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NJCU Students Helping Hearts with Hands

By Jaclyn Foglio

Every March, when most students everywhere are lazily enjoying their spring break at home or on a beach somewhere, a small group of volunteers dedicates the week off to helping a family in need build a house. New Jersey City University participates annually in Habitat for Humanity's Alternative Spring Break program, a program Habitat started years ago to respond to the needs of its affiliate programs.

Habitat for Humanity has independent affiliates all over the country, and each year college students can go to one of these locations and work. This year, a group of NJCU students will be flying to California on March 8 with Rob Quinones, the coordinator of the Center for Community Service and Volunteerism.

Habitat itself was founded in 1976 by Linda and Millard Fuller, a wealthy couple who were not content with their lives despite all that they had. On a trip to Florida, they stayed at Koinonia, a Christian farm community in Georgia that was an important part of the civil rights movement decades ago and continues to



Photograph courtesy of Jaclyn Foglio

(from left to right) Volunteer leader Jonah, Jessica Tuck, Shama Haize, volunteer leader Brennan, Jaclyn Foglio (in front), Monica Kelly (behind her), Christopher Ibrahim (behind her), and Tony Dianora. The woman standing behind Tony is Mrs. Pittman, the woman who's garden they were working on.

flourish today. The Fullers were inspired so much by Koinonia that they moved there, gave their money up, and came up with the idea

of Habitat. It started with a trip to Africa, where they built their first house, and then came back to Georgia to try and recreate what

they had done overseas.

Habitat for Humanity organizes projects all over the world, but the Habitat International offices

are in Americus, Georgia, where Tamara Foglio works as the manager of advocacy and volunteer retention. Habitat's mission, according to Foglio, is to build affordable housing for and with people in need, and to eliminate substandard housing from the face of the earth.

Jenn Matos, a 24-year-old Psychology major at NJCU who

"By the time you get back, you're changed."

— Jenn Matos

will be going on this year's trip, also participated last year. The experience, she says, is incredible. Students build houses from scratch. The cement foundation is there, but the woodwork and everything else is done by them. "It's just a cement slab," says Matos, "and we're building it from the ground up."

Students get up around six in the morning, are working by seven, and work with a small, one-hour maximum break until about five every day. They only rest on the day they arrive and the day they

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Fill Out a FAFSA Lately?

By Erica Marie Molina

Another year has begun which means that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be around the corner.

This winter, students at New Jersey City University will be scrambling to get the FAFSA filled out in order to apply for financial aid for the coming 2009-2010 school year.

"Every year, students are required to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid," said Joseph Roberto, NJCU's Director of Financial Aid. If students do not fill the

FAFSA out, said Roberto, "then they're not in the running for grants or even loans."

"I found out the hard way," said Nesto Fuentes, a 21-year-old digital arts major from Jersey City. Last year, Fuentes filled out his FAFSA form for the 2008-2009 school too late, and was no longer eligible for government grants. "I'll do it early now, for sure."

NJCU prefers that students have their FAFSA done by April 1 for the next school year. For example, students who are going to be undergraduate or graduate students for the 2009-2010 year should have it done by April

1, 2009. However, Roberto recommended that students file their FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of each year.

"The turnaround time by doing it on the web is 72 hours," said Roberto, which is up to two weeks faster than it takes to process a paper form.

The FAFSA is a government form required by most post-secondary schools in the United States so as to determine a student's financial aid eligibility. It should only be filled out through the federal FAFSA website, and should never be paid for. Once it is filled out, processed, and approved, the student's financial

information, in the form of a Student Aid Report (SAR), will be sent to the student and the schools he or she indicated by providing Federal School Codes. NJCU's code is 002613.

The first time they fill out the FAFSA, students need to get an online personal identification number (PIN) that will act as their signature every year they fill out the form. If the student's parent or guardian is the one filling out the form, then he or she needs one in addition to those of the student(s) for whom they are requesting aid.

Most NJCU students are eligible for aid. In the past year, 78 to 80 percent of NJCU students received some form of financial assistance, according to Roberto.

"The state of New Jersey has a June 1, 2009, deadline," he said. "[Students] have to apply for New Jersey aid by that date."

Such state aid includes the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG). Though first-time applicants have until October 1, 2009, to apply for the TAG, those who are seeking to renew their grant must

do so before June 1, 2009. There is no appeal process should the deadline be missed.

For those students and families that may need help in filling out the FAFSA, there is College Goal Sunday, a yearly event which, according to its national website, brings together financial aid professionals from colleges and universities along with other volunteers to help college-bound students and their families complete the FAFSA.

"If it helps everybody, why not?" said Sabrina Maldonado, a 19-year-old sociology major from Jersey City. "The easier, the better."

This year's New Jersey College Goal Sunday will take place on February 8, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at nine universities in the state, including NJCU. Assistance will be available in both English and Spanish.

"[Filling out the FAFSA] was really confusing," said Fuentes. "I guess [College Goal Sunday] could help clear things up."

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NEWS

TUNING IN TO YOUNG VOTERS

By Jan Aguilos

“Looking at young voters, are they going to show up [on Election Day in November]?” veteran political commentator Cokie Roberts asks on a February 24, 2008 airing of ABC’s *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*. “By the time November comes, they’ll be tired.”

This was Roberts’ assessment of the young voters who supported then-Senator Barack Obama. According to CIRCLE (The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement), around 23 million voters from the age range of 18-29 voted for the Obama/Biden Democratic ticket for the Presidential Election on November 4, 2008. That’s an increase of 3.4 million young voters from the 2004 Presidential Election.

Young adults have been stereotyped as having cynical and pessimistic views of democracy.

“It’s been hard to trust the government since their selection, not election of George Bush [in the 2000 Presidential election],” proclaims Jon Philip, a 19 year old sophomore and media arts major from Cartaret.

“I work with an elderly man,” says Samantha Algieri, a 19-year-old undeclared sophomore from Lyndhurst, “and when I told him I was going to vote for Obama, he rudely said, ‘You’re just a kid, what do you know about politics?’”

Sixty eight percent of young voters (ages 18-29) chose Obama over McCain, according to the National Exit Polls conducted by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International. The same survey also estimated that around 52-53 percent of eligible young voters turned out on Election Day. The youth turnout in 2008 was 11 percent higher than it had been in 2000.

On November 4, 2008, Obama won 53 percent of the overall vote, and 68 percent of votes from the 18-29 age bracket according to the National Exit Polls, the age



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The 2008 Presidential campaign kept in tune with younger voters by taking the campaign to the technology “street.” Candidates met voters in Facebook and Myspace, chatted with them online, read their daily blogs, and listened to them rant on YouTube, all to finding out what concerns them most about their world.

bracket pulling in an estimated 23 million young voters, 3.4 million more than in 2004.

When asked why young voters turned out in such large numbers, NJCU political science professor Fran Moran says, “If you don’t get involved, you are letting other people dictate how you lead your life, and if that is the case, it’s hard to see how your life is in fact your life.”

A large reason young voters were drawn to Obama were his views. Obama was the only major candidate to oppose the Iraq War before it began. It’s an issue that directly impacts their generation, one which is sending their relatives and friends to war, and has become a notoriously hot-but-ton topic.

In spite of this, some Obama supporters wondered whether or not Obama could win against then-Senator Hillary Clinton who was the front-runner in the

Democratic race. *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd referred to him as “Obambi” in comparison to Clinton.

However, Obama proved to be a much more wily politician than anyone could have predicted. He co-opted the words “Hope” and “Change” and led the self-empowerment chant of “Yes We Can!” at rallies.

“He was very charismatic and energizing,” describes Elizabeth Vosk, a 19-year-old sophomore from Bayonne who majors in English and minors in women’s studies and pre-law. Vosk attended a rally that took place early last year in which Barack Obama spoke at with many college-age voters in attendance. “I was thrilled to be there, knowing that he might be our next president.”

His campaign touched young adults especially and had a ubiq-



uitous presence in the Internet. Currently, Obama has close to four million supporters on his Facebook fan page and has more than one million friends on MySpace both sites geared specifically to teenagers and young adults alike.

Obama would go on to win the Iowa Caucus on January 3, 2008. “Hope is the bedrock of this nation,” Obama stated in his victory speech that night. Hillary Clinton would go on to win the New Hampshire primary after that, but Obama had already proven that he was a contender.

Then the videos of Reverend Jeremiah Wright’s incendiary sermons were posted and viewed millions of times on Youtube. The controversy dominated the news

so much that Obama decided to address the controversy with a speech on race delivered in Philadelphia. His speech quickly garnered more views on Youtube than the Jeremiah Wright clips had initially generated.

Obama’s main speech writer is Jon Favreau (no relation to the actor/director), who is only 27 years old.

“I think it’s obvious how Obama’s speeches inspired young voters: his head writer is part of our generation,” says 19-year-old Stephanie Dooley, a sophomore and media arts major living in North Arlington. “[Favreau] is young and faces, relatively, the same issues that [young voters] face.”

WORD ON CAMPUS:

What are you looking forward to in 2009?



Jessenia Diaz, 23
Undecided
Jersey City

“I want to get a job at the Hard Rock cafe and I also want to be happy with myself.”



Nastassja Torres, 22
Business/Finance
Bayonne

“I’m looking forward to Obama’s presidency and to complete my makeover.”



