



THE GOTHIC TIMES

The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University

Volume XXIV, Issue 3

GothicTimes.net

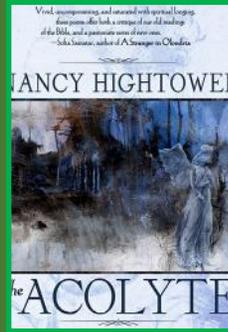
April 2016

Guy Who Made Childhood Possible



page 3

Literature and Faith: Feminist Revision



page 6

Superman

page 9



Hackensack Riverkeeper Sues NJCU Over West Campus Development

BY MICHAEL BARI

An environmental group is suing NJCU, alleging that the university breached a 2010 agreement by attempting to develop West Campus Building 6 on land that is capped to prevent exposure to chromium contamination.

In November 2015, Hackensack Riverkeeper, the environmental group that protects the Hackensack River and the communities surrounding it from pollution and environmental hazards, petitioned the federal court in Newark to enforce its 2010 Consent Decree, thereby blocking NJCU and its partner Honeywell International Inc.'s plan to construct a commercial building on land—a section of land beyond the new residence hall, bordering Route 440—deemed unfit for residential and any school use other than administrative. In response, NJCU claims it is operating within the environmental guidelines of New Jersey.

Sue Henderson, President of NJCU, said, "NJCU continues to work with Honeywell and [Hackensack] Riverkeeper so that the development fits under the guidelines that would be acceptable to the DEP," citing the

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's authority in approving the design of Building 6.

The contamination in question is chromium, a high-polish metal commonly used to make chrome bathroom fixtures and create stainless steel but is a known human carcinogen in certain forms and amounts. The chromium slag contamination of the West Campus dates to the early 20th century, well before Honeywell owned the property, but Honeywell inherited the responsibility of cleaning the land before developing on it. The land underneath the new West Campus Residence Hall, referred to as the residential area of concern, was remediated and poses no current danger to future residents.

In a phone interview, Alfred Ramey, NJCU's legal counsel, commented on the present state of the land beneath the residence hall: "If someone wanted to build a private, single family dwelling there, they could do it." Hackensack Riverkeeper's argument is instead concerned with the land underneath the proposed Building 6, referred to as the commercial area of concern.

In a settlement between Hackensack Riverkeeper, Honeywell and NJCU, it was

agreed that a protective cap be installed over the contaminated land beneath the planned Building 6 to prevent potential exposure, a pump-and-treat system be installed to remediate contaminated shallow groundwater and residential and school uses—again with the exception of administrative uses—be prohibited in the capped area. This agreement is memorialized by the 2010 Consent Decree, which Hackensack Riverkeeper argues NJCU and Honeywell breached by attempting to build on top of the capped land. Meanwhile, NJCU argues that the protective cap beneath this area can legally be breached so long as it is resealed according to the guidelines of the NJ DEP.

Continued on page 2

The contamination of the West Campus originates with the now-defunct Mutual Chemical Company, which dumped hundreds of tons of chromium that slag into the wetlands during the early 20th century. In 1954, the property was purchased by Honeywell International's corporate predecessor, Allied Signal.

NEWS



Taken by David Wilson

Continued from page 1

Citing NJCU's compliance with the NJ DEP guidelines, Ramey said, "The university is proceeding with the development of the West Campus in a manner that is consistent with the requirements and protocols of the [2010] Consent Decree deed notices and other applicable requirements."

The deed notices Ramey refers to are a part of the NJ DEP's protective measures regarding construction over contaminated land.

In an email interview, Bob Considine, press director of the NJ DEP, had this to say: "There are paragraphs within the deed notices on what disturbing a cap entails, with notification of obligation that the cap must be as protective at the end of the day as it was at the start of the day. In other words, if the cap was protective before a shovel is put in the ground, it has to be equally protective when finished."

NJCU has breached the protective cap before. In parking Lot 7, the installation of seven handicap bollards each penetrated the cap, the construction of a guard house breached the cap three times and the installation of a signpost breached the cap once. These breaches were repaired, but there is concern that repeated breaching and patching of the protective cap will result in a structurally weakened cap that will require complete replacement.

Captain Bill Sheehan of Hackensack Riverkeeper commented: "You would think an institution of higher learning would care more about the well-being of the environment and of its students."

If the Hackensack Riverkeeper cannot halt the construction of Building 6 entirely, it intends

Building 6 is slated to cost approximately \$60 million and will include a two-floor Shoprite, a two-floor L.A. Fitness, NCAA-compliant tennis courts, a rooftop restaurant, a recreational green area, and a five-story parking structure. This raises question about Building 6's intended school use—administrative or student.

to have an official called a "special master" appointed to oversee all of development of the West Campus. Monthly meetings will be held in which all parties will discuss all developments, issues and disagreements regarding West Campus. Based on the recommendation of the special master, development will either cease, proceed or parties can appeal the special master's recommendation in court.

The goal is to try to resolve disagreements without burdening a judge with the case. Alicia Alcorn, the attorney representing Hackensack Riverkeeper, stated: "The role of the special master is to assist the court in overseeing the monitoring for compliance with the Consent Decree during the redevelopment of the West Campus site."

Both sides presented their arguments in court on Thursday, Feb. 25, but there has been no decision by the judge to this reporter's knowledge. If there is no legal delay, construction of West Campus Building 6 could begin as soon as Summer 2016.



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Get Focused

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

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

Our meetings are held every Thursday at noon.

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

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

NEWS/FEATURES

Faculty Dining at NJCU

BY AIA KHIRY

The Faculty Dining room is located on the second floor of the Gillian Student Union Building. It is a private room for faculty, giving them an opportunity to enjoy a quiet meal. The faculty dining room is also available for staff, guests on campus and students invited by a faculty member. Gourmet Dining prepares the food just as it does for the student cafeteria.

