



THE GOTHIC TIMES

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Removing Route 440's Contamination to Develop Bayfront

BY JOSEPH SEVERINI

Bayfront is a real estate development project that will transform 100 acres of Route 440 into a massive waterfront community equipped with housing, shopping, two parks and access to mass transit. But there is one catch: Jersey City may not see it fully realized until 2043, as the land is contaminated with chromium, a toxic chemical that poses a carcinogenic threat.

Cushman and Wakefield, a market investment company that has been reserved as Bayfront's main developer will begin the process of ridding the site of its chromium contamination this summer. The capping and cleansing process is expected to be completed before the year's end. As soon as the site is cleared of any contamination, the 25-year construction of Bayfront can begin.

Anne Marie Davis, a waitress at Jersey City Diner along Route 440 said, "Right now, it is a giant, empty lot, so as long as the contamination is properly ridded, and nobody can get sick then Bayfront should be a positive thing. The owner's idea to build with the environment's future in mind makes me proud at the positive direction the city is going in."

In addition to entirely decontaminating the site, Honeywell plans for the luxurious community to be generated using environmentally sustained buildings, equipped with renewable resources, green roofing and a state of the art storm water plan.

Once complete, Bayfront will join other Route 440 projects such

as Society Hill and Droyers Point as having undergone major cleanups of deadly contaminations. NJCU is also developing on the other side of Route 440, where the West Campus is planned and chromium has already undergone remediation.

In a 2015 interview for Real Estate Weekly, Cushman and Wakefield's David Bernhaut, who is overseeing the Bayside assignment said, "This is an incredible opportunity to secure the largest development site left within New Jersey's next Gold Coast market, where developable land is highly sought after and limited opportunities remain. Adding to the site's rarity and appeal is its location in one of the fastest growing and most dynamic cities in the Northeast."

The \$29 million project, which upon completion will become home to two new parks, has received a \$2 million dollar tax break from the state's Economic Development Authority (EPA). The seven percent tax break will be granted to Bayside's owners, Honeywell (a Fortune 500 engineering service company) once the construction has concluded.

Leticia Tabbares, 25, a psychology major and Jersey City resident said, "It's exciting that that they will be building two new parks. A \$2 million dollar tax break is a decent amount to help build what will probably become a popular place for a lot of residents and tourists. It is a good investment."

Honeywell's tax break from the EPA has been widely approved by many government officials, including Jersey City's mayor Steven Fulop. However, some believe that giving Honeywell such a massive tax break is an abysmal error.

In a "Jersey Journal" interview from April, Jeff Tittel, the director of the New Jersey Sierra Club said, "It's unconscionable that we're giving \$2

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million for infrastructure to one of the biggest corporations in the country when we do not have the money to fix the pipes in our school and remove lead from places like Newark, Jersey City and Camden.” Honeywell has yet to release a public statement regarding Tittel’s criticism.

A Superfund Site?

Honeywell, which gained ownership of Bayside in the late 1990’s, plans to accentuate one of Jersey City’s greatest resources, the Hackensack River. The river has been underutilized due to an overwhelming amount of chromium pollution. The contamination dates back to the late 19th Century, when Mutual Chemical, the predecessor of Honeywell, began leaking excess chromium from its plant into the river.

Carmen Abdel, 27, an environmental photographer based in southern New Jersey who holds a degree in environmental studies said, “The Hackensack River is currently being studied by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to become a Superfund site.” Superfund status is granted by the EPA, and is intended to decontaminate only the most hazardous and ecologically threatened sites. “If the EPA permits Superfund status, it would then take years for Honeywell, among other companies, to entirely decontaminate the site, as the contamination has seeped into sediment buried below the surface. Once all of the contamination has been capped or removed, the construction of Bayside

can begin.”

Though it may take up to 25 years, the development is just another step in Jersey City’s environmental and economic transformation. While Honeywell and Cushman and Wakefield’s chief priority is to generate money and keep their shareholders pleased, they are also focusing on the conservation of the environment. Bayfront’s 8,100 residences and one million square feet of office and retail space could turn Bayfront into the paramount of all Route 440 developments.

