



# THE GOTHIC TIMES

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## The Writing Center

### A Transition into The Hub

BY ELENA E. ZEMAN

NJCU's Writing Center has been closed since last year and some students are still feeling the loss while others are focused on The Hub and the new tutoring opportunities it presents.

The Writing Center (WC), which was located on the first floor of the Karnoutsos building, closed its doors on June 30, 2016. During the eight years that it was open, the WC provided students with workshops and tutoring focused on writing and reading comprehension. There were 30 people employed during its final year; one of whom was full time. This included tutors, intern tutors, and six professional tutors. The professional tutors were required to have at least a master's degree.

English Professor Ann Wallace, the former coordinator of the WC, said that the 2015-2016 academic year was "the first time we had the budget to meet the demand."

The new budget allotted the expansion of the WC. During that year, there were more tutors, one on one sessions, workshops and writing center

orientations for professors and their classes.

Also, during 2015-2016, the WC booked 2,800 tutoring sessions, which was a drastic increase from the year before according to Wallace.

Some students miss the WC.

**"The tutoring I got at the Writing Center really helped me improve as a reader and a writer."**

~Samantha Laderas



Courtesy of pixabay

1,000 signatures but that wasn't enough to keep it open. Wallace pointed out that the majority of the 30 people who lost their part-time jobs at the WC were not rehired.

"The Writing Center was not closing but transitioning to be housed in The Hub," said John

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# NEWS

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**"The Writing Center is not gone. The services that they provided to support the students are still here. We have many qualified tutors to help the students."**

~Ana Acosta

Blicharz, the director of The Hub.

The NJCU administration adamantly maintains that the WC was not closed but simply became a part of The Hub.

Chris Cunningham, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and Director of the Writing Center at The Hub said, "There was tutoring going on all over the place." Cunningham went on to explain that by creating the Hub, NJCU could build a more centralized tutoring environment. He said

everyone working at the WC was invited to apply to The Hub.

With this idea of centralized tutoring, The Hub came into fruition. The main focus of The Hub is to offer all of the tutoring services at one location.

Ana Acosta, an English Literature major and a tutor at The Hub said, "The Writing Center is not gone. The services that they provided to support the students are still here. We have many qualified tutors to help the students." Acosta is the former Editor-in-Chief of the Gothic Times.

As of February 2017, The Hub employs 39 staff members, the majority of whom are part time and offers tutoring in writing, math and science. It also hosts workshops. Out of the 39 staff members, there are 19 writing tutors. This number includes students and contract employees.

During the spring semester there have been 1,370 tutoring appointments booked so far and 67 workshops scheduled. This number reflects 12 in-class workshops, which are tailored to what the classes are doing, and open workshops. These tutoring sessions and workshops are not specifically centered around writing and reflect all subjects that The Hub offers.

There are also customized tutoring plans for students that need extra tutoring sessions.

Blicharz said, "Students can schedule an appointment with the tutoring coordinator and create a customized plan. This plan can span a whole semester if needed."

"We are trying to make adjustments and want to be as flexible as possible" said Cunningham.

He also said that the administration is exploring options for tutoring in other subject areas as well as tutoring online.

"Right now we are testing and collecting data. We are tracking student success when they come to The Hub," said Cunningham.

## NJCU Gives Blood



*Courtesy of freeimages*

**BY DAVID MOSCA**

Last month, New Jersey Blood Services teamed up with NJCU in an effort to donate blood for patients all across the United States. The event took place on February 15th in the Gilligan Student Union Building (GSUB), where numerous students and school officials gathered to donate.

"Donating blood is like loving a stranger," said Kyle Abinales, an accelerated nursing major at NJCU. "I feel it's my duty to help out. I work at a blood bank too so I see how much it is needed."

New Jersey Blood Services is a sub division of the New York Blood Center and is responsible for organizing blood drives in New Jersey. There are four human blood types which are grouped as A, B, AB, and O, which is known as the universal blood group.

Dorianne Taylorcox, unit manager of NJ Blood Services said that "most of the donors that we've gotten are O positive but what we need the most is O negative."