Anthony Cinelli, the director of the food services at NJCU said, “I try to encourage faculty to bring students into the dining hall to enjoy a meal with their professor.” The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The dining area serves a full gourmet buffet with a hot entrée for \$7.50, starch and vegetable, wraps, salads, sliced fresh fruit, desserts and assorted beverages. It also has the option for a cold buffet at only \$6.95. This is to be paid in cash by faculty.

The faculty dining room was once named “The Round Table” and has been on the second floor since G-Sub has been opened, and that has been opened for about 50 years. When asked about the Faculty Dining Room, Daniel Tomasulo, a faculty member said, “I didn’t even know that there was a faculty dining room.” Professor Tomasulo has been a part of the NJCU community for the past 15 years.

Cinelli added, “I couldn’t tell you why they wouldn’t know about it, it’s totally advertised. I have the art department putting in art in the room to make it a little nicer; we have been trying to promote it. We have flyers around campus and our menu is on Facebook.”

Before the faculty dining room and before The Roundtable, there was a cafeteria in Vodra Hall and also a snack bar. This was during the 1970s. Along with a cafeteria, there used to be a bar that served wine and beer, according to Robert McBride, an associate vice president at NJCU. McBride has been working at NJCU since the early 1970s.



Taken by David Wilson



Photo Courtesy of www.exophase.com

Jerry Lawson: The Guy Who Made Childhood Possible

BY IAN ANDERSON

There is nothing more nostalgic than having to blow the dust out of the old Super Nintendo cartridge in order to make it work, sliding it into the console with surgical precision, waiting for the Nintendo logo to pop up onto the screen. When it finally does, I smile, teeming with joy as I go down memory lane, reminiscing about those sleepovers at friends’ houses, chugging Pepsi, devouring popcorn, and shredding the dreaded rainbow road track in Mario Kart.

Older now, not much has changed, except now it is chugging beer and devouring pizza while going on rampages in Grand Theft Auto V. Video games have come a long way, but things might have been different if not for Jerry Lawson, the inventor of the interchangeable video game cartridge.

Lawson was born in 1940, a black engineer hailing from New York. In 1976, he worked on the development of the first interchangeable cartridge video game system, the Fairchild Channel F. While cartridges were already being used, it was Lawson’s ingenuity that improved the cartridge system.

Lawson’s predecessors used switches that flipped in different combinations to play different games, depending on the cartridge used or the games built into the system itself. With Lawson’s upgrades, games could load more information for more modes, levels, and colors. There would be no need to use the switches on the console, all you had to do was plug in a cartridge and play. Rival consoles at the time adopted Lawson’s engineering to compete with the Fairchild Channel F.

Consoles that came after the Fairchild console have been using the ROM system ever since, except nowadays in which information is loaded onto a DVD instead of a cartridge.

Lawson died on April 9th, 2011 after a battle with diabetes. His work lives on, however, with every video game made after 1976. He remains an important part of gaming history, but also Black history.

FEATURES

The Library: More Than Just Books

BY LAURA KORTZ, ALICIA HAGGENMILLER,
ISAAC PLATIZKY

The library can be a kind of Rorschach test (inkblot test). People see a wide range of different things in each inkblot design, based on who they are and what their experiences have been. In the same way, students see different things at The Congressman Frank J. Guarini Library and use it in different ways.

What Do You Use the Library for?

Study Hall - Many students use the library primarily to study. The Hub on the first floor has tutors and open group study spaces, some with whiteboards. The second floor like the first has comfortable couches and computers. The third and fourth floors have individual study carrels, and large tables that you can use to spread out books, notebooks and laptops. The third floor has group study rooms; Students select an area that fits their personality.

Restrooms - Some students use the library just to go to the restroom! We have pretty nice restrooms on each of the four floors of the library and a Gender-Neutral restroom in the Dunkin' Donuts.

Computer Lab - Some students use the library primarily as a computer lab. Students can often be seen writing papers on the first, second and fourth floors because these floors have printers. Bring your own paper for the printers or purchase paper at the Circulation Desk for \$1.

Books - Other students like to check out books. We have over 300,000 in all subject areas from African American History to Zoroastrianism – and graphic novels too!

DVDs - The secret jewel of the second floor is our DVD collection. We have a wide range of DVDs from TV shows such as “The Walking Dead,” “Lost,” “Star Trek,” “Modern Family” and “Community.” The library also has the full series of “Buffy,” “Twilight Zone,” and “Tales from the Crypt.” We also have popular movies such as “Guardians of the Galaxy,” “Avengers” and “This is where I leave You.”

All you need is your Gothic ID card and you can take out up to five DVDs at a time, for a period of three days. Be sure to return DVDs on time because there is a \$1 late fee charged to each overdue item.



What's Your Library Score?

Give yourself 1 (one) point for each type of Library use:

Scores:

1-2 Could be better

3-4 Doing well

5 Excellent - Getting your Money's Worth!



Photos Provided by Laura Kortz

FEATURES

History is still Important

BY DAVID MOSCA

Several professors gathered in GSUB on Wednesday, March 2nd, to discuss the importance of archiving history. The event, “Mothballs and MP3s: Fun Digging in the Archives,” was hosted by NJCU’s Ellen Gruber Garvey, who has taught in NJCU’s English department for 20 years, and Michael Bari, a member of the Students Events and Publications Committee.

“Archiving is something we have specialists in at NJCU,” said Bari. “It seems like students take that for granted because we always have information ready for us to study. It’s important to know the work that goes into uncovering history and preserving it.”

Garvey, the first presenter for the event, spoke about historical scrapbooks. Garvey mentioned how scrapbooks “tell us what mattered to people and show us the things that were important them.”

Garvey also talked about how abolitionists mined the press as a database and even how our ancestors managed the enormous amounts of information that they were flooded with for the past 100 years.

