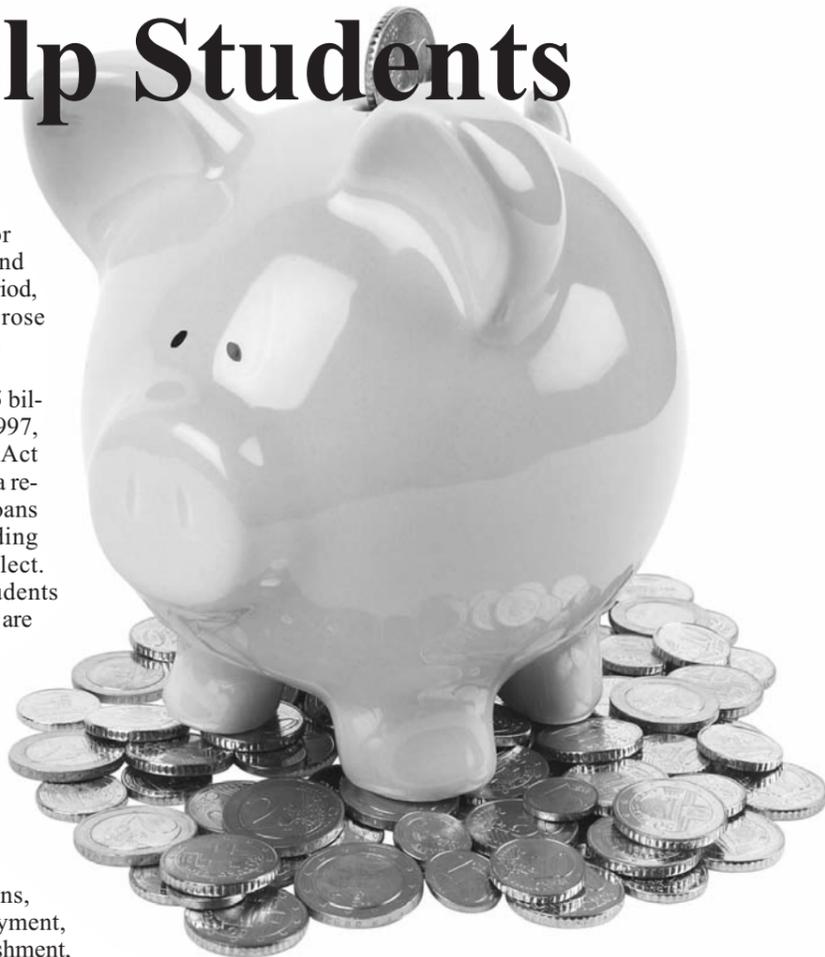
In a report issued by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, the cost of attending college has raised nearly three times the rate of the cost of living. After being adjusted for

inflation, college tuition and fees rose 439 percent from 1982 to 2007, far outpacing increases for medical care, housing and food. During the same period, median family income rose 147 percent, according to Reducetherate.org.

Student loans are an \$85 billion dollar industry. In 1997, the Higher Education Act (HEA) was amended. As a result, defaulted student loans became the most rewarding and easiest debt to collect. Under the HEA Act, students who default on their loans are assessed huge penalties and fees and are not allowed bankruptcy protection. Once a student has defaulted on their loans, they are subjected to wage garnishment, tax garnishment, withholding of professional certifications, termination from employment, and social security garnishment, among other things. While these measures have proven devastating to defaulted student borrowers, it has proven to be lucrative to student loan companies.

Alan Michael Collinge, author of *The Student Loan Scam*, believes that the student loan companies hope for defaulted loans, because they are where the bulk of their profit stems from.

As reported on Boston.com, "This mess, according to Collinge, is the work not only of greedy industry types but also their lackeys in political office.



'Know that I hold you in my trusted hands, I have enough rabbits up my sleeve to be able to get where we need to,' Ohio Representative John Boehner told a dinner hosted by a Sallie Mae executive. There are several such quotes here, and in some cases here the industry's actions have drawn legal penalties. (Some, former industry insiders included, compare student loans to loan sharks)."

At NJCU, 4,676 students applied for loans for the 2007-08 ac-

ademic year. The default rate in FY 2006 was just 3.5 percent. While the default rate at NJCU is low, the rate could be lowered if students are given more protection and offered more help.

"We bail out Chrysler..., we're bailing out Iraq..., GM..., AIG..., Citigroup... bail out our students, educate our children now," Jackson said.

*****To learn about or sign the petition, go to www.reducetherate.org

The recently sanctioned
**Veterans Club of
 New Jersey City University**
 is seeking to increase its membership.

*If you are a student who is a veteran of the Armed Forces, Or
 A non-veteran student interested in veterans affairs, Or
 A very motivated patriotic student,*

Join the veterans club!

*We are a highly active organization
 looking to do good things on campus.*

Contact: Cassius Grasso, Army Veteran
cassiusgrasso@yahoo.com

John Krawczyk, Navy Veteran
johnkrawczyk@gmail.com

Please note: The Veterans Club of New Jersey City University will not engage in any activities geared toward the recruitment of individuals into the United States Armed Forces.

NEWS

Lincoln in a New Light

By Komal Zafar

In the honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday and the anniversary of his death, the New Jersey City University held a symposium, "Lincoln: A Celebration of a Life," on Tuesday, April 15, 2009, in the Gilligan Student Union Building.

The foreword at the symposium was given by Ann McGovern, the former President of the Lincoln Association and Assistant Dean of the Arts and Science College. The introduction was followed by a reading of the Gettysburg Address by JoAnne Antoine, an NJCU student.

The symposium also featured a discussion on Abraham Lincoln's personal and political life by Dr. Bruce Chadwick of the English

Department, Dr. Jason Martinek of the History Department, and Dr. Francis Moran of the Political Science Department.

"The goal of the [symposium] is just to make people aware of why Abraham Lincoln was a prominent figure in the American history," said Chadwick. "Americans have a simplistic view of Lincoln – Old Abe and Father Abraham – so I wanted to get underneath on that... and I was pleasantly surprised."

In his subject, "The Rise of Abraham Lincoln: A Political Life," Chadwick explained what made Abraham Lincoln a skilled politician. Martinek covered the topic of "Abraham Lincoln: The Self-Made Man," which focused on how Abraham Lincoln represented a lot of the Americans in

the mid-nineteenth century.

The last focus of the afternoon was Moran's "Of, By and For the People: The Lincoln Legacy in American Political Thought," in which he talked about the everlasting Lincoln and how he affected the United States.

"It was very insightful and I learned more regarding [Lincoln's] political approaches," said Walter Clarke, 44, a full-time fire science major and a firefighter from Elizabeth. "I think Obama has big shoes to fill in regards to Abe Lincoln."

The afternoon was ended with a short speech by McGovern who said that it is very important that students know about Lincoln. She also mentioned that student should study Lincoln, the Civil War and the politician, so they can emulate his ideas.

"It was very informative and my perception of [Lincoln] has changed at the end of the day," said Shameel Bowman, 22, a journalism major from Paterson. "Both Lincoln and Obama stand up for what they believe in, and they stay firm."

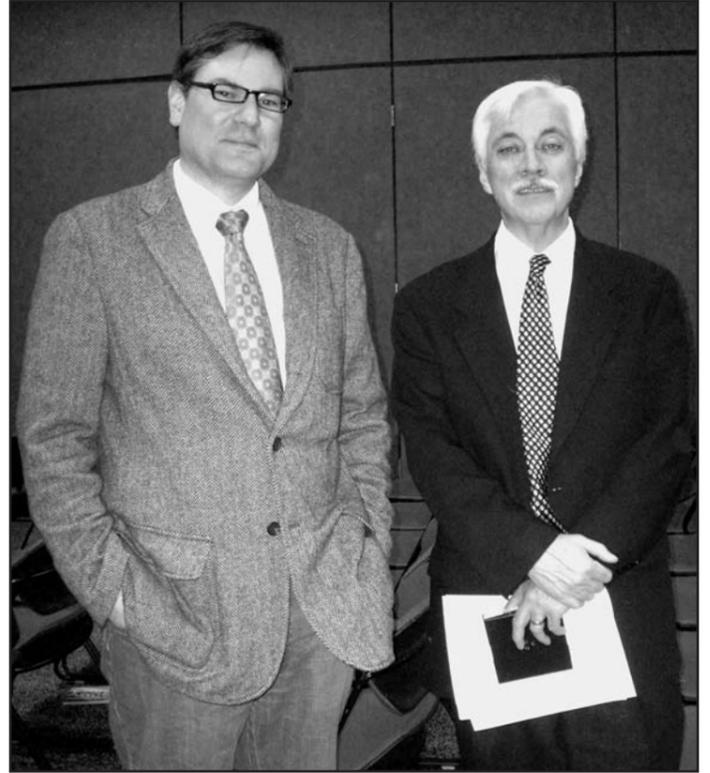


Photo by Komal Zafar

Dr. Jason Martinek of the History Department, left, and Dr. Bruce Chadwick of the English Department both presented speeches at the Lincoln Symposium.

Teach In

Continued from page 1

from the New Jersey Working Families Alliance, a recently founded coalition pushing for more accountable local and state government, spoke about the Better Choices Budget Campaign, which supports changes to the proposed state budget such as having households that earn over \$250,000—as opposed to the present \$500,000—pay more taxes. Bonime also explained that even though NJ is home to the largest percentage of millionaires in the country, the state is cutting higher education funding while other states, according to Dr. Hernández, have "invested billions, not millions" of dollars into their colleges and universities.

Paul Shelly, Director of Communications and Marketing for the NJ Association of State Colleges and Universities (NJASCU), mentioned several opportunities for student, union, and university involvement, including the NJ College Promise Network, NJASCU's new website.

"Change is possible when citizens come together and there is a common goal," Shelly said.

According to NJASCU, a group of nine NJ state colleges and universities, "New Jersey ranks 46[t]h in the nation in public college/university admission capacity (undergraduate seats) to serve its citizens," which, said Shelly, is related to the state's losing 35,000 students every year to invest their time, energy, and money into other states.

"I really believe that it's important for us to begin to listen to

each other," said Calathes, who has done human rights organization in countries such as Kenya and Angola, "and to be able to actively and aggressively take the democratic process up a notch so that we can have our voices heard and we can really start to defend our right to public education."

The teach-in continued with several workshops each made up of students, staff, or faculty. The groups had the goal of determining what issues are most important to them in terms of higher education, and ways these issues can be resolved.

Dr. Patrice Dow-Nelson, a psychology professor who has been at NJCU for 10 years, said, "It's not just about us [NJCU], but it's about the whole higher education community."

Dow-Nelson was a part of the fulltime faculty group led by Eric A. Cinotti, a sociology professor who teaches at multiple NJ universities, and Dean Brianik, Assistant Director of the NJCU CO-OP Office. The group narrowed their overall goals to a list of three to be documented and sent to Gov. Corzine, the most important being a reallocation of the state budget and specific ways of raising revenue.