The reason type O negative blood is needed the most is because O negative is classified as the "universal" blood type, which means it can be transfused with almost any patient in need of a blood transfusion. According to a poll conducted by America's Blood Centers, only 6.6 percent of the American population has type O negative blood.

When asked how often people in NJ need blood, Taylorcox said "blood is needed all the time but sometimes it's needed more often in the holiday season. We don't just supply NJ with blood, but the entire U.S."

# FEATURES

## THE PEOPLE OF THE #1 BUS

an intimate look into the lives of strangers



Courtesy of Joel Katz

"We hope the film will shed light on Americans whose lives are often invisible to more privileged classes, inspiring intelligent conversations about privilege, class, race, immigration, and public transportation."

BY MONICA SARMIENTO

*The People of the #1 Bus* is a non-fiction film by Delmira Valladares and Joel Katz that zeroes in on the "small sociological microcosm" that is New Jersey Transit's #1 bus line. The focus of the film is on a single bus stop that lies mid-way on the line that runs from Newark to Jersey City, at the intersection of Routes 1 & 9 and Hackensack Avenue in South Kearny.

Described as "an interwoven series of portraits of the lives, pursuits, trials, and dreams of the riders," *The People of the #1 Bus* shows the very personal stories of a diverse group of people. From Chris Russel, 57, a warehouse worker and forklift driver at Uncommon Carrier who once used his knowledge of midwifery to help a woman deliver a baby on the #1 bus, to Carlos Aguilar, 33, an NJCU Media Arts Department graduate who became a regular on the #1 while taking college classes in Newark, viewers can expect a variety of characters differing in age, gender, race, job and background.

Filming at all times of the day and year, varying from personal one-time encounters to a handful of more in-depth interviews in which people welcome viewers into their home or workplaces, *The People of the #1 Bus* allows a glimpse into the complex lives of the "working poor." Many of the film's characters are immigrants and hardworking employees at the nearby warehouses, truck repair facilities and chemical plants. And of course, they are all regular people just trying to make do with what they have.

"We hope the film will shed light on Americans whose lives are often invisible to more privileged classes, inspiring intelligent conversations

about privilege, class, race, immigration, and public transportation."

*The People of the #1 Bus* isn't meant to offer a solution for economic equality, immigration, or social justice but to thoughtfully explore and understand a community often overlooked. "We hope the film will shed light on Americans whose lives are often invisible to more privileged classes, inspiring intelligent conversations about privilege, class, race, immigration, and public transportation."

Delmira Valladares works in video installation, experimental narrative, and documentary forms and is currently a professor at NJCU. She comes from a Salvadorian immigrant family which, coupled with her bilingual skills, allows her to connect and understand the people she has met throughout the project. Joel Katz is currently a professor and Chair of the Media Arts Department at NJCU, and a serving member on the Boards of Third World Newsreel and the Black Maria Film Festival. His best-known work is *Strange Fruit* (2002), a documentary he co-produced and directed that focused on the history of the anti-lynching protest song of the same name by Billie Holiday.

Together, Valladares and Katz are co-producing and directing *The People of the #1 Bus*. The film is being edited by Harry Kafka, who has edited commercials, music videos and most recently, documentaries. They are planning an interactive website that tracks the lives of the characters over time, and possibly even an ongoing web series.

Post-production is planned for Spring 2018, and a final cut of the film by the end of 2018. For more information on the project and any future developments, visit <http://onierafilms.com/>



# Side Show



"American Horror Story" meets "Heroes" meets "PT Barnum" in this showbiz saga based on the lives of conjoined twins Daisy and Violet Hilton, famous sideshow performers from the 1930s. Performed by NJCU musical theatre students.