Suzy Roushdy, 20
English/Education
Jersey City

“To finish my junior year and to have just a good year full of happiness and blessings.”



Ronnie Peguero, 19
Undecided
Jersey City

“Getting a better job.”



Shamol Mondol
Business
Jersey City

“Being an undergraduate!”

NEWS

NJCU Students Helping Hearts with Hands

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leave. Matos describes the experience as interesting, because "it puts you in a situation where you get to see other sides of people."

She says that driving by the house she created, where someone is going to live and raise a family, is a great experience.

"It's amazing. You go out and get dirty [...] and you challenge yourself. It's a package deal: learning, meeting new people, and helping people. By the time you get back, you're changed," Matos says. "It helps you to appreciate what you do have [...] Like, 'Wow, I have a roof over my head.' Some people don't. [...] some people have no running water and it's 2008. It made me thankful for things like being able to take a shower every day."

Matos wishes she had known about the trip earlier in her career at NJCU, and she also wishes more people could come on the trip, "because it's something everyone should see, something that will change their perspective and make them thankful for what they have." Though most people are familiar with Habitat for Humanity, there is a much smaller organization with a dream just as big that started right here on the NJCU campus.

In 2006, Daniel Gurry, an NJCU

he felt he was destined to do. Students may have seen him in the fall of 2006, a tall, outspoken man, standing at a table in front of the Science Building, sharing his photos from New Orleans and selling his grandmother's coffee cake to raise money.

Gurry spoke with old friends and other students about the devastation he'd seen in New Orleans and decided to organize a group trip to Louisiana, not only to help people who were trying to get back on their feet, but to show his peers "what was going on in a different part of America." In May 2007, fifteen students drove more than 24 hours to Louisiana in two generously donated rental vans.

The group spent most of the week in Buras, a small rural town near the Gulf of Mexico, working in a center run by the now defunct organization Emergency Communities. NJCU students worked on building and gutting projects and helped the community center run its regular services, such as dinner for the townspeople, and a distribution center, where essentials like food and clothing were provided at no cost. They were deeply impacted by conversations with locals who had lost everything, struggling to put their lives back together but were still smiling and grateful to



Photo by Jaclyn Foglio

Tony Dianora and Alex Buxbaum holding a banner.

Plaquemines Parish, where about 450 displaced families lived long-term in tiny trailers meant for short-term shelter. The children, despite acting otherwise, were happy to have them there. They were lonely, and in some cases neglected, and were given attention and affection that they offered right back. The volunteers all left Diamond and Buras different people, even more dedicated to helping those around us.

In 2008, Gurry wanted more people to come on what was decided would be an annual trip to Louisiana. More money was raised by selling wreaths and having benefits like a huge music and art show at the Boys and Girls Club of Jersey City, where more people were reached out to than ever before. Their number doubled, totaling thirty people who joined to take three vans on the long trek south.

This time, a week was spent at Camp Hope, an old middle school set up to house volunteers and run by Habitat for Humanity. Working with two organizations, the St. Bernard Project in St. Bernard's Parish and Lower Nine, in the impoverished lower ninth ward of New Orleans, the students did whatever projects were assigned, mostly building flower beds and sanding newly built houses in the lower ninth, and demolding houses in St. Bernard's.

Once again, all sorts of interesting people were met by the volunteers, who formed bonds with locals grateful to have them there,

still devastated by this disaster almost three years later. A man named Michael who invited them to a Fourth of July barbecue on his front porch, cooking up a storm for thirty near-strangers over at his home. That night, the musicians on the trip got to play at the historic Fritzel's jazz club on Bourbon Street, taking part in the vibrant culture that makes New Orleans such an essential part of the United States and its history.

The New Orleans Louisiana (NOLA) Preservation Society's dedication to music and the arts is especially evident in Jersey City, where local projects are run, including music and art therapy sessions at A. Harry Moore School. Founded in 1931, A. Harry Moore School was among the first public schools in the U.S. constructed for students with physical and mental disabilities. The musicians also work with the jazz choir at McNair Academic High School (who will be joining the 2009 trip) and a music room at the Boys and Girls Club and will be re-launching an after-school program at P.S. 24, where students create art and music lessons will be given.

What started as a trip to Louisiana has evolved, Gurry says, into an attempt to assist urban youth by giving them alternative avenues to express themselves creatively. Gurry describes the arts component of the after school program as "using the New Orleans legacy as a cat-

alyst to inspire creativity."

He also sees the NOLA Preservation Society as an organization meant to assist victims of Katrina and raise awareness of the plight of the lower socioeconomic classes in the U.S. Most importantly, NOLA gives back, because "that's what society is all about." Gurry also notes that, "Once you get over yourself and talk to people different from yourself, you realize all of us are pretty much alike."

Tony Dianora, a 21-year-old music performance major, has been on both trips with the NOLA Preservation Society. He found out about the organization through friends, and thought it seemed like a great idea. Traveling to Louisiana has made Dianora says that, because of the trips to Louisiana, he is "more conscious of the world, and [it] helped me to make my life more focused on what I want to do—go into music therapy."

What especially stands out for Dianora is music therapy at A.



Photo by Jaclyn Foglio

A shell of a home in New Orleans ninth ward.

Harry Moore. After a session, he and the other musicians were told that "every single kid involved was reported to have good behavior for most of the day [...]. That's not something that happens often."

The NOLA Preservation Society can't repair the whole city, but, says Dianora, "it's going to make a couple of people's lives a little easier," and this small impact makes it worth it. "It's a way to bring positive energy to the community. If thirty people came to your house to rebuild, it would give you hope, and you would spread that hope to your neighbors. [...] It's important to do good in the world. You help other people and find ways to make your life more meaningful."

In December, Dianora submitted a constitution and paperwork to SGO to have an NJCU chapter of the NOLA Preservation Society recognized as a club, which, at press time, is still pending.

For more information about NOLA, email nolapreservation@gmail.com or visit their MySpace page at myspace.com/nolapreservationsociety. Though the deadline has already passed for this year's Habitat for Humanity trip, there is still room for the annual NOLA Louisiana trip, which will take place from June 23-July 6, so those interested should email the organization.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity and to find out how to become locally involved, visit www.habitat.org.



Photo by Jaclyn Foglio

Katrina Rice, a local volunteer and Samantha Gurry.

history major spent three months at a disaster relief camp in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina broke the levees. The trip changed him, and he decided to return to school to finish his bachelor's degree in order to take a step closer to living a life of public service, as

be alive. By opening their hearts (and kitchens) to NJCU students, those locals helped them to appreciate the lives they had.

Gurry and others also had the deeply emotional experience of working with the children at the Diamond FEMA trailer park in

FAFSA

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As a College Goal Sunday site for the fourth year in a row, NJCU will host the event in the Gilligan Student Union Building. Online preregistration is recommended.

If students and families come with their most recently completed tax returns and/or W-2's, the available counselors will assist in the filling out of the FAFSA.

Though it has been known to be a time-consuming process, Roberto insists that students should not avoid filling out the FAFSA "because there's grant monies (federal and state) and federal loans available. [...] A lot of students can use the money."

RESOURCES

...To see the FAFSA questions and answer them by hand before doing so online, pick up the 2009-2010 worksheet at NJCU's Financial Aid Office (H215) or go to www.fafsa.ed.gov/fafsaws90bw.pdf to download it.

...To obtain a FAFSA PIN, go to www.pin.ed.gov.

...To fill out the FAFSA, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

...For more information on government financial aid, go to www.studentaid.ed.gov to download "Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid 2009-10," and search for "publications."

...Go to <http://www.njcollegegoalsunday.org/> to read more about and to register for New Jersey's College Goal Sunday.

...To help get answers to questions about the FAFSA, call the NJCU Financial Aid Office at 201-200-3173, the NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority at 1-800-792-8670, or the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Before filling out the FAFSA, the following documents should be at hand:

- △ Social Security Number
- △ Driver's license (if any)
- △ 2008 W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
- △ 2008 Federal Income Tax Return (and spouse's, if married)
- △ Parents' 2008 Federal Income Tax Return (if a dependent student)
- △ 2008 untaxed income records
- △ Current bank statements
- △ Current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond and other investment records
- △ Alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

OPINION

Should We Let Them Fight?

Prospects For Peace and Stability in Israel and Palestine

By Patrick Jarkowsky

On December 27, 2008, while most Americans were rushing to the mall for post-Christmas sales or stocking up on supplies for their New Year's Eve parties, innocent Palestinians were being murdered. Throughout the New Year, Israel has continued to disproportionately attack Gaza. At press time, more than 500 Palestinians have been murdered and the onslaught seems endless.

Israel's latest military incursions into Gaza will certainly not be its last nor does it seem likely that Hamas will halt its policy of blindly firing missiles into Israel. These two groups will continue this centuries-old conflict and I for one believe that maybe it is time we let them fight.

I've come to this conclusion because I understand that the international community, led by the United States, is not concerned with solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Instead, elements within the international community continue to go through the motions of support and condemnation, while all along serving their own selfish interests.

There are anti-Semitic elements within the European Union that wish to condemn Israel as the ul-

cent people on both sides to live under constant threat of attack, then we must urge our leaders to become honest and active participants in the region. We must immediately abandon our unabashed pro-Israel or pro-Palestinian policies on both personal and foreign policy levels. We must move towards solving this conflict. Here's a good way to start.

