

# THE GOTHIC TIMES

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March 24, 2009

## Security Concerns Some at NJCU

By Kimberley Persaud

Some students are split down the middle as to just how safe the campus grounds are at New Jersey City University.

Some students feel that campus is safe, while others disagree. One major issue students have about NJCU security is that anyone can walk onto campus without being screened. This is thought to jeopardize the safety of students and staff alike.

Student Hezekiah Harris believes campus is unsafe. "There are way too many incidents of people getting mugged on campus. For example, my friend got mugged for his cell phone in the parking lot," said Harris, a senior and criminal justice major. He adds that NJCU should have its own police patrol.

According to NJCU Public Safety's disclosure of crime statistics on campus, in 2007, there were 42 reports of vandalism, 9 reports of harassment, and a total of 57 reports of larceny ranging from under \$50 to over \$200.

Would NJCU benefit by having its own police, thus preventing future problems? Perhaps. Nevertheless, though Bruce D. Harman, NJCU's Director of Public Safety, understands the logic behind a college having its own police, he said it is a very expensive prospect.

Harman also said the checking of school IDs would slow down the process of students traveling to and from the campus which can make it "cumbersome." He stated



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that there are very few schools that check IDs. However, he said that many of the security guards are "fairly good at recognizing students" and because most students have a steady schedule, many of the security guards remember faces. NJCU also has over 195 emergency phones located throughout campus that record the incoming calls, in case they are needed for future reference.

Harman said NJCU is a school that is conscious of security and will take every step in trying to

make campus life as safe as possible. In the last three years, more than 65 cameras have been installed throughout the campus and public safety is planning on adding more. The Gothic Alert emergency notification system and the PA system have made receiving important information a quick and effortless process for many students.

Danielle Church, a student at NJCU, said, "I think Gothic Alert is great. Just the other day I got a text saying school would be closed due to bad weather."

NJCU also plans on expanding surveillance cameras and card access throughout the campus as well as implementing turnstiles in the lobby of the library, to ensure that only NJCU students can enter. If a person is not from the school, then they will need to show ID.

"I definitely feel safe here because there are always students walking around, even at night," said Cinthia Diaz, psychology major from North Bergen. "It's also a diverse and friendly campus."

Harman's advice to students is to always think of their own personal safety. He said students should not become targets by flashing iPods, cell phones, or GPS systems. He also noted there are shuttle services available to students, and should be utilized by them. The Knight Rider takes students home within a 10-mile radius from the school, a safe alternative to walking home alone.

Harman welcomed students to speak with him should they have any inquiries or concerns. The Public Safety office is located in Vodra Hall, Room 116.

"Never suffer in silence," he said.

Every year, in accordance with the Student Right to Know Campus Security Act, Public Safety releases the previous year's crime statistics. The 2008 report can be found at [http://web.njcu.edu/sites/publicsafety/Uploads/clery\\_report\\_2008.pdf](http://web.njcu.edu/sites/publicsafety/Uploads/clery_report_2008.pdf). To learn more about campus security measures, visit <http://web.njcu.edu/sites/publicsafety/Content/default.asp> or call 201-200-3127/3128.

**The Gothic Times Wins Accolades!**

**See page 6**

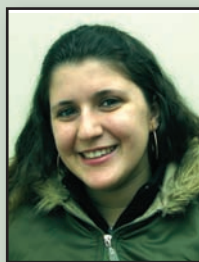
### WORD ON CAMPUS:

#### What's the best April Fool's Prank you've ever pulled/had pulled on you?



**Andray Tandacharry, 24, Senior, Chemistry/Biology, Jersey City**

*I've never played an April Fool's joke on anyone and I can't remember any people have played on me, so I guess there haven't been any good ones.*



**Kristy Casanovas, 22, Senior, Early Childhood Education/Sociology, Hillside**

*I took my friend's positive pregnancy test and showed it to my mom. I said "Guess what?" and she flipped out.*



**Juan Perez, 28, Senior, Psychology, Bayonne**

*When I was 14, I put peanut butter on toilet paper, threw it on my brother and told him it was poop.*



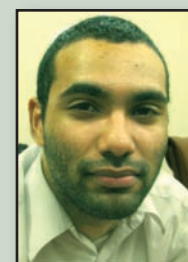
**Rohesia Hicks, 23, Senior, Psychology, Newark**

*My boyfriend at the time's sister said he was cheating on me. Some chick answered his phone and said she was sleeping in his bed. I went to his house and into his room with mace in my hand ready to pull back the covers, and it was his cousin. I had people waiting outside and people almost got hurt, so that's why I don't like April Fool's jokes.*



**Jennifer Mullan, MA, 30, Peers Educating Peers coordinator, Jersey City**

*When my little cousin was born the doctor came out and said "It's a girl!" Five minutes later he came out and said, "It's a boy!" We all thought it was unprofessional but then we laughed about it.*



**Glenn Bryant Jr., 20, Junior, Psychology, Newark**

*In high school my friends and I bought fart spray and sprayed it all over the air conditioners and heaters. We stunk up the building and cleared out the whole fourth floor.*

**Mike Preen, 37, Graduate Student, Jazz Performance, New Orleans**

*My girlfriend put a rubber band around the spray nozzle on the sink so it sprayed all over me when I turned it on.*

**Anonymous**

*When I was 16 I was very serious with my boyfriend but my family didn't like him. So I brought him to dinner and told them I was pregnant. I got reactions like people spitting out food and throwing dishes, and if I had known that would happen I wouldn't have done it.*

**Ramsey Norman, 20, Third year, Jazz Performance, Middletown**

*I put saran wrap on the toilet seat.*

Interviews & Photography by Jaclyn Foglio

# NEWS

## Stimulus brings hope to NJCU

By Komal Zafar

As the recession concerns disturb many Americans, The New Jersey City University (NJCU) community shows an optimistic view toward President Barack Obama's proposed stimulus package.

"I think the stimulus package is necessary because we have to stop the downward spiral of the economy to lift it back up," said John Maple, 52, a mathematics major from Jersey City. "It is to get more money to economy, to get more people buying American products, to rebuild highways, to invest in the buildings such as schools, and to encourage [people] to spend money."

According to www.CNN.com, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an \$819 billion stimulus plan by a vote of 244 to 188 on January 28, 2009. After much debate between the Senate and House of Representatives, a \$787 billion stimulus bill was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009.

"The current economic downturn represents a watershed moment for the Democratic Party," said Fran Moran, an Associate Professor from the Political

Science Department. "Obama's stimulus plan represents a bold move by the Democrats to try to remake the case to the American people that government can be a positive force in society."

"You don't know what works until you try it," said Aheenia Johnson, 32, an economics major from Jersey City. "Do you do nothing at all and let the country go into financial disaster, or do you try something and pray it works?"

According to the stimulus spending, Energy and Environment is the top priority, given a portion of almost \$100 billion. The Department of Energy was given \$74.70 billion; Dept. of the Interior \$9.34 billion; Atomic Energy Defense Activities \$6.57 billion; Corps of Engineers \$4.6 billion; Bureau of Reclamation \$1.4 billion; and other agencies \$1.76 billion.

"In terms of encouraging [a] green environment in the long run, we should spend money to improve the electrical grid as well as encourage more efficient use of energy," said Ivan Steinberg, an Associate Professor from the Economics Department. "I agree with that part of the stimulus package for long run."

The economic stimulus package



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Green energy sources and stemcell research are two areas the stimulus money can help open up jobs in New Jersey.

is offering the Education Department a sum of \$41.56 billion, with a large amount going to student loans—\$13.93 billion for student financial assistant and aid administration.

"I think education should be the top priority," said Roy Lora, 22, an undecided major from Union City. "We need Americans to be educated."

As proposed by President Obama, there will be tax cuts on income for Americans who are making less than \$200,000 a year.

The tax rebates are intended to encourage spending, which will revive the economy over time.

"I think Obama is headed in the right direction with the tax cuts," said Scott McKenzie, secretary of the English Department. "People are more prone to start spending."

In his first address to Congress on the night of February 24, 2009, President Obama vowed to rebuild, recover, and turn America into a strong nation.

"I'm hopeful that he'll be able to pull this country out of [reces-

sion]," said Dena Gountis, 39, an education major from Bayonne. "He has the potential to do it."

"The idea that government can be part of the solution rather than the problem has not had much favor or support," said Moran, "and a whole generation of Americans born and raised since the 1980s has never heard that argument made. The stimulus plan is a risk, but if successful, it could fundamentally reshape the political landscape."

