



THE GOTHIC TIMES

The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University

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October 2018

Your vote matters on Nov. 6

by **Kenise Brown** | News Editor

Since his election, President Donald Trump and the majority Republican House and Senate have made moves targeting healthcare, immigration, taxes and more. On November 6, Americans have the opportunity to elect new representatives, senators and local officials in the midterm election, threatening Republican control.

According to the United States Election Project, nearly 47 percent of eligible voters did not vote in the 2016

election. In addition, the Pew Research Center found that the rate of black voter turnout declined for the first time in 20 years in a presidential election.

As a black female student, I am appalled to see that some people of my race did not vote in the presidential election. I'm disappointed to see that some of the people who protested in the streets for justice for their loved ones or those who consider a black person their "brother" or "sister" did not vote. People of color are

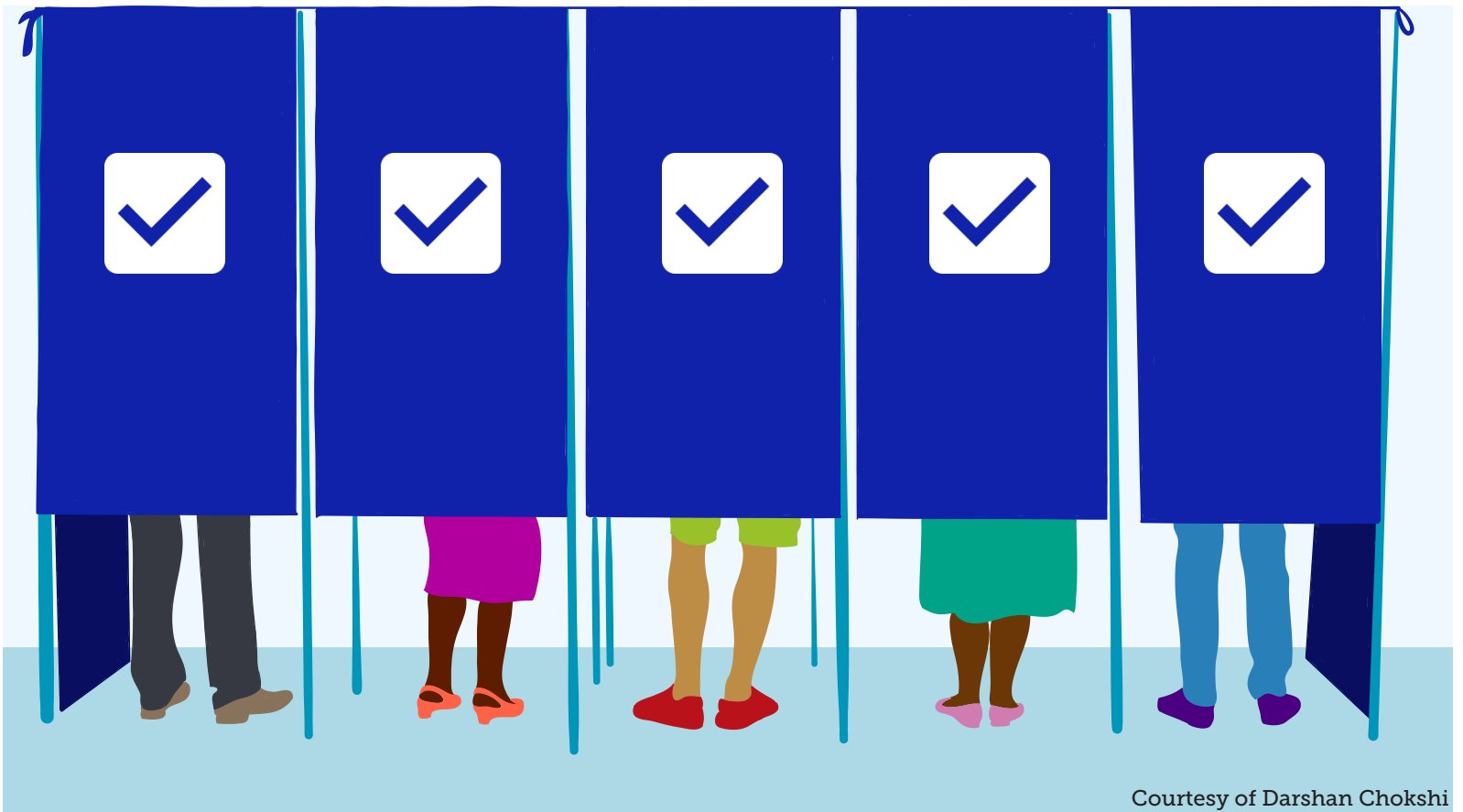
among the most affected by the government's decisions and in this year's election they should be voting.