Secure the Rafah Border Crossing

Rafah is a town that sits on the border between Gaza and Egypt. This area is vital to the economy of Gaza, especially since the border between Gaza and Israel is controlled by the Israeli military. There is, however, a valid concern on the part of Israel that this border is used to smuggle weapons and exiled extremists into Gaza. Currently, Rafah is one of the many areas of dispute between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. Both parties wish to control this border crossing but neither have the authority or ability to do so. This is where the U.S. and the international community can help.

The U.S. should encourage Egypt to fortify the Egyptian side of Rafah. Egypt has shown reluctance with regard to assisting at Rafah but Egypt's current economic woes might allow the in-

ty years have been asking the international community for assistance at Rafah.

Many Americans do not want American troops stationed in such an unstable environment. Although I understand their concerns, I think that such an arrangement might actually transform Gaza and could in turn help the two nations on the road to peace. But if we're not going to assist at Rafah, if we're not willing to make the effort, then we should disengage and simply let them fight.

Recognize the Legitimacy of the State of Israel

At the Beirut Summit in 2002 and again at the Riyadh Summit in 2007, the League of Arab States proposed the Arab Peace Initiative. This Saudi-inspired plan laid out the manner in which to peacefully resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The major flaw with this plan is that it is conditional. If the international community continues to propose conditional plans, such as the Arab Peace Initiative or the Road Map, then there will never be a resolution to the conflict. If the Arab states are going to insist that Israel accomplish A, B, and C before they accomplish X, Y, and Z, and if Israel is going to insist the opposite, then these two groups will be forever stuck in an illogical self-defeating cycle. Again, this is where the U.S. and the international community can help.

The U.S. should encourage the Arab league to recognize Israel first. Now this may not play well on the Arab street, but that is irrelevant. Arab leaders often rule without the consent of their people, it's time they put their abuse of power to good use.

The U.S. should explain to the Arab league that by recognizing Israel without condition, the Arab states would gain a tremendous amount of respect within the international community and change public perception through-



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eign policy.

Many Arab leaders will undoubtedly disagree with this course of action. But if the Arab League is not willing to see beyond its pride, if its not willing to take this bold step, then they should disengage and just let them fight.

Aid to the Palestinians Must Be Fully Restored

After Hamas stormed parliamentary elections in March of 2006, the U.S. and the EU immediately ceased funding the Palestinian government. This was a foreign policy blunder on the part of the West. In the U.S., President Bush and almost every other elected official supported this policy. They insisted that Hamas is a terrorist organization and that the U.S. does not support terrorist organizations.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, it is clear that the U.S. has supported and has sought the aid and support of many terrorist organizations. Many Turkish officials insist that the U.S. supports the Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan (PEJAK), an armed group associated with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), and they are in many ways correct. There is also evidence that the U.S. has given aid to the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), a militant Islamic Socialist organization that advocates the destruction of the current Iranian regime. Both the PKK and MEK are on the U.S. State Department's list of designated foreign terrorist organizations. But they are

the Palestinian Authority, and Hamas.

To their credit, the Bush Administration and the EU, along with the U.N. and Russia, established a temporary mechanism whereby aid was shifted away from the Hamas government and instead given directly to the Palestinian people. Although this was and is a reasonable alternative policy, Israel has not allowed EU-led aid organizations into Gaza. The only viable non-Israeli controlled border crossing is at Rafah. Currently, Hamas controls that border crossing and is equally unwilling to allow EU-led aid organizations into Gaza.

My suggestions for Rafah are outlined above and I believe that it is important to proceed with those suggestions immediately. However, the International Community must push Israel to allow foreign aid groups into Gaza. With a secure border at Rafah and with Israel allowing aid organizations to cross into Gaza, the Palestinian people will receive much needed aid.

The international community should also push for a Palestinian-led infrastructure initiative. This would create opportunity and employ those individuals who often gravitate towards extremist groups such as Hamas. Employment would create stability and entrepreneurship and would, more importantly, remove Hamas' power in Gaza. This type of reform will be met with disdain and perhaps violence. If this were to occur, if Hamas were to attack Palestinians, they would simply seal their own fate. Over time, Hamas will lose its stranglehold over Gaza and peace and prosperity could start to become a reality for the people of Gaza.

This three-step process is by no means an exhaustive one. I understand that these three small suggestions will not solve the conflict. Right of return for Palestinian refugees, the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements in the West Bank, these are all important and complicated issues. But first, the international community must help to establish stability, prosperity, and honest mediation. If not, then we should all disengage and simply let them fight.



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time aggressor. There are elements within the Arab nations that take advantage of this conflict and use it as a tool to whip up support among the Arab people. There are elements within extremist-Islam that use this conflict as a recruiting tool. There are elements within the United States Congress that receive campaign donations and other perks from the pro-Israel lobby. There are elements within the American military-industrial complex that benefit from the sale of weapons to Israel. There are elements within the Evangelical movement that wish to see the destruction of the Palestinian people, the triumphant return of the Israelites, and the second coming of Jesus Christ. There are elements within the American political left that unconditionally condemn Israel while simultaneously ignoring Hamas-sanctioned suicide bombings and rocket attacks.

These elements are content with allowing this conflict to continue. But if the rest of us are not comfortable with the idea of allowing these two nations to fight it out, if we are not comfortable with the idea of allowing inno-

ternational community some room to negotiate. After Egypt's economic boom of 2005-2007, foreign investment has slowed and many economists believe that Egypt will suffer greatly during this current economic downturn. The nations of the world could reevaluate Egypt's foreign debts, encourage future investment, and increase foreign aid. Surely, Egypt

could not pass up an opportunity to boost its economy and strengthen its public image.

Simultaneously, the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) should redeploy troops from Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain to the Gaza side of Rafah. In a joint effort with the failed European Union Border Assistance Mission (EU BAM) a U.S./EU presence could ease the concerns of Israel and simultaneously fulfill the wishes of the Palestinians, who for nearly thir-

out the West. The Arab nations would seem eager to end this conflict and would simultaneously remove one of Israel's best talking points; the Arab world's desire to drive Israel into the sea. Recognition of Israel would remove this often-cited talking point and would effectively transform Israel into the stubborn aggressor. If this were to occur, it would be almost impossible for any Western nation, especially the U.S., to continue a pro-Israel for-

"The international community, led by the United States, is not concerned with solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Instead, elements within the international community continue to go through the motions of support and condemnation, while all along serving their own selfish interests."

EDITORIAL

TV is overrated.

By Marlen Gonzalez

Whether you realize it or not, the government is promoting your mental deterioration. Congress has mandated that on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations must switch from analog to digital broadcast only. This means for those who do not have a digital-ready TV, cable or satellite service, a converter box is needed. This box costs anywhere from \$40- \$80. In an at- tempt to ameliorate this burden Congress allocated an alarming \$1.34 billion to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, an arm of the Commerce Department, for analog-to-digital converter box coupons, two for every household.

One of the advantages of the switch is that digital broadcasting will free up channels for public safety announcements from

the fire department or police. The other “advantages” are simply superficial such as improved images and sound. Digital broadcasting also means more channels to choose from through a process called multicasting.

The number of channels available to those without a paid cable subscription will multiply. For example, HBO has multiple channels: HBO 2, HBO Family, HBO Signature, and so on. Stations such as ABC will now have the opportunity to do the same at virtually no cost to the consumer. Television has become such a staple in the household that it is not surprising that there is a 1.1 million-person waitlist for the converter coupons. Do we really need any more channels than the ones we already have?

According to the AC Nielsen Company, TVs are on about six hours, 47 minutes every day in the average American home. TV is detrimental to society in more ways than one. Being a slave to a screen not only dulls our senses, but also perpetuates our increasingly sedentary lifestyles.

An adult who watches three hours of TV a day is far more likely to be obese than an adult

who watches less than one hour stated a study in the American Journal of Public Health.

Also, according to “Obesity: A Research Journal,” 40 percent of fourteen- to eighteen-year-olds watch two to three hours of TV a day. In a 65-year-long life, the average person will have spent nine years glued to the tube. Nine years lost to a box, how sad is that? Imagine all you could do with these precious years rather than arranging your life around a TV guide.

Congress should think twice before spending \$1.34 billion for converter boxes. Television stations are the ones that have the most to gain so they should be the ones shelling out coupons to potential viewers. There is too much hoopla, time and energy being spent for such a superfluous change. Granted, TV is the dominant form of communication in the U.S., but all this money could be used in more efficient means.

What this country does not need is more TV watching. It wouldn't be such a horrible thing if people missed this season's “American Idol” or whatever new “must-see” show is popular these days.

Why doesn't Congress hand out \$1.34 billion for book coupons instead? But alas, that would be the smart thing to do.



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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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ARTS

A New Kind of Path

By Jared Martin

In a neighborhood once in danger of being demolished for an expressway, a new kind of path has popped up on New York City's grid. Collaborating with the New Museum located in the Bowery, artist Lisa Sigal has added but one color to the existing architecture to create "Line Up."

This project, part of the New Museum's *Museum as Hub* program, follows the idea of pushing the limits of ways a contemporary art museum can deal with the community and the arts. With such a rich history of cultural innovators coming from the neighborhood, the museum has an obligation to use its real estate in a way that continues this tradition. As a result, it holds various events and exhibitions meant to engage audiences in the topic of neighborhood.