For more information about the Bayside redevelopment, go to:

www.bayfrontjerseycity.com



The World as Our School

BY MARIA ROBLES

When students learn in a classroom about different cultures, places and languages through textbooks and lectures, it can be difficult to understand the full scope of what they are studying. How can they comprehend what they have never actually experienced themselves? Luckily, some classes at NJCU offer a chance to study abroad in faculty-led trips.

During the most recent spring break, for example, students from the Honors Program taking “East Meets the West: Borders and Crossings through Cultures” class went to Berlin, Germany in early March with professors Anna Cieslik and Rosamond Hooper-Hamersley. Among the many activities, they had the extraordinary opportunity to visit a Nazi concentration camp outside Berlin.

“It was intense... Even though [the camp] has a much smaller gas chamber compared to other camps, you can feel in the air what happened in a much bigger level in other camps,” said David Melgar, 19, an English

student who participated in this trip. “It was an enriching, fascinating and educational experience.”

“[Study abroad trips] have an excellent itinerary without being overwhelming. [Students] are able to have fun [while] learning to travel as scholars,” added Melgar. He said one night the students went to a club where they could enjoy the great vibe and music with people from different countries. “[Faculty led-trips] give students the opportunity to travel and learn about different perspectives and cultures.”

Another group of students, enrolled in “Politics, Folklore, and Theatre in Ireland,” had the chance to visit Ireland and Northern Ireland with Professor Scott O’Connor.

In addition, Dr. Laine Giovannetto’s Biology 332 class “Field Ecology” traveled to Costa Rica. Giovannetto took his 15 students to study the issues animals living in the tropical forest are facing. They were able to assist in workshops about birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles that will help them with their own projects. Students also had

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the chance to work with researchers.

“Students had hands-on experience,” said Giovannetto. “A bird researcher allowed students to follow him and they could see birds up close.”

Giovanetto recommends traveling abroad to every student. “Introducing new cultures, experiencing a different lifestyle, opening peoples’ eyes to issues they can see in other places,” are some of the benefits he sees in going overseas.

To be a part of these eight to 10 days travel abroad programs, students are required to be enrolled for the specific courses connected to the overseas trip. Some of the classes require students to meet specific criteria -- such as being a part a specific major, but most courses are general studies classes, so there are open to any current NJCU student.

“These trips provide students with a different world view. They have

the chance to experience what they just normally would read about,” said Professor Craig Katz, director of International Programs.

Katz explained that these trips are partly subsidized by the Provost’s Office, so students get a discount. In addition, the Student Government Organization (SGO) offers scholarships of up to \$1000 for those students going on short-term trips.

The International Program is considering, among other places, Paris, London and Beijing as possible locations for future faculty-led trips.

Another option for those students interested is going abroad is to travel for a whole semester. Students can apply to SGO’s scholarships up to \$5000 for semester abroad and have the chance to study in a variety of countries such as Japan, Israel and China.

Students can check njcu.edu/studyabroad to read more information about study abroad programs.



NJCU Students in Costa Rica

Mission to Saturn: Dr. Carolyn Porco Describes Cassini Mission

BY STEPHANIE SUSBERICH

NJCU’s annual Presidential Speaker Series at the Liberty Science Center IMAX Theatre introduced planetary scientist Dr. Carolyn Porco in an hour-long talk about her work as the leader of the imaging science team for the Cassini mission that is currently orbiting Saturn. A joint venture between the U.S. and Europe, the six-ton unmanned robotic spacecraft launched in 1997 and took seven years to travel a billion miles to reach our solar system’s second largest planet. Powered by nuclear thermo electric generators, Cassini flew by Venus twice, Earth once, and then Jupiter, using the planets’ gravitation to gain momentum and sling itself towards its destination. It is the fourth space probe sent to Saturn and the first to ever enter its orbit. Its mission is to explore Saturn and