"We have more strength in numbers," Dow-Nelson said. "We should be more proactive. [I came today because I wanted] to know what part I can play in mobilizing people."

It was this pro-active attitude that was seen on April 7, 2009, when NJCU faculty and staff assembled outside of the university armed with signs and chants against pay cuts, furloughs, and



Photo by Amanda Madera

Paul Shelly, Director of Communications and Marketing for the NJ Association of State Colleges and Universities, addresses a crowd of NJCU students, staff, and faculty at the teach-in.

layoffs. Passing cars honked in support as they drove up and down Kennedy Boulevard; despite the cold weather protestors held up signs, some with "Lay Off Corzine" written on them.

"It upsets us," said protestor Kristin McKillop, a secretary for the department of Continuing Education who has been a staff member at NJCU for 10 years. "It's unfair that [Corzine] wants to do what he wants to do. It just makes us want to fight more."

It was in this vein that students participated in the teach-in. Student attendees were split into two groups and encouraged to identify issues that affected their specific goals and interests. They were also urged to come up with

To learn more about the problems and organizations mentioned in the article, please go to:

<http://aftlocal1839.org/>
http://web.njcu.edu/sites/controller/Content/fiscal_planning_budget.asp
<http://www.njascu.org/>
<http://www.njcu.edu/budgetfy09/>
<http://www.njworkingfamilies.org/>
<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/omb/>

potential solutions before sharing them not only among one another, but to all those attending the teach-in as well.

Nastassja Torres, 22, an economy and finance double major from Bayonne, came to the teach-in because "I wanted to know how the university is going to keep my tuition low."

Though she found the opening remarks to be pertinent, Torres was disappointed with the rest of the event. "Just judging from the workshops, I don't think today was helpful. The staff and faculty leading the student workshops should have listened to the students more [than they did]."

The workshops that involved the various staff and faculty, however, seemed to thrive with well-

conceived ideas and plans of action.

By the end of the session the stage was open to anyone to speak their mind, and several students were moved to action. There was emphasis by several students for use of unity as a means of getting the voice of the student population heard and serving as the catalyst for the changes they wished to occur.

"I think [the teach-in] was a rousing success on multiple levels," Calathes said. "I think that we are going to hold many teach-ins and have many other actions [...]. I hope that everyone is on board with it and that everyone starts to get involved in as aggressive a way and as productive a way as they possibly can."

IN MEMORIAM

An NJCU Loss

According to *The Jersey Journal*, Jonathan Epps, a New Jersey City University undergraduate student, died

on March 29, 2009. His death was the result of a head injury sustained in a car accident the weekend before.

A 22-year-old junior, Epps was the son of Jersey City School Superintendent Charles T. Epps.

He will be missed.

NEWS

NJCU Registration Silver Lining?

By Carol Alberque,
Joanne Antoine,
Danielle Church,
Lyle Hickman,
Rana Stanley

Though the process of class registration at New Jersey City University can be a hassle for students, it is one that has been improving somewhat in relation to other universities.

Since 2005, NJCU's registration process has been available online through the school's web portal, GothicNet. Despite a few glitches in the system every now and then, it has been received well by the campus community.

"Online registration is a dream," said Monica Almonor, an Associate Registrar at NJCU. "It empowers students. It makes [registration] convenient for them, especially for the nontraditional students who work late and may not have the time to come [to campus]."

In order to register online, a student must first meet with an advisor to have their advisement hold lifted. Students may also have financial holds when they have to pay any balances left on

their account or have to set up a payment plan before the hold can be lifted. Once these holds are cleared, students can log in online and choose their own courses.

"Last semester was complicated because of the advisement hold," said John Ida, a 25-year-old finance major from Harrison, NJ. "I didn't know what that was."

"Ideally, you should go over your planning sheet to make sure you are taking classes you need," said Navin Saiboo, an Associate Registrar at NJCU.

Although students are able to choose their own courses, the prevailing grievance from NJCU students' lies in being misadvised.

"In the beginning I found the registration process at NJCU rather difficult," said Sara Moje, a 31-year-old guidance counselor from Jersey City who attended NJCU from 1995 through 2001. "During my first three semesters, before I declared a major, I had a different advisor each time, and the advisor didn't know me at all."

One of the major problems seems to be the lack of personal

attention given to a student by their advisor.

"My advisors were not always willing to help coordinate my schedule," said Moje. "They seemed to just want to put me into whatever class first came up in the computer."

Other students attending New Jersey colleges shared many of the same sentiments about registration and advisement.

"Registration is a crazy process. It's serious," said Fabiola Franck, a 19-year-old freshman student at Rutgers New Brunswick from West Orange, NJ. "Most of the classes are offered for upperclassmen first. By the time freshmen figure out when we can register, [classes are] closed."

"It was difficult for freshman to get classes," said Hannibal People, a 23-year-old computer scientist and alum of New Jersey Institute of Technology from Plainfield, NJ.

In contrast to Rutgers and NJIT, NJCU gives preference to both freshmen and seniors during registration. "All universities lose people their freshman year, so maybe making them a priority will keep them," Saiboo said.

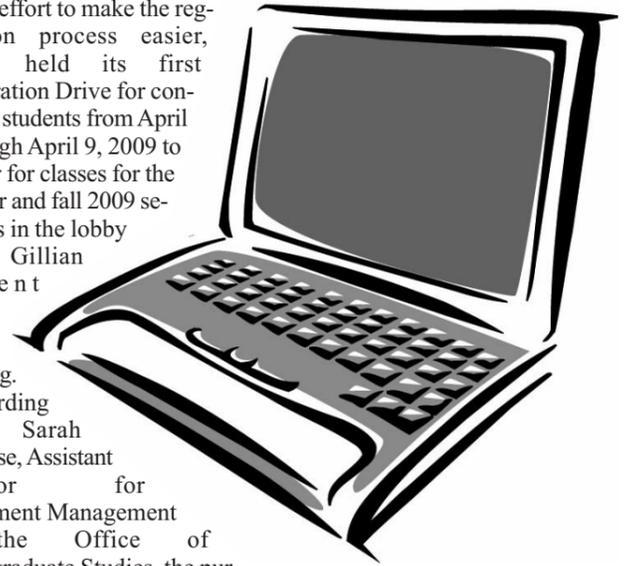
In an effort to make the registration process easier, NJCU held its first Registration Drive for continuing students from April 7 through April 9, 2009 to register for classes for the summer and fall 2009 semesters in the lobby of the Gillian Student Union Building.

According to Sarah Ambrose, Assistant Director for Enrollment Management in the Office of Undergraduate Studies, the purpose of this event was to "encourage students to register early. Our students tend to register late in the summer."

Students face many obstacles due to late registration. Classes they need or want are at a high risk of being full and deadlines for financial aid may be missed as well. The availability of faculty members is also a critical issue for students to contend with over

the summer months, as there are only a limited amount of faculty members available for student advisement.

"I think the system is fairly okay," said Oneil McPherson, a 22-year-old health science major from Rahway, NJ. "Requiring advisement shows how NJCU cares about what we do and does not want us to waste our time."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

An Interview with local artist, Mo-16

By Marlen Gonzalez

Born in Senegal and raised in Jersey City, NJ, the 25-year-old Mohamet Diagne, a business major at New Jersey University, sat down with the *Gothic Times* to talk about music, life and what it means to be Mo-16.

What are three words to describe you?

"I'm loyal, funny, hard-working. I'm an only child and was forced to make friends and keep them. I just wanted to show them the real me. I'm naturally funny and I get hard-working from my father and mother. Money don't fall from the sky. You hustle for anything you want to get. Life is a hustle."

What does your artist name Mo-16 stand for?

"Mo is the first two letters of my name and 16 is for the day I was born."

How long have you been involved in music?

"I was always surrounded by music. I had a couple of friends that were always doing music. When I was 20, 21, I started to take it serious. People sitting down listening to yours words, your creation and watching their facial expressions makes it all worth it."

Who are your musical inspirations?

"Of course Tupac Shakur. He has been the biggest influence in my music. Jay-Z, Andre 3000, Maxwell—I'm big on R.Kelly. They inspire me to make good music and keep pushing."

What does music mean to you?

"When you're stressed, you listen to music. It can help you relieve, ease your mind. I try to stand out as much as I can. I'm still learning as an artist. Whatever you do in life, you can go there and make it happen...motivation."

What are you most grateful for?

"I'm grateful for my mother because she's my backbone. She's the reason why I changed my life. I'm grateful to be alive. A lot of people don't get to see 25. I'm grateful to Nemo, my producer; he's had a lot to do with being the artist I am today. His whole production makes it easier to make music."

What does it feel like to perform live in front of your fans?

"It motivates you to make music. People taking



Photo by Phillip Torres

Mo-16

three minutes of their time to watch you; it's a blessing."

What is the biggest lesson you have learned so far?

"In the music industry, it's not what you know, it's who you know. If you're a nobody, then they will pass up on you. It's always business and nothing person. It's a good advantage if you're surrounded by a good team."

As we neared the end of our conversation I asked Mo what the immediate future holds for him, he said, "Taking over the world like Pinkie and the Brain and putting Jersey on the map."

To find out more about Mo-16 and hear his music check out: Myspace.com/mo16bars and jerseyboysmusic.com.

STUDENT REMINDER

TAG Application Filing Deadline!

The Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) renewal filing deadline for the 2009-2010 academic year is June 1, 2009.

Also, if you plan to enroll at New Jersey City University during the 2009-2010 academic year and have not yet submitted a **FREE APPLICATION FOR STUDENT AID (FAFSA)** or renewal FAFSA, you must do so before **June 1, 2009**.

You may apply using FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

If you need help or have questions about the FAFSA, the NJCU Financial Aid staff is available to assist you. You can visit the Financial Aid Office (Hepburn Hall, Room 215), Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Friday, 8:30a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or call 201-200-3173.

Joseph Roberto
Director of Financial Aid

OPINION

The Republicans Remain Clueless

By John Roth

The House and Senate Republican leadership's behavior throughout the stimulus and budget debates has been nothing more than political theater. They offer nothing new to the discussion of our nation's current financial difficulties and spend an exorbitant amount of time stonewalling the legislative process. They argue that their failed policies of the past somehow work and that they are the ones who are best equipped to save our nation's economy. Do they need to be reminded that it was the last administration's unsuccessful economic policies, which they so strongly supported, that created our nation's current economic despair?

As the 111th Congressional Session began this past January, Republicans brought little to the table except for their tried and true, ineffective policies. The Republican leadership—Senator Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) and House Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-Va.)—continue to do nothing but criticize Democratic efforts. They put forward nothing innovative and continue to champion more tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, spending cuts in government and an ill-advised tax scheme that is deceptively appealing to some middle-income Americans.

