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New Jersey City Alumna wins NJ Teacher of the Year

By Rabiah Bhatti

New Jersey City University alumna, Danielle M. Kovach of Succasunna, was awarded New Jersey Teacher of the Year for 2010-2011.

"I was very surprised, it was not something I was expecting. I love my job so much and I'm so passionate about teaching, it's not something you think of," said Kovach, "I am very honored to be the receiver of such recognition. More so, because I'm representing all the wonderful teachers in New Jersey."

She began her career in the Hopatcong district at Durban Avenue School as a fourth grade teacher. Kovach has been teaching at Tulsa Trail Elementary School in Hopatcong for the past ten years.

"I teach 3rd grade special education and I have 12 students. We do a lot of hands on work and we use a multi-sensory approach; it encompasses all of their senses,"

said Kovach.

Kovach grew up in Succasunna, New Jersey and always dreamed of being a teacher.

"I always had a passion for teaching. You know when I was little I used to line up all my dolls and stuffed animals and pretend they were my students. I would pretend my closet door was the chalk board," said Kovach.

After obtaining her B.S. in Special Education and Elementary Education from Kutztown University in 1997, she attended East Stroudsburg University for her first master's degree in Special Education from 1999 to 2000.

Then, she went to New Jersey City University for a second master's degree in Educational Technology from 2004 to 2007.

Kovach believes that she has learned from her students.

"The most important lesson I've learned [is that] each one of my students is an individual. You have to look at things from their perspective and a lot of times we forget to look at things from the child's point of view."

According to hopatcong-schools.org, Danielle Kovach has been recognized by other achievements in 2010 such as the Sussex County Teacher of the

Year, Hopatcong District Teacher of the Year 2010 Outstanding Educator and Women's Connection of Northern NJ.

She was inspired by her teachers in the past and aspires to motivate her students.

"The biggest way to inspire them [students] is to be a role model. I love school and I love learning so, my motivation is a display for them. I hope my example inspires them," said Kovach.

Kovach will be going on sabbatical for six months from January till June. She will be traveling around the state and country.

"After that [sabbatical], I will come back to teaching. In the far future, I would like to get my Ph.D. in education and teach college courses," said Kovach.

Kovach, a mother of three, Michael, 9, Joseph, 6 and Ryan 2, advises that teachers and upcoming educators should stay passionate about their profession.

"For teachers, I would say keep



Danielle Kovach

"I was very surprised, it was not something I was expecting. I love my job so much and I'm so passionate about teaching, it's not something you think of..."

—Danielle Kovach

2010 NJ Teacher of the Year

doing what you're doing and stay true to yourself and the profession and let that be your guide. Always remember why you chose to become a teacher," said Kovach, "For new teachers, not only be the teachers but to also be the student, learn from every opportunity and learn from your students."

WORD ON CAMPUS:

Interviews By Joseph Rivera and Jose Ortiz
Photographs by Joseph Rivera

What do you think of the 'Don't ask, Don't tell' policy?



Aurora Estevez,
20, Economics,
Bayonne

"I think that 'Don't ask, Don't tell' is stupid, overall. If you have the heart to serve your country, you should regardless, whether you're gay or not."



Alneesa Olmo,
22, Art Therapy,
Newark

"Just leave it alone. It shouldn't matter if you're gay or not. If you want to serve you should be able to serve."



Johanna Kawa,
21, Criminal Justice

"It's not fair to them, they should be able to stay [serving in the military]."



Chris Styles,
22, History

"Anybody who wants to defend us should be able to do it."

Interview with SGO President Fatima Terry

By Rabiah Bhatti

Q: What are your responsibilities as SGO President?

A: One of my main focuses is to create a bridge between the administration and students. I'm here to build every organization as a whole. That's the general view of my job. Specifically, it includes 60 e-mails a day, university events, and meetings.

Q: How accessible are you to evening students?

A: I put in 15 hours in the book. If I'm here I'll never say no to anyone that needs me. Although if students want to see me it needs to be within my office hours and an appointment needs to be made. I always break that rule because any concern that students bring to me are important. I think I'm pretty accessible. If I'm not available it is because I'm in a meeting, reaching out the administration, or the department and clubs. I'd like to be more accessible, but a person can only do so much.

Q: Do students know that they can come in the hours that are not listed in your schedule?

A: I am a student and I am a person. I'm not superwoman and I don't have to be, because I do my job. I would like to be everywhere [and available] but I'm human.



Photo by Rabiah Bhatti

Fatima Terry
22, Psychology, Kearny

Q: How do you feel about funding for religious clubs such as Muslim Students Association and Campus Crusade for Christ?

A: I feel great for these religious organizations because they do a lot of hard work. It was a factor in the clubs getting their new budgets. We are giving them a \$200 budget for the start of the year and it abides by the [SGO] constitution. For a long time they have been active and haven't received any funding. It was about time to give them something to work with because they deserve it, to a certain extent.

Q: What made you want to run or SGO President?

A: The passion in me and the passion I have for the school. Realistically at first, I came to this school and I didn't want to be here. Five years later and I don't see myself [wanting to be] anywhere else.

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NEWS

SEXTING

Are you sure you want to send that?

By Marisa Cannici and
Alberto Arias

The recent Brett Favre sexting scandal, in which he allegedly sent lewd photos of himself to a female acquaintance, has generated a debate among New Jersey City University students about the practice of "sexting".

"Sexting ruins lives if you get caught, and it trashes reputations," said Carla Grant, a 30-year-old Special Education major from Totowa.

According to the Urban Dictionary website, sexting is "the act of text messaging someone in the hopes of having a sexual encounter with them later; initially

casual, transitioning into highly suggestive and even sexually explicit."

Some NJCU students oppose sexting while others believe sexting is part of today's culture.

"It's part of the technologically advanced social culture," Grant said.

"Sexting ruins lives if you get caught. It trashes reputations."

**Carla Grant, 30,
Special Education
Totowa**

Some experts say that sexting is sometimes used to heat up a relationship. However, all experts agree that sexting is inappropriate for younger phone and internet users. Despite this, surveys have revealed a widespread embrace of the practice.

"Hell yeah, there's actually one in my phone right now," Jamie Pepin, a 24-year-old Psychology major and Resident Assistant for the Co-op Hall dormitory, said.

According to one internet predator protection site, "71 Percent of teen girls and 67% of teen guys who have sent or posted sexually suggestive content say they have sent or posted this content to a boyfriend or girlfriend."

"If you're under 18, it's just dis-



Photo by huffingtonpost

gusting. People should control their kids," said Olivia Benoit, a 19-year-old Political Science major from Edison.

Brett Favre, considered as one of the greatest Quarterbacks in the NFL, is known as a family man with two daughters and a wife. He was accused of sending graph-

ic nude pictures of himself to Jenn Sterger, a former female employee for the New York Jets. The event raised concerns of sexting.

Many NJCU students were less comfortable with the idea of exposing themselves.

"My body is precious!" Benoit said.

NJCU offers shots to students amid flu season

By Kelsey O'Donnell and
Husniyah Ford

New Jersey City University's Health and Wellness Center has announced the availability of fall vaccines for the seasonal flu, which are open to students and employees for \$25 beginning November 1 through November 17.

However, some NJCU students did not seem interested.

"I feel since I am young that our immune systems are already equipped; I don't need it," said Shayla Cook, a 20-year old English/Creative Writing major from Jersey City. "I don't need it."

The flu may be disguised as a cold, but its severity can be far worse. Seventeen million to fifty million cases of the flu are reported around the country, many occurring in healthy people.

"I've gotten the vaccine three times: two shots and a spray in the nose," said Seth Kamara, a 37-year old Health Science major from Jersey City.



Photo by medindia.net

NJCU President Carlos Hernandez reinforced the importance of avoiding the dangers of flu risks on campus in a recent letter on the school website.

"Flu can be spread easily from person to person," Dr. Hernandez wrote in the letter. "Therefore, we are taking steps to prevent the spread of flu at New Jersey City University for as long as possible, but we need your help to accomplish this."

Some students have been following this advice taking the proper precautions such as having good hygiene.

"I wash my hands and use hand sanitizers as frequent-

ly as possible," Kamara said.

"I'm a germaphobe," said Gabrielle Clarke, a 19-year old Engineering major from Edison, "I wash my hands all the time."

Though some students have followed the precautions to prevent the flu, some have suffered through the illness.

"I couldn't breathe and I thought I was going to die. I felt like I was being smothered. It was hard to sleep," said Melissa Hernandez.

When asked how she was treated Melissa Hernandez said, "My mom wrapped me in blankets and applied Vick's on me."

"I had the flu, I was sick from two to three months," Shayla Cook said, "I threw up six times in a row. I was 13 and I got a shot."

With the growing awareness about influenza, college students can speak to their physicians to gain some knowledge about the vaccine and its promise.

"Now that I'm thinking about it, maybe I should [get the flu vaccine]," said Melissa Hernandez.

NJCU's President Dr. Hernandez wrote in an e-mail, "...we are taking steps to prevent the spread of flu at New Jersey City University for as long as possible, but we need your help to accomplish this."

NJCU students share Turkey Day memories

By Allison Lozada and
Barbara Boadu

Some NJCU students celebrate Thanksgiving in the traditional way: turkey, sports, and sleeping. However, others take a less conventional approach.

"I am an Orthodox Christian, I will be fasting," Ingi Nakla, 30, an Education major from Jersey City, said, "It starts on Thanksgiving and it ends January 6th of next year; it is for forty days. We eat and drink, but only veggies, no dairy products. It's different from Muslim fasting."

Others keep it more traditional by spending most of the day in, helping with the preparation of food, and then spending time with their family.

"I spend it with my family, my children," Martin Soares, a 53-year-old custodian from Jersey City, said, "We go visit extended families or they come over. We just relax and enjoy the day."

"I wake up from the aroma of the food cooking in the



kitchen and roll around until I find the remote to turn on the game," said Chance Cerbone, 22, from Bayonne.

Some students have even introduced some new and unusual traditions into the time honored holiday.

"I read tarot cards after dinner and tell [my family members'] future," Victoria

Jacobowskie, a 20-year-old Criminal Justice major from Jersey City, said.

"I am from Kenya, we don't value such holiday," Ogolor John, a 39-year-old graduate student from Kenya, said. "I'll go to work and maybe visit some friends and go home afterwards."

"I wake up from the aroma of the food cooking in the kitchen and roll around until I find the remote to turn on the game."

**Chance Cerbone,
22, from Bayonne**

Thanksgiving:
Did You Know?