The *Museum as Hub* is a partnership of five international arts organizations attempting to create a new way of understanding contemporary art. The New Museum initiated the program and has since collaborated with Insa Art Space (Seoul, South Korea); Museo Tamato Arte Contemporaneo (Mexico City, Mexico); Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art (Cairo, Egypt); and Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven, The Netherlands).

Each organization has worked at different times on the topic of "neighborhood" within their own cities and regions that they are located. Commissioning artists from the locations to interpret the concept and address the subject, the *Museum as Hub* has created many interactive projects. For a period

Lisa Sigal, *Line Up*, 2008, project proposal.Courtesy of the artist from www.museumashub.org

of two months, each group was given access to the main space on the fifth floor of the New Museum to present their work through documentation, screenings and discussions. Visitors and guest commentators activated the space and became almost a part of the projects, adding new parts to them and virtually joining the neighborhoods.

Easily viewed from the museum balcony, the painted line, which is the same color as the sea green bike lane on Prince Street, spans across the neighborhood highlighting pieces of rooftops, windows, and building sides. When viewed as a whole, the line seems to extend beyond sight, continuing onward to connect with unseen locations. Partner projects in the other collaborating cities expand on the idea, with local artists interpreting the line in their own ways.

A neighborhood is a collaboration of people, businesses, and various groups that vastly differ.



Photo by Dean Kaufman

New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York City.

Diversity can be polarizing in the ways that it keeps people apart, even within the same building, let alone the same neighborhood. In working with the area to get her project approved, Sigal had to find a way to cut through the differences of the shop owner and the landlord, the police station and the tenants; she had to connect them as a neighborhood, something greater and more significant than the differences between them.

Sigal was inspired by the plans for an expressway connecting the Holland Tunnel and the Williamsburg Bridge, stretching across the Bowery and splitting the neighborhood. More than anything, she seems concerned with how this would have displaced families and businesses. If the plans had been completed, New Museum would not be where it is today.

In incorporating very different areas into the *Museum as Hub*, the New Museum brought the concept of neighborhood to a new level, one with a cosmopolitan sense, a neighborhood of the world. Like Sigal's work to get "Line Up" approved through the neighborhood, we all have our many differences, especially at an international level.

Despite these subtle and sometimes seemingly great dissimilarities, in the end we are all cut from the same flesh and blood, part of a neighborhood greater than any single one, whether it be in Mexico City, Seoul, or in the Bowery of New York City. The project not only showed a new way to view contemporary art, but a way of viewing ourselves as part of a world-wide neighborhood.

Poetry Corner

Please send your original poetry to be included in our Poetry Corner. All are welcome. E-mail submissions to willa_njcu@me.com.

Terminal Love

I feel more at home in a place unknown than the place where I have grown
 The faces grin more back there the sun always shines right there I feel at home right there
 But I'm not there I'm right here
 And thousands of miles may not cure the daily blues
 But if my soul is only at peace while away what is there to lose
 Home is where the heart is sometimes home ain't so sweet
 Sometimes I think I could own this town sometimes I know they have me beat
 More than enough I think they are right when I know they are wrong
 And everyday I wish I hadn't been the focus of those lyrics in his song
 Heart is where the home is, home is where the heart is
 My liveliness is where the imported palm tree always is
 Sitting in this dark room again, the keys seem to be my only friend
 I just want to be at peace again, put this all behind now and then
 Gossip lipstick lips have gotten me hating all of them and this
 If it wasn't for the reputation what would the scars mean
 If it wasn't for my tattoos what would stars mean
 The plane ride may have been tough but we survived
 Those 8 hours were rough but we stay alive
 The only important thing about home is that it makes me write
 When I'm miles away, I can't be inspired, everything is alright
 Home is where the heart is, home is where the agony begins
 It is here where I am forced to remember my mistakes, my sins
 Keep the music blasting; I need to block out these thoughts
 Forgive myself for all the baggage that I alone brought
 Nobody else to blame and home isn't the problem
 I know what my problems are; I don't have the right to solve them
 A little get-a-way proved more to me than most
 I have experienced life alone, which ALLOWED me to grow
 Home is what I take with me to wherever it is I go
 Home is what I feel, regardless of the coast.

— LMS

If love is a sickness,
 Then give me the plague.
 I want to be sick for days
 With a boiling rage
 That can only be settled by love's calming waves.
 If love's a disease,
 Then I'll take it with ease
 Like a dog at peace with the ticks and the fleas.
 And if it's a cancer,
 I'll never have it removed
 But let it eat me away as it softens and soothes.
 And if love is terminal,
 Then I'll take it today
 And enjoy every moment of my death and decay
 Because love is a change
 New life in a breath
 That can take a corpse from even the darkness of death.
 Born from the cocoon,
 Butterflies flutter by,
 And I wonder why love's always worth the try.

— Newton Little

ARTS

Artist or Activist?

Art's Voice in Trying Times

By Willa Goldthwaite

As we welcome a new year with a new president, we find hope in our nation's political situation. Over the years, artists have used their abilities for expression to speak out on political and social issues.

This past semester, for the first time in over twenty years, a course on Art and Politics was offered at NJCU. Inspired by the then-upcoming controversial presidential election, Dr. Dennis Raverty of the Art History Department and Dr. Fran Moran of the Political Science Department joined forces to develop a course which would offer students a history on the relationship between art and politics as well as open a discussion on contemporary issues.

Historic events such as the French and American revolutions, the Spanish inquisition, and the world wars were reviewed in terms of their relationships with artistic and political movements through the ages. Additional professors from the art department joined the class as guest speakers to lecture on topics such as art as propaganda, feminist art, and the black arts movement.

Opening next month in the Visual Arts Building Gallery, *War Is a Map of Wounds* is an exhibit of the works of Howardena Pindell and Theodore A. Harris. Pindell began her career during the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 70s as an abstract painter. In the 80s, she began working with collage full of political content. Harris, also an African-American collagist, speaks out against racism, oppression, and exploitation through powerful images juxtaposed with headlines and newspaper clippings; his work includes collaged eulogies for Amadou Diallo and James Byrd, Jr.

In a recent visit to the Museum of Modern Art, I happened upon an exhibition of New York City high school students in the Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Education and Research Building. The exhibit consisted of pieces on arts and politics that stretched along a wide spectrum of topics—



Marley uniting the hands of opposing party leaders, Michael Madsen and Edward Seaga.

female genital mutilation, the gentrification of cities, the recent election, the war, and many other themes.

An exhibit on the museum in times of war was also shown in the Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Research Building, displaying photos, articles, and letters from the World War II period and describing the museum's work to assist the American war effort through the exhibition of American soldier art and their efforts to raise people's awareness of the crisis.

Throughout history, art has been a means of helping people survive times of struggle, whether it be war, economic depression, or the oppression of peoples. While art has also been used in propaganda, its greatest service has been in showcasing the wrongs of the world or presenting the ray of hope in the hour of darkness.

Art can also be used on the other side of the political spectrum however, that of propaganda. It can and has been used to dehumanize enemies and make a cause look greater than it is.

In times of political paranoia, art is a way of indirectly voicing op-

position. Throughout the twentieth century, various forms of political resistance have been shown through art. In the 1980s, when the Berlin Wall was reformed with

concrete, artists adorned it with words and images articulating their opposition. Today, the wall at the Gaza Strip separating Israel and Palestine has become a can-

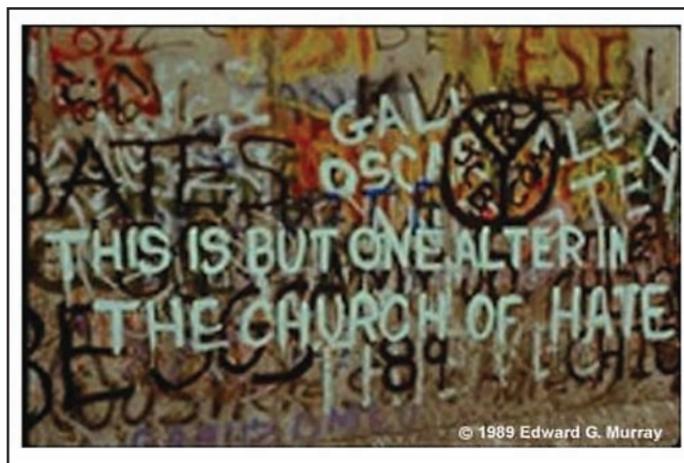
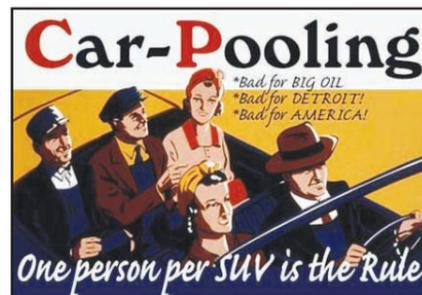


Photo by Edward Murray

(above)
Church of Hate from
www.berlinwallart.com

(right)
Art by The Propaganda
Remix Project



vas for people, artists and non-artists alike, to express their indignation.

Music has also been a form of art used to voice opposition as well as to unify people behind causes of great importance. Woodstock brought hundreds of thousands of people together for "peace and love" in a time of war and strife. Similarly, the One Love Peace Concert in Jamaica in 1978 was used as a platform to bring together opposing parties in a time of political civil war. Recently, Live 8 was held in ten nations as a stage to raise awareness and to pressure world leaders to drop the debts of the poorest nations.