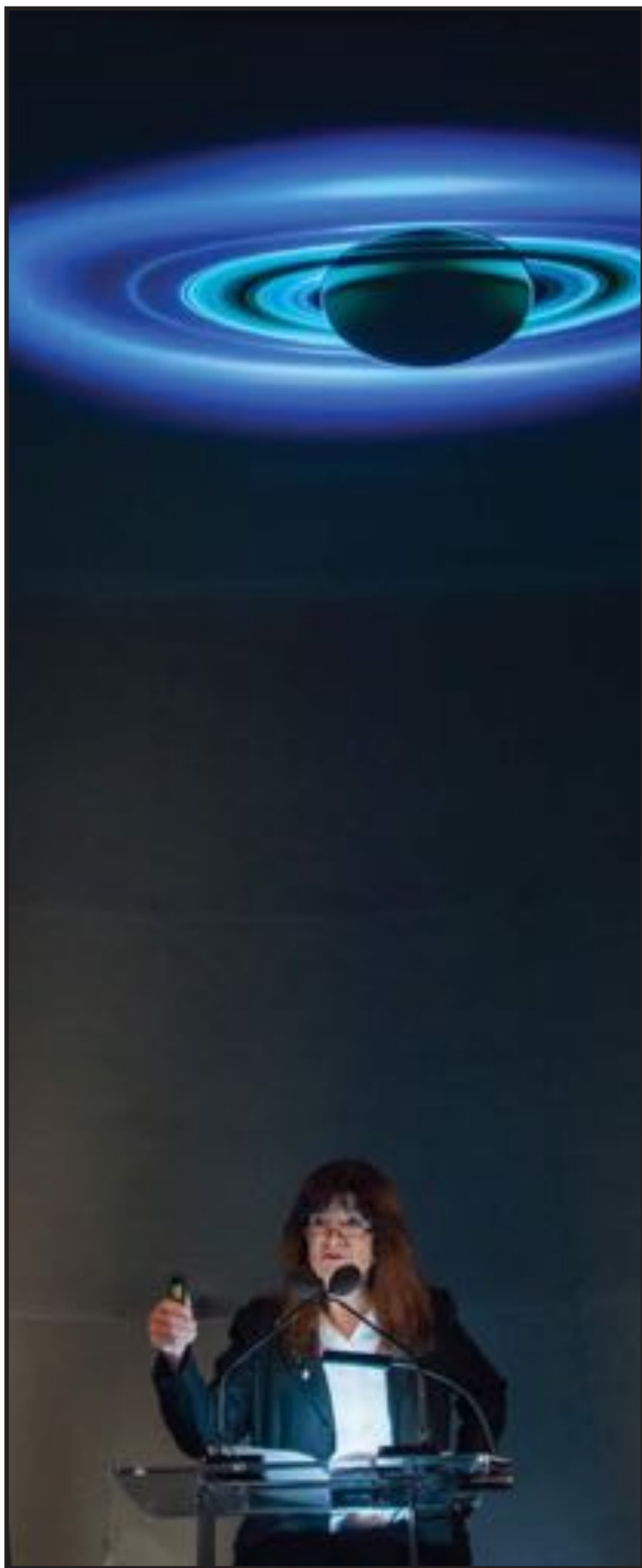
its over 60 moons; it will take its last photos during Saturn’s northern hemisphere summer solstice in 2017.

Prior to working on Cassini, Porco did imaging work on the Voyager missions to the outer solar system in the 1980s and was a member of the imaging team for the New Horizons mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt. She has served as an advisor to the film Contact and TV show, Star Trek, and is a popular science lecturer and television science analyst.

Her lecture presented captivating photos taken by Cassini of Saturn and its natural satellites, which range in size from a few kilometers across to the size of the United States and beyond. Because she is an expert on planetary rings and the Saturnian moon, Enceladus, the lecture

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Planetary Scientist, Dr. Carolyn

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emphasized these subjects in addition to acquainting us with Saturn's geological and atmospheric dynamics, such as an observable large storm that brewed for two thirds of a year and a giant hexagonal jet stream that's central vortex has 330 mph winds and is half the width of the United States. She explained that Saturn's rings move at a rate of 20-40,000 miles per hour as they trace the plane of gravitational equilibrium around the planet. They are 280,000 km across, or the equivalent of 1 light second — a distance that would fit between the Earth and the moon.

