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Water Damages Multiple NJCU Buildings

By Vanessa Velez

Due to the torrential rain Jersey City received over the summer, as well as deteriorating infrastructure, the Visual Arts Building (VAB), Science Building and the basement of Karnoutsos Hall were subject to flooding which managed to cease operations of both the Visual Arts and Science buildings.

According to an August 24 statement issued by Public Safety on *GothicNet*, the University's student and employee online information center, "In order to ensure the safety of the University community and to allow for necessary repairs, access to the basement level of the Visual Arts Building is restricted to authorized personnel until further notice. The VAB Gallery and Auditorium will be closed for the fall 2009 semester."

Herbert Rosenberg, Chairman of the Art department, gave further detail into the situation in an interview conducted by the *Gothic Times*.

"The problem was initially identified when water came pouring down from the roof in one of the stairwells which then flooded the gallery on the basement floor and the color photo labs which are also on the basement level. An investigation revealed



Photos by njcu.edu

The Science Building and Visual Arts Building were both affected by heavy water damage over the summer

that the leakage within the building was not isolated to the original place where the water had come in. As the rain continued to fall in torrents, more and more leakage into the basement was discovered."

The torrential rain, however, was not the only culprit responsible for the flooding in the VAB. Rosenberg also shed light upon

the fact that the VAB was constructed upon an underground stream. As a result of the stream water rising, water ascended through the floors of the auditorium causing three more classrooms in the building to be closed to the public.

Although the incessant rain of the past season caused the most damage to the building, Rosenberg states that flooding in the building is nothing new.

"From the first day that the Art Department moved into the building five years ago, water has been seeping into the basement, but not in the quantity that we had this summer."

The Science Building also suffered from excessive water damage before the onset of the fall semester. According to Dr. John

Grew, former Biology professor and current Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, in the early morning hours of August 17, "a plumbing connection to the [Science Building's] water purifier broke and several thousands of gallons of water leaked throughout the building."

"Our worst fear," stated Grew "was that the building's closure would extend beyond September 1 and interfere with classes being offered in the Science Building during the fall semester."

The building itself managed to escape massive damage, considering the amount of water that seeped its interior. Dr. David Hallerman, Chairman of the Psychology Department, stated, "In my department, some offices suffered water damage, but

fortunately we escaped relatively unscathed."

Regarding offices in her department, Dr. Laura Pannaman, Chairperson of the Biology department, said, "They are in good shape. After the water pipe break and evaluation of the damage, we were told that the building might not be open for the start of the semester. But, contractors worked around the clock to remediate damage and we were in the building before the start of the semester."

All parties interviewed applauded the efforts of NJCU's Housekeeping and Facilities departments, as well as the administration's quick response to the crises.

Regarding the cleanup of the VAB, Rosenberg stated, "I was extremely pleased and relieved that the hard work of the [Housekeeping and Facilities] committee was able to meet the September 1 deadline for the rehab of the Photography areas so that classes were able to start on schedule."

The Science Building reopened on August 25, and according to Dr. Grew, Facilities and Housekeeping couldn't have responded any faster to expediting the rehabilitation of the building.

"They really performed a miracle," he stated. "They had the water cleaned up in one day! They applied the effort needed to get the building back. Their crews really saved the day."

Woody Kim, Housekeeping Supervisor, and Lester Powder, Facilities department director, were both mentioned for their outstanding efforts.

Karnoutsos Hall also received

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"From the first day that the Art Department moved into the building five years ago, water has been seeping into the basement."

**Herbert Rosenberg,
Chairman of the Art Department**

NJCU Union Members Sound Off Against New State Contracts

By Komal Zafar

The New Jersey City University community is disheartened by the state's proposed Modification of Agreement (MOA) in which government workers, including full-time faculty and staff, are required to take furlough days—forced days off without pay.

The reason for taking these measures, the State says, is to help close the current budget gap which is currently \$8.8 billion, according to a study conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and Communications Workers of America (CWA) went through a series of

votes to determine the approval of the MOA. Although NJCU was the only university out of seven to have the majority of union members vote against the deal, the agreement was finalized, supporting the Corzine administration's decision.

According to the agreement, full-time faculty members who are part of the AFT are required to take seven furlough days, the staff workers who are part of the CWA are required to take ten furlough days. The Friday after Thanksgiving is predetermined for both the faculty and the staff members as part of these furlough days.

"[It] affects me greatly," said Annamarie Scrazati, secretary

of the Political Science Department. "I don't think it is fair [that] people who don't make enough money – to live" are now being asked to "not get paid for a whole day."

"No matter how the union votes, the governor was going to do what he wanted," said Charlene Otero, secretary of the English Department. "I cannot see what is coming out of the state workers having to give up these days."

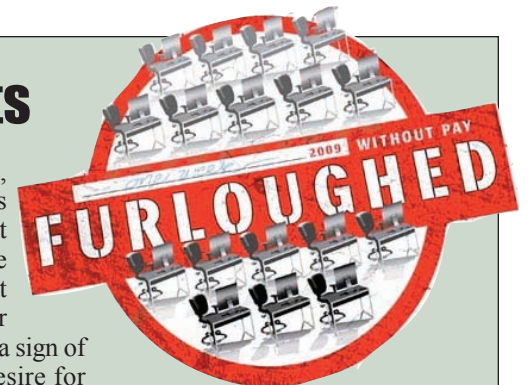
In an e-mail sent on September 9, Dr. Joseph Moskowitz, professor of Political Science at NJCU and President of the AFT Local 1839, explained, "Once you select the days, your supervisor will be asked to approve

them...At my urging, several administrators have said informally that they expect to approve just about every request that is submitted. For morale purposes and as a sign of the administration's desire for good labor-management relations, I look forward to those administrators being true to their words."

Approximately one week later on September 14, Dr. Barbara Feldman, the newly appointed Dean of the William J. Maxwell College of Arts and Sciences, sent an e-mail to the full-time faculty members of the College of Arts and Sciences in regard to the approval of the furlough days.

In the e-mail, Dr. Feldman stated that she has "very little to say" about the days that the full-time faculty should take off and that her "only stipulation is that [she] will not approve furlough days on teaching days."

"I don't like the fact that we



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have them (furlough days)," said Dr. Frank French of the English Department. "I also think we should have a free choice of the days, [and] we should have a choice [as] to when we want to give money back to the state."

The AFT local 1839 conducted a meeting on September 21 to discuss the implementation system that the administration developed.

Dr. Moskowitz advised full-time faculty to choose non-working days for fear that working days might not be approved by the deans. He further stressed the point that taking furlough days on working days will

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"It is not fair that our adjuncts and professors who have worked very hard to earn the opportunity to teach at the university level have to be cheated out of a day's pay."

**-Ariana Matos, 29,
Creative Writing major, Hoboken**

NEWS

America Undecided on Afghan Troop Surge

By Danielle Church

In order to reduce the risk of failure, General Stanley McChrystal, Commander of International Security Assistance Forces and Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan, believes that more troops and resources are needed in Afghanistan as security is deteriorating.

A 66-page report to Defense Secretary Robert Gates that was leaked by the *Washington Post* on September 20, reveals that according to McChrystal, a troop surge of possibly more than 21,000 might take place within the year, leaving many friends and family here at New Jersey City University concerned over the status of their loved ones in the armed forces.

In recent televised press conferences, it is clear that President Obama is still not convinced that an increase in American troops would make Americans safer from al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

"I'm not interested in just being in Afghanistan for the sake of being in Afghanistan or saving face," said Obama during a recent airing of NBC's "Meet the Press."

Although Obama may be unsure of outcomes concerning the surge, McChrystal stands strong in his reasoning, believing that victory is still achievable with the help of further troops.

In order to help train Afghan po-



nytimes.com

lice to take over military operations within Afghanistan, American troops have already been deployed earlier this year. In February, Obama was quoted saying, "this reinforcement will contribute to the security of the Afghan people and to stability in Afghanistan."

At a recent press conference on Capitol Hill, a debate was held over U.S. forces being stationed versus a surge of Afghan forces being deployed within their own country. Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich), the top Senate Democrat on military policy, argued that Afghanistan could achieve victo-

"As of 2009, the U.S. has faced approximately 848 American casualties in Afghanistan."

ry, not with the help of more American troops, but with the increased involvement of Afghan forces. He remains against the

idea of additional American troops being sent to Afghanistan.

"We should increase and accelerate our efforts to support the Afghan security forces in their efforts to become self-sufficient...before we consider whether to increase U.S. combat forces above the levels already planned for the next few months," said Levin during the press conference.

Levin also stated that the Obama administration's goal of having 240,000 Afghan troops and 106,000 Afghan police, which was scheduled to take place by 2013, should be moved up to

2012.

Citizens in the U.S. have remained split over the decision, attempting to understand both sides. Recent public opinion polls featured on PollingReport.com have shown that 32 percent of Americans believe the troop count in Afghanistan should be decreased versus the 29 percent who believe they should be increased. 27 percent believe the numbers should stay the same while 12 percent remain unsure.

"If it helps to end the war then it's [the surge] OK. At the same time, sending more [troops] will complicate things," said Krystle Wilson, 24, an NJCU English major from Jersey City.

The complication may lie in the number of casualties being seen as the outcome. As of 2009, the U.S. has faced approximately 848 American casualties in Afghanistan. This number has been gradually increasing since 2001.

Although the Obama administration has yet to formulate a concrete policy, the *New York Times* reveals that troops and contractors are already in preparation for the influx of troops with the construction of more barracks, latrines, dining facilities, and helicopter pads. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates will be overseeing the potential troop surge.

Palestine and Israel Refuse to Settle

By Mehwish Abid

Although the exact moment in time varies according to divergent historical opinions, Israelis and Palestinians have been in a constant state of war since 1948, when Israel received international recognition as an independent state. Although previous negotiations hinted at a possible resolution to the ongoing conflict, no peace proposal has succeeded in uniting the two groups.

Peace talks between the two primary opposition parties were halted after the deadly attack on the Gaza Strip last December, which left thirty-five Palestinians dead and several more injured.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has declared that no further peace talks will proceed until Israel agrees to completely freeze settlement expansion in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These areas are considered to be of immense importance to the Palestinians since they are essential to securing a future independent Palestine.

