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Courtesy of Julie Peterson



Ambitious West Campus in Progress

Diana Sanchez

Op/Ed Editor

NJCU's long-term project, University Place, involves leasing land to developers for four large private residential buildings. These mixed-use buildings will be constructed just off of West Side Avenue near the West Campus Village dorms that opened in 2016.

These buildings will offer market rate housing and other amenities such as retail shops. NJCU has entered into a 50-year ground lease agreement with two developers, Claremont Construction Group and KKF University Enterprises LLC. In a phone interview Aaron Aska, NJCU's vice president of Administration and Finance said the leases would give the uni-



versity \$1.4 million a year for the life of the lease agreement. "NJCU is expected to receive the full amount of ground lease rent starting in 2024. The \$1.4 million in ground lease rent is expected to escalate at the CPI [Consumer Price Index], or another reasonable index." The university has yet to negotiate a second possible index.

One of the developers, Claremont, began working on a \$43 million building in October 2016 and it is due to open

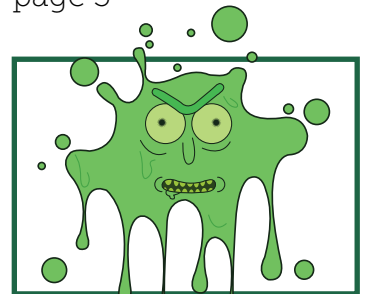
in 2018. Claremont is planning for this building to be more than 200,000 square feet. An NJCU press release said that it will have more than 100 apartments, and have approximately 170 parking spaces.

Building one will feature retail on the ground floor, housing on the upper floors and a two-story garage. Residents can come in via South Road which

**continued on
next page**



Profile of a Dreamer
page 3



**Your Fandom
is Toxic**
page 8



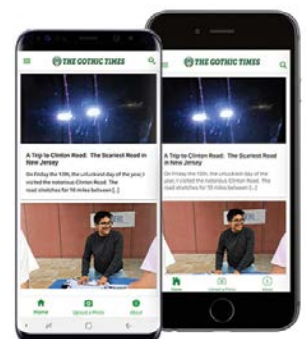
**Journey to the
College Field**
page 11

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continued from previous page

will be renamed Gothic Knights Road.

On September 20th, another company, KKF began building the second of the four proposed developments. It is a \$50 million project. KKF will also be constructing a third building. In a university press release from September the development of both the second and the third building was described as “the \$83 million P3 (Public-Private Partnership) residential project, led by KKF University Inc. LLC, will build two building [sic] that will have a combined 301 market-rate apartments, more than 11,000 square feet of transformative commercial space on West Side Avenue, and parking for 303 vehicles.”

The fourth residential building will be developed by KKF. It is expected to break ground in Spring 2019. Aska says, “It will have 152 apartments and 12,000 gross feet of retail on the

ground floor.”

In a 2016 online article published in Real Estate NJ, Richard Sciarretta, an official from the Claremont company, was quoted as saying “Some of the rents for these apartments, in comparison to the residential towers by the waterfront, would be 30-35 percent less.” Some apartments in downtown Jersey City, for example, 70 Greene (a 49-story apartment building) can cost as much as \$2,210 for a studio alone.

According to NJCU’s press release, this large scale plan is meant to “enhance Jersey City’s West Side and have an enormous economic impact.”

In addition, Sciarretta also said University Place will hopefully attract college freshmen and their parents and veer them away from the other state schools that are in competition with NJCU.

NJCU will use the funds from the ground leases, among other things, to further expand the campus, as well as build

a possible Music, Dance and Theater building with a center for performing arts. A plaza will also be open to the public. Both NJCU and the developers involved will profit from this public-private partnership.

The partnership was made possible by the 2009 Economic Stimulus Act. Passed in the state of New Jersey, it allows public institutions such as NJCU to be able to have partnerships with private investors.

A ShopRite is also being developed by Crossroads Companies LLC. It is expected to take 14 months to construct and should be started in Spring 2018. Further construction will bring additional shops, on street parking and garages. The university is leasing the developers approximately 21 acres.

Aska said in late August that the university will most likely begin development on phase two of the infrastructure of the roads by this fall. “The infrastructure contains detailed plans of the roads, streetscapes

landscape and a plaza. Phase two is being financed by the city of Jersey City.” According to Aska, “Jersey City will reimburse the University up to \$16 million for the Phase 2 infrastructure.”

The project has already received tax relief from the state Economic Development Authority. Jersey City has also granted the project tax abatements. Tax abatements are a reduction of or an exemption from taxes granted by a government for a specified period of time. According to recent reports, there will be four separate tax abatements; at least two of which will last for 30 years.

The investors involved with the market rate residencies are responsible for gaining their own financing. On September 20th at the groundbreaking event, President Henderson was quoted in the local press saying that “the ground lease will allow the university to hold down the cost of tuition for students.”

County Freeholder Discusses University Place

What is your opinion on the four tax abatements?