“Some families have probably felt that their family papers were worth saving,” said Garvey. “There should be a record of all of us.”

Garvey’s published works include: *Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks from the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance*, and *The Adman in the Parlor: Magazines and the Gendering of Consumer Culture, 1880s to 1910s*. Garvey also edits the journal *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*.

The event also featured English professor Joy A.J. Howard, who in her presentation “Hearing Silenced Voices in the Archives,” discussed the reconstruction of the life of Rebecca Kellogg, an English child who was held as captive amongst Native Americans, until being integrated into their society during the 1700s. Howard said she “was very interested in this one woman’s story.”

Howard also talked about how some pieces of Kellogg’s life were not written by her and there was no information on Kellogg or her family.

“What can we do when there is no particular information about one person,” asked Howard in regards to tracking down information about Kellogg’s life. “It’s apparent that not all archives contain certain information.”

Howard’s publications include: *Women of Faith and the Pen: Anna Maria van Schurman, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Anne Bradstreet*, *Jonathan Edwards’s Metaphors of Sin in Indian Country*, *Shaping Narrative: Julia A. J. Foote’s Theology of Holiness*, and *Profile: Julia A. J. Foote (1823-1901)*.

The final presenter, Professor Sonya Donaldson, discussed her manuscript, “Irreconcilable Differences? Memories, History, and the Echoes of Diaspora,” which talks about autobiographical narratives by Afro-European and African American writers and artists. Donaldson’s work is also aimed at helping us consider how these writers and artists create sites of shared memory within and outside of the nation paradigm. Donaldson’s works have been included in publications such as: “After the Berlin Wall: Hip Hop and the Politics of German Reunification.” *Special Issue of African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal*, “How I Use Pinterest To Explore the Difficulties of Violence Against Black Women and Girls.” *The Feminist Wire*, and “Cracking the Genomics Code.” *Annual Editions: Race and Ethnic Relations*.

During the events Q & A, the presenters talked about their first archive experiences, how Youtube.com works as an archive for both sonic and visual matter, and the availability of information in general. It was also mentioned how students may not only take advantage of the historical materials that are presented to them, but how the information they’re looking for might not always be there. In regards to this, Michael Bari stated that “when dealing with certain material, including digital material, we feel an obligation to steal the information and store it for ourselves before it gets erased.”



THE HUB
Centralized Tutoring Center
ESL, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, WRITING

Congressman Frank J. Guarini Library,
First Floor
www.njcu.edu/thehub

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(201) 200-3513





FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

 @THEGOTHICTIMES

 FACEBOOK.COM/
THEGOTHICTIMES

 @THEGOTHICTIMES



FEATURES

Literature and Faith: Feminist Revision

BY NICOLE COLON

Poet and novelist Nancy Hightower recently read from her new book of poems "The Acolyte," as part of the Writers on Campus series, an event was held in the NJCU bookstore, sponsored by the English Department's Student Events and Publications Committee.

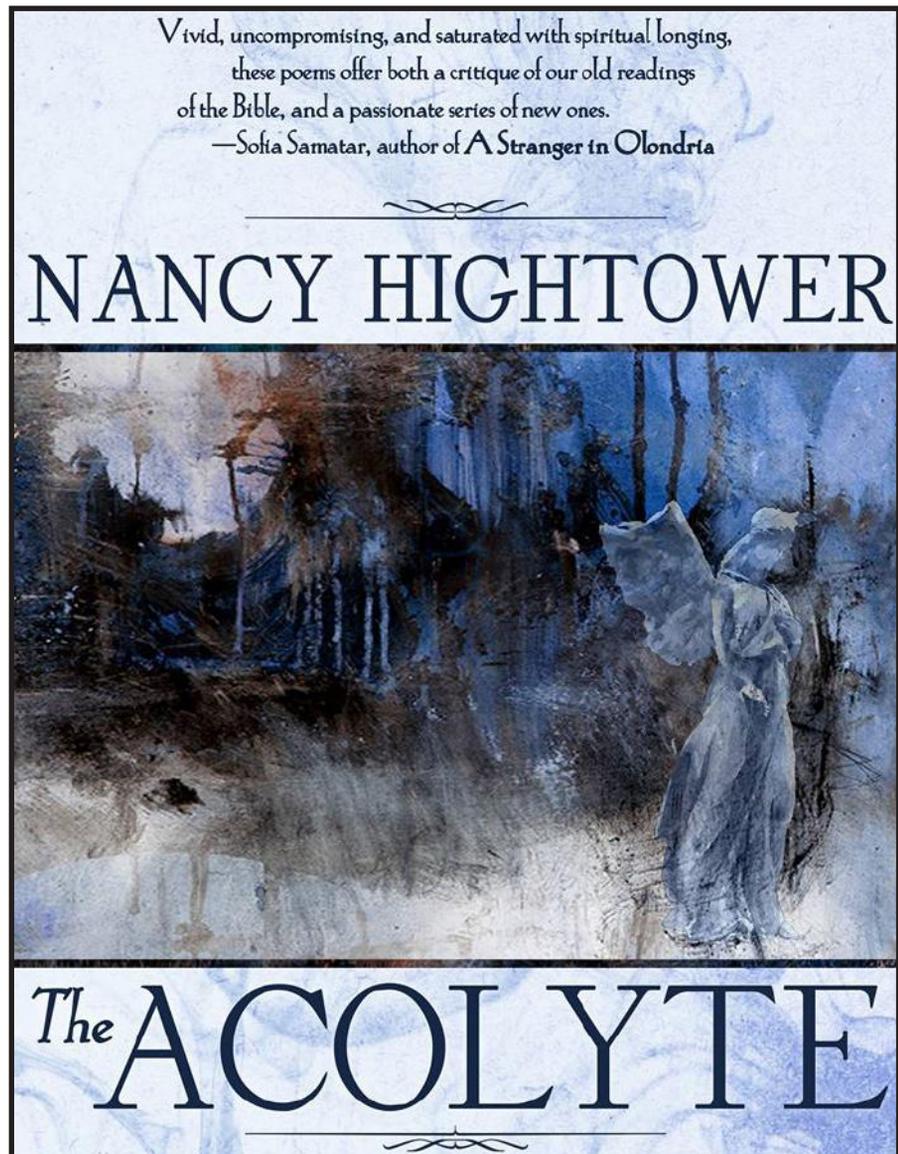
As English Professor Edvige Giunta said during her introduction, Hightower, "Revisits biblical characters...and really transforms them." In the book Hightower takes the stories of familiar and unfamiliar biblical characters and brings new light to the stories that are well known and have been publicized for many years, as well as stories that some do not realize exist within the bible.