The Obama administration as well as many members of the international community agrees with Palestinian leaders on a permanent freeze of settlement expansion, but the Israeli government and its citizens are steering Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in another direction.

Israeli citizens continue to demand an increase in settlement building in order to accommodate the growing Israeli population. According to an article published in the September 16 edition of Time.com, "Israel annexed that sector [East Jerusalem] of the disputed city after the 1967 war, and



upi.com/Debbie Hill

New housing apartments stand for the Israeli settlement Har Homa in East Jerusalem on September 8, 2009. The Israeli government has granted permits to build 455 new housing units in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

does not consider it a settlement."

Currently, there has been no Israeli agreement to halt settlement expansion. According to statements made by Netanyahu, it appears that his government will approve current settlement plans before agreeing to the demands of the Palestinians and the Obama administration.

This news was greeted with overwhelming disappointment by the Obama administration, which believes that an environment for peace cannot be created until the Israeli government declares an immediate halt on all settlement expansion.

The Israelis deride new demands made by Palestinian leaders, insisting that it is both impractical and unreasonable for the Palestinian government to expect that future settlement plans in Jerusalem and the West Bank be completely aborted. Palestinians contest that they have always complied with agreements and conditions proposed upon them and that it is time for the Israelis to do their part

and meet their obligations.

Palestinian protestors have continued demonstrating in the village of Bil'in, contending with acts of violence from the Israeli army. They are rallying over concerns that their village and five other neighboring villages will be confiscated in order to build Israeli settlements.

If this confiscation was to occur, approximately forty thousand Jewish settlers will reside on Palestinian land in the West Bank. With Netanyahu's approval for continued expansion, even more settlements will result in an even larger population of Israelis on Palestinian land.

"Peace talks between the two primary opposition parties were halted after the deadly attack on the Gaza Strip last December..."

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minor flooding over the summer, but the flooding was in no way comparable to the Visual Arts or Science buildings.

"Recently there was some water leakage during heavy rains at the end of last semester, which dripped into the audio suites and forced us to remove some equipment," stated Mr. Roddy Bogawa, Chairman of Media Arts.

"The administration did take some time to address the problem, but honestly they seem to have repaired the problem before classes started this semester so we can't complain too much."

Mr. Rosenberg stated that the Art Department is hoping to have the VAB functioning in its entirety by spring of 2010. However, the department has

developed back-up plans in case that goal is not met. As of right now, exhibits that were scheduled for the Visual Arts Gallery are currently being moved to other locations, which will be announced to the public upon the time of their transportation.

Midori Yoshimoto, professor in the Art Department, stated that some of the exhibitions including the posthumous exhibition for NJCU student and *Gothic Times* Art Editor Jared Martin will be relocated to the Student Union Building Gallery.

The Science Building recently received a grant of more than \$2 million for renovations to its academic areas. Physics will be receiving new offices. In addition, there will be a new Radiation Biology/ Physics lab, as well as new research labs for the Chemistry department.

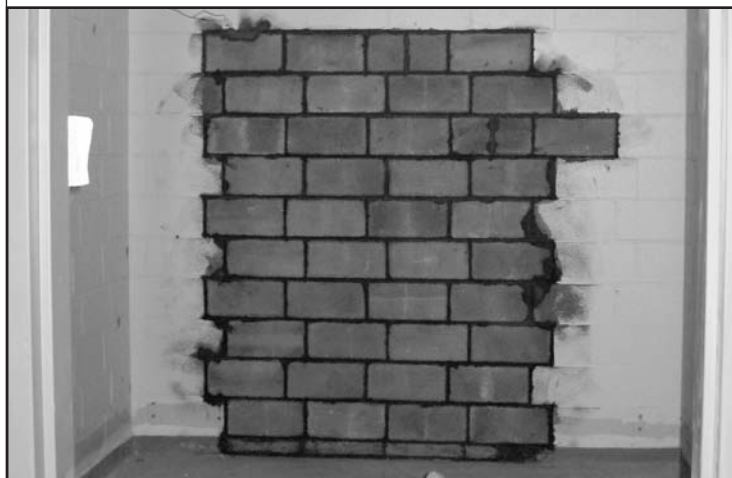


Photo by John Roth

Construction is underway in the Science Building

NEWS

Satisfied Workers at NJCU contradict NELP Study

By John Roth

In accordance with the National Employment Law Project's (NELP) study *Broken Laws, Unprotected Workers*, published September 2, which highlights wage violations committed against low-wage workers in the U.S., the staff of the *Gothic Times* conducted a similar survey to find out if these same violations were being committed against NJCU staff.

NELP reported that, last year, after analyzing 4,387 workers in low-wage occupations in the three largest U.S. cities - Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City - 26 percent of those workers were "paid less than the legally required minimum wage in the previous work week" and "60 percent of workers were underpaid by more than \$1 per hour."

NELP's intent was to expose small businesses and large corporate entities throughout the U.S. who were directly involved with various forms of workplace violations. It was revealed that large corporations such as Wal-Mart, Federal Express, Amish Markets and House of Raeford had engaged in overtime, off the clock, pay-stub violations and illegal de-

ductions.

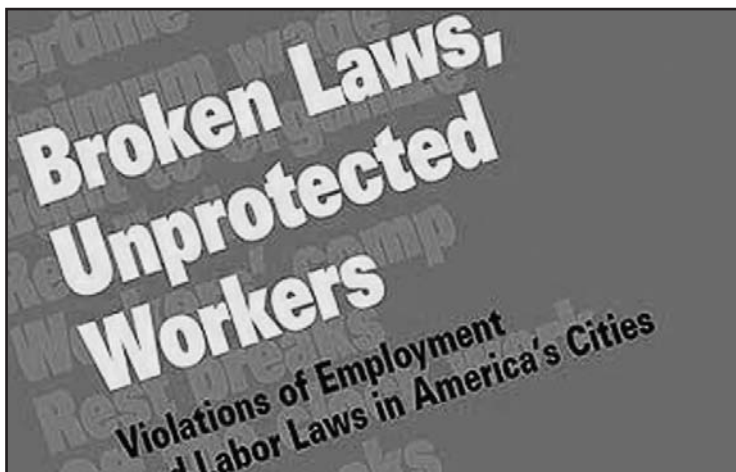
Contrary to the findings of the study by NELP, wage violations taking place on campus were not reported.

In every interview conducted, union workers on campus, including members of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 195, which represents Housekeeping,

"The overall consensus was that all surveyed workers felt secure and protected due to their union affiliation"

made it clear that they had no grievances against supervisors or department heads. The overall consensus was that all surveyed workers felt secure and protected due to their union affiliation.

Staff members of CulinArt, a private company with no union backing, hired by NJCU to manage the second floor cafeteria in



National Employment Law Project 2009

the Gilligan Student Union Building and the cafeteria in Vodra Hall, were presented with the same questions but declined to comment. It is noteworthy to mention that in late 2008, CulinArt staff was allowed to vote on unionization. The measure was voted down.

NELP also concluded that studies relying on traditional survey models are not likely to field the required number of low-wage earners needed to draw factual conclusions. However, obstacles inhibiting the ability to connect with these workers have received

considerable attention.

Problems that exist in the standard way of gathering information (Census-style home visits and telephone interviews) include issues of trust that ties into a fear of losing one's job. And most low-wage workers are absent from any official database for reasons that include his or her immigration status, making it nearly impossible to contact most of them.

According to the study, Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) has been an effective means of surveying these workers. It is based

on a mathematical model of the social networks that connect survey respondents.

The basic concept is straightforward: sampling is done through social networks. In NELP's case, recruiting started with a small number of workers who fit the study criteria; after they were interviewed they recruited other workers in their existing social networks; in turn, those workers completed the survey and then recruited others; and so on. The sample size increases through successive waves of recruitment.

There are many co-authors of *Broken Laws, Unprotected Workers*, including Annette Bernhardt, Ph.D., policy co-director of the National Employment Law Project and Diana Polson, policy analyst at the National Employment Law Project and Political Science Ph.D. student at the City University of New York. NELP also relied on a team of interviewers and translators in all three cities.

The research was funded by the Ford Foundation, the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, the Joyce Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation. A PDF of the report can be found at www.NELP.org.

The New Face of the Supreme Court:

NJCU Hosts a Discussion on Sonia Sotomayor

By Michael Palomino

Monday, October 5 – As the Supreme Court of the United States began its new term, New Jersey City University hosted a panel discussion on the high court's newest member, Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

The discussion, which took place inside the Gothic Lounge, brought together various NJCU faculty members to speak of the significance of Sonia Sotomayor as the first Latina on the Supreme Court.

The panelists were (in order of appearance): Dr. Louise Stanton, Assistant Professor for the Political Science department and Director of the Pre-Law minor program; Dr. Jose Morales, Associate Professor, History Department; Dr. Godwin Ohiwerei, Professor, Sociology and Anthropology; Dr. Liza Fiol-Matta, Professor Women's and Gender Studies; Mr. Alfred Ramey, Executive Assistant to the President; and Ms. Asheenia Johnson, SGO Representative and President of the Black Freedom Society.

The discussion opened with an introduction by Dr. Barbara Feldman, Dean of William J. Maxwell College of Arts and Sciences, followed by the moderator of the

panel, Dr. Joanne Z. Bruno, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, who also introduced each panelist.

Topics varied as each panelist had five minutes to talk about the numerous details of Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation.

Dr. Louise Stanton opened with a presentation on the impact of the Hispanic community's vote in recent elections. She cited overwhelming support for President Obama from the Hispanic community during last November's general election, a statistic she contrasted against those states with significant Hispanic populations, some like Arizona and Texas, whose Republican senators voted against Sotomayor's confirmation. She questioned whether such a move could benefit or backfire on these senators, but declined to speculate.

Dr. Morales spoke enthusiastically of Sotomayor's self-identification as a Nuyoricana, a member of the Puerto Rican Diaspora from the New York City region, of which Dr. Morales counts himself a member.

He added that her nomination shed light on the division in the Hispanic community along national and cultural ties.