Saturn's moons influence its rings' elliptical eccentricity. One of the most famous of these satellites is Titan, whose atmosphere shares similarities to parts of the Earth's temperature, structure, surface pressure, and composition. It is 50 percent larger than our moon, has no free oxygen, and is suffused with organic materials like methane, ethane, and propane. These compounds form a murky, ubiquitous 200 km deep atmosphere that gives the moon its orange color and makes its surface very dark: Dr. Porco explained that high noon on Titan looks like twilight on Earth. Because Cassini's cameras were equipped to see through this hazy atmosphere, photos displayed a drainage pattern made up of channels and shore lines that could only be created by a liquid. This led to the discovery of one of Titan's most fascinating features: methane on Titan behaves like water on Earth — it can be a solid, liquid, or gas, and as a result, it forms rivers and canyons along the moon's surface. Cassini's orbiter, Huygens, the first ever successful outer Solar System landing, arrived on Titan in 2005 to take pictures. It showed equatorial regions covered in dunes for hundreds of miles, like a great Saharan Desert. Huygens also revealed that the moon's north pole was filled with liquid methane, now referred to as the "Lakes of Titan," making it the only other place in the solar system besides Earth that has liquid on its surface.

The Origin of Life

The other body Cassini has lavished attention on is the extraordinary moon, Enceladus, which is just a tenth the size of Titan. Its south pole is filled with mountain ranges that shoot plumes of icy water vapor jets into its atmosphere from a subsurface ocean of salty liquid water 35 km below that causes the moon's eccentric orbit. The geysers also emit heat and organic compounds, giving the moon all the formal markings of a habitable zone. Dr. Porco explained that such exciting characteristics make Enceladus a prime candidate for astrobiological studies of the origin of life, because prebiotic chemistry and perhaps even living organisms in the form of microbes may inhabit this moon. She explained that it would be far easier to test life on Enceladus because all you would have to do is take a sample from the plumes, whereas subsurface oceans on Titan

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or Jupiter's moon, Europa, are inaccessible. Cassini is not equipped to answer such questions yet, however. Astrobiological missions of the near future would have to explore this further, and there is already a group of scientists planning such missions.

"I don't think I could state it too strongly that should we ever make such a discovery, should we ever find that a genesis has in fact occurred in our solar system twice and independently, then that means at that point the spell is broken, and the existence theorem has been proven. And we could safely infer at that point that life is commonplace — that it is not above, but a feature of the universe in which we live, and it had occurred an astronomical number of times in the 13.7 billion year history of the cosmos. And I think you might agree, that would be a final answer to perhaps the most beguiling question in human history — are we the only living organisms that reside in this gigantic, overwhelmingly big universe? And that would be the kind of discovery that certainly, in the scientific realm, could change a great many things."

Dr. Porco went on to say that it is extremely difficult to get such projects off the ground. It takes an average of about a decade of political persuasion and "talking it up" to Congress about what may be produced. The total cost of Cassini was about \$3.36 billion. But in the 50 years humanity has been exploring space, we have sent robotic spacecraft to every corner of our solar system and have even set foot on the moon.

In a spirit of human camaraderie, Dr. Porco founded "The Day the Earth Smiled." On July 19, 2013, Cassini cameras were turned to look at Saturn while it eclipsed the sun to take an image of Earth. Her

team at NASA sent out word to our planet's people to look up at the sky and smile back, reflecting on our place in the cosmos and marveling at life on Earth. The Cassini Imaging Central Laboratory for Operations (CICLOPS) released the photo to the public on November 12, 2013. The photo included Earth, Mars, Venus, and a number of Saturnian moons. Dr. Porco talked about the many pictures and messages she received from people all over the planet, celebrating the incredible, life-affirming moment.

