

# THE GOTHIC TIMES

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## NJCU 2008 Prez Pick—Obama

By Marlen Gonzalez

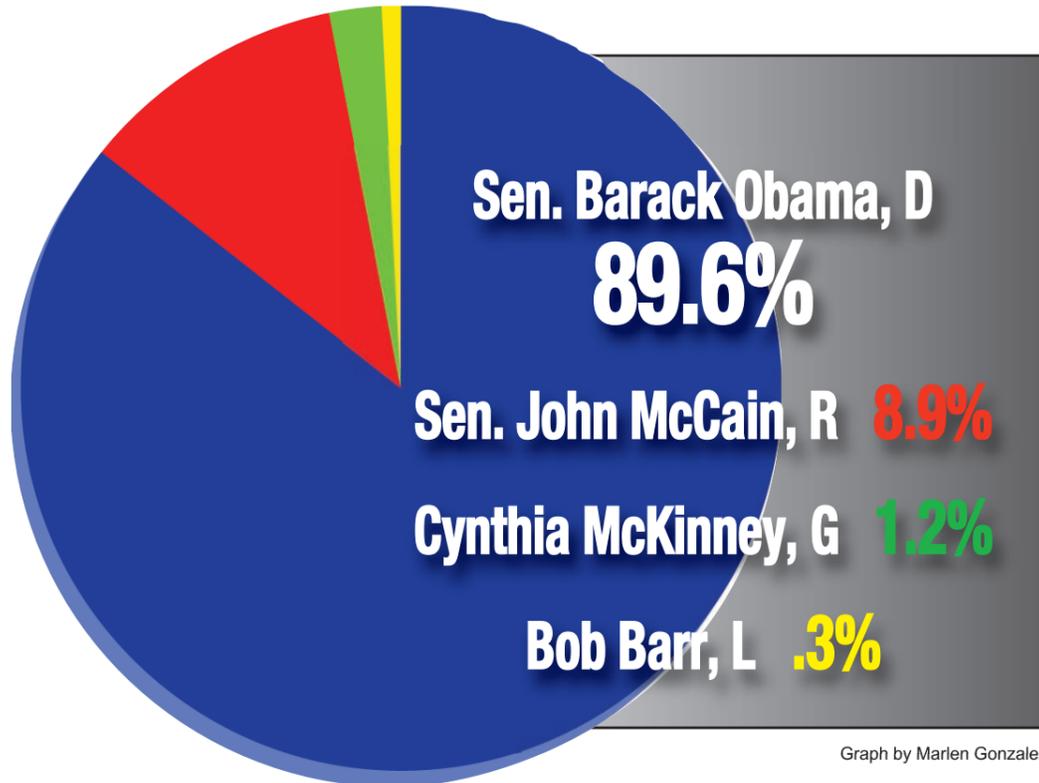
Democratic U.S. Senator Barack Obama is the candidate of choice for the 2008 national presidential election among the New Jersey City University community, a recent campus poll shows.

The NJCU campus poll resulted in 89.6 percent of those surveyed planning to vote for Obama in the Nov. 4, presidential election.

"I would vote for Obama," said Whitney Awaru, 20, biology major from Jersey City. "I like what he stands for and what he wants to do for the American people."

Republican U.S. Sen. John McCain trails in second with 8.9 percent, followed by the Green Party candidate Cynthia McKinney with 1.2 percent and the Libertarian Party candidate Bob Barr with .3 percent.

"There are things about McCain that appeal to me, but overall the entire package isn't what this country needs right now," said Shadi Abdeljabbar, 22, an NJCU graduate from Union City. "Mc-



Graph by Marlen Gonzalez

Cain, throughout his whole political career, has shown that he tries to fit the mold to what he thinks this country wants while also making compulsive decisions."

According to CNN's National Poll of Polls Obama has been the leader in the polls all summer up until the end of August when Mc-

Cain announced that Alaskan Gov. Sarah Palin would be his running mate.

"Sarah Palin makes sense as a choice for him because she is a social conservative, which [McCain] isn't most of the time, and she is also a woman, which appeals to upset Hillary [Clinton]

supporters," said Abdeljabbar.

As of Sept. 19, CNN's National Poll of Polls shows that Obama is in the lead with 47 percent and McCain has 44 percent.

"It's a feeling-up period to a large degree," said Jose Morales, Associate Professor of history, who has taught at NJCU since

1995. "I'm hoping they're [the public] becoming more focused on issues than the differences between the candidates."

The NJCU community has also voted that the economy as the most important issue in this election.

"People don't realize the impact of events in the financial world such as the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers and the selling of Merrill Lynch," said Morales, who is concerned with how the situation may affect his retirement. "Now it becomes serious [...]."

Under his economic plan, Obama would keep the gas tax and ethanol tariff currently in place. He would tax oil profits and use the money to help fund \$1,000 rebate checks for consumers hit by high-energy costs. Obama plans to raise minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2011 and tie future rises to inflation.

"I like his [Obama's] economic plan and I believe he will take this country in a different direction," said Justin Raney, 21, a criminal science major from Roselle. "I believe he's [McCain] a strong candidate and he's a seasoned veteran, but he will continue the policy of Bush."

Under his economic plan, McCain would suspend the 18.4-cents-a-gallon federal gas tax dur-

Continued on page 2

See NJCU Great Debate coverage on page 3

### WORD ON CAMPUS:

#### Will you vote for president on November 4, 2008?



**Bridget Newell, 21, Sophomore, Elementary/Special Ed/Math, Hoboken**

"Yes. I'm kind of excited because this is my first time getting to vote for president, and the fact that it's such a historical event means more to me. When my kids are learning about it in class I can tell them it's the first time Mom voted, like how my mom first voted when Kennedy ran."



**Gustavo Lazo, 23, Senior, Journalism, Bayonne**

"Yes I am, considering Bush is leaving the White House. I honestly do feel if McCain were to win it would be four more years of the same thing. So yes, in essence I'm telling you I'm voting for Barack Obama... I feel it's an important election. Since we have a candidate like Obama who is very relatable to people, we're getting a bigger turnout of younger voters... Voting for John McCain is like getting another sequel to a really s\*\*\*ty movie."



**Natalie Garrido, 20, Sophomore, Art, Jersey City**

"Yes, because we need a change."



**Tamika Burton, 20, 3rd year, Psychology, West Orange**

"Hell yeah, Obama fo' yo mama! I'm voting for Obama because I believe in him and I'm a Democrat."



**Harsh Patel, 19, Sophomore, Chemistry, Jersey City**

"Yeah, but I don't want to share who [I will vote for] because I consider that personal."



**Starlyn Lopez, 19, Junior, Trombone performance, Woodbridge**

"Yes, because it's a big year for America. It's time we take democracy into our own hands. The last two elections we picked the right one, but that didn't work out because look who we have in office. Obama '08!"



**Celeste Labayen, 22, Junior, Psychology, Rahway**

"Absolutely, and it's imperative that everyone else votes... If I voted for McCain I'd be voting against everything I ever believed in."



**Ankur Radia, 18, Freshman, Accounting, Jersey City**

"No. I don't know why."

Interviews & Photography by Jaclyn Foglio

# NEWS

## Convocation, Celebrating 80 Years Within The Community

By Christina Johnson

On September 10, New Jersey City University celebrated its 80th anniversary with the 24th Annual Academic Convocation, held in the Margaret Williams Theatre of Hepburn Hall.

Joanne Z. Bruno, Interim Vice President for academic affairs, presided over the ceremony. Opening the ceremony with wise words concerning the importance of the pursuit, persistence, and application of knowledge adding that "...this year should be the best of what is yet to come."

School pride was prevalent throughout the ceremony as well as the excitement over visitors from Brazil, and the friendship between Jersey City and its sister city, Vitória, Brazil which has flourished despite the large distance that separates the two cities.

NJCU President Carlos Hernández spoke enthusiastically regarding the successful communication between the two cities which began eight years ago, citing it as the "beginning of a wonderful relationship."

Lyle Hickman, a BEAMS Project Representative and student here at NJCU, held the crowd's attention with the unusual topic matter of his speech. He declared himself to be "an Urkel," referencing a popular character, Steve Urkel, from the 1990s sitcom Family Matters. Hickman exalted the positive attributes of the



Photo by Christina Johnson

Members of the Music, Dance, and Theatre Department treated everyone to two musical arrangements. The band consist of Allen Farnham on piano, Paul Meyers on guitar, Andy Eulau on bass, Benjamin Guadalupe on Latin percussion, Pete McGuinness on the trombone, and Ed Joffee on both the flute and saxophone.

intelligent, albeit nerdy Urkel, who was not accepted for being different and tried to change who he was to fit in only to realize he was happiest being himself.

"We accept everybody at NJCU," Hickman said moments after asking who in the audience was an Urkel as well- and was met with a large number of hands which remained raised. After encouraging the incoming students to embrace their inner Urkels, he was given a standing ovation.

Members of the Music, Dance, and Theatre Department treated

everyone to two musical arrangements, especially the guests from Brazil. The band consisted of Allen Farnham on piano, Paul Meyers on guitar, Andy Eulau on bass, Benjamin Guadalupe on Latin percussion, Pete McGuinness on the trombone, and Ed Joffee on both the flute and saxophone. The performed selections were *Amazonas*, by Joao Donato and *Triste* by Antonio Carlos Jobin, and arranged by McGuinness.

This year's keynote speaker was José Alfredo Graça Lima, the

Consul general of Brazil, who was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters after sharing information about the culture of Brazil and his experiences as an Ambassador for Brazil.

The ceremony was followed by the dedication of "Beauty for Ashes Memorial I," a mixed-media assemblage by international artist Duda Pentead. The memorial is based upon the reflections and aftermath of September 11, 2001, and has been donated to NJCU by the Brazilian-American Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C.

### NJCU Retirees honored at Convocation:

**Charles Brown**, head men's basketball coach, (1998)

**Dr. William Dusenberry**, associate professor of sociology (1968)

**Robert Elliott**, professor of history (1967)

**Lenora Frisi**, demonstration teacher, A. Harry Moore School (1979)

**Richard Kane**, professor of history (1968)

**Dr. Carmela Karnoutsos**, professor of history (1968)

**Patricia Staltari**, demonstration teacher, A. Harry Moore School (1973)

**Dr. Rita Tesler**, professor of English (1969)

**Dr. Daniel Tortora**, professor of psychology (1974).

[www.gothictimesnetwork.com](http://www.gothictimesnetwork.com)

## NJCU 2008 Presidential Pick — Obama

Continued from page 1

ing the summer and repeal the 54-cents-a-gallon tariff on imported ethanol. He wants to eliminate a current tax break for oil companies while lowering corporate taxes across the board. McCain would leave minimum wage at \$7.25 an hour, which is where current law will take it to by 2009.

"I agree with a lot of his [Obama's] politics," said Wayne Small, 27, chemistry major from Bayonne. "America is in need of a change. I think that the possibly

of an African American president shows the progress of America. The biggest issue that I agree with Barack Obama is the war—his stance on pulling the troops out."

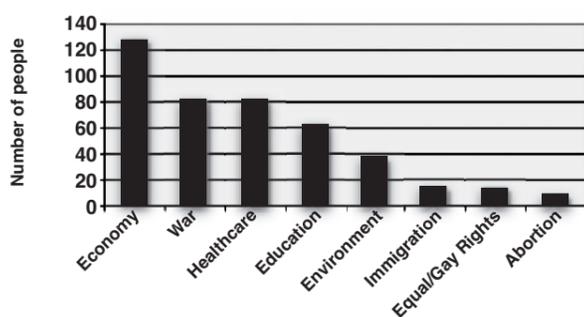
Obama plans on ending the war in Iraq by pulling one to two brigades a month that would remove them completely in 16 months. McCain strongly disagrees with those who advocate withdrawing American troops.

"He [Obama] is also the much needed change after the last eight years of presidency we have lived through," said Daniela Gordon,



Source: www.barackobama.com

Most important issues reported by NJCU community



Graph by Marlen Gonzalez

19, an education major specializing in math from Bayonne. "Obama is the change for this country. He is new, fresh, intelligent, and exciting. He has also had a strong campaign that has brought out the less-than-30 crowd who are willing to vote for him."

According to the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) November Voting and Registration Supplements, 49 percent of young voters (18- to 29-year-

olds) voted in the 2004 election. Also, 54 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds polled said they will vote for Obama, while 34 percent said they will vote for McCain according to the Sept. 15-16 poll by The Economist and YouGov, a leading online pollster.

"I believe that well-informed and educated voter is our best citizen. Absolutely keeping in mind to be fair and balanced," said Juan Arroyo, the Assistant Director of

Academic Career Planning & Placement who is from Union and has worked at NJCU for 23 years. "That is, for me, the best thing to get out of any election, whether it be national or local. It is important that all citizens vote because there are a lot of nations who would die to have the ability to vote."

Additional reporting done by Jordan Lester.

## NEWS

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month Kicks Off

By Denise D. Gibson

October serves as our nation's "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month". Breast Cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States.

For many, this month serves as a time to reflect on our loved ones who have suffered from this disease and to take preventative measures to keep those who have not been diagnosed with breast cancer aware and well-informed.

Dalia Harby, 20, a junior year biology major from Jersey City has an aunt who has survived breast cancer. "My aunt is the first person to get it in my family" says Harby. "[This awareness month] is helpful with giving people information on how to check themselves and prevent it from happening."