In a recent press conference, Republican leaders heralded the particulars of their budget, calling it their "Road to Recovery." The proposal includes a tax rate of 10 percent for incomes up to \$100,000 and 25 percent for any income thereafter, and a new tax policy that allows businesses with less than 500 employees to take a deduction equal to 20 percent of their income.

Bankrupting the Treasury appears to be the GOP's ultimate goal. They insist on tax breaks



House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH), House Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) left to right.

across the board but provide no honest assessment of how these tax breaks will affect the operations of government. They offer nothing new with regards to a health care system that is in need of repair. They offer nothing new when it comes to our failing education system. Republicans still cling to the same old attitude that somehow the free market will take care of it all.

Resistance to any idea outside

the President's visit. The Republicans act as if the American people still support their agenda. However, the failed doctrine that GOP members of Congress so proudly boast about has been undeniably detrimental to our nation's fiscal well-being.

Since 1980, Republicans have enjoyed large-scale levels of control over the White House and Congress. Upon examining the history of Presidents' Ronald

Reagan's presidency. Under the leadership of President George W. Bush, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics posted seasonally adjusted unemployment rates that climbed to 6.3 percent in June 2003, bottomed out at 4.4 percent in March 2007, and then climbed quickly to a high of 7.2 percent by December of 2008. Throughout their administrations, neither Reagan nor Bush was ever able to

Do the Republicans need to be reminded that it was the last administration's unsuccessful economic policies, which they so strongly supported, that created our nation's current economic despair?

the Right's ill-fated way of thinking has become standard operating procedure. President Barack Obama went out of his way to meet with the House Republicans early this year. His attempt to create bipartisan talks became futile when the Republican leadership deemed it necessary to sabotage

Reagan (1980-1988) and George W. Bush (2000-2008), both two-term presidents, it is easy to recognize the failures of their administrations.

According to data gathered by the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment reached a high of 9.7

percent during Reagan's presidency.

Republicans continue to scoff at the administrations of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Bill Clinton, citing both as ineffective models of tax and spend liberal values. During the Republican Great Depression of the 1930s, President Roosevelt and his New Deal policies put in-

to motion the rebuilding of an ailing American economy. His programs included the Civil Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration; both were successful at putting Americans back to work. Prior to President Roosevelt, Republican President Herbert Hoover's administration did little to stimulate a depressed economy. His inability to grasp the extreme problems within the American financial system gave credence to his laissez-faire attitude.

President Clinton's agenda throughout the 1990s, including his Pay - Go policy and his overall economic strategy, raised tax rates on upper income Americans from 33 percent to 36 percent and in the process gave our economy a needed boost. President Clinton also left a huge monetary surplus of about \$500 million that the Bush administration foolishly spent. Consequently, President Obama has been given little choice but to enact spending policies designed to invigorate the economy.

Lofty government spending has become a necessary evil. President Obama and his economic team plan to address the problems of the economy with a wide array of solutions. Significant expenditures intended to stimulate growth and create jobs include the President's budget package for 2010, which incorporates ample funding for health care and education.

The Republican's conduct throughout our country's economic crisis has been irresponsible. They have added nothing new to the debate and have not comprehended our nation's present fiscal troubles. Conservative leaders continue to support policies that greatly favor the wealthy and actually do little for the rest of America. They argue in favor of policies that have failed the American public and still believe that it is they alone who can guide America through the economic hardships they created.

Obama's Afghan Escapade

By Alexander Neilson

As Americans, we would like to think that we have learned from our experiences in Iraq, lest we repeat them. Prior to invasion we were convinced en masse that there were weapons of mass destruction to be found, that Saddam Hussein was an immediate threat to our homeland security and that a Western-friendly Iraqi government would be the keystone to our War on Terror in the Middle East. It was only after shock, awe and a protracted period of bloody occupation that we discovered that what we had been led to believe was untrue. But that kind of thing will not happen to us again, correct?

We would like to think that if we were again going to send thousands of troops and billions of dollars into military operations overseas it would only be after open public discourse on the topic, scrutiny of the military by the media and after real, tangible sup-

port from the international community. So then why, as President Obama authorizes another \$83 billion for operations in Afghanistan and plans to send 30,000 more troops to the country despite getting little more than verbal support on his recent trip through Europe are we standing by unquestioningly, assuming that he and our generals know best?

Much of the blame falls on the shoulders of America's establishment, mainstream news media who, in a repeat performance of their cheerleader role during the Iraqi invasion, are silently complicit regarding military escalation in Afghanistan. In her excellent 2003 documentary *Independent Media in a Time of War*, Amy Goodman of Democracy Now! radio asked "if this were state-run media, how would it be any different?" That question is, sadly, just as pertinent in 2009. A recent poll conducted by CNN showed that 51 percent of Americans oppose the war in Afghanistan—but that

same network, with the knowledge that over half of their audience thinks that the war itself is a mistake, continues to focus their coverage almost exclusively on how the war is being fought, not the more pressing issue of whether it should be fought at all. Instead of a steady stream of military analysts on MSNBC, Fox and CNN to break down the combat efficacy of unmanned drones, why not have a peace activist on to discuss alternative paths to stability in Afghanistan or to debate those military analysts on the soundness of war as an instrument of policy in general? As CNN's own poll shows, this is a debate that is happening in homes around the country, but is conspicuously absent from our newspapers and television news programs.

The gap between Americans' actual views and the views that are represented in the mainstream media is particularly troubling because if there is going to be any meaningful discussion of U.S.



NYTimes.com

military policy it must be spearheaded by media groups. Much has been made of American political apathy—that in the face of billions of dollars of corporate bailouts and misguided wars we sit idly by—but how can individuals be expected to actively protest their plights if their source of information (the media) marginalizes their views and sides so singly with centrist government? The Afghan troop escalation has evoked fiery responses in the independent media, but those voices are woefully ineffectual if they are not echoed along larger av-

enues.

The American troop presence in Afghanistan will soon enter its eighth year. President Obama, who could well have this war define his presidency, has described the situation there as "increasingly perilous." Pakistan's instability is deepening and drawing more attention. Our domestic financial picture is dire as billions still flow into war efforts in the Middle East. For those reasons and more the need for a serious discussion and explanation of military plans in Afghanistan is readily apparent.

OPINION

Should You Be Afraid of the Food Safety and Modernization Act?

By Patrick Jarkowsky

You may not have heard about this issue in the corporate media, and even if you did, a bill titled the *Food Safety and Modernization Act of 2009* would have probably sounded reasonable to you. But considering deceptively named Bush-era programs such as the *Clear Skies Initiative* and *No Child Left Behind*, it is understandable that many people were just itching to find fault with this proposed legislation.

When I first read about this bill, House Resolution 875 (H.R. 875), I was alarmed. I was ready to take action. I was ready to spend my own money printing flyers and post cards. I was ready to post links on Facebook and every other message board I could find. I was ready to visit every organic grocer and farmers market in the tri-state area, urging all vendors to spread the message about the evils of H.R. 875. But first, being the political nerd that I am, I insisted on reading the entire bill.

Needless to say, I'm glad I saved my time, my money, and my reputation!

In the non-corporate media, I was reading and hearing so many scary "facts" about H.R. 875. Liberal activists were insisting that the rightfully despised Monsanto Company, one of the world's largest agribusinesses, was a major proponent of this legislation. Being a consumer of organic foods and an advocate for small farms, farmers markets, food co-ops, and the local foods movement, I was naturally suspicious of any legislation that had Monsanto's seal of approval.



www.google.com

Then I heard that the Congresswoman who sponsored this legislation, Connecticut's Rosa DeLauro (D), was married to a former lobbyist for Monsanto. I was furious!

were insisting that all small farmers would have to pay exorbitant amounts in registrations fees and equipment modernization fees, further shrinking their already miniscule profits. They were even

word.

After reading the entire text of the bill, I could not substantiate any of these claims. There is no provision for the imprisonment of uncooperative small farmers.

"While I don't agree with every aspect of H.R. 875, there is nothing outrageous in this bill. It is, quite simply, a bill whose sole aim is to promote food safety and modernization."

These liberal activists were spinning tales of a nation stripped of all its small, organic farms. They were frightening every reader and listener with the possibility of small farmers being imprisoned for not complying with federal regulations. They

insisting that individuals who grow vegetables in their own backyards would have to register with the federal government or risk paying fines upwards of \$1 million. They were making outrageous claims, and for a moment, I believed every single

There is no \$1 million fine for backyard gardeners. Sure, there are new regulations that need to be followed, but none of these regulations promote genetically modified foods or criminalize organic farming methods. As for fees associated with following

the bill's new regulatory standards, the bill itself makes mention on several occasions that the federal government should and must assist small businesses during the transition period.

While I don't agree with every aspect of H.R. 875, there is nothing outrageous in this bill. It is, quite simply, a bill whose sole aim is to promote food safety and modernization. And for the record, Rep. DeLauro's husband has never worked as a lobbyist for Monsanto. He's a pollster who works for a company that, more than a decade ago, counted Monsanto as one of its clients.

The fact is, Monsanto is probably spending a great deal of time and money combating H.R. 875. After all, the recent outbreaks of food-borne bacteria have been found in foodstuffs produced by large agribusinesses, such as Monsanto, and their equally despicable subcontractors. The new, more stringent regulations in H.R. 875 would force large agribusinesses to spend more money, and unlike small farmers, the federal government will not provide transition relief for corporate farms.

The lesson to be learned from my experience with H.R. 875 is simple; don't believe everything you read or hear. If an issue in the news grabs your attention, do your own research. Do not simply trust your first source.

As a generation that has almost instantaneous access to the Internet, libraries, book stores, Lexis-Nexis, etc, we have tools and resources at our fingertips that those before us could not even imagine. So do your own research, question what you hear, and stay informed.

It's Raining Gay Married People!

By Jan Aguilos

"There's a storm gathering," says one pleasant-looking woman in front of a background of rolling dark clouds and lightning bolts. "And I am afraid," says another pleasant-looking woman.

Of course they're talking about same-sex marriage—as if it was terrorism or the bubonic plague. These statements are made in two ads by the National Organization for Marriage, an advocacy group that was founded in 2007 to oppose same-sex marriage. These ads are part of an announced \$1.5 million ad campaign in states such as New Jersey, which are fast becoming battlegrounds

In early April alone, Iowa and Vermont became the third and fourth states to legalize same-sex marriage—somewhere, Jerry Falwell is spinning in his grave. Massachusetts and Connecticut are the two other states that have legalized gay marriage. For those, like me, who support same-sex marriage, these victories are refreshing in lieu of the passing of Proposition 8 in California in November, a ballot initiative which banned marriage equality in that state.

It's quite probable that New Jersey will join the states that al-



www.sf.com

low same-sex marriage, considering that Governor Corzine has stated that he would sign a bill that legalizes same-sex marriage if one was to ever come out of the state Legislature. Though New Jersey has had civil unions for same-sex couples since 2007, gay rights groups like the Human Rights Campaign and Lambda Legal still consider a civil union inferior to the legal status of marriage.