Photo by Michael Palomino

(from left to right) Dr. Liza Fiol-Matta, Dr. Louise Stanton, Dr. Jose Morales, Dr. Godwin Ohiwerei, SGO Representative Asheenia Johnson, and Mr. Alfred E. Ramey

"The larger issue is that we [as a Latino community] are very balkanized – very fragmented – we need to have a dialogue."

Panelists Dr. Ohiwerei and Dr. Fiol-Matta individually discussed the racial underpinnings of the campaign to discredit Sotomayor during the confirmation process.

"This is not a post-racial America," Ohiwerei told the audience, warning of further struggles ahead for minorities, adding that these struggles are "harbingers of change to come from the decline of white male hegemony."

Dr. Fiol-Matta added afterwards that much of the criticism levied at Sotomayor by her critics was couched in identity politics.

Alfred E. Ramey followed with

a critique of the hearings themselves, which – he suggests - have morphed from a civic function to a political platform for senators to expound on their politics, while nominees jockey to remain neutral.

Rounding out the discussion, SGO Representative and President of the Black Freedom Society, Asheenia Johnson, discussed an informal survey she held among NJCU students. The results revealed optimism that Sotomayor's appointment is a change in the status quo, but whether this changed their outlook of minorities in government, most students expressed skepticism.

Ms. Johnson also shared her ex-

periences as an African-American growing up with aspirations, only to reassess her goals through the realization of her minority status. However, in light of the election of Barack Obama and the appointment of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court her hopes are renewed.

Indeed, while much of the discussion dealt directly with some of the more unsavory aspects of Sotomayor's confirmation hearings, the overall tone of the discussion was one of hope for the future of America's minority population, as seen in Dr. Morales' closing remarks:

"[President] Obama – the child of an immigrant – and Sotomayor, the child of immigrants are the

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actually send the wrong message to students.

"From my understanding, our semesters are 16 weeks long and if a professor has to take their day off on a day that he or she has a class then the burden of the state is thrown onto the students. Some students may not care that their class is cancelled, but for those of us who hold down jobs, have fam-

ily responsibilities, pay tuition, and struggle to get through the semester, it is not fair for us to show up to class and learn that it was cancelled because the state could not afford to pay the professor for that day," said Ariana Matos, 29, a Creative Writing major from Hoboken.

"It is not fair that our adjuncts and professors who have worked very hard to earn the opportunity

to teach at the university level have to be cheated out of a day's pay because the state cannot handle their budget... the state of New Jersey needs to come up with a better plan rather than forcing college and university instructors to lose a day's pay and having students cheated out of a day of instruction."

One major question still concerns many AFT and CWA mem-

bers—what is the money being used for?

During the AFT meeting, this question was raised by a number of faculty members. Although no definitive answer was given, Dr. Moskowitz submitted a request to the administration regarding the use of the newfound savings. The administration did not respond to his request.

Assistant to the Vice President

of Academic Affairs, Dr. John Grew, and Vice President of Student Affairs (Interim), Dr. John Melendez, were contacted by e-mail to gain the administration's perspective on this on-going strife.

Dr. Grew respectfully declined to comment, stating that he was not authorized to speak publicly for the University on these matters. A response was never received from Dr. Melendez.

OPINION

Big, Bad Swine Flu

By John Roth

If H1N1 appears to be any more dangerous to the health of the world's populace than a seasonal flu bug, you could have fooled me.

This strain of Influenza is without question an uncomfortable inconvenience for anyone who has the misfortune of contracting it. The rate of speed in which H1N1 spreads appears to be more aggressive than your standard seasonal flu bug; but most healthy people in developed countries can hardly call the affliction life threatening.

Commonly known as the flu, influenza is a phenomenon that Americans deal with, yearly. New strains permeate the population and on occasion citizens die.

This past summer, health experts felt the need to disseminate harsh warnings of a possible pandemic. As more cases of H1N1 appeared throughout the American population it became more frustrating to watch levels of anxiety mount. Government offices, primary grade school districts and universities scrambled to alert the public while preparing for the worst.

On July 7, an e-mail sent by New Jersey City University's Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) alerting NJCU's community explained, "We are notifying the University community that on July 6, the Health and Wellness Center received a confirmatory laboratory report from the Hudson County Regional Health Commission indicating that an NJCU undergraduate student tested positive for the presence of the Novel Influenza A (H1N1)."

The correspondence also included "reminders about H1N1" and "everyday steps to protect your health."

The student's condition was also reported in September's issue of *The Gothic Times*. Notification about the undergraduate in some lesser form, for example leaflets tacked to bulletin boards in various locations around campus, would have been proper; but the bombardment of information, regarding a virus that would for the most part be ignored if it had another name, has been over-kill.

In an August 6 article by Michael Scherer for *Time Magazine*, the author explained, "353 Americans were confirmed to have died from the new flu out of an estimated 1 million infected."

"With the exception of certain populations—including pregnant women, children with chronic diseases and people with respiratory ailments—H1N1 tends to be no worse than the seasonal flu."

"A few days in bed and lots of liquids, and most patients get better."

"As more cases of H1N1 appeared throughout the American population it became more frustrating to watch levels of anxiety mount."



Illustration by Mirara J. Ndungu

These quoted statistics are an obvious sign of how minor the virus truly is. It is not incorrect to believe monetary gains play a part in the heightened levels of concern.

The benefits for those who wish to profit from a possible pandemic makes one question the motives of medical experts.

According to a September 15 story posted on CNNhealth.com "The Food and Drug Administration has approved applications from four manufacturers to make H1N1 flu vaccine."

This is a clear indication that the production of serum, which protects individuals from the

virus, will generate large profits for pharmaceutical companies who have been given the opportunity to manufacture and distribute it.

Recent reports from the FDA indicate that only one injection, not two as first thought, will be required for those who wish to be inoculated. This will help to limit cost of each dose per person while doubling the number of doses available and potentially doubling the profits.

If H1N1 seems any more hazardous to the well-being of the world's general population than your regular flu bug, I don't see it. Influenza outbreaks unfortu-

nately take the lives of citizens yearly. But most healthy people in industrialized countries should not consider the dilemma life-threatening.

Disclaimer: The observations posited in this article with regards to H1N1 are strictly the opinion of the writer and do not reflect the official position of New Jersey City University or *The Gothic Times*. NJCU will continue to do what is deemed necessary to protect the student population and faculty/staff members from an outbreak and possible spread of H1N1 or any communicable disease.

The Military Dilemma in Afghanistan

By Michelle Ackermann

Afghanistan... the name itself conjures up many different emotions and opinions on how to resolve this ongoing war. We don't want to stay there forever, but we don't want to leave the country more broken than it was when we initially went in.

From the beginning, my viewpoint has been that the U.S. shouldn't have stepped foot in the country; however, pulling all of our troops out precipitously is not an option.

Though it's questionable whether a large-scale troop surge in Afghanistan is necessary, the military should keep its eye on Helmand province. Located in southern Afghanistan, this region is the largest opium producer in the world and it is this crop that helps finance the Taliban and other extremist groups.

Another reason that this area is most in need of an increased troop presence lies with the fact that it borders Pakistan, and the truth of the matter is that if Afghanistan falls to the Taliban, it is inevitable that Pakistan—with its nuclear arsenal—will follow.

In a poll conducted September 19-23 by the *New York Times*/CBS, a meager 29 percent said the U.S. should increase troops in Afghanistan. 32 percent thought the troops should de-

crease while 27 percent thought the number should stay the same. 12 percent had no opinion.

Americans are torn about what to do in Afghanistan. No one can be sure whether we're winning or losing the war when we cannot even define what a victory would be.

The White House and the Pentagon are contemplating the following option: a counter-insurgency strategy with a more narrow focus on counter-terrorism. President Obama says that the goal in Afghanistan "is to defeat al-Qaeda and its extremist allies".

Simultaneously, the administration argues that it will be impos-

"From the beginning, my viewpoint has been that the U.S. shouldn't have stepped foot in the country; however, pulling all of our troops out precipitously is not an option."

sible to defeat al-Qaeda without fighting the Taliban, which means that we must indeed send troops to the Helmand Province if we hope to achieve the President's goals.

With no absolute proof that U.S. involvement and the presence of 68,000 American troops has improved the situation in Afghanistan, General Stanley A. McChrystal's (Commander of U.S. forces) proposal to increase the size of the force by up to 40,000 comes as somewhat of a questionable strategic move.

President Obama is to mull over General McChrystal's review of troop levels and is taking advice from Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, among others.

The world needs to take a step back and let the citizens of Afghanistan find their own path to becoming an independent sovereign state, regardless of the struggles that they may face along the way.

As a South African, perhaps I am more inclined to believe so, since I had the great opportunity of growing up during a time of change, the end of apartheid.

Nelson Mandela, the lauded anti-apartheid activist, and his people kept fighting for equal rights. He gave up 27 years of freedom to ensure that their fight



Art from cia.gov

C.I.A.'s map of Afghanistan

would not be in vain.

Societies that are broken and divided will find greater liberation in discovering their own place in the international community, without the involvement of other nations who are merely there for permanent interests.

Isn't it ironic that the U.S. broke away from British power in search of liberty, freedom and democracy, but will not grant Afghanistan their chance to do so? At the end of the day, the Afghans need to save themselves.

OPINION

Student Privacy and the Fourth Amendment

What's at Stake for New Jersey Students

By Jan Aguilos

The issue of student privacy may get a visceral response from some NJCU undergrads – and others – with memories of high school locker checks and leering faculty members.

On September 14, New Jersey's Supreme Court heard arguments in a case involving a 2006 incident in which an assistant principal, Peter Brandt, of Egg Harbor Township High School (in South Jersey) searched the car of a student, then 18-year-old Thomas Best.

Brandt was tipped off that this particular student was passing out pills to other students and subsequently searched his locker and car. Marijuana, steroids, and Valium were found in Best's car.

This case brings the issue of student privacy to mind, in a time when parents and school officials are suffering from paranoia about what extracurricular activities their children are participating in.

Don't get me wrong, educators have an obligation to protect the environment of their schools but there is such a thing as authority figures overstepping their bounds.

Thomas Best may not have been a model citizen, but it's unconstitutional for his assistant principal to search his car without a warrant.