The most readily accessible resource is located right on campus at the Health & Wellness Center. Regardless of the reason a female student comes to see the part-time physician on campus, "on our physician form, we ask if they do self-breast exams," says Kathleen Decker, Assistant Supervisor of the Health & Wellness Center. "If they say no, we can ask them if they know how to do it. [...] We have models [in the office] that have lumps in them so they can see what they feel like" during exams.



photos.com

Ilyana Harris, 31, a criminal justice major from Jersey City is happy that our nation has taken the time to pay attention to this issue. "There are so many things that happen in our day to day lives that we sometimes leave our health issues for later" Says Harris.

The risk for breast cancer increases as women age. Forty is the average age that women are encouraged to get a mammogram which is a test to detect any signs of cancer. Through studies, there is a 90 percent survival rate from cancer when it is detected early. "I think that it is important for women to know the signs and get help immediately" Harris says to support proper testing.

One well-known student from NJCU was Junior, Health Science

major, Ms. Rhonda Berry, was a breast cancer patient. On February 27, 2007 Berry lost her battle against breast cancer. Berry was an advocate of testing early and testing often, and worked tirelessly to get information to women in the state who did not have insurance so they could receive the care they deserved.

"I admired her. I miss her so much. I wish I had the Strength and Courage that Rhonda had" says Harris about her advocate friend.

The website titled National Breast Cancer Awareness Month <http://nbcam.org/index.cfm> can help with early detection. The site lists a few pointers to help with discovering any signs and symptoms:

Any new, hard lump or thickening in any part of the breast  
Change in breast size or shape  
Dimpling or puckering of the skin

Swelling, redness or warmth that does not go away

Pain in one spot that does not vary with your monthly cycle

Pulling in of the nipple

Nipple discharge that starts suddenly and appears only in one breast

An itchy, sore or scaling area on one nipple

"I don't keep up with regular self breast exams. I usually wait for my doctor to check" says Naomi Nerius, 24, senior year biology major from Roselle. She is now considering making a consistent effort to do self checkups more frequently.

This year will also be the Health & Wellness center's third year in

collaborating with an on-campus sorority, The Royal Ladies of Phi Chi Epsilon, Inc., to raise money for breast cancer awareness.

Last year, the event, where items such as pens or planners were sold at tables on campus, the center and sorority raised about \$500 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

"We would hope we would match or exceed that this year," says Carolyn Hunter, Supervisor of the Health and Wellness Center who has worked at New Jersey City University for 24 years.

Hunter believes that "When you collaborate with students, [other students are] more interested in what students have to say. They are more approachable."

The event will be held in October. Students can check for notification of day and time on the center's website or on the GothicNet news section.

CHRISTINA JOHNSON  
News Editor

Christina Johnson is an English Journalism major who was born and raised on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, and has had an affinity for books since she can remember. A transfer student from Morrisville State College, she majored in Journalism there and held the position of Editor for the Opinions and Editorials section of their student-run paper, called The Chimes. She is looking forward to being on staff here at *The Gothic Times*.

## Great Debate 2008 fills GSUB



Photo by Marlen Gonzalaz

Joanne Antoine as Sen. Obama and Alex Neilson as Cynthia McKinney.



Photo by Marlen Gonzalaz

Moderator City Council President for Jersey City, Mariano Vega Jr., Ernst Grand-Pierre as Bob Barr, and Patrick Jarkowsky as Sen. McCain.

By Marlen Gonzalez

The long-awaited New Jersey City University Great Debate 2008 took place on October 2, 2008, in the Gilligan Student Union Building. Four NJCU students starred as the presidential candidates from the Democratic, Republican, Green and Libertarian parties.

City Council President for Jersey City, Mariano Vega Jr., was the guest moderator for the mock debate.

"I thought it was beyond my expectation," said Vega. "It was outstanding. I am beginning to see more of the campus life that is reaching out to mainstream in Hudson County. With this debate we were able to see that they went to the heart of the issues in a way I have not seen in a long time."

Joanne Antoine played Senator Barack Obama (Democrat), Ernst Grand-Pierre was Bob Barr (Libertarian), Patrick Jarkowsky was Senator John McCain (Republican) and Alex Neilson was Cyn-

thia McKinney (Green).

"The debate went exceptionally well—well received and well deserved," said Sandra Barsoum, 21, political science major and pre-law minor from Dayton. "It's a great way to inform our students of our current political atmosphere for those who don't watch [the campaign] or learn on their own. This debate provided all the information on the candidates so the students can make an educated decision."

The audience was able to "elect" a president via secret ballot. The winner of the popular vote was Sen. Obama. The winner of the electoral vote was McKinney. The "electoral college" consisted of a panel of NJCU faculty and staff. The candidates were judged on accuracy, information, style, and effectiveness.

"If they gave an award for the most-improved, it would go to me because I had so much progress from the town hall meeting to today," said Joanne Antoine, 21, journalism major and pre-law mi-

nor from Asbury Park. "I wish [the debate] could have been longer. It was cut too short. But it was a great experience and I learned a lot. I hope that during the next election, more students are involved."

Obama placed last in both September town hall meetings. Barr won in the first one, narrowly defeating McKinney. McKinney won by a landslide in the second town hall meeting.

"I found [the town hall meeting] very informative," said Gabriel Veliz, 24, criminal justice major from Jersey City. "I really liked McKinney's views. I didn't even know she was running. There was so much more that I learned. I went on the Internet and checked out the parties. Democrats and Republicans get more media attention then the Libertarian and Green parties."

Some felt the town hall meetings were better than the actual debate because students were able to ask the candidates questions that mattered to them.

"I think the [debate] questions were very short," said Gretel Martinez, 20, political science major from Jersey City. "We really didn't have a sense of who the candidates were. [...] Overall, the town hall meetings and the debate

*"This is a big room and for it to be as full as it is speak[s] volumes of the importance of this election to the student body"*

Mariano Vega Jr.

City Council President Jersey City

were remarkable. They did a great job representing the candidates."

Throughout the town hall meetings and the debate the topics covered were: education, the economy (specifically the bailout), the war in Iraq, Israel, and Guantanamo Bay.

"This is a big room and for it to be as full as it is speak[s] volumes of the importance of this election

to the student body," said Vega Jr. "It tells that the students are not in an ivory tower but rather in the grass roots of mainstream. This gives me a lot of confidence that there will be an increase in voters to the student to age group."

Out of 449 visitors to gothic-timesnetwork.com between August 27 and October 3, 2008, 445 said they do plan on voting on Nov. 4; three will not and one was unsure.

"I think it's great. One of the things I like best is the meeting of students, faculty, and the student affairs staff to work together in a real life learning experience," said Dr. John Melendez, Vice President of Student Affairs. "[This was an] awesome opportunity. I'm really proud of everyone. One of our challenges is to try to recreate this again and not have to wait every four years."

"I can't wait to see what awaits us in the future election," Barsoum said.

*Additional reporting done by Jordan Lester.*

# NEWS

## The Electoral College Explained

By Patrick Jarkowsky

In order to fully understand how the next President of the United States will be chosen in the coming weeks, it is important that New Jersey City University voters know how the Electoral College system works. It is the electoral vote, and not the popular vote, that ultimately decides who will become President and Vice President.

The origins of the Electoral College are rooted in the earliest days of our Republic. Initially, the founding fathers devised a plan whereby the President and Vice President would be elected by the Legislative branch. Although a majority of states' delegates agreed to this plan, some delegates believed that this process was essentially non-democratic.

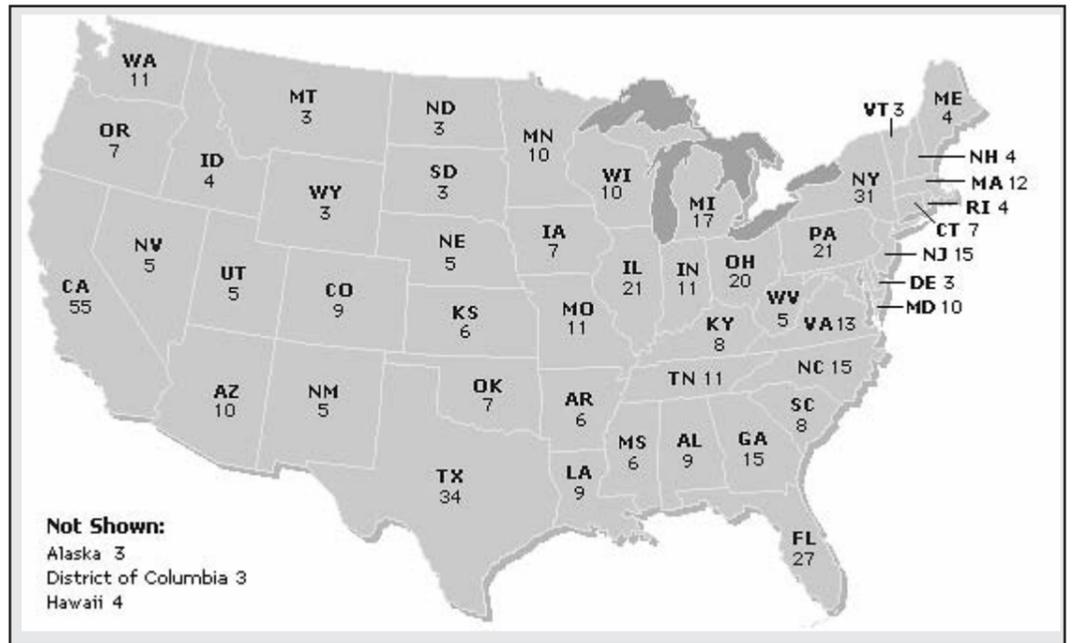
In the spirit of compromise, a committee was formed to devise a better system. This committee recommended that a group of individuals, apportioned among the states and equal to the number of Congressional representatives of each state, be chosen to elect the President and Vice-President of the United States. This group of individuals came to be known as the Electoral College.

The Electoral College is a body of 538 individuals, elected by the

citizens of each of the fifty states. On Election Day, when the citizens of the United States pull the lever for a particular candidate, they are essentially voting for these electors. Although these electors are technically free to vote for any eligible presidential candidate, they almost always vote in accordance with the popular vote of the citizens they are representing.

Presidential electors are selected on a state-by-state basis, according to the laws of each particular state. Although many factors determine how each state selects its electors, generally, electors are individuals who have shown a great deal of service and dedication to their party, been active party fundraisers, or maintain a prior political or personal relationship with a candidate.

The Constitution does not prescribe the particular method of appointing electors. However, it does place certain limitations of the eligibility of an elector. Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 provides that "no Senator, Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States" may be appointed as an elector. Although it is not clear whether this restriction applies to all Federal officials, States generally shy away from



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appointing any person that is employed by the Federal government.

The number of electors per state is determined by calculating the number of each state's representatives in Congress. For example, New Jersey has two Senators and thirteen Representatives. Therefore, New Jersey has fifteen electors in the Electoral College. Although Washington D.C. is not a state, it

receives three electoral votes, the equivalent of the number of votes held by the states with the lowest amount of Congressional representation.

On the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, each elector casts one vote for President and one vote for Vice President. In order to win the presidency, a candidate must receive a majority of electoral votes (270 votes). If no candidate

reaches 270 votes, the election of the President is decided by the House of Representatives, with the election of the Vice President being decided by the Senate.

For more detailed information on the Electoral College, including breakdowns of how each state selects its electors, an interactive electoral map, and a comprehensive FAQ section, please visit <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/>.

## NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

*Academic Career Planning & Placement*

# BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CAREER FAIR

All Business, Computer Science & Economics majors are invited to attend. Representatives of business, finance, government, public accounting firms and technology will be seeking current students for internships and graduating seniors, graduate students and alumni for permanent positions!

*Business attire is required.*

Wednesday,  
October 15

Gilligan  
Student  
Union  
Building

3:00 p.m. -  
6:00 p.m.

# CULTURE

## The New Civil Rights Fight in America

By Jan Aguilos

America still reels from the culture wars: blue state vs. red state, men vs. women, black vs. white, etc. It seems like the preoccupations of our 21st Century society will be identical to those of the 20th Century, yet there seems to be a new era in the gay rights movement. With the California State Supreme Court legalizing gay marriage a few months ago, there is a long awaited socio-political awakening in the gay community. Gay rights have been coming into the forefront.

However, the gay rights fight is not a new battle front in human history.