### SPRING 2009 ACADEMIC SKILLS WORKSHOPS Give Your Study Skills a Refresher Course!



#### TIME MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, April 22  
from 2-3 p.m. OR from 6-7 p.m.  
Learn better management of time, quantitatively and qualitatively

#### STUDY SKILLS & NOTE TAKING

Tuesday, April 21  
from 2-3 p.m. OR from 6-7 p.m.  
Learn to increase your retention of what you read in your textbooks and hear in your class lectures. Learn to simply and effectively take notes in class

#### TEST TAKING

Monday, April 20  
from 1-2 p.m. OR from 5-6 p.m.  
Learn better test preparation and proven techniques for taking objective (multiple choice, true or false, matching) and essay tests

#### TEST ANXIETY

Thursday, April 23  
from 1-2 p.m. OR from 5-6 p.m.  
Learn easy, effective techniques for reducing anxiety and achieving better grades on your exams

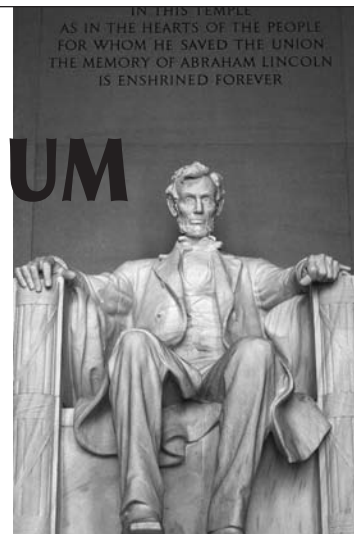
**No preregistration required!**

**All workshops take place in  
Gilligan Student Union 310**

**Presented by the NJCU Counseling Center**

### LINCOLN SYMPOSIUM SET FOR APRIL 14, 2009

### Who was Abraham Lincoln, anyway?



The New Jersey City University community will have a chance to find out on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, the anniversary of the day the President was assassinated, at the symposium "Lincoln: A Celebration of a Life." It will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Gilligan Student Union Building Multipurpose Room A.

The symposium, held to honor the 200th birthday of Lincoln, is open to students, faculty, and staff. It will feature talks by three professors, a reading of the Gettysburg Address by a student, and an introduction by former assistant Dean of the Arts and Science College Ann McGovern.

When asked why Lincoln is such an important figure, Dr. Bruce Chadwick, a Professor of English who has been at NJCU for 14 years and has authored 28 books, said that, "Over the years, more than any other President, he has reminded us of the need for equality in America and always represented the greatest hopes that we have had, and have today, as Americans."

At the symposium, Chadwick will discuss Lincoln's early political career in his talk, "The Rise of Abraham Lincoln: A Political Life." Dr. Jason Martinek of the History Department, who is currently working on a book about working-class literacy, will discuss the sixteenth President's personal make-up in his lecture, "Abraham Lincoln: The Self-Made Man." The afternoon will be completed with a talk by the Political Science Department's Dr. Francis Moran, the author of numerous articles in academic journals, "Of, By and For the People: Lincoln's Political Philosophy Today."

# ADVICE

## Food For Thought: Eating Disorders Awareness

*Editor's note: Due to an editing error, this column—which ran in the Feb. 17 issue—contained several sentences that were inserted erroneously. The Gothic Times regrets the error. Here is the reprint of the article in its original and intended version.*

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

Each year millions of people 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.



Photo by Komal Zafar  
Center staff in GSUB 308, or by calling 201-200-3165.

*If you have concerns about your eating patterns or those of someone you love, be sure to stop by and make an appointment to speak with Counseling*

# Pack up and GO!

## Some travel tips in these frugal times

By **Vanessa Velez**

Picture this: You are a senior at New Jersey City University. You have just graduated college and this question is flowing through your mind like a raging river, "What do I do now?" Should you apply for graduate school? Should you look for that dream job and cement yourself in a career? Should you tell that special someone that you love them and settle down like sediment at the bottom of a stagnant pond? What should you do? Here is a solution for you: GET OUT OF TOWN!

Pack up your backpack. Take what little money you have and take off by train tracks, bus trails or by the skies. Commit yourself to country roads for a moment and come back with an inspiring and exciting chapter to add to the story of your life. "Carpe Diem!" Seize the day! You are young and even if you aren't, it is not too late to dodge a life of routine for one of adventure. As Mark Twain said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness."

You may be thinking, "How can I manage to afford travel in this failing economy?" According to articles in the L.A. Times and MSNBC.COM, traveling in 2009 should be cheaper than ever. Since everyone is afraid of losing their money, no one is going anywhere. In an article on MSNBC.COM entitled "Top 10 Reason to Travel- Now," Ed Hewitt said, "Airports and (some) planes are empty, hotels are vacant, attractions are uncrowded and tourist boom towns seem like ghost towns. Now is the time to have your next destination all to yourself."

There are ways to travel cheaply if you are willing to take the time to do the research to find them. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Bad times have a scientific value. These are



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occasions a good learner would not miss." Here are some ways you can travel cheaply:

1. **Buddy Passes** – Make friends with a person who works for an airline. Airline employees are awarded buddy passes. Their base value is \$50 per pass and you fly standby within the continental United States.

2. **Bus Tours!** – Did you ever hear about adventure travel? Check out Green Tortoise (Greentortoise.com). Green Tortoise bus tours offer a variety of different travel packages at different prices within North and South America. Food is provided. You camp and shower in national parks and they take you on tours through all kinds of landmarks, natural reserves and free museums.

3. **AMTRAK** – Trains do still exist and traveling by train can be a great way to see the country and get away for the week at an affordable price.

A vacation can be a time of learning and self-discovery and right after college is the best time to go on the treasure hunt and find out who you are. Your work is done for now. There are no deadlines to meet or professors that need to be pleased. Don't be afraid of losing money. Currency will often drag us down in its undertow if we allow it. You have your entire life to make more. Work to live your life. Don't live to work.

As Dr. Seuss said, "The time has come. The time is now. Just go. GO! I don't care how!"

# Spring into Shape

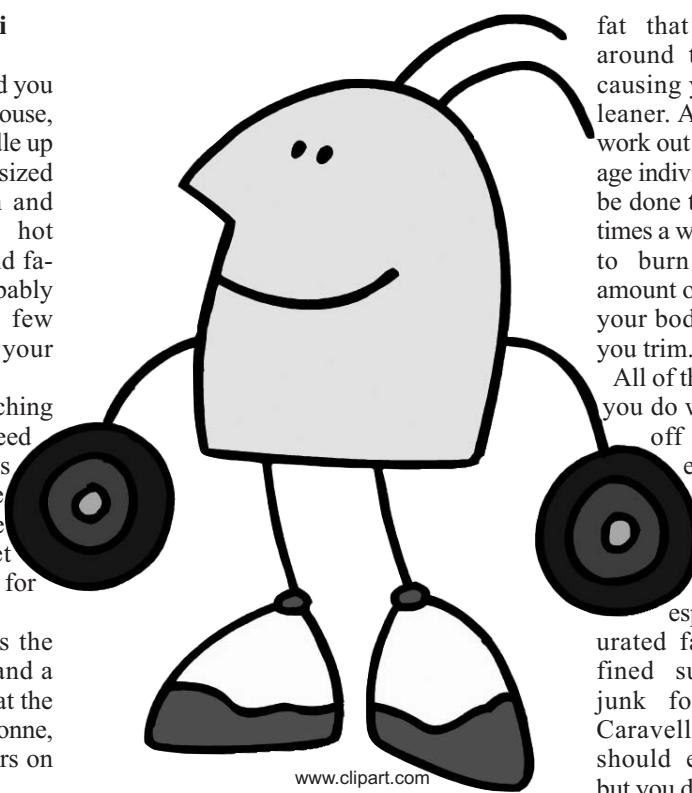
By **Katie Raccioppi**

It's a frosty cold night and you do not want to leave your house, so you stay inside and cuddle up on the couch with an over-sized bowl of buttery popcorn and some rich, home-made hot chocolate. Does this sound familiar? If so, then you probably know how those extra few pounds ended up around your waistline.

Spring is quickly approaching and most people feel the need to shed those extra pounds they packed on during the winter months. So here are a few tips on how to get back in shape just in time for the warm months.

Jaime Caravella, who is the Group Fitness Manager and a Certified Personal trainer at the Forum Fitness Club in Bayonne, gives a few helpful pointers on weight loss.

"If you are a first timer then cardio is a nice and easy way to kick start your weight loss," said Caravella. Since walking is a natural movement, it is easy for a first time "gym goer" to start a work out routine. You should do at least twenty minutes of cardio a day. Most gyms in the area have Group Fitness Classes, such as kick boxing and step aerobics, which are great ways to



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change up your everyday cardio routine.

"Weight training is the supreme way to burn fat and get into shape," said Caravella. One of the biggest myths that women believe is that they will gain size by weight training, but weight training is the key to a toned body. Doing various weight training techniques will burn the

fat that is stored around the muscle causing you to look leaner. A total body work out for an average individual should be done two to three times a week in order to burn the right amount of fat to tone your body and keep you trim.

All of the workouts you do will not pay off unless you eat right.

"Stay away from anything high in fat, especially saturated fats and refined sugars (aka junk food)," said Caravella. You should eat healthy but you don't have to eat salads for every meal of the day. Make sure you eat in moderation. Balanced meals are the key to healthy eating. According to the American Dietetic Association (ADA) it is important that you eat lean protein such as grilled chicken or grilled salmon, along with a large amount of fruits and vegetables each day. If you are going to eat carbohydrates make sure they

are whole grain.

The most important tip to help you with your weight loss is water. The ADA says that men should drink at least 13 cups of water each day and women 9 cups. Water helps to flush the toxins out of your body and also keeps your skin healthy and looking good. A good idea is to keep a water bottle with you during classes, so you are not tempted to buy a soda or sugary drink when at school.

Most students these days are running from class to work so it's easy to grab something quick, such as a slice of pizza for lunch or dinner. There are healthy "on the go" snacks that are also quite satisfying. Most restaurants have nutrition facts right on the menus, so it's easy to choose something low in calories and fat. Another smart tip is to have fruits around your house or dorm so you can just grab an apple for an "on the go" snack.