By Monir Khilla

- According to AAAnewsroom.net: In 2009, 38.4 million Americans traveled at least 50 miles from home for the Thanksgiving weekend.
- According to eat turkey.com: Americans eat 46 million pounds of Turkey a year during Thanksgiving.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed that Thanksgiving be a national holiday. It was officially approved by Congress in 1941.
- The First Thanksgiving was celebrated in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of the United States. But it was Thomas Jefferson who opposed him. It is believed that Franklin then named the male turkey as 'Tom' to spite Jefferson.
- The first Thanksgiving lasted three days.
- According to the National Retail Federation: In 2008, Americans spent \$41.2 Billion on Black Friday (The day After Thanksgiving).

Fatima Terry

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Q: What are your plans for presidency?

A: I would like for us to work more efficiently and to create a stronger bond between the community. I'm currently working on the Michelle Obama Project with the Advisement Center, along with Presidents of the SGO clubs to bring her to NJCU as our commencement speaker.

Q: What do you think is the most pressing issue for students?

A: Getting their voices heard. If students want their voices heard - come to our [SGO] offices.

Q: Has there been any instances where the administration has made it difficult for you to stay true to the students?

A: So far, not really. Since the Moody incident the administrators have been as transparent as possible. The information we get is from what we know [among ourselves] and from what we get fed from the administration.

Q: What perks do you get as SGO President?

A: I get an office, phone, and my own computer - we also get our tuitions paid. Although it's not 100% because it goes through a review process.

Q: In the future do you have any political aspirations?

A: I don't know? This is all new to me. It's a learning process. I didn't think that being a President was such a big political figure.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: I'll be graduating in May 2011. I'm taking my GRE's in December and [preparation] classes at the end of this month. I should be applying for Master's and Ph.D programs in December.

METRO

Is it the end for Jersey City Museum?

By Joseph Rivera

The Jersey City Museum has been facing financial troubles as of late. On March 31, JCM officials announced that they would only open on Saturdays 12pm to 5pm. However, in recent months the schedule has changed to Tue-Fri 9am-4pm and weekends 9am-5pm in light of a financial rebound.

The Jersey City Independent news website reported on April 1 that JCM had been laying off its staff incrementally and had closed down for one week. The article mentioned that the budget gaps were severe and that a permanent closing was imminent.

The Jersey City Museum has had a relationship with New Jersey City University since the early 70's. JCM's website explains that NJCU students, staff and faculty have had a history of helping the museum, saying that they "initiated efforts to rescue the collection and revive the museum."

Danielle Church, 24, 2010 NJCU Alumna, interned at the museum last semester as an assistant to the program Coordinator, with the institution's Educational Department.

"My internship actually ended about a month early due to low funds at the museum," Church said via internet message. Church went on to say that she was unaware of the schedule changes at the museum.

"So as far as the 'issues' they're facing, I can't say much about, because I left right before it got really bad," Church added. "But I can tell you that the employees I talked to were



Photo by Joseph Rivera

Jersey City Museum

getting upset with the situation and beginning to look elsewhere for work, which I don't blame them because they had families to support".

When asked, employees would not provide information on the current state or closing of the institution.

"I don't know anything about that, they don't tell me anything," Daren Crawford, a 6 year JCM employee, said.

"Our shortcoming [as an institution] has been relying on private funders, especially from the real estate and financial services industries, to underwrite our programs," Nancy Shannon, the former development and marketing director of JCM, told Jersey City Independent last November: "Now that the landscape has changed — perhaps for good — we need to make our individual supporters understand that we need to change, too, and ask them directly and often for their support."

One other factor mentioned was the city's decision of cut-

ting the institutions budget by 25%, from \$625,000 to \$500,000 according to a *Jersey City Independent* article.

"It's not only an economic crisis, it is the leadership," said Professor Ben Jones, retired NJCU Art Professor. Jones has held exhibitions since 1991 at the JCM.

"The first thing that is always getting cut is culture" Jones added. "What makes JCM so different from other museums is its diversity. The community needs cultures."

Some Jersey City residents thought the institution remained opened on Saturdays. Another Jersey City resident in Van Vorst Park said, "It would be a big loss to the city! We need more venues."

Another Patron, Dan Strauss, 32, said "I haven't been there, but I would be more outraged [with the closing of the JCM]."

In recent months the Jersey City Museum has been solving their debt crisis one bill at a time with the help of supporters.

Jersey City appoints first openly gay councilman

By Jan Aguilos

Ray Velazquez, Jr., a former Hudson County freeholder and recently-resigned municipal court judge, was appointed as the new Councilman-At-Large in Jersey City. He replaced Mariano Vega in the position after Vega resigned on September 13. The next day, Vega pleaded guilty to accepting bribes from an FBI informant.

Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy selected Velazquez to replace the disgraced politician. The City Council voted unanimously to affirm Healy's pick, though

not before some complaints were aired out. One complaint was that Vega resigned 11 days after the deadline for there to be a November election for his City Council seat. Ward E Councilman Steve Fulop lamented the fact that Jersey City voters were unable to vote for who they wanted as Vega's replacement in the Council. Fulop also addressed the desire of some constituents who wanted to extend the time to vet other candidates for the job.

"If there are candidates out there who want to put their foot forward, I think we should cast the net as wide as possible," the Jersey Journal reported Council Fulop saying.

But other members of the Council retorted by saying that Healy interviewed many individuals for the seat.

"I realize that I was appointed and not elected," said Ray Velazquez to the Gothic Times, "but I intend to earn the trust of the people of Jersey City."

Some members of the community attending Council meetings expressed the concern that Vega's seat was re-

ferred to as a "Puerto Rican seat," considering that Velazquez himself is Puerto Rican.

"I'm not sitting in a Puerto Rican seat," countered Ward C Councilwoman Nidia Lopez. "I would like to believe I'm sitting here because I'm qualified and that's how I feel about Ray Velazquez. I think he qualifies."

But the Council voted unanimously to appoint him as Vega's replacement on September 29. Before his "Yes" vote, Council President Peter Brennan jokingly remarked that Velazquez must have been crazy for still wanting the job after sitting through a four hour Council meeting that day.

"Do you see what went on here tonight and you want to accept this commendation?" Brennan quipped. "Just to tell you this one thing, tonight wasn't really that bad."

Velazquez spoke at an October 7 vigil New Jersey City University in front of the Frank L. Guarini Library honoring Tyler Clementi. His words addressed the tragedy of anti-gay bullying and the need for more representation in the LGBT community.

"I like his realness," Jennifer Mullan-Gonzalez, a counselor for the NJCU Counseling Center, remarked. "I liked what he had to say."

Jonathan Colon, a senior and Sociology major identified with Councilman Velazquez being openly gay and Puerto Rican.

"It's nice to see one of us up there," Colon, a Jersey City native from the Heights, stated. "It's great to see someone from the community represent us."

"I'm Councilman-At-Large, so I represent all of Jersey City," Velazquez said.



Photo by Jan Aguilos

Councilman Ray Velazquez Jr.

Fixing the financial mess in our pockets

By Gabriel Cortes

The excitement for the holiday season is fast approaching. Many of us can't wait to hang out with friends, go to family reunions, and simply get away from all the stress and responsibility of homework, papers, presentations, and exams. It has been a tough semester and a break is needed.

The joy of the holiday season is almost certainly accompanied by uncontrollable urges to spend money whether it's going out clubbing, dining out, or indulging ourselves in the latest fashion trends and high-tech gadgets. The holiday season also presents a good opportunity to show our loved ones how much we care about them, often in a material way. Unfortunately, all of these money spending craves put a heavy strain on our hard earned cash.

Saving money during the holiday season seems increasingly difficult with the irresistible deals many stores advertise. And, why not buy that new iPad? After all, we have been working hard, we deserve it. Facts are that we are all going to spend money, especially during this holiday season. The real question is how can we enjoy our hard earned paychecks in a manageable way? How can we satiate our ma-

terial desires within our budget?

Many New Jersey City University students somehow manage to attend school, while working full or part-time jobs, and, in some cases, even raise and support a family. Our NJCU community constantly overcomes many challenges in pursue of their dreams. But, financial challenges seem very difficult to overcome and very easily we find ourselves submerged in credit card debt, desperately looking for a better job to cover our expenses, and stressing with the mounting frustration of never having enough money. It is essential that we, as college students, take control of our personal finances.

As a New York Times article points out, NJCU students, without a doubt, have made the right decision in bettering their lives through a university education. But, some of us fail to plan for our financial future. College students have a great advantage over the rest of the population: Time. Ask any serious investor and they will tell you that the key for a successful investment is time; time to gain returns and time to overcome any unforeseen circumstances. Already, college students have made an incredibly lucrative investment. According to a Forbes Magazine estimate, the return on investment (ROI) for your college tuition is

anywhere from 8% to 12% percent over your working life, that is a higher return than many other investments you can think of. College students are heading in the right direction, but is that enough?

While most of us will never follow the steps of the financial guru Warren Buffet, who has amassed a fortune of about \$62 billion through astute investments in Wall Street, we can surely take steps to alleviate our financial concerns. As college graduates

have benefitted from a continuous growth in income for the past 25 years, college students cannot rely on expected higher earnings alone. With time on our side, we as students must concentrate on making the right decisions that will have a positive effect on our financial future.

There are many simple things students can do to effectively live within any budget. The first step is deceptively simple. Track your expenses. Track your spending for a week or two. See what unnecessary items are you buying, what can you cut down; are there any substitutes that can save you money? Do you need to stop by Star-

bucks every morning? Can you bring lunch from home? Can you cut down on your gas spending by taking public transportation? Are you spending too much money on clothing, cigarettes, food? Are parking tickets eating away your paycheck? Look for ways that can save you a couple of bucks here and there. The savings will pile up over time.

There are many simple things students can do to effectively live within any budget.

Another way to better manage your money is to plan out your expenses versus your income. Add up your financial aid, expected paychecks, money from family, and other sources of income over the course of a semester. Compare your overall income to your bills and other expenses you know you will encounter, see if you can afford to pay for them, and try to budget any discretionary income keeping in mind that you should be saving between 10 and 20 percent of your earnings. Only then you can realistically assess whether or not you can afford to go to the movies every weekend or buy that \$5 macchiato every morning. Set a limit on entertainment, don't spend all your money on trying to have fun, you might need it for something else. If your expenses outweigh

your income try to identify and cut down on any excessive or unnecessary spending. You can buy that new CD and go out clubbing but plan out for those expenses within your budget. The key in financial success is planning!

Probably the toughest season to manage your finances is the holiday season. We want to buy presents for friends and family and satisfy the occasional impulses to satisfy some of our own desires. We resort to a handy credit card and incur debts to afford for the seasonal spending craze of the holidays. And, once the habit of using a credit card starts, it's very hard to stop. A solution might be to set your own credit card limits, just because your credit card company gives you a \$2000 limit it doesn't mean you have to spend it all. Limit yourself to an amount that you can comfortably pay back. Use credit cards sparingly. When you do use them, try to pay the balances in full. In addition, many credit card companies offer automatic payment options to be deducted monthly from your checking account and reduce the likelihood of you wasting money on late fees and penalties. There are overdraft protection services that banks offer to student with

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EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL

Voter activism absent on campus

The midterm election essentially determined the kind of legislation that will pass through congress in the next 24 months. New Jersey City University campus has remained dormant on emphasizing the magnitude of this election.