Actually, there will be five (5) tax abatements (“PILOTS”), the four (4) already in place and a fifth for the proposed ShopRite complex to be located at Block 6 of University Place on Route 440 and University Place Boulevard. Given the proposed market rents in this neighborhood and the high cost of construction for these quality apartment complexes, the PILOTS were absolutely essential to attract the \$250,000,000 investment from private developers required to develop these five projects at University Place. Simply stated, without these PILOTS, there would be no University Place. There currently is not a proven market for rents projected this high for a project with these many units on the Southwest side of Jersey City.

How big of a tax abatements are KKF and Claremont receiving, and how long are they each receiving it for? In other words, how many years are their tax abatements for?

Both Claremont and KKF are paying the City in accordance with the City’s policy, which is approximately 11% of their gross rental income. The PILOTS are in effect for thirty (30) years. So, if a tenant pays \$2,000 per month for a one-bedroom apartment, the developer pays the City \$220 per month for that apartment. There will be 630 apartments located at University Place plus the ShopRite complex. These five PILOTS will generate approximately \$1,900,000 in

Hudson County Freeholder, William O’Dea is Chairman of the Public Resources Committee, Chairman of the Banking Committee, representative to the Hudson County Improvement Authority, and a member of the Hudson County Schools of Technology Board of School Estimate. Our reporter did an email interview with him.

tax revenue to the City at the onset. As rents escalate with the CPI over time, the City will realize more than \$90,000,000 over the course of the 30-year abatements.

It is my understanding that NJCU is receiving \$1.4 million a year for all four ground leases for the next 50 years. Is this correct?

The ground rent for the aforementioned five projects is projected at \$1,360,000 per annum. In addition, there is a one-time payment of \$16,000,000 from the City to pay for the roads and infrastructure at University Place. These ground leases are for fifty-year initial terms and the ground rents will escalate over the

course of the terms at approximately 2% per year. So, the aggregate value of the ground rents to be paid to NJCU over the next fifty-years is well over \$100,000,000, with a present value in 2017 dollars in excess of \$60,000,000.

The city is getting an estimate of what in pilots?

Yes. The estimate is part of the application process. If the units rent for higher than projected the City will get more- the estimate is based on ‘projected’ rents.

~Diana Sanchez

Profile of a Dreamer

Michi Suazo
News Editor

Shaira Cruz is 21 years old, double majoring in History and Secondary Education and is a member of Drea[me]rs.



Why did you leave the Philippines?

[For] a better life. My mom had to get a really good job because we were dependent on her income. She came to America in 2002 with a tourist visa leaving me, my younger brother and my dad in the Philippines. My brother was about two years old and I was six when she left. She went to California by herself and worked as a teacher and taught kids there. After that, she came here to New Jersey and later got a work visa. She still worked as a teacher. Later on, she petitioned the three of us. In 2004, my brother, my dad and I arrived at the JFK airport. My mother met us there but due to separation and time away, my brother could not recognize her.

What was the process of coming here like?

People always say that it is so easy to get a green card or to come here the legal way. It took us 13 years to get our green cards. We had to pay for the lawyers, papers and to send it in. There is a culture of leaving

in the Philippines but it is not because of wanderlust. A prime example is the Labor Export Policy which is a legalized and systematic way to ship people out of the country. Like some countries manufacture and export corn, ours manufactures and exports people. They are more commonly known as OFWs, Overseas Filipino Workers.

What do you struggle with as an immigrant?

Along with the stigma of being an immigrant, as Asians we are supposed to be the model minority. We, especially our parents, have this expectation to excel. It is basically our way of thanking the country for taking us in. My family and I missed so many events like the funerals and weddings of our relatives due to separation.

I am also a struggling activist. My family is concerned about the state of this country. The heightening political atmosphere in the Philippines is reflective of what is happening in America, especially now with Trump. It is important to be aware, and to find a community that will inform you and mobilize you in trying times in fascist America. I think due to the Marcos era, there is also

a culture of fear in the Philippines. It was when people were conditioned to consume and not react. It is not common to hear, "It's always been like that. Don't change it. You can't do anything," when it comes to politics in the Philippines. My family supports what I do but they tell me to be careful since we just got our green cards.

What would you like other people to know who are not familiar with DACA, Dreamers, and/or immigrants?

To speak up for your undocumented brothers and sisters. We should also protect our modern day heroes: our OFWs for bringing in the money that runs the country. They're leaving their countries and their families and essentially risking their lives, too. We should not limit the conversation to just the undocumented students. We should include their families and the 11 million undocumented people in the US.



Jersey City Natives Celebrate Puerto Rican Traditions

Diana Sanchez

Op/Ed Editor

Bomba is a traditional Puerto Rican style of music that was once a form of communication between African slaves that resided in the coastal areas of the island. It is the type of folkloric drum music that the Segunda Quimbamba Folkloric center, a nonprofit cultural arts organization, celebrates. Nanette Hernandez, chair of Segunda Quimbamba, and her husband Juan Cartagena founded the organization in 1989 to preserve the rich Puerto Rican tradition of caroling also known as “Parrandas.” It was also created to promote the music throughout the country.