*rehearsal shots of musical*

**Mar 24, 25, 31, & Apr 1**

**@ 7:30pm**

**Mar 26 & Apr 2**

**@ 3pm**

**West Side Theater**

**\$15 gen. admission | \$5 students**



*Courtesy of Julie Peterson*

## OP/ED

# WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT BATHROOMS?



*Courtesy of pixabay*

**BY LIZ HICKEY**

Those of us who are cisgender—whose assigned gender at birth corresponds with our biological sex—take “peeing in peace” for granted. When I feel the urge to go, I look for the sign with the woman wearing a dress. No one questions whether I should be there, and no one asks me about my genitals or requests to see my birth certificate.

Imagine you walk into a public restroom and someone tells you that you are in the wrong place. Do you stop to explain to a complete stranger that you are, in fact, in the right place? If you can't use this facility, then where, on earth, are you going to go? Transgender people face this kind of exclusion on a daily basis. When using the facility matching their gender identity, they might be turned away or they might be harassed or attacked. Every trip to the bathroom becomes fraught with anxiety and fear.

Misinformation and misconceptions abound with regards to transgender issues. Some people seem to think trans advocates want to force everyone to use all-gender restrooms. We don't. (That being said, did you have a problem the last time you shared

a bathroom with a family member or friend of the opposite sex?) Other people have expressed concern that if we allow people to use the facility that aligns with their gender, then women and children will be at greater risk of being assaulted in restrooms. There is no evidence to support this fear, and we already have existing laws that prohibit assault.

There is ample evidence, however, that people who are transgender face a constant threat of harassment and violence. Respondents to the 2015 U.S. Trans Survey (USTS) reported high levels of mistreatment, harassment, and violence in every aspect of their lives. More than three-quarters (77%) of transgender K-12 students experienced some form of mistreatment in school, including being verbally harassed (54%), physically attacked (24%), and sexually assaulted (13%). As a result of this mistreatment, 17% of these students left school. Of USTS respondents, 40% had attempted suicide, nearly nine times the rate in the overall U.S. population (4.6%).

One brave young man, Gavin Grimm,

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## OP/ED

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sued his school board for barring him from using the boys' restroom at his high school. The Supreme Court had been scheduled to hear the case, but they chose to send the case back to the lower court instead. "The court [will] decide whether transgender students like me have the right to be treated just like our peers at school," said Gavin. What is at stake for Gavin is not just about bathrooms. It's about whether transgender students should be afforded the same level of *human dignity* as their cisgender peers.

The Trump administration recently reversed federal guidelines that mandated that public schools must allow transgender students to use the restrooms of their choice. Sean Spicer, Trump's White House press secretary, said that civil rights protections for transgender students are a "states' rights" issue. This seems like a flimsy excuse. Civil rights should not depend upon where you live. In addition, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment provides that no state can deny "equal protection of the laws" to any

person within its jurisdiction. In other words, a state cannot deny rights to a particular class of individuals (i.e., people of a particular race or gender identity).

Advocates at NJCU have fought hard for the few gender-inclusive restrooms we have on campus (in the Guarini Library, Rossey Hall, and the West Side Residence Hall). Transgender students shouldn't have to worry about monitoring what they eat or drink for fear of not having a safe place to relieve themselves. Regardless of the federal guidelines or whatever decision the Supreme Court reaches in Gavin Grimm's case, we must continue to fight for the rights of our transgender students.

I urge NJCU president, Dr. Sue Henderson, to follow the example other universities (including Drew University, Florida State University, University of Washington and many others) and issue an official declaration of our commitment to supporting transgender members of our community. Furthermore, I ask that NJCU take part in the Campus Pride Index ([www.campusprideindex.org](http://www.campusprideindex.org)) to ensure that our policies, programs, and

practices reinforce an inclusive, welcoming, and respectful environment for LGBTQIA+ people. (Rutgers, New Brunswick campus and Montclair State University have both earned a 5/5, the highest possible rating, on the index.)

Bathrooms are just one, albeit important, issue. Transpeople suffer discrimination in every aspect of their lives including employment, housing, and access to health care. Currently in America, many people—including undocumented and non-citizens, people of color, and women—find their civil rights compromised or threatened. NJCU's administration should clearly assert how they plan to protect our rights and safety on campus. Cisgender and transgender people alike deserve to live in freedom and without fear in their schools, in their communities, and in public settings.