"It was hard to see the verses politicized and used to oppress...I couldn't let that go anymore," said Hightower, when asked why she decided to take on this particular topic. "There was a lack of close reading...[and] there is feminist rhetoric, but people pick and choose what they want [to use]."

Hightower has published short fiction and poetry in "The New York Quarterly," "storySouth," "Word Riot," and many others. She received her PhD in English Creative Writing from the University of Denver, and taught at the University of Colorado. Currently she lives in New York and reviews science fiction and Fantasy for "The Washington Post." In 2013 she published her first fantasy novel with Pink Narcissus Press.

Before even starting the revision/rewriting project, it took Hightower a year of close reading to become further acquainted with the bible she had known all her life.

Hightower describes the work she has done in the book as "Mildly surreal to horrifying." The first part of the collection are poems that describe her relationship and struggles with spirituality as she was growing up in the "Christian South." The second part is the rewriting of biblical stories, most of which include the women whose stories are rarely or never told. The stories of Eve, Mary,



Sarah, Leah, and Tamar are retold from the perspective of the women.

The men of the bible are also revisited by Hightower; Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are among Hightower's most written about. During the event she kept the mood light with the introduction of some of her pieces. Of her piece about Jacob, Hightower said, "What I love about Jacob is that his family makes the Kardashians look like the Brady Bunch."

But she also expressed the difficulty of coming to terms with the darker side of religion, "I'm still a believer...I saw the darkest part of the church, [but] it grows more through doubt. Honest and gritty faith seems more real."

Hightower went on to explain the struggles of getting through the darker pieces she wrote in her book. One poem in particular, "SHE," Hightower provides a

trigger warning for, and in fact refuses to do it at readings. She said, "There are some that I had to go to a dark place in order to write... [I] had to drive a little while and stop, drive a little while and stop, for every two lines." In the book itself, the poem is introduced with a quote from Judges 19:25-26.

From the mild surreal-ness of her opening poem, "REM," which Hightower expresses was inspired by a dream map that "birthed all these different genres," to the horrifying acts Hightower brought to light with a visceral retelling through the eyes of a victim in "SHE," "The Acolyte" is a prime example of what not only revision, but feminist revision can do to and for literature and faith.

Hightower's "The Acolyte," as well as her fantasy novel, "Elementari Rising," are available on Amazon.

A&E

A Look Inside "The Life of Pablo"

BY SHANELLE SMITH

With futuristic beats, fun features and newsworthy lines, Kanye West's seventh album "The Life of Pablo" is worth listening to. In it, "Yezy" talks relationships, religious beliefs and a bit of politics – mixed with the signature beats and scandalous lyrics he is known for.

West begins the album by removing all devils from the atmosphere with the help of social media stars Samoria and Natalia Green. We hear their voices sing: "we want the lord/ and that's it" in the song "Ultralight Beam," in effort to remove all negativity. Unafraid to display his love for God through his rap music, West describes his faith in a few songs, including "Father Stretch My Hands part 1 & 2," "Highlights" and "Ultralight Beam." West teamed up with songstress Kelli Price, and R&B recording artist and producer The Dream, and Chance the Rapper, to discuss the battles of believing, reassuring through lyrics that he will remain spiritually faithful. Venturing into the metaphysical world, West explains human existence on earth: "We on a ultralight beam/ This is God Dream."

"Low Lights" is the only track on the album that does not have Kanye's voice but includes an acapella sample of Sandy Rivera's "King of Tomorrow's." Of that track, West says, "I put 'Low Lights' on my album just thinking about all the moms driving they kids to school then going to work." The inspirational track describes the security in understanding that one day you will be accepted for who you are and not have to worry about suffering.

Well known for stirring up controversy, Kayne West does just that with a line in his song "Famous," that references Taylor Swift owing him sex because he made her well-known.

Fire blazing beats over piano organs, a hint of reggae, and a collaboration with Rhianna and Swiss Beats gives "Famous" the edge and the appeal to become a summer classic; despite Kayne's rants on the song. West capitalizes on the catchy beats to spit his wicked lines that are bound to keep the media that he seems to hate talking about his album.

"The Life of Pablo" is an art piece that is guaranteed to make any listener contemplate friendships ("Real Friends,") relationships ("30 Hours") and of course politics ("Feedback.") No matter how you feel about Kanye, "The Life of Pablo" is a work of art that will leave you appreciative of West's creative work, whether you're a fan or not.



Photo Courtesy of EPK.TV and A24films.com

There is Evil in the Woods: A Review of "The Witch"

BY MICHAEL BARI

Traditional jump-scares, commonplace in too many horror films, fail to create sustained tension. The empty house, the creaky floor, the buildup, the tracking shot, the red herring and the "BOO GOTCHA!!!" are successful enough at creating temporary tension, but the audience's easily gleaned awareness of a coming jump-scare only slightly precedes the awareness that the tension is momentary. Robert Eggers' "The Witch" detests this common failure, instead aiming to submerge itself in tension, and even when the credits roll, the tension does not subside.