Using Bomba as a symbol of resistance, the slaves fought the oppression that their slave masters subjected them to. It encompassed drum and dancing, and two types of drums: the prima and the Bomba. The Segunda Quimbamba Organization provides lessons on playing the different drum rhythms, including seeks or quimbe.

In Bomba dance, the drummer follows the rhythm of the dancer. “In its truest form, the music is folk. There is a conversation, a dynamic between the drummer and the dancer.”

Similarly, Jibaro music originated from the mountains and is closely associated with

both African and Taino culture. Jibaro is played with a guitar and cuatro, an instrument used to sing arginandos. Arginandos are a form of storytelling that served as a special way for the Puerto Rican people to share what was going on within their community. It follows a call and response system known in Spanish as “coro,” or chorus. Hernandez states that when people join in and sing a chorus, a “bimbe” is made.

Plena is known as the singing newspaper and it is also akin to the oral story telling traditions of Africa. It resembles hip-hop and always tells a story about real events that occur between different towns. The songs contains universal themes of jealousy, love, or betrayal. During the late 1960s and 70s Plena performers started to embellish the music by dressing up in elaborate and colorful outfits. “Today, there is choreography and a full scale stage performance that everyone can enjoy.”

Every year Segunda Quimbamba hosts a festival in downtown Jersey City on Grove Street. Hernandez’s organization provides drums and workshops in which people can take part and learn to play these special drums. The festival serves to connect people with the rich Afro-Puerto Rican culture, and

bring awareness to those who may otherwise have only had limited exposure to the Puerto Rican traditions and customs.

Hernandez’s experience as the chair of the Segunda Quimbamba organization, has been a challenging one. She has struggled trying to find space whilst competing with the gentrification throughout Jersey City in order to hold these cultural events. Hernandez has since given back to the community of Jersey City by shifting to a more educational approach with the festival. In the past, she partnered with the Jersey City Museum and other organizations to be able to maintain a space and have Puerto Rican and African roots aptly represented.

Hernandez exclaims, “People need to know how important it is to show our children that they come from a rich culture... We not only share our music, or the love of our culture, but we let them know in particular when we perform at schools that many professionals are involved for the love of culture...”

Segunda Quimbamba also connects people to their heritage and loved ones. Hernandez’s events are family orientated and often serve as a nurturing and safe space where families can come together and express themselves through music: of-

ten connecting across different generations. Teaching the way of Bomba is not restrictive or technical but a fun and educational way of bringing the family closer to one another. They offer dancing classes for Bomba in the spring, which often end in a recital. This multicultural experience brings everyone from different cultures together. This is the inspiration for Hernandez to continue her work with Segunda Quimbamba. “I realized that this was my legacy when I danced in 2005 at a show in Montclair,” Hernandez reminisces, “Ever since I danced with my parents... I searched for a way to continue, a way to immortalize them and carry on what they left, our legacy. Staying connected with our roots, culture and traditions are what I believe this is all about.”

What Hernandez wants people to know is that people of Caribbean descent come in all shades of skin tone, and occupy various professions and cover different styles of music too. In addition, it is important for all people of color to unite and work together in order to break down barriers and fight marginalization. The voice of the minority has been stifled long enough. Hernandez raises her voice for Puerto Ricans, Latinos, and Afro-Latinos everywhere.



Curt Ikens assembling his sculpture piece called Figments of Forefathers (2015).

"Constructed Space"-Art Exhibition

Katherine Reyes
Reporter

On October 24th, the art exhibition "Constructed Space" was held in NJCU's Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery. Gallery director, Midori Yoshimoto Ph.D, introduces the theme of the exhibit of manufactured cinematic sceneries, making the audience ask "What is real?" She explains that each artist demonstrated their interpretation of space and the illusion of it created by reconstructing fictional scenes using uncommon combinations of mediums.

Artists, professors and students attended the exhibition and stayed for the conference

between the artists and the guests. The Constructed Space exhibit features artwork by Curt Ikens, Kim Keever, Martin Kruck and Jeremy Coleman Smith.

Curt Ikens was taught his family's trade, woodworking, at a very young age but he left it to pursue art. His pieces show that although he left the family business he incorporates his roots to his sculptures. The largest piece by Ikens stretches across the Lemmerman Gallery floor as a commentary on a three generation family owned business. Spectators commented on how it looked like a totem pole.

Kim Keever's photographs

seem to be entire landscapes, but in reality are man-made miniature landscapes. Keever starts all his pieces in a large tank with plaster, lights, and gels placed around it. Keever describes his pieces as, "a messy process where all mistakes are usually kept in the end, with the end result being straight photos."

Martin Kruck is a professor of art in NJCU. Kruck reveals that he combines the dwelling of animals with photo elements to bring out the contrast with natural and built habitats. His fascination in creation and providing a humanistic environment for animals results in

these marvelous scenes. Many visitors were left in awe with all his pieces questioning if they were real environments.