Even the Final Report of the New Jersey Civil Union Commission, released in December 10, 2008, states that civil unions encourage "unequal treatment of same-sex couples

and their children." This report recommended that New Jersey trade in its recognition of civil unions for same-sex couples to the legalization of same-sex marriage.

What's particularly fascinating in Vermont's legalization of same-sex marriage is that it came from legislative means instead of a state Supreme Court ruling, which is what occurred in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Iowa. This could possibly be a watershed moment in which elected officials gain enough political courage to publicly support marriage equality.

In March, Democratic U.S.

Senator Charles Schumer of New York made some news by publicly supporting same-sex marriage. However, he is one of a very small number of national politicians who support same-sex marriage and not just civil unions or domestic partnerships. Even President Obama doesn't support same-sex marriage.

And although, currently, most of the American public is not in favor of same-sex marriage, there does seem to be at least a slow progress in the acceptance of gay rights. A CBS news poll released on April 3 shows that only about one-third of Americans think that same-sex marriage should be al-

lowed. However, that's higher than the 22 percent that thought supported same-sex marriage in a similar 2004 poll.

New Jerseyans seem to be more progressive on the issue than most Americans: a 2008 Zogby poll finds that around 59 percent of New Jerseyans think that the civil union law should be dumped for same-sex marriage. It doesn't mean that marriage equality is inevitable, but it's a really nice glimmer of hope.

Despite the recent victories for same-sex marriage, it is sobering to remember that many states actually ban same-sex marriage. And one of those states is California, a supposedly progressive state. As Jon Stewart said on *The Daily Show*, "They are now officially more progressive than California... in Iowa!" Who knew?

But here in New Jersey we don't quite yet have same-sex marriage: we have civil unions. Of course, civil unions aren't completely bad, they provide a lot of substantial legal protections but civil unions don't carry the same cultural weight as "marriage." Gay Americans shouldn't be excluded from the legal status of marriage and now there's a storm gathering.

April showers, I guess.

EDITORIAL

A Fond Farewell

A few years ago, I never would have thought I'd be in the position of writing a letter like this to everyone at New Jersey City University.

If anyone had told me then that I would eventually become the Editor-in-Chief of the *Gothic Times*, I think I would have laughed out loud. In fact, I believe that happened quite a few times:

Who, me? I don't think so. I'm just here to proofread, thanks.

It turns out that when I wasn't proofreading everyone's work in my freshman year, I was making friendships I can honestly say will last well beyond my college career. In my first year on staff as a copywriter, I met the handful of people I still turn to when I need to know what movie to see next, which restaurant I should have a celebration at, and whether or not this letter is too long.

As the semesters at NJCU wore on, however, I slowly came to the realization that, as hard as it would be, I did want *this* job. I became one of those people who felt they could improve the quality of the newspaper while increasing its productivity and readership. As Editor-in-Chief, I—along with my staff—was fortunately able to do just that.

From the first day of the 2008-2009 academic year, we have

covered a myriad of issues pertinent to the NJCU community. Whether our front pages have been about the rising costs of student living (September); the troublesome, albeit brief, disappearance of our beloved food trucks (February); or this month's article on the actions taken by hundreds on campus in response to massive budget cuts, our newspaper has tried its best to be the voice, eyes, and ears of NJCU.

This year, the *Gothic Times* continued its long tradition as an award-winning newspaper. During this winter's 25th Annual Associated Collegiate Press National College Journalism Convention in San Diego, Calif., we won 6th place in the Best of Show's Four-year Non-weekly category. On a state level, we earned awards from the New Jersey Press Foundation (NJPF) for the seventh year in a row, bringing our total at the NJPF to 21 awards.

I know that so long as this newspaper continues to put the NJCU community first and appreciate great writing, the *Gothic Times* will only get better. I have no doubt that it will never cease to be a medium through which our campus can ask questions and find the answers to them.

On behalf of myself and my staff, I would like to thank you all for your loyal readership and commentary, and hope that it will continue come September. This past year, we would not have been successful in keeping the campus



Photo by Felix Molina

well informed had we not received your input, both positive and negative. Please don't forget that this is *your* newspaper.

Good luck to everyone on finals, and enjoy your summer break. *The Gothic Times* will be here when you get back.

Sincerely Yours,
Erica Marie Molina

THE GOTHIC TIMES

2008-2009 Editorial Board Members

- Editor-in-Chief Erica Marie Molina
- Managing Editor Marlen Gonzalez
- Opinion Editor Patrick Jarkowsky
- Entertainment Editor Vanessa Cubillo
- Arts Editor Willa Goldthwaite
- Culture Editor Christie Avila
- Online Editor Nital Talati
- Advisor Dr. James Broderick

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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*.

This paper is printed on recycled content newspaper.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

The Summer 2009 Financial Aid Application is available NOW.

You can complete an application at the following locations:

- Financial Aid Office: H-215
- NJCU's Website @ www.njcu.edu: Quick links – Financial Aid – Forms and Links
- GothicNet: Students – Financial Aid Forms

Summer I Application Deadline: May 1, 2009
Summer II Application Deadline: June 11, 2009

Students who were part-time during the Fall 2008 and/or Spring 2009 semesters may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

Students who attended New Jersey City University in Fall 2008 and/or Spring 2009 can be considered for student loans by filling out a 2009 Summer Financial Aid Request Form. Summer Eligibility will be determined based on

1. Your grade level at the beginning of your first semester for the 2008-2009 academic year
AND
2. The total amount of loans you borrowed in the 2008-2009 year.

You're Invited:

Senior Dinner Reception 2009

Sunday, May 3rd
from 5-9 p.m.

at

The Atrium Country Club

609 Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange, NJ

Food, Drink, Music & Gifts

Semi-Formal.
\$15 for single ticket.

This event is for Seniors but friends of seniors are also welcome. Tickets can be purchased at the Campus Life Office in GSUB 111.

ARTS

Arts Calendar

The Attic Ensemble Theater
Barrow Mansion, 83 Wayne Street, Jersey City
(201) 413-9200
<http://www.atticensemble.org>
"Nonsense": Theater by Attic Ensemble
Performances: April 24 through May 3 - Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm; Sunday matinees at 3:00 pm; Thursday, April 30 at 7:00 pm. Tickets: \$20.00 general admission, \$15 students and seniors. Group rates are also available. NJ Arts Cards are accepted for discounted ticket pricing.

Club H Fitness
60 Christopher Columbus Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 332-2866
The Jersey City Craft Mafia Presents ART ATTACK Featuring over 25 Indie Vendors
Sunday April 26 1-6pm
www.jerseycitycraftmafia.com/artattack



Groove on Grove 2009 -
Wednesday Night Concerts
Every Wednesday evening

May 6-Sept 30 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm (except June 3 and Sept 9), enjoy live music at the Grove Street PATH Plaza. Grove St and Newark Ave
<http://www.jcdowntown.org/>

JC Fridays is a quarterly event held four times a year, on the first Friday of every season (March, June, September, December) The next JC Fridays will be held on Friday, June 5th, 2009.

Open Calls

Gallery Aferro asks you to donate an artwork or experience to their very first benefit this June 20th. All proceeds will be used to cover the costs of finalizing their status as a nonprofit organization and expanding the range of programs that they offer. Information about donating and the event can be found at <http://www.aferro.org/website/bakr/wb/pages/submissions/op/en-calls.php> or you can write to ewilcox@aferro.org for more information. Art is due by June 6, 2009.

Tectonic
Curated by Evonne M. Davis at Arts Guild of Rahway
Sept. 11 - Oct. 10, 2009
Deadline: June 19th, 2009
For more info:
tectonic.exhibit@gmail.com
Evonne M. Davis
c/o Tectonic Exhibit
248 Sherman Avenue #43
New York, NY 10034

The Art Museum Toilet Museum of Art
Call for Artists: Now accepting images World-renowned Collection's First-Ever Call For Submissions *New York, NY—The Art Museum Toilet Museum of Art*, the world's largest collection of images of art museum toilets taken at various art museums around the world, is seeking to add to its unique collection through a call for submissions from other art museum art toilet aficionados.

The official submission process includes sending an image to: submissions@artmuseumtoilet.org. Museum officials ask that each image be labeled with the name of the museum, the day the photo was taken and the name of the photographer. All will be posted if the image is selected.

Call for Artists—Deadline: May 1, 2009—The Walsh Gallery at Seton Hall University is seeking submissions for a group exhibition, entitled *Lilliput: Tiny art for big people*, created by Jeanne Brasile and Asha Ganpat. Open to all artists working in any media (including: installation, video and sound art), this exhibition will include art which is unable to be properly viewed with the naked eye and requires a magnification tool. Artist may propose to include own magnification tool. All 2-d work should be no larger than 1.5 x 1.5 inches including frame, 3-d artwork no larger than 1.5 in length, width or height. Proposals should include size (and frame size if applicable) and a brief description of the submitted artwork. Artists will be required to provide their own technology (i.e. speakers, monitors, i-pods, etc.).
http://library.shu.edu/gallery/Call_for_submissions_Lilliput.pdf

Internships

Gallery Aferro is currently looking to fill part-time internship positions for 2009. Eligibility: Undergraduate, Graduate students or recent grads.
To Apply: Email résumé and cover letter to info.aferro@gmail.com

Jersey City Museum
Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, two references from professors or previous employers, and transcripts to: *Sandy Martiny, Curator of Education Jersey City Museum 350 Montgomery Street Jersey City, NJ 07302 smartiny@jerseycitymuseum.org*
*Note: Graphic Design students should include 3 to 5 samples of graphic work with their application.

How to Make Money as an Artist

By Abdoulaye Camara

I never had difficulty making money with art. When I was in elementary school, I used to sell pictures of cartoon characters for a quarter. Then in high school, I designed custom t-shirts with *Prisma Color* and fabric markers, and sold them to my peers. As far as how much money I made, let's just say that I was able to pay for my own prom ticket as well as my date's ticket...oh yeah, and both of our limo seats, too.

Now you might be thinking, "Well that was high school. What about the real world?" Or maybe you think I'm just lucky. Well, let me tell you about three other *artpreneurs*: my brothers Mohamed, 22; Moustapha, 18; and Abou, 20:

Mohamed, a.k.a. Mo, is the C.E.O. of *FirstClassDesignStudio.com*. He didn't study art in school, yet he makes \$200 per week designing CD covers and party flyers in his spare time.

Moustapha, a.k.a. Big Moust, and Abou, a.k.a. AJ, are the editors of *T-shirt magazine.com*, the world's first online t-shirt magazine. This year, retailers nationwide will carry their new clothing line *Cashletes*.

This doesn't mean we're the best artists in the world. All it means is that we recognize the value of our art and found a way



Photos.com

to turn it into a business. But since not everyone is business-minded, we've compiled a list of ten things you can do to make money as an artist.