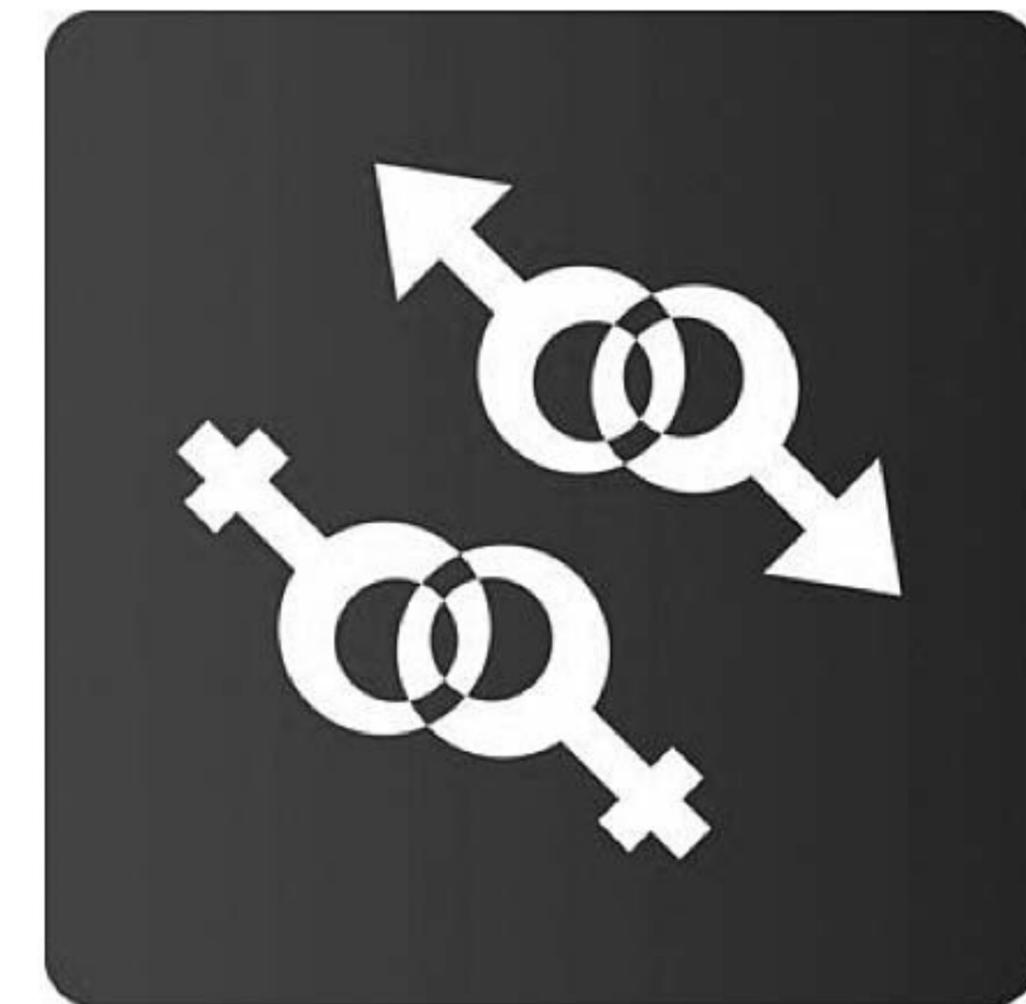
"There's been a long history of L.G.B.T. [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender] civil rights, even pre-Stonewall," said 26 year-old Guido Sanchez, the Executive Director of Hudson Pride Connections (HPC).

HPC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose headquarters are located near Journal Square on 32 Jones Street, Jersey City, NJ.

HPC describes itself as "A center of community support & empowerment for the LGBTQ communities and all people living with HIV, since 1993." The 'Q' in LGBTQ oftentimes refers to "questioning."

The aforementioned Stonewall riots occurred in 1969 and mark the start of the modern gay rights movement. Sanchez did admit that the past few years have signaled change as well, "We're definitely in a new era."

Even with the landmark ruling this year by the Supreme Court of California, which stated that it is unconstitutional to withhold equal marriage rights from same-sex couples, and an equivalent state Supreme Court ruling in Massachusetts in 2004, society may be advancing faster than the laws. A Zogby poll taken in August 2008 showed that a majority of people in New Jersey favor gay marriage over civil unions for same-sex couples. Out of the 803 partici-



www.google.com

*"I feel that in order to create awareness of the hostile environment that the people of America have chosen, it is necessary for people to share their identities with others."*

**Michael Gennari**

*Member of the G.L.B.T. F Alliance*

pants surveyed, 59 percent stated that they would not be bothered if the civil union law in our state is changed to gay marriage.

Beyond gay marriage, society seems more open to the L.G.B.T., at least publicly. It's still difficult for young adults and teens to come out of the closet, but they

are coming out of the closet more frequently and at earlier ages.

"One thing that's amazing is how young people can come out now," said Sanchez, who came out when he was 14 years old. Yet, he stated that gay youth "still deal with the same issues as before."

Sanchez cited that about 40 percent-50 percent of the homeless teens in New York City can be identified as members of the L.G.B.T. community and the figures are likely to be similar in other cities of the tri-state area. Sometimes a young person that just came out will get kicked out

of his or her parent's house.

Summer Wosu, a 23-year-old senior, majoring in media arts from Jersey City, can identify with this problem: "I came out to my mom when I was 18, and about a few months later she actually kicked me out of the house." Luckily, she's found a few places to live since then. She now lives with her dad, who has been divorced from her mom. "I just want to stay there until I make more money," she said, stating that it is a temporary situation.

Nevertheless, many are accepted by their parents. Derrick Pitts, a 20-year-old business administration major from Newark, came out to his family during Thanksgiving dinner when he was a high school senior. He associates himself with heterosexual friends and doesn't affiliate himself with the gay community.

"I don't think, personally, that there is a gay movement," said Pitts. He also said that he is not active in fighting for gay rights. "I don't think that my sexuality makes me more or less socially or politically active," he said, "I feel that people are active, socially or politically, depending on their personality, gay or straight."

Still, many do celebrate the gay movement. National Coming Out Day is on October 11. One of the celebrants will be 19-year-old Michael Gennari, a music education major from Staten Island, NY. "I feel that in order to create awareness of the hostile environment that the people of America have chosen, it is necessary for people to share their identities with others," said Gennari, a member of the G.L.B.T.F. (Gay Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Friends) Alliance, which is a student club/ organization here at New Jersey City University.

There is a growing gay identity and we might be in the middle of its epoch.

For more information on Hudson Pride Connections, visit <http://www.hudsonpride.org/> or call 201-963-4779.

## How to Have a Safe and Fun Halloween

Halloween is a night where kids dress up and go door to door to get candy and all kinds of goodies, adults throw costume parties, and people try to scare one another with hideous masks. Next to Christmas, it is the second most highly commercialized holiday. It is a night of spooks and fun for people of all ages.

The name Halloween means 'All Hallows Eve,' which is the night before 'All Hallows,' also referred to as 'All Saints,' or 'All Souls' Day, observed on November 1. The origin of this celebration dates back to the ancient Celts



**CHRISTIE AVILA**  
Culture Editor

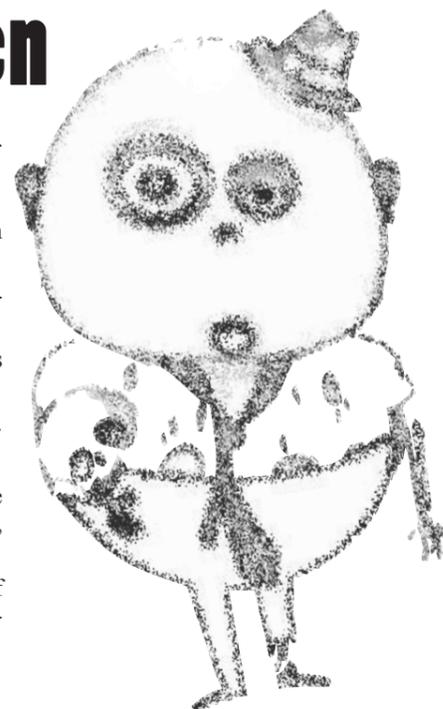
festival called "Samhain" where it was said to believe that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. This celebration marked the end of the harvest season.

Much like today, the Celts donned costumes such as animal heads and skins so they would not be recognized as humans. The famous Jack o' lantern which is a classic symbol of this highly commercialized day originated in Ireland. The only difference is that they carved and placed candles in hollowed out turnips, potatoes, and beets instead to keep away spirits and ghosts. Today, a carved pumpkin with a crooked smile reminds us of their tradition.

On this exciting night, one thing is for sure, children look forward to trick-or-treating. Here are some useful tips on making it a safe and enjoyable night when taking any child trick or treating:

- Only trick-or-treat in well known neighborhoods.
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
- Bring a flashlight, for when it gets dark.
- Stay together.
- Wait until children are home to examine all treats to check if they are spoiled, unwrapped, or odd in any way.
- Notify law enforcement authorities if there is any suspicious or unlawful activity.

Have a Safe & Happy Halloween!



# OPINION

## Obama & Islam

By Jan Aguilos

During the Democratic primary season, Junior Illinois Senator Barack Obama strove to be a post-racial, unifying leader. His message was one that sought to usher in an epoch of tolerance and diversity in the 21st Century. Unfortunately, prejudice and ignorance may have shot that hope down.

Islamophobia has pervaded throughout this election season and Obama may pay the price. From the tasteless and unfunny *New Yorker* cover, an illustration which shows Obama wearing Arab-like garb in the Oval Office while a portrait of Osama bin Laden hangs over an American-flag-burning fire place, to the rumor mongering among bloggers, we can easily see how the country we like to call a melting pot is fomenting into a cesspool of reactionary xenophobia.

To start off, Obama is a Christian! Obama did not learn his

ABCs in a madrasa. There has been no evidence that confirms he was raised as a Muslim. Yet there seems to be a large-scale willful ignorance to these facts, one that has the potential of erasing Obama's message of hope. Islamophobia is alive and well in this country, a country that's supposed to be about inclusivity. Honestly, it's pretty damn sickening.

Polls conducted this year by USA Today, the Pew Research Center, and the Wall Street Journal indicate that an average of about 10 percent of registered voters believe that Obama is a Muslim. Obama has tried to walk the fine line of shooting down these rumors while still remaining respectful towards Muslims.

Although Obama has made numerous appearances in churches and synagogues, as of press time, he has never made a public appearance in a mosque. Yet he has repeatedly spoken of Muslim-Americans in a positive light and



Photo from google.com

defended Muslim-Americans on *Larry King*, soon after the *New Yorker* controversy hit. During the course of the year, a couple of my Muslim classmates expressed displeasure about Obama's denials. They thought that his denials were a way of distancing himself from Muslim-Americans. But his denials are true and simply denying that you are a Muslim doesn't mean to imply anything negative

about Muslims.

Obama isn't the first black person to run for President but he is the first to get the nomination of a major party. Unfortunately, his success is buffeted by the double-whammy of racism and false rumors about his religious affiliation. In the world of presidential politics, Barack Obama is the first of his kind and many Americans just can't believe that a dark-

skinned man with an exotic name can ever become President.

The United States is the greatest yet most imperfect country in the world. Although we live in a diverse country, Americans don't always accept diversity. In November, when we select the leader of the free world, I hope that tolerant voters outnumber bigoted voters.

## Shattering the Stained-Glass Ceiling

By Alexander Neilson

The 2008 Presidential Election cycle will long be remembered not just for its fiercely competitive, wide-open primaries, but for the unprecedented campaigns of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, the first viable black and female Presidential candidates respectively. Their successes are a testament to what has been a steady increase in the acceptance of 'non-traditional' Presidential candidates. In 1967, Gallup conducted a poll asking Americans if they would vote for a "generally well-qualified," black or female person for President if that person was their party's nominee. 53 percent said they would vote for a black person, 57 percent said they would vote for a woman. In 2007, both of those numbers in an identical poll were nearly 100 percent, which is in part due to a drop in the social acceptability of race/gender bias, but is also strongly indicative of Americans' growing tolerance of non-whites and women in leadership positions.

Seeing that those two longstanding glass ceilings have been broken the question then becomes — does each and every American citizen now have a legitimate opportunity to become President? The answer unfortunately is no.

In the recent Gallup poll mentioned above only 45 percent of Americans said that they would vote for an atheist or agnostic candidate, far behind every other group, to include homosexuals (55 percent) and a person married for a third time (67 percent). To understand this phenomenon one must not only appreciate the inordinate religiosity of America in comparison to every other 'West-

ern' nation but also the extreme degree to which religion and faith have been interjected into the American political process — also a uniquely American attribute among Western democracies.

Pastor Rick Warren kicked off the über-hyped pseudodebate between Senators Obama and McCain at his Saddleback 'megachurch' in Lake Forest, California with the following statement: "We believe in the separation of Church and State, but we do not believe in the separation of faith and politics." A declaration that very neatly sums up the sentiments of the 60 percent of Americans who say that religion is an important part of their daily lives (in comparison to 30 percent in Canada and 12 percent in France and Japan, according to a Pew Global Attitudes Center poll) and clearly feel that it is impera-

*"The American religious majority is dominating the secular minority through the democratic process, turning nonbelievers into political pariahs."*

tive that their elected officials share their faith in a higher power. This attitude effectively bars the 15 percent of Americans who describe themselves as atheists or agnostics from any chance of holding high public office. In short, the American religious majority is dominating the secular minority through the democratic process, turning nonbelievers into political pariahs.

While the damage done by having a de facto religious test to be President (as the Constitution ex-

PLICITLY disallows) is intrinsically harmful to our long-held separation of Church and State ideal, the fact alone that atheist and agnostic Americans are shut out of potential political careers is disquieting in view of the following realities. 15 percent of Americans (greater than the percentage of black Americans) have no chance of gaining the Presidency. On a local level, atheists and agnostics are too diffuse to be elected to congressional seats, where other minorities have gained entrance

to government. Many of our greatest leaders such as Lincoln, Jefferson, Franklin and even Washington would be unable to participate in politics today because of their murky, undefined and sometimes even non-existent religious principles.

For many years democratic elections have been a good forum in which to gauge a country's level of tolerance for minority groups. This ongoing Presidential election cycle has done quite a bit in demonstrating that long-embattled black and female leaders are now palatable to the mainstream. The same cannot be said of non-religious leaders. So long as faith continues to maintain and strengthen its throttlehold on American politics, atheists and agnostics will remain on the outside looking in.

### Which Way Will the Swing States Swing?

By Patrick Jarkowsky

As their name implies, swing states are states that could, in a general election, go either Democratic or Republican. During presidential elections, a great deal of attention is paid to these swing states. Often, the media and the campaigns create artificial swing states in order to boost excitement or fabricate a candidate's broad electoral appeal. Although the artificial swing state is a political reality, there are some states that are indeed swing states.

In the accompanying table, I've selected the eight states that I believe to be genuine swing

states. Using all available data, such as poll numbers, party turnout in the primaries, voter registration totals, down ticket races, and ballot initiatives, I have made a prediction as to which way the swing states will swing.

I understand that predicting the outcome of a Presidential election is a dubious task for even the most astute political observer. That being said, I'm going to give my prediction and hope that my reputation will remain in tact come November 5th.