Jeremy Coleman Smith's pieces are constructed pieces made with styrofoam and foam core as well as used crafts, sculpture, printmaking and photography. Smith recreates inanimate objects, furniture and scenes and questions the idea of what is important for an object, the image, emotion or idea that the object carries. He says, "My newer subjects are describing people." He explains to the audience that he tries to put emphasis on the significance of the objects in his pieces.

Op/Ed: NJCU, *Gracias* for Honoring Puerto Rican Students

Gabriella Rodriguez
Reporter

On September 20th, 2017, Puerto Rico was hit with a Category 5 hurricane that left the island in devastation. Hurricane Maria was one of the most powerful storms to hit the island and

the impact was so severe that it will take several years to fully recover. As a Puerto Rican, witnessing a natural disaster from afar was very difficult, especially because most of my family live on the island. Not being able to communicate with

your loved ones for almost two weeks was anxiety inducing, and hearing from the local news about the damage and floods only made me more concerned.

I am thankful to say that no one in my family was hurt, but all were impacted in different

ways. Some lost their homes and all their belongings while others have been left without electricity and water for many weeks. It has been immensely

**continued on
next page**

continued from previous page

hard to get their lives back together with the limited resources of food and water available to them. In areas where it is available, people have had to wait hours in line for water and pantry items.

Despite this tragic event, Puerto Ricans have gained a lot of positivity and strength from this situation. There is a strong sense of unity, empathy and collaboration between the people and neighborhoods like never before seen. People are still healing, but they are determined to rise and rebuild their lives and homes in their beautiful island. My sister, Vanessa,

lives in Rincon, Puerto Rico and has shared her own firsthand experience of love and unity as people have helped one another. Although everything that they had access to was limited, the people of Rincon have been making sure that everyone has their fair share of food and water in order to survive during this difficult time.

After finally hearing back from my sister, my parents and I felt helpless. There was a point where mail services overwhelmed and shut down so we could not even send her anything that she needed. Although it was relieving to know that my sister and other family members were alive and safe, it was hard hear what they were go-

ing through and without being able to provide them with their needs.

One of the most devastating aspects for me was to learn that most Puerto Rican students are unable to return to school because of the overwhelming hurricane destruction. However, I was so pleased to learn (a month after the hurricane) that NJCU sent an open invitation to active college students of Puerto Rico to allow them to continue their studies at NJCU, tuition-free.

I have never felt prouder to be an NJCU student. The fact that NJCU was one of the first universities to step up and take this stance to help people of Puerto Rico really touched

my heart. In addition, the efforts made by different campus organizations to raise money and collect donations will truly make a difference in so many lives. As a Puerto Rican and an NJCU student, this announcement has definitely hit home. I am thrilled and honored to be able to share this great news with my friends and family members and I hope that they can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and join us at NJCU to pursue their studies and career focus. All I can say is “gracias,” NJCU for stepping up and allowing my people the opportunity to continue their education and have the chance to experience our excellent university, staff and student body.

Dropped Classes Cause Havoc How It Delays Graduation

Erik S. Ordyke
Sports Editor

Picture this: you are about to complete your major, but a class for it just got dropped less than a month before the semester begins. “That’s alright,” you say to yourself, as you search for another class from the same department to replace it. However, what’s this? You get an email the next day: that class was dropped as well. What now? You see that there are no other classes open for your major, so you’re forced into yet another semester without making any progress in your degree.

Does this sound like a familiar situation? Well, there are other NJCU students in the same predicament. I am in my Junior year, and what I just described happened to me and my second major over the summer. I had two political science courses lined up, then one of



Courtesy of freeimages

them was dropped. Fortunately, I found another class, added that one on, and then it was dropped two days later. My first major is well on its way to completion without any problems concerning dropped classes. However, I have had to change my second major once because of classes being dropped, and now it’s looking like I may have to change it a second time if this continues to occur. I am making no progress on my second major in successive semesters.

Graduating in four years seemed viable before, but after all these troubles it no longer seems that way.

Another student, Diana Sanchez, Op/Ed Editor at The Gothic Times and an English major in her senior year has gone through the same trouble. Before she even started her first semester at NJCU, two of her classes were dropped, back-to-back. “Different semester, same problem...” Sanchez says, “it has been a rinse and repeat cy-

cle for the entire five semesters I have been at NJCU. A week before class starts, that’s when I find out a class is cancelled? Really?”

How is a student supposed to complete a major when classes are dropped so soon before the start of a semester? So soon in fact, that the rest of the classes within the department for that major are filled to capacity and none are available to take. This is a massive inconvenience for students, a never-ending slippery slope that causes progress on a major to go into limbo and makes it nearly impossible to graduate within four years. The stressful process itself only leads to students adding on more semesters to their college years, which may also mean more loans and payments – something every student absolutely dreads.

The main question here would be what is the reason for

so many classes being dropped? In most cases, students only get a notice in their email telling them that their class has been dropped. There needs to be more clarity and more fluidity between students, departments, and advisement. Students deserve at least that much for forced stoppage on the progress of their majors and the planned four years. If a student is promised that they can complete a major or two in four years, it should be so. And, if real problems do arise that cause classes to be dropped, there should at the very least be an explanation and a selection of substitute classes sent to students.