Liz Hickey is a staff member in the Dean's Office of the College of Education and Professional Studies and the staff advisor for the LGBTQ Alliance.

# Adolescent Marriage

## An Innocent Child or Primed Bride?



Courtesy of freemages

BY CLAUDIA MENDOZA

Throughout the world, marriage is idealized as love, happiness, loyalty, and security. Unfortunately, child marriage is a global problem that affects girls under 18, and will likely affect more generations to come. Child marriage is the formal or informal union where one or both parties are under 18 years old. This issue is prominent all around the world. Girlsnotbrides.org reports that each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. That is 28 girls every minute, or one every two seconds.

These girls are forced to trade their dolls in for a wedding ring.

But why has child marriage become a cycle? Child marriage is often practiced due to economic reasons; families that are burdened by poverty see children, especially their daughters as a liability. Marrying their daughter is seen as "one less mouth to feed". The girls are also viewed as capital and are exchanged for dowry, which can be in the form of property, money or cattle. The girls that are married have new responsibilities, which include taking care of their home and their husbands. These new responsibilities begin to interfere with the girls' education and often prevents them from continuing their studies. A lack of

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OP/ED

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education hinders the girls' job opportunities, and forces them to take the lower paying jobs. Generation after generation, the girls in the family are married off in an attempt to escape from poverty, but without a proper education, the cycle of poverty prevails.

Gender inequality is still prominent in third world countries, and child marriage is driven by the desire to control female sexuality. Families closely guard their daughter's sexuality and virginity to protect the family honor; girls who become pregnant outside of marriage are shamed for bringing disgrace upon their family. Parents often see child marriage as a form to secure their daughter's future – if the family is poor she can be married off to a family that

is better off; however, they do not take into account the consequences and abuses faced by their daughters. These girls are treated as property, and suffer domestic violence because their husbands do not want the wives to disagree with any of their decisions. The young girls are subject to their husbands' decisions and opinions. Their voice is unimportant, and they are constantly belittled by their society as well as their families.

How can Child Marriage be solved?

Education is a powerful tool to maintain and steer girls away from the path to marriage. Girls living in poverty are more likely to be affected by child marriage. The lack of education forces these families and girls to work in low paying jobs. If girls continue attending school, they will be less likely to marry at a young age and

they will not have children during their teenage years. Girlsnotbrides.org reports that girls with no education are three times as likely to marry by 18 as those with secondary or higher education. These girls must be empowered and be given the opportunity to take control of their lives. Informing the young girls about their rights will empower them to become representatives of change. Men as well as boys must be informed and have the opportunity to reflect on their current treatment of females, and they need to learn about the benefits of a community which values girls and allows them to fulfil their potential. All these actions must be taken into account to end child marriage and prevent it from reoccurring.