After all is said and done, taking into account the solid red states, the solid blue states, and the outcome of the eight swing states, Senator Obama will win 286 electoral votes, Senator McCain will win 252. Now I know that this is a bit of a liberal prediction. If I were being a little more conservative, I would give Virginia's 13 electoral votes to Senator McCain. If this were the outcome Senator Obama would win 273 electoral votes, Senator McCain would win 265. If either scenario were to occur, having achieved 270 electoral votes, Barack Obama would be victorious.

|                                                                |                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Colorado<br>New Mexico<br>Pennsylvania<br>Virginia<br>Democrat | Florida<br>Missouri<br>Nevada<br>Ohio<br>Republican |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|

# EDITORIAL

## Who Will Lead Us to a Pax Americana?

By V.A. Velez

With the Presidential Election looming on the horizon, we, as registered voters, have a monumental decision to make as the days moving toward November 4, 2008, begin to dwindle: Who will we choose as President to determine the future of our country in the coming century?

During this next election, it is up to us as the people of the United States to accept the responsibility of deciding who we want to represent us, not only internationally, but to the future generations of Americans to follow. For, even though this election is happening now, the votes we all will cast this November on the issues at hand will be a turning point that will determine how our country shall function not only in the ever-fleeting present but in the years to come.

The election on November 4 will be remembered in our history as the day Americans decided their fate in the new millennium. The candidate chosen will become instantly bronze-casted in history as the person who we believed could fulfill those wishes. It is up to us in the next days to decide upon our history.

For the undecided voter, selecting a person to lead us into the new frontier of our adolescent century can be a difficult process. The advanced media technology of today offers various resources one can choose from to gather information about whom they should cast their vote for. In the past, we only had the newspapers, radio, and television to inform us on candidates and their platforms.

They were recognized as trusted and reliable news sources whose job it was to report the facts on the candidates, regardless of the circumstances or repercussions.

Today, not only do we have the aforementioned media sources, but we also have a Pandora's Box of endless, unfiltered information through the Internet. Between baited hook websites run by extremists from either party trying to reel in the uninformed voter to their cause and the web presence of once reliable news sources who have lately sacrificed their journalistic standards for flash and pomp news stories that increase ratings, it has become difficult to distinguish factual news stories from petty pandering.

When once reliable institutions of factual information become unreliable, we can always turn to the one establishment where all the answers about the Human Condition can be found: that establishment is our own Human History. We have the ability to create it, just like the millions of people in societies that heard its clarion call before and because of those people, we have the ability to reference.

Lately it seems as if history has come knocking on all of our doors, and it is about time we answer to and become accountable for it. We can look back on History and choose the admirable qualities of past great leaders and see if our candidates possess any of those qualities. We can research periods in time that are comparable to ours now, where the stock and housing market were down, unemployment was up, and an individual's education made no dif-

ference in the social or economic standing.

We can look for the leader who carried society out of that time and made every individual's effort toward a prosperous life worthwhile. We do not have to set our sights low nor restrict them to only recent time. We can look back to past American Presidents such as Jimmy Carter with his dealings of the American Energy Crisis of the 1970s and the Na-

*"It is up to us in the next days to decide upon our history."*

tional Energy Act; John F. Kennedy with his insistence upon racial equality; and Franklin D. Roosevelt, who created the New Deal and Social Security during the Great Depression.

In Ancient History, there were Charlemagne, the Frankish king who united most of Central and Western Europe, bringing forth, if only for an instant, a time of cultural revival, and Augustus Caesar, who brought forth to the Roman Empire a time of Pax Romana. These leaders brought forth eras of peace, healing, and logical solutions while carrying with them an air of dignity and responsibility toward their citizens during perilous times within Human History.

When voting this November, we should not fall victim to the apathetic dregs of our society who would surrender all of our futures

### 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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because they believe that our votes will not matter in the long run. We should not allow them to weigh us down as a people, capturing us in their loose sediment of hopelessness as it slowly turns into concrete, rendering our citizens sedentary and powerless.

When we, as the people of the

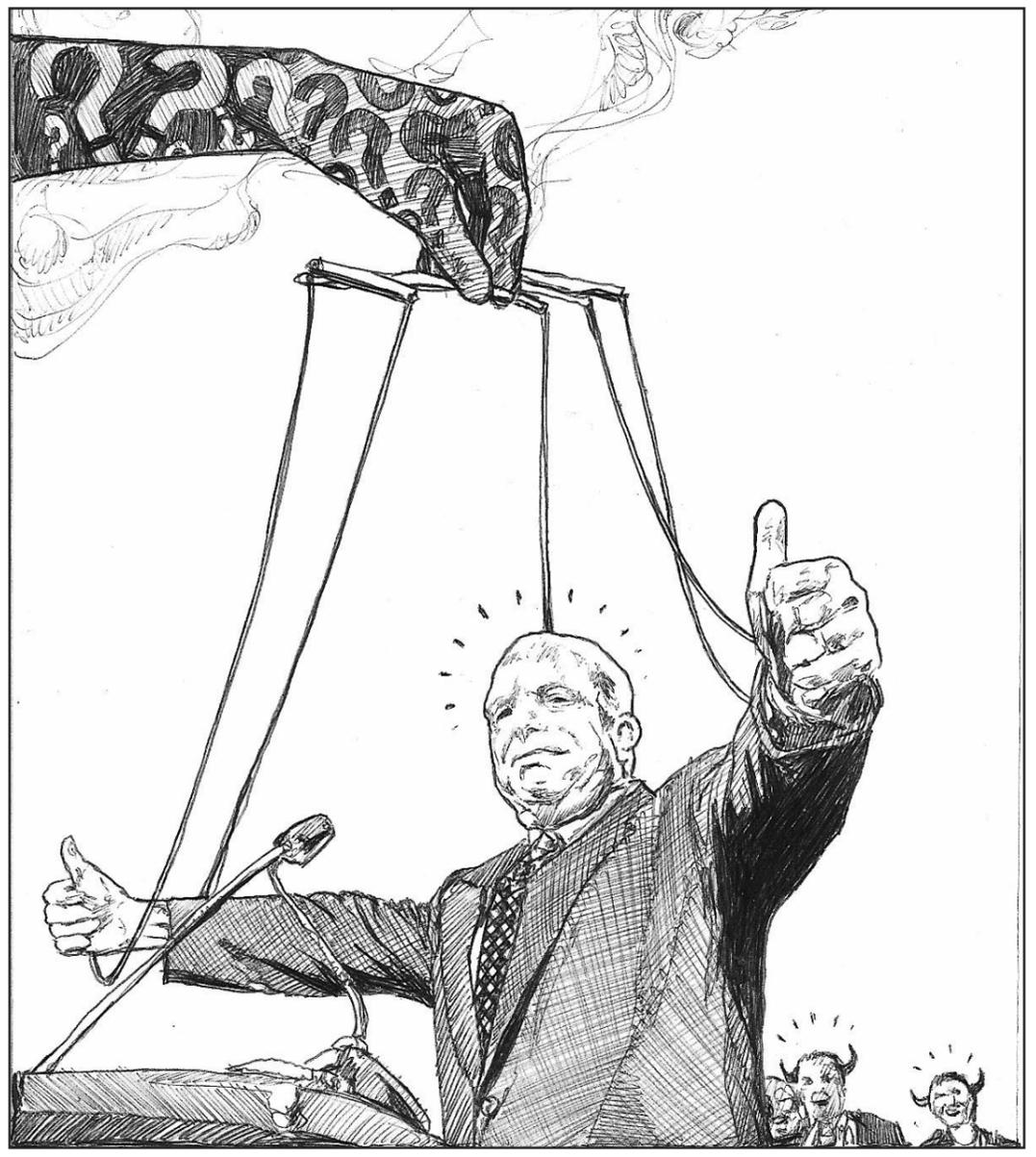
United States of America, secure our place in History by voting on November 4, 2008, we should keep in mind that our country deserves, and demands an Arthurian leader who will bring forth in the years to come a time of Pax Americana.

### Pre-Law Event at New Jersey City University

WHAT: NJCU's Pre-Law Event  
WHERE: Hepburn Hall, Gothic Lounge, Room 202  
WHEN: Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
WHY: Whether you are considering going to Law School or have already decided, you can come meet lawyers and law school admission officers in a relaxed setting to discuss your future.

Coffee and sweets included!

For additional information, please email Professor Donna K. Axel at [daxel@njcu.edu](mailto:daxel@njcu.edu).



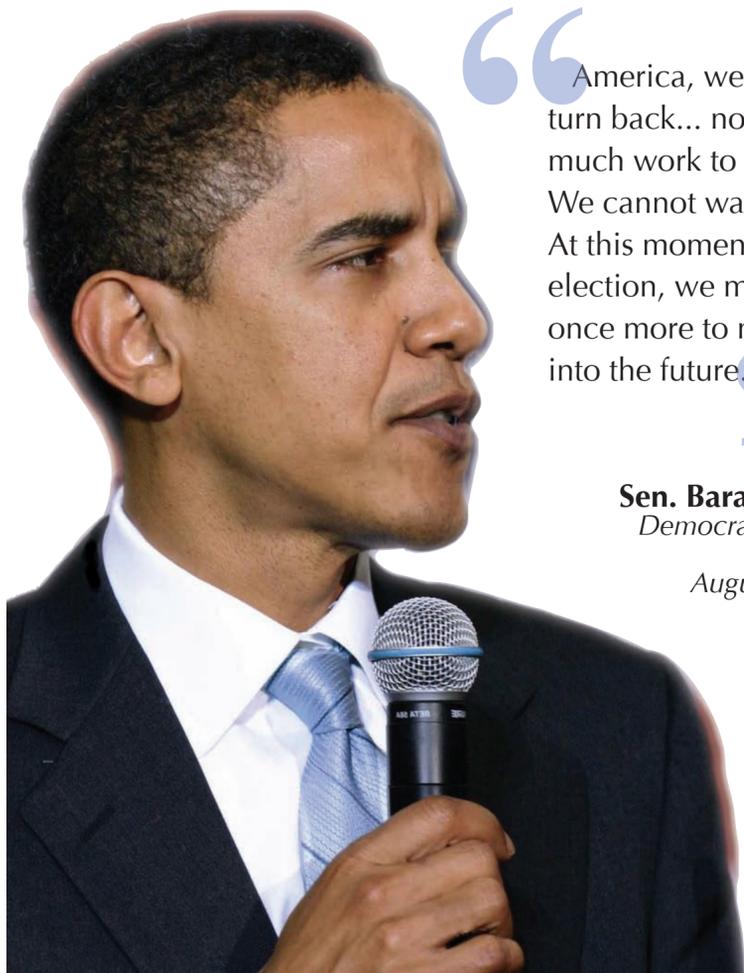
Artwork by "Mr. Mustart"

# Gothic Watch 2008 — An NJCU Election Guide

## DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES 2008

## Issues

## REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES 2008



“America, we cannot turn back... not with so much work to be done... We cannot walk alone. At this moment, in this election, we must pledge once more to march into the future.”

**Sen. Barack Obama**  
*Democratic National Convention*  
August 28, 2008

<http://readwritenow.wordpress.com>

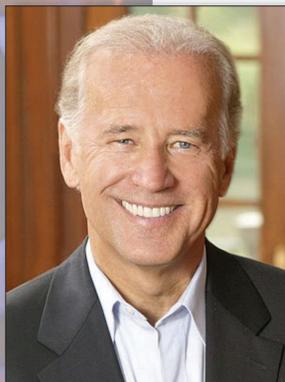
### Senator Barack Obama, D

- ▲ Age: 47
- ▲ Political Party: Democratic
- ▲ Present Title: United States Senator
- ▲ State Represented: Illinois
- ▲ Years in Congress: 2005-present
- ▲ Education: Harvard Law School, Columbia University, Occidental College
- ▲ Why people like him: As a relatively young candidate, Obama has fueled the enthusiasm of young voters while giving other supporters hope for change in the government.

### VP Pick

### Senator Joseph Biden, D

- ▲ Age: 65
- ▲ Political Party: Democratic
- ▲ Present Title: United States Senator
- ▲ State Represented: Delaware
- ▲ Years in Congress: 1973-present
- ▲ Education: Syracuse University College of Law, University of Delaware
- ▲ Why Obama picked him: As current Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Biden will bring much needed experience in this field to the White House.



[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

**Economy:**  
Obama will create a new "Making Work Pay" tax credit of up to \$500 per person, or \$1,000 per working family. The "Making Work Pay" tax credit will completely eliminate income taxes for 10 million Americans.  
Obama will create a credit card rating system, modeled on five-star systems used for other consumer products, to provide consumers an easily identifiable ranking of credit cards, based on the card's features.

McCain plans to keep the top tax rate at 35 percent; maintain the 15 percent rates on dividends (payments made by a corporation to its shareholder members) and capital gains (profit that results from the sale or exchange of a capital asset); and phase-out the Alternative Minimum Tax.  
He will cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent. He promotes economic growth by keeping jobs in America instead of shipping them overseas to countries with lower corporate tax rates.

**War:**  
Immediately upon taking office, Obama will give his Secretary of Defense and military commanders a new mission in Iraq: ending the war. The removal of our troops will be responsible and phased, directed by military commanders on the ground and done in consultation with the Iraqi government. Military experts believe we can safely redeploy combat brigades from Iraq at a pace of 1 to 2 brigades a month that would remove them in 16 months. [...]  
Under the Obama plan, a residual force will remain in Iraq and in the region to conduct targeted counter-terrorism missions against al Qaeda in Iraq and to protect American diplomatic and civilian personnel.