Oh, yeah, one more tip—this is the most important one of all—Draw a picture of ME, and your sales will go through the roof. You'll have so many bags of money that they won't fit in the bank!

Put these tips to use and I promise it'll make your cash stretch longer than giraffes' necks. And when you do start making dough, send me a couple of stacks in a brown paper bag. Just kidding. But hit me up

on Facebook with your success stories.



ABDOULAYE CAMARA

1 Build a Portfolio with the type of work that you wish you were paid to do.

2 Submit Your Work in Art Exhibits
-You will have the opportunity to showcase your work to a large audience and someone might buy your art.

-If the gallery is in a very affluent neighborhood, they'll pay you big bucks.

3 Enter Art Contests
-You have the chance to rake in some serious cash. Some contests pay winners anywhere from \$100-\$1,000.

-Even if you don't win, at least you had the chance to perfect your skill and build your portfolio.

-When you see who the winners are, observe their style and technique. If all of the winners have the same things in common, you should adopt those elements into your own art, so you can win the next contest.

4 Have Your Work Published
-This not only exposes your work to the world, it also builds your credibility. People will think, "If this artist's work is in a magazine, they must be good!"

5 Build a Website (If you don't have one, you don't exist)
-Register your domain name on a site like GoDaddy.com.

-Display your best artwork.
-Show a list of clients you worked for and include pictures of the work you did for them (Can someone say "Social Proof?")

-Write tutorials on what you do. This establishes you as an authority in your field.

6 Create a Blog
-If you don't know what a blog is, you've been living under a rock.

-A blog is a window into your world. It allows people to build a connection with you as a human being. It's more personal than a website.

-A cool way to use a blog is Art365 or a Sketch a Day. Basically you post a new sketch on your blog everyday for a whole year. This not only encourages you to draw more, it also makes people anticipate your next sketch. You could actually build a fan base of people waiting to see your next blog post.

-Examples of blog services are Blogger.com and Wordpress.com

7 Use Social Networks to your advantage.

-If you don't realize how powerful social network sites are, you need to wake up and smell the coffee. Everyone and their grandmother have a Facebook or MySpace. So it makes perfect sense to use them for your art.

-Examples of social network sites are MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, Ning, and Digg.

8 Join Artist Social Networks such as DeviantArt, RedBubble, Emptee's, Amateer, Infectious, and MyArtSpace.

-Many of them have the added benefit of online shops in which you can sell your art as posters, canvas prints, vinyl stickers, postcards, calendars, and t-shirt designs.

9 Enter Online T-shirt Design Competitions like Threadless, DesignByHumans, and Teextile.

-You have the chance to win \$1,000 for a t-shirt design.

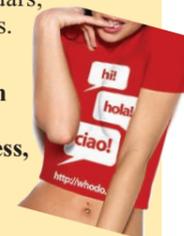
10 Go Viral -Youtube is the best thing since sliced bread. More people have become famous from you tube than you can shake a stick at. You probably spend half your day on Youtube anyway, watching stupid videos, so why not use this technology to get some moolah?

-Make a slideshow video of your artwork

-Make a video tutorial of your art.

-Make a vlog (video blog), showing your art adventures. Give tips to other artists.

-Make a commercial for your business.



ARTS

The NJCU Art and Design Association Presents TRACE

By Jared Martin

Art-making, like many facets of life, is a process that leaves behind mental and physical traces. Step by step, artwork is constructed through mental images, real world sources, and accidents and intuitions. Ultimately, something will emerge that affects both the viewer and the maker. These remnants and works that deal with them were on display in TRACE, a showing of work by New Jersey City University students and alumni.

The exhibit was the first to be organized by NJCU's Art and Design Association (ADA). ADA members worked with NJCU faculty advisors and volunteers at Hudson Pride Connections, the non-profit group that hosted the show in its gallery space at 32 Jones Street in Jersey City. Students managed all aspects of the show, from choosing the theme, name and logo to preparing the gallery and hanging work.

Working with 32 Jones Gallery proved to be a good fit, giving the ADA a chance to expand beyond the University. The gallery is volunteer-based, often showing emerging and underrepresented artists.

"Showing here opens up other



Photo by Lizette Louis

Alumnus Ciro Romero at the opening of TRACE.

opportunities," says Jaden Rogers, a graphic designer who volunteers at the gallery and helped with the show.

The artwork displayed was wide-ranging and was comprised of drawing, painting, photography, mixed media, sculpture, and installation. Some students presented several works, including Austin Booker, a current sculpture major at NJCU. Booker's welded steel sculpture, entitled *Progression* (2009), took the shape of an almost life-sized fe-

male figure. He explained that the piece is not exactly finished, but caught in progress, thus showing a trace in the steps of accomplishment. His other works were digital prints, *The Boxer* and *Heritage* (2009), depicting faces with visible scars. Here, the trace is the evidence of a struggle or a rite of passage, familiar themes of both artistic and personal progression.

Participating artists gathered with family and friends, others from the art field, and volunteers



Photo by Lizette Louis

Artist Austin Booker with two of his works.

from the gallery to celebrate its completion and share their work. The event was a success, with a great turnout.

"This was the first ADA student show of many to come," says Nicole Contrerez, who is the ADA treasurer and a photography major. So keep an eye out and see where this trace in the student's evolution brings them, you may even want to take home a piece one day!

The opening reception took place on April 11, but be sure to

visit the gallery as the exhibition will still be open to the public through May 29. 32 Jones is easily accessible, located only a few blocks from Journal Square. Participating artists include: Christie Schneider, Madelynne Dela Rama, Lizette Louis, Kate Griffin, Ellis Clark, Robert Lach, Allison Marie Thornton, Mehasam Mick Reaves, Ivan Petrovsky, Chazz Jogie, Austin Booker, Willa Goldthwaite, Kelly Cuenca, Vicki Lo, Cristine Posner, and Rossana Villaflor.

Priscila De Carvalho: *Passageways*, at the Jersey City Museum

By Erik Whalen

This March, the Jersey City Museum converted their Atrium Gallery into a metropolitan web of city life with Priscila De Carvalho's most recent installation work, *Passageways*. Opening March 19 and running through August 22, the exhibition stands as De Carvalho's largest and most aggressive work to date. The piece, which is 10-feet long and 35-feet wide, consists of common household materials such as rubber tubing, paper, photographs, and foam.

De Carvalho described her work as, "simple materials, ranging from vinyl and wire to shoe boxes and paint, used to convey the urgency and energy of building community with what is at hand. In these inner cities I create, there a sense of vastness of the communities that look out from thousands of windows every day, while raising the question of whether the condition of poverty will also be infinite."

At first glance her work can seem overwhelming, with makeshift telephone lines of tubing crisscrossing back and forth over the poster board and shoe box tenements stringing inches



Photo by Laura Krapacher

Multimedia installation artist Priscila De Carvalho stands with her work at the opening of the new Spring Exhibitions at Jersey City Museum.

over your head. Long distorted staircases cascade down the sides of buildings mimicking the stairs coming down through the mountain shantytowns. These two dramatic elements create interconnectivity of generational and geographical poverty. Littered

throughout the substitute towns are ominous red denizens engaged in various activities. De Carvalho intertwines her two worlds and captivates the audience through beaming colors of city lights and Brazilian carnivals. Priscila De Carvalho, a self-

trained artist, was born in Curitiba, Brazil and immigrated to the United States during the early 1990s. Featuring in exhibitions throughout the New York area, Carvalho has made herself a staple in politically progressive installation art. Graduating from

The Arts Student League of New York in 2006, Priscila has gone on to receive The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, The Aljira Emerge 10 Fellowship, and The Immigrant Artist Outreach Initiative Program all in 2008.

Since 2005, Carvalho has presented her work in nearly twenty group exhibitions. *Passageways* stands as her first solo work and is described by the Jersey City Museum as, "conveying the complexity, chaos and paradoxes of contemporary life that affect America, as a continent, in the age of globalization. While addressing the great ills of humanity such as war, poverty and drug trafficking, the installation also reveals a side of humanity that also hungers for joy and happiness...concepts of inversion and transformation allow a life without hope to become, however briefly, a life without limits."

Priscila De Carvalho: *Passageways* is on view at Jersey City Museum March 19 through August 22, 2009. Jersey City Museum's gallery hours are from Wednesday through Saturday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for students. Admission is free for all on Thursday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m.

ARTS

Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Hector Canonge

By Jared Martin

Who are you? Who are you to your government, your favorite ce-
real company, or your family? Are you counted as a person or a statistic?

Current communication technology is being used to blur the lines of the real and virtual, the commercial and personal, and the public and private worlds. Geography no longer hinders the spread of communication, and the politics of the control of information are transforming as individuals gain the opportunity to communicate interactively. As a new model of human interaction emerges, social issues become more complicated, though there are new opportunities to face these challenges.

The issues of identity, migration, and geography are just some of the many subjects explored by artist Hector Canonge, NJCU's Artist-In-Residence for Spring 2009. Canonge works with visual experiments that allow users to relate to people and places by manipulating the objects he presents.

Like most of Canonge's work, *parallel grounds* (2008) makes use of "new media" technologies. New media refers to digital communication technologies, often incorporating interaction to take a person beyond the physical space. Working in this medium allows

artists like Canonge to present various concepts and narratives in a single location where an audience can participate. The piece *parallel grounds*, which he worked on with scientists from Rutgers University, was part of a recent exhibition at the Jersey City Museum called SPRAWL. The show explored the changing urban, suburban, and rural landscapes due to population movements and associated issues. Canonge spent six months traveling the state's twenty-one counties looking for and documenting signs of sprawl.

The collected data and audio/visual components were integrated into a map with barcode technologies. Through this interface, users were able to scan a location on the map, triggering sound and video corresponding to relevant signs of transformation. Like other pieces of Canonge's works, the installation alters the use of mass media for a more personal experience.

In an effort to allow people outside the art world to experience his work, Canonge also creates art for use in public places. One such project, *MurosDistopicos / Dystopic Walls* (2007), was housed at the Western Union, Corona Plaza, in Queens, New York, a popular connecting point for those who have emigrated to this country and their families in their homeland. A two-sided wall



Photo courtesy of the artist

Hector Canonge at work in NJCU.

represented the divide at the USA-Mexican border, but also signified other walls that have divided people. Viewers could look through peepholes and see images of popular places on the other side. Participation was encouraged through community workshops where children created flags and parents wrote letters to their native countries. The project touches on the political and nostalgic elements in immigration and the interaction between separated areas.

Canonge often features the stories of under-represented groups

such as those living with HIV/AIDS in his projects. Several installations focus on AIDS awareness and education, including one called *200mm3*. He researched and collected the stories and personal accounts of those dealing with HIV/AIDS by holding public workshops. To be tested for HIV, one does not need to give their name, but they are given a wristband with a code.

