

# THE GOTHIC TIMES

The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University

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February 17, 2009

## Trucks Trek Back

By Vanessa Cubillo

Victor Perez was looking to get something to eat from the food trucks before his three-hour class only to find that the food trucks were not there.

"I was shocked and kind of angry because not only was this a food truck I've been familiar with for four years, but it's the only place I can get food for a decent price," said Perez, 22, an English theater major from Jersey City.

On February 5, 2009, Jersey City Police asked the food trucks—parked near New Jersey City University on Kennedy Boulevard and Audubon Avenue—to leave following a complaint.

"A day that will not be forgotten," said Billy Papathanasis, the owner of the food truck on Audubon Avenue.

Speculation arose as to why, after 25 years, police asked them to leave. Rumors swirled that NJCU's food service provider, Culinart, had made the complaint; others accused Submarino's, a deli located on West Side Avenue, of making the claim.

In a letter sent to the "Gothic Times" on February 10, a faculty member voiced such speculation: One issue "is that students and staff have lost a lower cost option for food purchases which is important given looming budget cuts and higher tuition." Also, "Who would be interested in contacting the police to get rid of the trucks?"

"[People] said the cafeteria [Culinart] and the deli [Submarino's] made the complaint, but that wasn't true" said Gus



Photograph by Vanessa Cubillo

### NJCU community helps restore food trucks.

Papathanasis, the owner of the Kennedy Boulevard food truck.

Billy and Gus Papathanasis are brothers who own the two food trucks that are situated around campus. Before them, their mother and father owned the food trucks near campus for 20 years.

Earlier this school year, a new food truck started coming by the Visual Arts Building and the police wanted them to leave. Eventually, this new truck was towed away, an event which prompted them to make a complaint about the two other food trucks on campus.

The NJCU community was not happy and voiced its complaints to the Jersey City Council.

"The problem was complaints were made that a provision of the law that requires peddler trucks to move every twenty minutes was not being enforced," said Jack Egan from the Business Administration

Department. "The trucks have been here for all these years and that provision of the law was never enforced."

With the help of Councilman Michael Sottolano and Mayor Jerramiah Healy, an agreement was reached so that the food trucks would not have to follow this law since they never did before. The popular food trucks were able to come back on February 12, which has brought relief to the campus community.

"Where have you been?" asked truck diner Corinna Apodaca, 19, an early childhood education major from North Bergen. "I had to eat nasty food!"

The Papathanasis brothers deeply appreciated what the community has done for them.

"Every day I'm going to see the faculty and students and thank them personally," said Gus.

## New Team Benefits Students

By Erica Marie Molina

The current state of the economy has led to the use of creative measures to help students at New Jersey City University.

In December 2008, NJCU President Carlos Hernández had a letter posted on the university website to address the financial woes of students. In his letter, the President wrote, "The fact that about 38.6% of NJCU students are 25 years of age or older speaks volumes about the financial responsibilities NJCU students have and the difficulties they face."

Also, in spite of NJCU's being the most affordable four-year public higher education institution in New Jersey, "many of our students must make the difficult choice of whether to meet family obligations and household expenses or pursue a higher education."

"Considering everything that I have to pay [for]," said Olena Vivchar, a 26-year-old Political Science major from Jersey City, "I had to pay this semester [tuition] with a credit card."

"We as an institution recognize that," said Dr. John Melendez, NJCU's Interim

Vice President of Student Affairs.

To try to ease such financial strains, NJCU created the Student Financial Services Team in December. It is a group of NJCU staff that includes a representative from the Bursar's and Financial Aid Offices and will, according to Melendez, assist students in removing financial hurdles keeping them from registering.

"At one point," Melendez said, "enrollment for spring [2009 classes] was a bit troubling."

In spring 2008, undergraduate enrollment totaled 6,036 students, a five-year high. At press time, spring enrollment for 2009 was only 5,774.

The Student Financial Services Team realized that NJCU students were suffering from rising tuition rates and job losses in addition to their already long list of obstacles.

"I'm amazed at the young men and women [at NJCU]," Melendez said. "We see ourselves in our students."

At NJCU, 50 percent of undergraduates are independent, 60 percent are minorities, 60

*"We have to be flexible."*

—John Melendez,  
VP of Student Affairs

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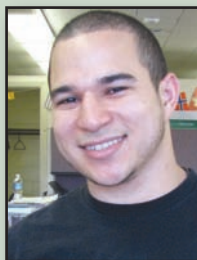
## WORD ON CAMPUS:

Now that everyone's had time to look back at Presidents past, we asked people to describe the Bush regime in ten words or less...



**Tim Torre, 39, International Students and Study Abroad, Red Bank**

*"A dimpled chad on the punchcard of the American psyche."*



**Joel Paula, 26, Psychology major/Philosophy & Religion minor, Weehawken:**

*"Collapsed economy, Patriot Act, Katrina, Matrix shoe aversion... mission accomplished."*



**Ashley Wilson, 19, Music, Bayonne:**

*"Absolute failure."*



**Jessica Witte, 24, English: Creative Writing, Jersey City:**

*"Realizing the toilet was broken after you just went."*



**Benjamin Guadalupe, Music Education, Belleville:**

*"Hubris at its worst, and a lack of intellectual curiosity."*



**Kasandra Zieniuk, 22, Art Therapy/Art Education, Bayonne:**

*"Unsuccessful. Waste of eight years. Time for change."*



**Kate Maglori, 53, Art Education, Jersey City:**

*"A wild goose chase for those weapons of mass-destruction."*



**Frantzdy "Feets" Philippe, 27, Biology, West Orange:**

*"The Bush regime has prepared America for a black president."*

Interviews & Photography by Jaclyn Foglio

# NEWS

## Student Profile

# Getting to Know Anastasia Oppong Aboagye

By Joanne Antoine

“Hard-working, strong, dedicated, committed, caring, and helpful” are just a few of the words used to describe Anastasia Oppong Aboagye by her best friend, Marie Toure, 21, a political science major.

To many at New Jersey City University, Aboagye is just another student, but those who know her also know the many barriers she has broken, the many things she has achieved, and the many things she will continue to do.

Aboagye was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa, where she lived a fairly good life as a result of what she was provided with through her family. She immigrated to the United States at the age of 18 and has been living here now for about five years. After coming to the U.S., she lived in Hillside, New Jersey, where she attended high school.

On having to leave Africa and move to the U.S., Aboagye said, “It was hard to adjust to the different culture. Not only was the country different, but I came in

and went straight into high school which made it feel like I was in a totally different world than I was used to.” She added by saying “it was hard, but I learned to adjust and love living in the United States.”

Aboagye, 22, is the oldest of two brothers and one sister. She lived with her younger siblings and parents, but since graduating from high school and starting college, has lived on NJCU’s campus.

At NJCU, she is currently a senior and a health science major. She has been in good academic standing since entering NJCU in her freshman year and is currently on the dean’s list.

Aboagye is also involved in many other activities on campus. She is a former two-year president of the NJCU African Student Organization which, she said, “I love and will always continue to support now and after leaving NJCU.” Moreover, she is currently the Student Government Organization’s (SGO) Vice President of Finance and Administration.

When asked what motivated her to want to join the SGO execu-



Photo by Richard Ryals

Anastasia Oppong Aboagye, 22, is anything but uninvolved when it comes to New Jersey City University.

tive board, she responded by saying that, “I was always somehow involved in SGO, but felt like I wanted to contribute more to them and to the clubs and organization[s] within it. I wanted to learn more and also gain experience that I know will be of benefit to me in the future.”

About her SGO colleague, she said, “I have a great executive

board from the President to the V.P. of Public Affairs. They are very supportive of me and I also support everything they do.” She also stated that “Campus Life is also very supportive. [...] We have learned so much from them already and will continue to learn more.”

“Working with Anastasia was pretty easy from the start,” said

Corey Spencer, 21, a computer science major and President of SGO. “We really thought we were going to have a hard time working together, but everything went well and a friendship came out of it.”

Aboagye also agreed and added that, “A friendship has come out with all of my executive board members.”

Aside from being a part of NJCU’s Student Government, Aboagye currently works at NJCU Residence Life and is also a patient representative intern at the Jersey City Medical Center.

When asked if she misses Ghana, Aboagye said that, “I still miss it a lot and plan to go back after graduation [to visit], but have plans to attend graduate school here [the United States].”

Aboagye will be graduating from NJCU this May, after which time she will earn a master’s degree in Public Health. Though Anastasia Aboagye is not certain yet as to what road she would like to take after obtaining her degrees, it certainly will not be the easiest. It will be one that will continue to make her family and NJCU community proud.

### CAREER PLANNING

## CO-OP Moves Students Closer to Careers

By Denise D. Gibson

Are New Jersey City University students looking to get the most out of their college experience? How about an internship to help them get hands-on practice in their fields of study?

“Co-Op Education at NJCU is a program designed to integrate academic study with practical experience,” Dr. Jennifer Jones, Director of Academic Career Planning and Placement said.

NJCU students...are you looking to get the most out of your college experience? How about an internship to help you get hands on practice in your field of study?

The Academic Career Planning and Placement Center, also known as the Cooperative Education Program, is located on the 1st floor of Vodra Hall on campus, and is welcoming students who would like to take this opportunity into serious consideration.

The Co-Op program was established 35 years ago and assists students of all NJCU majors with getting real world experience in their concentrations in order to in their field of study and prepare for life post -graduation.

“Co-Op Education at NJCU is a program designed to integrate academic study with practical experience,” Dr. Jennifer Jones, Director of Academic Career Planning and Placement said.