The Fourth Amendment should count for something. "Unreason-

able searches and seizures" should be checked. Individual privacy is espoused in this Amendment, which is part of the Bill of Rights, and people have a right to expect authority figures to respect their privacy.

Best has the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey on his side, with legal director Ed Barocas being quoted in the *Newark Star-Ledger* explaining, "We're not saying that school officials can't protect their students, but they have to follow constitutional procedural protections."

Amen, brotha!

To search that student's car without a warrant strikes me as reckless and disrespectful of an individual's privacy.

Parallels to another school privacy case that made it to the high court, *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, might

Again, the Fourth Amendment was the issue of this case, in which a Piscataway assistant principal (these pesky Jersey assistant principals!) searched the bag of a minor and found marijuana. The case was tried, went through appeals, and then went to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Our state's highest court actually ruled in favor of the student, saying that the school employee's search was unreasonable and violated the Fourth Amendment.

Unfortunately, when the case went to the Supreme Court of the United States, the ruling was overturned. The Court ruled that this search didn't violate the Fourth Amendment and that the search was "reasonable."

The New Jersey Supreme Court has yet to decide on the case involving Thomas Best, the student,

"[Best's] case brings the issue of student privacy to mind, in a time when parents and school officials are suffering from paranoia about what extracurricular activities their children are participating in."

be clear to some. This case from the mid-1980s also originated in New Jersey and went all the way to the United States Supreme Court.

and Peter Brandt, the assistant principal. Heck, it might even go to the United States Supreme Court if the losing side wants to appeal.



By Matt Rainey/Star-Ledger

Thomas Best sits in court.

What the assistant principal should have done was tip off the police after his suspicions about a bad apple were raised. A student selling drugs was a criminal matter that should have immediately been handled by local police officers with proper search warrants.

The case hinges on the Fourth Amendment, that part of the Bill of Rights that speaks about what

a reasonable search is and "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects."

When the New Jersey Supreme Court makes its decision on the Thomas Best case, it won't just be the teen trouble-makers who will be pricking up their ears; it'll be those who think that the Fourth Amendment is inviolable.

NJCU and its *Vision* For Opportunity

By Luis Lopez

How many of the newly admitted first-time, full-time students at New Jersey City University are expected to graduate in four years? How many are expected to drop out and not return? How many of you considered NJCU your last choice or your only choice when applying for admission to colleges?

Can an "institution of opportunity" like NJCU meet its vision to become a nationally recognized leader in urban public higher education while continuing to serve its diverse population? These are some of the questions that NJCU's President, Carlos Hernandez, and the Board of Trustees addressed in *Vision 2010: A 5 Year Strategic Plan*, released in August 2005.

As we approach the final year of the five year plan, this may be a good time for a reassessment and re-evaluation of what we need to do in order to achieve the ultimate goal of making NJCU "the best urban university in the United States," as the document laid out.

Vision 2010 proposed a series of bold strategies to deal with 10 issues that NJCU needed to address over the five-year period; this article deals with only one.

Strategy 1: "Repositioning the Mix of Learner Constituencies," as it applies to first-time, full-time students.

In 2005, NJCU's graduation rate for first-time, full-time stu-

dents was among the lowest of all New Jersey higher-learning institutions. There was an impression that "NJCU students are unable to complete academically rigorous college work."

With this comes the perception that the University doesn't provide high quality programs and it gains the reputation among potential applicants as a college of last resort.

The authors of the plan maintained that if NJCU was to become a premier urban university, the school needed to address these impressions head-on. They proposed raising admissions standards to extend "the opportunity for enrollment to those applicant[s] having reasonable prospects for academic success."

Diversity, which is a major component of the University's mission, need not be impacted by increased admissions standards. They argue, "there is no *a priori* reason to suppose that better-prepared students will be less racially, ethnically, and economically diverse."

As for those students whose skill levels or educational achievements are not up to standard, the authors of the plan sug-



Photo from njcu.edu

Hepburn Hall

gest community college as a good alternative.

A student who is motivated enough but is not well-prepared need not be accepted by the University for the sake of preserving diversity. Community colleges are better able to remediate deficiencies of those students who want to attend NJCU but are ill-prepared.

That would free up the University to continue to accept those students whose skill levels are

still somewhat weak, provided they are given development support that "is highly and relatively quickly effective in developing the skills needed for academic success."

NJCU's plan to raise student admission standards, among other goals in *Vision 2010*, was laudable in light of its persistently low graduation rates as compared to New Jersey's other colleges and universities. The prospect for higher admission standards also left a good impression on students and the campus community in general.

According to the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education's "Institutional Profile" for NJCU, it appears that as of 2008, graduation rates have not increased over the years since the

"A perception of low standards can frustrate the goals of an institution of higher learning, and NJCU needs to continue in its fight to become a premiere urban university that attracts strong applicants for years to come."

New Jersey Gubernatorial Race 2009



Jon Corzine

Age: 62
Party: Democrat
Education: University of Illinois, B.A. — 1969
University of Chicago Business School, M.B.A. — 1973
Hometown: Taylorville, Illinois
Currently Resides: Princeton, NJ and Hoboken, NJ

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Recruited by Goldman Sachs as a bond trader in 1975, named partner in 1980
- Named Chairman and Chief Executive Office (CEO) of Goldman Sachs in 1994
- After being appointed CEO rescued Goldman Sachs from financial decline, eventually taking the firm from privately owned to a publicly traded corporation
- After being forced out of Goldman Sachs in 1999, ran for NJ senate seat in 2000 and won after spending \$60 million of his own money
- As Senator, sat as a member of the Banking, Budget, Intelligence, and Energy & Natural Resources committees
- Co-authored the *Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002* which oversees, regulates and disciplines accounting firms acting as auditors for publicly traded companies
- As governor, Corzine dedicated funds to pay down the state's obligation to the state pension system as well as making contributions to the state's bonded debt.
- Reduced the size of government by eliminating state departments and reducing the number of state employees

POLICIES

Taxes:

- Corzine promises to continue to stress fiscal responsibility in government by limiting the state's spending to its expected revenue
- End the practice of borrowing and other gimmicks to finance state operations
- Any necessary borrowing will be authorized by voter approval

State Economy:

- Promote and further develop New Jersey's high-tech industry and skill-based workforce
- Develop and expand the state's surface transportation system
- Upgrade New Jersey's critical infrastructure

Education:

- Corzine will replace outdated and failing schools with newer schools that will offer students a better environment for learning
- Need-based direct funding of public education, rather than funding based on location
- Maintaining high educational standards by holding educators accountable for their school's performance

Healthcare:

- Corzine wants to establish a safety-net system for those New Jerseyans unable to afford healthcare
- Move toward a single-payer, universal healthcare system
- Set standards for accessible and safe healthcare for all New Jerseyans

Environment:

- Reform the state's redevelopment laws
- Adopt rules that will protect New Jersey's urban and low-income areas from being disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution
- Control over-development and protect open spaces

Chris Christie

Age: 47
Party: Republican
Education: University of Delaware, B.A. — 1984
Seton Hall School of Law, J.D. — 1987
Hometown: Livingston, NJ
Currently Resides: Mendham, NJ

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Joined the law firm of Dughi, Hewitt & Palatucci shortly after graduating Seton Hall School of Law; Named partner in 1993
- Elected freeholder in Morris county and served as Director of the Board in 1997
- Named U.S. Attorney for the District of NJ in 2002 by then President George W. Bush
- As U.S. Attorney, Christie specialized in corporate securities and election law. Went on to prosecute and convict 130 corruption cases against NJ politicians and political employees.
- Worked on the George H.W. Bush presidential campaign in 1988 and later became a top fundraiser for George W. Bush's 2000 presidential bid

POLICIES

Taxes:

- Christie promises a sweeping budgetary overhaul by building the budget "upward" through determining total money available and prioritizing where that money goes
- Will rely only on recurring revenue to balance the budget, not temporary sources of funding like Federal stimulus funds. Christie vows to amend the state constitution to require a two-thirds majority to impose any new taxes
- Will eliminate the pension plan and healthcare benefits for all part-time state employees and state appointees

State Economy:

- Christie promises to cut taxes and the cost of doing business in New Jersey
- Promote New Jersey as a place to do business
- Freeze any new regulation and subsequently cut any existing excessive red tape and regulation

Education:

- Will revamp the Department of Education (DOE) and appoint a Commissioner to the

DOE whose job it will be to approve charter school applications

- Give successful schools in failing districts more management authority
- Proposes a tuition tax credit for low-income students in failing schools to attend public and non-public schools who will accept them
- Promises to regularly meet with all state college, university and community college presidents and give them a seat in Trenton
- Will connect community colleges with local businesses looking for new employees to train students with particular skills through Christie's "Putting New Jersey Back to Work" program
- Will re-instate the Higher Education Incentive Endowment Program to spur private investment and stabilize tuition costs

Healthcare:

- Will provide New Jerseyans with affordable healthcare by permitting insurance companies to offer lower-cost "mandate-free" insurance policies for those that want them
- Will allow national trade associations and membership organizations to market their plans to New Jersey small businesses

Environment:

- Vows to return Department of Environmental Protection to its original mission and not a state run bureaucracy
- Establish rule-making scientific advisory committees
- Expedite hazardous site remediation to eliminate backlog



Lt. Governor Candidate – Kim McFadden Guadagno

Age: 50
Party: Republican
Education: Ursinus College, B.A. – 1980
American University School of Law, J.D. – 1983

Hometown: Waterloo, Iowa
Current Resident: Monmouth Beach, NJ

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey and Assistant Attorney General – 1990-1998
- Served as deputy director for Division of Criminal Justice – 1998-2000
- Elected sheriff of Monmouth County – 2007-present



Lt. Governor Candidate – Loretta Weinberg

Age: 74
Party: Democrat
Education: University of California, B.A.
Completed all course work for Master of Public Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University

Hometown: New York City, NY
Current Residence: Teaneck, NJ

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Assistant Administrator to the County of Bergen 1975-1985
- Teaneck City Council member 1990 – 1994
- Elected to the New Jersey General Assembly – 1992
- Member of the New Jersey Historical Commission, the Legislative Services Commission, and the New Jersey Israel Commission
- New Jersey State Senate – 2005-Present



Don't forget to vote!