While displaying the picture of this tiny blue dot on which we all reside, in the large IMAX Theater dome, she mused: "I can't help but look at this picture and see the very best humanity has to offer. We are beyond doubt the cruel and troubled and warlike inhabitants of one tiny little dot of a planet, and we are reminded of this, day in and day out, wherever we look, all over the globe. But in those moments of tremendous existential despair — I have them, I'm sure you have them too — it is important, it serves us well to remember that we are also the dreamers and the thinkers and explorers who took this picture: one world clear across interplanetary space to another. And to be so small and reach so far is in the end what makes us the extraordinary citizens of planet Earth. And this proud perspective is, I believe, the greatest gift of all, and the legacy that Cassini and all its brethren missions over the last 50 years have left behind. And so I say, let's revel in it. We deserve it."

To learn more about the Cassini mission, its data, and astronomical photos, visit:

<http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov>

FEATURES

Second Chances for New Jersey High School Dropouts

BY MARIA ROBLES

Recent research has found that people who do not finish high school are four times more likely to be unemployed than those who do have a degree. According to the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, which operates out of Clemson University in South Carolina, employed high school dropouts earn \$143 less, on average, annually, than those with a high school diploma.

For the past 27 years, the state-funded New Jersey Youth Corps at New Jersey City University has helped young people between the ages of 16 and 25 earn their high school diploma, even after dropping out. The average student takes three to six months to complete the program based on individual performance.

“We try to help people from the community,” said Bruce Beaman, one of the Youth Corps’ co-directors.

The program also offers career counseling and help for those who want to continue their education. As John Zuzo, a transitional coach at the Youth Corps explains, “Students receive assistance with their college and financial aid applications. Many students have qualified to go [to colleges or vocational schools] for free.”

Zuzo also mentioned that one recent graduate of NJCU’s Criminal Justice Department was a former Youth Corps student. He also recalls a student that showed musical skills and was accepted into Montclair’s music program, and another student who graduated last year with a



Courtesy of NJ Department of Labor

Some members of New Jersey Youth Corps gathered in front of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development before walking over to the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium, where 140 Youth Corps members joined in Governor Chris Christie’s celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “I have a Dream” speech. (August 2013)

Bachelors in Science and went on to Rutgers’s Nursing School in pursuit of her dream.

The students in the Youth Corps work on their academic skills Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Saturdays they follow the same schedule but do community service that works to help them develop essential employment skills. Students may work in offices, soup kitchens, churches, children’s museums or other places.

Melinda Strada, office manager of the Youth Corps, said that the program has about 300 applicants every year, but can only accept 60 students per term and the year-round program has quarterly application periods.

People interested in applying for the program can fill out a brief form in person and take an assessment test in Grossnickle Hall, room 415.

Underage prospective students require the presence of a parent or guardian in order to register. The Youth Corps is also open to NJCU students who want to become tutors. Volunteer tutors can reach out to Bruce Beaman at the office located in Grossnickle.

Linked In or Out? What Students Should Know About LinkedIn

BY RAVEN CONYERS

The president of the Student Government Organization (SGO), Alvert Hernandez, believes all students should have an up and running profile on LinkedIn.

First launched in 2003, LinkedIn is a business-oriented social networking service used for professional networking.

The basis of a LinkedIn profile is to allow its users, who are

employees or employers, to create profiles and make connections with each other. As of late 2015, LinkedIn has reported more than 400 million users in more than 200 countries and territories.

“Often our students at NJCU do not understand the importance of networking. LinkedIn offers professional, online space for students to network with staff, administration and outside professionals.” Said Hernandez.

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It is easy for LinkedIn users to network because the connections are endless. Users find jobs, people and business opportunities recommended by someone in their contact network. Employers can list jobs and search for potential candidates, job seekers can review the profile of hiring managers and discover which of their existing contacts can introduce them. Users can also see who visited their page.

“LinkedIn is great when it comes to keeping a professional network without getting personal, like Facebook. It’s pretty cool that they email me weekly opportunities that might be of interest to whatever skill set I have,” said Rutgers University student Maldwina Maczka, an English major. She believes with the help of LinkedIn the connections she makes may take her where she needs to go.

NJCU alumna and employee of the Writing Center on campus, Nicole Leibowitz, believes profiles should be set up as early as high school.

“LinkedIn allows high school students to get a head start while preparing for college. The earlier they start, the better!” said Leibowitz.