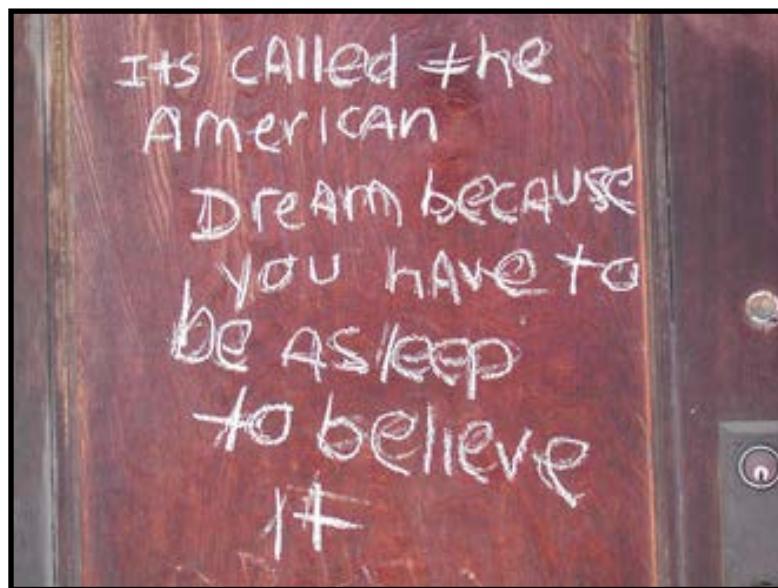
## SAINT LUCY'S HOMELESS SHELTER

BY REBEKAH TORRES

Spring is a busy time for everyone, and with holiday shopping and the summer looming, economic tension is in the air. This season is a particularly difficult time for at risk renters and present homeless individuals. The shifting temperatures and societal pressure to provide for their children takes a toll on families that already spend half of their income on rent. Jersey City is on the brink of becoming the most populous city in the state of New Jersey. Hudson County has experienced a surge in urban development, with 25,000 units approved for construction. It's a wonder why there are 917 homeless people with so many living spaces under construction and multitudes more waiting to be occupied by the right pocket book.

To accommodate this underrepresented population of Jersey City, there are a whopping total of only three shelters, two of which are specifically for families and women; leaving the last shelter to be the most vital. St Lucy's Homeless Shelter provides emergency shelter to all who seek it, and has 105 beds and operates 24/7. This indispensable shelter is being moved from its current Grove Street location. The shelter rests two blocks away from the Holland tunnel and 15 blocks from the Grove Street PATH train station. One can only imagine why this vital shelter is being moved.

It is easy to blame the abundance of NJ and NYC migrants who crave proximity to the city without the cost; more commonly referred to



*Courtesy of freeimages*

as "gentrifiers." Jersey City is a desirable plot of land for up-in-coming adults and relocating New Yorkers; however, the demand for units by this overly prepared population, pushes affordable housing further away from at risk families and squashes the hope for the chronically homeless to have permanent housing. Conversely, it is the Jersey City officials that have made this decision to prioritize those with thicker wallets.

St Lucy's location on Grove Street is the new target of pro-

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OP/ED

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gentrification legislators. A two paragraph account made by the Hudson Reporter stated Jersey City's plan to relocate the emergency shelter, which would take effect this upcoming December and has an estimated transition time of two years. That is two years out of operation. Two years where an estimated 160 individuals would have nowhere to go, nowhere to eat and nowhere to sleep. Two years that start in the coldest season and the loneliest month. But location is everything right?

Jersey City has experienced a 195% increase in the number of homeless families requesting renter's assistance and hosts nearly 1,000 homeless individuals with now only two functioning shelters. The two leading causes of homelessness reported in Hudson County were loss of income and eviction with the longest duration of homelessness experienced being over one year by 166 individuals.

The shelter system is a fragile one that protects the most vulnerable members of our society. The first line of defense for at-risk homeless individuals is affordable housing, and Jersey City has made it its mission to serve the outsider and to turn profit. Those who are homeless and those who are at-risk of homelessness aren't profitable people, so why invest in their care? As the holidays approach we sit around our holiday trees, in our central air heated homes, and consider how we are blessed, while briefly acknowledging or saying a prayer for the others who are not as fortunate; however, we must also remember that acknowledging homelessness doesn't solve it.

The problem of those who are homeless is not that they are forgotten, it is that they are deemed unnecessary in the community. No human being is less than another regardless of housing or employment status. If the first defense of homelessness is affordable housing, then the safety net is the shelter system. Jersey City has no sense of urgency towards this vulnerable community. This population is growing in size and decreasing in legislative advocates.

There are groups like the Palisades Emergency Residence Corporation (PERC), which focuses on creating and maintaining healthy neighborhoods through affordable housing construction and outreach to the homeless community. County centered organizations such as these bring the focus back to the people and provides another preventative measure against predatory housing plans. As we remember why we are so blessed this upcoming holiday season, let us all keep in mind that those who are not are having their right to housing stripped away in front of our eyes.

## 8BALL THE ULTIMATE POOL SHARK?



*Illustration by Julie Peterson*

**BY JEFFREY VILLAPIANO**

Ever feel robbed when playing 8ball?

Of course, as is the case with any online game, anyone can have a tough loss here and there.