Canonge takes this impersonal and objective information and uses it to tell stories about the lives, challenges, and hopes of those living with the virus. Each person is

represented by a vial of fake blood with a barcode behind it, and when scanned, it triggers the video of their account. The project was shown in both a gallery and an AIDS clinic.

During his time at NJCU, Canonge was able to use the facilities of the Art Department to continue his research as well as work on experimenting for and building some installation elements. As part of the Visiting Artist Program he gave a lecture on his work, held a workshop, and was available to critique students' work.

Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Steve Brodner

By Willa Goldthwaite

The Visiting Artist Program at New Jersey City University hosts a lecture series focusing on contemporary issues in the art world. On Tuesday, March 24, world famous caricaturist, author, and distinguished lecturer Steve Brodner visited the Visual Arts building. He talked to students about his experience working as a satirical illustrator in New York and New Jersey for the past thirty years.

As a self-proclaimed "crusading cartoonist," Brodner dreamt of changing the world through his art. What Brodner really wanted to do was art journalism.

He said, "If there's something you want to do, don't wait for the assignment." Many working artists won't take on a project unless it pays, and therefore end up doing work they don't enjoy. By building up a portfolio of the type of work you want to do, you are more likely to land a job in that field. "So give yourself assignments," advised Brodner.

Brodner was born in Brooklyn and graduated from Cooper Union. He started out as a cartoonist at a local news-

paper, the *Hudson Dispatch* in Union City. Soon after, he began taking freelance illustration assignments from the *New York Times Book Review*. Since then, his work has been featured in *National Lampoon*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Playboy*, *Esquire*, *Harper's*, and *Spy*. He currently teaches at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Steve Brodner is also the author of Freedom Fries and has published his own journal, *The New York Illustrated News*.

"Illustration is nothing more and nothing less than narrative art," Brodner explained. Illustration is different than 'fine art' or 'gallery art' only because it is telling a literal story like in an opera, a film or a novel; it starts with a word.

Brodner compared good illustration to radio shows like *This American Life* on NPR. They should be looking for the "essence" of the story. Like a song or a film, the real meaning of the story is when you get the overall feeling of it, not the parts that make it up. When illustrating for an article or story, he said "ask yourself, 'What's the essence of this piece of writing?'"

Brodner spoke on some of his



most memorable projects such as the Clinton Jell-O mold and the movie poster for *Bulworth*. He also gave the students an overview of contemporary history and politics as it relates to his work. Because our generation can appear apathetic to important political issues, Brodner emphasized his opinion that someone cannot not be into the news. He said that news is not just a show, and people forget that. People go different places for the news. The Daily Show and dig.com are just as much the news as the five o'clock news.

To view some of Steve Brodner's work, visit: <http://www.drawger.com/stevebrodner/>.

*****This Lecture Series is made possible with the generous support of the Office of the Dean of the William J. Maxwell College of Arts and Sciences along with the Art Department. For further information contact Assistant Professor Brian Gustafson. Call 201.200.2179 or email bgustafson@njcu.edu.

ADA Announces New E-Board



Photo by Willa Goldthwaite

Current ADA Board: Pres. Lizette Louis, Vice President Madelynne Dela Rama, Secretary Kelly Cuenca, Treasurer Nicole Contreras, Public Relations Rossana Villafior, SGO Rep. Narsico Espiritu Jr.



Photo by Willa Goldthwaite

New ADA Board: President Austin Booker, Vice President Stephanie Herrera, Secretary Chazz Jogie, Treasurer Cristine Posner, Public Relations Narsico Espiritu Jr., SGO Rep. Nicole Contreras

HEY YOU!

Ever wanted to see your
name in print?

Well here's your chance!

If you will be a student at NJCU for one or both semesters in 2009-2010,
The Gothic Times needs you.

Students of ALL majors interested in joining the newspaper staff in *any* capacity (writer, reporter, photographer, artist, web editor, section editor, etc.) should send an email to gothictimes@njcu.edu. Please be sure to include your contact information, areas of interest, and journalistic samples/experience, if any. Also, remember to indicate your *Gothic Times* interest in the subject line to ensure a speedy response.

The new editorial board of the now nationally recognized *Gothic Times* newspaper is looking forward to making next year's issues better than ever. If you want to be a part of it, let us know.

Until then, good luck with finals & have a great summer!

--- THE GOTHIC TIMES

ADVICE

Hidden Survivors:

Students Who Have Been Sexually Abused

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

Many have never shared what happened to them. They have been too afraid, or too ashamed, or too mistrustful of their own perceptions. Some have told, only to be met with blame, dismissal, or disbelief. And some have concealed their experiences from their own consciousness, deeply burying memories and emotions. Although their stories remain largely unspoken, there are many more sexual abuse survivors among us than most of us would ever imagine.

The statistics are sobering. According to RAINN (the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network),

- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men will be sexually violated during their lifetime
- College age women are 4 times more likely than the general population to be sexually assaulted
- 15% of sexual abuse and rape victims are under age 12
- 93% of juvenile sexual assault victims know their attacker

Sexual abuse and assault affects victims in a variety of ways. Regardless of the form of violation one has survived – non-consensual sexual contact by a stranger, acquaintance, family member, or partner; childhood sexual abuse or assault as an adult; abuse involving bodily penetration or no penetration – the psychological impact can be destructive to the individual, their well-being, and their relationships. Long-term challenges with self-esteem, body image, trust, intimacy, identifying feelings, and sexuality are common among survivors. Many experience struggles with concentration, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, and addiction, all of which can impede school and work performance. Whether one was recently assaulted or abused long ago, if the emotional impact is not dealt with, its insidious effects will likely still be present years later.

To help yourself or someone you love, learning more about recovery from sexual abuse and assault can be a helpful start. There are many excellent online resources available. Among them:

The Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) – www.rainn.org

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) – www.nsvrc.org

Survivors of Incest Anonymous (SIA) – www.siaawso.org

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJ CASA) – www.njcasa.org

It can also be very important to one's healing to talk to caring others, which may include disclosing to someone you trust, joining a support group, or beginning therapy with a trained professional such as a counselor, social worker, or psychologist.

For more information about on-campus and community support, contact the NJCU Counseling Center at 201-200-3165, or the Speicher-Rubin Women's Center at 201-200-3189.



Photo by Komal Zafar

Go Green today!

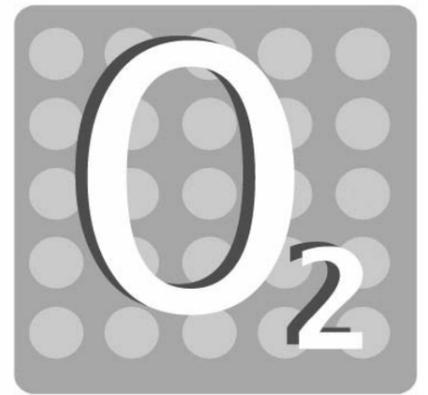
By Kimberley Persaud

“Going green” is heard almost everywhere we go, whether it is by word of mouth or the evening news, but what exactly does “going green” mean? The term refers to the changes we can and should make in our daily lives, which in turn positively affects our earth and environment.

Because “going green” is now such a big issue, many companies are doing more to provide environmentally friendly products. Toyota has come out with the hybrid Camry and Prius that now come with all the added amenities that luxury cars offer. Hybrid cars such as the Toyota Prius offer 50 miles to the gallon and are nearly emission-free and fairly priced at about \$20,000. Better miles to the gallon means more money in your pockets, all while helping the earth. So, if you're in need of a car, opting for a hybrid is a smart choice both economically and environmentally. Walking and biking are also eco-friendly and heart-healthy ways to get around.

There are several easy and rather convenient ways to help the planet, starting within the home. Cleaning products, such as Clorox have come out with a green line that uses natural plant oils instead of using harsh chemicals that can cause allergic reactions and respiratory problems in humans along with posing a risk to the environment. Unplugging small appliances such as cell phone chargers, toasters, hairdryers, etc. saves bundles of energy. Changing from incandescent bulbs to fluorescent bulbs lasts longer, saves more energy and thus saves you money.

When making your weekly grocery run, by buying organic and locally grown fruits and vegetables you can help reduce the amount of pesticides you not only eat, but are also boycotting the use of pesticides



that negatively impact the earth. Also, by walking with your own canvas bag can help to cut down on garbage. These bags can be used repeatedly to pack groceries among other things. Surprisingly, paper bags are just as harmful to the environment as plastic because they both produce pollution when being made.

Although these are just a few suggestions on how to start your process on “going green,” there is an abundant amount of information on how to help improve our planet. The best way to help this cause is by spreading the word. Want to help make the earth a better place? Remember the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Remember these words the next

time you liter. It's rewarding to know that you are doing something positive for yourself but also for the earth.

Start by making small changes like unplugging unused appliances and turning off lights and water that aren't being used. Slowly but surely if we start making changes we will reap the benefits of this beautiful world. Since global warming affects our future generations we need to start today!

To learn more visit these “going green” websites:
environment.nationalgeographic.com/
<http://www.thegreenguide.com/>
<http://www.thedailygreen.com/going-green/>

Find the Job You Want Now

With the recession rearing its ugly head, one should not lose hope when looking for a job. There are general guidelines you can follow to find work faster. Below are tips from hr.dop.wa.gov/jobtips to help you with any job search.

Network: Most people find jobs through word-of-mouth. Talk to the people you know, including relatives, friends, professors, and former co-workers. Let them know that you are looking for work; ask their advice; seek out introductions to people in the field that interests you.

Customize: Create a custom version of your resume for each job or industry that interests you. Your resume is usually an employer's first contact with you. Make sure it highlights your skills that relate to the job that employer is seeking to fill.

Know yourself: Identify your skills. Work on communicating them effectively. You need to be able to lay out your skills, and explain how they relate to the

job you're seeking.

Organize and prioritize: Make a list to help keep track of your job search efforts. Preparing a list also helps you to organize your priorities and keeps you focused on your goal — finding your perfect job.

Do your homework: Read the newspaper and trade journals to remain current on developments in your field of interest. Knowing the latest trends and mergers will help set you apart from other candidates in an interview.

Practice, practice, practice: Preparation is the key to a successful interview. Know your skills and be ready to illustrate how they relate to the job in question. Practice with a friend to get comfortable with your responses and to formulate strong answers to questions you might not anticipate.

Follow up: Follow up on all leads as soon as possible. If you don't, your competition may. And, following an interview,



always send a thank-you note the same day.

Keep your head up: Looking for a job can feel like a job in itself. Don't let it get you down. With patience and hard work, you will find the right job.

Attention Jersey City Residents!

Do you know who you're voting for Mayor on Tuesday May 12? If not, here are the candidates: Jeremiah Healy, Lou Manzo, Harvey L. Smith, Phil Webb, and Dan Levin. For more information, go to www.jerseycityindependent.com/2009-jersey-city-elections/.