LinkedIn allows users to research companies with which they may be interested in working with or for. Statistics about the company are provided, like the ratio of female to male employees when searched on the site’s database. In July 2011, LinkedIn launched a new feature that allows companies to have potential employees apply to a position using their LinkedIn profile as their resumes.

According to “Forbes Magazine,” LinkedIn is, far and away, the most advantageous, social networking tool available to job seekers and business professionals today.



PEP

Housed under the Counseling Center, the Peers Educating Peers (PEP) Program is a student-peer education group at NJCU that provides interactive outreach programming on social issues such as substance abuse, multiculturalism, sexual health, LGBTQ+ awareness, relationships, and many more. The premise of the program is the belief that students are more likely to listen to a difficult message if the messenger is a peer who has similar concerns and/or pressures.

Peer Educators receive training to conduct presentations on campus, local schools, universities, and social service agencies, reaching their audiences through a variety of interactive strategies.

They attend weekly meetings that focus on self-empowerment, and skit rehearsals to learn improvisational theater techniques.

Becoming a Peer Educator is beneficial when it comes to building a strong resume and increasing individual marketability for graduate school programs and/or career opportunities. If PEP had a motto, it would probably be: “You can’t help others without helping yourself.” Mutual support and personal development are at the core of the program. The self-discovery process and the group’s cohesiveness have been instrumental in both helping students stay in college and in making healthier life choices that have a significantly positive impact on their lives. Peer Educators are given practical, hands-on experience in public speaking, designing, and implementing educational programs, as well as networking with students.

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A&E

Jersey City Struts Their Stuff

BY RAVEN CONYERS

Jersey City designers present their looks annually during Jersey City Fashion Week (JCFW), which takes place in mid-September. JCFW is a program of the Give to Live Community Foundation, which raises funds and promotes awareness for charitable causes through fashion and entertainment.

The group is already seeking international, ready to wear, couture, children's designers and boutiques to participate in the 2016 season which will take place Sept. 21 – Sept 25.

"JCFW is a great way for inspiring, local designers to make their way through the fashion community," says Desha Long, founder of

JCFW. "Every designer offers something different. We showcase new designs every year, giving every designer a chance to live their dreams."

The 2015 show featured everything from a 14-year-old designer Tyyan, creator behind Pinky Sez, to Panache by Saint Ricardo, (a line for consumers featuring the best leathers and exotic skins, with a mixture of breathtaking furs and colors.) and Bella Babe, (a children's line by designer Kendra Law that showcases nothing but sugar, spice, and everything that sparkles.) Each designer possesses something that catches the eye of different individuals of all ages.

Give to Live donates part of their proceeds to recreational/sporting programs, helping children in Jersey City. JCFW 2015 proceeds went to charities that support the homeless, such as Covenant House, Habitat for Humanity JC, and The Hope House.



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More than Just Books

BY JP PORCARO

Jersey City welcomes our first major superhero: Kamala Khan, the daughter of Pakistani Muslim immigrants. She lives in the Greenville area of Jersey City—not far from NJCU. She is also the newest incarnation of Ms. Marvel; the first major superhero to hail from Jersey City, NJ!

Kamala Khan is just like any student: she is trying to balance friend drama, school work, and family life. She is a huge fan of the Avengers; she loves Iron Man, Captain America, Spiderman—all that crime-fighting action. One day she wakes up and is not just a student any more: she finds herself with super powers, which puts a real cramp in her already confusing life. She is wearing the costume of a scantily-clad superhero of whom she is already a fan, Ms. Marvel. After some adjustments to the costume, Kamala jumps in and accepts that she is Ms. Marvel, and things only become more confusing from there.

When comics sell out, if there is sufficient demand, comic publishers will make another round of issue-printings to fill the demand. The Kamala Khan Ms. Marvel first appeared in Marvel comics in 2014, and Ms. Marvel issue #1 went through six rounds of printings, which is an extremely rare occurrence, and record-breaking for a female character. This is in no small part due to writer G. Willow Wilson's fabulous treatment of the character. Kamala is written in a relatable way, reminiscent of Peter Parker, dealing with being a student and being Spiderman. She is a superhero, but readers can see themselves as her.