Diana Sanchez

Op/Ed Editor

A week before I even had my first class at NJCU, I already had a sour taste in my mouth. I received the infamous course cancellation notice. Not one, but two in succession. I was enrolled and looking forward to learning about Irish literature. The second class, Grammar and Usage, did not really interest me that much. Hah! Good ride-dance I thought.

Almost immediately the floodgates of paranoia were opened: was I going to be able to graduate on time? I was able to find two new classes with the help of my kind advisor. Then,

the next semester came and yet again, I was faced with the same hurdle.

Nancy Mejia, a senior and business major at NJCU encountered a similar issue. Mejia took Elementary Japanese I and then the following semester, Elementary Japanese 2 wasn't even offered. She had to wait another semester before she could take it.

Now, there seems to be talk about language courses getting eliminated. Why is NJCU not just cancelling, but outright getting rid of language courses such as Mandarin and Japanese altogether? We even have the Confucius Institute in the Professional Studies Building, so

getting rid of Mandarin, a business language, does not make any sense.

NJCU, students need some consistency with their courses and for something to be done about classes getting canceled so frequently.

The problem? Well, we all know that a professor can't exactly run a class if only three students are enrolled. That wouldn't be much of a class. But should students really be the ones we should be blaming here? Or is there a larger problem that runs far deeper?

To Kneel or Not to Kneel

Kristen Hazzard

Reporter

2016 was an important year in the United States, from a memorable presidential election to the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series. Colin Kaepernick former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers began his protests in hopes to end police brutality and racial inequality occurring across the country. He started the 2016 NFL season with a silent protest by sitting on the bench and later kneeling during the national anthem.

Kaepernick's message soon caught on and expanded to other major league sports outside of the NFL and even to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). An interesting fact to note is that it was not until a 2009 NFL mandate that the players were to stand for the anthem and the NFL says, "Players were encour-

aged... not required to stand." Athletes weren't always on the field during the anthem either, this is somewhat new; the players used to stay in the locker room, however the team captain had to be present for the coin toss. Nevertheless, athletes like Kaepernick get paid a lot of money and have an important platform so they should be able to use it in times like these.

The United States is the land of the free, but unfortunately racism has been instilled into the country's history for centuries. Here is some food for thought, why should Americans show allegiance to a country that continues to disrespect its own people? Regarding the American flag in August 2016 Colin says, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses... people of color. To me, this is bigger than football... it would be selfish on my part to look

the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder." He also says that he will continue to protest during the anthem until "[the American flag] represents what it's supposed to represent."

Some critics believe Kaepernick's demonstration is unpatriotic and disrespectful to the flag and our armed services. However, it is the armed services that fight for the freedom of this country, freedom that allows its citizens to exercise their rights. In the NFL, a majority of the athletes are African American and most are kneeling, however, it is other Americans who call out those athletes for being disrespectful. That makes me question why black people can not exercise their rights like any other American.

I believe somewhere along the road the protest against racial injustice became labeled

instead as "Anti-Trump." When President Donald Trump got a hold of the topic, he encouraged NFL owners to fire players that kneel during the anthem and for fans to walk out. He said, "Get that son of a bi**h off the field right now... he's fired..." Many took offense to the president's harsh words because more than half of the NFL players are African American. After the harsh comments, a majority of the players, coaches, and owners kneeled, locked arms, or stayed in the locker room during the national anthem. Trump made the situation worse because he insinuated that anyone who kneels is anti-American.

I am not choosing sides, but it is important to understand where both parties are coming from. It is important to show respect to the flag and armed forces but it is also important to exercise the First Amendment.

Courtesy of Camille Ancheta

Emmanuel Lebron

A&E Editor

These are dark days in America. Grown men all across the country are *outraged* as they form mobs and chant in unison at their local McDonald's. Are they chanting for freedom? Are they rioting for change in a corrupt world? No. They want *Szechuan sauce* and they are going to get that sauce if it takes them nine seasons or 97 more years. If that last sentence made no sense to you it is likely because you are a sane and rational person, but the point is a bunch of fans of the show "Rick and Morty" took a funny throwaway gag on the show (about Rick wanting a promotional sauce McDonald's sold in 1998) and meme'd it into a cringeworthy nightmare. These memes gained so much popularity, they actually convinced McDonald's to sell the sauce again, and the fans promptly rioted like entitled children because the stores could not meet their demand. *All because of a gag in a TV show.*

Let the "Rick and Morty Sauce Fiasco of 2017" be counted in the history books as evidence of the decline of civilization.

Yet this is somehow the least ridiculous thing an entitled fandom has rallied up and done. It increasingly feels like pop culture fandom has gotten toxic. An aggressive type of entitled fan has become dominant and vocal recently. The ar-

rogant confidence of these fans is out of control with the type of behavior they think they can get away with, be it demanding a promotional sauce from the 90's exist again, or harassing actors and people involved with the shows they claim to love off of twitter.