The purpose of this program is to make sure students are sure certain about their career goals and are comfortable with their academic decisions such as by assigning them to internships for college credits.

Out of the long list of incentives students can gain through using this facility, one important thing students will come away with from the experience with, is an increase in their self-confidence and awareness and to clarify their goals, Dr. Jones.

Each staff member has a collection of responsibilities to help students with their ca-



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reer goals.

“I set up and coordinate internships for students majoring in education, Social Sciences, Health, and Criminal Justice,” said Dean Brianik, an Academic Career Planning and Placement advisor.

Most jobs looking to hire recent grads hire those who have previous internship experience in their career field.

“It’s a way to test out their field ahead of time and see if they are on the right track,” said Brianik. “Students can use it to test themselves and see what they can improve upon or learn more about,” he added.

There are advisors available for all students of all majors.

The Co-Op Program does not just not only signs students up for internships, but also is also involved in other career-building events and activities such as: career fairs, workshops, interview training, and career coaching. These are all available offered throughout the year to further assist students with their future planning.

Only students who visit the office will be able to reap the benefits of the Center. To make an appointment or for any questions call (201)200-3005.

### NJCU Financial Team

Continued from page 1

percent are first-generation students, 84 percent apply for financial aid, and 96 percent commute.

Moreover, said Melendez, on the recent administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement, 78 percent of NJCU respondents indicated they worked off campus and 70 percent reported that they provide care for a family member.

On December 2, 2008, Melendez, who has worked at NJCU for 24 years and has been Vice President for two, emailed about 1,400 students who had not yet registered for any necessary spring 2009 classes. Melendez sent the message with the “specific objective of notifying students” that assistance was available to them through the Student Financial Services Team.

Because of the email, Melendez is optimistic that the number of enrolled students at press time will have increased by 50 to 100 more students, making this spring’s enrollment total the second-highest in five years.

This new personal method of outreach is expected to help many students like Vivchar, who supports herself.

“My ability to pay [off] that credit card by September will determine how many credits I take in fall,” she said.

“You’ve got to be in a cave to not realize the economic situation [of the country],” Melendez said. “We have to be flexible.”

For more information, call the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at 201-200-3507, the Financial Aid Office at 201-200-3173, or the Bursar’s Office at 201-200-3045.

## NEWS

## Schumer Schools on Comics

By Mohammad Hassan

On February 9, 2009, award-winning author, illustrator, and designer Arlen Schumer delivered a lecture regarding the importance and significance of comic books and comic book art in American culture.

Schumer, who has been called “one of the more articulate and enthusiastic advocates of comic book art in America” by Comic Book Artist magazine, spoke in great detail to the New Jersey City University audience about the importance and significance of comic book super heroes in our culture.

The lecture, located in Hepburn Hall, opened with an introduction by his colleague Dennis Diedrich, who is also an accomplished illustrator.

Schumer distributed books containing his illustrated work to the crowd, including his coffee table book, “Visions from Twilight Zone” among other titles that contained examples of his artwork. His illustrations included experimental superheroes, Silver Age comic art—many of the designs done by Schumer himself—who has been working in the industry since 1988.

“Comics have been my life since I was a child; they taught me to love art,” said Schumer.

Schumer also discussed the comic book creators of the silver age such as Jack Kirby, Joe Kubert, and Carmine Infantino, and went on to compare their



Arlen Schumer lectures his New Jersey City University audience on the importance of the art of comics.

Photos by Mohammad Hassan



work to that of Renaissance artists. He expressed frustration over America’s disregard for the creators of legendary characters such as Captain America and Superman.

“I don’t see this country honoring its own comic book artists,” he admitted.

The tone shifted in regards to with the amount of publicity the super villains are getting in the movies such as “The Dark Knight.” One of his criticisms is that it is easy for a villain to chew the scenery and act as a bad guy, but it is even more difficult to play the part of the hero. Schumer believes that since comic book heroes cannot simply chew the scenery, and also because Super Heroes are noble, villains subse-

quently overshadow them.

Schumer also explained how art forms such as comics, Broadway musicals, and jazz, are not only an American art form, are a fundamentally human art form as well.

By advocating better treatment and perception of comics as more than just American art form, Schumer wishes to see comics brought into an elite group of arts, citing how the great civilizations of the past are remembered largely because of their arts, not just by their people.

Though seeming very positive and optimistic with the current status of comic books, Schumer stresses that more work needs to be done in order to bring comics into the upper pantheon of American culture.

# Women’s History Month 2009

## “Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet”

**Thursday, March 5**

**Women’s History Month Opening Ceremony**

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Student Union Building (SUB) Room 129

**Opening Reception for  
“Women Taking the Lead to  
Save Our Planet”**

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Student Art Gallery, SUB, Room 127

**Eighth Annual  
“Women Speak Out Project”**

7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

SUB Multipurpose Rooms (MPR) A and B

**Friday, March 6**

**Young Women’s Health Initiative**

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 14**

**Chillfest and NJCU present  
a screening of “XXY”**

1:30-4:00 p.m. at LITM

140 Newark Avenue

(1/2 block from Grove Street PATH)

Downtown Jersey City, NJ

**Monday, March 16**

**Opening Reception for “LANDMARKS:  
Works by Ali Prosch and the GisMo Collective**

(Jessica Gispert and Crystal Molinary)

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery

Hepburn Hall, Room 326

**“We Are the Change”**

**Leadership Workshop Part I**

7:00 – 9:30 p.m., MPR A and B

**Tuesday, March 17**

**“Silent Choices” Film Screening and**

**Discussion 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.,**

Hepburn Hall, Room 202

**“The Status of Women in Islam”**

4:30 – 7:00 p.m. SUB 129

**Wednesday, March 18**

**“Ecofeminism:**

**A New Term for an Ancient Wisdom”**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., SUB 129

**Monday, March 23**

**“We Are the Change”**

**Leadership Workshop Part II**

7:00 – 9:30 p.m., MPR A and B

**Tuesday, March 24**

**Oral History/Digital Storytelling Workshop**

10:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m., SUB 129

**“Memoirs of a Thicker Sister”**

7:00 – 9:30 p.m., MPR A

**Wednesday, March 25**

**“French Women Don’t Get Fat: Lies, Truths, and  
Secrets about France and Feminism”**

Lecture and Slide Show

1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Hepburn Hall, Room 202

**“Women Taking the Lead to Write Our Planet”**

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.,

Hepburn Hall, Room 202

**Thursday, March 26**

**“Working Together to Save Our Communities:  
Voices from Young Activists”**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Hepburn Hall, Room 202

**Tuesday, March 31**

**Women’s History Month Closing Ceremony**

7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Hepburn Hall, Room 202

# OPINION

## How We Can Use the Stimulus

By Jan Aguilos

There are many hands reaching out for a share of President Obama's stimulus bill, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which has a price tag of over \$819 billion. While 33 percent of the cost, or \$275 billion, will be allocated for middle-class tax cuts, the majority of the stimulus package, \$544 billion, will be directed towards discretionary spending.

The New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities, a coalition of nine state colleges and universities, has recently identified a combined \$500 million in infrastructure and construction projects.

New Jersey City University is one of the members of this association, along with eight other higher learning institutions of New Jersey: Ramapo College of New Jersey, Rowan University, Kean University, the College of New Jersey, Montclair State University, Richard Stockton College, Thomas Edison State College and William Paterson University.

The \$500 million in combined projects for maintenance and infrastructure includes \$15 million

*"Whenever I talk to fellow NJCU students, the top two subjects they are the most vocal about are Obama's presidency and their college tuition."*

for New Jersey City University's heating, cooling and ventilation upgrades, as well as roof replacements for its buildings.

The nine-member Association is right to ask for some of the money in the Obama stimulus



Bloomberg News

bill. It is projected that the combined \$500 million in projects statewide would create 10,000 jobs in the state over the next two years.

According to New Jersey's Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 3,000 construction jobs were lost in December 2008, so it's imperative that the state make up its losses in construction employment.

These shovel-ready construction projects have the short-term benefit of almost immediate employment for many unemployed people and have the long-term benefit of improved infrastructure in institutions of higher learning.

Of the \$544 billion in spending, approximately \$142 billion is earmarked for Pre-K through college-level educational institutions. The financial crisis is likely to hit every sector in America, and the Obama administration should make sure that our schools, including higher learning institutions like NJCU, weather the storm.

Getting a college education has always been expensive, but the financial crisis that this country is going through exacerbates that burden. Students who rely on money from their parents worry about whether or not their parents will be employed over the next few years.

According to New Jersey's Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the unemployment rate jumped to 7.1 percent in December 2008, substantially higher than the 6.1 percent unemployment rate just a month before.

Students who are financially independent may have more to worry about; young adult workers generally have a harder time retaining or finding new jobs during recessions than their older counterparts.

With unemployment on the rise, the importance of financial aid will become more conspicuous. The Obama stimulus package would increase spending on Pell Grants to \$27 billion from around \$19 billion. This will hopefully

provide relief for many students who worry about paying their tuition bills. The American Council on Education, an organization that represents colleges and universities, praises the Obama stimulus plan for its expenditures in education.

the economic stimulus as a possible source of aid with school expenses.

Whenever I talk to fellow NJCU students, the top two subjects they are the most vocal about are Obama's presidency and their college tuition. NJCU

*"Considering that young voters tipped the scale for President Obama this past November, he has an obligation to help with the education-based financial burdens of Americans ages 18 to 29."*

The money from the stimulus will last two years and I hope that it can actually alleviate our economic woes. Considering that young voters tipped the scale for President Obama this past November, he has an obligation to help with the education-based financial burdens of Americans ages 18 to 29. College students, including those at NJCU, look to

students, like all other Americans, are perplexed by the economic downfall, but they know that the new administration must act quickly to pass whatever bills need to be passed to help our schools.