Films have also had a way of bringing truth to the masses and questions to the leaders without direct address. *Full Metal Jacket*, the Stanley Kubrick film about Vietnam, showed the world the atrocities of war and what it does to those involved without confronting the government in their role in it. More recently, the film *Waltz with Bashir*, about the Lebanese war in 1982, uses animation as an anti-war concept while also using real images to show the violence involved in conflict.

Hollywood has found a way of using its celebrity status to raise awareness of many causes. Actors, producers, directors, and musicians have spoken up in recent years about the struggles of the world, from Darfur to getting out the vote; they have used their popularity for more than vanity: for truth and justice.

Art is a necessity in all times, but especially so in times of struggle. It has a way of bringing truth out of the darkness of political silence, of showing the world what really is going on. But it also can be used as a glimmer of hope that people can grab on to as a means of survival through struggle.

Art is more than fluff, more than a luxury for those who can afford it—it is a way of expressing the truths of humanity, however ugly they may be. It is a way of calling out those who would oppress others. It is a way of unifying people of all walks of life. It is what makes us human.

Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz: Ask Chuleta

New 1x1 Series at the Jersey City Museum

January 7 – April 26, 2009

"Get your art history on as Chuleta tackles topics such as post modernism, identity politics and Dada in a series of contemporary art discourse videos. Opinionated, brassy and earnest, Chuleta gives you the 411 you need to slice through the art bullsh*t."

The African Diaspora Film Series

The Jersey City Museum

Friday, January 30, 2009

from Noon – 5pm

Saturday, January 31, 2009

from Noon – 5pm

Tickets are \$8 for students

For more information call

212-864-1760

The Color Of The Tradition

Herencia Milenaria

February 2 – March 4, 2009

The Harold B. Lemmerman

Gallery, Hepburn Hall – Room

323, Artists' Reception:

February 10, from 4:30pm to

7:00pm, Curators' Talk:

February 10, at 6:00pm

War Is A Map Of Wounds

The Art of

Howardena Pindell and

Theodore A. Harris

February 5 – March 5, 2009

The Visual Arts

Building Gallery

100 Culver Avenue

Artists' Reception and Book

Signing: February 5, from

5:00pm to 8:00pm

Artists' Conversation with

Dr. Dennis Raverty:

February 5, at 7:00pm

Campus Violence Poster Project

Exhibition presented by the

Art & Design Association

Michael Gilligan Student Union

Gallery, Monday, February 2 –

Friday, February 20

Tel: (201) 200-2061

Opening Reception: Thursday,

February 12 from 4:30 – 7:00

p.m. Gallery Hours: Monday-

Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Open Call

The Art and Design

Association of New Jersey

City University is seeking

works for an upcoming

exhibition, "Trace," an exhibit

that will be shown Friday,

April 3 through

Friday, May 29 at 32 Jones

Gallery, located at 32 Jones

Street in Jersey City. The

deadline for submission is

Friday, February 13.

Time/RM TBA!

We will be accepting works

that explore the evidence,

including artifacts, minutia,

by-products, and stepping

stones, that accumulate in the process of achieving goals and dreams. Examples of these "traces of evidence" might include the worn soles of running shoes, laugh lines around one's eyes, and a trash bin containing discarded drafts.

Submissions in any medium will be accepted. Two-dimensional works are limited to 18" x 24"; three-dimensional pieces are limited to 5' x 3' x 5'. Works will be Judge by a Panel of 3 Professors.

For further information please visit www.njcuada.9forum.biz, or e-mail njcuartndesign@yahoo.com.

Arts Calendar

ENTERTAINMENT

Interview with Pilcrow

By Vanessa Cubillo

It's October 29 and at the Bayonne Arts Factory there is a Halloween Showcase filled with different bands. One band performing this night is Pilcrow, a Bayonne band fronted by lead singer, Keith Chiappone and drummer, Cosmo DePinto.

How did your band get started?

KC: We were in a band called Requiem for Tomorrow and things didn't work out really so we started doing things on our own.

Tell me about the band name Pilcrow, what does that mean?

KC: It was actual the last name of a character I wrote for my creative writing class. So I just thought it was a cool name. It's actually the paragraph symbol or the indent symbol when you're proofreading.

How would you describe your sound?

KC: Alternative folk, I guess.

Who would you say influences your music?

CP: We're totally different.

KC: I like Tom Waits, Bad Religion, bands like that.

CP: I like garage, Dream Theater, Opeth, aggressive hard rock.

Have you played many shows since starting this band

KC: We played 5 or 6 shows.

CP: Yeah, we played a few.

KC: Yeah, it's tough getting shows.

Where do you expect to take this band?

CP: To the top!

What are you planning on doing next?

KC: Well we have a lot of new songs that we're writing, and we just released an album, "The



Photo by Anrei Degenhardt

Lead singer, Keith Chiappone and drummer, Cosmo DePinto

Burden of Being Human". We're actually working on our next project, which is very different (laughs) It's actually very different from the first one.

When did you release the first album?

KC: September.

CP: Yeah September, a month ago.

How was that process?

KC: Well I was working on it by myself for a long time, so it was

actually a solo project first. Then I wanted it to be an actual band so I got Cosmo. So I did all the music on the album myself, first I write it, then I record it on the computer...the next album he's [Cosmo] going to be very active on it.

Do you think your album is getting good reception from your fans? Do you have a lot of fans now or are you still building?

KC: Still building, but I've gotten a lot of positive reviews.

People are coming to our shows and saying good things so I'm pretty happy about that.

Is it going to be a complete different sound now that Cosmo's in the mix?

KC: It is...like there was a really fast song that we played today. It's all faster, more rock arranged.

What would you say makes you more different or unique from other bands coming from this area?

KC: I think it's a mix of everything.

CP: Most bands are one sound...one style. We're different. We do punk songs, folk songs, rock songs, we put everything in it.

Anything else you would like to say?

KC: [laughs] Buy the album.

Where can they buy the album?

KC: You can buy it directly from me, you can contact us on www.myspace.com/pilcrow, and buy it there. It's also at Sound City in Bayonne.

I believe in Harvey 'Milk'

By Gustavo Lazo

Milk, directed with extreme precision and care by Gus Van Sant (Good Will Hunting) and written with an admirable strength by Dustin Lance Black (HBO's Big Love), might take it upon itself to become the representative drama of the gay rights movement, right there with *The Laramie Project*. It stops being just a movie when the character of Harvey Milk wins the election for San Francisco supervisor.

The film, where poignancy turns to inspiration, tells a story that goes well beyond informing people that an openly gay man became an elected official. After that, the film is a celebration of a community, and a tribute to the man who loved and fought for it with all his heart. If this tale doesn't move you right away, its visuals sure will. Not since Paul Thomas Anderson's "Boogie Nights" have I been impressed with the recreation of 1970s California, with actual archival news footage and personal photos (presumably taken by Milk

himself) edited into the film to present such stunning authenticity.

Sean Penn portrays the titular character with an incredibly strong sense of enthusiasm supported and perhaps inspired by the actors and the characters that they have created. We observe Milk's persistence and strength through James Franco's Scott Smith, his lover whom we meet within the film's initial ten minutes. Milk's will to fight and rally draws Emile Hirsch's Cleve Jones. Perhaps the film's most intriguing, complex, and eventually tragic relationship is between Milk and fellow supervisor, Daniel White, played with a sense of sorrow by Josh Brolin, whose connection would give the Richter Scale a run for its money: the tension between the two becomes astounding.

It is with White that Milk is at his most political, even during what would typically be considered tired political scenes in other films, and watching the two men interact with a fabulous script at hand makes it all the more powerful. Credit should also be giv-



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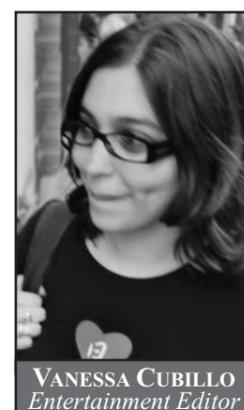
Sean Penn (left) and Victor Garber (right) star as real-life gay rights icon Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone.

en to Victor Garber as George Moscone, the San Francisco mayor.

What is admirable about Harvey Milk and the rest of the film is how we meet him. He sits at his kitchen table, speaking with a mixture of relief and exhaustion into a tape recorder, discussing what he was all about, how exact-

ly he approached his battles, and why the cause is not only important to him, but to everyone, regardless of any creed or preference with which they align themselves. When we see him physically go from scruffy beard and ponytail to conservative haircut and suit, we see the rebel become the leader. The man was

ready to die for a cause that is clearly still much cause for controversy today. "Milk" is a reflection of the times. It's one historical film that works because those involved took great care to help us to see the big picture. This very real story (in more ways than one) might have remained little-known, but the power and spirit found in the film is hopefully enough to keep some thinking and fighting.