The character has inspired a rabid fan base online, particularly on Tumblr, with a fan base named the “Kamala Korps.”

I ran the American Library Association's booth at New York Comic Con in 2014, only a few months after the introduction of the character, and I noticed people dressed as Kamala Khan everywhere.

The Kamala Korps sent a message to the comic industry—we want a superhero like us—and the comic industry has attempted to respond. Following the events of last summer/fall's Secret Wars, which left the Marvel comic universe without an Avengers team, a group of heroes descends upon New York City to save it in the Avengers' absence. Kamala Khan is now a member of the newly formed “All-New, All-Different Avengers.”

It is an exciting time to be reading comics, especially for the NJCU community, now that we have a superhero of our own.



Courtesy of Pixabay

Get Focused

The Gothic Times newspaper and website are recruiting new team members!

Are you interested in photography, writing for the web or writing longer pieces for the newspaper? Do you want to create short web videos or contribute to our new podcast?

Our meetings are held every Thursday at noon.

Located in GSUB (Room 301) The Gothic Times is a completely student-run publication with a full-time advisor. Students involved in the newspaper learn real-world skills and team work. They collaborate with the editor in chief to meet deadlines and leave with a greatly enhanced resume.

If you are interested, come to a meeting or reach out to the editors at gothictimes@gmail.com or to the faculty advisor, Theta Pavis at tpavisweil@njcu.edu

OP/ED

Peyton Retires and So Have I

BY ELIEZER FLORES

After having served as one of the most prominent faces of the National Football League (NFL) for almost 20 years, Peyton Manning retired at the end of the 2015-2016 season. While fans were mesmerized by his on-screen charm, behind the scenes, the NFL was trying to hide a throbbing issue.

The NFL's biggest headache, no pun intended, came in the acronym form of CTE, otherwise known as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy. CTE is a degenerative brain disease caused by too many blows or concussions to the head. Current scientific studies show that NFL players are more susceptible to suffering from CTE than any other professional athlete. Even worse, the debilitating disease can only be diagnosed posthumously.

In an attempt to cover up such disturbing information, the NFL went through painstaking measures to focus all of the media attention on Manning's retirement. While the attention for his accomplishments was well deserved, they failed to acknowledge the elephant in the room, sweeping CTE under the rug and not even admitting its alarming existence. Instead, the NFL went on the offensive, demanding a retraction from "The New York Times" because of their piece, "N.F.L.'s Flawed Concussion Research and Ties to Tobacco Industry." The ironic twist: the newspaper used information provided to them by the NFL. "The New York Times" did not report anything that had not been reported already, as it has already been exposed through PBS Frontline's show, "League of Denials: The NFL's Concussion Crisis."

It is because of Peyton and the New York Jets that the NFL was introduced into my life. Prior to that, the only thing I knew about the NFL was that the San Francisco 49ers won the Super Bowl in 1995. The 2002 season is a cherished memory for me, as the Jets handed Peyton the worst loss in the playoffs and his career, 41-0. While my love for the game grew, a life was extinguished. Around that time, news came to light that Hall of Fame player Mike Webster died from a heart attack and his brain was to be examined by Dr. Bennet Omalu, the first doctor to discover CTE and bring it to the attention of the NFL. The NFL, however, discredited the doctor by downplaying the connection between playing football and CTE.

The recent movie "Concussion" starring Will Smith is based on Dr. Omalu's fight against the NFL and brings CTE to light. The NFL's deflection of CTE seemed to work, as fans, like myself, continued to follow the Jets and other teams. I kept buying merchandise: cards, video games or anything with the NFL logo, making the shield minutely richer.



With every piece of Jets merchandise acquired, I felt that I was part of something great – with Peyton as the face of the NFL.

As the years went on, my loyalty towards the Jets remained intact. Sports journalists were doing their jobs and digging up more information on CTE. As they kept digging, the NFL kept trying to cover it up or at least make sure the dirt did not tarnish the league's reputation. Though I was becoming aware of the work reporters were doing, I still went on, blindly following the game. I was buying the Sunday NFL ticket package, which cost \$150-\$250 and allowed me access to watch any NFL game. I kept trying to gather mental strength in order to win my fantasy league and the office pool, losing my Sundays to the game. Though Peyton was still appearing on TV commercials for the NFL, evidence was mounting that the NFL was covering up the connection of CTE to football.