Hopefully, NJCU and other higher learning institutions of New Jersey will be helped by Obama's stimulus package.

## May I Have Your Attention?

By Monique Redman

**"MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE... THIS COMPLETES THE TEST."**

Every student, staff, and faculty member has heard this announcement at least twice since the spring semester has begun at New Jersey City University. I've heard the announcement twice while in class on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

Upon hearing the announcement, my heart began to thump faster. Once I realized there wasn't an emergency I began to calm down. I was caught off guard each time the message interrupted my classes. After gaining my composure, I was surprisingly satisfied. I've been attending NJCU since the fall of 2007. For the first time, I felt secure on campus, pardon me, in the classroom.

NJCU has recently implemented an alert system called Gothic Alert. Everyone on campus should have received an email via his or her Gothic Net account to sign up for Gothic Alert.

In the event of a system alert, whether it's an emergency situation, or if the school is closed due to inclement weather, Gothic Alert will notify students utilizing the contact information you have provided. This was a move in the right direction for NJCU. It was an attempt to make everyone on campus feel more secure.

Although I feel more secure in class, I can't say I feel that same sense of security while I'm walking around the campus. The tragedy at Columbine High School in April of 1999 and the vicious murders at Virginia Tech in April of 2007 opened my eyes to the fact that we desperately need a more secure campus.

There are security guards at both entrances here, but I'm not sure why. How do they know I'm a student? I'm sure it would be a hassle to properly identify each and every person who walks on campus, but there has to be some way it can be done.

Anyone can just walk on campus and have access to our library,

*"Anyone can just walk on campus and have access to our library, our computer labs, and even our classrooms."*

our computer labs, and even our classrooms. The only place an outsider can't just walk into is the Athletics and Fitness Center. Let me say that entering that gym is like entering Guantanamo Bay. You have to show your school identification card so someone can check to see if you're currently enrolled. Then they even have this little turnstile for you to walk through.

I'm not grasping why there's all this red tape to enter a gym, but anyone can simply walk into our library and have access to our computers.

There have been plenty of times when I've tried to go and type a term paper, or just tried to do some research, and most of the computers were occupied by small children and adults who aren't students. These people were just checking their MySpace accounts! Why is that?

Why is it so easy for me to bring someone who isn't a student to class without any objections from anyone? Why, if there's an event in the Gilligan Student Union Building, can anyone attend? I understand there are a lot of events that the public has access to, but what about the one's that aren't accessible to the public?

When I leave NJCU in May, the problems of campus security will no longer affect me. They will however continue to affect all those I leave behind on campus and those who will enter the campus for the first time.

I am very satisfied that the school has implemented this new security alert system, but it shouldn't stop there. Students, faculty, and staff should not just feel secure but should be secure. This will take a combined effort to ensure everyone's safety.

# EDITORIAL

## A Slow Return to the Golden Age?

A lot has changed since the dawn of film and television. Unfortunately, many of these changes have been for the worse. In these media and others, profanity, nudity, sex, and violence have become far too common sights.

The most frequent violator of all that is good in film and television is definitely violence. The standards for media in this respect have been lowering dramatically since the early 1990s. Violence

Picture *No Country For Old Men*.

With so much award attention given to these violence-driven films and their stars, smaller, more wholesome films with better acting such as *Lost in Translation* (2003), *Little Miss Sunshine* (2006), and *Juno* (2007), have had almost no chance of getting their deserved bragging rights.

That is, until now.

In this winter's Academy Award and Golden Globe lineups, much

light the telling of a love story set in a fantasy, not on a war that takes place off camera.

*Doubt*, which scored four acting nominations (two for Supporting Actress) for everything except Best Actor, contains no violent acts at all. Moreover, despite the fact that the plot's epicenter is a possibly inappropriate relationship, the film exhibits no sexual scenes. Instead, *Doubt* is a film that allows itself to build scenes in the audience's minds, regardless whether they are actually shown. Films such as this, *Junebug* (2005), and *Lost in Translation* contain virtually no violence—and yet, they deserve to be seen more than their counterparts do.

That said, it is hard to know when or why exactly filmmakers and other so-called artists decided that it was alright to not only show explicit violence in film but to award it. When did violence change from being a dark side of human nature to being a lucrative addition to entertainment? And when did supposed forms of escapism become amplified mirrors of the grim aspects of the world?

Perhaps Greer Garson, a late Academy Award-winning veteran of the film industry, said it best in a 1990 interview: "I think the mirror should be tilted slightly upward when it's reflecting life—toward the cheerful, the tender, the compassionate, the brave, the funny, the encouraging, all those things—and not tilted down to the gutter part of the time, into the troubled vistas of conflict."

Besides the obvious and ex-



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and those who perform violent acts in media have come to be seen as having cool, strong, and even attractive qualities.

A desensitized nonchalance toward violence has also emerged over the years in film. In a preview for 2008's *Bangkok Dangerous*, a movie about a hit man, the announcer said, "When it comes to killing, make it quick, make it clean, and *never* make it personal." In an even more obvious applaud for violence, Javier Bardem was awarded the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for killing more than a dozen people for money in last year's Best

attention was placed on those films with little or no acts of violence. The frontrunner with thirteen nominations for this weekend's Oscar Awards is *The Curious Case of Benjamin*

*Button*, a film whose most violent scene is that of, not a battle, but the casualties of World War II. The filmmakers chose to high-

treme rate of desensitization suffered by the viewing public through various media, there is another grave effect had on us as

a society. If this year's emphasis on good acting instead of on brutish force is a mere fluke, a coincidence, then an era will end. As the chapters of good and

vision was thought at one point to bring the family together to laugh at silly sitcoms and quiz shows after a hard day's work.

The end result of the present bombardment of harsh unrealities will be a population of consumers who believe that gore, death, and crudeness are the only things the media have to offer. And since there will be no evidence of the contrary, these people of the future will think less of both themselves and the world they live in. Unless things continue to change for the better, true escapism from the negatives of life will no longer be possible.

*"If this year's emphasis on good acting instead of on brutish force is a mere fluke, a coincidence, then an era will end."*

## THE GOTHIC TIMES

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Editor-in-Chief ..... Erica Marie Molina  
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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.

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This paper is printed on recycled content newspaper.

# International Food Knight

When: February 25, 2009  
 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Gilligan Student Union Building, Cafeteria



ENTERTAINMENT

# Nip/Tuck

By Vanessa Cubillo

My love affair with "Nip/Tuck" started when I randomly came across an episode of season 2 while channel surfing. It kept my attention and I soon became a fast fan. It was edgy, used good music, had great plot lines, and Christian Troy was hot! The first season built up the characters of the two plastic surgeons and their lives, and they delivered excellent story lines. A priest getting surgery to remove evidence for his molestation charges—they went there. They also created a trademark for executing sex scenes that looked hot, not sleazy.

The second season was my favorite: it had even edgier plots, more surprises, and an added character, the masked serial killer called the Carver. The third season is where it kind of went down. While it was still fun to watch, the storyline got kind of stale. Only the fact that we would eventually know who the Carver was kept my interest. Even that became annoying because the killer became obvious, and the writers were doing everything to throw us off. Then the fourth season came, and I forgot everything about it. The fifth season came, and it became hard to watch. Their edgy plots turned to outrageous stories geared toward shock value. Even the relationships and sex scenes became disgusting. I mean they paired Matt with Kimber! Kimber, who slept with both of his dads!



So this long overview brings me to the new season, season six. Now I have only seen two episodes of this season so far, and already I am severely disappointed. Both plastic surgeons are dealt with a medical shock and they deal with it like they always do; they get angry and have sex. Nothing is entertaining about this show anymore. "Nip/Tuck" is embarrassing to watch. It's nothing like what it used to be. Instead of being interesting and addictive, it actually makes me cringe. This season will only get more disgusting and sad to watch, there is no doubt. I will only continue because I have to know how it ends. My only hope is that the show ends with someone waking up and realizing that the last three seasons were just a dream.

A new episode of "Nip/Tuck" premieres every Tuesday at 10 p.m. on FX.

# 30 Rock

By Jan Aguilos

One could argue that Tina Fey is overexposed. In the wake of that widely seen "Saturday Night Live" imitation of a certain moose-huntin', grammar-killing governor from Alaska (whose name should be avoided like Lord Voldemort's), Tina Fey has become a pop culture phenomenon as ubiquitous as any tabloid celebuntante.

Michael Specter of the "New Yorker" magazine described Ms. Fey as "the sex symbol for every man who reads without moving his lips." Tina Fey (and her signature librarian glasses) has been quite the media darling as of late, with the spate of awards that her NBC series "30 Rock" has been getting. If it's a gold-plated statuette, Tina Fey probably owns it.

"30 Rock" is a wryly funny comedy series that airs 9:30 every Thursday night on NBC. It's a workplace and behind-the-scenes series that was based on Fey's own experiences as the former head writer of "Saturday Night Live." The show within the show is the live variety show "TGS with Tracy Jordan" and Fey plays Liz Lemon, the head writer.

Liz Lemon is a single thirty-something alpha female in the man's world of comedy. She con-



fesses to emotional eating and her loudly ticking biological clock has made her baby-crazy enough to steal baby shoes. Her boss, Jack Donaghy, serves as the resident master of back-handed compliments and put-downs. Alec Baldwin plays elitist Republican Jack, a man of smarmy charm and hair just as thick as Rod Blagojevich's. His suaveness and poise contrast with Lemon's nerdy vibe.