Whether you want to lose the five pounds you gained during the winter or maintain the weight you are already at, eating right and working out are the keys to a healthy weight loss. If you follow these simple tips then you will be sure to get a jump-start on shedding away the extra pounds to ensure a hot bathing suit body!

# OPINION

## Ledbetter is Better, But Not Equal

By John Roth

Women are our mothers, wives, and sisters. They are the people in our lives who care for us and, in most cases, show us more love than anyone else we may ever meet. Why then is it acceptable for a majority of women in our country to be treated as second-class citizens? The inequality of disproportionate wage compensation that women have been forced to endure is an evil this nation has tolerated entirely too long.

It is important to note that some Presidents have tried to address this issue. President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act of 1963, making it illegal for employers to pay disproportionate wages to men and women who do basically the same work.

The Family and Medical Leave Act, signed into law by President Bill Clinton early in his first term, was designed to address the concerns of families and, more specifically, women, who have been forced to leave their jobs for an extended period of time due to a medical crisis.

However, many women, as well as low-income laborers in general, have been overlooked due to the concessions given to the small-business community. Equal pay laws have helped to constrict the wage gap, but noteworthy discrepancies still require much needed attention.

The 2007 Supreme Court ruling in *Ledbetter vs. Goodyear Tire Company* was a setback for the equality of women in the work place. The ruling effectively eliminated an individual's ability to claim any grievance against his or her employer after an allotted period of time. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Goodyear, 5-4, explaining that employers are protected from lawsuits over race or gender pay discrimination if



President Obama signs the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (January 29, 2009) while Lilly Ledbetter (standing to the right) looks on with approval.

www.WhiteHouse.gov

the claims are based on decisions made by the employer 180 days or more prior to the plaintiff's complaint. In response to the Supreme Court's decision many proponents of fair pay reform, including President Barack Obama and the First Lady, pressed for the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

This past January, President Obama signed the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law. The President's signing of the legislation was a step in the right direction, giving workers the ability to file a grievance without the immediate threat

strengthen and reaffirm past laws if enacted.

On January 9, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) submitted the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA) for the second time and the House of Representatives again voted in favor of the legislation.

Delauro's first submission of the bill made it through the House last November, but apparently went no further. Former New York Senator Hillary Clinton simultaneously introduced the PFA to the Senate. The resolution's objective is to fortify contemporary laws

TalkingPointsMemo.com (TPM), cites the Democratic Senator from Maryland, Barbara Mikulski, asserting "the Senate could take action on the PFA as soon as spring." (Mikulski has taken over as the Senate's primary supporter of the PFA due to Clinton's new position as Secretary of State.)

Ann M. O'Leary of sfgate.com said in her Feb. 4 editorial, "It's a familiar fact that women working full time earn 78 cents for every \$1 earned by men. But this wage differential looks very different for women with and with-

male counterpart. And a single mother working full time earns 58 cents on every \$1 earned by a married man with children." It is absolutely outrageous that single mothers working hard to support their families are forced to endure the hardship of such inequality.

The old standard line of garbage that gave rationale to a man's need for a higher salary to support his family no longer applies. Women, throughout history, have been charged with the responsibility of supporting their families. Unfortunately it has become quite obvious that due to the present financial crises and the loss of millions of jobs by mostly male workers across the nation, many married women have been forced to take on the sole responsibility of supporting their nuclear and extended families.

Washington lobbyists who oppose the Fair Pay Act have time and again exposed their ugly heads attempting to bring the legislative process to a grinding halt. Apparently the United States Chamber of Commerce supports the misguided viewpoint of those lobbyists on K Street. The explanation posited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce with regard to pay inequality based on gender, that includes a women's predisposition to rear children, is unsubstantiated.

Do the same standards apply to men that have been thrust into the hardships of single parenthood? I don't think so!

The Ledbetter Act was a good start, but there is no doubt that the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act is required. Legislation ensuring equal compensation for the labor of all legal workers within the United States is no joke and must take priority. One can only hope that the Senate will get it done sooner than later, for all women deserve their just dues when it comes to employment compensation.

*The inequality of disproportionate wage compensation that women have been forced to endure is an evil this nation has tolerated entirely too long.*

of limitations being placed on a proposed suit. However, more must be done to combat the deficiencies of past legislation that has fallen short of desired expectations. Current legislation slated for future debate will help to

forbidding compensation inequality and require the federal government to be more hands-on in thwarting wage discrimination.

No action has been taken in the Senate as of yet, but an article written by Elana Schor for

out children. Single women with no children working full time make 96 cents for every \$1 earned by a similarly situated man. A married woman with children working full time earns only 69 cents for every \$1 earned by her

## Disaster Across the Border

By Patrick Jarkowsky

In the first two months of 2009, more than 1,000 Mexicans were killed due to drug-related violence. If this cycle of violence continues, Mexico may match or even surpass the 6,290 drug-related murders from 2008.

The violence in Ciudad Juarez, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and many other Mexican cities is starting to spread to the United States. Phoenix, Ariz., has been dubbed the kidnap capital of the U.S., averaging one violent kidnapping per day in 2009. The drug cartels of Ciudad Juarez have expressed no hesitation when it comes to pursuing their enemies across the border into El Paso, Texas. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Mexican drug traffickers have a presence in at least 250 American cities, and, in the Department's own words, "constitute the largest threat to the U.S." in terms of crime and illegal narcotics distribution.

The spread of drug-related violence into the U.S. is extremely important. This threat also allows us to once again examine the issue of illegal immigration.

It is estimated that 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants live and work in the United States. While I'm not in favor of deporting these individuals, I am in favor of finding a way to limit further illegal immigration into the U.S.

First, we must fortify the border. By fortify, I do not mean that we should build a chain link fence with barbed wire running across the top. We need to build barracks along the border, lookout towers, detention centers, and yes, a security fence. We need to recruit law enforcement, military, and intelligence officials from across the U.S and station them at the border.

This project would create hundreds of jobs in construction and maintenance alone, giving a much-needed boost to our economy. The recruitment of law enforcement officials would create law enforcement vacancies in many states. New law enforcement recruits could easily fill these vacancies. Again, this would mean more jobs for more Americans.

Second, we must extend a welcome to the illegal immigrants already living in the U.S. We must

institute the "Z" visa, a new class of visa created under the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007 (CIRA). This Z visa would allow its holder the legal right to remain in the United States for the rest of his or her life. It would also allow its holder to have a Social Security number. After eight years, the holder of a Z visa would be eligible for a United States Permanent Resident Card or "green card."

As a result of entering the U.S. illegally, these individuals would be placed "on parole" for a five year period. During their parole period, they must learn English, provide proof of employment, submit bank records, and forfeit a portion of their tax return. All of these requirements would help to ensure that these individuals were acclimatizing themselves to American society and conducting themselves in a lawful manner. The withholding of a portion of their tax return would satisfy those individuals who believe that these new Americans should pay a fine for having been given legal status. Unlike a one-time, substantial fine, the burden would be spread out over a five-year period.



www.time.com

Mexican authorities survey one of the many drug-related crime scenes.

Third, we must strengthen our bond with the government of Mexico, increasing aid for infrastructure, law enforcement, and education. The U.S. must also lead a worldwide private investment initiative that would, over time, create economic opportunities within Mexico. It stands to reason that a great number of illegal immigrants flee to the U.S. in search of jobs. If there are employment opportunities in Mexico, it is reasonable to assume that many individuals would not accept the dangers associated with escaping to the U.S.

Due to the high levels of corruption within the Mexican government, this increased aid would be

submitted on a conditional basis. The Mexican government would submit to an aid assessment authorization every nine months. Congressional leaders, members of the Departments of State, Justice, Education, Labor, and Commerce, as well as members of the F.B.I. and the D.E.A., would conduct this authorization.

Surprisingly, the American press has not been focusing on the violence in Mexico. Over the course of one year, the immigration debate has all but vanished from the airwaves. Although President Obama is preoccupied with the economy, he must also find a way to squeeze immigration reform into his first 100 days.

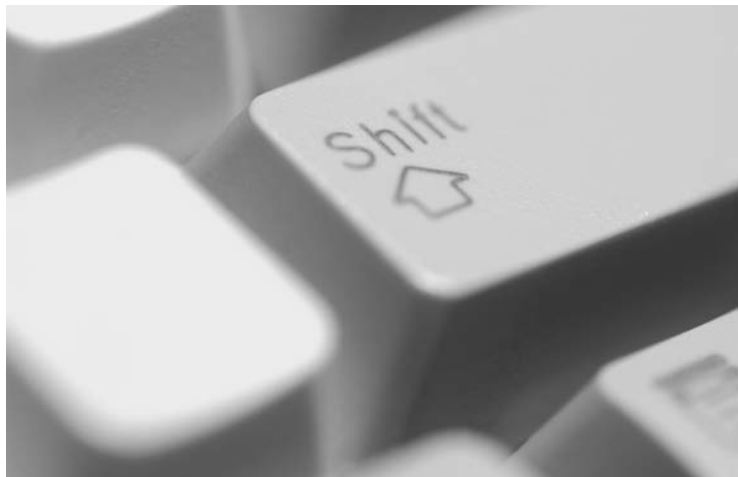
# EDITORIAL

## Journalism Lives On

Print newspapers may be nearing their end, but journalism certainly is not. In the last decade or so, the shift from print newspapers to online and interactive television news has exploded. Newspapers big and small have suffered at the hands of lost revenue, smaller circulations, the conservation movement, and technological advances.