These self-proclaimed 'geeks' claim to love something, but instead treat it like a competitive sport and harass and even bully those who they don't see fit to a part of the thing they like. Ironically, the same people once ridiculed for these niche interests are the new jocks.

It's times like these when the reaction of fans makes you want to distance yourself from something you love and that's heartbreaking. A lot of modern pop culture fandom lately is finding something you like and then waiting for other people to ruin it. These reactions say nothing about the actual content of each production. I love "Rick and Morty," it's still a great show; but nobody should be shamed into not liking something because of a few ridiculous and cringe worthy fans.

But why is this toxic behavior spreading? It's because fans are pining for the days when certain aspects of pop culture geekdom were contained within the subculture. It is almost hard to believe now but none of this was cool just ten years ago. Many of the pop culture entities that are considered lovably 'geeky' now were once a legitimate and fairly small subculture. Once upon a time Marvel Comics and "Star Wars" weren't owned by Disney. *No one* knew who Iron Man was, nor did they care. Trust me.

Comic Con wasn't insanely crowded and populated by A-list celebrities. I'll tell my grandchildren this and they won't believe me. Being a *nerd* was a legitimate hindrance to your social life and you were basically an outcast if you so much as *knew* what a six sided dice was for. There were no trendy coffee shops where you could play dungeons and dragons, there were only basements.

Fandom is not about what you love, but how you love it. The way you engage with other fans says more about you, than getting a Spider-man tattoo on

your leg. People are now over-compensating for the sake of beating other people at loving something.

Modern fandom is now a game and, I get it, it's hard to feel special when you're a face in the crowd of millions of people. A lot of bad behaving fans look for an excuse to be oppressed so they can separate themselves from the mainstream.

I know this shame first hand. I am unfortunately guilty of obnoxiously slipping into a Rick Sanchez voice from time to time to shout "WUB-A-LUB-A-DUB-DUB" unironically. I am a "Doctor Who" fan who (barely) survived the rise and fall of The Moffat Era. In a hushed whisper if you corner me I will admit to you that I was once, for a brief nightmarish time, a *Brony* and that Pinkie Pie was best pony. I endured "Homestuck." I have seen the rise and fall of a fandom many times and it's tiring to focus on the negative, especially when it's usually a small group creating the most noise and shaming the rational fans as the worst representatives of the fan base ever.

It's time for a detox. It's time to be nice to each other again. I hope someday soon I can talk to someone about something I like and not have them be *that* kind of fan. Hopefully, at some point, *liking stuff* becomes a positive thing again.

There were no trendy coffee shops where you could play dungeons and dragons, there were only basements.



Hot Questions Hotter Wings

Sean Quinn
Reporter

In the world of interviews, one show has an ace in the hole that separates it from the others. The show "Hot Ones" raises the stakes by interviewing celebrities while they eat wings that get progressively spicier. The show has been praised for its excellent research, host Sean Evans' interviewing skills, and the ability to break down emotional barriers and get candid answers from the guests that they might not be willing to divulge otherwise. It has been described as a combination of "Charlie Rose" and "Jackass," mixed in with the interview-torture of the "Eric Andre Show."

The setup is simple: Evans and his guest sit opposite each other at a table. On the table sits two wooden platters of wings, bottles of hot sauce, milk and water. Evans and the guest eat

a wing, which is then followed by a question and an answer and/or a back and forth conversation. Most guests show little to no pain during the first few wings. However, after the fifth wing, "Hot Ones" first signature fiery chipotle sauce, guests start to feel the pain and break into a sweat.

On the surface it seems to be a silly display of machismo and toughness that only serves to cause pain to the guests. I had the same idea during my first viewing, but as I watched I realized that this was something special, and that guests can stop at any time, and there is no pressure to be a hero or a superhuman.

The show has had a broad and diverse list of guests throughout its run: athletes such as Kevin Durant and Tony Hawk, comedians such as Kevin Hart, Wanda Sykes, and Bert

Kreischer, celebrity chefs Rachel Ray and Guy Fieri, musicians Vince Staples and Post Malone, actors Bryan Cranston and James Franco, and Internet personalities Ethan Klein from H3H3 Productions and Coyote Peterson of Brave Wilderness. The show does a nice job of catering to a wide variety of interests in the episodes, where no two guests are alike.

Some of the most iconic moments include: DJ Khaled quitting on the third wing (most celebrities breeze through it), Bobby Lee soiling himself, Russell Brand serenading a super fan, Eddie Huang eating the hottest wings first (and suffering the consequences), Bert Kreischer doing the interview shirtless while sweating profusely, Eric Andre smashing the water pitcher over his head, and Rachel Ray tasting the sauces with a spoon because

she wasn't fond of the way they cooked the wings.