Liz, unfortunately, does suffer fools gladly, and those fools include the stars of the show within the show Tracy Jordan, played by Tracy Morgan of "Saturday Night Live" fame, and

Jenna Maroney, played by Broadway star Jane Krakowski.

Tracy is the black male Britney Spears, a mentally unstable and unpredictable star. He's been arrested at three different Chuck E. Cheese's and once bit Dakota Fanning's face. Yeah, crazy. Jenna fits the dumb blonde mold and her narcissism knows no bounds. The two of them regularly compete for Ms. Lemon's attention by being as annoying as possible.

TIME magazine described "30 Rock" as practicing "subtle, self-effacing feminism" with Tina Fey's portrayal of Liz Lemon at the center. Ms. Lemon is flawed and has her insecurities but she's got enough self-confidence to make fun of herself.

Tina Fey plays her character with an ease of aplomb and also acts her age. There are too many female characters on television that seem like over-tanned Miss Teen USA contestants. She's the kind of chick who anyone can sit with in the corner of the cafeteria to make mean remarks about the bimbos and airheads.

"30 Rock" is fast-paced and chockfull of sharp pop culture references. It has its share of zingers but the comedy really comes from empathy. Tina Fey's Liz Lemon is a real big city career woman, proof that female characters don't have to have to obsess about Manolo Blahniks in order to be interesting.

# LOST

By Vanessa Cubillo



It has been five seasons since Oceanic flight 815 crashed on a mysterious island. An island that was filled with smoke monsters, savages, and polar bears, oh my! Yes, the mysteries of this show were endless, and many of them still are. For four seasons fans watched "Lost" as the survivors tried to get their way off the island, and by the end of the fourth season six of them did.

So then, shouldn't the show be over? I mean, they got off the island; what now? See, "Lost" can never be easy. As the seasons have gone by, things have only become more confusing. With that in mind, how can this new season get any more confusing? Well, now "Lost" is throwing in time travel. Where we last left the show, the six people made it off the island; the island then disappeared; and, in the future, the six people all have to go back.

Now in season five, we find out that since the island moved, it has been time traveling the people remaining there. This makes everyone confused: the survivors, and the viewers. Also, not only do they keep flashing through time, but these strangers from the past keep attacking them. This constant

shift in time is messing everyone up, and is leading some into danger. Meanwhile, three years into the future, the six who left, AKA the Oceanic Six, are living very difficult lives. Jack is a pill popper, Hurley is in a mental institution, Sayid is killing people left and right ... ah, wasn't island life good? So now the only way to save the island is to get the Oceanic Six to come back to it.

"Lost" is truly the only show that you can watch and have no idea what just went on in the hour you just saw, no matter how hard you try to understand. It's aggravating and fun at the same time for the audience—at least it keeps you on your toes. I'm excited to see where this season will take the viewers, and hopefully we'll have answers to at least some of these mysteries...

A new episode of "Lost" premieres every Wednesday at 9 p.m. on ABC.

## THE EDITOR'S PICKS:

# Everything You Should Know About the 2009 Oscars

BY ERICA MARIE MOLINA



BEST PICTURE



BEST ACTOR



BEST ACTRESS



BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR



BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS



BEST ORIGINAL SONG

**And the Academy Forgot...**

*Revolutionary Road*— Easily the best acted and best directed film of the year, and it was completely ignored.

Besides giving a nod to Brad Pitt, the Academy got this category right.

*Kate Winslet in Revolutionary Road* — If she were nominated in this category for this movie, she'd win.

*Brad Pitt in Burn After Reading*— Come on, if they could nominate Robert, they could've done the same for Brad!

Hmmm, 2 out of 6 at least. I still wouldn't gloat, Oscar.

*Bruce Springsteen's The Wrestler*— This category is supposed to award the song that tells its movie's story the best, and this is it.

**The Winner Should Be...**

*Slumdog Millionaire*— The second best after Revolutionary Road.

*Mickey Rourke in The Wrestler*— In a pleasant surprise, Mickey came back in a role that's as good as it is heartbreaking.

*Anne Hathaway in Rachel Getting Married*— Anne Hathaway is young, yes, but she's got acting chops aplenty.

*Heath Ledger in The Dark Knight*— Rumors of a deserving Oscar began months before the noms. The rumors are true.

*Amy Adams in Doubt*— This would give her long overdue recognition after losing her Oscar for 2005's Junebug.

THE BOSS

**Who/What Shouldn't Win...**

*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* — This too-long movie was nothing more than fodder for the mind. Entertaining of course, but not a masterpiece.

*Brad Pitt in Benjamin Button*— Leo didn't get anything for Titanic, and Brad shouldn't win for this. Their time will come.

*Angelina Jolie in Changeling*— Yelling shouldn't qualify people for noms, but sometimes it does.

*Robert Downey Jr. in Tropic Thunder*— Our man should win for playing in a real role.

*Taraji P. Henson in Benjamin Button*— Again, good, but not great.

Whomever they announce on February 22.



## ARTS

## Typographic Design:

*More Than Just Words*

By Willa Goldthwaite

Taking advantage of the empty Visual Arts Gallery during a short time between two major exhibitions, a show on typographic design was held. The show, entitled *Typographic Designers*, featured the works of three renowned designers, Louise Fili, Gerard Huerta, and Daniel Pelavin. On display were sketches, preliminary studies, final art, and prints of the designers' work from the past thirty years.

This small presentation was part of a larger exhibition entitled *Letter as Image* that traveled to several venues including the Society of Illustrators in New York City. The participating artists were generous enough to offer to work with New Jersey City University and to come out and speak with the students directly.

Typographic design is a practice that has been around for a long time in various ways. Historically, it can be traced back to the first punches and dies used to make seals and currency in ancient times. In its most basic sense it is the art of arranging and modifying type. This is done through various illustration techniques, by the precise selection of typefaces, point size, line length, and even the spaces between letters and words.

Today, typographic design has become an important part of graphic design in fields where readability is less a concern than artistic quality. Combining type with images, and using extensive colors with larger type sizes aids in creating an emotional effect in the subject matter. Typographic design is used heavily in advertising, to draw attention to the product through different font uses as well as the incorporation of



Photograph by Ella Rue

Students talk with artists and typographic designers Daniel Pelavin, and Gerard Huerta in the Visual Arts Gallery.

colors and photos.

Each of the featured designers has an interesting background and story. Louise Fili founded Louise Fili Ltd. in 1989, specializing in logo, package, restaurant, type, book, and book jacket design. She was officially accepted into the Art Directors Hall of Fame in 2004.

An essay from the Board of Directors in the 51st Art Directors Annual reads, "This year we inaugurate the Hall of Fame. The nomination and election each year of these people will help to educate and inform not only the young people entering our business, but we hope will serve as an inspiration to all of us. In their hands, advertising and graphic communication [becomes] an art form."

Students had the chance to see two of the designers in person. An artists' reception and lecture was held in the afternoon on January 21. During this presentation, Huerta and Pelavin spoke about their creative processes and gave advice to students who may be entering their field of work.

Gerard Huerta Design was established in 1976. Huerta designs letter forms using traditional methods of illustration and graphic design. Many of Huerta's preliminary works were done completely by hand. To put color in, films were cut and placed in manually. To insert type, pressed type sheets were used to rub letters onto the page.

Few people work this way anymore, because working on the computer is so much faster. The original technique is becoming a lost art, but should continue to be taught because it helps the eyes, even when working digitally.

Huerta spoke about the difference between the CMYK and Match methods of producing colors, and also about drawn letters as opposed to typeface. He described his own creative process: referencing old magazines and doing thumbnails and rough sketches by hand before executing a finished design.

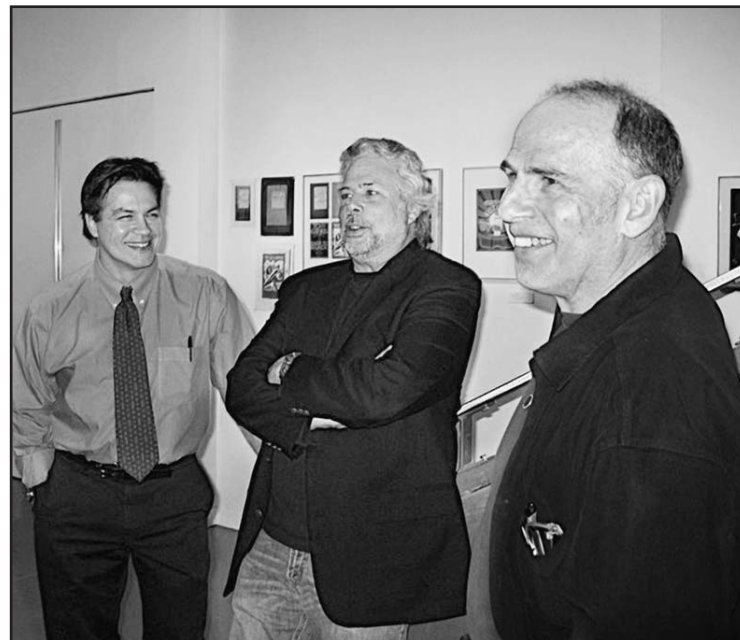
"The more you work, [the more] you find your own style. Most of the time, we are trying to solve a problem rather than trying to get an idea," Huerta advises.

Huerta recommends that students research ethical guidelines in order to know how to price their work. After graduating the Art Center College of Design, unable to find a steady income, he started out by doing freelance jobs.