But when you begin to lose game after game, you can't just simply shake it off and move on;

for me, an adjective to describe this phenomenon of seemingly eternal loser-dom would be "concerning."

Sure, one immediate explanation as to why one's winning percentage has plummeted dramatically is that the player needs to improve his or her gamesmanship in one way or another.

Yet let me ask you this, have you ever thought that the game might be rigged? That it might be programmed and designed for you to lose?

Such an idea might seem too crazy to take seriously, but at the same time we must come to terms with the central purpose of this game, to make money. Now that part is obvious, especially given all the opportunities the game presents you with to spend money on everything from pool cues to an extra spin on the game's "Spin and Win" wheel.

Think about how cheap those purchases are: do you really think the app is going to make a considerable, worthwhile amount of money off the occasional \$0.99 withdrawal from your credit card?

While the immediate amount, the app receives from your credit card is miniscule, it serves as but a smokescreen to hide from you the deeper value that your card possesses. That value is information, for not only is a history of all the things purchased using that card tied to the number you enter, but your full name and related shipping addresses,

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contact information used to receive packages, bank accounts with which that card is registered and quite possibly, other bank accounts under your name and internet accounts that have that credit card on file make up just some of the things that that credit card can indicate.

Now you may be asking yourself, well even if that's true, how would 8Ball make money off of all that information? Look no further than the app that it is tied to that has also become the most notorious information-selling entity in the world: Facebook.

Ask yourself: how can Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg be a billionaire but signing up and using Facebook comes to a grand total of \$0.00 for the user? You might hear the simple answer of "ads," and while this is true, think about the funny meme you see on your news feed depicting a Dunkin' Donuts coffee container. That's a form of advertising known as sponsored content, but despite being a more sophisticated form of advertisement, this is not the only way that Zuckerberg has risen to the ranks of the financial elite.

Ever notice an ad for something you just bought or something very similar to something you tweeted about pop up on the side of your computer screen? This is what is known as a highly-qualified ad, and companies are able to find just the right ad for you based on a marketing process known as targeting, in which the company will present you with such a tailor-made pop-up based on information collected about you: what you are interested in, where you are from, what organizations you belong to or are affiliated with, etc. As a result, companies are able to advertise in a much smarter and precise way, for they can make sure that they get the right ads to the right buyers.

The moral of the story? Be careful when it comes to playing games like 8ball, for even though there may be joyous—if infrequent—victories, ultimately ads made just for you mean a lot more than just simple fun and games.

## TOP 5 REASONS

### WHY THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE IS THE BEST BATMAN MOVIE



*Courtesy of Warner Bros.*

BY EMMANUEL LEBRON

*The LEGO Batman Movie* is excellent.

You could make the argument that *LEGO Batman* is not only a great superhero film, but the best Batman film of all time. I am in fact going to make that argument. Fight me. *The Lego Batman Movie* is the best Batman movie. It's a better Batman movie than the entire Nolan trilogy. It's better than *Batman V. Superman*, though, anything is better than *Batman V. Superman*, so the bar is set pretty low right now.

*Lego Batman* is best Batman and there's actually no argument here. But if for some ridiculous reason you have seen this movie and disagree here are five reasons why you are wrong:

#### 1. *It Understood Batman and Gave Him an Arc*

In *LEGO Batman*, we get to see just how much being a hero affected Bruce Wayne's everyday life. We get to see a Batman who's become an egomaniac as result of believing everyone's hype about him. But we quickly realize that, despite being beloved by all, Bruce is extremely sad and using only crime fighting to (literally) mask how lonely he is. Throughout the movie we see him grow and learn to open up to others and eventually work as a team with Robin and Batgirl. Whenever Batman movies focus on Batman's loneliness, in almost every film it's condensed into scenes of him brooding. *Lego Batman* did something I've never seen in a Batman film. It had him brood, but eventually accepts his parent's death and move on while still honoring it. And because of it the film has a stronger emotional core than any of the current films, with Batman learning how to connect with others in a way that isn't just centered around a flimsy love story.