CULTURE

'LANDMARKS' Exhibition at NJCU

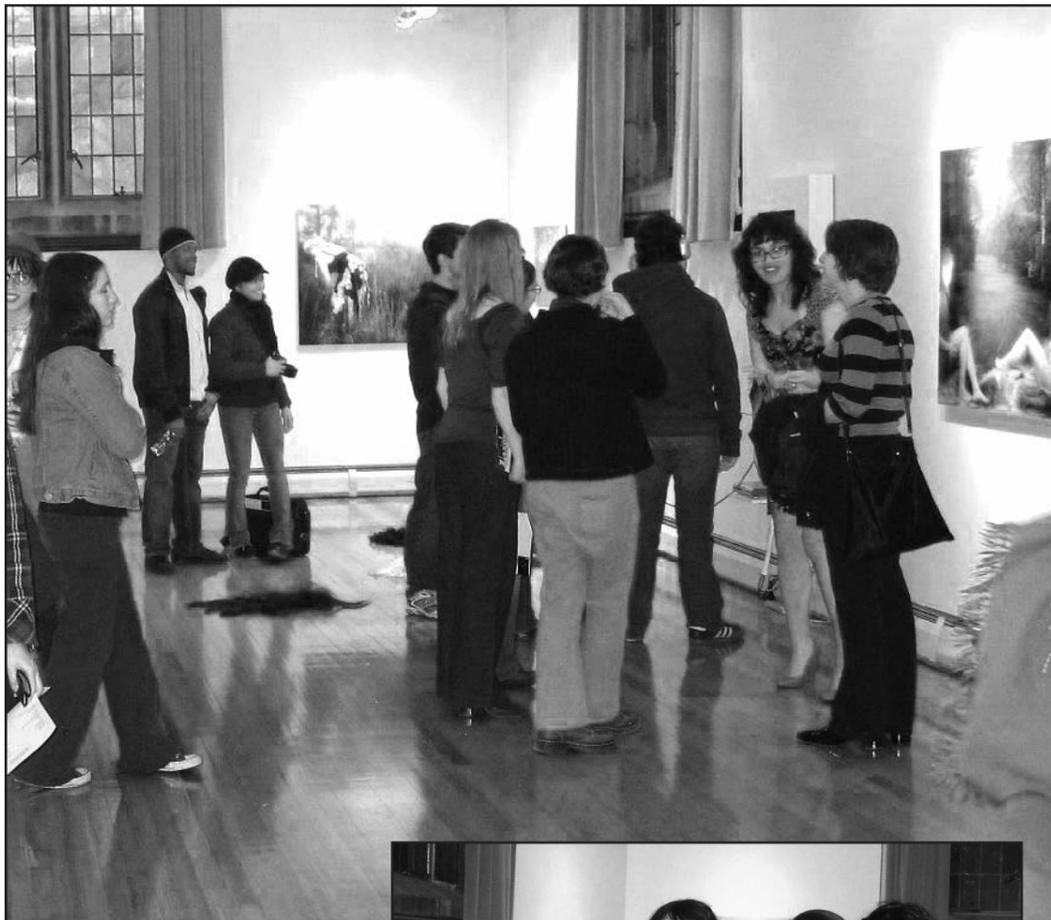
By Vanessa Velez

When trying to view "Landmarks," a mixed-media art show on display at New Jersey City University's Lemmerman Gallery, curated by Jillian Hernandez and featuring the work of Ali Prosch and the GisMo collective (Jessica Gispert and Crystal Molinary), I found it ironic that the doors were locked.

The irony is this: "Landmarks" is a participant in the Feminist Art Project. FAP, aside from being a "collaborative national initiative celebrating the Feminist Art Movement and the aesthetic, intellectual and political impact of women on the visual arts, art history and art practice, past and present," their mission statement also says, "The Feminist Art Project is a strategic intervention against the ongoing erasure of women from the cultural record." Just as women have been shut out from the cultural record, I was shut out from what I would soon find out would be a fantastically enlightening visual experience.

Eventually being able to enter the gallery, I found myself in an old-fashioned, gothic-styled sunlit room surrounded by extremely vivid photography and a different film playing in every corner. The room was like two worlds colliding to create a womb that radiated femininity, in its purest, most natural existence: women trying to exist naturally in a world which succumbs to outdated views.

Although all of the work was excellently conceived, certain pieces would etch themselves unforgettably into a viewer's mind. One such piece was a film by Ali Prosch entitled "Not My Mama." The sepia-toned film was reminiscent of the silent films of Fritz Lang. A bacchalian-fashioned female wood nymph (the costume also created by Prosch) emerges from a swamp. With spastic, almost orgasmic movements, she



Photos by Midori Yoshimoto
(left to right) is: Crystal Molinary, Ali Prosch, Jessica Gispert, and Jillian Hernandez (curator).

begins to frisk and grope the land as she searches for nests of eggs. The eggs, white balloons filled with powder. Upon finding the eggs, she tries to horde them beneath herself only to find them exploding and enveloping her in powder. The creature's outlandish reaction to the destruction of the eggs is supposed to represent a nonconforming, nonjudgmental view towards the dogmas that are usually associated with the nurturing mother.

Another of Prosch's videos was displayed on a TV catty-cornered on the floor of the gallery. Wigs, cheap beads, and torn girdles sur-



rounded the television on the ground in a chaotically deliberate fashion. The video is a film of Prosch herself falling to the ground—whether premeditatedly or not is for the interpretation of the viewer. Each time she falls, she removes a garment until she is eventually left only to her bare skin. According to the show's pamphlet written by Hernandez, "The video...captures the body unraveling as it encounters failure and becomes increasingly exposed."

The photography series by GisMo was shot in Florida's Everglades National Park. One of the more stunning photo series were pictures of women standing phantasmagorically surrounded by a sprawling cloud-filled sky and the vivid natural green of the Everglades. The women are wearing nothing but white reworked girdles fashioned to complement their curves rather than constrict them. Also adorned with elegantly crafted beadwork, the photos create a surreal take on the female form and the female disposition in a world where fashion often fosters insecurity and idealistic beauty creates a pantomime rather than paints of portrait of true femininity.

When asked about her take on the show, Christine Hanna, an 18-year-old NJCU media arts major and gallery attendant, said "This is the first time I've seen women taking charge. I think it's very positive and powerful for women who may not feel comfortable in their own skin."

Featured at the Lemmerman Gallery from March 16 through April 15, "Landmarks" was a wonderful addition to NJCU's Art Department's repertoire and reputation of presenting talented young artists present among the University's student body while also presenting progressive, sharp-minded ideas to the rest of the college's campus community.

BOOK REVIEW

'The Ark Sakura'

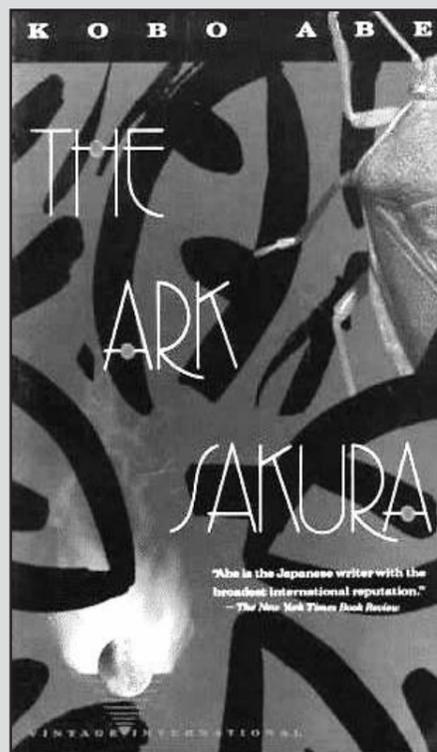
By Alexander Neilson

The Ark Sakura opens with Mole, its overweight, socially awkward protagonist, examining a eupcaccia, or clock-bug, at a curio stand. As described by the purveyor of the stand, the eupcaccia evolved in such a way that its legs atrophied and finally disappeared. The beetle-like bug then survived by feeding off of its own excrement, using its rounded stomach as a fulcrum on which to rotate in a perfect circle, excreting and consuming its excretion at a constant rate until its death.

Mole feels a "strong sense of intimacy with the bug" and its harmonious, self-sustaining existence. For Mole the eupcaccia is the ideal model for humanity's future and he envisions a society in which humans can also process waste as quickly as they produce it, thereby avoiding being engulfed by their own garbage. The novel continues to explore this

theme and others as Mole attempts to assemble a crew to populate a vast, underground fallout shelter that he has intricately constructed to be the "new world" after the global nuclear war he sees as inevitable. The shelter centers on an enormous and powerful toilet that can dispose of anything from feces to dead bodies, putting Mole's goal of a community that functions like a eupcaccia within reach. Like most ideals though, the "eupcaccia society" becomes perverted when Mole, a maladroit leader, tries to put it into practice at the helm of a band of outcasts with competing interests and skill sets.

Kobo Abe is often referred to in the West as the Japanese Kafka, and the similarities are obvious as both use bleak, surreal allegories to highlight the ills and absurdities of modern life. But where Kafka remains tightly focused on a single theme throughout the course of a novel or short story, Abe will address



www.fantasticfiction.co.uk

several themes within a single book (old age, social disconnect and survival/evolution are others touched upon in *The Ark Sakura*) and will work to develop action and characters which are not necessarily crucial to advancing his thesis.

Twenty-five years after its initial publication, the lessons and insights of *The Ark Sakura* still apply to an industrialized world that is too often choking on its own surfeit. That poignancy combined with Abe's able writing and varied characters make *The Ark Sakura* both an intellectually rewarding and entertaining read.

****The Ark Sakura* by Kobo Abe, pub. 1984 in the original Japanese 1988 Translation by Juliet Winters Carpenter, pub. Knopf.***

ENTERTAINMENT

Tiye Phoenix Speaks Out

By Lyle Hickman

“Go even harder,” the New Jersey City University crowd cheered in sync with the emcee seated with legs crossed comfortably in the front of Multipurpose Room B, singing the inspirational chorus and title to her final song.

Heads swung like see-saws back and forth, sustained by the mellifluous words of Tiye Phoenix. As a hip hop artist and a woman named after the mother of King Tut and a mythical bird, Phoenix aims to entertain and empower listeners with her tactfully chosen words.

“A phoenix is a bird symbolic of immortality, change and progression, so I’d like to always think I’m getting better no matter what I’m going through,” said Phoenix.

As an apprentice of Hank and Keith Shocklee of the Bomb Squad, the sound behind the iconic hip hop group Public Enemy, Phoenix learned about the music industry. Phoenix, once part of the D.C. based, all-female S.O.U.L. Food Symphony, left the group, eventually landing a deal with the highly-praised Rawkus Records.

While at Rawkus Records, Phoenix took charge of her career, being the first artist at that label to broker an album deal, while label mates like Mos Def and Talib Kweli had 12-inch single deals.