Daniel Pelavin's focus is in illustration and typographic and icon design. He is an instructor and lecturer as well as an author. Originally from Detroit, Pelavin

has maintained a studio in New York City since 1979. Pelavin made clear that he has found high school classes and studio apprenticeships to be the most valuable sources for a designer. He praised the value of practicing regularly, to, "...keep drawing, keep draw-

ing," saying that it is important for any artist to continually work. Pelavin discussed his ways of working through thumbnail sketches to aid his compositions. "I love them. I make a hundred and hate them. Then I come back to them." He begins with drafting tools to make the thumbnail sketches, and then he moves on to the computer where he finishes his work. Pelavin's inspiration comes from a variety of places: packaging, toys, museums, and many old things.



Photograph by Ella Rue

Professor Dennis Dittrich, left, with Huerta and Pelavin at the opening reception.

"It is solely because of the generosity and graciousness of the artists, Gerard Huerta, Louise Fili, and Danny Pelavin, that we were able to host this show," says NJCU's marketing manager, Ella

rely with successful artists, students are afforded an opportunity to really understand the process of the work."

The *Typographic Design* exhibit was more than a showing of an art form by several prominent artists. It was an educational piece for art students of all genres, whether graphic designers, sculptors, or painters. The artists involved have all been in the field for many years and have experienced the ups and downs of being an artist. They spoke of what art means to them, how they do their work, and how to cope with tough times.

As Pelavin said, "You will find slack times. That is the time that you do what you want; that is



Photograph by Daniel Pelavin

An example of Pelavin's typographic design featured on the cover of *Data Communications* magazine.

## ARTS

## Film

# The African Diaspora Festival Crossed the River

By Marlen Gonzalez

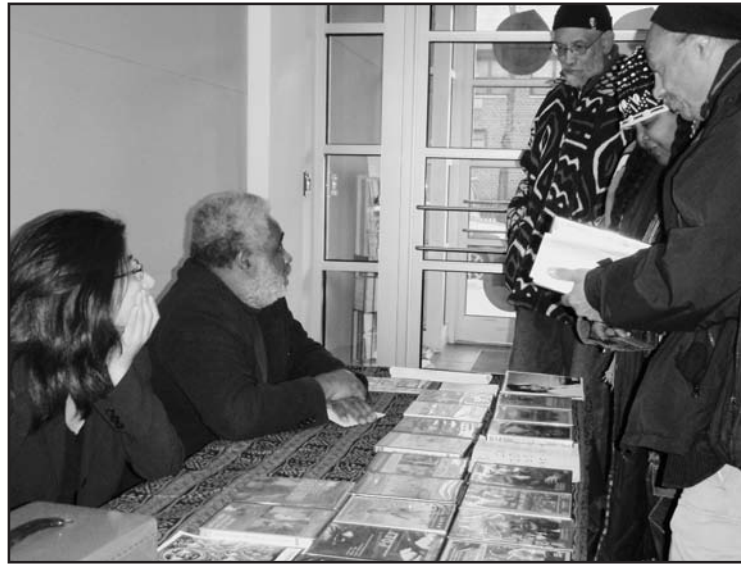
The Jersey City Museum was host to the 5th Annual African Diaspora Film Series on January 30-31, 2009. The African Diaspora Film Series (ADFF) presents films from various countries produced by filmmakers and actors of color.

"My first motivation was to bring diversity to the screens of New York City," said Reinaldo Barroso-Spech, co-founder of ArtMatten Production, ADFF and a professor at Columbia University's Teachers College. "The ability to see foreign films is limited. We have the most screens today, nationally, but less diversity on screens because many of the independent houses that used to play innovative programming are closed."

Although this was the fifth time the series has made its way across the river to Jersey City, the African Diaspora Film Festival has been around for 16 years. Barroso-Spech and wife Diarah N'Daw-Spech created ArtMatten Productions in 1993, a company that produces a collection of programs and events promoting Afrocentric theme cultures. ADFF has premiered hundreds of films in locales such as Chicago, Washington D.C. and Curaçao.

The official festival begins every year on the last Friday of the month of November during the Thanksgiving weekend and runs for about two weeks. Over 100 films are shown. All screenings take place in New York venues.

"Normally ADFF is in Harlem or Brooklyn, it's good to have it at Jersey City Museum," said Daniel Morte, 25, NJCU '08 graduate, from Jersey City. "This



Photograph by Marlen Gonzalez

**Reinaldo Barroso-Spech, co-director of the African Diaspora Festival greets film goers.**

place is a hidden [gem] in Jersey City."

The films showcased that weekend were: *The Great Bazaar* (2005) directed by Licinio Azevedo, *Made in Jamaica* (2006) by Jerome Laperrousaz, *Slaying Goliath* (2008) by Michele Stephenson and Joe Brewster, the directors held an Q&A following the film, *La Ultima Rumba de Papa Montero* (1992) by Octavio Cortazar, *Sara Gomez, an Afro-Cuban Filmmaker* (2005) by Alessandra Muller in which a discussion between Barroso-Spech, and artist Ben Jones ("Deliverance" THE ART OF BEN JONES 1970-2008, on view at Jersey City Museum through February 21, 2009) followed the last screening.

"Young people especially need to see this film. It's a powerful film, so many different aspects of reggae music," said Jones, art professor at NJCU since 1967 from Jersey City about the film *Made*

*in Jamaica*. "I'm disturbed by some of the confusion that capitalism can create in societies, disturbing in the sense that we see people that are living in poverty who don't always have a way out relying upon religion, music, sex and drugs as a way out."

BAMcinematek at the Brooklyn Academy of Music will be hosting The Best of the African Film Festival from Feb. 20-26.

"We realize that the festival is the a way to bring the human experience of people of color on screen," said Barroso-Spech. "These films were the ones lacking the most. The fact that we have been around for 16 years is the result of acceptance and positive feedback."

More information about the upcoming festival go to [BAM.org](http://BAM.org). For more info about the African Diaspora Film Festival go to [nyadff.org](http://nyadff.org).



[www.africanfilm.com/great\\_bazaar.html](http://www.africanfilm.com/great_bazaar.html)

**The Great Bazaar; Director, Licinio Azevedo; From, Mozambique; Year, 005African Film Minutes: 58 ; Language: Portuguese with English subtitles Genre: Comedy**



Photograph by Lawrence Productions

**Made in Jamaica Directed by Jérôme Laperrousaz, France, 2006.**

**NJCU'S  
VERY  
OWN...**



## Arts Calendar

### War is a Map of Wounds

The Art of Howardena Pindell and Theodore A. Harris  
Visual Arts Gallery  
On view through March 5.

### The Color of the Tradition

Herencia Milenaria  
Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery  
On view through March 4.

### Campus Violence Poster Project of the UCDA

Student Union Gallery  
On view through February 20.

### NJCU Art and Design Association Meetings

Every other Monday (March 2 and March 16) at 3 p.m.  
Visual Arts Building Room 221

### Stop The War Sundays

Jersey City Peace Movement  
Sunday February 22  
from 12 noon – 1 p.m.  
At the Journal Square  
9/11 Fountain  
on Kennedy Boulevard

### Dance Party and Mini Ball

Aljira: A Center for Contemporary Art  
The B-Sides exhibition  
Saturday February 28, 7 p.m. – midnight  
\$10 presale/ \$15 at door

### I've Got Talent, Now What?

"How do you define success?"  
Artist Professional Development Workshop  
Jersey City Museum  
February 28, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

### SCOPE Art Fair, Lincoln Center,

New York City, March 4-8

### Black Maria Film Festival,

Catch the last of the  
Premiere Fortnight!  
Thursday February 19th 10:50 am, Friday  
February 20th 7:30 pm, Sussex County  
Community College Performing Arts Center,  
Newton, NJ  
The entire schedule of programs through  
June 2009 is available at [www.blackmariafilm-festival.org](http://www.blackmariafilm-festival.org)

## Open Calls

### The Female Perspective

*La Ola* is looking for artwork made by women that describes the modern female experience from her own perspective. We want to show what being a woman is like, the roles they have to play, the issues, the stories, and daily minute experiences that people seem to dismiss.

Open to all mediums, OPEN TO WOMEN OF HUDSON COUNTY ONLY.

Please send images with size, titles, and a brief statement to [laola.org@gmail.com](mailto:laola.org@gmail.com) by February 20, 2009.

### BFA Now

The 2009 BFA Now competition is divided into two sections: Painting and Printmaking. We are dedicated to the idea that painting and printmaking traditions are alive and well in the world of contemporary art. Both sections are

open to undergraduate students of the arts who have been enrolled in a program of study in the years 2008 or 2009. It is not necessary that the student be enrolled specifically in a BFA program, or even as an art major. Any student who has taken an undergraduate level art course is eligible to apply. Submission Deadline: March 15, 2009

Visit <http://www.bfanow.org/> for more information.

### Women's History Month

Submission Deadline: Friday February 20th

The Women's History Month Committee of NJCU is accepting artwork for "Women Taking the Lead to Save Earth" in the Student Art Gallery of the GSUB

Entries must be two-dimensional works 11"x17" or smaller submitted as 300dpi jpeg files on cd to Renata Moreira in GSUB Rm 111

For more information, contact Ms. Moreira at [rmoreira@njcu.edu](mailto:rmoreira@njcu.edu)



# ADVICE

## What You Ingest... Could Consume You

Eating Disorders  
Ruin Your Appetite  
And Wreak Untold  
Devastation.  
Hard To Swallow?