McCain believes it is strategically and morally essential for the United States to support the Government of Iraq to become capable of governing itself and safeguarding its people — strongly disagrees with those who advocate withdrawing American troops before this has occurred.  
McCain has been a leading advocate of the "surge" and the counterinsurgency strategy carried out by General David Petraeus. Due to its success, McCain believes Iraq's political order is evolving in positive and hopeful ways. Four out of the six laws cited as benchmarks by the U.S. have been passed by the Iraqi legislature.  
Iraqi government can jump-start their economy by using a portion of its budget surplus to employ Iraqis in infrastructure projects.

**Education:**  
Obama will make college affordable for all Americans by creating a new American Opportunity Tax Credit. This universal and fully refundable credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university and make community college tuition completely free for most students.

McCain supports No Child Left Behind and believes it has focused our attention on the realities of how students perform against a common standard. He will encourage alternative certification methods that open the door for highly motivated teachers to enter the field and will devote 5 percent of Title II funding to states to recruit teachers who graduate in the top 25 percent of their class or who participate in an alternative teacher recruitment program.

**Healthcare:**  
Obama will make available a new national health plan to all Americans, including the self-employed and small businesses, to buy affordable health coverage that is similar to the plan available to members of Congress. [...] No American will be turned away from any insurance plan because of illness or pre-existing conditions. [...] Individuals and families who do not qualify for Medicaid or SCHIP but still need financial assistance will receive an income-related federal subsidy to buy into the new public plan or purchase a private health care plan.

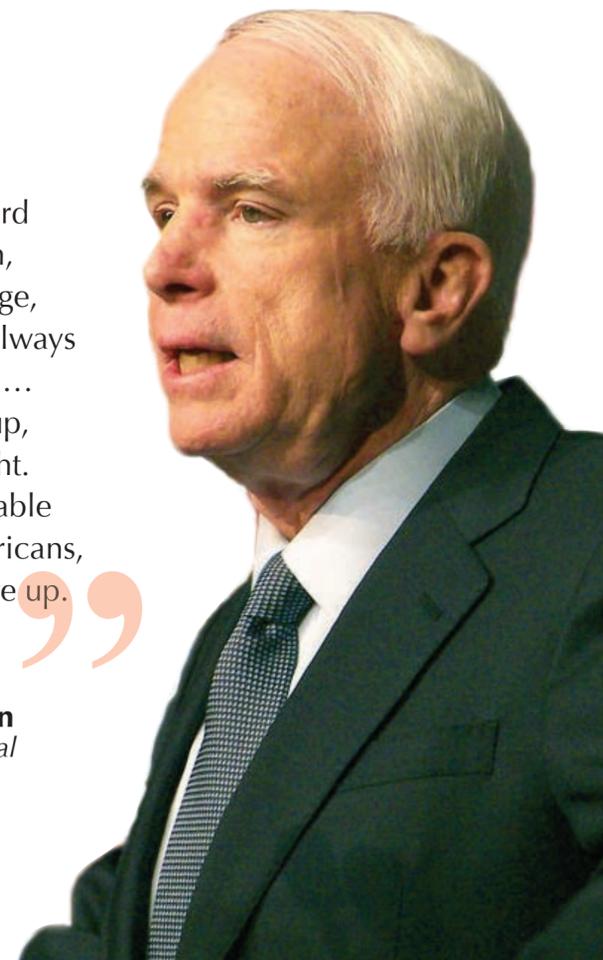
While still having the option of employer-based coverage, every family will receive a direct refundable tax credit [...] of \$2,500 for individuals and \$5,000 for families to offset costs. Families will be able to choose the insurance provider and money would be sent directly to the insurance provider. Those with insurance that costs less than the credit can deposit the remainder into expanded Health Savings Accounts. In state Guaranteed Access Plans, there would be reasonable limits on premiums, and assistance would be available for Americans below a certain income level.

**Environment & Energy:**  
Obama's plan will:  
Within 10 years save more oil than we currently import from the Middle East and Venezuela combined.  
Put 1 million Plug-In Hybrid cars — cars that can get up to 150 miles per gallon — on the road by 2015, cars that we will work to make sure are built here in America.  
Ensure 10 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025.  
Implement an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

McCain proposes a Cap-And-Trade System that would set limits on greenhouse gas emissions while encouraging development of [...] compliance options. A climate cap-and-trade mechanism would set a limit on greenhouse gas emissions and allow entities to buy and sell rights to emit. [...] This allows the market to decide and encourage the lowest-cost compliance options.  
If [market participants] can invent, improve, or acquire a way to reduce their emissions, they can sell their extra permits for cash. The profit motive will coordinate the efforts of venture capitalists, corporate planners, entrepreneurs, and environmentalists on the common motive of reducing emissions.

“...With hard work, strong faith, and a little courage, great things are always within our reach... Stand up, stand up, stand up, and fight. Nothing is inevitable here. We're Americans, and we never give up.”

**Sen. John McCain**  
*Republican National Convention*  
September 4, 2008



[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

### Senator John McCain, R

- ▲ Age: 72
- ▲ Political Party: Republican
- ▲ Present Title: United States Senator
- ▲ State Represented: Arizona
- ▲ Years in Congress: 1982-present
- ▲ Education: United States Navel Academy
- ▲ Why people like him: Even after being held captive from late 1967 to early 1973 during the Vietnam War, then-Naval Officer McCain continued to serve his country by running for office.

### VP Pick

### Governor Sarah Palin, R

- ▲ Age: 44
- ▲ Political Party: Republican
- ▲ Present Title: State Governor
- ▲ State Represented: Alaska
- ▲ Years in Office: 2006-present
- ▲ Education: University of Idaho
- ▲ Why McCain picked her: As a woman who worked her own way up from the PTA to the White House, Palin will bring to the table a fresh approach to the Vice Presidency.



[www.claremontconservative.com](http://www.claremontconservative.com)

## ★ GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE 2008

### ABOUT ... Cynthia McKinney

In 1984, McKinney worked as a Diplomatic Fellow at Spelman College in Atlanta. She also taught Political Science at Clark Atlanta University and later at Agnes Scott College in Georgia.

McKinney won her first election in 1986, when she won the popular vote for a Georgia state house district. Before being elected to Congress, McKinney served on the board of the HIV Health Services Planning Council of Metro Atlanta from 1991-92.

In 1992, she became the first African-American Congresswoman from Georgia. After being appointed to the Armed Services Committee and the International Relations Committee, McKinney sponsored the Arms Transfer Code of Conduct, aimed at preventing the sale of US weapons to dictators, which passed the House in June of 1997.

McKinney introduced a resolution to reaffirm the 1878 Posse Comitatus Act that protects the distinction between civilian and military policing. She has supported calls for a planned and orderly withdrawal of United States forces from Iraq.

She participated in the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina, traveling with the Committee on a delegation to the Gulf Coast in January 2006. McKinney's 70-page supplemental report was the only report by a Democrat to be included in A Failure of Initiative, the Select Committee's Final Report. McKinney currently serves on the Katrina Task Force organized by the Democratic Caucus.



blog.changeandexperience.com  
Cynthia McKinney

### Ten Key Values of the Green Party

(Originally ratified at the Green Party Convention in Denver, CO, June 2000)

#### 1. Grassroots Democracy

[W]e will work to increase public participation at every level of government and to ensure that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them.

#### 2. Social Justice and Equal Opportunity

All persons should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment.

#### 3. EcoLogical Wisdom

[W]e are part of nature, not separate from nature. We must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet.

#### 4. Non-violence

We will work to demilitarize, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, without being naive about the intentions of other governments.

#### 5. Decentralization

[W]e support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system which is controlled by and mostly benefits the powerful few, to a democratic, less bureaucratic system.

#### 6. Community-based Economics and Economic Justice

We support independently owned and operated companies which are socially responsible, as well as co-operatives and public enterprises that distribute resources and control to more people through democratic participation.

#### 7. Feminism and Gender Equality

We call for the replacement of the cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender.

#### 8. Respect for Diversity

We believe it is important to value cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, and to promote the development of respectful relationships across these lines.

#### 9. Personal and Global Responsibility

We encourage individuals to act to improve their personal well-being and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony. We seek to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

#### 10. Future Focus and Sustainability

Our actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. We seek to protect valuable natural resources, safely disposing of or "unmaking" all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival.

## LIBERTARIAN PARTY CANDIDATE 2008 ★

### Libertarian Party Values

#### Frequently Asked Questions

*What is a Libertarian?*

Let's start with Webster's definition:

*libertarian:* A person who upholds the principles of individual liberty especially of thought and action.

*Libertarian:* a member of a political party advocating libertarian principles.

Libertarians believe in, and pursue, personal freedom while maintaining personal responsibility. The Libertarian Party itself serves a much larger pro-liberty community with the specific mission of electing Libertarians to public office.

Libertarians strongly oppose any government interfering in their personal, family and business decisions. Essentially, we believe all Americans should be free to live their lives and pursue their interests as they see fit as long as they do no harm to another.

In a nutshell, we are advocates for a smaller government, lower taxes and more freedom.

*Are Libertarians liberal or conservative?*

Libertarians are neither. Unlike liberals or conservatives, Libertarians advocate a high degree of both per-

sonal and economic liberty. For example, Libertarians advocate freedom in economic matters, so we're in favor of lowering taxes, slashing bureaucratic regulation of business, and charitable — rather than government — welfare. But Libertarians are also socially tolerant. We won't demand laws or restrictions on other people who we may not agree because of personal actions or lifestyles.

Think of us as a group of people with a "live and let live" mentality and a balanced checkbook.

In a sense, Libertarians "borrow" from both sides to come up with a logical and consistent whole — but without the exceptions and broken promises of Republican and Democratic politicians. That's why we call ourselves the Party of Principle.

*How large is the Libertarian Party?*

In terms of political activity (i.e. number of candidates, access to the ballot, and elected office holders), the Libertarian Party is the third-largest political party in America. We're active in all 50 states and have more than 200,000 registered voters.

*What kind of offices do Libertarians run for and hold?*

Around the nation there are Libertarian mayors, county executives, county council members and even

a Libertarian sheriff! Libertarians also serve on school boards and in hundreds of local offices. In 2006 alone, over 13.4 million votes were cast for Libertarian candidates around the nation.

While we are most successful at the local level for now, we run candidates at all levels of government, even President of the United States.

Our elected Libertarians are hard at work saving you money and protecting your civil liberties. In fact, Libertarians saved Americans over \$2.2 billion in 2004 alone.

*What kind of people join the Libertarian Party?*

People like you. People who used to be Republicans, Democrats, and independents — from all walks of life. They joined us because they realize that we're the only political party working for their best interests.

Those who join us realize that, unlike the two major parties, we place the interests of our nation ABOVE the interests of our political party. While the Republican and Democratic parties exist to maintain their own power, we exist to grasp power for the benefit of you and millions of other Americans across our nation.

Source: <http://www.lp.org/faq>.

### ABOUT ... Bob Barr

He represented Georgia in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 2003, serving as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Government Reform Committee, and member of the Committee on Financial Services. He now practices law and runs a consulting firm.

Barr has served as an adjunct professor at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA, and serves as a national officer for Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity.

Barr was appointed by President Reagan to serve as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia (1986-90), and served as President of Southeastern Legal Foundation (1990-91). He was an official with the CIA from 1971-78.

Barr is a speaker with the All American Speakers Bureau. He has traveled widely and spoken to audiences across America and internationally, and has served as an official member of the U.S. delegation at several major United Nations conferences.



www.flickr.com

Bob Barr

# ADVICE

## Need Help Adjusting to College?

By Alissa Koval-Dhaliwal, Ph.D.

Whether you're entering college right out of high school or returning to school after taking some time off, starting your first semester of college is an exciting and challenging time. Here are a few tips to help you navigate the "new student" journey:

### Manage your time well.

Juggling school, work, family, and a social life is not an easy task. Figuring out how to balance these competing factors in a way that allows you to function well is not simple either.

If you're coming to college directly after graduation from high school, you may experience *more* freedom than you're used to. With this freedom comes responsibility for managing your obligations and daily activities. The classes you're taking are also likely to require more hours of independent study. *The general guideline for college study is that for every hour of time spent in class each week, you can expect to spend two hours studying outside of class each week.*

If you're returning to school after being out in the workforce, you may experience *less* freedom than you're used to. Finding the time to accomplish all that you need or want to do with less free time available will require extra attention and careful planning. You may feel overwhelmed by the increased demands on your time.

Here are some ideas for helping you manage time effectively:

*Develop a weekly schedule.* Create a "block grid" on which you record all your scheduled activities, and assign unused blocks of time to the various tasks you need to accomplish. Try to stick to this schedule as best you can. Getting a visual perspective of how much spare time you actually have may help you to plan for

using that time more effectively as well.

*Create a "to do" list.* Tasks and obligations can be hard to keep track of when they're not written down, particularly when our lives are very full. Being able to cross accomplished items off the list also helps us feel like we're making progress when we're feeling overwhelmed.

*Prioritize.* Sort out which tasks need to be done today, which can be accomplished later in the week, and which are not necessary to do until later in the month. Give your scheduled study times the same priority that you would give a doctor's appointment or a work-related meeting.

### Find healthy ways to cope with stress.

A certain amount of pressure helps motivate us, but excessive stress keeps us from performing optimally. Therefore, in order to succeed academically, it's important to have a plan in place to help minimize stress, for those times when life's challenges and school's challenges collide. Among the things you can do:

*Get a good night's sleep.* Cutting back on sleep may seem like a helpful solution when you're feeling the pressure of a deadline, but getting poor quality or poor quantity sleep will impair your ability to concentrate and decrease your emotional coping skills. While everyone's sleep needs are different, the average person needs 7 to 9 hours of sleep a night to function at his or her best.