Campuses all over the country have had voter registration campaigns and booths available to students. Other university clubs and Student Government Organizations have taken the enterprise to reach out to the students and community. This kind of initiative harks back to the grassroots movement of Obama's campaign. The latest wave of activism has come from the Tea Party movement, who have turned out en masse during rallies, marches, midterm election.

An estimated 215,000 people attended Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert's Rally "To Restore San-

ity and/or Fear" which was held Saturday, October 30 in Washington D.C. to counter the Tea Party's political activism. The L.A. Times reported that it had almost three times more attendees than Glen Beck's "Restoring Honor" rally.

But our campus has remained an ineffectual Rip Van Winkle. Where is the 'Vote or Die' campaign and enthusiasm? Where are our student funded clubs or SGO leaders reaching out to the students? It is every American's civic duty to vote. As university students we should care about who we put in office and who represents us. As university students, the importance is greater. We are supposed to connect the dots between our education and the outside world. Being a student doesn't mean idling amid the political landscape and keeping our faces buried in academia.

Issues that affect all of us are on the ballots. Whether you're a supporter of Obama's healthcare legislation or you want to repeal it – get out and educate yourself about it. Become part of the conversation and political debate.

Some hold the misconception that midterm elections don't matter when in actuality this is far from the truth. The midterm election will be the biggest congressional shift in a generation. More compromises are going to be made and the likelihood of major reforms occurring in healthcare and Social Security are small.

Student Government Organizations and student leaders need to increase their efforts in reaching the community. One of the most important events in the country has occurred and a huge disservice has been committed.

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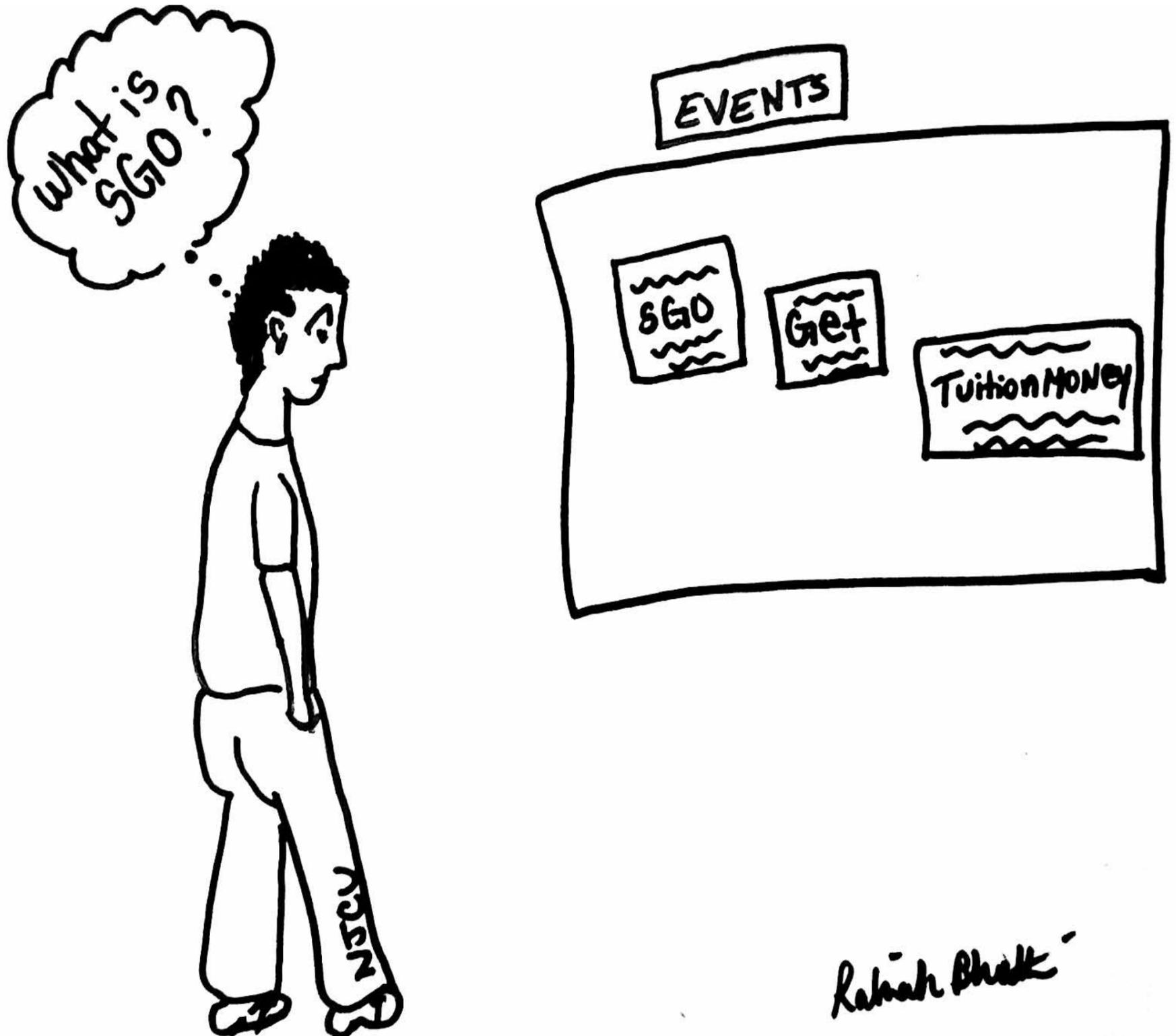
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EDITORIAL CARTOON By Rabiah Bhatti



OPINION

Let them Eat Cake, Again

By Michael Palomino

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written prior to the election.

As the November elections approach, the old adage about the more things change the more they stay the same seems truer than ever.

The Republican Party and its Tea Party surrogates are poised to make significant gains in the coming election. And, as projections predict a bloodbath for Democrats, Republican and Tea Party enthusiasm has given rise to increasingly bombastic rhetoric that goes far beyond their early talking points.

Confidence is such that talk is no longer limited to repealing healthcare reform but also forcing government shutdowns, extending tax breaks for the wealthy, repealing the 14th Amendment and that's just for starters.

None of this should come as a surprise as the Tea Party - since day one - has been an expertly orchestrated movement; a Potemkin Village of sham populism led by sock puppet mouthpieces like Sarah Palin, Glenn Beck and Dick Armey and funded by the multibillionaires like the Koch brothers and other right wing front groups.

The goal of the Tea Party leadership is nothing short of the permanent enshrinement of an American aristocratic class; a class no longer content to see itself as "more equal" to its peers but demanding privileges which befit their station.

The proof of this is seen and heard in the everyday talking points of Tea Party pundits and their attempts to shape perceptions on taxes. Indeed, the earliest Tea Party gatherings were essentially tax day protests, declaring that Americans are overtaxed when, in fact, Americans are paying their lowest taxes in 60 years according to William Gale, co-director of the Tax Policy Center and director of the Retirement Security Project at the Brookings Institution, speaking to CBS News.

Even if the Bush Tax Cuts for the wealthy were allowed to completely expire, tax rates would return to the oh-so oppressive tax rates of Bill Clinton's terms as president. Surely one remembers those dark years when the economy ground to a halt because of massive taxation? Yeah, neither do I.

But it gets better. As enthusiasm grows candidates like Rand Paul and pundits like former presidential candidate Steve Forbes are rubbing their hands giddily at the prospect of undoing the tax structure and putting in place a national sales tax.

Touted similarly to a civil rights issue, the plan for a national sales tax is a Trojan horse being sold to the American people. It is a plan intended to destroy any and all social safety nets and to further deepen the poverty of poor and working class Americans nationwide. Examples already exist of what's to come, as the PBS program NOW demonstrates how states like Alabama break the backs of working poor families forced to pay sales taxes on a gallon of milk to subsidize middle and upper class property taxes (<http://to.pbs.org/bqtxEQ>).

This theme of class privilege is rather reminiscent of 19th century French politics where the aristocracy did not pay taxes. It seems these romantics want to take us back to this by-gone era of pomp and privilege. Only this time around the ruling classes have convinced a considerable portion of the French American populace that their prosperity is inextricably tied to their own.

Feeding a python coiled around oneself in the hopes that one might escape its grasp is a losing proposition, yet this is exactly where we are.

It's not difficult to understand the mindset of the python - it wants to feed - and it's only natural for it to encourage its victim to continue feeding it. But the question remains: why would anyone feed that whose coils would continue to squeeze them further?

To understand this question, one must first

understand the makeup of the Tea Party.

While many have dismissed the Tea Party as a collection of "old" or "racist" white people such monolithic depictions are a grave mistake - not because they are inaccurate, there is some truth as evidenced by many signs and statements of its various members - but because these depictions oversimplify a more complex issue.

The common thread that unites Tea Party members regardless of their economic, racial or social class, is a fundamental belief in a religious/political doctrine that many might not even realize has a name - *prosperity theology*.

Prosperity theology is a base form of American puritanism - with its Calvinistic worldview of exalted Haves over the lowly reprobate Have-nots - combined with modern-day evangelism cloaked in Christian dominionism, masquerading as Jeffersonian individualism.

Those who would withhold judgment or even scoff at the notion need look no further than the Glenn Beck "Restoring Honor" rally last August with its call for America to "turn back to God" and return the nation to its earliest traditions.

For many in the Tea Party, prosperity theology is the lens by which they filter the world. Programs like social security, Medicare, healthcare reform, welfare and unemployment are anathema to them. If one is unable to support themselves or achieve success, it's not because of lack of opportunity or economic disadvantages, it's because one is not part of the chosen divine few.

Better luck next life pal!

Lifting people out of poverty to better themselves is against the natural order in Tea Party mindset, akin to arming gazelles with rifles so that they may hunt lions.

(As an aside: it's rather ironic that such Darwinian beliefs are practiced by some who reject the Theory of Evolution, such as Delaware Tea Party candidate Christine O'Donnell.)

By disrupting this order, government - an institution that is meant to represent the interests of all people regardless of station - is denying the Tea Party faithful their birthright as demonstrated by the continual rhetoric of Washington "stealing" one's money.

The liberties and freedoms which Tea Party members speak of with regularity are actually referring to the rank and privileges that were threatened by an empowered Liberal campaign which gained traction only after years of right wing corruption and malfeasance, which oddly enough, seemed to escape the wrathful indignation of today's Tea Party members.