The premise is simple enough. In 17th century Puritan New England—it is worth noting Eggers works hard to maintain historical accuracy in architecture, fashion, and language—a family is banished from its colony and settles on an isolated piece of land bordering a forest. When crops fail, an infant goes missing and strange occurrences plague the family, the strength of their connection and trust is tested to the fullest extent, each moment adding to a distinct sense of foreboding and doom.

Perhaps this needs to be said. "The Witch" is less about witches than it is about the paranoia generated by the fear of witches. The witch in question is barely ever present yet simultaneously omnipresent. The beautiful, otherworldly moments where the witch shows herself are memorable highlights, but the consequences of the witch's presence dominate the screen. Every shot of the film drips with anxiety. Something is obviously amiss, but the compositions offer little visual justification for the constant sense of unease.

The film's score lends power to this unease. There are moments of uncomfortable silence, swelling, ghostly—or perhaps witchy—female choirs and moments of trickery where the line blurs between set noise and musical score. The choirs in particular—along with an entire sequence, not so subtly—allude to "The Shining." Personally, I find this to be endearing. Eggers is clearly attempting to declare a return to Kubrickian, gothic terror rather than purely sensual horror, and any allusion to

Continued on page 8

A&E / OP/ED

Continued from page 7

Kubrick is something I appreciate.

The visual and aural otherworldliness provides a backdrop to a heartbreaking and disturbing domestic drama. Repression is the theme, and this family suffers under its weight. Ralph Ineson's William desperately attempts to maintain his faith in spite of his failure to provide for his family. Kate Dickie's overwhelmingly distraught Elizabeth cannot cope with her failure to protect her infant son. Harvey Scrimshaw's Caleb confronts the shame of his blossoming, teenaged sexuality. The star of these Puritan failures, however, is Anya Taylor-Joy. Engrossing and sympathetic, Taylor-Joy's Thomasin is a feminist heroine. Her suffering and existential awakening in the face of puritanical repression are truly a joy to behold. The film's themes all converge in Thomasin, and Anya Taylor-Joy handles the thematic weight of her character with grace.

Graceful handling of theme is the greatest strength of "The Witch." The film operates on multiple levels within its 90-minute running time: the witch as a force of Nature in a frontier where humans struggle to establish themselves; the Puritan family as a product of the constant repressive forces of religion; both threads converging by placing the feminine at a freedom-slavery crossroad. Impressively, "The Witch" never feels heavy handed in its handling of these topics. Eggers treats his themes with respect and understands their significance in the specific context of American history. As a result of Eggers' care, "The Witch" is an essential look at the folklore that shaped American religious and cultural identity.

5 out of 5



Photo Courtesy of EPK.TV and A24films.com

America is Angry and America is Afraid

BY DAVID MELGAR

Some of the recent campaign slogans of our presidential candidates, such as "A Political Revolution is Coming," or "Make America Great Again" seem to befit dystopic cinema rather than the race for the country's highest office. Republicans had record voter turnout in the Iowa caucus, while Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders lost to former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton (formerly thought a shoo-in) by less than a percent. Demagogic Donald Trump continues to reign over the pack of "establishment" Republicans, all eager to reveal their rivals as the most establishment among them.

What is motivating these high voter turn-outs? Why the disdain for politicians who in the past were considered ideal nominees?

Anger and frustration. In many cases, anything perceived as too "insider" or tainted by the political process is met with active hostility or cries of compromise, with moderation the new dirty word. Recall Senator Ted Cruz's recent criticism of Trump having "New York values" to try and scare off conservative voters, for example.

Years of apathy and dissatisfaction have resulted in an electorate bitter and steaming mad. This can be best felt in the GOP where half of Republican voters (who skew older, so also skewing more cynical and jaded) in New Hampshire felt betrayed by party officials according to "US News," with Jeb Bush seeing the brunt of this antipathy as he fell behind newcomers like Cruz, Rubio, and Carson. Paralleling this, young voters have a magnetic pull towards Senator Sanders, disillusioned by the perceived moderateness of Clinton.

During an interview with Professor Fran Moran of NJCU's Political Science department, we touched on how all this upheaval is happening amidst the breakdown of the major parties power: "It's a function of the changing ways we're getting information these days," Moran said. "People aren't relying on the classic newspapers, network news, not even cable news... with social media, you can get to the people. Trump is a master on Twitter! Sanders, same thing with the #FeelTheBern! ...These outsiders have the opportunity to raise ridiculous amounts of money so it's become more difficult for the Party established leaders to control the process."

Populist figures are nothing new in American politics, but we are seeing a channeling of public rage soaring to new heights and giving way to fear. Persistent economic weakness, widespread and quick social change, disillusionment with the American Dream are affecting all Americans, but in different ways. Polarization has become the name of the game. Regarding the unhealthy trends across the aisle, Moran said, "It's [become] a sign of weakness to compromise, and our system was not designed to handle that."

Many liberal voters fear police brutality and militarization, systemic racism and poverty, and the threat of another war. Conservatives fear the rapid social change and discord that's echoed across the country, big government depleting and wasting tax money, and illegal immigration. Many of these lines are often along other demographic lines as well: "I think the generational one is important in that the voters, 21-30 age group doesn't know the Clinton administration, doesn't remember that. Ethnically I think a lot of Trump's appeal was from that shrinking part of that electorate: older, white, non-college-educated, and those numbers are shrinking. In the last election, the Republican Party went through some soul-searching and they decided they had to reach more Latino voters, more minority voters, and then they end up with a policy that's against immigration," Moran added, touching on the Republican base's complaints that the losses of the party were from not being right enough and pandering to moderates.

Continued on page 11

A&E

A History of the World's Finest

BY DAVID MOSCA

Out beyond the stars on a doomed planet, a brilliant father and mother place their only child inside a capsule that would carry him to Earth. This was done not just for the survival of their culture, but so that their son would live to accomplish wonders. But you know this story. It's been told and retold for decades. It's the story of Superman, Earth's greatest protector. He had many names: The Last Son of Krypton, The Man of Tomorrow, and The Man of Steel.