“The Rawkus era was a really indelible imprint on hip hop. I feel so privileged that I was blessed to be a part of it,” Phoenix said. Label merges and changes with

administration at Rawkus prevented Phoenix’s debut album from being released, but it did not stop her from creating material.

“Featuring Tiye Phoenix” is read on the backs of numerous projects including Little Brother’s *And Justus for All*, Reflection Eternal’s *Train of Thought*, and Kendra Ross’s *New Voice*. In 2006 the self-produced independent solo project *Black Athena* was released, followed by *Break Glass*, a collaborative effort between DJ Spinna, Mr. Complex, Shabaam Sadeeq and Phoenix as the Polyrythm Addicts.

“Being that I’m a phoenix and a phoenix is immortal and it rebirths itself at all times, I would have to say that I’m as old as the universe itself,” Phoenix said when asked her age.

Performing as Tiye Phoenix for fifteen years, she found herself at NJCU on March 5.

“I had an amazing time,” Phoenix said, closing Women Speak Out, the annual Women’s History Month celebration at NJCU. Phoenix shared the stage with students, Jerica Hayes, Tiffany Salas, Jennifer Morette and SueLye Guerra, staff, Renata Moriera, Tamara Tertulien-Jackson and Leah “Lyric” Jackson, and host Yamara Salazar. Each performer at Women Speak Out communicated through dance, musical instrumentation, spoken word, hip hop and rhythm and blues.

“I wasn’t going to go, but I’m glad I did,” said Rogena Navarin, a 22-year-old psychology major

from Asbury Park, New Jersey. “I loved her; she’s really multi-talented, from singing to rapping and singing again,” Navarin said referring to Phoenix.

“When people are inspired by the spoken word, it is almost orgasmic,” Phoenix said about the event.

Phoenix, an emcee and graduate of the University of Maryland College Park, prefers performing at intuitive collegiate atmospheres as opposed to standing-room-only club venues.

“In universities, crowds are so attentive. In concerts there’s Blackberries going off and smoke in the air... You can have their attention but there are other distractions,” Phoenix said, “In college environments, everyone knows how to give you 100 percent of their attention.”

As the feature, Phoenix performed three songs off of her upcoming album *Half Woman Half Amazing* slated to be released on Babygrande Records this spring. She began with the didactic “Master Plan,” which urges submission to the flow of the universe and that which is uncontrollable. “The piece touched me because I’m going through that, learning how to not try to control every aspect of my life and just let things go,” said Melissa Gutzmore, a 22-year-old business management major from Neptune, New Jersey.

The second song “The Award” critiques the removal of the best female hip hop artist category from most major music awards. “She brought it back to the true



www.trenzaonline.com

Tiya Phoenix

essence of hip hop and she’s a breath of fresh air for hip hop. She represented for the women in hip hop as an ill intellectual,” said Justin Raney, a 21-year-old senior criminal justice major from Roselle, New Jersey.

At the end of the night, Phoenix stopped the CD of her instrumentals with hopes of departing, but

an ecstatic NJCU crowd cried for an encore. After considering the raucous requests from the rambunctious audience, Phoenix nodded in agreement.

Phoenix grabbed the mic, urged students to seize their destiny, tap their infinite potential and “Go Even Harder.”

GAMING REVIEW

‘Resident Evil 5’ for the Xbox 360

By Gustavo Lazo

If the original *Resident Evil* video game was your student film, the remodeled *Resident Evil 4*, your B-grade independent horror movie, then *Resident Evil 5* is undoubtedly your Hollywood summer blockbuster.

Resident Evil 5 is the most gorgeous game on Microsoft’s Xbox 360 console since *The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion*. Its character designs are incredibly smooth in movement with the help of motion-capture technology. Its protagonists, Chris Redfield and Sheva Alomar, are right out of Dolce & Gabbana ads. They are beautiful people immersed in gruesome and harrowing situations set in extraordinary, photo-realistic representations of African shantytowns, villages, desert roads and mountains. Another African-set game, last year’s *Far Cry 2*, flaunted equally astonishing parts of the continent with its detailed virtual grasslands, desert, and savanna environments. *Far Cry 2* had the advantage of being a sandbox title, with nearly 20 square miles to explore according to its designers. *Resident Evil 5* is the opposite in its linear path of storytelling and exploration.



www.google.com

The plot? Well, it would seem that Chris Redfield, the beloved Special Forces agent from *Resident Evil and Code: Veronica*, is sent as part of a U.N.-sponsored task force to apprehend an arms dealer selling, what else, but biological weapons on the African black market. Something goes terribly wrong and now the populace of the fictional nation Kijuju carries inside them a viral infection dubbed Las Plagas and it’s up to our heroes to find out the truth. The plot is just as predictable, amusing, and dumb as its predecessors. Watching the awful truth unfold via cut-scenes is usually a treat despite how obtrusive they can be when all you want to do is open a door or pick up a key.

Resident Evil 5 follows a similar control scheme to *Resident Evil 4*. It makes use of the same over-the-shoulder camera. Its biggest change comes in the form of Sheva, who can be controlled by another player allowing for a cooperative mode with or without an internet connection. Items such as ammunition or gold for purchasing weapons and items can be picked up by either character and stored in a limited, nonsensical three-by-three nine-slot inventory system plugging an otherwise

fun experience.

The inventory system functions in real time, which means you are open to attack when you’re browsing for another weapon. Some design choices are baffling, like why a bulletproof vest takes up one of the nine slots available to each character even though you can see your character wearing said vest. Why do several of the same-colored healing herbs take up different inventory slots when you can carry up to five of the same grenade in one slot? Why do you have a limit of only 250 handgun bullets a box when you could just as easily carry 700 and more in one slot?

Partners can attack cooperatively. If one person is being held by an enemy, the other person can come to their rescue with a push of the B button. If they weaken an enemy, they can perform melee attacks together and conserve ammo. Some situations call for one character to assist another in order to advance to a next area. Sheva in the single-player story mode isn’t the worst artificially-controlled partner I’ve worked with in a video game, but she’s not the sharpest tool in the shed either.

Continued on page 15

ENTERTAINMENT

Physical Media v. Downloadable Services

By **Mohammad Hassan**

With the recent advancements in technology, faster internet connections and the ability to download almost anything off the internet, the battle between the physical media such as DVDs, Blu-ray Discs and CDs vs. downloadable services such as iTunes is becoming more brutal.

Nonetheless it's a battle which will last for a long time. Both of these formats are competing fiercely for their place in the entertainment world and for consumer attention and their wallets. Not to mention the arrival and popularity of High Definition TVs and Blu-Ray players has also fueled this battle to mega proportions. However, both of these formats have their advantages and drawbacks.

Internet downloading services are becoming a big thing, what with the recent advancements of internet technology and the arrival of popular and reliable downloading services such as Apple's iTunes store. With many movie studios, record companies making deals with iTunes, it has become one of the biggest vendors of music and movie downloads. The service allows the user to purchase a variety of movies, TV shows and music directly to their computer. However, they can only be used on an iPod or can only be played on your computer and cannot be transferred to a blank disc. But perhaps the biggest problem with download-



www.photos.com

ing movies and TV shows is that many people do not have the luxury of time to sit in front of their computer and wait for the movie or the show to be downloaded to their computer. The majority of people like to go to a retail store and buy it on a DVD because it is easy and convenient. Oftentimes, people end up buying individual episodes on the internet which costs consumers more than they would pay at a re-

tail store if they buy the exact same show in a box set.

Another problem with downloadable media lies with the computers themselves. Though with the recent advancements in computer hardware, computers have become much more robust, however, with these economic times average consumers wallet has tightened significantly. Not to mention the constant worries we have about our computers.

Computers can crash; they can get viruses and all sorts of things which can damage the computer beyond repair and one can end up losing all those movies and music and TV shows in an instant. So, while downloading has its advantages, it also has its fair share of problems.

Bottom-line, if a consumer wants the most out of a downloading service and likes his or hers computer capable of down-

loading movies and other form of entertainment at high speed, they have to spend a big amount of money. On the other hand, physical media such as DVDs and CDs don't demand such a high price tag or have you worrying about them getting any sorts of computer viruses. One of the biggest advantages of physical media is that it is very reliable and if handled properly can last a long time. Not to mention the Blu-Ray disk, which recently won as the standard High Definition media of choice, is guaranteed to be even more durable and longer lasting than a standard DVD.

And let's be honest people, computers don't provide the same amount of joy and excitement while watching a movie that a big screen TV does. People like to watch movies and their favorite shows with their family and friends, not sitting in front of their computer, alone. You don't have to wait 4 to 5 hours just so that you can watch a 90-minute movie. Most importantly, a huge number of consumers aren't very tech savvy. If downloading was really the future then movie rental services such as Netflix and Blockbusters wouldn't be so popular. Downloadable media might be cheaper but it involves a complex and expensive procedure to be fully enjoyed. With a society that never has time; downloadable media still has a long way to go to win consumers' hearts and minds as the de facto choice to get their favorite movies and shows.

'Resident Evil 5'

Continued from page 14

I highly recommend the two-player cooperative mode because it's not only enjoyable, but rewarding, thoughtful, and the teamwork is definitely more natural and realistic.

Single-player Sheva is like your child that you have to take with you to work when the babysitter is sick. She'll run around and explore and pick things up that you don't want her to touch but rather than wag your finger at her, you just open up her inventory and take those items away. You can also set your partner in "Attack" mode, where they go on a killing spree, using every last bullet, or the more reasonable "Cover," where they learn to conserve ammo.

The resource management game of *Resident Evil* is as pivotal as ever. In many cases, you'll find yourself low on ammo and will have to rely on your partner for more or make use of melee attacks. The difficulty as the game progresses fairly increases. Enemies are, in addition to being quite monstrous, challenging and never really unfair. In fact, *Resident Evil 5* may be the least punishing of the series because it allows players to replay through the game's chapters, collecting extra weapons and treasure and allowing you to transfer your inventory to new games and new chapters. This makes unlocking



Photos from www.google.com

the substantial amounts of bonuses by the game's end a cinch. Even quick-timer events during cut-scenes are few and far in between. There are some great and terrifying boss battles to be found here, despite how easy they are to defeat.

What I enjoy about *Resident Evil 5* the most is how unapologetically Hollywood it is and the efforts the designers went to make it feel like a big movie that's opening on the Fourth of July weekend. It's loud and explosive in presentation, visuals, and audio. Its score consists of tense big-budget action pieces worthy of Harry Gregson-Williams. The controls are decent at best—why can't I aim and move at the same time? The cooperative mode, a first in a canonical *Resident Evil* title, works surprisingly well, even lo-

cal games not using an internet connection. It hasn't changed drastically since 2005, but this is still the best *Resident Evil* game since the last one. Take it from someone who isn't even a big fan of the series.