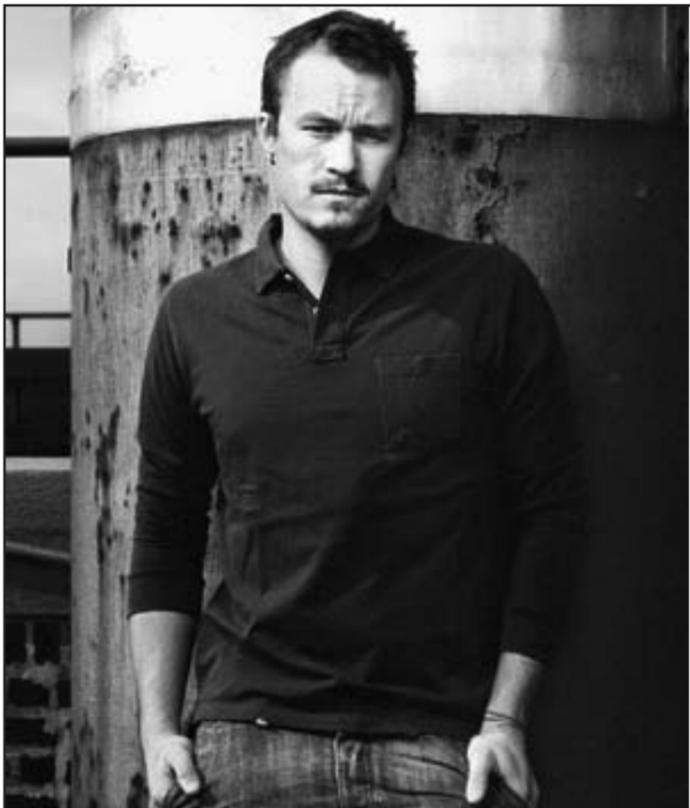
VANESSA CUBILLO
Entertainment Editor

ENTERTAINMENT

The Top 7 Most Important Entertainment Moments of 2008

By Leanne Aciz

1 Oh 'So Serious': Heath Ledger dies. On January 22, the young actor was found dead in his home in New York City. Toxicology reports proved that Ledger had died from a lethal combination of several different prescription drugs. Ledger was mostly known for his breakout



Heath Ledger

role in "10 Things I Hate About You" and for playing a gay ranch hand in "Brokeback Mountain." His performance in "The Dark Knight" still has critics raving and allowed his fans to see how far he would go for his art. The film

grossed \$528 million domestically, the second highest only to "Titanic."

2 'Spotlight' on Jennifer Hudson's Tragedy. While being applauded for her extraordinary acting in "The Secret Life of Bees" and her soulful hit single "Spotlight", Jennifer Hudson was informed of terrible news: her mother, brother and

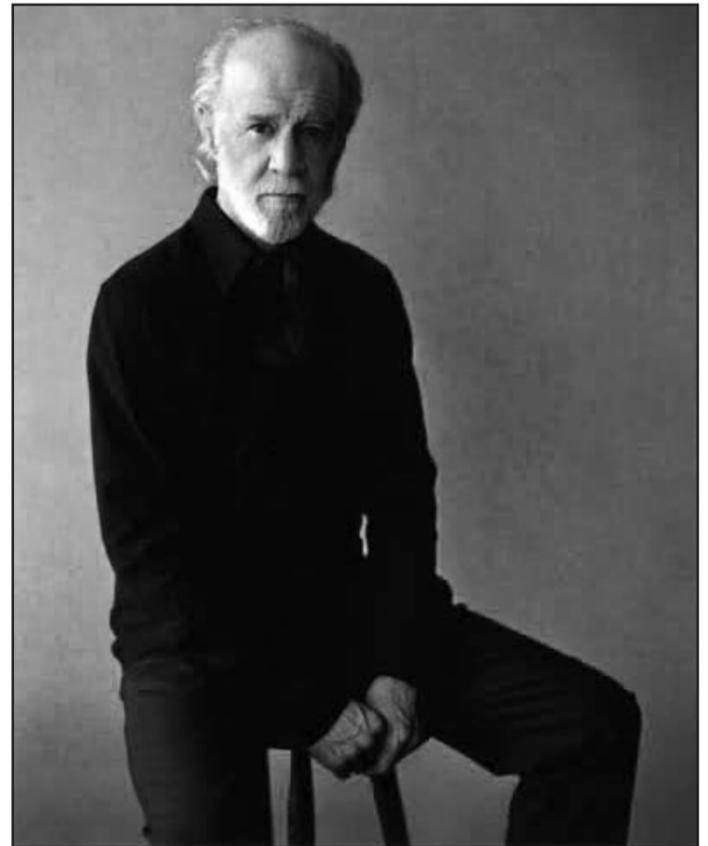
newspaper headlines and affected the hearts of all families everywhere.

3 Lil Wayne for President!! No, I'm kidding, but 2008 was definitely Weezy F. Baby's year. With his son, Dwayne Carter III being born, the respected Jay-Z's request to play shows with him, and his album "The Carter III" being the best-selling album of 2008, he has definitely proved his worth to the rap game. Do I really need to mention how popular his leaked, highly addictive and catchy songs are? Want to be cool? Get Lil Wayne's new song before everyone else does. "You can call me chef Boyardee cause Ima heat this sh** and then eat this sh**." What?

4 Not Worth Losing: George Carlin dies. The brutally honest comedian died on June 22 at the age of 71. Carlin and his "Seven Dirty Words" comedy skit were essential to the 1978 US Supreme Court case, Federal Communications Commission v. Pacifica Foundation, by which it was decided that the government has the power to regulate offensive material on public airwaves.

5 Somebody Up There Likes Him: Paul Newman dies at the age of 83. On September 26, the beloved American actor passed away due to complications with cancer. Newman was surrounded by family and close friends and is fondly remembered for his roles in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "Cool Hand Luke."

6 Dontcha' Know Tina Fey Brings Comedy to Politics? Saturday Night Live's Tina Fey played a remarkable rendition of 2008's "New



google.com

George Carlin

Favorite Woman In Politics" (Sorry Hillary!), Sarah Palin, so well that even Palin commended Fey on her portrayal. During a time when America was concerned about the possibility of a recession and the presidential election, Fey brought humor to an otherwise serious topic. Even though Fey had left "SNL" prior to returning to play Palin, Fey helped "SNL" receive its highest ratings in years.

7 Circus: The Life of Britney Spears. Spears started 2008 off badly by being forced into the hospital after

holding her youngest son captive in the bathroom while the media watched outside her home. After losing custody of her sons and having her father be court-ordered to "oversee" her affairs, Spears has begun to pick up the pieces of her fragile life. Being featured on the 2008 MTV Music Video Awards looking alive and healthy; putting out the quintessential "comeback record," "Circus" and finally being able to tell her side of the story in a MTV documentary are the first steps to becoming America's sweetheart again.

Rich White Girls and 'The City'

By Jan Aguilos

It seems like MTV is turning itself into the Rich White Girl Network. First "The Hills," "Paris Hilton's My New BFF," and now "The City." Of course "The City" is a spin-off of "The Hills," which is itself a spin-off of "Laguna Beach," a "heightened" reality show about rich high school kids in southern California.

Whitney is the star of "The City," but she was a relatively unexplored personality in "The Hills," which centers around her co-worker, Lauren Conrad. "The Hills" took place in L.A. and documented the lives of, yes... rich white girls. Lauren and Whitney first interned together at "Teen Vogue" and also later worked together at People's Revolution, a PR firm in the



Photo by MTV.com

Whitney Port, star of the MTV series, "The City."

fashion industry.

Since the other young women on "The Hills" spent most of their time crying over boys,

serene Whitney was the default career woman, assisting in styling photo shoots and fashion shows. Alas, she gets a job offer

from Diane von Furstenberg but has to make the move to New York City. Bye, bye, over-dramatic "Hills" chicks! Hello, Big Apple!

"The City" pretty much sticks to the formula of the pretty girl who tries to prove herself in the big city, while being romanced by an equally pretty guy. And that pretty guy would be Jay, an Australian musician with a permanent five o'clock shadow.

In the meantime, Whitney works, or pretends to work, at Diane von Furstenberg with Olivia, a self-described "social" who projects self-confidence and carries handbags that seem to be bigger than her petite frame. When first moving into "The City," Whitney stays at Erin's apartment, an old friend and self-described "love fool." The other star on the show is Adam, Jay's

roommate, a model whose sole purpose on the show is to be filmed playing shirtless basketball.

The stars of the show are part of the upper crust of the white bread "beautiful people" of Manhattan and Whitney serves as the charming-enough fashionista trying to make it in New York, a sort of reality show version of "The Devil Wears Prada."

Whitney, an ethereal tall blond with legs that go up to her chin, could pass for a model and "The City" aims to be the east coast version of "The Hills," with its constant mainstream-radio background music and ever-perfect lighting. "The City" is another product of our 15-Minutes-of-Fame society, where it seems anyone with a trust fund can get their own reality show.

SPORTS

NJCU's Own Wins 2008 NCAA Titles

Courtesy of Ira Thor and NJCU Sports Information

New Jersey City University sophomore striker Jennifer Albuja (Union City, NJ/Hoboken) has become the first men's or women's soccer player in school history to win a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III national statistical championship in an offensive category and has accomplished the feat in two statistics. In the final 2008 Division III women's soccer national statistical report recently released by the NCAA, Albuja has claimed the 2008 national statistical crown in both goals and points per game.

Overall, the two national statistical crowns won by Albuja mark the 28th ever won by any NJCU athletic team in school history.