The New Jersey Gubernatorial election will take place on November 3, 2009.

For more information, visit www.njelections.org.

To find out more about Gov. Jon Corzine, Chris Christie, or Independent candidate Chris Daggett, visit their official websites: joncorzine09.com christiefornj.com daggettforgovernor.com

The information was compiled by Assistant News Editor Michael Palomino using the official websites of both candidates.

EDITORIAL

A Message To New Jersey Democrats

By Patrick Jarkowsky

On November 3, the citizens of New Jersey are going to flock to the polls to pull the lever for Jon Corzine or Chris Christie (maybe Jeff Boss will get a few 911 conspiracy votes).

I've heard many Corzine-hating, New Jersey Democrats threaten to sit out this election because of their problems with our Governor. My advice, go out and vote!

Among the most vocal of this Democratic cohort of Corzine-haters are union members. Their self-interest trumps any concerns they may have for the state as a whole.

So to all of the Democrats who are going to stay home on Election Day, I must ask a few simple questions:

1. *Where were you during the Democratic primary?*

In a state with 5.2 million registered voters, 1.7 million being registered Democrats, only 193,000 came out to vote in the Democratic primary.

If you were so disenchanted with the Governor, why didn't you throw your support behind another candidate and attempt to dethrone Corzine?

I understand that it would have been a momentous undertaking, but considering the low turnout, it could have been possible. Even if you were not successful, backing a serious primary challenger would have given the Governor a clear indication as to the level of your concern and frustration.

2. *With such a close race, how can you live with the fact that by sitting out this election, you're aiding in the possibility of New Jersey electing a Republican Governor?*

Not that all Republicans are nec-

essarily bad, but modern Republicans like Chris Christie are terrible. Christie is cut from the same cloth as President George W. Bush; you don't have to watch a Corzine campaign commercial to understand that Christie will push for Bush-style economic and political policies.

As Governor, he will cut spending and health care benefits for part-time state employees. He will freeze any new economic regulation and cut the corporate tax rate to near zero. And when the voters start to experience the consequences of his spending cuts and his approval rating starts to dip into the low thirties, he will inevitably start to increase government spending in order to insure re-election. Then we'll be faced with an increase in spending coupled with a decrease in tax revenue.

That dynamic has worked wonders for us in the past!

3. *And going back to the self-interest of union members, I agree that Governor Corzine handed you a raw deal when it came to the furloughs, and I think that this paper's Editorial Board has proven that we are steadfast union-supporters, but do you honestly think a pro-business Republican is going to be a better friend to the unions?*

Since the mid-70s, Republicans of all stripes have championed one cause with unflinching consistency - union busting.

All hyperbole aside, Jon Corzine is not Ronald Reagan! I know this is the popular sentiment among many union rabble-rousers and lefty-bloggers who are giving their two-cents on NJ-related Internet sites, but it is quite simply a dangerous exaggeration.

And of course I sympathize with Democrats who complain about unemployment, the slumping or rather deceased housing market, the skyrocketing cost of education, etc., etc. But they seem to place the blame for all of the ills of the state, and in some cases the world, on our Governor with no regard for whether he actually deserves the blame.

If the unemployment rate in New Jersey were 9.5% (which it is) while the national unemployment rate was 4.5%, then we could blame Governor Corzine.

If the national housing market was booming while the housing market in New Jersey was busting, then we could blame Governor Corzine.

If the cost of education was decreasing nationally but was increasing in New Jersey, then we could blame Governor Corzine.

In reality, the national economy is in shambles and it is likely that it will not significantly improve for at least three to five years. Is this really the fault of Jon Corzine?

I can recall that as Senator, Corzine was a major supporter of *The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*. The goal of this legislation was to better regulate the board members, managers, and accountants of publicly traded companies.

Senator Corzine was pushing for economic regulation while his Republican counterparts in the Senate, individuals who would happily call Chris Christie one of their own, were fighting for further deregulation.

Don't get me wrong, I could make a list of Corzine-related complaints and I'm sure it would be as long or even longer than the list of any New Jersey Democrat.

THE GOTHIC TIMES

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

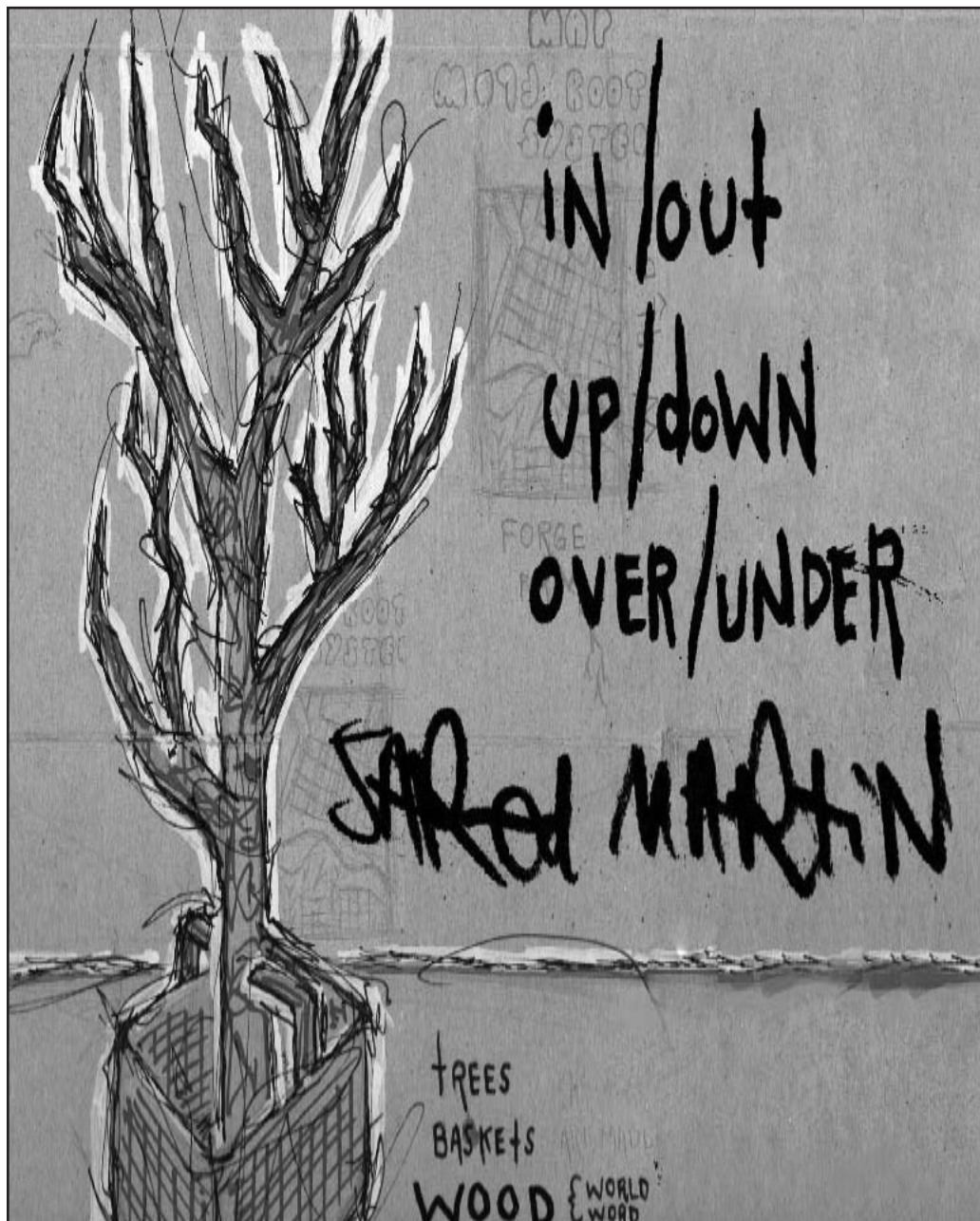
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This paper is printed on recycled content newspaper.

But you tell me, which is the better option: (a) stay home and pout and help Chris Christie become the next governor of New Jersey or (b) get out and vote, help Jon Corzine win re-election and exert the same amount of energy that you wasted complaining about

him towards the cause of making him a better champion for the citizens of our great state?

But if you do decide to stay home on Election Day, I have one simple request; for the next four years, keep the complaints to yourself.



in/out
up/down
over/under
Jared Martin
Memorial Exhibition

Monday, October 19-Friday, October 23

Opening Reception

Monday, October 19, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Gilligan Student Union Gallery

Gallery hours: 12:00-4:00 p.m.

For further information call (201)200-3246.

LIFESTYLE

Love Shouldn't Hurt

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

"It's nobody's business what goes on between lovers," we often hear. But domestic violence is everybody's business.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), one in every four women will experience domestic violence from a male or female romantic partner during her lifetime. With such an alarming prevalence, it is very likely that a woman close to you has been or will be a victim.

NCADV also estimates that 15 percent of those who experience domestic violence are men. In addition, domestic violence impacts the children who grow up witnessing a parent or caregiver being abused by an intimate partner.

Studies show that up to 60 percent of perpetrators also abuse children in the household. Research also shows that boys who observe domestic violence while growing up are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children as adults.

What constitutes domestic violence? According to NJ law, you are a victim if you have experienced the following from a romantic partner, whether or not you have ever lived together:

- physical attacks involving hitting, kicking, slapping, punching, pushing, or hair pulling
- threats of grave injury to you or your children
- imprisonment (at home or elsewhere)
- kidnapping
- forced sexual contact under threat of harm to you or someone else
- damage to or theft of your personal possessions
- threats with a weapon (any object you feel can harm you)
- forced entry into your home (with or without a weapon)
- recurring verbal humiliation
- stalking

If people you care about are involved in abusive relationships, you CAN help.

Approach them in an understanding, non-judgmental manner. Express your concern about their well-being. Remind them they don't deserve abuse, and that



Photo by harfordmedlegal.typepad.com

nothing they can do or say justifies violent behavior.

Be a good listener, encouraging them to express feelings and make their own decisions, even if it means not leaving yet. If they decide to do so, help them report the violence to the police, or assist with developing a safe strategy

for leaving the relationship.