Now everything old is new again and Democratic victories have been frittered away by cowardly Democrats, overconfident intellectuals and an obsequious president who reached across the aisle even when the hand reaching across came armed with a dagger. *Et tu Boehner?*

Make no mistake, the Tea Party is about as much a grassroots movement as Governor Chris Christie is svelte. While there are undoubtedly a small core of genuine well-intentioned independents concerned about the well-being of the nation and adherence to the Constitution, they are but a minority in a group cobbled together like a Frankenstein monster; held together by a single pseudo-religious stitch and given life by hundreds of millions of dollars in funneled funds, both domestic and foreign.

Once the Tea Party's corporate backers have achieved their political ends the message of smaller government and less spending will be forgotten in favor of corporate handouts, increased deregulation of vital sectors and continued shipping of American jobs overseas.

The working and middle classes will be further squeezed until a permanent underclass is established from which there will be little or no escape.

Tea Much To Handle

By Monir Khilla

There are many people in our country who are dumbfounded about who the Tea Party really is. We're average Americans who feel like we've had enough. We are the greatest spectacle of a political revolutionary grassroots movement in the history of this nation since, well, the Revolutionary War.

In order for someone to understand the Tea Party you first have to understand our Constitution.

The Tea Party is linked to Freedomworks, a non-profit organization founded in 1984 under the name Citizens for a Sound Economy, whose self-addressed mission was to "to fight for less government, lower taxes, and less regulation."

The Tea Party is also supported by another activist group called Americans for Prosperity, which advances "every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity." Doesn't sound radical to me.

Both Freedomworks and Americans for Prosperity were founded by the Koch Brothers (Charles and David) who are ranked 5th in Forbes 400 richest Americans. People think that rich people don't give back, when in fact, they give more than most.

The Koch brothers (all four of them) are well-known philanthropists who have given billions in donations to education, the arts, medicine (especially cancer research), science and charity. The notion that they're just because they're billionaires, they're guarding their money like vultures and not sharing with the middle class is completely unfounded. It's these people, the billionaires, philanthropists and entrepreneurs, not the poor or those on welfare, who promote capitalism and economic prosperity by hiring workers.

What good will a tax cut do for a high school or college student who works a low income job? Sure they'll make ends meet but businesses won't be able to create jobs or open new stores and hire people to work. Entrepreneurs create business to help themselves and at the same time, help the working class, well, work.

A recent Wall Street Journal article written by Peter Berkowitz titled "Why Liberals Don't Get the Tea Party Movement" talks about a very important book that he slams many schools for not teaching: *The Federalist Papers* by John Jay, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton, who argued in favor of the ratification of the Constitution.

If you've read *The Federalist Papers* you'd understand the Tea Party.

Our goals are realistic and it's been Progressive Liberals (Like President Woodrow Wilson who passed the 16th Amendment, (the amendment that forces you to pay income taxes to a private business.) who have hindered America.

People who don't get the Tea Party don't get what it is to be an American.

We, the Tea Party, have come up with a Contract from America. A contract that, like Martin Luther's 95 Theses (the German priest who started the Protestant Reformation in 1517), we symbolically nailed to Washington's doorstep asking for

something that a lot of Americans can agree with: protect the Constitution, reject cap & trade, demand a balanced budget, enact fundamental tax reform, restore fiscal responsibility and constitutionally limited government, end runaway government spending, defund and repeal Obamacare, reduce dependence on foreign oil, stop pork spending, and prevent tax hikes. Principles that are in step with our Constitution and in

principle with what our Founding Fathers fought against: Big Government.

It's a threat we the Tea Party see as unprecedented in our

nation's history since we were introduced to Liberal Presidential Progressivism in 1913.

Many leaders of the Tea Party such as Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin have been slammed many times on their standpoints and comments. However, one can't slam the ideology behind it; an ideology that promotes individual freedom, smaller government, and the power of capitalism. One can't blame a member of the Tea Party for what these people do or say in the same sense that one can't blame a McDonald's employee for their manager's behavior.

A New York Times/CBS poll finds Tea Party members to be richer and more educated than most Americans. Of the Tea Party supporters who responded, 80 percent make less than \$100,000, versus 76 percent for the general pool of people polled. 14 percent of Tea Party supporters have a post-graduate education, compared with 10 percent for the general public. 23 percent of Tea Party supporters have a college degree, compared with 15 percent for the general public, according to the poll. Though our spokespersons may say something many might not agree with, you shouldn't stereotype all Tea Partiers as saying the same thing.

On the issue of race, we're a direct representation of the American people. A USA Today/Gallup poll (March 26-28 2010) shows the Tea Party as consisting of: 79% white, 6% black and 15% listed as other. This may sound uneven but compare it to the overall US population of adults which consists of: 75% white, 11% black and 15% other. These polls show that the Tea Party isn't racist but are in fact an excellent representation of Americans proportional to the rest of the country.

We're just average folk who want to return our country to the Constitution. The ideas we promote are ideologically and economically sound. We don't want a welfare state, we want to promote individual welfare; we don't want to end taxes but we want a fair form of tax (flat tax rate). We don't want anarchy, we want a government of the people, by the people, and for the people; we don't want to stop spending but we want a balanced budget.

If we as Americans can't come to agreement about our Constitution and what it stands for then, sorry to say, we have to start questioning our identity; we must ask ourselves: are we Americans? I'm not talking about a piece of paper or a passport but a mentality that unites us.

This, my friends, is what it means to be American.

LIFESTYLE

Dealing with Holiday Stress

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

Ask NJCU students what images come to mind when they think of the “holiday season” and you’re likely to hear about shopping excursions, decorating, parties, family gatherings, religious observances, cooking,



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and gift exchanges. However, for many of us, holidays can also be draining, disappointing, lonely and tense. Inability to be with loved

ones, financial worries due to increased spending, family conflicts, increased demands on one’s time, and not having enough personal space can all contribute to stress overload.

Being realistic about one’s expectations, setting limits, and using good decision-making strategies can all help reduce stress overload. Here are some specific things you can do to help keep the “holiday blues” in check:

- Don’t aim for “the best holiday season ever.” This is a set up for disappointment.

- Be practical about what you can and can’t do. Make sure what you commit to is truly manageable, given your daily school, work and personal obligations. Since the holiday season coincides with the busiest time of the semester, make sure that you are managing your time in a way that sets you up for academic success (Guideline: Each week, set aside 2 hours of study/homework time for every credit hour you’re enrolled in. That means if you’re enrolled in 12 credits, you should be spending an additional 24 hours on your schoolwork every week).

- Break larger tasks down into smaller tasks, and pace yourself.

- Plan a holiday budget and stick to it. In addition to gift expenditures, account for the “hidden costs” of extra trans-

portation use, celebratory foods and beverages, charitable donations, extra phone calls to friends and family, greeting cards, and postage. Consider some festive activities that incur little spending, such as attending public school concerts, walking or driving around to view holiday decorations in your neighborhood, or going to

New York City to enjoy store window displays.

- Spend time with supportive people. If you’re unable to be with loved ones, reach

out to others who may be in the same position and make a plan to keep each other company.

- Watch your alcohol intake. Remember that alcohol is a depressant, and excess drinking will, in the long run, leave you feeling tired and down.

- Do something for others who are experiencing misfortune in their lives. Helping others gives us a sense of meaning and purpose, distracts us from our own troubles, and helps us to recognize the things we are grateful for in our own lives.

- Take care of your body. It may be tempting to overindulge in holiday treats or to skip workouts, but healthy eating and exercise plans are great buffers against stress.

- Celebrate the holidays in new ways. Developing fresh traditions can be as enjoyable as participating in old ones. Change is a part of life; even when we don’t choose it, we can empower ourselves by taking an active approach in adjusting to the transformation.

The staff at the NJCU Counseling Center offers free, confidential counseling and referrals to registered NJCU students who are struggling with holiday stress and other emotional concerns. Stop by our office at Gilligan Student Union Room 308 or call us at 201-200-3165 to request an appointment.

RELATIONSHIPS

He Said, She Said...

Miscommunication in relationships

By Stephanie Del Valle

If there is one thing men and women have in common, it is that we sometimes cannot understand each other. Relationships are important because as human beings, we need romantic affection and compassion from one another, which can be one of the best feelings in the world. This is our “romantic bubble” stage, where nothing can come in between the relationship, and for however long this may last, everything in your own little world can feel just right.

But sooner or later, as in every relationship, this romantic bubble will burst and the stage where problems and misunderstandings will begin. Some relationships can handle it well, while others can’t.

Genders were made differently, not only physically, but mentally as well. A female brain has a larger deep limbic system, which allows women to be more in touch with their feelings. Being the more emotional sex, women believe that conversation is a way to build an intimate connection.

We talk about our problems so much because we simply want men to know who we are. We also get upset when men don’t respond in the same way. We think that dodging the conversation is also dodging the opportunity to build a deeper relationship with us, which may feel like rejection.

Supported by the empathizing-systemizing theory, men fit the systemizing profile. This means that men are inclined to analyze and think in a more rational and logical way. Men do not like to wallow in their emotions, and whenever a problem arises, they try their best to find a solution. Men are simple and direct. When women try to talk to them about their dilemmas, men try to offer solutions, thinking this will solve the problem when in reality their girlfriend is trying to vent.

These kinds of actions can be interpreted the wrong way. Men and women have different ways of communicating. For instance,



Google images

women want men to be sensitive to their feelings, so when something is not right, they assume that men should already know what is wrong with them. We tend to drop subtle hints to let you know what we want, whether if it is to talk, or a romantic gesture. However, we will never tell you exactly what it is that we want. It’s important to women not being entirely direct the way men are in order to challenge whether or not they are really paying attention to us.

And this is where the miscommunication starts. Relationships would be so much easier if women think the way men do. But this would never keep a relationship interesting. Women love to be entirely mysterious, to have men work for us.

“I don’t think either sex is direct because guys ignore their feelings, and girls keep it vague. We want the guy to work for the relationship” said Nicole Baginsky, 18, Psychology Major.

In order to communicate with someone, you must learn to trust. In order to trust someone, you must learn to communicate. The two go hand in hand and are the essential steps in moving forward to building a healthy relationship. Unfortunately, trust is not easily gained, which can be due to past heartbreak or self esteem issues. Heartaches can cause an immeasurable amount of insecurity that can be carried onto the next relationship. A person may punish their new partner for what their last partner did to them, believing the same hurtful situation will occur again.

When asked if past relationships affect current relationships, Baginsky answered “Yes and it’s far from healthy. This one guy turned

me from a sweet innocent little girl, to a pessimistic b****.”

Therefore, people create this invisible border, one where no one can cross. It’s impossible to think that you can protect yourself and still have a meaningful relationship by not letting them in. The reality is that the possibility of a partner doing hurtful things is likely, but as soon as one automatically expects it, this issue delves into something deeper than the relationship.