*Eat a healthy diet.* Make sure you eat a variety of nutritious foods, and avoid high-carbohydrate "junk foods" that keep blood sugar levels unstable. Avoid caffeine and other stimulants. They may seem to help boost your energy, but will ultimately leave you feeling more depleted, irritable, and anxious.

*Avoid using alcohol and other drugs.* When you're feeling pressured, it may be tempting to turn



www.photos.com

to "escape mechanisms," but the biochemical changes these substances bring about can reduce concentration and brain function in the long run.

*Move your body.* Exercise reduces tension, increases the release of endorphins (biochemical substances that produce a feeling of well-being), and helps you feel more energetic.

*Take time to relax.* It's important to reserve some time in your day for activities that help you wind down. Listening to soothing music, reading for pleasure, doing deep breathing or meditation, or writing in a journal are examples of tools students have used.

### Brush up on your study skills.

Many students find that the study habits they used in high school aren't effective for the type and amount of studying and work that college demands. Professors and students further ahead in their college careers can provide helpful guidance. The Counseling Center offers four Academic Skills workshops designed to help increase the probability that you'll succeed in your courses: Time Management, Study Skills and Note-Taking, Test Taking, and Test Anxiety. We also offer the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory, which helps identify areas of improvement for enhancing study strategies.

### Get involved.

When researchers study the habits of college students who persist through graduation, they consistently find that one factor these students have in common is taking part in extracurricular campus life. Besides exposing you to new people, it also helps you develop relationships with faculty and staff and develop leadership skills, both of which can reinforce and enhance your academic success.

To learn about the many clubs, organizations, fraternities and sororities on campus, the **Office of Campus Life** is a great source of information (201-200-3585). Academic departments can also provide information about departmental clubs and honor societies. To learn about special events going on at NJCU, check out NJCU's online **University Calendar**. You can find out about **athletic events** by going to the John J. Moore Athletic & Fitness Center, located on Culver Avenue. And of course, don't forget to find out about the Counseling Center's own **Peers Educating Peers** program in Gilligan Student Union 321!

### Reach out for support.

It's important to surround yourself with people who encourage you to become your best self and to reach your goals. Back away from people who distract you or discourage you from moving forward in your life.

Even though you may have people in your inner circle who care about you deeply and can provide a shoulder to lean on, they may not have had the experience of be-

ing college students themselves, and may not fully understand the academic demands, changes and adjustments you're dealing with. It's important to expand your support circle to include others who share the college experience.

### Utilize campus resources.

There are a number of campus resources that can support you in your educational and personal goals. These resources are available to you at no cost; take advantage of them!

The **Speicher-Rubin Women's Center** (201-200-3189; Gilligan Student Union 318) provides personal, social and career support and workshops for both women and men.

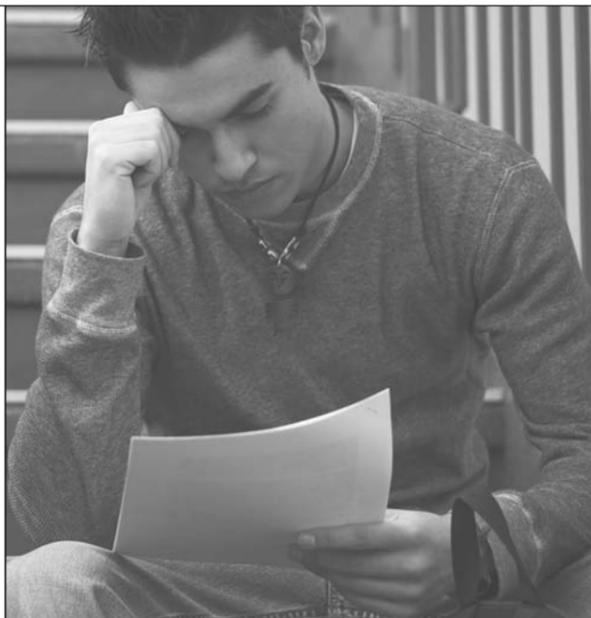
The Open Writing Lab (201-200-3548; Karnoutsos 105) offers tutoring and workshops to help you improve your writing skills.

The **Office of Academic Career Planning and Placement** (201-200-3005; Vodra 101) provides career planning assistance, cooperative education opportunities, and job placement services.

The **University Advisement Center** (201-200-3300; Vodra 101) provides academic planning, guidance regarding general studies requirements and academic majors, placement testing and transfer credit evaluation.

And last, but certainly not least, the psychologists at the **Counseling Center** (201-200-3165; Gilligan Student Union 308) offer free and confidential personal, educational, and vocational counseling to all registered students. Feel free to call us or stop by to schedule an appointment!

*"Juggling school, work, family, and a social life is not an easy task. Figuring out how to balance these [...] is not simple either."*



www.photos.com



DANIELS TORNYENU  
Advice Editor

For more information on how to adjust to college, please visit [www.gothictimesnetwork.com](http://www.gothictimesnetwork.com).

*Dr. Koval-Dhaliwal is a Psychologist at NJCU's Counseling Center*

# ARTS

## Arts Calendar

Showing through  
October 15

NJCU Faculty Art  
Biennial Exhibition  
@ Visual Arts Gallery  
(Visual Arts Basement)

Showing through  
October 15

NJCU Faculty Art  
Biennial Exhibition  
@ Visual Arts Building  
Gallery

Showing through  
October 17

Kaleidoscope: Ab-  
straction in 10 Ways  
@ Lemmerman Gallery  
(Hepburn 323)

Mondays 4pm – 8pm  
through October 27

Grove Street Farmers'  
Market

Fridays 3pm – 5pm  
through November 7

Foreign Film Fridays  
Visual Arts Building  
Room B08

October 2nd through  
November 14

"Human History"  
Brennan Gallery

Thursday October 8  
12pm

Art and Design  
Association Meeting  
Visual Arts Building

Tuesday October 14  
12pm

Artist In Residence  
Lecture: Kathy Bruce  
Visual Arts Building  
Room B08

October 17 7:30pm

Maria Sangiolo with  
Crissy Roberts  
Brennan Coffee House

October 23

Magnetic Fields  
Loews Theater

October 27 through  
December 8

YOKO ONO: IMAGINE  
PEACE Featuring John  
& Yoko's Year of Peace  
@ both galleries (Lem-  
merman Gallery and  
Visual Arts Gallery)

Events: TBA

October 29 6:30 pm

Screening and discus-  
sion of "Hallelujah"  
Margaret Williams  
Theater, NJCU

## A Gas Station Covered in... what? *Making a Statement with Fiber Arts*

By Charlotte Exantus

Last spring hundreds of people trekked many miles to a small suburb in New York State to visit a dilapidated CITGO service station. Now you might be thinking what's so special about an abandoned gas station? Well if you're fiber artist Jennifer Marsh, the answer is everything.

In the last couple of years we've seen the price of gas raise higher than we ever thought possible. The televisions and newspapers tell us that we are standing on the precipice of economical and ecological meltdown. Filling up our gas tanks has become an increasingly traumatic recurrence. The swiftly approaching end of oil availability and its devastating effects on all aspects of our everyday lives is leaving more and more people with a growing sense of unease.

Disturbed by the world's insatiable dependence on oil and rising gas prices, Marsh, masters of fine arts student at Syracuse University, felt that a statement had to be made about fuel consumption. She decided that the abandoned gas station located in DeWitt NY, a suburb of Syracuse, was the perfect place to do it. Volunteers were asked to submit three foot by three-foot panels that reflected how they felt about the world's dependence on oil. The idea was to take all the panels and use them to cover every inch of the old gas station.

Marsh founded a group called the International Fiber Collaborative. On the organization's blog, Marsh explains that she started the online community to "provide an opportunity for people who enjoy working with crafts, whether professional artists, hobbyists or students to come together from all over the world to express their concerns about their countries' extreme dependency on oil for energy".

On the International Fiber Collaborative website, panel makers were provided with regular updates from Jennifer about the progress of the project. Visitors were also given resources like a list of books that provide information about the oil crisis so that, if they needed to, participants could read up and better acquaint themselves with the issues, find information about workshops that they could attend if they wanted



Photo by Jennifer Marsh

Gas Station After

to learn a new skill like knitting or crochet and come together to work on their panels in groups or look at posted pictures of already completed panels that had been submitted.

Each contributing artist was encouraged to send in a written statement that would accompany their panels on the website. This gave individual artists not only the opportunity to showcase their skill and methods used in the genesis of their panel but also served as a stage for artists to share with readers, in written word, what their individual viewpoints are and provide personal commentary on important issues concerning world oil consumption.

Marsh then collected and sewed together all of the submitted panels. The end result was a multi-colored and multi-textured 5000 square foot blanket that enfolds the abandoned gas station with more than 3000 panels shipped from all over the world. The W.R.A.P. or World Reclamation Art Project, as Jennifer has dubbed it, entreats viewers to stop and examine their often-unnoticed roles as consumers.

Panels were created using a multitude of construction methods like sewing, knitting, quilting and crochet as well as employing the use of a myriad of materials which include fabric, felt, yarn and other mixed media such as dollar bills and plastic



Photo by Jennifer Marsh

Gas Station Before

bags. There are panels that are made out of delicate materials like embroidered silk while other panels are spray painted and splattered with color. Some panels have messages like "it's all about the money" or "It will never be the same". One of my favorites is a brightly colored panel made out of recycled shopping bags that were cut into flowers. The words "give us the electric car" are then stenciled over the bags in bold black lettering.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to contribute to the W.R.A.P. by creating my own panel. Although I have been crocheting for eleven years, this was the first time that I ever employed my skill as a fine arts medium. Being a part of the International Fiber Collaborative

was an experience that has had a lasting impression on me. My passion for Fiber Arts and important world issues has only strengthened.

The perfect balance of sculpture and activism, the W.R.A.P. gives participants the ability to come together and voice their concerns about the oil crisis while at the same time stressing the power of community. W.R.A.P. is not a lamentation of the sometimes-scary state of current affairs that we have been facing but rather helps to deliver a positive message of hope. This work reminds us that in times where uncertainty and cynicism run rampant it's okay to have faith in people and that individuals working in concert with others can make big things happen.

## UNIVERSITY SPEICHER-RUBIN WOMEN'S CENTER

is sponsoring:

### PROFILE OF A CAMPUS RAPIST

*An in-depth look at who he is and why he does what he does.*

Venida Rodman Jenkins

Sexual Assault Education Trainer

Please RSVP by October 24, 2008: 201-200-3189

October 31, 2008

Gilligan Student Union Building, Room 317

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Breakfast will be served.

## ARTS

MADE BY  
ROA

Photo by Ryan Roa

HRSquared Made By Roa

**Featured  
Artist:****Ryan Roa**

By Jared Martin

Encountering a Hummer is not normally an uncommon or thought provoking experience. What if, however, the vehicle was in a museum, constructed of the same materials used by contractors for the construction of the suburban home whose drive-way the SUV is parked in? Such was the case of the "Hummer Ryan Roa Edition" as it rested in the upstairs of the Jersey City Museum from 2007 until this past summer. Constructed of CDX plywood and 2 x 4's, the "HRSquared" is but one of the objects and environments recreated to scale in wood by Roa. In another recent show, titled "Krinkle," Roa created a scaled down version of a bedroom, bathroom, and a section of a diner in these same materials. Incorporating a projection by collaborating artist Carlos Rigau, the installation made viewers more aware of both themselves and their connection to the objects represented, giving a new perspective to how humans function in these environments and in society as a whole.

In encountering Roa's recent works, the idea of the wooden recreation, of a Hummer, a pay-phone, and a bathroom, for instance, prompts several observations. The first is the effect of the materials in the representation. The plywood and 2 x 4's are clean cut and consistent, replacing the myriad of materials that make up the object in its regular environment. The object is free of logos, color, and even the dirt and grime that may have accumulated on its surface. Although it has a newness and man-made geometry to it, there is no denying that the wood has its own history as well. The grain and knots in the wood remind us that it had its own life long before people for construction shaped it. All this leads to the shift of attention from small facets that might be noticed in the actual object, to the idea of it in its entirety.

This effect is coupled with two other aspects in its recreation: scale and location. The fact that these structures are life size, or close to life size, lends itself to the back and forth imagery between the wooden version and the real one. It is hard to look at the Roa version of the Hummer without imagining a shiny yellow one too, the images alternating or overlapping in one's mind. The

social context of the object is also clearly different in its new form, a point emphasized by its location. In a gallery, the bathroom becomes somewhere one can talk to friends while lifting the toilet seat like it was a toy or imagining a reflection in the wooden mirror. This new context takes away social constraints, making the interacting viewer become aware of the difference in how they think and behave in the two different settings. It is this duality of the real and the unreal, the here and the there, and the familiar but unfamiliar that makes seeing Roa's work give new perspective to everyday objects and situations.

*I interviewed Ryan by email to find out more about these MADE BY ROA installations.*

*Jared Martin:* Your recent sculpture and installation pieces incorporate CDX plywood and 2 x 4's almost exclusively. How did you come to using these materials?

*Ryan Roa:* Materials have always played an important role in my work. About a year and a half ago I decided to work predominantly in CDX plywood and 2x4's to emphasize the characteristics of these materials. I became interested in these materials for both their function and history. Plywood and 2x4's function as inexpensive first world construction materials used to create a structure that is then covered by more decorative and protective materials. Plywood and 2x4's were created for the individual worker; their dimensions are based on the ability of one person being able to position and connect them, adding to a larger structure.

*JM:* What do you think is the effect of the transformation in recreating an object in wood?