This shift has never been more evident than it is now. On February 26, *The New York Times* and every other major newspaper in the country reported on the closing of the *Rocky Mountain News*, Colorado's first and, at almost 150, oldest newspaper. In his March 23 address to readers, *TIME* magazine's Managing Editor, Richard Stengel, acknowledged to his audience that his publication was "determined to help [them] understand the economic crisis we're all living through. It affects us too, but our job is to explain how it's affecting [readers]." Little more than a month before, *TIME*'s front page article was a piece by Walter Isaacson titled "How to Save Your NEWSPAPER: A Modest Proposal." The magazine cover showed a dead fish wrapped in—what else?—a *Times* newspaper. It is scary to think that whoever is reading this editorial may one day witness the end of such prestigious world and local periodicals in their lifetime.

Despite this notion, all may not be lost. In a November 2008 *Times* column by Maureen Dowd, she discusses James Macpherson, the founder of *Pasadena Now*, a news website, who believes "it would be 'irresponsible' for newspapers not to explore offshoring options." In Isaacson's piece, his modest proposal is a reversion to an old practice: payment for news articles and



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their multimedia journalism, both print and online. In a March 13 opinion piece on ABC News online, technology writer Michael Malone says, "Forget computers. Newspapers have already lost that battle. [...] My gut tells me that the future of news delivery is to e-Books [...] and, even more, Smart Phones."

In various combinations of internet news, blogs, and television,

"24"; the news website even features a "24"-based shooting game. And as blogs and endlessly personalized news sources grow as ubiquitous as the Blackberry phones on which they are read, the public is fooled into thinking it is getting its needed amount of daily news. These points are undoubtedly founded and agreed upon.

However, this is all the beginning of a good thing. It is important to

*"The more eyes the public has on events of the economy, politics, war, science, etc., the better a chance it has of knowing the truth, and of passing it on to others."*

such changes have already begun taking shape, many feel for the worse. While thousands of people in cyberspace report their own news and seemingly legitimate news organizations such as CNN spend airtime talking about President Barack Obama's hair color, it is only getting more difficult to learn about real news. FOX 5 News has gone so far as to devote portions of its broadcast to FOX shows such "American Idol" and

have faith in journalism. Every previous advance was shaky in its early stages until it was improved and eventually became indispensable. Interactive multimedia journalism has to go through the same process—and it will, successfully. The difference between the past singular advances of radios, televisions, and the internet and those of the present is that now it is easier than ever for the public to have its say. As a result of the skyrocket-

ing number of independent news blogs, unaccountability and bias may decrease. The more eyes the public has on events of the economy, politics, war, science, etc., the better a chance it has of knowing the truth, and of passing it on to others.

In the coming weeks, give these changes a chance. In the months ahead, when print newspapers may no longer be feasible options, you

should be able to say that you trust other journalistic sources because you are involved with them. And in a year or two, when even more shifts arise, be assured that journalism will be there for the people.

Journalism and the human obsession for questions and answers will never die, for as soon as they do, democracy and everything we associate with it will be history.

### 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
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#### Policies of *The Gothic Times*

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

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

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

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## THE TOWER YEARBOOK...

### Starring YOU!

The Tower Yearbook Staff would like to have all NJCU organizations and clubs accounted for in the 2009 yearbook.

Please send us photos with descriptions and/or schedule a photo shoot with a yearbook photographer. You can also send favorite Facebook or MySpace photos that you would like to see featured in the 2009 Tower Yearbook.

Email all inquiries, with the subject line "yearbook '09," to dgibson3@njcu.edu.

ALL submissions are due by Tuesday, March 31st.

### Academic Career Planning and Placement Center

## EDUCATION CAREER FAIR

Thursday, April 2, 2009

3:30pm - 6:00pm

Gilligan Student Union Building, 2nd Floor

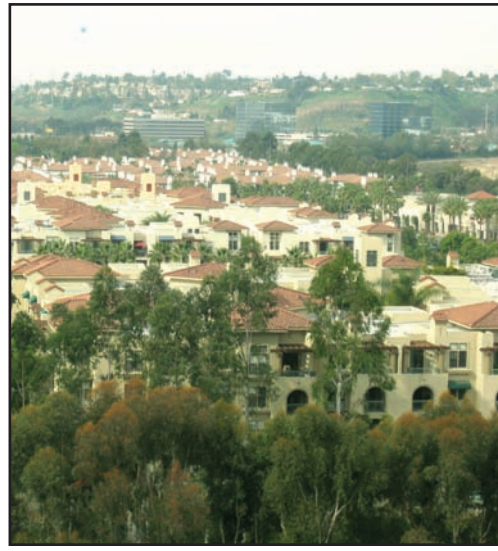
Meet with in-state and out-of-state educational recruiters from both public and private schools.

Bring plenty of updated resumes and copies of credentials. Proper attire is required.

Students or employers requiring additional information should contact Ms. Shirley Williams by calling (201) 200-3571 or emailing Swilliams3@njcu.edu.

(All Education majors are invited to attend. Alternate route candidates are also welcome.)

# PHOTOGRAPHY



**O**n Feb. 26, 2009, *Gothic Times* Editors Erica Marie Molina, Marlen Gonzalez, Christie Avila, Vanessa Cubillo, Willa Goldthwaite, and Christina Johnson joined about 885 other students at the 25th Annual Associated Collegiate Press National College Journalism Convention in San Diego, Calif., and went on to win 6th place in the Best of Show's Four-year Non-weekly category.



Photos courtesy of Christie Avila, Vanessa Cubillo, Willa Goldthwaite, and Erica Marie Molina.



## ARTS

## WAR IS A MAP OF WOUNDS:

*The Art of Howardena Pindell and Theodore A. Harris*

By Rossana Villaflor and  
Mia Ray

For centuries, wars and genocides have played a pivotal role in the evolution of the earth, the forming and destruction of nations, and the states of its inhabitants. The exhibit entitled "War is a Map of Wounds: The Art of Howardena Pindell and Theodore A. Harris," recently shown at the Visual Arts Gallery last month, provided a thought-provoking and explicit visual representation of the artists' personal views on global corruption, racism, exploitation, and political extortion.

As artists and activists, Pindell and Harris use their work and voices as didactic mediums to inform viewers on crucial parts of American history. These concepts are often left out or misrepresented in the written history commonly taught in educational institutions and museums due to the political powers at work.

At the show's opening reception on February 5, a talk with the artists was held in the Visual Arts Building auditorium and facilitated by Dr. Dennis Raverty, a New Jersey City University art history professor. During the discussion, Pindell spoke about her personal and traumatic encounters while growing up as a child during World War II in Philadelphia, when food was rationed and there was constant fear and anxiety from bomb-threats. It was also when segregation laws were strongly enforced.

"At that time I was one of the few colored people, if not the only one, in my school and we weren't allowed to use the same facilities as the whites," recalled



Installation of triptych collage by Theodore A. Harris.

Photo by Rossana Villaflor

Pindell, "so my kindergarten teacher tied me to a bed so I couldn't use the bathroom."

To Pindell, it was her experiences that led her to be more aware of the issues that plagued the country. She is strongly suspicious of the American government and churches, and urges people to do their research and educate themselves. Although some may describe her artworks as a radical critique of the U.S. government, to Pindell, her statements and works are depictions of what is natural, personal, and true to her.

Similarly, Harris believes that

fundamental problem with the United States lies in the conflict between economic classes. He feels that art can also be used as a weapon. At the opening, he signed his recently published book called "Our Flesh of Flames" with collages by Harris, captions by Amiri Baraka, an introduction by M.K. Asante, Jr., and an afterword by Gene Ray.

Harris echoes in his works the words of poet and social activist Amiri Baraka: "It is a new world we want, not an endowed chair in the concentration camp... Art must be our magic weapon to create and re-create the world and ourselves as a part of it..."

Pindell is known for her explorative artistic style and mixed-media techniques while Harris is known for his experimental and graphic collages. They integrate images from the media in their works criticizing the hypocritical influences of the United States government. They are also both avid critics of George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and the current war and American occupation in Iraq since 2003.

Pindell's showcased works included her installations entitled "Coup," composed in 2000-2006 with acrylic, fabrication skeleton and yarn, and her compilation of

"video drawings" from her "War Series."

"War Series" was created in 1988 through 1991 when George H.W. Bush was president. The images were taken directly from the television, and framed. The images contain various text, letters or arrows on them. The piece entitled "Video Drawing: War Series 'L' Word" from 1988, depicts photographic image of former Vice-President Dan Quayle, showing a contentious facial expression that suggests he was in a debate. In the center of his face is the text which reads "Liar," and little black arrow marks pointing all over his face. Other images in Pindell's series also include dead bodies of protestors lying on the ground in South Africa and the horrendous effects of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

"Coup" consists of a life-sized skeleton, painted black and hanging inside a black body bag made of yarn, hand-crocheted by Pindell.

"The skeleton is a representation of death itself," said Pindell.

Left of the skeleton is a large-oddly shaped black circle. The center of the circle is a picture of George W. Bush. The canvas circle is covered with words and phrases of catastrophic events and

tragedies such as Katrina, torture, Abu Gharib, etc., signifying Pindell's statements of wrongdoing by the Bush administration. Between these two parts of the installation is an equal sign.