“I think couples should talk and be upfront about things, don’t assume things. If you have a past, it’s not a couple issues, you are either over it or you’re not.” said David Leininger, 20, Criminal Justice major. Others have an optimistic side for solving these issues.

Charles Yarbrough 26, Photography major said “You just have to take that leap of faith and trust. Don’t be afraid to talk about your feelings.”

Trust is not only based on fidelity. It is also based on trusting yourself enough to open up to your partner and let them into your lives. It is based on trusting your partner to let them communicate and open up to you, and letting you into their lives. If men and women learn to talk about exactly how we feel and exactly what we need, in turn this builds honesty. Honesty is just one step away from knowing that your deepest feelings are secure with another person.

If men and women are willing to understand each other, effective communication will create a more meaningful and healthy relationship. Communication builds a dominoes effect. From an early stage of a relationship, if two people are comfortable enough to talk to each other and communicate well, this can help build the stages of honesty. Instead of this constant struggle to question your partner’s trust, time will be well spent on focusing on enjoying each other’s company, and accepting each other for exactly who we are.

Work Out Those Kinks

By Danielle Miksza

So I’ve been feeling a little tense lately. Wait, did I say a little? I mean a lot. With essays to finish, articles to write, a memoir piece to put together, and a job, I’m really starting to feel the toll it’s taking on my body. My neck is stiff, my shoulders are tight, and my back feels twisted in places I never knew existed. And I’m sure the lack of sleep isn’t helping either. What’s a girl to do? Well I have two options. Option number one: pull out all my hair and sport a Homer Simpson look. I think I’ll leave all my hair on my head, thank you very much. So that leaves option number two: get a massage.

The Health and Wellness Center on campus is more than just a place to pick up some Tylenol. It’s also the place to find a licensed massage therapist, Carol Crystal. All it takes is a quick phone call or

visit to the Health and Wellness center located in Vodra Hall and believe me when I say the visit is worth it.

I visited Crystal last Wednesday and I can’t wait to visit again. Unlike a spa, a massage at the Health and Wellness Center takes place in a small exam room. Despite the absence of scented oils and enchanting music, the space is quite intimate. The lighting is dim to help clear your mind and it is quiet so that your session goes undisturbed. For those of you who are shy, don’t worry, there’s no need to strip down.

She loosened the knots in my shoulders and helped remove some invisible stones I had been lugging around, but she also helped me get to the root of my anxiety. I had the opportunity to speak to Crystal before my massage and she let me in on a little secret of hers: it’s not about working the kinks out of the muscles



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but empowering her clients to help themselves.

“I want to give you the tools to make you feel better,” explained Crystal. “I’ll give you everything I know and teach you.”

In just fifteen minutes Crystal helped me to understand myself better so that I could start to heal myself from any anxieties that I faced like school, work, relationships, whatever comes my way, Crystal helped me to realize I can take control of the situation.

“The mind and body are interconnected,” said Crystal. She explained how emotions can become locked in a person’s body for years. “Emotions need chemicals to happen. When emotions happen, chemicals get trapped. We can release it mechanically

through a massage, but what we really need to do is release it mentally.”

In order to mentally release that negative energy, we have to get to the root of what’s bothering us.

“Healing happens in one minute,” says Crystal. “That’s all it takes. It’s that moment when you say to yourself ‘That’s it!’ As soon as it dawns on you, that’s when healing happens.” But as Crystal also explains, we have to be willing to heal.

The healing process doesn’t happen at the same rate for everyone. Some people may take months, others years, while others can begin to heal over the course of a week. “It’s all up to you,” said Crystal

I’ll admit that it’s a bit awkward

to experience someone else’s touch on sensitive areas of your body like your neck, but Crystal’s spunky personality makes it seem like visiting a good friend. She listens to you when you confide in her and gives you genuine advice when you need it. Crystal’s easy manner makes the little corner of the Health and Wellness Center not only relaxing, but more importantly a safe atmosphere.

For just one dollar a minute you can get a great massage and some great wisdom. All you have to do is call and schedule an appointment.

To contact Carol Crystal for an appointment call (201) 913-2864. You can also email Carol at Ceeceecrystal@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT



www.broadway.tv

Kevin Mambo plays Fela Kuti.

The Broadway play FELA! Doesn't miss a beat

By Oriana Sweeney

Who knew that rappers and actors could produce greatness on Broadway? Producers Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter and Will & Jada Pinkett Smith truly light up the streets of New York City with their Broadway play "Fela!". The eleven time Tony Award nomination play continues to be a success. "Fela!" has won three Tony Awards for Best Choreography, Best Costume Design for a Musical, and Best Sound Design of a Musical. This year, the soul singer, Patti LaBelle joins the cast with her heart wrenching performance. She became popular from the 1970's funky and hip group the LaBelle. She was a trendsetter with her gigantic and wild hair, flashy yet bold outfits, and shiny metallic make-up. Now LaBelle conquers the role of Funmilaya Rasome-Kuti who is the mother of Fela Anikulapo- Kuti. Kevin Mambo plays the Fela Kuti and is a two time Emmy winner for Guiding Light. Also he starred in the hit Lifetime Television series Any Day Now and is elevating the standards of Broadway.



www.contactmusic.com

Patti LaBelle

Fela tells the story of one of the hottest musicians in Africa, Fela Kuti. Kuti struggles with the ways in which his country is oppressed and corrupt. The country of Nigeria is uplifted by Kuti's nightclub which he calls the Shrine. Located in the most dangerous part of Nigeria people experience what it is like to be free. However, the delicious food and drinks are only part of what keeps the Shrine thumping every night. The music is not your average and traditional African music. It is a mixture of jazz, gospel, club, and R&B which tells the story of how his people are treated. The music is also inspired by music artists, James Brown, John Coltrane, and Frank Sinatra. When one feels the Afro beat it is

electrifying. The lyrics combined with the beats make you feel their sadness and joy. The music is the storyteller in "Fela!". It leaves one with the impressions of the ways in which Nigerians were attacked by their repressive military dictatorship. The story of the play revolves around Fela Kuti an activist and Nigerian musician who attempts to seek ways out of Nigeria through music or traveling to other countries like America. Once in America Fela Kuti realizes that Americans are being oppressed yet they are protesting against it. He returns to Nigeria hoping to inspire a social movement among his fellow Nigerians to relieve them of this oppressed society. Fela Kuti grasps the attention of his Nigerian people and attempts to be elected president of his country but it back fires. The military raids his compound, kills his mother, and tortures his wives.

The intensifying Broadway play demands the attention of its audience through humor and the bodacious, gyrating female dancers who flood the stage of the theatre. Men will be glued to their seats and women will desire to dance with their hips. It is the shadow of the curvy women swaying their hips throughout the play that keeps the audience pumped.

Now is the perfect time to see "Fela!", especially since Patti LaBelle is starring in the Broadway play until January 2, 2011. The play is located at the Eugene O'Neill Theater on 230 West & 49th Street, New York and students can purchase tickets during rush section for \$27 dollars just two hours before the performance. It is best to go on Tuesday evenings, Wednesdays at noon, and Thursdays and Sunday evenings if you want to get a cheap-

price. Regular admission ranges from \$59 to \$122 dollars between Monday and Thursday. The price is a little more on Saturday and Sunday ranging from \$69 to \$127 dollars. There is nothing better than a night out in New York City watching the vivacity of "Fela!"

Men will be glued to their seats and women will desire to dance with their hips.



Photo by Dylan Jones-Busch

New York Comic-Con

2010 Comic-Con Convention

By Dylan Jones-Busch

The New York Comic-Con 2010, a convention dedicated to the celebration of comic-books, movies and video games, was held at Jacob Javits Center, where hundreds of comic book and game fans gathered for one of the biggest events in the tri-state area. The event ran all weekend from October 8th to 10th, spawning a whole brigade of fans, eager to get a first-look at the upcoming titles in comics and movies as well as trying out the latest games coming out this year and the next. Over 500 exhibitors, featuring many popular gaming and comic book companies such as Marvel, DC, Dark Horse Comics, Nintendo, Capcom and Square Enix, all awaited the onslaught of ravenous consumers with their products in hand, ready to spend without a moment's thought. Over 400 comic book artists and authors such as Stan Lee, made an appearance promoting their latest and previous works.

"It's totally worth it", says Jonathan Diel from Staten Island, New York. "You get to meet tons of people who aren't afraid to express who they really are and who they want to be."

Day 1, Friday: Certain panels began showing upcoming projects in both the Marvel

and DC area. Then the "Marvel vs. Capcom 3" panel unveiled four new characters for the latest installment of Capcom's most popular crossover fighting game. Ubisoft introduced "Michael Jackson: The Experience", a new motion-sensing dancing game, available on all gaming platforms where you perform the late King of Pop's dance moves from his extensive library of notable scores such as "Beat It" and "Smooth Criminal". Seth Green and Matt Senreich discussed their upcoming new season of Robot Chicken and their latest one-hour special of the series, Robot Chicken Star Wars: Episode III. Finally, the day ended with the U.S. premiere of Sherlock, a modern take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic detective story.

Day 2, Saturday: Marvel and DC continued to show future projects such as new movies and TV shows. These include an animated series of the Green Lantern, created by Warner Bros. Animation and the first episode showing of the Iron Man Anime, developed by MADHOUSE studios, popular for Japanese films such as "Ninja Scroll" and "The Girl Who Leapt Through Time". We were also treated to some new developments in the video game department. More news regarding Guild Wars 2 and

Disney's Epic Mickey was released and Square Enix's leaked more info on their future titles which are Deus Ex: Human Revolution and Dungeon Siege III. Further announcements were made on the most highly anticipated film of the year, Tron: Lega-

"It's totally worth it. You get to meet tons of people who aren't afraid to express who they really are and who they want to be,"

Jonathan Diel

cy, which is a sequel to the original Tron.

Day 3, Sunday: The Stan Lee foundation Writing Contest hailed their winners, Capcom revealed more of their future projects for 2010 and beyond. The authors and illustrators of "The Sons of Liberty" talked about their original historical fiction graphic novel and certain spotlights were made on famous authors and directors like Bruce Campbell and Scott Westerfield. The latest Gundam movie, "Gundam 00" was shown in the afternoon, and ended right before closing.



Photo by Dylan Jones-Busch

Entrance to the New York Comic-Con



Photo by Dylan Jones-Busch

Fans dress up as the cast of BlazBlue



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ENTERTAINMENT

Television's Dim Rainbow: GLAAD highlights lack of diversity

By Jan Aguilos

Couch Potato-ism is pleasant; one gets to sit on one's behind and stare at the tube wishing to see representations of the real world from Hollywood's masters of story-telling. Alas, TV shows don't exactly represent the diversity in America these days, unless you spend all your time in suburban Country Clubs. There isn't much demographic diversity among TV characters, especially LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) characters.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) released its 15th annual study on LGBT representation on television with "Where We Are on TV," which it touts as a "comprehensive review of scripted LGBT primetime characters in the 2010-2011 television season." GLAAD, a media monitoring organization specializing in how the LGBT community is portrayed in the media, mainly focuses the report on broadcast primetime television, which means 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. on CBS, NBC, Fox, ABC and The CW.