Recognize that it may be frightening for threatened people to admit abuse. If it is denied, emphasize that you will be there for them no matter what. Be sure to provide information about available resources, such as the National Domestic Violence Hot-

line (1-800-799-7233, available 24 hours a day), and Hudson County's own Women Rising (201-333-5700).

Registered students can also receive free, confidential counseling at the NJCU Counseling Center. Call us at 201-200-3165 to make an appointment.

Free Software Alternatives for the Starving Student

By Michael Palomino

The Great Recession of 2008-2009 has left everyone hurting, and college students are no exception.

Between tuition, books, school supplies, and holding on to enough cash to fund your daily caffeine addiction, money is scarcer and tighter than ever.

The last thing you need is to spend good money on overly expensive retail software for your personal computer when there are free and legal alternatives out there.

Behold! We present to you some of the best free software available to download off the Internet (sorry Mac users, this software – with the exception of OpenOffice.org – is only for PCs running Windows XP or later.).

OpenOffice.org 3.1

(<http://www.openoffice.org/>)
For those of us still running older versions of Microsoft Office or those unsure if they want to spend \$150 for the latest Office 2007, which – if you feel as I do – is a step backwards from previous iterations of Microsoft's Office packages, then look no further.

Included in a 150-megabyte download, OpenOffice.org 3.1 has everything you might want or need in a productivity suite.



Avira

Avira AntiVir software

OpenOffice.org *Writer* is a fully functional word processing program with built in spell-check. Need to put together a spreadsheet? No problem. OpenOffice.org *Calc* is there for you. Presentation? OpenOffice.org *Impress* will do almost anything PowerPoint can do.

And what's more—all these applications are completely Microsoft Office compatible. So you can save your files as standard Microsoft Office files, such as *.doc, take them over to the computer lab, open them up and print them out as surely as if you had

written them in *Word*.

Go ahead, give it a try. If you don't like it, it didn't cost you a dime. You can go back to that bootlegged copy of Microsoft Office 2007 you bummed off your brother-in-law.

Avira AntiVir free anti-virus

(<http://www.free-av.com>)

What's better than free? Peace of mind, of course!

In this day and age of predatory websites and e-mails, you'll need all the protection you can get from malicious software. Take it from us, when funds are at a premium, nothing will be more expensive than a personal computer that has been addled by malware or spyware.

Enter: *Avira AntiVir* – a robust yet lightweight anti-virus program that works as good as the big boys on the market. Better yet – if you're like me – you'll appreciate *AntiVir's* smaller overhead compared to applications like McAfee or Norton's security suites, which have been bogged down with bloated features, which eat up memory the way your significant other eats all the ice-cream out of the fridge.

Paint.net

(<http://www.getpaint.net>)

If you're still using Microsoft XP then you know that Microsoft *Paint* is about as useful as square wheels to do anything beyond something that approaches finger-painting with your mouse.

Paint.net to the rescue! It's a fully functional image and photo editing software program that includes layer support and a robust set of built-in tools to help you re-size, crop, rotate, adjust your photos' brightness, contrast and color as well as a number of special effects and tools, making your photos look their best.

In addition, Paint.net has an enthusiastic development commu-

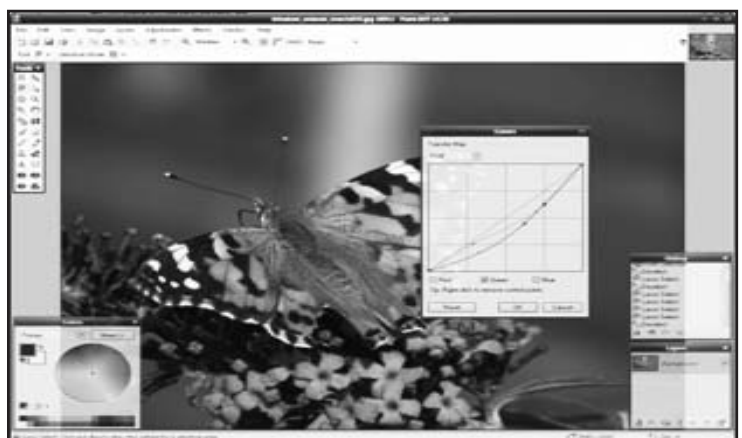
nity that continuously puts out plug-ins that further expands Paint.net's functionality.

CDBurnerXP

(<http://cdburnerxp.se/>)

An application that until recently eluded me. This free CD/DVD burning software suite is, much like the aforementioned apps, fully functional. It can burn data CD & DVDs, rip & burn audio CDs and supports the ability to make and burn your own disk images (.iso) to and from discs.

Add in some simple CD label printing and lightscribe support, and this software easily does 99.99 percent of what some expensive commercial software can do.



Rick Brewster

Paint.net software

In Commemoration of "Coming Out Day" 2009
New Jersey City University proudly presents:

2nd Annual LGBT Pride Flag Raising Ceremony

R. L. Fdy/ll

Wednesday, October 14, 2009
12:00pm Hepburn Hall Lawn
Followed by a Reception in the Gothic Lounge (H202)

Mingle with LGBTF Alliance Students, Faculty, Staff, Advisors and Straight Allies!

Honor Alumni, Nancy Caamano ('05)
Director of HPC and LGBT Pride Center of New Jersey

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT and enjoy delectable refreshments sponsored by the SGO Vice President of Activities

This event is FREE and open to the community

Co-sponsored by: The Division of Student Affairs, Division of Academic Affairs, Office of the Dean of Students, Speicher-Rubin Women's Center, Office of Campus Life, Residence Life, Counseling and Psychological Services Center, Women's and Gender Studies, the Student Government Organization, Peer Educating Peers Program, LGBTF Alliance of NJCU, Jersey City Gay and Lesbian Outreach, and Pride Connections Center.

ENTERTAINMENT

Beatlemania for a New Generation

By Efrain Calderon, Jr.

It seems fitting—in the era of sequels and remixes—that the music and video game industries have looked to the past to kick start sales.

On September 9, Apple Corps released a remastered stereo box set that collects all the Beatles' original British releases. Purists were treated to a 12 disc mono box set that includes mono mixes of *Revolver*, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, *Magical Mystery Tour*, and *The Beatles* ("white album") available on CD for the first time.

Simultaneously, gamers were treated to *The Beatles: Rock Band*; a music video game that allows you to play along to classic Beatles songs.

Yoko Ono, wife of John Lennon, deceased guitarist and songwriter for the group, the estate of George Harrison, and surviving members: bassist and songwriter Paul McCartney, and drummer Ringo Starr were able to "come together" to present fans with a whole new way to experience Beatles music on the Playstation 3, Xbox 360, and Nintendo Wii.

So what can a die-hard Beatles fan expect after plunking down some serious cash? The stereo box is essentially an anthology. This 17-disc box collects all the releases in glossy, gatefold sleeves. Each CD includes an exclusive "mini-documentary" that should give new fans a better idea of each album's significance. The



© Apple Corps

Abbey Road is the album I find benefits most from the work; its guitar solos sounding miles ahead of the 1987 CD release.

You might wonder why mono mixes are even made available, but you have to remember that the mono mixes (including that of *Sgt. Pepper*) are what the Beatles intended audiences to hear. Creation of the stereo mixes was tasked to engineers who decided to hard pan the rhythm section to either the right or left channel.

The Beatles ("white album") is far more overwhelming in mono. "Yer Blues" features Lennon screaming "Yes I'm lonely, Wan-

pool), it's clear that the music's appeal is still strong.

Though music video game guitar shredders might have been most satisfied riding the lightning with Metallica, *The Beatles: Rock Band* could be a deal-maker for potential console buyers eager to play along with the group's pixel proxies. This is especially true as this version of *Rock Band* will not be made available to older consoles like the Playstation 2, forcing a console upgrade for many.

This isn't to say that the whole Beatles "event" is simply a quick "money grab." Rumors began to circulate that mono box sets were to be limited to 10,000 numbered copies! As orders poured in, Apple Corps and EMI produced more, driving prices back below list price after a week or two.

Though these releases may not contain the unearthed recordings or new mixes one might wish for, the prices seem fair when you realize your paying about \$15 per stereo CD, and about \$20 for each mono CD.

Let's be clear—I never visited 1960's Liverpool. Few can say they have followed The Beatles from The Cavern club, their infamous stomping ground, to worldwide fame.

While we all might become historians through books, none of us have the right to be snobby about one of (if not the most) universally appealing rock acts of all time. Like it or not, the Beatles are mainstream. Though one might cringe at the thought of a Beatles video game, it doesn't do a disservice to the group's legacy.

Rock Band alone has garnered enough flack from musicians who can't seem to reconcile a music

game with music theory. These people miss the point.

Of course I could devote my life to learning every mode and scale, and gruelingly struggle toward perfect pitch, but none of these accomplishments relate to playing—what in essence is—a glorified game of "dress up" with friends at a party.

singing "Don't Let Me Down" while seeing a pretty accurate recreation of the rooftop concert. '64 harmonica solos became '67 sitar drones in three hours of game time.

The Beatles: Rock Band contains 45 songs from 12 albums and boasts never before heard studio banter played during loading screens. *Rock Band*'s controllers also receive a Beatles inspired twist, as gamers can purchase plastic replicas of John Lennon's Rickenbacker, George Harrison's Gretsch Duo Jet, Paul McCartney's Höfner bass guitar, and a drum controller inspired by Ringo Starr's Ludwig drum set.

Expanding on the game's initial tracks, Harmonix—the game's developer—will release *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* and *Abbey Road* as supplemental downloads. *Abbey Road* will even have an option for players to "perform" the album's seamless b-side in its entirety.

The Beatles: Rock Band has great style, its animation is modern but doesn't ever feel over the top. Each section of the band's career is presented with songs from that period. Load screens display the date each song was recorded before you begin and levels are



© Apple Corps 2009

Beatles Mono Boxset

remastered stereo albums are available individually, though one might gain some satisfaction from having them all in a neat black box for about \$250.