Harris exhibited collages included one entitled "End This War (after Shirley Chisholm)," and large-scale reproductions of other original collages. "End This War," is a triptych collage of collected images that has been splattered with deep red-colored paint that resembles bleeding wounds. Parts of the collage's surface appear to have been damaged by violent gunfire or flames.

Harris juxtaposes scenes of police brutality during the civil rights era, military recruitment images, incomplete images of soldiers and helicopters. Images addressing former President George W. Bush are central to the center panel. Harris's collages not only show the horrors of war, but also leave an open-ended question for the viewers to inspect the causes as well as the costs of war.

Prior to the artist talk was a performance art piece by contemporary artist Rafael M. Sanchez. Sanchez's work expressed intense feelings of oppression and agony. His demeanor began with a calm and trance-like introduction upon entering the gallery floor. Once reaching the space where he laid out his large blank white sheet of paper, he lowered his body to the ground. As the music changed from a somber tone to orchestrated war-like sounds, and he began moving in a slow-motioned unyielding and restricted manner, periodically spitting out red ink on the surface of the paper. In the end, Sanchez sprinkled a yellow-ochre paint all over the paper. During the brief question and answer segment that followed his performance, Sanchez explained how his works correlated to the concepts depicted in Harris's and Pindell's works.

For some, this exhibition proved to be inspiring. To others, it was purely offensive. Most importantly, regardless of its controversial nature, it was thought-provoking.

For more information or to contact the artists, please contact Dr. Midori Yoshimoto, NJCU Director of campus galleries, at 201-200-3246.

For current exhibitions, visit [www.njcu.edu/dept/art/galleries](http://www.njcu.edu/dept/art/galleries)



Photo by Rossana Villaflor

Artist Rafael M. Sanchez during performance piece.

## Arts Calendar

## New Jersey City University

March 16 - April 15, 2009

## LANDMARKS

Ali Prosch & the GisMo Collective  
(Jessica Gispert & Crystal Molinary)  
Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery  
Opening Reception: March 16, 5 - 8 p.m.  
Artists' Talk at 6 p.m. Curated by Jillian Hernandez

## Jersey City Museum

April 22, 2009 @ 1pm

## GET YOUR ART ON:

CONVERSATIONS  
IN CONTEMPORARY ART  
Rashawn Griffin and Willie Cole  
Visit [www.jerseycitymuseum.org](http://www.jerseycitymuseum.org) for more information.

## Pro Arts

3/20/09 - 4/10/09

RELIEF PRINTING:  
CONTRASTING SURFACES

Arts Guild of Rahway  
Gallery Hours: Friday, Saturday &  
Sunday 1:00-4:00 PM

4/21/09 - 5/31/09

## WOMEN FORWARD

Williamsburg Art & Historical  
Center  
Reception: Saturday  
April 25, 2009 4-6pm

## Open Calls

The NEW ART GROUP will be curating a series of competitions at the Watchung Arts Center in Watchung, New Jersey during 2009 - 2010.

Contact Info Jim Fuess : (908) 322-5940  
: [jimfuess@comcast.net](mailto:jimfuess@comcast.net)

[www.newartgroup.com/exhibition-opportunities.htm](http://www.newartgroup.com/exhibition-opportunities.htm)

Tectonic curated by Evonne M. Davis

at the Rahway Arts Guild

Accepting submissions until 6/16/09.

Contact Info Evonne M. Davis

[tectonic.exhibit@gmail.com](mailto:tectonic.exhibit@gmail.com)

[www.afferro.org](http://www.afferro.org)

# ARTS



Photo Credit: Gino Tan Navarro

Installation of first Senior BFA shows of Spring 2009 in NJCU's Visual Arts Building Gallery

## BFA Senior Exhibitions at The Visual Arts Gallery

(100 Culver Avenue)

Opening receptions every Monday from 4:30pm - 7:00pm unless otherwise specified

*March 16 - 20*  
**Gino T. Navarro and Paulina A. Raso**

*April 13 - 17*  
**Felix Metius and Kelly Cuenca**

*March 23 - 27*  
**Patricia Benitez and Evita I. Mendez-Fritze**

*April 20 - 24*  
**Rossana Villafior, Lizette Louis and Luba Farbey**

*March 30 - April 3*  
**Allana M. Clarke and Nathaniel E. Sharkey**

*April 27 - May 1*  
**Willa Goldthwaite and Enver Vucetaj**

*April 6 - 10*  
**Kimberly Wilson and Polina Zaitseva**

*May 4 - 8*  
**Maryoris Martinez and Erica Rivera**

*May 11 - 15*  
**Wansze Lee and Claudia Ross**

## BLACK MARIA FESTIVAL



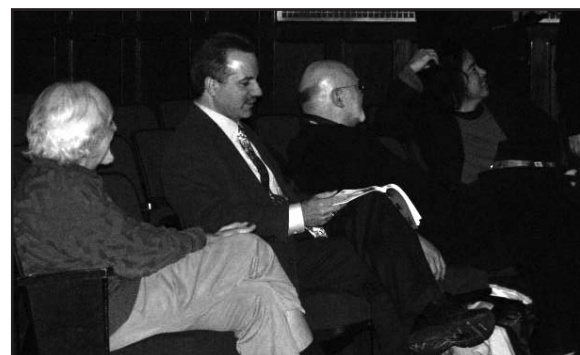
Photo Credit: Amy Felton-Toth

The 28th Annual Black Maria Film Festival premiere at NJCU's Margaret Williams Theatre



Photo Credit: Amy Felton-Toth  
**Daniel Morte, NJCU MAD Alum (left); Kerrie Young, Operations Associate / Host Tour Coordinator (center); Allison Thornton, Assistant Director-Technology in the office of Publications and Special Programs of NJCU (right)**

Photo Credit: Amy Felton-Toth  
**John Grew, PhD, Acting Dean Arts & Sciences (center) with Hap Bojsza and Roddy Bogawa in the audience at the premiere screening.**



## NuJericain Style

By Julie Boland

The Jersey City Museum's Project Gallery was infused with the style of collage artist Rodriguez Calero from mid-September through the end of last month. A native to New Jersey, Calero, more commonly known as RoCa, presented Jersey Style. This body of her signature works was derived from her cultural upbringing.

Inspired by her roots, the artist stated that she is "a self-described NuJericain (Puerto Rican born in New Jersey)..." Her style of collage gained impetus from this background. RoCa draws from a plethora of images stemming from hip-hop and urban living to build her compositions.

Utilizing a skewed perspective in her technique of collage, the results are contemporary urban portraits composed in the Cubist tradition. RoCa's figures depict various characters of diverse ethnicities with exaggerated characteristics, often with un-proportioned limbs and facial features. The embellished features on each figure suggest stereotypical constructs of urban dwellers as featured in media today. The distorted fig-

ures RoCa builds in her work are derived from contemporary magazines. In each piece, she is able to present visual forms that call upon sentiments of urban living, successfully presenting a striking viewpoint of the human figure.

In her compositions, RoCa deconstructs and then reconstructs flat, two-dimensional images to form full-bodied intricate figures. She is able to put forth a challenging, almost alarming representation of another plane. This visual expression suggests ideas about social and cultural preconceptions. RoCa's interpretations of her own cultural experience through a public eye lead to the fragmented forms.

Although this is the first time for many of these works to be shown publicly, fragments of each figure have previously reached the eyes of thousands as part of commercially distributed magazines. The artist's vision creates a relationship between the disfigured inhabitants of the collage and the intangible sensibility of a public image.

If you missed the opportunity to see RoCa's work at the Jersey City Museum, visit [www.rodriguezcalero.com](http://www.rodriguezcalero.com) for more images, info, and upcoming exhibitions.



Photo by Gino Tan Navarro

Installation of first Senior BFA shows of Spring 2009 in NJCU's Visual Arts Building Gallery



# ENTERTAINMENT

## New York Comic Con: Celebrating Comics, TV, and More

By Patricia Ann Beninati

Since crime has been reportedly down in NYC, most of the superheroes had time to appear at the New York Comic Con. The comic mania took place from February 6 to 9, 2009, and was held at the Jacob K. Javits Center in Midtown Manhattan. New York Comic Con (NYCC) is the East Coast's biggest and most exciting popular culture convention.

The NYCC was a chance of a lifetime to get up close to your favorite superhero. Thousands of fans flocked to the show and flowed seamlessly into the event over that weekend. According to event organizers, attendance was even higher than last year.

This NYCC was well worth going through huge crowds, long lines, pushing, shoving, and queuing up for lengthy waits for the bathrooms. Enthusiasts wore crazy costumes decorating the hall with characters from the *Dark Knight*, *Star Wars*, and many more.

The show exhibits and panels were power-packed with loads of frantic fans, actors, illustrators, writers, designers, authors, characters, producers, directors, TV, and film executives. Most seemed to really enjoy all of the attention.

The guest panels gave fans an opportunity to interact with their much-loved creators and characters. Another great feature of the NYCC was the many jam packed screening rooms with sneak peeks at films and television shows before they hit the market like:



Photo by Anrei Degenhardt

*Watchmen*, *Terminator Salvation*, *Dollhouse* and much more.

Screened footage of the first episode of the new Fox TV series, *Dollhouse* was shown and the creator, Joss Whedon, who is also known for his hit TV series, *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* and *Firefly*, appeared on the panel with star, Eliza Dushku.

*Fringe*'s producer, Jeff Pinknee, had all of his cast members fielding questions and showed a portion of the upcoming dark paranormal episode.