Four percent of all regular characters (that are routinely featured)

on scripted broadcast TV are recognized as LGBT, which is meager but it is an increase from three percent last year. In hard numbers that's 23 regular characters out of 587. ABC leads the broadcast networks with seven percent due in part to shows like *Modern Family* and *Brothers & Sisters*.

Among all series regular char-

As liberal as Hollywood may seem, they sure can easily forget about diversity, especially with LGBT characters.

acters, there is a definite disparity regarding race and ethnicity, but that disparity is exacerbated among LGBT characters. GLAAD reports that 77% of all series regular characters are white, while 81% of all LGBT regular characters are white. More proof of disparity: while 59% of all regular characters are male, close to 70% of all LGBT characters on broadcast TV are male. Gay white men are the default representatives of the LGBT community, although in the real world

the LGBT community is replete with women and persons of varied ethnic backgrounds. Hollywood shouldn't whitewash gay Americans.

One egregious point of negligence out in the report is that there are no black LGBT characters on scripted broadcast TV. However, there is an "omnisexual" alien named Roger on the animated comedy *American Dad* (Fox). It's great that the omnisexual extra-terrestrial demographic is represented on broadcast TV but the nonexistent representation of black LGBT characters is pathetic. And there are no transgender characters on TV? How very unfabulous.

As liberal as Hollywood may seem, they sure can easily forget about diversity, especially with LGBT characters. Scripted cable television is a little better with representing different people. There are some black LGBT characters and there's even a transgender character on *Degrassi: The Boiling Point* (TeenNick).

If Hollywood really wants to reflect the diversity that's in America they need to put more consideration into the make-up (not talking mascara here) of the characters we watch every night.

Harry Potter 7: Is it worth the wait?

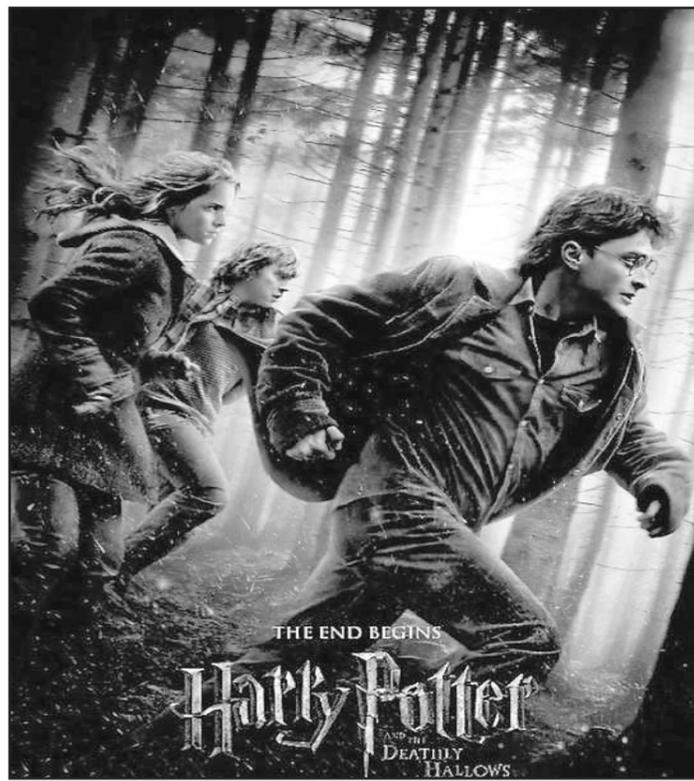
By Jose E. Ortiz

On November 16, 2001, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* was released in theaters everywhere. The adaptation of the Harry Potter series written by J.K. Rowling has captured the minds of the fans. Throughout the years, Warner Brother's continued to create the movie series, and still fans across the world have claimed the achievement of watching them. But with so many movies, isn't it already time to call it quits?

On July 21, 2007, the last installment to the book series was released in book stores everywhere and fans took over with a massive force, just to get a copy of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Compared to the later books, *Deathly Hallows* is by far the darkest book in the series. The book itself has received a series of mixed reviews that either promote it or demote it. Michiko Kakutani from the *New York Times* says that "the last part of 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,' the seventh and final book in the series, has some lumpy passages of exposition and a couple of clunky detours."

Mark Zurlo, from *Fact Monster.com*, says: "...could *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* possibly live up to the hype?... 'yes.'"

Yet fans all around the world still seemed to be captivated by the spell binding story of a young boy who lost his parents and is now at the very heart of a war between good and evil. So, with the success of the first six movies, will the seventh one be just as



Harry Potter will be released November 19, 2010.

good, better, or will it disappoint?

"I am a diehard fan, and have enjoyed all of the movies simply because of my fondness for the series" said Professor Marc G. Dalio, Coordinator of Musical Theatre Studies at NJCU. "Also, it is a great joy to watch these young actors, who have played these roles for several years, grow into their characters as well as young adult-hood... With these final installments, I hope the productions pay homage to the beauty in the book. [The] separation of this final episode into two movies... [is] a respectful gesture

to the writer. There is so much material in the final book that filling one movie with its contents would be impossible. The only disappointment is that I know we are nearing the end. The Harry Potter story has brought so much joy through the years of reading and watching, that I will be sad to see it all end."

"Because I have seen the previews beforehand, I would assume it should be pretty good" said 20 year old NJCU student, Jasmine Jilus from Roselle, New Jersey, and a Psychology major.

"I would expect it to be good.



LOCAL MUSICIAN:

D'Jackson emerging

By Moatasem Basuoni

Throughout the world, the name "Jackson" is synonymous with greatness, and the legendary few who bear this name have been a great influence to many, particularly in music. In the case of D'Jackson, he is no exception. Merely a coincidence that he was born with the same last name, he professes his admiration in saying that "If an artist claims to have never been inspired by the late Michael Jackson, they are lying," Devin Jackson, 21, rising R & B Singer.

As an emerging twenty one-year old artist from Jersey City, New Jersey, D'Jackson considers music as an escape and motivational tool to work towards a better life. The young singer/ songwriter admits that, "Although I didn't grow up with a silver spoon in my mouth, and it wasn't all peaches and cream, it was a great journey," said Jackson.

He first learned he could sing at the age of nine, when he was encouraged by his family during a local church service to lead a

song. His innate sense and vocal ability overwhelmed the crowd, and from that moment on, the microphone became like an appendage. Having experienced much throughout his short life, the confidence and strength that he has derived from his mother, grandmother and loved ones have kept him focused and driven,

despite a few wrong turns. D'Jackson knows it is all of this that has made him who he is today.

This charismatic and fun-loving young talent enjoys every moment that being an artist entails, with a vivacious attitude; his positive outlook shines through in all that he does. Very few artists possess not only the talent and looks, but also the personality to making a lasting impression in this business. His "spunk and sense of humor" set him apart. Always smiling and eager to work, his dedication to his craft is remarkable. Spend five minutes with D'Jackson and you're sure to be laughing or smiling, "I am a big kid at heart," said Jackson.

As an R&B singer, he strives to, "Create music that will both inspire and comfort," said Jackson. As a writer and artist whose creativity is dictated by emotion, he hopes that every note and word can reach his audience and give them a sense of what music has given him. Whether it's a soulful, heartfelt ballad or a club-thumping high-energy

record, his joy comes from knowing he has touched his fans and evoked some sort of emotion. He is making serious strides on his journey, working with key producers and in tandem with some of today's hottest writers; it is safe to say that he is on the path to success.

"With these final installments, I hope the productions pay homage to the beauty in the book."

Marc G. Dalio
Coordinator of
Musical Theater
Studies

I've seen the other movies and really liked them" said 19 year old NJCU student, Jordan Freels from Maple Wood, New Jersey, and a Journalism Major.

Based on the trailers, the new Harry Potter movie shows that it has a lot to offer. The effects are mind blowing and the emotion is strong. If the trailer can give that effect, imagine how the movie will.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows appears to be worth the wait for all Harry Potter fans. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (Part I)* will be released in theaters November 19, 2010.

ARTS

INTERVIEW WITH THE ARTIST

Hector Canonge

By Abdoulaye Camara

MizAmerica is a multimedia art exhibit by Hector Canonge that combines video, 3-D design, and performance art to explore the many aspects of beauty, masculinity, and what it means to be a U.S. citizen. The first one features several rows and columns of Barbie dolls glued up on the wall. There is scrolling text projected onto the dolls, via video projector. *Toy Soldiers* features a video projection of soldiers in a warzone. Beside it, there is a display of little green toy soldiers, in rows and columns. After the opening reception, I had the chance to interview Hector Canonge and learn more about him and his work:

AC: Where are you from?

HC: I was born in Argentina, but I grew up in Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, and the U.S.

AC: What kind of artist are you?

HC: New media—an integration of various digital technologies and performance art.

AC: How did you get started in this field?

HC: I don't think an artist gets started in a field. You're born in the field. Ever since I can remember I've always been doing artistic projects. My family has always been supportive.

AC: When did you discover your creative talents?

HC: I was never a kid who was good at drawing. I was a shy kid, so I created a little world to deal with my shyness. I would tell all the kids on the block, "Listen up! We're gonna go to the movies, and when we come back, we'll reenact the movie."

AC: Can you tell me about some of your work?

HC: 'Here She Comes' is a deconstruction of the idea of beauty, using the Miss America beauty pageant. Miss America is a part of American culture. It was started in 1921 in Atlantic City, NJ. It really shows the disparities of racial imbalance in the U.S. because in the 90 year history of the pageant, only seven African Americans have won. It wasn't even until the 1970s that colored people were even allowed to compete.

AC: What inspired you to make this?

HC: Last year when I was a visiting artist, I used to go to the Miss America Diner.

Now, everyone knows that the beauty pageant always has these really thin women [who look like Barbie dolls]. But at the Miss America diner, you see real women [with curves].

AC: I like how your other piece, *Toy Soldiers*, is placed right next to *Here She Comes*. I love the juxtaposition of the Barbie Dolls and G.I. Joes. Little girls see Barbie as a model of ideal beauty, so they try to look like her. And little boys see G.I. Joes and other action figures as the epitome of what it means to be a man.

HC: Yes, that's a good observation. I think the Miss America pageant and the U.S. Military both represent patriotism and the American Dream.

AC: Why did you call this piece *Toy Soldiers*?

HC: Men are put into warzones like little toy soldiers. They're replaceable.

AC: What about your performance piece, *Gilded Cage*? I didn't really understand it.