*RR:* In my most recent body of work I have created objects and spaces that resemble objects and spaces that I have come into contact with. The use of plywood and 2x4's in building objects creates a visual distinction between my objects and the objects that they resemble. This allows the viewer's imagination to create an image, jumping back and forth between my objects and the ones that they resemble.

*JM:* The objects you recreate usually deal with the social tendencies of Americans. What do you consider in choosing a subject to bring to the gallery or museum setting?

*RR:* I choose my objects out of obsession. As I walk through life, I am constantly scanning my surroundings. I fixate on objects that seem to be influx, that are ener-

gized through the ideas of change or confrontation. I do not look for objects that have social or political connotations; they just seem to be the ones that are most interesting to me. For example, my Hummer: some people love Hummers, while other people hate them, but either way they notice them and form an opinion. It's that conversation that I am really interested in.

*JM:* Your works can often be interactive. How do you think this dynamic of viewer interaction af-

fects the piece, and how does it drive what you create?

***"I do not look for objects that have social or political connotations; they just seem to be the ones that are most interesting to me."***

fects the piece, and how does it drive what you create?

*RR:* I am interested in how the viewer physically interacts with my objects. It's important that people have similar interactions with my objects to the ones they resemble in their lives, so that both a physical and a psycholog-

ical understanding occur.

*JM:* What is the role of space and scale in your work?

*RR:* I think when dealing with the third dimension, space and scale are important. An object's presence can change in every space. It can become larger or smaller, which leads to the scale that determines the relationship of the viewer to that object. So when making work and exhibiting, I am constantly aware of these two things.

*JM:* What is your process of planning, building, and showing



Photo by Ryan Roa

**Krinkle Installation at Local Gallery.**

your sculptures and installations?

I kind of fly by the seat of my pants. Once I decide what to build, I just go at it and figure things out as I go along. I like to think of my process as putting puzzles together, where one piece leads to the next. As far as showing, I just go with the flow and take opportunities as they come.

*JM:* In addition to indoor sculpture and installation, you have also done outdoor public pieces and performances, and video and image based works. How do these relate to the theme of the wood based sculptures?

*RR:* All my work is interrelated no matter what form it takes.

*JM:* How have your prior occupations affected the evolution of the work you currently make?

*RR:* I believe that we are products of both nature and nurture, born with tendencies and temperaments, affected by the environments and situations we are placed in. So I feel I am influenced by my life, but do not look to draw form it.

*JM:* What upcoming shows are you in?

*RR:* I have a few shows coming up in the next year, three of which are in the New Jersey area. "Black September" opening on the 26th of September at Lex Leonard Gallery, Jersey City, "The Badge of Red Courage: Revisited" opening on the 22nd of October at the Newark Arts Council in Newark, and "The Price of Freedom" at the City Without Walls gallery in Newark opening on the 25th of October.

*JM:* What does the future hold for Ryan Roa and perhaps America at large?

*RR:* Your guess is as good as mine.

*For more information about Ryan Roa, contact [RyanRoa.com](http://RyanRoa.com).*

**Not Just a Rumor**

It's not just a rumor! Polaroid has gone digital! This summer, Polaroid made the difficult decision to discontinue many analog products, disappointing millions of instant film fanatics. Polaroid products have been at the forefront of the instant film obsession since its inception. They have been a form of artistic expression and nostalgia for photographers worldwide. Find more information on new products and where to find discontinued products at [www.polaroid.com](http://www.polaroid.com). Read stories, share pictures, and take action at [www.savepolaroid.com](http://www.savepolaroid.com).



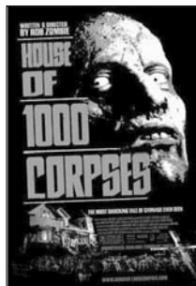
Photo by Charlotte Goldthwaite

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Top Ten Scary Films

By Brenda Caba

**H**alloween happens to be my favorite holiday. I love dressing up and going trick or treating. Another thing that might be even better than the chocolate I receive is the movies. Horror movies are my favorite genre and what better month to catch one or ten than in October. It's very hard for me to come up with a top ten of anything but after a lot of thought I have complied what I believe are the top ten scary movies for you to watch as All Hallows Eve approaches.



### 10 House of 1000 Corpses

Here is a great film to get all you thrill seekers started, *House of 1000 Corpses*. It is Rob Zombie's first film and a true piece of art. It starts with

four college students traveling through the US looking for off road shops. They find a very unusual one in Texas and this is where the adventures begins. Rob Zombie mixes humor with gory scenes to make one of the spookiest films to come out since Wes Craven's *The Last House on the Left*.

### 9 The Serpent and the Rainbow

Are you scared of dying? Well this movie will definitely pull on your fear of it. Imagine your family thinks you're dead but you are really in a deep sleep. So they mourn and bury you. Then imagine waking up six feet under, trapped in a coffin. This is the plot for *The Serpent and the Rainbow*. Directed by Wes Craven and based on a semi-fiction book by Wade Davis, this movie takes a look at voodoo in Haiti and real life cases of zombies.



### 8 Hellraiser

Two words; Cenobites! I first saw this movie when I was 7 and 16 years later I'm still freaked out by it. Clive Barker wrote and directed this film that is actually based on S&M. Pinhead and his Cenobites really make the movie a classic. Pinhead's famous line "We'll tear your soul apart" is enough to have you under the covers and screaming for your mommy.

### 7 The Texas Chainsaw Massacre

*The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (the original 1974) is a cult classic. Directed and co-written by Tobe Hooper who came up with the idea of the chainsaw while in line at a store. This was a low-budget film that soon became one of the greats. With minimal use of blood and a lot of noise, if you haven't seen this one you are missing out on one of the best horror films ever.



### 6 The Devil's Backbone

This is by far one of the best ghost stories ever to come to life. Mexican director and writer, Guillermo del Toro brings to life the story of orphan boys living in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. The boys are haunted by the ghost of another boy and with twists and unexpected turns, this film is sure to have you at the edge of your seat.

### 5 Pet Sematary

If a picture speaks a thousands words then you are getting chills up your spine. This film is based on Stephen King's book and it is very well adapted. A family moves into a new town and right behind their property is a cemetery for pets, only children started it so it's spelled "sematary". But beyond this burial ground is another that does more than just let spirits rest.



### 4 Stephen King's IT

OK, I have always been terrified of clowns but this movie really made me hate them. Another masterpiece adapted from the master of horror, Stephen King. *IT* is sure to have you closing your eyes hoping this Ronald McDonald look a like doesn't prey upon your fears.

### 3 The Shining

Stephen King just does not stop. He writes book after book that are turned into great movies. *The Shining* is a prime example. Jack Nicholson plays Jack Torrance, a recovering alcoholic who moves his wife and young son to a remote hotel that is closed for the winter. After the family arrives, the presence in the hotel does not want them to leave.



### 2 Candyman

Say his name five times in a mirror, I dare you! Much like other urban legends, *Candyman* needs to be called into existence. So who was dumb enough to do this in the film? None other than a college graduate student doing a research paper who doesn't quite believe in him. Little did she know that *Candyman* always comes when called. This film will leave you petrified and turning your head at every sound.

### 1 Halloween

Michael Myers is *Halloween*. You cannot think of one without thinking of the other. With little to no blood shown on film, it's left to our imaginations to conjure up the gory details. That is where the terror of this film comes from. Also the song that director and writer, John Carpenter, composed adds to the suspense and it stays stuck in your head. So after watching this one, sleep with a lamp on or you'll be seeing Michael Myers' white mask all over the room.



## Do celebrities influence your vote?

By Leanne Aciz

**I**n a world where John McCain uses the images of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton in a promotional political ad to get his point across (Obama may be a celebrity, but is he ready to lead the commoners?), it is clear that those in the spotlight have a place in politics. Think about it, why is it that the media has focused so much more on Barack Obama than John McCain? The media gives more coverage to candidates that have more "star power" associated with them. Kid Rock, a

well-known musician proclaimed that "I truly believe that people like myself, who are in a position of entertainers in the limelight, should keep their mouth shut on politics because at the end of the day... I'm not educated in the field of political science. So for me to be sharing my views and influencing people of who I think they should be voting for... I think would be very irresponsible on my part." He has a point, however, there are still plenty of young adults who look to see who their 'idols' support and endorse, and some will vote for that specific can-

didate without looking into their stance on education, taxes, etc. For example, one of my good friends is voting for Barack Obama, simply because "the all-mighty", Oprah, is strongly endorsing him on her talk show and on his campaign trail. With Oprah supporting Obama, the women who faithfully watch her show everyday are influenced to do the same by being subjected to his positive qualities and views. However, is this really such a bad thing?



The Obamas with Oprah Winfrey at one of his rallies.

continued on page 14

# ENTERTAINMENT

## 2008 in Games:

# We're Not Done Yet

By Gustavo Lazo

The year 2007 was a really great year for games. It really felt like the dawn of a new era to me. I suppose a lot of that comes from the lot of new potentially large franchises that kicked the year to a satisfying close. My favorite games were *Assassin's Creed*, *BioShock*, and *Rock Band*.

The year 2008 depended, somewhat, on games independently developed and made to download. The acclaimed *Braid*, a platform game available on Xbox Live, will remind folks of *Super Mario Bros.* but is said to have true beauty in its storytelling, its approach to puzzle-solving, and its hand-painted appearance. The popular web comic, *Penny Arcade*, turned to Hothead Studios to bring a Role playing game out called *Penny Arcade Adventures: On the Rain-Slick Precipice of Darkness*. Capcom has gone the most intriguing route of developing *Mega Man 9*, which I got to play for a bit at San Diego's Comic-Con. You'll totally be reliving your childhood with this download this fall on all major consoles.

I personally recommend *Castle Crashers*—an addictive, colorful, and fun throwback to the Konami's *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* arcade game from The Behemoth, a studio responsible for 2004's *Alien Hominid*. Yes, grab some friends for that one!

The year 2008 had an interesting pattern, from my perspective, in that some big titles more or less opened the year. March gave us *Super Smash Bros. Brawl*, and I don't have a lot more to say about that franchise because I honestly don't care for it. April 29 marked

the launch of *Grand Theft Auto IV*, whose perfect scores across the board have now transitioned into a 'love it or hate it' reaction. Players are expected to download an additional 15 hours' worth of content some time in November.

In June, players assumed the role of brooding soldier, Solid Snake, in what may be his last mission in the pretentious, but epic, *Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots*. My two favorite games of the summer have personally been *LEGO Indiana Jones: The Original Adventures*, which helped me forget that really awful *Crystal Skull* movie, and *GRID*, a racing game that combines both arcade and simulation schools of racing. I love the idea of crashing my car and then rewinding it to fix that error a la *Prince of Persia*.

As far as the mainstream, big-name games go, I plan to approach them carefully and with a grain of salt. You can thank this year's Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) for that. As I walked into a GameStop to get rid of some games for store credit, I saw posters everywhere for a part two or a part three of something. Heck, even the games I put orders for are all sequels. New possible franchises are Maxis' *Spore*, a species "sim" from the creator of *SimCity* and *The Sim*. Then there is Valve's first-person zombie-apocalypse shooter, *Left 4 Dead*, Tom Clancy's first strategy game *EndWar*, LucasArts' *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed*, and EA Games' shooter *Dead Space*. All of these are to be released alongside sequels like *Rock Band 2* (09/14), which will allow you to import songs from its predecessor as well as purchase songs for

a small fee.

There is *Silent Hill: Homecoming* (09/30), formerly known as *Silent Hill 5*. *Saints Row 2* (10/14) is on the horizon, which I also played at Comic-Con and honestly plays a bit more stable than the first installment. October also sees *Fallout 3* from Bethesda, the studio behind *The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion*, *Fable II*, and *Guitar Hero: World Tour*. The seventh installment to the *Guitar Hero* series boasts its own peripheral drum kit as well as a mode to create one's own music.

November brings us *Resistance 2*, whose predecessor helped launch the PlayStation 3 in 2006. Epic Games will release *Gears of War 2* on the 7th, and I am totally looking forward to the new four-player cooperative mode. *The Call of Duty* series seems to be taking a step backwards from



Photo by ign.com

**Silent Hill: Homecoming**  
The new game in the *Silent Hill* franchise, being released 9/30/08

modern warfare and going back to World War II, but the Pacific Theater this time, in *World at War*. It will not be developed by Infinity Ward, responsible for the first, second, and fourth installments of the series. It will instead be developed by Treyarch. I suppose the games I am most looking forward to playing are the new *Prince of Persia* game in the works by Ubisoft, as well as *Tomb Raider: Underworld* developed by Crystal Dynamics.

They have worked on the series since 2006's *Tomb Raider: Legend*. Seriously, anyone looking to keep up with this hobby is going to have an empty wallet this fall.

I don't even want to think about 2009 right now, especially with *The Sims 3* due in February.

## Don't blame the Game:

# Blame yourself

By Mohammad Hassan

I've said it before and I will continue to say it, it's not the game that's to blame but it's you. It's the player for taking the game too seriously, those ignorant people sitting on high positions in the media business who still have no idea what video games are, and most importantly, the parents, who let their kids get their hands on games which are not for their age. You are the ones who are giving video games a bad reputation.

I am sick and tired of parents complaining about games like *Grand Theft Auto*, *Manhunt* and *Halo* damaging our youth by filling them with violence, and anarchy. But let's be honest here people, whose fault is it? Is it the developer who's to blame or is the player who takes this form of virtual entertainment too far? Yesterday I was in my local Gamestop store buying a racing game and I saw a woman buying her definitely not 18 year old son a copy of *Grand Theft Auto 4*.

Most parents, like her, end up in two categories, either they really don't care about what their kids play or their kids are too smart for their age. No matter what kind of parent she is, its parents like her who allow their young children to play a game which was never meant to be played by a 13 or 14 year old. Believe it or not, *Grand Theft Auto* games are kind of like mob movies in the form of video games.