BBC's award-winning sci-fi series, *Torchwood*, gave an exclusive sneak preview of the highly anticipated third series



Photo by Anrei Degenhardt



Photo by Vanessa Cubillo



Photo by Anrei Degenhardt

*Torchwood: Children of Earth*. The Welsh actress, Eve Myles who plays Gwen Cooper, and the director, Euros Lyn, were more than pleased to field wacky questions from the fans.

*Chuck*'s creator, Josh Schwartz, let the frantic folks get a sneak peek and an idea of what's coming up on some episodes, including *Enterprise*'s Scott Bakula guest starring as Chuck's father.

The New York Television Festival (NYTF) also held a panel on "How to Make a TV Pilot," which had several directors who won the latest contest. The panel moved swiftly, was highly educationally and gave the industry inside information to help new directors make a TV pilot inexpensively. NYTF screened a few minutes of each of the winners' films.

High fueled legendary guests of honor included: Michael Uslan,

executive producer of *The Dark Knight*, Geoff Johns, writer of comics like *Superman* and *Green Lantern* and superstar Jim Lee, know for his imaginative titles including *Batman*.

There were legendary stars appearing at the booths that had maniac fans queued up waiting to get a precious moment with their beloved superheroes, like the legendary sixth Doctor Who, Colin Baker. Baker is an English actor who is famous for playing the sixth incarnation of the Doctor in the long-running science fiction cult television series *Doctor Who* from 1984 to 1986.

Colin Baker was in rare form at his first ever Comic Con.

"It's entirely a new experience for me because most conventions I go to are all Science Fiction TV, so I'm here because most people who are interested in sci-fi are interested in comics," said Baker.

He mentioned that he was having a great time meeting all of the fans at NYCC.

"It's nice being in an environment where they like you," said Baker.

Overall, this year's NYCC was a pleasure to attend, and simply left me in a sheer state of wonderment. The show had enough characters to make a Hollywood movie. It was worthy of a big thumbs up leaving me salivating for the next Comic Con scheduled at the San Diego Convention Center in July.

If you missed this year's Comic Con, you can go see a Webcast of any of the panels or for more information on the 40th Comic Con in San Diego or New York go to: [www.nycomiccon.com/](http://www.nycomiccon.com/) or [www.comic-con.org/cc/](http://www.comic-con.org/cc/) or San Francisco's

WonderCon: [www.comic-con.org/wc/](http://www.comic-con.org/wc/)

## ENTERTAINMENT

# WATCHMEN:

## Less Action, More Thinking

By Gustavo Lazo

Director Zack Snyder's *Watchmen* is not a superhero movie and it is my fear that the masses will interpret it to be otherwise. The film adaptation of the comic book series by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons has the right amount of stunning, stirring visual effects and well-choreographed action scenes to keep the audience entertained enough to keep their eyes glued to the screen. Unfortunately, there is very little more to the film, and its characters leave no real lasting impression. Its dialogue, much of it taken directly from the comic, has such an artificial tone of delivery that it's as if the stars of *Watchmen* completely misunderstood what exactly they were taking part in.

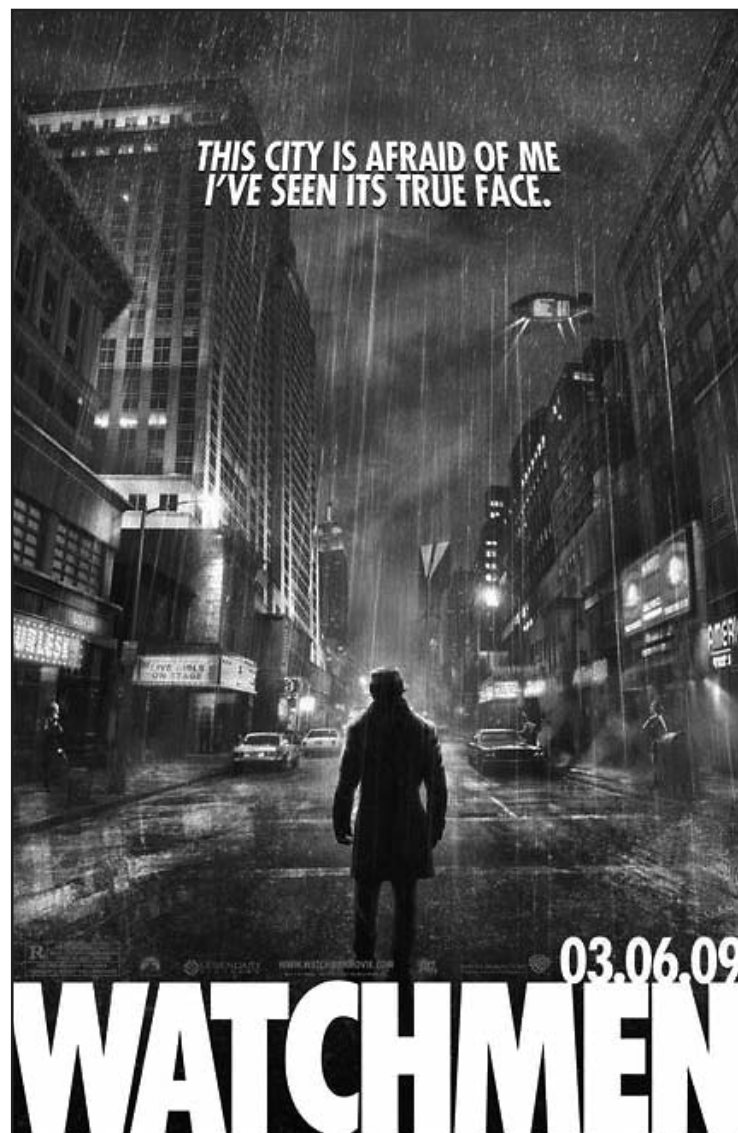
*Watchmen* is a deconstruction of everything heroic about the world of superheroes. It is filled with characters that live their lives with self-righteousness that is publicly expressed with the donning of colorful costumes. It is difficult to understand this semblance of mankind's unity when Snyder constantly seeks to squeeze every frame of the 1986 book into the film in under three hours because it worked well in the 2005 film adaptation of the *Sin City* graphic novels. This pre-



vents us from ever truly engaging with the characters, their stories as well as their current experiences. More time is spent on the film's two most polarizing figures: the quantum known as Dr. Manhattan, who is not so much hopeless about mankind's destruction as he is calculating and logical about it and Rorschach, who feels threatened by the death of another costumed "hero" and attempts to solve a mystery. His brutal approach to fighting criminals is contrasted by his strange sympathy for other costumed characters and our own sympathy for him when it

comes time to explain himself. Rorschach does not enjoy what he does, but what the heck, he's got that interesting inkblot mask.

This intricate tale takes place in New York City in the year 1985. A 1985 where the presidential two-term limit has been revoked and Richard Nixon has successfully sought a third term—a world on the brink of anarchy, tensions with the Soviet Union getting thicker by the day and humanity is bracing for nuclear war. Edward Blake, known publicly as The Comedian, has been killed and the masked vigilante Rorschach is out to discover the who and



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why of it despite masked and costumed avengers being outlawed in the late 1970s. Generations of heroes go from being lauded to being despised. The joke is on the public, because the audience knows they are only heroes as a means of self-service. This explanation of why costumed heroes exist is demonstrated to us with some of the most artificial song choices in a film ever that was once aurally adorned by the film *Forrest Gump*. The overall pacing of it is so quick and bizarre that watching *Watchmen* brings a packaging plant to mind.

The world of *Watchmen* is fantastic to look at, whether it's the

filth-ridden streets of New York City or the gorgeous and mysterious wastelands of Mars. This makes up for the by-the-numbers score by Tyler Bates, responsible for the adrenaline-pumping music of Snyder's last film *300*, also based on a comic. *300* didn't require much, and you understood its point within the first five minutes of the film. *Watchmen* is more complex than that, and Snyder's attempt to show this fails. Mr. Moore's book invites you to see humanity at its best and worst and chuckle at the inside joke. Snyder merely puts it behind a plate of glass and asks that you not touch.

### MARCH MUSIC REVIEWS

By Efrain Calderon Jr

#### Dälek — *Gutter Tactics*

Dälek (pronounced 'die-a-leck') is a two-man hip-hop act who have established themselves as one of the most forward thinking groups in the genre. The gritty, industrial backdrops to their raps bring My Bloody Valentine or Swans to mind instead of trend-bound, 'flavor of the year' production. Their latest release, *Gutter Tactics*, peers into the post-apocalyptic and attempts to rip at the crumbling facade of idealized American history along with the defined role of mainstream hip-hop. Looking at the record's liner notes, one finds a Reverend Wright quote describing America's own acts of terrorism. Yet, only a few minutes into the dense swirl of Oktopus' production MC Dälek proclaims, "A black president don't ensure the sunshine. A rich president represent his own kind. As it stands now, the blind lead the blind." Dälek had an ambitious task in topping 2005's *Abandoned*



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Language which can still be considered their magnum opus, but their sound has evolved into something that's at once difficult, grating, claustrophobic, and utterly beautiful.