The mono box contains all the releases in—you guessed it—mono, omitting *Yellow Submarine*, *Abbey Road*, and *Let It Be*, three albums that were never recorded in mono. The mono discs are packaged to match the original vinyl releases, going so far as to recreate miniature versions of their respective record sleeves and inserts. All this attention to detail carries with it a \$300 dollar price tag, although because the box is harder to find than its stereo counterpart, some retailers are charging significantly more.

The most important aspect of all these remastered releases, though, has to be the sound! McCartney's bass sounds stronger, and the vocals are so crisp at times that you might catch a vocal effect that you never noticed.

na Die!" struggling to be heard over Ringo's thundering drums. This moment's power is stripped away in stereo where Lennon's vocal is clear as a whistle and the drums "play nice" in the left channel.

With the success of *Across The Universe*, a film that incorporates Beatles' songs into its plot (think *Moulin Rouge* by way of Liver-



© Harmonix Music Systems 2009



© Apple Corps 2009

Beatles Stereo Boxset

The Beatles: Rock Band is a great experience. Though I'm sure there's more to "Yellow Submarine" than pressing a yellow plastic button, there's something special about focusing in on one aspect and following it throughout a full song.

Playing bass in the game, I fell in love with McCartney's bass lines all over again. I got chills

bridged with music and photomontages that give a general feel of the Beatles' career.

Keeping with the real-life history of the band, as the game progresses, the Beatles revert to being a studio entity, but thankfully dreamy sequences slowly transport the band from the recording sessions to far off places meant to represent the look and feel of each song.

After 20 years, it was about time to replace the 1987 CD releases, and purists should take comfort that their children are now learning about the Beatles within the context of their careers if they choose the video game route.

This Beatles event, most of all, reminds us of the impact these four men from Liverpool have had on us all. It's now October and feet continue to tap to Ringo's beat, fingers dance along plastic guitars to the melody of "Drive My Car" and a whole new kind of "Beatlemania" has arrived!

ENTERTAINMENT

The Mouse Takes Over the Marvel Universe

By Mohammad Hassan

On August 31, the Walt Disney Company surprised the business and entertainment world by announcing their acquisition of Marvel Entertainment for \$4 billion in cash and stock.

The deal makes Marvel Entertainment, along with their Marvel Comics division, a new subsidiary of Disney Enterprises. This is the second major purchase by Disney since their \$7 billion purchase of Pixar animation studios in 2002.

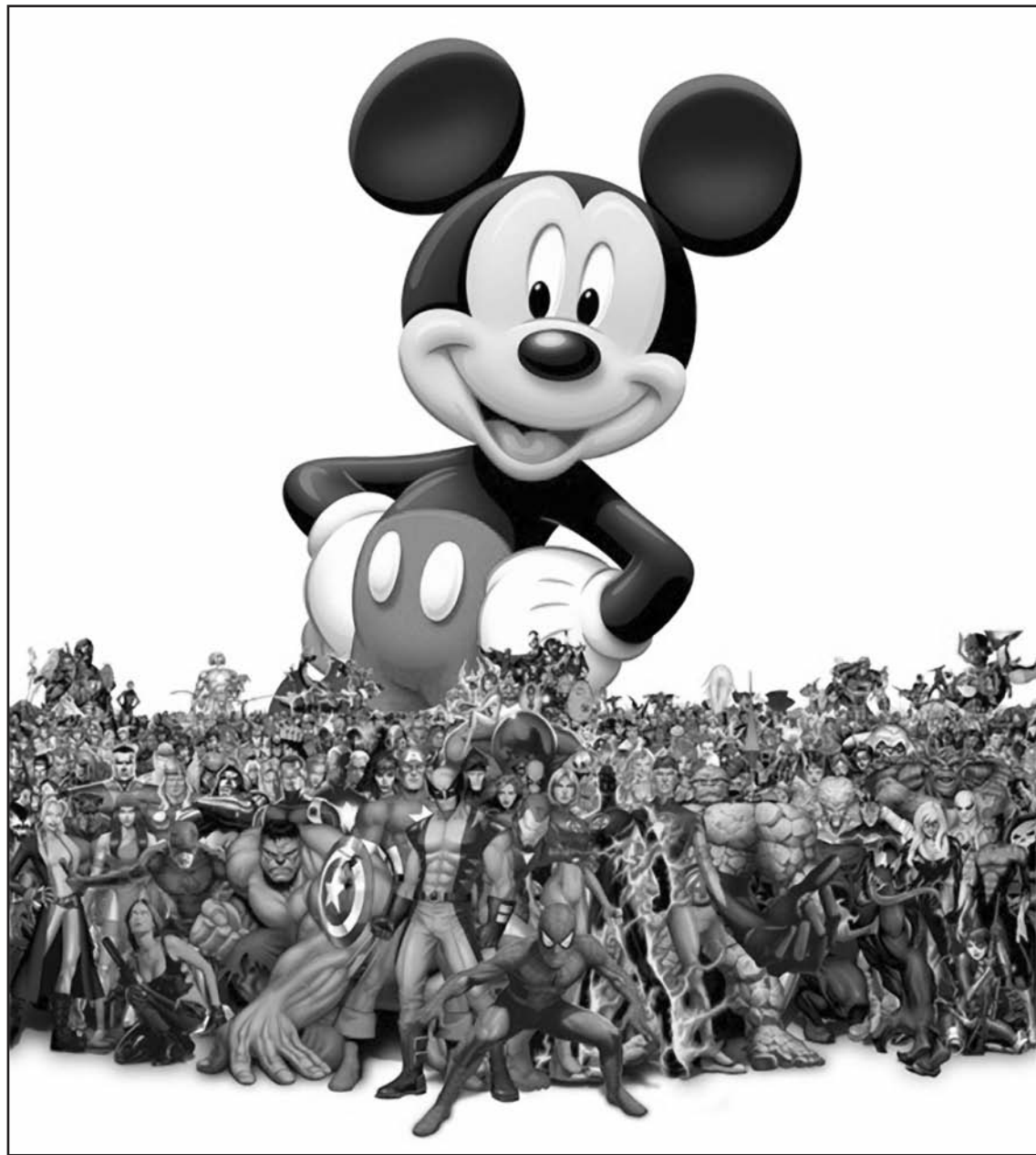
By acquiring Marvel, Disney has become a direct competitor of Time Warner, which owns both Warner Brothers and DC Comics.

Unlike DC comics, Disney has to keep in mind that Marvel's big money making franchises such as Spider-Man, Fantastic Four and Iron Man are licensed by Sony, Fox, and Paramount respectively.

One important question being asked is how will this deal affect long time Marvel fans? What is to be expected from Marvel considering they are now owned by a company whose core audience consists of female tweens?

For now, we won't be seeing a radical change in how Marvel manages its characters. There won't be a reduction in violence or mature storytelling. Bob Iger, who is the CEO of Disney and the brains behind this deal, has a great respect for the comic book medium.

The terms of the deal secure Marvel's independence in its creative approach toward characters, similar to the relationship between Time Warner and DC Comics. Perhaps the only significant change will be the rating of Marvel superhero movies. We can expect all future films to be



Ryan Hamelin

rated PG-13.

Although we can't be sure of what this merger will do to the Marvel Universe, what's clear to everyone is Disney's real reason for the purchase.

Disney noticed it had lost touch with the male population, plain and simple. Sure, they have the teen, female demographic under complete control with the likes of Hannah Montana and the Jonas

Brothers, but they have always struggled to get the attention of the male population.

With this purchase, Disney has made a step in the right direction. Now every male Marvel comic

reader will have something interesting to look for from Disney.

For Marvel, the biggest benefit from this deal is a more powerful financial and distribution backing. Marvel will be able to sell their comics globally with the help of the marketing arm of Disney. As a result, Marvel can and should have a great deal of success.

This deal will also help Marvel produce more animated features.

Unlike DC, which has enjoyed both critical and commercial success with *Wonder Woman*, *Batman: Gotham Knight* and *JLA: The New Frontier*, Marvel hasn't been able to channel their characters as successfully. With animation powerhouses like Pixar and Disney's own animation studio, Marvel can and should have a great deal of success.

This deal is clearly a win-win for Marvel.

For Disney, perhaps the biggest pill to swallow is the fact that Marvel has already licensed its characters to different movie studios. Sony Pictures holds the rights to Spider-Man until the release of the sixth installment in the series and Fox has recently announced a reboot of the Fantastic Four franchise.

Disney has stated that it will respect all the current deals but has not clearly explained how it would stop outside studios from renewing the licenses.

While Disney's purchase of Marvel may raise some eyebrows from faithful fans, they should rest assured; the deal is nothing but a blessing for both Marvel and Disney. Not only it will bring out the best in both companies, it will also bring newfound financial and creative power to the Marvel Universe.

Willis's Surrogates a Poor Substitute for Entertainment

By David Sansevere, Jr.

Central to the plot of *Surrogates* is the concept of "surrogacy," the use of humanoid robots, controlled from the safety of one's home, to perform the functions of a person's daily life. The film asks the question, "How would we behave if we could live with no fear?"

I was left asking the question, "How do they expect me to believe this?"

Bruce Willis plays FBI agent Tom Greer. It's actually something of a dual role for Willis; a bald, gray-goateed Willis plays the real Tom Greer while a Bruce Willis with a blonde wig and makeup plays Tom Greer's surrogate.

Greer and his partner, Agent Peters, (Radha Mitchell,) must in-

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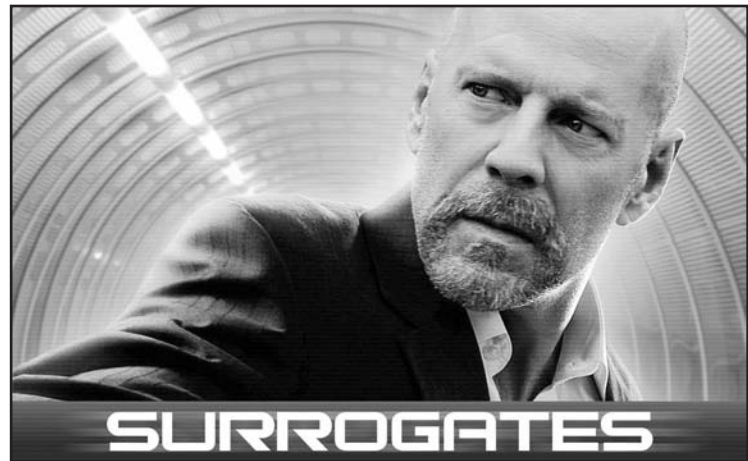
vestigate the destruction of an unidentified surrogate robot, which has somehow caused the death of the living person operating it, an occurrence thought impossible in the film's world.