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

Ever seen pictures of scrawny, starving people in war-torn regions of the developing world? You cross your heart, thank goodness you don't face such a fate, right? Well, not exactly. Each year millions of people – even those living in relative abundance – are affected by serious and sometimes life-threatening eating disorders. Thinking that eating and weight are the cause and result of many of their problems, people with eating disorders become trapped in a cycle of repeated, ritualistic and rigid behavior regarding food.

Anorexia nervosa involves intentional self-starvation, resulting in extreme weight loss (approximately 15% less than minimally normal body weight for age and height). People with anorexia typically look emaciated, but view themselves as fat and intensely fear weight gain. Because of their excessively low body weights, they usually develop many physical problems including dry skin and hair, digestive issues, osteoporosis (brittle bones), amenorrhea (cessation of menstrual periods), fatigue, and heart muscle weakness. Lanugo, a fine, downy layer of body hair, may develop to insulate the body in place of body fat. Psychological symptoms include extreme moodiness, isolation, food and exercise obsession, and feeling inadequate.

Bulimia entails alternating periods of binge eating and purging, typically done in secret because of shame about the behavior. Binges involve the rapid consumption of a large amount of food in a short period of time. Purges are measures to rid the body of this excess food and can include self-induced vomiting, fasting, over-exercising, and laxative, diuretic, enema or emetic abuse. Bulimics generally appear to be normal to slightly above average in weight, and may have frequent or rapid weight fluctuations. Consequences of bulimia may include ulcers, intestinal problems, heart irregularities, severe dental problems, swollen parotid glands, malnutrition, and general muscle weakness. Emotional symptoms may include feeling out of control when eating, feeling guilty after binges or purges, isolation, and depression.

Compulsive eating also includes episodes of uncontrolled eating or bingeing, but not purging. Compulsive eaters are usually slightly to severely overweight. As their weight increases they may suffer from shortness of breath, high blood pressure, diabetes, and joint problems. They may struggle with depression, shame, guilt and low self-esteem. A common myth is that all obese people are compulsive eaters; however research indicates that only 30 - 40% of overweight individuals suffer from compulsive eating disorder.

If you have concerns about your eating patterns or those of someone you love, be sure to stop by the Eating Disorders Screening on Thursday, February 26th from 10:00 – 2:00 PM in GSUB 312 for more information. You can also make an appointment to speak with Counseling Center staff by stopping by GSUB 308, or by calling 201-200-3165.

## Wretched & Huddled Masses *Yearning to Breathe Free*

By **Daniels Tornycu**

Immigration is a perennially thorny, tricky issue in presidential elections. Assuring a jittery nation that domestic terrorism (as a result of illegal immigration) is not even a remote possibility under your watch; that only you can grow the most high-paying jobs and also that the burden that undocumented workers and their families place on our already over-stretched social services will go poof under your presidency is no easy trick.

For all its perceived negative image abroad, entry visas into the US remain one of the most sought after documents in consulates all over the world. Many in developing countries have come to regard a visa to the US as a sure means of escaping their plight. Some endure interminable lines and may even pawn their heirlooms in order to get visas.

The US Consulate is the visa-issuing arm of its foreign mission while the US Embassy (residence of the ambassador) is the office that handles political relations with the country in which it is located.

Xenophobia is rampant in a tanking economy topped by massive layoffs, not all foreigners come to the US without legitimate visas.

The US has a broad range of visa categories though many qualify for one of two main visa types – the F-1 Student visa or B-2 tourist. The latter is for visitors who are coming on a short span while the F-1s are mostly for longer visits like students coming for fulltime college studies. Some categories of the F-1 allow limited



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employment.

You initiate the visa process with a petition – usually a letter – on behalf of your relation. This ranges in style from a free text composition stating the purpose of the visit, date of the intended visit, the petitioner's name etc. to a more convoluted documentation prepared occasionally by crooks with bogus claims of "achieving results."

You may be asked for tax filings, bank statements, and proof of income – usually a letter from your employer establishing proof that the applicant you are sponsoring will not become a public charge when they come here.

A visa fee may be charged following a successful interview. Fiancés of residents/citizens and those intending to live

permanently in the US may be screened for HIV and or tuberculosis though the presence of these may not be grounds for denial of travel visa.

For many self-sponsoring applicants, the rigorous visa requirements come with a ton of stress. Black market document is a thriving business in some developing countries. Visa applicants are routinely duped into paying hefty sums for surgically doctored documents that may fail the muster of the consular's scrutiny.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is now United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and is under the Department of Homeland Security. You may visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) for more information about US visa requirements.

## Where's The Party At? *Some Insights About Parties & Schooling*

By **Joanne Antoine**

Though parties and socializing are considered essential extra-curricular components of college life, it is important we get our priorities right. We get easily caught up in expending with our free time we forget what should be most important.

As students we have to realize that prioritizing our tasks is critical in making it successfully through college. Knowing what is most and least important helps us to set aside the time needed for all of the things that are crucial to our success.

Slipping in your grades, missing classes and appointments, and forgetting to do your homework and major assignments on time are all signs that you have been putting other activities before your studies.

If you know you have class in the morning, don't go partying till late the night before. If you have plans to go out with your friends, don't stay out too late if you know you will have trouble getting up the next day. Though you shouldn't be drinking at all,



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should you decide to you shouldn't drink during the weekdays.

Such minor behavioral adjustments can help make a world of a difference to your school progress.

Gregory Jean, 22, psychol-

ogy major shares his thoughts on how to juggle school and other activities. "When I first moved on campus, all I could think about were parties and clubs. After about a semester and it was almost time for finals, I found myself extreme-

ly stressed out because I had been so busy partying and did not dedicate the time needed for my classes. I'm a junior now and have stopped partying so much."

His parting words? "Stop partying and catch up on your studies. Things will become much easier for you and you will discover new things like SGO, just as I did".

Once you learn to prioritize and put your school work first, participating in positive campus activities, can be a good thing. You can steer your life away from thrill seeking parties by joining on-campus organizations or community based groups. This will not only equip you with some rudimentary though important leadership skills. It may also help you to network and teach you how to work with others.

College life can be an experience that you will remember forever. Don't let hedonistic partying and habitual club-hopping rob you of the wonderful experience of making your college days an experience to fondly remember. Thumbs up or hand wringing? It's your call. For every choice a consequence – good or bad.

## CULTURE

# Black History and Herstory

By Christie Avila

Black History Month and International Women's Day are two important celebrations of the history of African-Americans in the United States and women all around the world. Many students from New Jersey City University feel that this month and day are needed to reflect just how vital African-American and women's history are in educating others about past struggles for equal rights.

The importance of people as a whole, despite any difference in gender and race, is what many people of the NJCU community continue to acknowledge. February is marked as the beginning of Black History Month and International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 (which is during the U.S.'s Women's History Month). Having a month and day to remember all those who have made it easier for African Americans and women today is necessary in continuing the fight for equality.

Jessica Szybowski, 32, a full time graduate student, School of Psychology from Chatham, stated, "The struggle for both women and African American and minorities did not come easily."

Dr. Carter G. Woodson pioneered the study of black history. Both his parents were former slaves, and he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines. He finished high school at age twenty and later graduated from Harvard and earned his Ph. D. Throughout his studies he was upset that many history books did not include a lot of the black American population. This conveyed the inferior social status felt among and toward black Americans. Woodson began writing black Americans into the na-



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tion's history and in 1926 he chose the second week for Negro History Week. Both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays influenced Woodson in choosing February as Negro History Week since both men greatly influenced the black American population.

"I think that a day to honor the struggle is called for if not only to celebrate but to call attention to the struggles all minorities and women face," said Szybowski.

Women have always fought for their rights all around the world, and continue to do so.

According to www.internationalwomensday.com, "International Women's Day has been observed since in the early 1900's, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world that saw booming population growth and the rise of radical ideologies." In 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City to fight for shorter working hours, better pay, and voting rights. Events are held every year on March 8 in countries such as China, Russia, Ukraine, and Vietnam to inspire women all over to celebrate their achievements.

Juliana Opoku, 18, forensic science major from Newark, said "It's good; everybody should be acknowledged for what they accomplished."

Many students feel that in order for people to understand the struggles that African Americans and women face, they must celebrate and continue to educate others of past achievements.

"I believe the struggle is still there but not like it was before," said Opoku.

These annual celebrations are to commemorate the economic, political, and social advances of both African Americans and women.

Keith Jackson, 21, sociology major from Newton stated, "It's a way to show [...] appreciation for what they went through. Irish, Italian, and other immigrants had to struggle also."

Black History Month and International Women's Day reflect the hard work and dedication that both blacks and women have and continue to face.

"Everyone who struggled should have a day or month to celebrate their perseverance," said Jackson.

## Goodbye Snow, Hello Spring Break

By Amanda Rasslan

Take off your shoes New Jersey City University, throw down the books and sigh with relief. The eagerness of spring time is just a short moment away. Spring Break is March 9 through March 14, so get ready everyone because spring break is on its way.

For some, it's all about relaxing and taking time off from our everyday schedules and for others, work becomes an important factor.

"Most likely I'm going to work and try to relax," said Marybeth Granada, 20, biology major from Union City.

It will be a relief that after a hard year of work, one could take his or her shoes off with a sigh of pleasure.

Spring break is naturally known in colleges as a pre-party before summer and a break before Easter. Vacation packages are offered especially to college students to fun and well known spring break sites



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such as Cabo, Daytona Beach, Cancun, or Jamaica.

But the word that's going around seems quite different here at NJCU this time around. Some students are saving the fun in the sun until the semester is over but hey, there is nothing wrong with that.

For some, it's going to be a week full of adventure and for others, a big stress relief.