HC: The Cage represents the immigrant experience. You have a bird in a cage that you feed and take care of, but at the end of the day, it's still in a cage. It's not free. That's what life is like for immigrants.

AC: What would you like people to get from your work? How do you want them to feel when they experience your art?

HC: I want people to take their time with each piece and soak in the message.

AC: How would you describe your style?

HC: Eclectic—performance narratives, visual narratives, video interactive work. I don't hold on to one style.

AC: Describe yourself in five words.

HC: Persistent, resourceful, stubborn, friendly, sentimental.

AC: Where can we see more of your work?

HC: www.HectorCanonge.net

AC: Any words of advice for aspiring artists/designers?

HC: Follow your gut. Follow your instinct. Create from within. Listen to what everyone has to say, but in the end, you decide what you want to do.



Photo by Panida Suwannawisut

Here She Comes



Here She Comes



Photo by Panida Suwannawisut

Guided Cage



Photo by Panida Suwannawisut

Toy Soldiers



Photo by Panida Suwannawisut

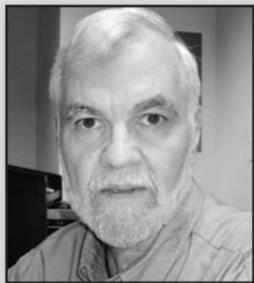
Toy Soldiers

ARTS

Artist Corner

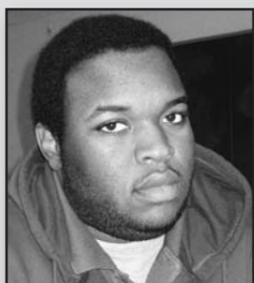
By Joseph Rivera

What do you think of NJCU's art program?



Prof. Dennis Raverty,
55, Art History
New York City

Students can use SNYC as their 'laboratory' and it's the center of the art world – not only nationally but internationally.



Randall Colas,
21, Graphic Design,
Jersey City

It is a really good place for art majors.



Fayruz Uqdah,
26, Photography,
East Orange

We are encouraged [by the arts program] to produce quality works of art, where we are guided to stay informed in our field regarding historical predecessor and technological evolutions and to hone our networking skills in our effort to be discovered.



Jason Sandoval,
20, Painting Major,
Garfield

The teachers are great in their area and the classes are awesome.

Photographs by
Joseph Rivera

NJCU's Robert Sweeney: A Sweeping Talent

By Angela Giddings

If you are looking for inspiration, meet Robert Sweeney, New Jersey City University student, custodian and actor. A Jersey City native, Sweeney said he enjoyed his life as a child. One of six children, Sweeney provided his family with entertainment by being the center of attention.

"I had a great childhood. Life was simple and there was less violence," Sweeney recalled.

For a portion of his life, Sweeney was addicted to cocaine and heroin. On two separate occasions his life was in great danger; he had been shot five times and stabbed beneath his lung. Sweeney is proud that he overcame his addiction to drugs and gives credit to God and his wife, Sheila-Smith Sweeney, for helping him. Since 1991, Sweeney has remained drug-free and offers his support to others in the same position.

Sweeney is now a Senior Building Maintenance Worker in the House Keeping Department at NJCU and has been employed for twelve years. He established great relationships with many of NJCU's faculty members and staff, who constantly encourage him to pursue higher education.

"I'm more geared towards setting goals for myself and I want to achieve greatness," said Sweeney.

Sweeney is leaning towards ma-



Self Portrait of Robert Sweeney

Photo by R. Sweeney

"My family has always told me I am comical. When I was a kid I used to imitate James Brown, Clint Eastwood, Michael Jackson, and Yogi Bear. I was the one who always kept everyone laughing."

Robert Sweeney

joring in Psychology and minor-ing in Theatre.

Robert Sweeney has always had a love for performing.

"My family has always told me I am comical. When I was a kid I used to imitate James Brown, Clint Eastwood, Michael Jackson, and Yogi Bear. I was the one who always kept everyone laughing," said Sweeney.

Although he loves the stage and making people laugh he really enjoys playing serious and challenging roles. In "The Road to Calvary", Sweeney played the serious lead role of God. He says this role was probably the toughest he has ever played because of its complex dialogue and variety of tones. Each scene called for him to channel different traits. Sweeney finds getting over nervousness, memorizing lines and taking criticism the most challenging as an actor. However, he does realize that it is often best to listen to the experts.

Actors such as Denzel Washington and Forest Whitaker inspire Sweeney because he admires their work ethic and how seriously they take their craft.

Five years from now Sweeney sees himself on Broadway and in graduate school. He says his life is very challenging but God gives him the strength to stay dedicated.

Sweeney would like to be remembered as, "A person who made a difference and had an impact on people's lives."

Into the Woods with Marc Dalio

By Jose Ortiz

All your favorite fairytales are retold together in one unique story. With music by Stephen Sondheim and a book written by James Lapine, "Into the Woods" goes back to classic fairy tale stories and shows them under a different light.

"...we have Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Bean Stalk, Cinderella, we have a little Snow White at some point, [and] Rapunzel," said Marc Dalio, director of the musical, "...[It's] all wrapped around a new story that Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine created about The Baker and the Baker's Wife."

The play will open up and introduce various characters such as Cinderella and Little Red Riding Hood. Then we meet the baker and his wife and learn of the curse that has been placed upon their family by a witch that lives next door to them. When the witch reveals how to remove the curse, the story begins as the baker and his wife travel "Into the Woods".

"Act one... can be a story on its own. Act two shows us what might happen after 'happily ever after', said Dalio, "This is the biggest production we have seen here in many years. So it's really large in scope and we started planning production of this musical some time in April and May."

"Into the Woods" first debuted in San Diego at the Old Globe Theater in 1986 and later premiered on Broadway in 1987. The musical won awards such as several Tony Awards, Best Score, Best Book, and Best Actress in a Musical (Joanna Gleason), in a year dominated by "The Phantom of the Opera."

Dalio tells us that the audience will be expected to have a love for fantasy as well as an open mind. Once the musical begins, the stage will be set up as a pop-up book and the story will begin to take shape, as if the audience is inside the book.

You can see all your favorite fairy tale characters come to life November 5-14 at the Margaret Williams Theater at New Jersey City University.

"This is the biggest production we have seen here in many years."

Marc Dalio



Marc G. Dalio

Photo by XXX

SPORTS

NBA Preview

By Albert Arias

The 2010 NBA season tips off October 27. These are the teams who will battle it out this upcoming season for the NBA trophy.



New York Knicks

The Knicks missed on the LeBron sweepstakes. They did manage to acquire power forward Amar'e Stoudemire and speedy point man Raymond Felton. A perennial superstar, Stoudemire has the required bravado to stand up to the media pressures of Gotham. The dominating offensive player will once again join Coach Mike D'Antoni after their separation in Phoenix. The franchise can now deal due to the recent cap relief and are building around him. Small forward Danilo Gallinari and shooting guard Wilson Chandler show huge potential this upcoming season. Watch for a new exciting version of D'Antoni's open court and fast paced offense. The Knicks are not going to be a defensive minded team but will light up the score boards. Look for the Mecca of basketball, Madison Square Garden, to start buzzing again. This team is a sleeper and will make the playoffs for the first time since 2003.



Los Angeles Lakers

Showtime is back! Last season the L.A Lakers captured the franchise's 16th NBA championship, winning their second title in consecutive seasons. The reigning two time MVP Final, shooting guard Kobe Bryant, has drawn comparison to Michael Jordan. Kobe one of the best clutch ballers in the NBA and is going for his sixth title. Bryant is called the Black Mamba because he is the deadliest finishers in the league. He is going into his 14th season alongside veterans power forward Pau Gasol, clutch point guard Derrick Fisher, "The TruWarrior" Ron Artest, and the emerging center Andrew Bynum. With their bench players like the high flying Shannon Brown and the veteran Lamar Odom they will be looking to three-peat. They are led by future hall of fame coach Phil Jackson, the Zen Master. He earned this name due to the fact that has won the most titles and has the winningest percentage in NBA history. Lakers are making a bid to win the 2011 NBA Finals.



Miami Heat

This summer, blockbuster trades made it an epic off-season for many teams but no one benefited from it like the Miami Heat. The Heat might as well be called the Miami superheroes with the star talent on their squad. The Heat are lead by slashing shooting guard Dwyane Wade. Nicknamed the "Flash" the six-time NBA MVP is probably the most exciting player in the league with galvanizing drives to the hoop. With the addition (via trade) of small forward phenom LeBron James and all star power forward Chris Bosh have been critically scrutinized by fans, former NBA players, and NBA analyst. These three players are respectively were in the top ten scoring last season. King James is a proven winner, leading his former team the Cavs to five consecutive playoff appearances and winning the NBA MVP twice. One thing has evaded him in his career and that is a winning NBA title. The three super stars are going to see less touches than they are used to so team chemistry is going to be crucial. The recent injury to three point efficient shooting guard Mike Miller will be out till January. They look like the best team on paper but they are going to have to prove it on the court. Hate the team for creating its dynamic trio but every game is going to be a must see. They are the beast of the east but for this team it's going to be Championship or bust.



Boston Celtics

After falling short of a world championship, Boston Celtics will look to dominate the East once again. The defending Conference champs, Celtics, are well coached by former Knick, Doc Rivers. With a handful of future hall of famers they are the true essence of a veteran team. This team has players that age like fine wine with a wealth of experience. The savvy point guard Rajon Rondo has established himself as one the premier point guards in the league. Last season he showed flashes of brilliance and stayed consistent on both ends of the court. This summer they resigned the sharp-shooting guard Ray Allen and captain small forward Paul Pierce. The heart and soul of the team is power forward Kevin Garnett who provides a sense of toughness. The three time slam dunk champion guard Nate Robinson and guard Delonte West will be important players coming off the bench. Littered with aging all-stars proves to be a valuable asset coming playoff time. In the offseason they signed "the diesel" center Shaquille O'Neal and former all star center Jermaine O'Neal to facilitate the down low in the post. Their lockdown defense will be their strength throughout the season. Look for this team to be legitimate title contenders.



Orlando Magic

It's a bird...It's a plane... It's superman! The consecutive two time defensive player of the year, center, Dwight Howard, will be hungrier then ever this upcoming season. Since earning the name, superman, he has dominated the NBA and last season he lead the league in both rebounding and blocks. During the offseason, Howard visited Hakeem "The Dream" Olajuwon to improve offensive and low post moves. Olajuwon was considered one of the best offensive centers in NBA history. Howard will be nearly unstoppable if can upgrade his offensive prowess. His supporting cast consists of swift point guard Jameer Nelson, high flying shooting guard Vince Carter, and the hybrid forward Rashard Lewis. The back court reserves are solid with point man Jason Williams and newly acquired Chris Duhon. The shooting guards, who will be spelling starter Carter, are J.J. Redick and Miceal Pietrus. The Magic will have high expectations with their bonafide roster. One thing that this team lacks is determination and grit when facing off against a strong opponent. The main issue for this team is going to be their willingness to play for forty eight minutes come playoff time. They will be their own worst enemy but look for this team to contend for a championship.