Greer's investigation puts him in conflict with Lionel Canter, the inventor of surrogacy, (James Cromwell in a role similar to the one he played in the similarly-themed, though far better executed, *I, Robot*), and the leader of an anti-surrogacy movement known

only as The Prophet (Ving Rhames, apparently channeling Parliament-Funkadelic frontman George Clinton.)

After Greer loses his own surrogate, he is forced to leave the comfort of his home for the first time in years and try to solve a murder in a world where pain and danger are once again very real.

Moviegoers are generally expected to suspend their disbelief to a certain degree when sitting down to watch a flick, but *Surro-*



Touchstone Pictures 2009

gates immediately requires an unsustainable leap of faith.

The film begins with an explanation of the invention and rise of surrogacy, a process that goes from conception to global adoption in the span of less than 20 years—a bit hard to swallow for anyone who has middle-aged parents that still cannot surf the Internet or operate a VCR.

The rushed, unbelievable time-

line of the film's central plot parallels the second overriding problem of the *Surrogates*—it runs less than 90 minutes. There really isn't time to thoroughly explain anything or get the audience to invest in any of the characters.

The plot is rushed. The action is rushed. The drama is rushed. And the ending is ultimately unsatisfying.



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SPORTS

NJCU Wins 2009 Liberty Cup Title With 3-1 Victory Over City Tech

By NJCU Office of
Sports Information

New Jersey City University scored three, second-half goals to bounce back from a 1-0 halftime deficit to win the 2009 NJCU Liberty Cup, defeating New York City College of Technology 3-1 on Sunday, September 13 at the Robert L. McNulty Memorial Soccer Field.

NJCU improves to 5-1-1 with its fourth consecutive win and improves to 9-1 all-time in the Liberty Cup, the Knights' signature soccer tournament. The Gothic Nights have won the event championship in 2004, 2005 and 2006, before finishing third in 2007.

NJCU was 2-0 in the tournament with a 12 plus goal differential. Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU), which defeated the College of Staten Island (CSI) in the earlier game on Sunday, finished second with a 2-0 record and a 9 plus goal differential. FDU is 4-0 all-time in the tournament. City Tech finished third while CSI placed fourth.

Sophomore striker, Walter Avans, earned the tournament's



Photo by Richard Formical

NJCU won the 2009 Liberty Cup title with a 2-0 record and a +12 goal differential.

Most Valuable Player accolades. Senior midfielder, Awal Ahmed, freshmen midfielders, Gabriel Avans and Jefferson Hurtado, and senior forward, Jilmar Perez, were voted to the All-Tournament Team.

Perez had two assists in the win

over City Tech after posting three in a 9-0 rout of CSI on September 12. Sophomore forward Alex Ceron had a game-tying goal in the second-half and Ahmed put away the eventual game winner—both off of assists from Perez, before Gabriel Avans con-

tributed an insurance goal.

Junior keeper, Justin Grant, played the second 45 minutes and earned the win, making two saves. Sophomore goalie, Manny Lojo, made one, first-half stop.

City Tech rookie keeper, Nelson Restrepo, earned All-Tourna-

ment Team honors with 10 saves in the game. The Yellow Jackets gained a 1-0 halftime lead with a goal at 23:38 of the opening period, as sophomore defender, Hugo Urgiles, found sophomore midfielder, Rafael Jara, for his first score of the year. Jara was also voted to the All-Tournament Team.

At 46:31, Restrepo kept the Yellow Jackets in front, stopping a penalty kick from Walter Avans, but the Knights would tie it just over three minutes later as Ceron netted his fourth goal of the season off a feed from Perez.

Ahmed's fourth marker of the year at 67:02 put NJCU in front (2-1), with Perez once again providing the assist. Gabriel Avans added an unassisted insurance goal—his fourth tally of the year—that made it a 3-1 lead at 75:35 of the second period.

NJCU out shot the Yellow Jackets (24-9), including 15-4 in the second-half, and had a 9-1 edge in corner kicks. NJCU, which was facing City Tech for the first time since 2000, is 3-0 all-time in the series.

The NFL: A Recap and What's Ahead

By Gustavo Lazo

In August of 2008, teary-eyed Brett Favre came out of a five-month retirement and was promptly traded to the New York Jets after 15 years with the Green Bay Packers. The New York Giants were looking to avoid "the hangover" after winning Super Bowl XLII earlier in February.

As the 2008-09 season progressed, the Super Bowl champions were seemingly unstoppable despite a loss to the Cleveland Browns in Week 6. After having clinched the National Football Conference (NFC) East division, the prospect for Super Bowl glory was brought to a screeching halt with a 23-11 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in the playoffs.

The Tennessee Titans had an impressive 13-3 record and were the number one seed in the American Football Conference (AFC). Their Super Bowl hopes were dashed thanks to a 43-yard field goal by Baltimore Ravens kicker, Matt Stover.

The Pittsburgh Steelers (12-4) secured a win over the San Diego Chargers (8-8) for the AFC Championship. The Arizona Cardinals, who were 9-7 the previous season, defeated the Philadelphia Eagles for the NFC Championship.

The Cardinals and Steelers faced off in an incredibly close Super Bowl XLIII. Pittsburgh wide receiver, Santonio Holmes, caught a six-yard touchdown pass by quarterback, Ben Roethlisberger, winning the



AP Photo/ Reinhold Matay

Giants running back Brandon Jacobs (27) rushes to the end zone for a touchdown against the Buccaneers in Tampa, FL on September 27.

game for the Steelers 27 to 23.

But that was 2008.

The National Football League (NFL) is now in its 90th season. Favre, who retired for a second time in February, signed a two-year, \$25 million-dollar deal with the Minnesota Vikings this past August.

Wise decision, as the Vikings go undefeated through week three, thanks to a dramatic 32-yard pass by Favre to wide receiver, Greg Lewis, for a touchdown with two seconds left in the game, securing an

amazing 27-24 victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

Other stunning moments include Giants defensive end, Osi Umenyiora's, comeback play in which he stripped the ball from the hands of Washington Redskins' quarterback, Jason Campbell, picked it up and ran for a 37-yard touchdown in his first game since Super Bowl XLII.

The New York Jets, under new head coach Rex Ryan, sees something great in rookie quarterback Mark Sanchez, who won his first-three games, a first for a rookie in almost 40 years.

The Detroit Lions finally won a game against the Redskins, their first since the '07 season. The Steelers and Cardinals, both 2010 Super Bowl contenders, have fallen victim to the Super Bowl hangover with disappointing starts. The Eagles are off to a decent start after star quarterback, Donovan McNabb, suffered a broken rib in their first game against the Carolina Panthers. Kevin Kolb replaced McNabb in Week 2.

Despite entering the fourth week of the season, fans have been outspoken about the future of this season. One thing they're sure of is that their team is going to the Super Bowl!

"I think they're going to the Super Bowl. Manning is improving as a quarterback," said Fadey Nakhla, 18, undeclared major from Bayonne, a die-hard Giants' fan.

"He knows how to stay in the pocket, and they're a surely dominant team."

DATE	SPORT	OPPONENT/LOCATION	TIME
Tue. 10/13/2009	Women's Volleyball	at Ramapo College/Mahwah, NJ	7 p.m.
Wed. 10/14/2009	Women's Soccer	vs William Paterson University Jersey City, NJ	3:30 p.m.
Wed. 10/14/2009	Men's Soccer	at William Paterson University Wayne, NJ	7 p.m.
Thu. 10/15/2009	Women's Volleyball	vs Rowan University Jersey City, NJ	7 p.m.
Sat. 10/17/2009	Women's Cross Country	vs Collegiate Track Conference Cross-Country Championship Pomona, NJ	11 a.m.
Sat. 10/17/2009	Men's Cross Country	vs Collegiate Track Conference Cross-Country Championship Pomona, NJ	11 a.m.
Sat. 10/17/2009	Women's Volleyball	at Stevens Institute of Technology Hoboken, NJ	1 p.m.
Sat. 10/17/2009	Women's Soccer	vs Rowan University, Jersey City, NJ	2 p.m.
Sat. 10/17/2009	Men's Soccer	at Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ	7 p.m.
Tue. 10/20/2009	Women's Volleyball	at Rutgers-Camden, Camden, NJ	7 p.m.
Wed. 10/21/2009	Women's Soccer	vs College of Staten Island, Jersey City, NJ	3:30 p.m.
Thu. 10/22/2009	Women's Volleyball	at Lehman College/Bronx, NY	7 p.m.
Sat. 10/24/2009	Men's Soccer	vs Rutgers-Camden, Jersey City, NJ	1 p.m.
Sat. 10/24/2009	Women's Soccer	at Rutgers-Camden, Camden, NJ	3 p.m.
Wed. 10/28/2009	Women's Soccer	at Montclair State University Montclair, NJ	3 p.m.
Wed. 10/28/2009	Men's Soccer	vs Montclair State University Jersey City, NJ	4 p.m.
Thu. 10/29/2009	Women's Volleyball	vs John Jay College Jersey City, NJ	7 p.m.
Sat. 10/31/2009	Women's Volleyball	vs Polytechnic Institute of NYU New York, NY	9 a.m.
Sat. 10/31/2009	Women's Cross Country	vs New Jersey Athletic Conference Championship Pomona, NJ	10 a.m.
Sat. 10/31/2009	Women's Volleyball	vs St. Joseph's College (NY) New York, NY	11 a.m.
Sat. 10/31/2009	Men's Cross Country	vs New Jersey Athletic Conference Championship Pomona, NJ	11:15 a.m.
Sat. 10/31/2009	Men's Soccer	vs NJAC Quarterfinals,	TBA
Sat. 10/31/2009	Women's Volleyball	vs TBA/New York, NY	TBA
Sat. 10/31/2009	Women's Soccer	at NJAC Quarterfinals, TBA	TBA