"To be honest, I don't know [what I will do] but whatever I do, I'm going to make sure I have a good time," said Stephanie

Moscol, 20, a visiting student majoring in dentistry from North Bergen.

There's nothing wrong with not knowing what to do this break. In fact, despite it being his last spring break, Marco Saad, a 21-year-old mathematics major from Clifton, is also uncertain as to what his plans will be.

"I'll probably be relaxing. Other than that, it'll be pretty random as to what I'll be doing," said Saad.

So it looks like no one has serious plans so far for the time off, but the sound of spring break brings joy to many if not everyone's ears.

At a time when everyone is trying to pinch pennies and save up gas money, there is nothing wrong with a week off from school to just plain old lay down and relax. It allows students, faculty, and staff more time which they can conserve for themselves. So spring break 2009 here we come because NJCU Gothic Knights are ready to relax and let the snow fall behind.

## CLOSE TO HOME

### EVENTS IN NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK

**Margaret Cho** — March 6, 2009, Friday, Bergen Performing Arts Center, Englewood, NJ

**Nickelback** — March 6, 2009, Friday, Izod Center (formerly Continental Airlines Arena), East Rutherford, NJ

**Christian McBride Band** — March 6, 2009, Friday, South Orange Performing Arts Center, South Orange, NJ

**Kodo Drummers** — March 6 thru March 20, 2009, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, NJ

**Paula Poundstone** — March 6, 2009, Friday, B.B. King Blues Club & Grill, New York, NY

**Pete And J** — March 6, 2009, Friday — Music Hall of Williamsburg Brooklyn, NY

**The Karma Police** — March 6, 2009, Friday, B.B. King Blues Club & Grill, New York, NY

**Madeleine Peyroux** — March 7, 2009, Saturday, Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown, NY

**Hollywood Undead & Senses Fail** — March 7, 2009, Saturday, Crazy Donkey Bar And Grill, Farmingdale, NY

**New York Knicks vs. Charlotte Bobcats** — March 7, 2009, Saturday, Madison Square Garden, New York, NY

**Get the Led Out.** — March 7, 2009, Saturday, Nokia Theatre - Times Square, New York, NY

**Lucinda Williams** — March 7, 2009, Saturday, Wellmont Theatre, Montclair, NJ

**Second City** — March 7, 2009, Saturday, Paramount Center for the Arts, Peekskill, NY

**These Arms Are Snakes** — March 7, 2009, Saturday, Music Hall of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY

**The Bird and the Bee** — March 7, 2009, Saturday, Carnegie Hall - Judy & Arthur Zankel Hall, New York, NY

**New York Rangers vs. Boston Bruins** — March 8, 2009, Sunday, Madison Square Garden, New York, NY

**33 Variations** — March 8, 2009, May 24, 2009, Eugene Oneill Theatre, New York, NY

**Rcd Mallorca vs. Real Betis** — March 8, 2009, Sunday, Ono Estadi, Clifton, NJ

**The Irish Tenors** — March 8, 2009, Sunday, Eisenhower Hall Theatre, Highland Falls, NY

**New Jersey Nets vs. New York Knicks** — March 8, 2009, Sunday, Izod Center (formerly Continental Airlines Arena), East Rutherford, NJ

**Lucinda Williams** — March 8, 2009, Sunday, Paramount Center for the Arts, Peekskill, NY

**Ok Go** — March 8, 2009, Sunday, Music Hall of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY

**Southside Johnny** — March 8, 2009, Sunday, B.B. King Blues Club & Grill, New York, NY

**Cursive** — March 9, 2009, Monday, Music Hall of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY

**Allman Brothers Band** — March 10, 2009 - March 21, 2009, Beacon Theatre, New York, NY

**Big East Tournament Men's All Sessions** — March 10, 2009, Tuesday, Madison Square Garden, New York, NY

**Big East Men's Basketball Tournament** — March 10 & 11, 2009, Madison Square Garden, New York, NY

**New Jersey Devils Vs. Calgary Flames** — March 10, 2009, Tuesday, Prudential Center, Newark, NJ

**The Little Mermaid** — March 10, 2009 - April 30, 2009, Luntfontanne Theatre, New York, NY

**Fiddler On The Roof** — March 10, 2009 - March 15, 2009, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, NJ

**Busta Rhymes** — March 10, 2009, Tuesday, B.B. King Blues Club & Grill New York, NY

**The Black Lips** — March 10, 2009, Tuesday, Music Hall of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY

**Big East Basketball Tournament: Session 4** — March 11, 2009, Wednesday, Madison Square Garden, New York, NY

**The Story of My Life** — March 11, 2009 - September 6, 2009, Booth Theatre, New York, NY

**Ringling Bros And Barnum & Bailey Circus** — March 11, 2009 - March 15, 2009, Izod Center (formerly Continental Airlines Arena), East Rutherford, NJ

**Leon Russell** — March 11, 2009, Wednesday, B.B. King Blues Club & Grill, New York, NY

**Big East Basketball Tournament: Session 6**, March 12, 2009, Thursday, Madison Square Garden, New York, NY

**Lewis Black**, March 12, 2009, Thursday, Bergen Performing Arts Center, Englewood, NJ

**New Jersey Devils vs. Phoenix Coyotes**, March 12, 2009, Thursday, Prudential Center, Newark, NJ

**Throwing Muses** — March 12, 2009, Thursday, Music Hall of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY

**Big East Basketball Tournament: Session 5** — March 13, 2009, Friday, Madison Square Garden, New York, NY

**Britney Spears**, March 13 & 14, 2009, Prudential Center, Newark, NJ

**The Saw Doctors** — March 13 & 14, 2009, Nokia Theatre, Times Square, New York, NY

**CSI: Live** — March 13, 2009, Friday, Paramount Center for the Arts, Peekskill, NY

**Celtic Woman** — March 13 & 14, 2009, Radio City Music Hall, New York, NY

**Jerry Jeff Walker** — March 13 & 14, 2009, B.B. King Blues Club & Grill, New York, NY

**Sinbad** — March 14, 2009, Saturday, Resorts Atlantic City, Superstar Theater, Atlantic City, NJ

**The Fab Faux** — March 14, 2009, Saturday, Terminal 5, New York, NY

**Big East Basketball Tournament: Session 8** — March 14, 2009, Saturday, Madison Square Garden, New York, NY

**Giselle** — March 14, 2009, Saturday, Bergen Performing Arts Center, Englewood, NJ

**Mark O'Connor** — March 14, 2009, Saturday, Paramount Center for the Arts, Peekskill, NY

**Madeline Workshop and the Bad Hat Work** — March 14 & 15, 2009, Saturday, & Sunday, Prudential Hall, Newark, NJ

**Fiddler on the Roof** — March 10th - March 15, 2009, Tuesday-Sunday, Prudential Hall, Newark, NJ

**Simply Red** — March 15, 2009, Sunday, Radio City Music Hall, New York, NY

For more information on show times and tickets visit: [www.10best.com](http://www.10best.com)  
[www.njpac.com](http://www.njpac.com)  
[www.izodcenter.com](http://www.izodcenter.com)

## SPORTS

## NJCU Team Bowling to the Top

By Joseph Steinberger

The New Jersey City University women's bowling team is once again a force to be reckoned with.

Coming off their first victory in more than two years in the Terriers New Year Knockdown Tournament on January 10-11, the lady Knights are in the race for National Championship consideration.

The team beat Kutztown University and captured the tournament championship, hosted by St. Francis College (NY) at Rab's Country Lanes. Led by Tournament MVP Jenn Marmo, and strong performances from Candace D'Angelo, Amanda Small, and the rest of the supporting cast as well, the lady Knights were able to claim their first tournament victory since the end of 2006.

"It was an amazing feeling," said D'Angelo, "On the whole way home from the tournament Jenn [Marmo] and I could not stop smiling."

This victory meant a lot more to the lady Knights than moving up in the rankings. Following a disappointing loss in the women's bowling final four last year, the lady Knights also had to deal with the loss of five players. Those gone include three-time All-American and two-time NCAA



NJCU Sports Information

The Gothic Knights Bowling Team. From left to right: Allisyn Yanuzzi, Jennifer Daunno, Candace D'Angelo, Jenn Marmo, Nicole Drejerwski and Amanda Small.

Player of the Year Vicki Spratford; 2006-07 NTCA Honorable Mention All-American Kristina Figueiredo; and fellow senior stand-out Amiee deNeuf. This has left the young Knights squad with a lot of slack to pick up.

Since the NCAA women's bowling championships started in 2004, NJCU is one of only four

of the competing 87 teams to make it to the NCAA tournament every year. Not to mention, they are going up against big Division 1 schools such as Nebraska, Vanderbilt, and Arkansas State. Each of these schools boasts teams of up to 12 bowlers, while the lady Knights only have a team of six. The lady Knights are cur-

rently ranked seventh in the country, one spot above their pre-season ranking of eight.

"Coming into this year, people did not think we would be in contention," said Marmo. "But this victory proved to other coaches that NJCU is still one of the better teams in the country. Since in bowling, the NCAA champi-

onship tournament is selected by coaches, the opinions of those coaches of our team are very important."