#### 2. *It Was a Better Suicide Squad Movie*

This movie had all of Batman's best villains; and some of the worst. And at least one I had to look up. From Joker to Condiment King (who's totally real. Google him), *everyone* was represented. Most superhero films have a hard time getting one villain right. Adding two or three gives you *Batman & Robin* – just a disaster.

*LEGO Batman* was able to include a *horde* of these characters - as well as other

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famous movie villains - and still make each one seem genuine. Joker was the highlight of the crowd, as the film actually dove into why his relationship with Batman was broken in the first place. It takes a very special movie to turn The Joker into the sympathetic victim of an abusive relationship, but this movie actually managed that.

**3. It Has Batman Fighting Daleks**

Pretty Self-Explanatory. He also fights Voldemort and Sauron, but I could care less for those references (Who even reads fantasy books? That stuffs for nerds.)

**4. It Treated Its Mythology and Lore with Love and Respect**

Batman has been around forever and this movie has everything Batman in it. Doesn't matter if you're a fan of the Adam West series and always wanted to see Bat-Shark Repellant do something useful, or if like me, you get a simple pure joy out of hearing Tom Hardy's absurd Bane



Courtesy of Warner Bros.



voice, this movie has a ton of gags and nods to all versions of Batman.

**5. It Had a Message**

The moral of this movie was that you could endure trauma and move past it. That you could have something awful and life changing happen to you, but you can't brood and angst about it forever. Not even Batman, who in countless incarnations has done nothing but brood, can brood forever. There will always come a time to open up and with help people can help you move on. Did *Dark Knight Rises* have that kind of moral? I don't think so. Did you leave *Batman V Superman* learning a lesson about life? No. You left it wondering how they suckered

you in and will sucker you in yet again for an extended version you're going to pretend was a better movie but it's not.

This may all sound silly, but it managed to make me remember what I loved about Batman to begin with and was a fun and not utterly bleak or nonsensical movie. I just hope somewhere out there whoever's running the live action DC movies takes notes.

# JUSTICE LEAGUE VS SUICIDE SQUAD THE REVIEW

BY DAVID MOSCA

"Justice League Vs Suicide Squad" is DC's first big crossover event under their Rebirth banner. In simple terms, the "Justice League Vs Suicide Squad" is a summer blockbuster in comic book form, and that's not a bad thing. The title gives you exactly what it says: a battle between the Justice League and Suicide Squad. Like most comic books that pit some of the biggest teams against each other (example: DC's *Trinity War*), there is of course an even bigger threat looming behind the scenes. This time it's being led by one of the greatest, yet terribly underrated comic book villains – the autocratic Maxwell Lord. For anyone who doesn't know who Max Lord is then here's what you need to know: he's got serious history with some of DC's greatest heroes and shouldn't be taken lightly. Seeing him appear in this story was refreshing. But who is

this mystery team he's leading against the Justice League and Suicide Squad, and why are they out for revenge against the Squads director, Amanda Waller? Well you'll just have to read it if you want the answer.

All six issues, as well as four tie-ins from the Justice League and Suicide Squad comics, are packed with action and drama beautifully illustrated by several different talents including Tony Daniel (Superman/Wonder Woman, Detective Comics) and Jason Fabok (who had a glorious run with DC's previous Justice League series). The action is there from the start, but that doesn't mean that character development is taking a backseat. For some characters, this series serves as a means for them to prove themselves and figure out who they really are beneath all the costumes and super powers, and it's done effectively. A whole new team is even being conceived by the end of story, and it really is something quite different from what you would expect a team of heroes to be. There's fights, drama, conspiracies, and other great surprises presented here. For anyone interested in comic books and superheroes, give it a read. Justice League vs Suicide Squad is a solid story, even if some of its elements seem tried.

## A&amp;E / SPORTS

## Black Tap: Craft Burgers and Beer



*Courtesy of freeimages*

**BY CHRISTIAN ZUNIGA**

Craving delicious burgers, mouthwatering milk shakes, and outstanding quality service? Take a trip to Black Tap in Soho, New York, NY.