Albuja, who broke the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) single-season scoring record with 32 goals in only 19 games this season and finished with 69 points, averaged 1.684 goals and 3.63 points per game for the season. She was named Honorable Mention All-NJAC this year after earning 2007 NJAC Rookie of the Year and First-Team All-NJAC distinction, and was a two-time NJAC Offensive Player of the Week this season.

At 1.684 goals per game, she had a healthy margin over Edgewood College freshman Elaine Gerry, who had 35 goals in 22 games, an average of 1.591 per game. Albuja and Gerry were the only two players to lead the nation in the category on a weekly basis during the course of the season.

Albuja's 3.63 points per game average edged out Maryville University (TN) soph-



Sophomore Striker Jennifer Albuja

NJCU Sports Information/Richard Formica

omore Jessica Petersen, who had 34 goals and 11 assists for 79 points in 22 games for a 3.59 per game average.

Overall, Albuja's 32 goals equaled the third most total netters in the nation but were achieved in far fewer games. Her 69 total points, four shy of the single-season conference record of 73, were the seventh highest total in the nation.

Behind her efforts, NJCU set a single-season record with 66 goals, obliterating the previous single-season mark of 45 set in 1994, and the Gothic Knights finished 18th in the nation with a 3.47 per game scoring average. NJCU finished 9-10 overall, matching the single-season program record for victories.

"Players like Jennifer seldom come around and to have one like her who is on the same page as the coaches only better this program," said third-year head coach Robert Bielan. "She could have had more goals this season but was very unselfish. She deserves all of her accolades. She has done her program, her parents and her teammates proud."

Meanwhile, freshman forward Nicole Sarica (Linden, NJ/Linden), who had a team-best 10 assists in 19 games, ranked 37th nationally in assists per game for the year.

Albuja's two statistical titles marked the seventh by the women's soccer team. Amanda Cobb, the NCAA's all-time, all-genders, all-divisions leader in career saves, led the country in saves per game in 1998 and 2000, and the Knights led the country in saves per game as a team in each of those years as well. Gina Sgroi led Division III in saves per game in 2003—the last statistical title won by the program prior to this season.

For more information about your Gothic Knights Sports Teams go to www.njcugothicknights.com

FREE HEAT!



NCAA BASKETBALL



SPRING SEMESTER HOME BASKETBALL REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

- Saturday, January 24 vs. Richard Stockton College (Women: 5 p.m.; Men: 7 p.m.) **HOMECOMING**
 - Monday, February 2 vs. St. Joseph's College (Brooklyn) (Women: 6 p.m.)
- Wednesday, February 4 vs. Montclair State University (Women: 6 p.m.; Men: 8 p.m.)
 - Wednesday, February 11 vs. Ramapo College (Women: 6 p.m.; Men: 8 p.m.)
 - Wednesday, February 18 vs. Rutgers-Newark (Women: 6 p.m.; Men: 8 p.m.)

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NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL... KEEPING YOU WARM, ALL WINTER LONG

2008-2009 NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COMPOSITE DAILY SCHEDULE

DATE	SPORT / OPPONENT / LOCATION	TIME/RESULT
1/21/09	Women's Basketball at Ramapo College ** / Mahwah, NJ	5:30 PM
1/21/09	Men's Basketball at Ramapo College ** / Mahwah, NJ	7:30 PM
1/22/09	Men's Volleyball LEHMAN COLLEGE / Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
1/24/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field at Wesleyan University Invitational / Middletown, CT	10:00 AM
1/24/09	Women's Bowling at Lady Bulldogs Classic (Host: Bowie State University) / Laurel, MD	10:00 AM
1/24/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field at Wesleyan University Invitational / Middletown, CT	10:00 AM
1/24/09	Women's Basketball RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE * / Jersey City, NJ	5:00 PM
1/24/09	Men's Basketball RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE * / Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
1/25/09	Women's Bowling at Lady Bulldogs Classic (Host: Bowie State University) / Laurel, MD	10:00 AM
1/26/09	Women's Basketball at John Jay College / New York, NY	5:00 PM
1/26/09	Men's Basketball at John Jay College / New York, NY	7:00 PM
1/27/09	Men's Volleyball BARUCH COLLEGE / Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
1/28/09	Women's Basketball at Rutgers-Newark ** / Newark, NJ	5:30 PM
1/28/09	Men's Basketball at Rutgers-Newark ** / Newark, NJ	7:30 PM
1/29/09	Men's Volleyball BROOKLYN COLLEGE / Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
1/30/09	Women's Bowling at Kutztown Invitational / Reading, PA	3:00 PM
1/30/09	Men's Volleyball CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK / Jersey City, NJ	7:00 PM
1/31/09	Women's Bowling at Kutztown Invitational / Reading, PA	10:00 AM
1/31/09	Women's Basketball at Rowan University * / Glassboro, NJ	1:00 PM
1/31/09	Men's Basketball at Rowan University * / Glassboro, NJ	3:00 PM
2/1/09	Women's Bowling at Kutztown Invitational / Reading, PA	10:00 AM
2/1/09	Men's Volleyball MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE / Jersey City, NJ	11:00 AM
2/2/09	Women's Basketball ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (Brooklyn) / Jersey City, NJ	6:00 PM
2/2/09	Men's Basketball at Lycoming College / Williamsport, PA	7:00 PM
2/4/09	Women's Basketball MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY ** / Jersey City, NJ	6:00 PM
2/4/09	Men's Volleyball at York College (NY) / Jamaica, NY	7:30 PM
2/4/09	Men's Basketball MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY ** / Jersey City, NJ	8:00 PM
2/5/09	Men's Volleyball at SUNY-Purchase * / Purchase, NY	7:00 PM
2/6/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field at New Balance College Invitational (168th St. Armory) / New York, NY	9:00 AM
2/6/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field at New Balance College Invitational (168th St. Armory) / New York, NY	9:00 AM
2/7/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field at New Balance College Invitational (168th St. Armory) / New York, NY	9:00 AM
2/7/09	Men's Volleyball 15th ANNUAL GOTHIC KNIGHT MEN'S VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL / Jersey City, NJ	9:00 AM
2/7/09	Women's Bowling at Capital Classic (Host: Delaware State University) / Dover, DE	10:00 AM
2/7/09	Men's Basketball at William Paterson University ** / Wayne, NJ	1:00 PM
2/7/09	Women's Basketball at William Paterson University ** / Wayne, NJ	3:00 PM
2/7/09	Men's Volleyball vs. TBA in Endicott College Tournament / Beverly, MA	TBA
2/8/09	Women's Bowling at Capital Classic (Host: Delaware State University) / Dover, DE	10:00 AM
2/9/09	Men's Volleyball at College of Mount Saint Vincent / Riverdale, NY	7:00 PM
2/11/09	Women's Basketball RAMAPO COLLEGE ** / Jersey City, NJ	6:00 PM
2/11/09	Men's Volleyball at Polytechnic Institute of NYU * / Brooklyn, NY	7:00 PM
2/11/09	Men's Basketball RAMAPO COLLEGE ** / Jersey City, NJ	8:00 PM
2/14/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field at New Balance College Invitational (168th St. Armory) / New York, NY	9:00 AM
2/14/09	Women's Bowling at Morgan State University Invitational / Baltimore, MD	10:00 AM
2/14/09	Men's Volleyball vs. TBA in Endicott College Tournament / Beverly, MA	TBA
2/15/09	Women's Bowling at Morgan State University Invitational / Baltimore, MD	10:00 AM
2/15/09	Men's Indoor Track and Field at CTC Indoor Championships (Host: Yale University) / New Haven, CT	TBA
2/15/09	Men's Volleyball vs. TBA in Endicott College Tournament / Beverly, MA	TBA
2/15/09	Men's Volleyball vs. TBA in Endicott College Tournament / Beverly, MA	TBA
2/15/09	Women's Indoor Track and Field at CTC Indoor Championships (Host: Yale University) / New Haven, CT	TBA
2/16/09	Men's Basketball at St. Joseph's College (Brooklyn) / Brooklyn, NY	7:30 PM

ADVICE

Wow your Valentine

With these Simple Tips

By Daniels Tornyenu and
Denise Gibson

Valentine's Day is easily the most eagerly anticipated day for lovers. The occasion not only taxes our wallets but sends our heart strings pumping into overdrive mode. Many swear that they can use the occasion to gauge how much their lovers care about them. The following ways not only make you score big on the favorability rating scale but also helps to hit some soft spots with precision and make your V-Day an enjoyable one:

Think Outside the Box: Because traditional Valentine's Day gifts like flowers, jewels and chocolate have outlived their surprise effect, it pays to think creatively about your intended gift.