Even the developers have openly admitted that their inspiration for these games comes from classic mob movies like *Godfather*, *Good Fellas* and *Scarface*. How come we don't make a big deal about how easy it has become for young kids to access pornography and other harmful information from the internet? Why don't we worry about our violent and sex crazed culture, which is constant-

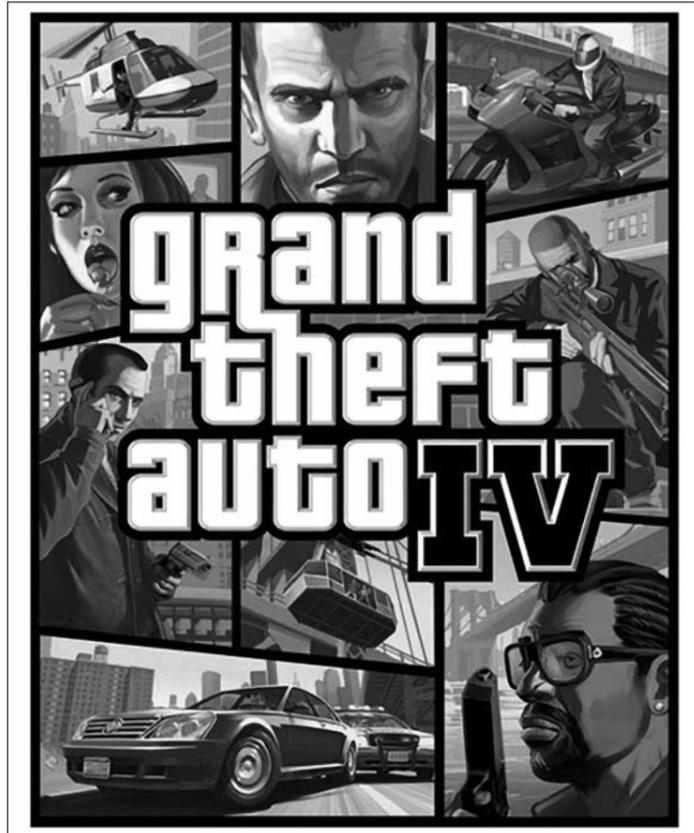


Photo from ign.com

ly fed to our young kids?

Yet, we constantly continue to blame video games as the sole reason for all the ills in our society. I remember when a few months ago FOX News Network did their incorrect report on the video game, *Mass Effect*. I was staring at my TV, angry and enraged about their hypocrisy. FOX's own cable channel, FX, is home to some of the most sexually explicit and violent shows on TV, but nobody cares about that. Why? Simply because it's just TV.

Similarly, nobody cares when parents take their children to an "R" rated movie or let them watch anything from the internet or cable, but the moment children start playing videogames that have mature themes or graphic violence,

it becomes a big deal and people like Jack Thompson starts bashing video games. In order to defend themselves they blame our national tragedies to video games.

Yes, that's right, according to Jack Thompson the tragedy at Virginia Tech was the result of the perpetrator playing too many hours of a video game called *Counter Strike*. Now somebody should ask Mr. Thompson that since millions of people play that game every day, how many of them end up being psychopathic killers? Videogames are just another form of entertainment, just like movies, books, television and music. So if some idiot decides to confuse reality with virtual entertainment, then how on earth is it the game's fault?

## Do celebrities influence your vote?

continued from page 15

Not when you consider that America has succeeded in getting young people to appreciate and use their vote at all, when years ago they looked past elections and wouldn't even register to vote in the first place.

There are other ways celebrities have supported the candidates. Jennifer Aniston, Babyface, and Eddie Murphy have donated \$2,300 to Obama's campaign, while the Hilton family donated to McCain's (before McCain's commercial featuring Paris). In Will.I.Am's music video, "Yes We Can", inspired by Barack Obama, plenty of celebrities showed their support for the candidate. Stars such as Nick Cannon,

John Legend, Nicole Scherzinger, Scarlett Johansson and Common proudly proclaim in the video that they believe in Obama's message.

Some celebrities originally supported Hillary Clinton and then chose to support Barack Obama once she dropped out, like Kathy Griffin and Jon Bon Jovi. In fact, Madonna was a strong supporter of Clinton and then switched to Obama publicly by comparing images of

John McCain to Adolf Hitler and Barack Obama to John Lennon and Gandhi on her tour this summer.

Do these celebrities' endorsements make you think differently? Have you changed your mind on who gets your vote? Either way... JUST VOTE.



VANESSA CUBILLO  
Entertainment Editor

## SPORTS

## Albuja, Knights Make History

By Robert Griffiths

To be completely honest, the NJCU women's soccer team used to be tough to watch. Really tough. But that is no longer the case, as the Knights, led by Sophomore Striker Jennifer Albuja, have performed a complete 180.

After an emotionally draining few seasons, Captains Kelly Reilly, a senior keeper, and Jessica Irizarry, a junior Midfielder, finally have something to smile about.

A strong freshman class, led by Forward Nicole Sarica and Forward/ Midfielder Abie Musa, along with the addition of NJCU women's basketball standout Carolina Garcia, has provided sturdy support for the veteran leadership, and has really made for a solid squad. Their aggression has increased, their tempo is better, their ball control is better, and most importantly, their attitude is better. For the first time, the NJCU women's soccer team is playing like they know they can win.

The team is off to its best start in school history by far, at 6-0. The undefeated record is a triumph in itself, but take a second to consider this: in those six games they have outscored their opponents 37 to 6. I'll go on the record and say that's borderline unfair.

In their six contests this season, Albuja has scored a ridiculous 19 goals. She has scored an astronomical 43 career goals (as of 9/16), while tallying a genuinely unfathomable 92 points in her young, 24-game career! Jen... you're slacking. Get your game up. Second on the caps list for the Knights is Sarica with 6, and Sophomore Forward Juanita Sarria is third with 4. Three players are tied for fourth with two goals apiece.

Sarica leads the team with 6 assists, followed by Musa with 5, and Senior Midfielder Megan Murphy and Albuja have chipped in 3 helpers each.

The stellar play does not end with the offense, though. As previously stated, the Knights have only given up six goals this season. Senior keeper Kelly Reilly has chalked up 32 saves this season, and has kept the door closed for two clean sheets. She is now responsible for nearly one-quarter of the shut-outs in the history of the program.

Now back to Albuja. In her still very-young career (as of 9/16), she already has nine multiple-goal games. So far in 2008, she is averaging 3.2 goals per game! She put the ball in the net six times in one match against Medgar Evers College on 9/6; and on the same day was named to the Rutgers Scarlet Raiders Women's Soccer Classic All-



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The NJCU Women's Soccer team is off to a scorching start.

Tournament team. She was named the New Jersey Athletic Conference player of the week on September 8, and she has been named NJCU women's athlete of the week for the past two weeks. On September 16, during the Knights' 11-0 shelling of Maritime College, Albuja tied former star and current assistant coach Katie Feehan with 92 career points.

Albuja has been putting on a clinic, but this is no one-woman show. This is a solid squad throughout, and, frankly, these ladies are fun to watch.

*\*\*Statistics provided by Sports Information Director Ira Thor\*\**

## Women's Soccer Schedule

|            |                                                     |                |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 9/20/2008  | Richard Stockton College, Pomona, NJ                | Sat. 2 pm      |
| 9/24/2008  | Kean University, Jersey City, NJ                    | Wed. 4 pm      |
| 9/27/2008  | Rutgers-Newark, Newark, NJ                          | Sat. 7 pm      |
| 10/1/2008  | Ramapo College, Jersey City, NJ                     | Wed. 4 pm      |
| 10/4/2008  | The College of New Jersey, Jersey City, NJ          | Sat. 1 pm      |
| 10/8/2008  | Fairleigh Dickinson-College at Florham, Madison, NJ | Wed. 7 pm      |
| 10/11/2008 | City College of New York, Jersey City, NJ           | Sat. 11 am     |
| 10/15/2008 | William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ              | Wed. 4 pm      |
| 10/18/2008 | Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ                     | Sat. 1 pm      |
| 10/21/2008 | College of St. Elizabeth, Jersey City, NJ           | Tues. 4 pm     |
| 10/25/2008 | Rutgers-Camden, Jersey City, NJ                     | Sat. 1 pm      |
| 10/29/2008 | Montclair State University, Jersey City, NJ         | Wed. 3:30 pm   |
| 10/30/2008 | Penn State- Berks, Jersey City, NJ                  | Thurs. 2:30 pm |

Robert L. McNulty Memorial Soccer Field

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

## Jackie's Back!

By Robert Griffiths

Look up the word resilience in the dictionary, and you'll find a picture of NJCU Senior outside hitter Jacqueline LeBlanc's determined face—a hackneyed expression, yes—but absolutely fitting. After suffering a devastating and season-ending ACL tear last year, LeBlanc (Westfield, NJ-Westfield HS) has bounced back in a big way.

Just a few short months ago (as recently as mid-June), the only way her knee could bend a full 90 degrees was if her physical therapist forced it to. "It was probably the most excruciating pain I've ever felt in my life," said LeBlanc. After undergoing arthroscopic surgery, LeBlanc endured 10 months of rehabilitation. But here we are, just three months later, and number 7 has been tearing up the courts in the early weeks of her senior campaign.

Playing in the shadow of former star Lizzelle Cintron for the last three years, LeBlanc's tal-

ents have been somewhat overlooked. Not anymore. Operating under an entirely different offensive scheme, the Knights have been somewhat inconsistent, starting the season 3-4 (as of 9/16); their worst start since the 2000 season. But, a new system takes time to learn, and the Knights look to be shaking off the rust, led by seniors LeBlanc, Sarah Torres, and Lyanelly Negron.

LeBlanc in particular has really turned it on, and has had an outstanding couple of weeks. She has recorded a team-high 87 kills so far in this young season (with the help of sophomore setter Alex Johanesen), and is also leading the team with 3.62 kills per game (12.4 per match, which means she is averaging double-digit kills). During the opening week of the season she recorded three double-digit kill matches, and recorded back-to-back double-doubles (a double-double is 10+ kills and 10+ digs in a match); her 27th and 28th of her impressive career. She recorded her 29th on September 11, in a tight, five-

set, losing effort at Hunter College.

She has led the team in kills and attack percentage in five out of the team's seven matches, and was named to the Endicott College Invitational Tournament's All-Tournament team honorable mention.

As if that wasn't impressive enough, LeBlanc has been named the New Jersey Athletic Player of the Week for the last two weeks. Being that the women's volleyball season is only three weeks young, LeBlanc has ruled as queen of the NJAC for 67 percent of the season.

It gets better still: on September 13, in the process of recording her 29th career double-double, LeBlanc bumped former Knights' standout Melissa Pablos (2000-2003) out of the #2 spot for career kills at NJCU. After bashing 18 kills against the Hawks, LeBlanc sat alone in the #2 spot (behind Cintron) with 1,161 kills. As of September 16th, LeBlanc has recorded a stellar 1,165 career kills with much of the season still to play.

Oh, and if her performance alone in these past few weeks isn't a good enough story in itself, it should be noted that Jacqueline was able to celebrate her birthday a day early on September 16 with a cruising victory over Rutgers-Newark.

Happy birthday, Jackie : ).

*\*\*Statistics provided by Ira Thor, Sports Information Director, and his staff: Justin Beaumont, Felipe Siqueira, and Marley Pena-Guzman.*



njcugothicknights.com  
Jaqueline LeBlanc

Allow myself to introduce... myself.

My name is Rob Griffiths, and I'm the new Sports Editor here at the *Gothic Times*. If there's anyone out there that is interested in writing for the Sports Section, feel free to contact me at



ROB GRIFFITHS  
Sports Editor

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## Women's Volleyball Schedule

|                                                                                                    |                                                                  |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 9/18/08                                                                                            | Farmingdale State College, Farmingdale, NY                       | Thurs. 7 pm |
| 9/23/2008                                                                                          | William Paterson University, Jersey City, NJ                     | Tues. 7 pm  |
| 9/25/2008                                                                                          | Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ                        | Thurs. 7 pm |
| 9/27/2008                                                                                          | John Jay College, New York, NY                                   | Sat. 11 am  |
| 9/27/2008                                                                                          | SUNY College at Old Westbury, New York, NY (at John Jay College) | Sat. 1 pm   |
| 9/30/2008                                                                                          | Kean University, Jersey City, NJ                                 | Tues. 7 pm  |
| 10/7/2008                                                                                          | Richard Stockton College, Pomona, NJ                             | Tues. 7 pm  |
| 10/9/2008                                                                                          | Lehman College, Jersey City, NJ                                  | Thurs. 7 pm |
| 10/10/2008                                                                                         | Messiah College, New York, NY (at Baruch College)                | Fri. 7 pm   |
| 10/10/2008                                                                                         | Baruch College, New York, NY                                     | Fri. 5 pm   |
| 10/14/2008                                                                                         | Ramapo College, Jersey City, NJ                                  | Tues. 7 pm  |
| 10/16/2008                                                                                         | Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ                                  | Thurs. 7 pm |
| 15th Annual Gothic Knight Women's Volleyball Invitational — John J. Moore Athletic Center/ All Day |                                                                  |             |
| 10/18/2008                                                                                         | City College of New York                                         | -           |
| 10/18/2008                                                                                         | Medgar Evers College                                             | -           |
| 10/18/2008                                                                                         | TBA                                                              | -           |
| 10/21/2008                                                                                         | Rutgers-Camden, Jersey City, NJ                                  | Tues. 7 pm  |
| 10/22/2008                                                                                         | Haverford College, Haverford, PA                                 | Wed. 7 pm   |