More than a comic book character, he's a cultural icon. Superman was born from the minds of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. During the early years of their partnership, Siegel and Shuster would publish a story in their own fanzine, *Science Fiction: The Advance Guard of Human Civilization*, in 1933. The story was titled as "The Reign of the Superman," a tale about a bald human who would gain telepathic abilities which he used for villainous purposes. The story was a one-off, and a year later Siegel and Shuster redesigned the character completely. Instead of a character that used his powers for evil, he would use them for the good of mankind. The Superman we know had been born, but for four years Siegel and Shuster would struggle with finding a publisher. They eventually went to National Allied Publications, which would become known as DC Comics.

Superman debuted in *Action Comics #1*, which ran as an anthology series featuring several stories in each issue. Superman was featured on the cover of the first issue and saw success instantly. In his first appearance, Superman would be given an alter ego to blend in with humanity known as Clark Kent. The character's first story, "Superman, Champion of the Oppressed," also saw the first appearance of the intrepid reporter Lois Lane, as well as George Taylor, Editor in Chief of the *Daily Star*. However, due to the increasing popularity and demand of the character, *Action Comics*



Provided by David Wilson

exclusively became a Superman comic beginning in issue #19. The Golden Age of Comics had begun.

In his early stories, Superman had a limited set of abilities which included super speed, super strength, and impenetrable skin. Despite these amazing feats of strength, this was a Superman that could still be harmed. If happenstance would grant it, the Man of Steel could be knocked out cold by a runaway locomotive. It may surprise fans to know that Superman couldn't fly when he made his debut. Leaping tall buildings in a single bound was literal – he could only jump a mile high. The first Superman cartoons in the 1940's, created by animation pioneer Max Fleischer, would grant the hero with the ability to fly. Following that it was heat vision, freeze breath, the possibilities were endless.

The 1940's would also grant the Man of Steel his first major villains. It was time to say goodbye to the smalltime thugs that would appear in each issue. In *Action Comics #23*, he would meet the man who would become his greatest enemy, Lex Luthor, the billionaire,

gifted scientist, sociopath, diabolical genius - potentially the smartest man on the planet.

The 1950's sent Superman to unprecedented heights. After an overnight success in comic books, radio dramas, cartoons, and serials, Superman would finally receive his first feature length film, *Superman and the Mole Men*. Starring George Reeves as the titular character and Phyllis Coates as Lois Lane, the film would serve as the predecessor to the 50's television series *The Adventures of Superman*, with Reeves and Coates reprising their roles. The series ran from 1952 – 1958. The show ended after Reeves was found dead in his home. His death was ruled as a suicide, some claiming it was because he was typecast for his role as

Continued on page 10

Fun Fact - With the upcoming *Batman v Superman* movie closely approaching, it might be interesting to note that Metallo was originally meant to be the villain in the next Superman movie before it was decided that Superman would face Batman.

A&E

Timeline of Villain Appearances:

April, 1940 – Lex Luthor
 September, 1943 – The Toyman
 September, 1944 – Mister Mxyzptlk
 July, 1958 – Brainiac
 October, 1958 – Bizarro
 May, 1959 – Metallo
 April, 1961 – General Zod
 August, 1966 – The Parasite
 November, 1970 – Darkseid
 February, 1971 – Kalibak
 May, 1977 – Faora
 November, 1980 – Mongul
 November, 1992 – Doomsday
 June, 1993 – Cyborg Superman

Timeline of Superman's History:

April 18th, 1938 – Superman debuts in Action Comics #1
 1939 – Superman #1 is released
 1941 – Max Fleischer releases the first Superman animated shorts.
 1948 – The black and white film serial “Superman” is released, starring Kirk Alyn.
 -“The Origin of Superman” is released, featuring the characters first updated origin story.
 1950 – Action Comics is no longer an anthology and becomes a Superman title.
 1951 – The first Superman movie, “Superman and the Mole Men” is released, starring George Reeves.

1952 – “The Adventures of Superman” series airs on television. George Reeves reprises his role.
 1960 – “The World of Bizarros!” story is published, featuring the backwards Bizarro World.
 1967 – The race between Superman and the Flash
 1972 – “Must There Be a Superman?” is released. It's noted for its questions about Superman's involvement in world affairs.
 1978 – Superman: The Movie is released, starring Christopher Reeve.
 1980 – Superman II is released.
 1985 – “For The Man Who Has Everything” is released by Alan Moore of “Watchmen” fame.
 1986 – “Whatever Happened to the Man of Tomorrow?” – the imaginary final tale of Superman – is released with Alan Moore writing once again.
 -“The Man of Steel” miniseries is released, updating Superman's origin story once again.
 1988 – Superman #22 (Vol. 2) is released. Superman executes General Zod.
 1991 – Action Comics #662 is released. Lois Lane discovers Superman's secret identity.
 1992 – “The Death of Superman” is published, seemingly killing off Superman after his battle with Doomsday.
 1993 – “Funeral for a Friend” is published detailing the aftermath of Superman's demise.
 -The “Reign of the Supermen” storyline begins, featuring the debuts of the Eradicator, Steel, Superboy, and Cyborg Superman.