I took a trip down to Black Tap last summer, and was at first taken back by the line leading into the restaurant that stretched down the street. When I finally made it into the restaurant I was greeted by a friendly host, seated, and given the restaurant's menu. The prices were a bit high; I paid 15 dollars for the "All – American Burger," which as one would expect was topped off with lettuce, tomato, onion, pickle, and cheese. Other menu items were a bit pricier; the "Norman Burger" – a classic served with wagyu beef, house buttermilk-dill, blue cheese & arugula was 19 dollars. Although the food was a bit costly, the high quality of the burgers and shakes made up for it.

All burgers are served with French fries and customers have the option

to switch out your fries to other side dishes like sweet potato fries, onion rings, salad, or more for an extra two dollars. Before my burger came out, I got to enjoy my massive "Cookie Shake" – a delectable vanilla cookie shake topped with an icy vanilla rim and covered cookie pieces topped with an ice cream sandwich crown, crumbled cookie pieces, chocolate chips, whipped cream & chocolate drizzle.

The inside of the restaurant is dark, small, and there is a lot of noise because of the bumping music. The restaurant gives off a fun vibe, and there is a lot going on. I recommend taking a trip there to indulge in some amazing shakes and burgers. If you're not in the mood for a shake, they also have soda and beers, along with wine and cocktails. Not looking for a burger? That's fine too. They have a great variety of different foods on the menu including salads, chicken, onion rings and fries. I'll be heading back to Black Tap real soon and maybe I'll see you there.

## Spring Training Marks New Hope for the New York Yankees

**BY ERIK S. ORDYKE**

Last season left a bitter taste in the mouths of Yankees fans. There was a sense of confusion at the trade deadline, as Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman traded away two talented relief pitchers, Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman. Prospects were the return on those trades, all players that have a bright future, but little to no impact on the Yankees organization as is. Hopelessness was also on the rise as the chances of making the playoffs grew dimmer as each day passed by. At the end of the season, the New York Yankees failed to make the playoffs, finishing fourth in their division. However, that bright future may be coming to fruition.

This year, with Spring Training in motion, all those prospects and

rookies are on the field. The most notable rookie coming back to the field is Gary Sanchez. The catcher stormed into the MLB scene last year and finished the season with 20 home runs in 53 games, nearly securing himself the American League Rookie of the Year Award. His bat was not his only talent he had shown off. As a catcher, Sanchez had many opportunities to throw out runners trying to steal bases, something he did very proficiently. He threw out 41 percent of runners trying to steal a base last season, which is a respectable percentage, especially for a rookie.

Among the other prospects on the field are outfielder Clint Frazier and shortstop Gleyber Torres, who the Yankees received as parts of trades

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# SPORTS



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from the Indians for Andrew Miller and Cubs for Aroldis Chapman, respectively. Frazier is ranked 15th on MLB Pipeline’s Top 100 Prospects and Torres is ranked 17th. Other notable players are infielder Jorge Mateo (ranked 18th) and outfielder Aaron Judge (ranked 22nd). At the end of last season, the Yankees were touted for having a large share of the most talented prospects in the league. It is also worth mentioning that Aroldis Chapman opted to return to the Yankees over the course of the offseason.

Four games into Spring Training as of February 27th and the pieces are beginning to come together. The Yankees seem to have a solid team of prospects in their organization, and that gives hope for the team’s future. It has been more than four years since the New York Yankees

have won a playoff game and while that playoff slump may continue in the foreseeable future, when the team finally does turn around, it will be these prospects leading the team into a new era of baseball for New York.

As the older players begin to fade away, these newer players such as Sanchez, Judge, Torres, and Mateo will become the faces of the New York Yankees. This year’s Spring Training for the Yankees is nothing but a preview of what is to come. Most of these prospects will continue to develop in the minor leagues, but if you want to see these players all playing as a team in the New York Yankee uniform, it’s best you start watching this Spring Training whenever you get the chance to. You’ll be seeing the future unfolding in front of your eyes.

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