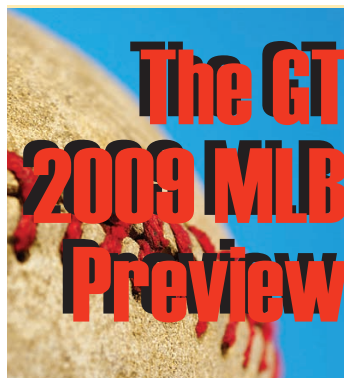
The lady Knights are hoping that this tournament victory will be the motivation they need for a successful post-season run. In the five years since the NCAA starting having a women's bowling championship, NJCU has finished third, fifth, fourth, seventh, and third, respectively. Even though they have yet to win the championship, and they may not have as many high-profile players as they did in the past, the lady Knights are currently in prime position to get into the NCAA tournament and hopefully make some noise when they get there.

After all, in sports, it doesn't matter how a team reaches the postseason, it just matters that they get there.

Once the postseason bracket is set, it is anyone's championship for the taking. Oftentimes it is not the most talented team, or the number 1 ranked team, but is instead the team playing their best once they reach the playoffs. Have no doubts, the lady Knights are planning on making the trip to Detroit, Michigan on April 9 for the NCAA Championship Tournament. And you better believe if they make it that far, they have as good a chance as any team to come away victorious.

## February &amp; March NJCU Athletics calendar

Date	Sport / Opponent / Location	Time
2/17/09	Men's Volleyball at Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY	7:00 PM
2/18/09	Women's Basketball, RUTGERS-NEWARK **, Jersey City, NJ	6:00 PM
2/18/09	Men's Basketball RUTGERS-NEWARK **, Jersey City, NJ	8:00 PM
2/21/09	Men's Basketball NJAC Tournament, First Round, TBA	TBA
2/21/09	Men's Volleyball at Stevenson University, Stevenson, MD	TBA
2/21/09	Men's Volleyball vs. Hilbert College at Stevenson University, Stevenson, MD	TBA
2/21/09	Men's Volleyball vs. King College (TN) at Stevenson University, Stevenson, MD	TBA
2/21/09	Women's Basketball, NJAC Tournament, First Round, TBA	TBA
2/23/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field, New Jersey Athletic Conference Championships, New York, NY	5:00 PM
2/23/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field, New Jersey Athletic Conference Championships, New York, NY	5:00 PM
2/24/09	Men's Basketball, NJAC Tournament, Semifinals, TBA	TBA
2/25/09	Women's Basketball, NJAC Tournament, Semifinals, TBA	TBA
2/26/09	Men's Volleyball at SUNY-New Paltz, New Paltz, NY	7:00 PM
2/27/09	Men's Basketball, NJAC Tournament, Finals, TBA	TBA
2/28/09	Women's Basketball, NJAC Tournament, Finals, TBA	TBA
3/1/09	Baseball at Farmingdale State College (DH), Farmingdale, NY	12:00 PM
3/4/09	Men's Volleyball, LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE, Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
3/5/09	Men's Volleyball at Hunter College, New York, NY	7:00 PM
3/5/09	Baseball, TBA (Spring Trip), Orlando, FL	TBA
3/6/09	Women's Bowling, 2009 ECAC CHAMPIONSHIPS, North Brunswick, NJ	6:00 PM
3/6/09	Baseball, TBA (Spring Trip), Orlando, FL	TBA
3/6/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field, ECAC Division III Indoor Championship, Medford, MA	TBA
3/6/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field, ECAC Division III Indoor Championship, Medford, MA	TBA
3/7/09	Women's Bowling, 2009 ECAC CHAMPIONSHIPS, North Brunswick, NJ	1:00 PM
3/7/09	Men's Volleyball at Vassar College *, Poughkeepsie, NY	2:00 PM
3/7/09	Baseball, TBA (Spring Trip), Orlando, FL	TBA
3/7/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field, ECAC Division III Indoor Championship, Medford, MA	TBA
3/7/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field, ECAC Division III Indoor Championship, Medford, MA	TBA
3/8/09	Men's Volleyball at Yeshiva University *, New York, NY	12:00 PM
3/8/09	Women's Bowling, 2009 ECAC CHAMPIONSHIPS, North Brunswick, NJ	1:00 PM
3/8/09	Baseball, TBA (Spring Trip), Orlando, FL	TBA
3/9/09	Baseball, TBA (Spring Trip), Orlando, FL	TBA
3/9/09	Softball at Spring Trip vs. TBA, TBA	TBA
3/9/09	Softball at Spring Trip vs. TBA, TBA	TBA
3/10/09	Men's Volleyball at Bard College *, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY	7:00 PM
3/10/09	Baseball, TBA (Spring Trip), Orlando, FL	TBA
3/10/09	Softball at Spring Trip vs. TBA, TBA	TBA
3/10/09	Softball at Spring Trip vs. TBA, TBA	TBA
3/11/09	Men's Volleyball, RAMAPO COLLEGE *, Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
3/11/09	Baseball, TBA (Spring Trip), Orlando, FL	TBA
3/11/09	Softball at Spring Trip vs. TBA, TBA	TBA
3/11/09	Softball at Spring Trip vs. TBA, TBA	TBA
3/12/09	Baseball, TBA (Spring Trip), Orlando, FL	TBA
3/12/09	Softball at Spring Trip vs. TBA, TBA	TBA
3/12/09	Softball at Spring Trip vs. TBA, TBA	TBA
3/13/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field, NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championship, Terre Haute, IN	All Day
3/13/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field, NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championship, Terre Haute, IN	All Day
3/13/09	Baseball, TBA (Spring Trip), Orlando, FL	TBA
3/13/09	Men's Volleyball, TBA at York College Tournament (2 matches), Jamaica, NY	TBA
3/14/09	Women's Bowling at Music City Classic (Host: Vanderbilt University), Nashville, TN	11:00 AM
3/14/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field, NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championship, Terre Haute, IN	All Day
3/14/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field, NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championship, Terre Haute, IN	All Day
3/14/09	Men's Volleyball, TBA at York College Tournament (2 matches), Jamaica, NY	TBA
3/15/09	Women's Bowling at Music City Classic (Host: Vanderbilt University), Nashville, TN	11:00 AM
3/15/09	Baseball, ALVERNIA COLLEGE (DH), Jersey City, NJ	12:00 PM
3/17/09	Baseball at Baruch College, TBA	3:30 PM
3/18/09	Baseball at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ	3:00 PM
3/19/09	Men's Volleyball, SUNY-NEW PALTZ *, Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
3/20/09	Softball BROOKLYN COLLEGE (DH), Jersey City, NJ	3:00 PM



By Joseph Steinberger

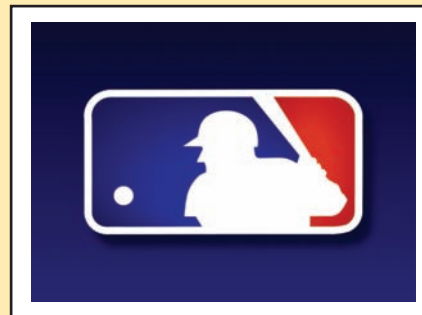
America's favorite pastime is also America's favorite guessing game. Who's in? Who's out? Dare I ask: Who's on first?

Here's a quick look at who could win their divisions this year in the American League:

**AL East:** Coming off a season when they traded Manny Ramirez, arguably the best hitter in baseball, the Red Sox were still only one game away from reaching their third world series in the last five years. With the addition of John Smoltz, Takashi Saito, and Brad Penny to an already stellar pitching staff, look for the Red Sox to have one of the best pitching lineups in the MLB. Couple that with the addition of Rocco Baldelli, and the Red Sox should have a potent offense as well. With a healthy David Ortiz and late-season acquisition Jason Bay getting used to baseball in Boston, the Red Sox are primed for a great season.

**AL Central:** Let's switch from Red to White—as in Sox. It's hard to pick against a team that ranked sixth in the MLB in runs scored and first in home

runs in addition to a solid top three starters and a former Cy Young Award Winning Pitcher in Bartolo Colon as the fifth starter. If Carlos Quentin can stay healthy this season, with close to the same production as last season, don't be surprised if the White Sox not only win the division but make a run in the playoffs. Even with all the offensive production the White Sox will enjoy, the key to their success is the pitching staff. Their staff is led by veteran Mark Buehrle, who is followed by youngsters John Danks, Gavin Floyd, and Clayton Richard. These four



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pitchers along with aforementioned Colon make for a loaded pitching staff that will contend for the AL lead in ERA.

**AL West:** And on the West Coast. The Angels are coming off the only 100-win season in the majors and aren't going to slow down anytime soon. Despite the losses of first baseman Mark Teixeira and record-setting closer Francisco Rodriguez, the Angels are still the best team in the AL West. Led by a pitching staff which includes Jered Weaver, John Lackey, Ervin Santana, and

newly acquired closer Brian Fuentes, the Angels are primed to run away with the division again this season, despite the acquisitions of Matt Holiday and Jason Giambi by the Oakland Athletics. While teams like the Rangers and the Mariners are still a few years away from serious contention.

**Wild Card:** The New York Yankees made history this off-season when they committed a record total of \$423 million to free agents Mark Teixeira, AJ Burnett, and CC Sabathia. While the additions of these three players will help, Sabathia is coming off a season where he threw a career high 253 innings, Burnett is injury prone, and Chien Ming Wang is coming back from a foot injury, which ended his 2008 season early. Also, the two starters at the back of the rotation are Phillip Hughes and Joba Chamberlain, both of whom have not yet proved they can be starting pitchers in the Major Leagues. That being said, the Yankees have so much offensive firepower that they will never be out of any game, regardless of the score. For this reason, the Yankees will find themselves in the playoffs as the wild card team. If their pitchers stay healthy and pitch well, the Yankees will be the team that no one will want to face come playoff time.

**Divisional Series:**

Angels over Yankees  
Red Sox over White Sox  
**League Championship Series:**

Red Sox over Angels