-“The Return of Superman” is released, bringing the Man of Steel back from the dead and now with long hair and a new black suit with a silver S symbol.
 1996 – Superman's original look is restored. Clark Kent and Lois Lane are married.
 -Superman: The Animated Series premieres on television.
 -“Kingdom Come,” a four part miniseries by Mark Waid is released. Notable for Superman's battle with Captain Marvel.
 2004 – Superman: Birthright, the next origin update, is released by Mark Waid of “Kingdom Come” fame.
 2006 – Grant Morrison's “All-Star Superman” is published, which has been highly regarded as the greatest Superman story written.
 -“Last Son,” the story that reintroduces General Zod is released.
 -Superman Returns, the spiritual successor to Superman II, is released starring Brandon Routh.
 2009 – The “Brainiac” storyline is published
 -“Superman: Secret Origin,” another origin update, is released
 2011 – Action Comics #900 is released. Superman renounces his American citizenship.
 2012 – Justice League #12 (Vol. 2) is released. Superman and Wonder Woman begin their romantic relationship.

Continued from page 9

Superman, never being able to receive work elsewhere.

During the mid-1950's, comic book writers were no longer allowed to tackle mature issues in their stories. Due to concern over the content being produced, the Comics Code Authority (CCA) was created in order to regulate what was put into the pages. During this time, and for the next 15 years, Superman truly lived as the embodiment of “Truth, Justice, and the American Way.” He served as an ambassador of good will all around the world, always making the right decisions. This was the classic Superman everyone was familiar with: the Big Blue Boy Scout.

As time would pass, Superman's powers would increase along with wealth of new allies and villains. His origin story would be updated periodically in order to entice new readers. As times changed, Superman would learn to adapt,

but the character was never compromised. When the CCA began to fade away, Superman's stories would begin to reflect what was happening in society once again (Action Comics #42, Vol. 2, is an interesting take on police brutality).

Superman managed to remain popular amongst fans throughout the 70's and 80's, especially after Warner Bros. released the first modern Superman films. Superman's popularity was never at stake, with some of the characters greatest stories told throughout the 80's by legendary comic book writer Alan Moore, who most famous for writing the highly popular comic book known as “Watchmen.” When the 1990's rolled in, things were changing. New superheroes were coming into the picture and they were willing to cross lines that Superman wouldn't. These Anti-Heroes proved popular amongst readers looking for edgier content. This revelation made DC feel that Superman was no longer relevant, so they decided that they would kill off the character in

the famous “Death of Superman” storyline. The story was one of DC's greatest successes and when the story concluded, people wanted more Superman. It had been proven that the character was still relevant to the fans and Superman was brought back to life, of course with a new look to reflect the 90's. The character would eventually return to his more classic look, and the Man of Steel would continue to see success. Modern Superman stories were well noted for showing the one thing Superman wanted more than anything in the world: to be human. This internal struggle proved to be one of the stronger elements of the Superman mythos. Despite his own internal struggles, he has never stopped being a beacon of hope to those who believe in him and his fight for truth and justice. Despite his alien origins, Superman was perhaps the greatest dichotomy to the world. Even with all of his god-like abilities, he's perhaps more human than all of us.

OP/ED

Continued from page 8

Now the death of Justice Antonin Scalia has left a vacancy where a defiant Republican Senate (led by Mitch McConnell) is outright refusing hearings, let alone a positive vote, on any nominee Obama chooses – in stark contrast to Reagan’s nomination of Justice Kennedy in his last year, and Scalia’s own wish to not leave a vacancy open for political points. If even the supposedly highest court has been reduced to a partisan bludgeon in our fractious nation, where will we be by 2020?

Fear is defining debates and fear is controlling popular discourse, as Americans feel that all their anger means nothing as they are ignored and left behind. We make enemies of friends and opponents in this mess. When

we vote in primaries this May or in elections in November, let us rise above this fear that threatens to engulf us all.

Get Out and Vote (in the Primaries)

On June 7th New Jersey will hold its presidential primaries where party members can choose from among their candidates for the nomination. In many ways, this is actually more important than the general election. The Electoral College is winner-take-all, state-by-state, so that if a party wins a majority in a given state, all of that state’s electors are forced (excepting Maine and Nebraska) to back that party’s candidate. Mostly-Democratic New Jersey will see its delegates backing whoever the Democratic Party’s candidate is. In contrast, a primary vote cast to determine

said candidate (or the Republican candidate) actually holds some weight in determining each party’s nominee for the presidency.

We have closed primaries, meaning one has to be a registered party member to vote. Independent voters can simply declare at their primary the day of so long as they are registered voters. However, voters who wish to switch parties must do so 55 days or more prior to the primary. Becoming a party member does not force you to vote one way or another in the general election.

The general election on November 8th is nationwide, and includes votes for Representatives, Senators, and possibly more depending upon where you live, for example, mayoral races.

2015-2016 Gothic Times Editorial Board Members

GSUB, 2039 Kennedy Blvd, Room 301
Jersey City, NJ 07305 · 201-200-3575
gothictimes@gmail.com

Ana M. Acosta..... Editor in Chief
Amber Vaughn Marketing Manager
Camille Ancheta.....Production Manager
Michael A. BariNews Editor
Nicole ColonFeatures Editor
Rachel McItnyre Sports Editor
Christian Mattos.....Gothic Knights
Radio Podcast

MaDeja Adams..... Op/Ed Editor
Emmanuel Lebron A&E Editor
Stephanie Susberick Copy Editor
David WilsonPhotographer
Theta PavisAdvisor

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook.com/GothicTimes



@TheGothicTimes @TheGothicTimes

Embracing a Jersey City Casino

BY JOSEPH SEVERINI

New Jersey voters should embrace a recent proposal to build a casino, hotel and convention center in Jersey City. The project will create over 25,000 jobs and bring revenue to the state, which has been suffering from an economic drought.

Paul Fireman, the former chief executive of Reebok and a well-known business mogul, is behind the proposal. Fireman plans to have the \$4.6 billion project include not only a world class casino and hotel, but also a 100,000 seat sports stadium, residences and the largest Ferris wheel in the world, all which would be located on the harbor and stand face-to-face with the new World Trade Center.