#### Franz Ferdinand — *Tonight: Franz Ferdinand*

There have been few new releases with as much hype behind them as Franz Ferdinand's *Tonight*. The Scottish foursome might be less concerned with making you think as much as

making you dance, but *Tonight* still seems like a step backward, if not a step to the side. Claimed to be a concept record about dance floor dramatics, it soon becomes as repetitive, boring, and overdramatic as I imagine a dance floor lifestyle might be. For all the post-punk influence projected on to Franz Ferdinand, they're still far more A Certain Ratio than Gang of Four. Trading in the overt po-



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litical message of the 70's post-punk scene along with much of the treble-heavy buzz saw guitars, Alex Kapranos and company are left "do do do-ing" and "la la la-ing" between the saccharine lyrics. "Lucid Dreams" attempts

a 14-minute jam that seems as deliberate as anything found "experimental" on the record. New keyboard sounds do work well, ever present on what could be considered the best song of the lot, "Can't Stop Feeling" which brings Hot Chip to mind. You Could Have It So Much Better..., their last release had three songs that worked extremely well and at least three real misses. *Tonight*, though absent of any really awful songs, remains an album full of unrealized stabbing at a single, seeming trite at worst and only alright at best.

#### Bon Iver — *Blood Bank (EP)*

Surely in a rush to capitalize on the critical success of 2008's *For Emma, Forever Ago*, Bon Iver—brainchild and pseudonym of Wisconsin-based indie folk rocker Justin Vernon—rings in 2009 with a 4 track EP titled *Blood Bank*. Its cover art: a snow covered, rusty car door being opened for what may be the first time in months, if not years. It's with this spirit of adventure that Bon Iver

ushers in the spring. "Blood Bank" pairs lyrics that walk that delicate line between abstract and absurd with a single guitar, later building with strings and countless Justin Vernons singing in unison. "Beach Baby" teases with a lap steel, its warmth cleverly fading out too soon. "Babys" has overdubbed pianos mixed as loud as the guitar pick's scrapes and zips. Some well-placed silence lets one really reflect before "Woods" demonstrates a sophisticated use of the Vocoder effect. It's hard to think of an EP that is as well balanced as this, assuring that Bon Iver's successful debut was no fluke.



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# CULTURE

## The Truth About Domestic Violence

By Vanessa Velez

You've heard about it all over the news recently: Singer-songwriter and actor Chris Brown is being charged with assault and making criminal threats towards fellow singer and lover Rihanna. This stock saga of domestic abuse has been making headlines all over the world and yet one thing that the news is managing to overlook is that it's just that: stock. This scenario for abusive relationships is a sadly common occurrence that spans people of all age groups, all backgrounds and of all socio-economic situations. It is not just limited to the familiar faces in tawdry tabloid news.

According to a study done in 2007 by the NJ Coalition of Battered Women, Brown and Rihanna, at the ages of 19 and 20 respectively, fit into the third highest category for people of a specific age group involved in abusive relationships; the number one group being between the ages of 25 and 34. However, Barbara Beeman, the Domestic Violence supervisor at the Hudson County Division of Welfare and New Jersey City University 1971 Alumni, stated that the age range for domestic violence victims in Hudson County seems to be changing.

"Recently, we've been tending to women between the ages of 19 and 25," Beeman said. "A lot of the cases also seem to be gang related."

The question that arises now is this: Why are so many young



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women falling prey to these corrosive conditions?

"If I knew earlier on that the relationship was going to become abusive, I definitely would have left immediately," stated a 25 year-old woman who chose to remain anonymous. "I dated some-

one for three years during college. We were on and off and then for the last 8 months of our relationship we lived together. I was vulnerable at the time because I lost my father right in the beginning of our relationship. I also just

started college and everything was new to me. When my dad passed away, I experienced some schizophrenic symptoms and had to take medication for them. So I clung to this guy because it kept me from everything else besides school. I definitely did not think

that he mistreating me was something so out of the ordinary because I never had another relationship to compare it to."

ally abusive. He had always forced me to have sex when I didn't want to. And of course I began being self-destructive. He became physically abusive during the later part of our relationship."

According to Beeman, every-

thing Rihanna and our anonymous source have experienced in their abusive relationships can be applied to all cases of that type.

"He yells at you and belittles you and tells you that you are crap," she explained. "Then it es-

calates to the more physical aspects of it. He tells you that you are worthless and he undermines your self-esteem. You feel isolation. The term that they used in the 60's for a man like this would be 'mind-f\*\*\*ker.'"

Beeman acknowledged the advice that a social worker is allowed to give to a victim of domestic abuse is limited. They are supposed to refer to the victim to a battered women's organization or a counselor. However, social workers do advise victims to seek restraining orders.

"We encourage the victims to follow through with permanent restraining orders," Beeman said. She added that women usually don't consider permanent orders until the fifth or sixth time they are beaten. "Sometimes they don't follow through with the permanent order. Many people back down when they realize they will have to be in the same courtroom with the guy. That's also usually when he shows up with the flowers."

Domestic violence, Beeman stated, is a "women's issue."

"Like breast cancer, you almost always know someone who has experienced it," Beeman said. "Always be supportive no matter what. If they choose to go back, you can always be supportive and say 'you can always tell me if something happens.' You need to leave the door open and let them know that they are not alone. You have to keep on putting it out there that, 'No, you are not alone. And there will be other people to help you.'"

**\*\*\*If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, call the NJ Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-572-7233 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233; both lines toll free and open 24/7. To speak or meet confidentially with someone (at no charge) at NJCU's Counseling Center, call 201-200-3165.**

## FREEDOM IN FASHION: Spring Trends

By Kimberley Persaud

Hooray for spring! We can finally shed our bulky winter jackets, gloves, hats and scarves in preparation for the warm weather that's quickly approaching. Spring is all about fresh, fun and flirty fashions. Also great is that with all the sales happening in most stores today, revamping our wardrobes doesn't necessarily have to put a strain on students' pockets.

Spring 2009 may be focused on colors and classic femininity, but it's also about sexy vixen-like pieces. A few of the hottest trends are soft, sheer flowing fabrics that allow the skin to be seen but in a sophisticated way. Playful fringed skirts and dresses are the latest must-haves. These fringed pieces range from shorter and sleeker pieces to more extreme longer fringed fabrics that sashay alongside the body.

The Grecian style is an essential part of spring 09's latest look. These dresses are inspired by ancient Rome and Greece's styles such as the one-shoulder toga, revamped for today's refined and shapely trends. Also popular for spring is the one-shoulder top (or bikini) which can be nice change-ups from the everyday blouse.



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This flirty alternative can be paired with fitted jeans, shorts or even a skirt.

Exotic, ethnic and bold prints are all craze inspired from places such as Africa and India. Animal prints like the leopard can be too much for some but for others can be a bold fashion statement, depending on your taste. You can find these prints on dresses, blous-

es, and accessories like jewelry, shoes and headbands. Want to be seen? Bejeweled dresses are a fashion must: whether a dress is encrusted with sequins, rhinestones or beads, it doesn't matter because it's sure to get you noticed!

Love it or hate it, the ripped jean is back! Celebrities like Mandy Moore, Rihanna, Megan Fox and

Drew Barrymore are just a few of the women sporting the ripped jean. It's a cool, casual and fun look for school or any daytime activity. The boyfriend jean also is a hot new trend that has been worn by Katie Holmes. It's a relaxed, loose fitting jean that is cuffed at the bottom making it ideal for comfort. These jeans can be paired with flip-flops or flats and a tee.

When it comes to accessories, the bolder, the bigger, the better...It's all about making a statement. Necklaces and bracelets are extra chunky, accented by exotic colors and bright stones. Shoes have evolved into something that no longer represents a shoe but rather a work of art, with 4 inch heels that are oddly shaped, that lace up, strap and buckle. It's a surprise that anyone can walk in them. Conventional is out and exaggerated is in.

My advice is to wear whatever you are comfortable in. What we can learn about fashion is that it tends to be inspired by past trends. Everything comes back. So whether working on a budget or saving money, you can mix and match pieces from your closet or even your mother's and improvise on many of today's hottest trends.

### 5 tips on fashion:

- Buy classic pieces that can be dressed up or down with accessories.
- Always feel confident in what you wear, regardless of how much it costs.
- Always wear clothes that flatter your body.
- It's alright to have a style of your own.
- Never get into debt chasing fashion.

## SPORTS

## Locks of Love from Loo

By Joseph Steinberger

Giving back to the community is always a good feeling, even when the gift you are giving is your hair. For Melissa Loo, a member of the New Jersey City University women's volleyball team, it was a way for her to give back while celebrating a cultural holiday. It is a custom during Chinese New Year for people to cut their hair or dead ends to start the New Year off well. For Loo, this was a way to accomplish two goals.

"I knew I was going to have to cut my hair for the New Year so I thought that I might as well do it for a good cause too," said the 20-year-old player.

This isn't the first time that Loo has donated her hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization which accepts hair donations from men and women and uses it to create hairpieces for underprivileged children who have lost their hair due to illness.

Donating hair to Locks of Love is a bigger commitment than one might think. Not only are the donors sacrificing their hair, they are also sacrificing a great deal of time to allow their hair to grow. In fact, Loo was not able to cut her hair for nearly a year.

Before donating, "All I was able to do was trim my hair one time in March and one time in June," the senior said.

Loo was really motivated to donate since the first time she donated to "Locks of Love" they did



Photo by NJCU Sports Information

**Melissa Loo, 20, far right, in action on the court before her donation.**

not give her the notice in the mail notifying her that her hair had been accepted. She was finally able to cut 12 inches of hair off this January.