This past season marked the first time in 18 years that not a single NFL game was being played on my TV. I had no interest in fantasy or participating in the office pool. Like it was in 1998, statistically, Manning had a dismal year. However, he rode the Broncos defense to a Super Bowl win and retired as a shining champion. For myself, I rode my own horse on those autumn Sundays. Perhaps more information about deflated footballs will deflect the attention for the league. The NFL admitted that there is a connection between football and CTE on Capitol Hill. Now is the time for the NFL to make a connection with their retired players and channel their efforts in providing the medical assistance they direly need.

SPORTS

Fantastic Senior Volleyball Players Say Farewell

BY ISAIAH K. HAMILTON



Kendall Tribbett

Senior players Sheldon Coure, Daque Wilcox and Kendall Tribbett-- a.k.a “The Big Three,” – are saying farewell to NJCU Volleyball. Both Wilcox and Tribbett have played four years while Coure has played three after transferring in 2014 but all have been acknowledged for their great leadership on and off the court. Their accomplishments have made Coach Robert Cole, Coach of three years and their families proud. Coure originally from California has won a list of awards including various Skyline Conference accolades and the Thomas M. Gerrity Scholar-Athlete of the year. Teammate and sophomore Jalen Sorrell from Edison, NJ was awarded to the 2nd team all-conference. The discipline and commitment of these players has led to their accomplishments. Sports Information Director Ira Thor said, “Their Two key players that seem to dominate the game are Daque Wilcox and Kendall Tribbett both from New Jersey.” With their accolades they all could have played at the Division 1 level but decided to play at the Division 3 level with NJCU.

Coach Robert Cole says, “These three senior players are an important part of the team but we need all players in order to win games.” All three senior players bring a unique characteristic to the team. Cole says, “Sheldon



Sheldon Coure

Coure is a game night and day player. He is a very respectful person and student. He brings his California vibe to the east coast. Coure also brings great athletic attributes to the team. For instance, over the course of four seasons his volleyball I.Q is better than before. He is faster than everyone on the team. He covers the court within two to three steps. His vertical jump is incredible and his mental game is good. That is what makes him a great student athlete.”

Daque Wilcox has also been an important player during his four years on the men’s volleyball team. Coach Cole says, “Wilcox is a springy guy. He is another player just like Sheldon Coure that has a high vertical jump. He is not as fast but he is proclaimed to be a power player, when you need blocks or kills he is the person to look to. He is most relevant in big time moments. With his body type you wouldn’t believe his strength and the ability to move from middle to outside. That is an attribute that no leader brings to the team.”

Another senior that is saying farewell to volleyball at NJCU is Kendall Tribbett. Coach Cole says, “His wing span is impressive for his height, he is another player that brings power and athletic strength. His is a ‘sneaky’ athlete meaning he has a unique way of making plays right before the game is over. Consistency for



Daque Wilcox

him was key.” With this in mind Tribbett will be missed as well as the others.

NJCU’s Volleyball team started in 1990 making this the 26th season. Unlike some sports at NJCU, volleyball didn’t start off as a club sport. The volleyball team grew and were eventually recognized by the U.S. Volleyball Association. NJCU is a part of the Northeastern Conference (NEC) when it comes to competing in championships. The Skyline tournament for volleyball started in 2012 which the Men’s team plays in.

Coach Cole believes that sophomore Jalen Sorell at 6’7 will take on the leadership role when the seniors leave. The two excellent freshman David Penaherrera from Harrison, NJ and Erick Nascimento from Miami, Florida are also going to be looked up to for leadership because of their experience.

Coure ended his career with 790 kills, 991.5 career points, and 185 blocks. Wilcox ended with 793 kills, 1045.5 career points and 205 blocks. Tribbett ended with 527 kills, 741.5 career points, and 187 blocks. Their stats show how impactful these players were and they will be missed. The team is looking forward to improving on this season’s 19-18 record next season.

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