The colossal project would be remarkable for Jersey City because of its potential to bring thousands of jobs into the state, including in sales, management, entertainment, security, marketing, construction, food services, hotel operations and human resources. These job openings will help cut down Hudson County’s unemployment rate which is currently just over 6 percent. The attraction itself will bring in tourists and generate more money for the

economy. However, the only way to make Fireman’s proposal a reality is if New Jersey voters are willing to change the state’s 40-year-old constitution.

In 1976, when New Jersey became the second state behind Nevada to legalize casino gambling, voters agreed to let Atlantic City hold a monopoly of the industry. At the time, no one would have suspected that the “Las Vegas of the East Coast” would die out in just four short decades. The city’s casino revenues have dropped from more than \$5 billion dollars, to \$2.6 billion dollars since 2006. Many opponents of casino gambling have argued that the casino industry is fading out, and the idea of building a casino in north Jersey would not help the current economic situation. However, the casino industry is not dead, Atlantic City is.

I remember taking trips with my family down to Atlantic City as a child; walking on the bleached sand, or strolling through the casinos, in astonishment of the lights, atmosphere and howling men and women shoving money into their favorite slots. Atlantic City had, and still has, a lot of potential. The problem is, it became too much to handle. The city’s government focused strictly on the casino and resort entities, and forgot entirely about the people who lived there. The town is now plagued with drugs and prostitution. However, the difference

Continued on page 11

SPORTS / OP/ED

Continued from page 11

between Atlantic City and Fireman's proposal is that he plans to construct one property, not an entire town of properties. With good security, a distinct, stand-alone casino would be much easier to regulate.

If New Jersey voters approve a bill to rid Atlantic City's monopoly of casino gambling, it will give a chance for other parts of the state to take on the mission of building standalone casinos/ hotels; a task that our bordering states have certainly tackled, and ultimately relished in financially. According to an article published last year in "USA Today," Pennsylvania, which only legalized casino gambling in 2004, surpassed New Jersey in 2012 to hold the number two spot in casino revenue with \$3.16 billion (compared to New Jersey's \$3 billion at the time). Undeniably, states bordering New Jersey are bringing in large casino-generated profits. New Jersey needs to ditch AC's collapsing control and jump on the band wagon.

If Fireman's proposal were brought to life, it would be met with many opponents who argue that casinos promote gambling addiction. According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, 2 million (or 1 percent) of U.S. adults are estimated to meet the criteria for pathological gambling in a given year.

In a poll conducted by NJ.com, 66 percent of people said New Jersey voters should roll the dice and approve relinquishing Atlantic City's control. There is no denying that building a casino property in the heart of Jersey City is a gamble all on its own, but to quote Mayor Steven Fulop (from an interview he gave to "The New York Times" in 2014): "You've got to think big, the opportunity to have a world-class facility on the waterfront is significant from a job-creation standpoint, for tax relief and for tourism. Paul Fireman is capable of executing something like this."

As the positives logically outweigh the negatives, voters should think twice about holding onto Atlantic City's monopoly, and ponder giving Fireman's proposal a chance. It will not only be an immense opportunity for Jersey City, but for the state as a whole.

The Tennis Family of NJCU



BY ELIEZER FLORES

Laughter and chatter fills the room as a group of girls wait for their meeting to begin at G-sub 308. Jan Apys Osea, new coach of NJCU's Girls Tennis Club, sits down in the middle of the girls. The meeting commences with details about their first practice of the semester. Elation sets in on their faces as the club is closer to being recognized as a team. "I am really excited to start playing already," Cierra Premph sophomore Political Science major and co-captain of the girls tennis club said, "to be a first generation or founding member."

The new school year brought change for the club, as Osea takes over from ex-coach Jane Selegan. Alice De Fazio, Director of Athletics in NJCU, said, "Coach Selegan couldn't make the commitment but we have the right man (Coach Osea) for the job as he gets it." Jan is an alumni of NJCU and knows firsthand about the university. "Coaching is beyond teaching and skills, rallying the troops is important," De Fazio said, "Jan is doing a wonderful at rallying up the club."

The club is currently composed of eleven players. The team trained diligently last semester on the fundamentals of the game in New York City. Now Osea is focusing on being well rounded players. The athletes will be working on their movements on the court and cardio will be key to future success on the court. The club currently practices Monday mornings from 9-11 a.m. at Saint Peter's University. Weekend practices will be held in the tennis courts at Lincoln Park 2-4 pm beginning March 13th. "Practicing at a closer proximity has its advantages compared to having to go to the city (New York City)" Rachel Echeverria freshman said, "The practices last year were a great experience helping build chemistry and

learning the fundamentals from coaches and teammates."

Outside of practices the women keep in constant communication through group texts and emails over different topics such as attending the schools volleyball games, what items need to be bought for a fund raising event, or who has kept up with their workouts. "Team relationship and communication vastly improved from last year," Asia Goode Junior health education major and co-captain of the club said, "The club has given me a sense of belong to something on campus."

"They are champs as their progression is beyond our expectations, De Fazio said, "They are all good students even if it is a club they are bound to the rules." Osea is currently beginning the arduous task of recruiting players that are students first and athletes. Current member were recruited on campus through flyer or email as Asia did. Others heard from other students "that there is going to be a tennis team and I emailed the coach." Rachel said. Osea has informally introduced himself to the current high school coaches though email, but he intends to travel to tennis matches in Hudson County this season. "It is essential for future recruits to know who I am and more importantly to know that NJCU will be having a tennis team." Coach Osea does have a message to the women at NJCU, "If you have experience or want to play tennis please contact me at janoseajan@gmail.com."

The tennis club is aspiring to be recognized as a team under the guidelines of the NCAA by the fall of 2017 for its inaugural season. Players such as Rachel are "excited to be the first members of the tennis team, but shocked a little that is the first ever women's tennis team. Others, as Asia, summarize, "I feel great being a founding member, but I want people to know to know Asia did something in school aside from getting my diploma."