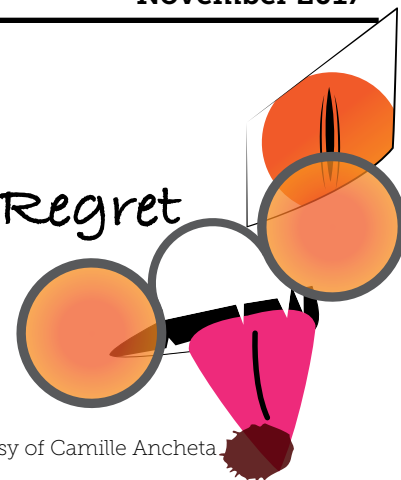
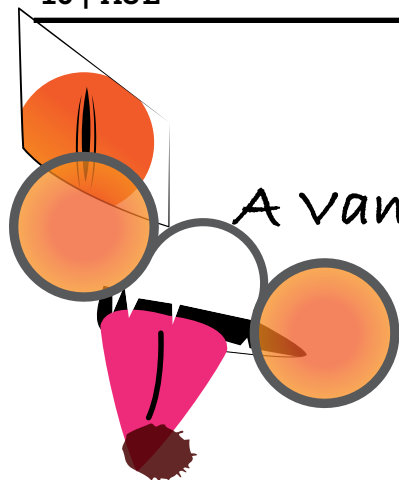
The heat of the wings functions to lower their guards and give more honest answers. Their mind is too preoccupied with the pain to give safe and generic answers. Sean Evans has said that the hot sauces act as a sort of truth serum that lets him connect with the guests and feel comfortable answering candidly. For example, the rapper Riff Raff did most of the interview in character with his signature voice, but as the interview went on, he began to speak and act more like his true self.

"Hot Ones" could possibly be the best talk show across all media despite its harebrained premise. The research, the questions, the answers, and especially the suffering make an engaging show that endlessly entertains.

HELLSING

A Vampire Experience You Won't Regret

Camille Ancheta
Production Manager



Courtesy of Camille Ancheta

So, Halloween has passed, and yet you still want to experience the frights, spooky, and fun of it at least daily. Here is what you could do; watch tv shows like "American Horror Story," or horror and thriller movies that come out every month such as "The Snowman" (which I heard was bad), or go read books by Stephen King; he made "IT" and it is a hit. (Rhyming not intended.)

However, you want something more . . . classic, if you will. Maybe something like the Universal Monsters.

Yes; the Universal Monsters that refers to the movies of horror, suspense, and science that Universal Studios made, which made certain creatures that were once the norm in folklore and myths into the well-known scares we know now. And, to stop stalling, we are going to talk about Dracula . . . kind of . . . and his arch-nemesis, Professor Abraham Van Helsing . . . kind of . . . we are talking about the manga (and the two anime adaptations), "Hellsing."

Hellsing centers around the Hellsing Organization, led by Sir Integra Fairbook Wingates Hellsing (great-granddaughter of Professor Helsing) in England. (No; she seriously has the title of sir; I am not making this up.) It is no joke that Hellsing is an acronym for **H**er **R**oyal **E**ngland **L**egions of **L**egitimate **S**upernatural and **I**mmortal

Night Guard, and it is obvious, with the title being self-explanatory, of what they do; defend humanity (mainly England and a few parts of Europe) from the creatures that stalk the night, especially vampires. The ultimate weapon used to hunt and exterminate these beings is not stakes, crosses, garlic, high-tech gear, or supped-up firearms (which is half a lie). No; Integra has a better method. To kill the supernatural, you must use the supernatural. Within her arsenal is Alucard, the most powerful vampire including newly made vampire, former cop, Seras Victoria.

And you are probably thinking, "Wait a minute; I can simply go and see "Blade" or "Buffy" for vampire and supernatural slaying. Why would I want to consider "Hellsing?""

Well, let us see an example here (with as little spoilers as possible).

"Hellsing" has strong, lead female characters (whether they have powers or not), which we do not have often in media especially when vampires are involved. I have seen supposed lead female protagonists in supernatural related media just be characterized as "just sit there and look pretty" and be the damsel-in-distress. There are false moments when I believe for a moment that they are going to do something productive, but then they fall flat by being

defeated VERY easily, their plan was not that great to begin with, or be kidnapped without putting up much of a fuss. This characterization becomes worse when it sticks with the female for the entirety (of the show or book) and nothing changes. In "Hellsing," this does not happen.

Right from the start, Sir Integra Hellsing is no pushover; her being the head of Hellsing Organization is not just a position where she just does paperwork; her being the master of an all-powerful vampire is not due to said all-power vampire's influence. When necessary, and when push comes to shove, she will leave her mansion office and brandish a gun. Also, she seriously put a bullet through her evil uncle when she was just a child, and she does not let Alucard's maniac, murderous, dominating personality undermine her. If he does something she does not like, she will not hold back to show her disdain. If that does not make her qualified as a strong female character, I do not know what will.

Also, there are vampire Nazis . . .

Oh, see; I caught your attention by mentioning vampire Nazis. Although they are technically only in the manga and the OVA (stands for original video animation) "Hellsing Ultimate," but that is beside the point.

"Hellsing" is more than just a cliché of a secret police hunting monsters that causes trouble for humanity. It is more than just a cool-looking, well-dressed, sophisticated vampire that has god-like skills killing fellow vampires. It is more than just having a scare or thrill. It is more than just watching for the gore and the fights.