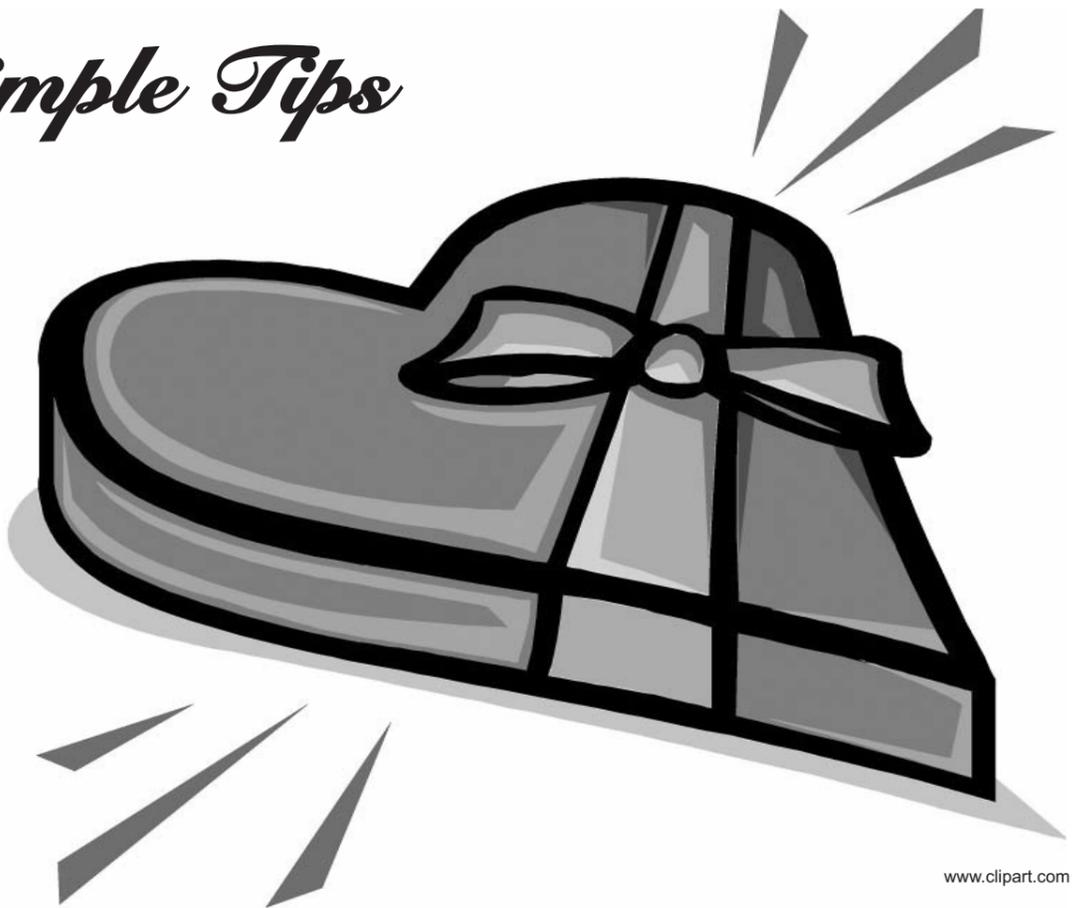
Never Hold Your Peace: For many guys and gals alike, finding the right Valentine gift for their lovers is often a target practice. Making known your gift preferences to a loved one minimizes a lot of gift-related blunders. D.G. hated stuffed animals but said nothing until her boyfriend innocently presented her with an expensive one for

which she has no use. Today D.G. has gone vocal with her advice mantra: "Keeping mum is dumb."

Use Facts to Plan Ahead: Adam was grateful that Colleen let slip the name of the famous Indian restaurant she had in mind for an upcoming Valentine's Day but he was slow in reserving a table for them. By the time he got around to making one, other eager patrons gobbled up all the reservations. He never forgave himself for procrastinating.

Be a Happy Local Vagabond: Though Paris may top the chart of the most romantic city in the world you need not look up to the Eiffel Tower for your romance. New York City has its unique historic landmarks, museums, Broadway theatres and luxurious horse-drawn carriage rides to make lovers revel in hedonistic fashion. The lofty heights of the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty never fail to numb lovers when chosen as sites for the proclamation of romantic love. A careful search can lead to an exclusive hideaway for you and your loved one this season.

Compromise: Suppose you and your lover can't agree on what to do on Valentine's Day, strike a



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compromise. The rule of thumb is: Flexibility makes for great compatibility.

Coupon Book: Compile a coupon book for your lover. Offer a free car wash, a back massage or do the dishes on a day of your lover's choosing. From walking

your lover's dog to offering a coupon for a day at the movies, your lover will have a blast redeeming these coupons. Such gestures have a chemical component that bonds relationships even more.

This year's Valentine's Day falls

on a Saturday which allows you to do more. From gas gift cards to filling your lover's metro card, small, kind gestures can get your lover's favorable nod of approval. Enjoy my friends and welcome back to a brand new year and a brand new school term.

The Single Mom and the Changing Work Place

By Latisha Barrett

Some women interrupt their schooling to have babies with hopes of returning to graduate in their studies, although parenting and schooling is no easy task. Juggling doctors' appointments, PTA meetings and a plethora of personal obligations can be burdensome.

Despite the hoopla of companies claiming to be mommy-friendly, few companies actually submit to the prohibitive cost of the structural and administrative adjustments necessary to accommodate the needs of parents. But help is on the way.

Here is a short list of companies that are blazing the way with their understanding of a parent's need for flexibility when the babysitter cancels or a snow day causes a school closing:

MBNA Legacy located in Newark, New Jersey offers a competitive compensation package and most importantly an onsite day care center. Moms can pop in – out on breaks and during lunch hour. The Customer Assistance department even offers a flexible schedule that allows the employee to make up their schedule.

Bank of America is a model leader in the banking industry. This global institution provides flexible scheduling, growth opportunity and some locations with on site day cares. Being an insider also perks in the area of college savings plans and home-ownership seminars for employees.

New York Life is one of the oldest insurance companies around and it offers competitive salary packages. The Home Office located in Manhattan has an onsite gym and a back – up day care center. The back up daycare can be used up to thirty times a year



Photos.com

at no cost.

MetLife Insurance is a leader in the insurance field. They offer flexible scheduling. This company is so flexible that some departments allow you to telecommute (work from home). This company offers a competitive compensation package and matches 4% of your eligible pay towards retirement.

32BJ Funds located in Manhattan. This company is a leader in managing building services union. They offer free benefits, a competitive salary, bonuses and you are a part of a union.

Board of Education at any location will do. If you plan on entering the education field this is not only a great opportunity, but

you will also have more time to spend with your kids. Long summer vacations, spring and winter breaks are just a few of the many perks associated with working for any school district.

JP Morgan Chase is a leader in the banking industry. JP Morgan Chase provides a competitive salary package and health benefits. The bank also offers career advancement and is a global leader in the industry.

State Agencies like the Board of Education offers a stable work environment. State agencies on major closed during all holidays; they offer competitive retirement and health benefits.

Capital One is a progressive leader in the banking and credit card industry. As a growing leader they offer considerate compensation packages and advancement opportunities. Depending on the sector of business flexible scheduling is an option

Brown Brothers and Harriman (BBH) is the oldest and largest partnership bank in the United States. With locations throughout the globe this institution offers competitive compensation packages and traditional core values. They have proven to be a leader in low attrition rates. Stock option, flexible scheduling and career advancement are just a few perks the company has to offer. BBH is a family – oriented establishment.

The characteristics of a good company are: scheduling flexibility, competitive compensation package and most importantly a lot of understanding.

All of the companies mentioned above realize the importance of balancing work and home. Their dedication to company's needs are in line with human needs. This will always make each one of them a leader in the industry of caring.



We Want You!

The Gothic Times is looking for writers, photographers, and editors to work with us this semester and beyond. If you're interested in joining your university newspaper, send an email to gothic-times@njcu.edu.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Don't put your future on hold

Go to College Goal Sunday



For more information visit:

www.njcolleggoalsunday.org

College Goal Sunday is a joint venture of:



This is a Free Service!

What is College Goal Sunday?

A one-day event to help students and families complete the application for financial aid for education beyond high school. The application is called the FAFSA.

Why Attend?

If you are even thinking about education beyond high school, you will most likely need financial help.

Why Should I Care?

Going to college is your chance to get ahead and get going. All sorts of opportunities will open for you when you decide to continue your education.

When is it?

College Goal Sunday will take place on Sunday, February 8, 2009, at 1:00 pm at all nine locations.

Snow Date ...

In the event of inclement weather, please call 732-224-2075 or go to www.njcolleggoalsunday.org to confirm that the event has been postponed. Our snow date is scheduled for Sunday, February 15, 2009.

Register for a \$500 Scholarship!

All students who attend this event will be eligible to win a \$500 scholarship. One scholarship will be awarded at each of the nine sites.



Where do I go?

CAMDEN

Camden County College-Camden Technology Center
200 N. Broadway
Camden, NJ 08102
www.camdencc.edu

ELIZABETH

Kean University University Center
First Floor
1000 Morris Ave.
Union, NJ 07083
www.kean.edu

JERSEY CITY

New Jersey City University-Gilligan Student Union Center
2039 Kennedy Blvd.
Jersey City, NJ 07305
www.njcu.edu

LONG BRANCH

Long Branch High School-Cafeteria
404 Indiana Ave.
Long Branch, NJ 07740

NEWARK

New Jersey Institute of Technology Campus Center
Ballroom, 2nd Floor
University Heights
Newark, NJ 07102
www.njit.edu

NEW BRUNSWICK

Rutgers University Busch Campus Center
604 Bartholomew Rd.
Piscataway, NJ 08854
www.rutgers.edu

OCEAN COUNTY

Ocean County College-Technology Building
College Dr.
Toms River, NJ 08754
www.ocean.edu

PATERSON

Passaic County Community College Academic Building
One College Blvd.
Paterson, NJ 07505
www.pccc.cc.nj.us

TRENTON

Mercer County Community College James Kearny Campus
North Broad & Academy St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
www.mccc.edu