"The first time they didn't tell me whether or not they had received my hair," said Loo. "This time, though, I know for sure that my hair was received." When asked if she would donate her hair again, she responded, "I probably would. This is such a great cause; it feels great to know that I am helping someone who is less fortunate."

Since Locks of Love was start-



ed in 1997, an estimated 2,000 children have been helped. Many of the children suffer from alopecia areata, a disorder which causes hair loss in otherwise healthy people and which presently has no known cause or cure. Other

hair donation recipients may lose hair to chemotherapy treatment for various types of cancer. Locks of Love provides such children with a new sense of normalcy and gives back their self-esteem. For these children, having hair and

feeling like they belong can be what makes the difference in their lives and gives them strength to keep going or to wake up every morning with a purpose.

"It's a great feeling to know that my donation is helping someone who is in need," Loo said.

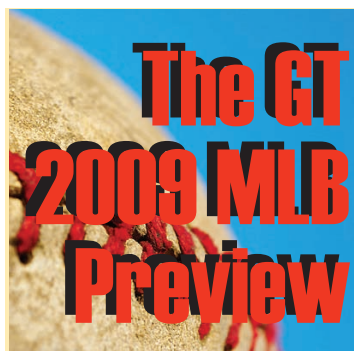
In addition to being a thought-

*"It's a great feeling to know that my donation is helping someone who is in need."*

—Melissa Loo

ful person, in the court, Loo is a very versatile volleyball player. Going into next season, she will be the only senior on the team and will have high expectations for herself. With the loss of senior captains Jackie LeBlanc, Sarah Torres, and Lyanelly Negron, other members of the team are going to have to step up next season.

"I'm hoping to go out on top after next year, my senior year," Loo said. Hopefully she will stand out on the court the way she does in her community. Something as seemingly minor as a new head of hair can make all the difference. As for Loo, she is more than happy to make that difference. Make that 2,001 children who have been helped.



## Part II

By Joseph Steinberger

With the season looming on the horizon and spring training drawing to a close, baseball is finally almost underway. Here is what I think will happen in the National League.

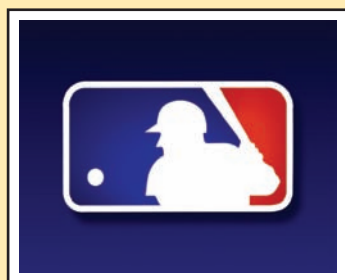
Over the past two years, the Mets have blown division leads of seven games with seventeen to play (2007) and a three game lead with two weeks to play (2008). Look for that to change in 2009. The Mets have addressed their most pressing needs—bullpen depth—with the acquisitions of Francisco Rodriguez and JJ Putz. Now if they can get some clutch hitting from their young stars David Wright and Jose Reyes, the Mets could make a deep run in the playoffs. This seems to be the year when the Mets will finally be able to end their September woes and get back to the playoffs.

Entering last season's playoffs, the Cubs appeared to be the

clear-cut favorites to represent the National League in the World Series. In the league, they were second in runs scored, fifth in batting average, and fifth in ERA. However, the Cubs were bounced in the first round by the upstart Dodgers and left to wonder what might have been. The Cubs have made a lot of moves this offseason, bringing in slugger Milton Bradley and utility man Aaron Miles while losing key bullpen contributors like Bob Howry and Kerry Wood. Their bullpen should be fine though, as long as Carlos Marmol emerges as the dominant back of the bullpen pitcher he should be. Even if they fail to acquire Jake Peavy, look for the Cubs to once again win the NL Central.

The National League West is the hardest division in the Major Leagues to predict. There is no clear cut team above all the rest. Don't be surprised, however, if the Giants also make a run for the playoffs this year. The Giants added veterans Randy Johnson and Edgar Renteria to their club, both of whom should provide solid leadership, something the Giants were severely lacking last year. As for the Diamondbacks, yes, they have good pitching, but their young hitters have yet to put together a solid offensive season from start to finish. So it looks like the Dodgers (with the recent signing of Manny Ramirez) will take the National League West crown. Even though the Dodgers lost Derek Lowe and

Takashi Saito, I expect guys like Billingsley, Kershaw, and Broxton to all step up this year and give the Dodgers just enough pitching to get through the weakest division in baseball. Coming off their first World Championship in nearly three decades, the Phillies look primed to make another run at the title. They are very top heavy in their rotation with stud pitchers Cole Hamels and Brett Meyers and boast a beast of a closer in Brad Lidge. They also added a key left handed bat in Raul Ibanez and lost a key right



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handed bat. In essence, they sacrificed some power for a better batting average. As for a repeat as National League East champions, don't count on it. Last season the Phillies had all the cards fall their way: the Mets collapsed, Lidge did not blow a save, and they had incredible clutch hitting down the stretch. The odds of that happening again are very slim. But as we all know, it doesn't matter how you get to the playoffs, all that matters is what you do once you get there. This is why the Phils are still dangerous come play-off time.

## MARCH - APRIL 2009 NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS CALENDAR

DATE	SPORT	OPPONENT / LOCATION	TIME
3/25/09	Softball	at Drew University (DH), Madison, NJ	3:00 PM
3/26/09	Baseball	at Rutgers-Newark *, Newark, NJ	3:30 PM
3/27/09	Baseball	WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY *, Jersey City, NJ	3:30 PM
3/28/09	Baseball	RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE (DH) *, Jersey City, NJ	12:00 PM
3/28/09	Softball	WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY (DH) *, Jersey City, NJ	1:00 PM
3/31/09	Softball	at Rowan University (DH) *, Glassboro, NJ	3:00 PM
4/1/09	Baseball	at College of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY	6:00 PM
4/2/09	Softball	LEHMAN COLLEGE (DH), Jersey City, NJ	3:00 PM
4/3/09	Baseball	at Kean University *, Union, NJ	3:30 PM
4/3/09	Men's Volleyball	NECVA Conference Tournament (Host: MIT), Cambridge, MA	ALL DAY
4/4/09	Men's Outdoor Track and Field	at Osprey Invitational (at Richard Stockton College), Pomona, NJ	10:00 AM
4/4/09	Baseball	THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY (DH) *, Jersey City, NJ	12:00 PM
4/4/09	Softball	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-CAMDEN (DH) *, Jersey City, NJ	1:00 PM
4/4/09	Men's Volleyball	NECVA Conference Tournament (Host: MIT), Cambridge, MA	ALL DAY
4/5/09	Men's Volleyball	NECVA Conference Tournament (Host: MIT), Cambridge, MA	ALL DAY
4/7/09	Softball	at Ramapo College (DH) *, Mahwah, NJ	3:00 PM
4/8/09	Baseball	COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, Jersey City, NJ	3:30 PM
4/9/09	Women's Bowling	at 2009 NCAA National Championships, Detroit, MI	9:00 AM
4/9/09	Softball	BARUCH COLLEGE (DH), Jersey City, NJ	3:00 PM
4/9/09	Baseball	at William Paterson University *, Wayne, NJ	3:30 PM
4/10/09	Women's Bowling	at 2009 NCAA National Championships, Detroit, MI	9:00 AM
4/11/09	Women's Bowling	at 2009 NCAA National Championships, Detroit, MI	9:00 AM
4/11/09	Men's Outdoor Track and Field	at New Jersey Invitational (at The College of New Jersey), Ewing, NJ	10:00 AM
4/11/09	Baseball	at Rowan University (DH) *, Jersey City, NJ	12:00 PM
4/11/09	Softball	at Rutgers-Newark (DH) *, Newark, NJ	1:00 PM
4/11/09	Men's Volleyball	ECAC Division III South Tournament (Host: TBA)/TBA	TBA
4/14/09	Softball	at Kean University (DH) *, Union, NJ	3:00 PM
4/15/09	Softball	at FDU-Florham (DH), Madison, NJ	3:00 PM
4/16/09	Baseball	at Montclair State University *, Little Falls, NJ	3:30 PM
4/17/09	Baseball	KEAN UNIVERSITY *, Jersey City, NJ	3:30 PM
4/18/09	Baseball	RAMAPO COLLEGE (DH) *, Jersey City, NJ	12:00 PM
4/18/09	Softball	at Richard Stockton College (DH) *, Pomona, NJ	1:00 PM
4/19/09	Men's Outdoor Track and Field	at Collegiate Track Conference Outdoor Championship (Host: TBA) / TBA	TBA
4/21/09	Softball	MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY (DH) *, Jersey City, NJ	3:00 PM
4/22/09	Baseball	COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT, Jersey City, NJ	3:30 PM
4/23/09	Softball	ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (NY) (DH), Jersey City, NJ	3:00 PM
4/23/09	Baseball	RUTGERS-NEWARK *, Jersey City, NJ	3:30 PM
4/23/09	Men's Outdoor Track and Field	at Penn Relays (University of Pennsylvania), Philadelphia, PA	All Day
4/24/09	Baseball	MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY *, Jersey City, NJ	3:30 PM
4/24/09	Men's Outdoor Track and Field	at Penn Relays (University of Pennsylvania), Philadelphia, PA	All Day
4/25/09	Softball	THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY (DH) *, Jersey City, NJ	1:00 PM
4/25/09	Men's Outdoor Track and Field	at Penn Relays (University of Pennsylvania), Philadelphia, PA	All Day
4/25/09	Baseball	at Rutgers University-Camden (DH) *, Camden, NJ	TBA
4/28/09	Softball	NJAC Tournament (First Round) / TBA	TBA