Who am I kidding; you are just going to see "Hellsing" the manga and "Hellsing Ultimate" for the vampire Nazis and the gore fest.

As for "Hellsing" the TV series, which does NOT have vampire Nazis, you can still watch it, but be warned that this does not follow the manga; also, it was made in the early 2000s. The animation is not at its most luster as its OVA counterpart. However, it has its charm such as the music.

Still, what I said before are not lies. "Hellsing" is more than just the typical "Let's go and hunt the nightly banes of humanity." Even if watching vampires getting slaughtered with a guy, who is an over-powered, but well-refined vampire, with guns is highly entertaining.

So, yeah; take a gander at "Hellsing." Not a complete fix for your enjoyment of Halloween, but will bring some of that magic.

The Story Behind the Player

Mallensy Vargas' Journey to the College Field

Erik S. Ordyeke
Sports Editor

It all began on one field in El Salvador. Mallensy Vargas was just seven years old, and her father, who often played soccer himself, would take her to that field with him and she would discover the sport which became her passion – soccer. However, there were times where her older brother could not leave the backyard to play with friends due to violent gangs in the area. This was common in El Salvador, so the backyard became their field. As any older brother would do, he insisted that his sister play a game with him. Vargas obliged, and that would become the staple of what started her soccer journey. She and her siblings played the sport within their own backyard, but the mark was left – her father and her brother introduced her to the world of soccer.

Vargas was a refugee from gang-violence plagued El Salvador. She and her family spoke little to no English when they lived here. They resided in communities throughout New Jersey that spoke almost exclusively Spanish, so learning the new language proved difficult since she never had much of an opportunity to do so. Then, she and her family moved to Maryland; this move changed her life.

In Maryland, almost no one spoke Spanish. As a result, Vargas and her family had to learn more English just to get

by – a process that was not an easy one. Not having a grasp on English brought yet another problem for her: adjusting and adapting to this way of life. She described the hardest aspect of dealing with life in America, besides learning English, as “being rejected.” Vargas also described it as being “one of the most tough things when I got here.” She continued by saying “We didn’t speak the language... we would go somewhere... they wouldn’t give us the same attention as someone who spoke English.” Because she and her family did not know English as well as other people, Vargas knew they were brushed off just for that reason. She and her family moved back to New Jersey just one year later.

None of this had stopped Vargas. She began to attend NJCU and instantly became one of the best players in the region. She is especially known for being able to curve the soccer ball over a wall flawlessly when she kicks it. She describes the ability to do it as “common sense,” as she practiced the method a lot when she was younger, so much so that it became natural for her. Vargas said it was thanks her older brother, who taught her which part of the ball to hit to make it curve.

In addition to her older brother, Vargas has two other inspirations she looks up to. The first is Cristiano Ronaldo, of Real Madrid. She has always looked up to how he started his life in a similar manner to hers,



and became such a great player despite the odds. He, too, started out with little and no one believed he could become as great as he did. Because of this, Ronaldo became a source of motivation and inspiration for her on the field.

Her second inspiration would be her father. Vargas majors in Criminal Justice, that choice of major harkens back to her father’s job back in El Salvador as a local sergeant. Growing up, her father’s duty inspired her to want to take a

similar path to his. That lifelong inspiration turned into a Criminal Justice major upon arriving at NJCU. From this entire journey, Vargas has found herself playing the sport she loves on the college field, and getting recognized for it. This season, she was voted First-Team All-NJAC and 2017 Player of the Week for Week 3 and Week 7. All the possibilities for these achievements began on that one field in El Salvador, when she was just seven years old.

Tuition-free study for college students in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands

Madai Garcia
Reporter

Two months ago, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, along with several other islands in the Caribbean, were devastated by consecutive Category 5 Hurricanes, Irma and Maria. These hurricanes left most of Puerto Rico's 3.4 million residents and the U.S. Virgin Island's 104,000 residents without electricity or running water.

As a way of helping college students from these U.S.

territories whose studies have been disrupted, NJCU is offering them tuition-free study this semester. NJCU President Sue Henderson announced the initiative, stating, "The NJCU community is supplementing its efforts to provide material resources to those in need by extending to students in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands the opportunity to move forward with their higher education and prepare for careers that will help to rebuild their lives and their homelands af-

ter the destruction caused by Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma."

Visiting students will also have the opportunity to continue their studies in the Spring of 2018 on a plan which will not only be reduced from out-of-state tuition to in-state tuition but also be entirely covered by a scholarship. Students will also be provided a \$2,000 housing scholarship per semester. So far, the admissions department has received over 90 inquiries along with 17 applications. Dr.

Henderson added, "We welcome students to NJCU from Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands who are in need because of the unimaginable devastation caused by hurricanes. NJCU is offering those visiting students the opportunity to learn and achieve. This initiative is in keeping with our University's mission."

If you know of any college student who can benefit from this study opportunity, they can contact the NJCU Admissions Department for further information.

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