Oklahoma City Thunder

This franchise was formally the Seattle SuperSonics. With defending scoring champ Kevin Durant leading the way, along with the best collection of young talent in the league, the Thunder are ready to shake up the Western Conference. Last years scoring champion, small forward Kevin Durant averaged better than 30 points per game and gave the champion Lakers all they can handle in last seasons playoff series. He also captured the MVP for the gold medal USA team in the 2010 FIBA world championships. His wingmen are the explosive point guard Russell Westbrook who can get by anybody, versatile Jeff Green who can hold the forward position with the best of them, and sophomore player James Harden who will blossom into a great shooting guard. Coach of the year, Scott Brooks, has turned this franchise around. If the Thunder can crash the boards and improve on their team defense look for this team to dominate the western conference. The superstar Durant will be in consideration as the leagues MVP this upcoming season and he gives them deep playoff potential. This Oklahoma City team is showing great promise and is steadily building a dynasty.



New Jersey Nets

The Nets were the worst team in the NBA last year. Star center Brook Lopez and explosive point man Devin Harris won't let that happen again. Fiery first year coach, Avery Johnson, will not allow his players to duplicate last year's debacle. The Prudential Center in Newark is the Nets temporary home. Co-owner rap mogul, Jay-Z, managed to relocate the Nets to Brooklyn starting in 2012. The Nets are now at a rebuilding process but are sure to better their leagues worst, 12 wins and 72 losses. All we can hope is for a major turnaround.



Violent football tackles change the game

Continued from page 12

"I think players would think twice on how to tackle. They'll start practicing lowering their shoulder. Do I think the game will be softer? Yes. Is it good for the game? No. Do I think it's better for the players? Yes," said Salvador.

"I don't think it's going to have an effect on the physicality of the game," said Lucci.

Football is a fun and entertaining sport, but the viewers sometimes forget how violent the sport can be. The NFL is looking for ways to help reduce the risks of injuries like the one that happened to LeGrand.

"Hopefully he gets to walk again," said Salvador.

Fixing the financial mess in our pockets

Continued from page 3

checking accounts.

Since spending money this holiday season is unavoidable, begin planning for it. If you really want to buy that \$800 TV, spread out the cost of it over time. If you save \$100 a week, you can have your brand new TV in 2 months. Try to suppress buying it right now. Don't accumulate unnecessary debts. Apply the same reasoning to plan for all the holiday spending you will do, from Black Friday to Christmas. Evaluate how much you can afford to spend and save accordingly. Be a smart consumer. Don't be a compulsive spender. Take advantage of student discounts in

restaurants, museums, and stores.

For those that live within their budget but struggle to save; there are multiple options you can do. Set an automatic transfer every week from your checking account to your savings account, open a CD account at your bank, set some money aside and try not to use it with the excuse that you will save some later on. Start saving money now. If you still can't find a way to save any money look into the company you work for, many of them offer some great options for employees. Start a 401K plan in your company. Since you probably won't be retiring any time soon, try to allocate your plan on growth or aggressive funds that will yield

greater returns over time (you may want to change your plan as you approach your retirement age). Some companies will even match up your 401K plan, that's free money. Other companies will also give employees incentives to invest in their stock. Those firms may offer you their stock with zero-trading fees and may also match up your investment. As intimidating as investing in the stock market may seem, it is not meant for mature investors only, you can do it as well, just make sure you inform yourself first and look for some professional guidance.

Most students see college as a gateway to a good career and decent professional salaries. Truth

is, as important as your career is, your financial well-being does not depend only how good of a job you land when you graduate. Financial stability is created by good spending habits and, more importantly, saving habits that start with your level of financial responsibility. Start now and you will be able to live a financially comfortably life. You have plenty of time to achieve financial stability.

For more information and financial advice for college students check out these websites: Forbes.com Studentaid.ed.gov Youngmoney.com Comments, questions, or suggestions? gcartes@njcu.edu

SPORTS

NJCU soccer players take a shot a new goal

By Kelsey O'Donnell

The New Jersey City University Women's soccer team has two stars forwards, Julia Caseres and Jennifer Albuja.

Caseres, a 20-year old Junior Criminal Justice major from Union, New Jersey began playing soccer at the age of five. She continued on and played for Union High School where she was named to the All-State and All-Conference teams in her High School career.

"I love that any day any given team can win," Caseres said about her love for the game.

Caseres attended Rutgers University in Newark her freshman year of college before transferring to NJCU in her sophomore year. Caseres said her favorite memory was scoring a hat-trick against her former school after transferring to NJCU.

So far in her two-years in NJCU, Caseres has scored 51 goals. In her college career (as of October 26, 2010) she is two goals away from breaking the NJAC record for women and men for career goals scored. The record is 74 goals set by Kean forward Fred Guiran in 1992.

Caseres is a fan of the United States Women's National Team and Women's Professional Soccer Sky Blue FC of New Jersey. A player she admires is Abby Wambach of the USWNT.

"I like how she wins every ball

in the air and how she gets her body to get the ball and head it in. I excelled this year in scoring goals with my head," said Caseres.

Some accomplishments Caseres has reached in her college career was making the All-Conference team last year and winning the MVP award for this year's Liberty Cup (hosted by NJCU). One day she would like to play professionally.

"I'm going to try because I've been playing soccer for so long. I wouldn't want to think about how I wish I could have done this," said Caseres.

Albuja is a 22-year old Junior, Criminal Justice major from Union City, New Jersey started playing soccer at six years old. She moved forward to play for Hoboken High School where she received All-County honors. She also lead Hudson County in goals scored in 2006 and 2007.

"I just play because it comes natural to me. My dad wants to always teach me more. I never really wanted to learn, I just wanted to play," said Albuja.

In her three-year soccer career at NJCU Albuja has scored 66 goals (as of October 26, 2010). Playing for the NJCU Women's team this season in particular has been something special to Albuja.

"This year we won and NJAC game. It's a big achievement. I joined soccer here and never [beat] an NJAC team. We won



Photo by Richard Formica

Forward Jennifer Albuja on the attack.

three this year," said Albuja.

Overall, the important thing to both Caseres and Albuja is keeping the unity on the field.

"We just encourage [our teammates]. If they make a mistake we'll correct them. You also can't bring any personal things on the field," said Albuja.



Photo by Richard Formica

Forward Julia Caseres running past defenders.

Violent football tackles change the game

By Kelsey O'Donnell

Football fans at NJCU feel that the possible suspensions of NFL players for devastating hits are unnecessary unless it's blatant.

"I would rather the players be fined. Sometimes [the hits] are accidental. Intentional [hits] should be a suspension and a fine," said Anthony Lucci, a 20-year old History major from Bayonne.

There's no question that football is entertaining but it is also a violent sport. There are many times where plays are made that demonstrate the beauty of the game. There are great throws by the quarterback, obstacle course-like runs by the running backs, and acrobatic catches by the wide receivers are highlights for the sport. However, when it comes to defense and blocks, football can turn into a literal battlefield.

On October 16 and 17 some devastating hits took place on both College Football and the NFL fields that triggered the notion of suspensions.

Eric LeGrand, a linebacker from Rutgers University, was paralyzed from the neck down after going in for a tackle off a kickoff against Army on October 16 at New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. On October 17, Detroit Lions rookie middle linebacker Zach Follett was carted off the field after taking a hit from New York Giants rookie safety Jason Pierre-Paul just a few yards from where LeGrand took his hit the day before.

"I think [football] is a physical sport. It's unfortunate these things happen," said Anthony Depinto, a 20-year old National Security Studies major from Saddlebrook.

Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison made some devastating hits against Josh Cribbs and Mohammed Massaquoi of the Cleveland Browns giving both players concussions. Harrison, however, showed no regret.

"I don't want to see anyone injured, but I'm not opposed to hurting anyone," said Harrison to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

"That doesn't make any sense," said Depinto in reaction to Harrison's comment.

Lucci, however, understood what Harrison was talking about. "I played football. I never wanted to see anyone hurt either, but if they did [get hurt] then tough luck. I think that's what [Harrison] meant. It's part of the game," said Lucci.

There have been suggestions that by suspending players for devastating hits, it would make the game of football too soft. Jeremy Salvador, a 22-year old Business Management major from Jersey City thinks the game will be softer, but better for the player's safety.

Continued on page 11

NJCU women's basketball looks to rebuild

By Carolina Garcia

As the 2010-2011 Women's basketball season kicks off, this young team has two main things in common with NJCU's previous teams- stress and uncertainty. For years the women's basketball team has been struggling in finding ways to win. Every year players become academically ineligible or lose confidence and sadly we often see new faces. This makes it hard to form good team chemistry within players. The recruiting process also becomes difficult when you don't have many positive things to tell prospective players about the program. We have never made it to the NJAC playoffs and can barely make .500.

All the good players instantly go to the main powerhouses like Kean or William Paterson. They

are satisfied with playing on a winning team while riding the bench. On the other hand, if they were to come to a school like NJCU, they would have an opportunity of a lifetime. There is no other place where you could make a name of yourself from the moment you step on the court as a freshman. NJCU gives all players a fair chance to leave their heart on the court. No one's position is guaranteed and every year there is a fight for a starting spot. The Gothic Knights start the season with a 12 player roster, and only 4 of them are returning players. There are some pre-season injuries, but everyone should be ready for their debut game at the Hunter Tip off Tournament on November 19th at 5pm.

Coach Sandra Nunez is coming into her first season as the Women's Basketball head coach.

She was assistant coach for the program the past 8 years until she took over. She was formerly a player at NJCU, and is familiar with the program's history. This upcoming season is clearly going to be a rebuilding one. The team has been focusing on basketball basics. They must be able to do the little things, like defense and rebounding, so that they can gradually improve. All the players must come into the season determined and focused. Their most experienced players coming back are junior guard Nidia Carmona, and sophomore small forward Maxine Kaminski. Another strong player will be sophomore Center, Brittany Bradshaw, who transferred from Harcum College which is in Bryn Marw, PA. She is anxious to start playing and her physical play during pre season has been very impressive. She will be one



Womens Basketball Head Coach Sandra Nunez

of the go to players. Alnisa Hernaiz and Maria Suarez are also both promising players for the program. If this young team gels well from the beginning, they should be able to upset a lot of teams who under estimate them and raise the hopes of a memorable season.

The Gothic Times is looking for a few good sports writers.

Contact Sports Editor, Alberto Arias, at gothictimes@njcu.edu.