Geneva Wilson, chair of public relations for the College Democrats of NJCU, said "We believe that voting is one of, if not [the] most, important thing we can do as U.S. citizens. While we obviously believe that it is important to participate in the elections for President, it is crucial that people know that the midterms, or any time, for that matter, a Senate or House

race may be occurring, we are informed on the issues and get out and vote."

Wilson went on to say, "As many of us may already know, Senators and Representatives have no term limits, they can serve for as long as they get elected. If you want to actually see things start to change, or maybe some people want them to stay the same, it is extremely important that we are not under the impression that our votes do not matter."

Continued on page 12



Courtesy of Darshan Chokshi

Home Disadvantage?

Student Athletes Get Support to Reach Field on Rte. 440

by **Kristen Hazzard** | Sports Editor

Some athletes don't have transportation to NJCU's home field on Route 440 South, which is a mile and a half from the main campus. The Department of Athletics has dealt with the matter for years and is still working to fix the issue. In the past, athletes have had to call public safety or catch a ride with a teammate.

In September, representatives from Athletics, Campus Life and Public Safety met and discussed using the Knight Rider shuttle buses to transport students to the Athletic Complex. The Knight Rider began at 5 p.m., but will now start at 3 p.m. on weekdays and 12 p.m. on weekends to provide transportation to the field for students, faculty and staff. Starting from Lot 4 (Professional Studies Building), the shuttle will stay on its normal continuous loop schedule, but include the Athletic Complex. The shuttle will run until one hour after a game has ended and will be available for both fall and spring sporting events. The shuttle might also be expanded in the winter for indoor sporting events.

Without shuttle buses, athletes had to find their own

way to the field for practices and games. Some athletes at NJCU do have cars, but they're a minority. Even students and faculty who don't have a car but want to go to a soccer game might have a hard time getting to the field. Some have questioned, why there isn't a shuttle that takes students to and from the field?

Rachel McIntyre, a recent graduate who played on NJCU's volleyball and bowling teams said, "For traveling to the fields, that was on us to get there. There isn't any shuttle to get us there. Sometimes coaches would take us in the vans to get there. There is a lack of transportation to the field for the student body or athletes. So it's on teammates to carpool or coaches to drive the vans. However, the teams are close knit and help each other out. I've never heard of someone not able to get to the field in time for practice or games."

In the spring of 2018, Kenneth Heaton (who was then serving as interim director of athletics), said the transportation issue has been happening since he started working at NJCU in 1986 as head coach for the NJCU baseball team. Heaton is

the current assistant director of athletics.

NJCU is largely a commuter school with more than 500 students in the dorms, and a portion of those residents are also athletes. Approximately 80 athletes live on campus. Another 50 athletes live close to the university. NJCU offers 10 sports and soccer, baseball and softball all play at the Thomas M. Gerrity Athletic Complex on Route 440. With the number of athletes that live on campus, only a small portion have a car.

When asked about the transportation issue, Ira Thor, director of athletic communications and marketing said, "The collaborative effort between athletics, campus life and public safety will be continually reviewed to determine ways to further enhance services on behalf of the university community. Enhancements currently being considered include potential shuttles to select games on other college campuses. Each team has its own policies regarding arrival time at the Thomas M. Gerrity Athletic Complex for practices and games. The amount of warmup time and strategic review prior to events

dictate the time student-athletes are expected to arrive. Academic obligations are always the first priority and may delay the time a student-athlete is expected to arrive. While most student-athletes without their own vehicle traditionally ride to the field with a teammate, any student-athlete who needs transportation to the field prior to the time the shuttle is running is able to receive an escort to the fields from NJCU Public Safety. This arrangement has been in place for a number of years and will continue."

NJCU is a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III school. The budget tends to be smaller than schools like Rutgers University or St. Peter's University which are Division I schools who have a larger budget. As a result, certain necessities like transportation are harder to provide. The Athletics' budget is split into three parts. Athletics gets one-third of its budget from the Student Government Organization gives a portion comes from fundraising (which is done by the athletics) and the University pays for the coaches, facilities and faculty.

SGO Special Election Results

Vice President of Activities

Angelo Moreno

Freshmen Class Officers

President – Gregory Reid

Vice President – Justin Rios

Secretary – Naomi Hearn

Sophomore Class Officers

Secretary – Maia Tejada

Junior Class Officers

President – Marcus Daniels

Vice President – Ebony Drew

Senior Class Officers

President – Nickia Williams

Treasurer – Sierra Williams

Secretary – Akelae Spring

First of University Place residential buildings opens to public

by **Monica Sarmiento** | Editor-in-Chief

Standing tall on the corner of West Side Avenue and University Place Boulevard is the new Rivet Apartment building.

Defined on its website as “artfully crafted apartments,” Rivet is the first residential building to open up on University Place, a five minute walk from NJCU’s main campus. The building sits on land that Aaron Aska, NJCU’s vice president for Administration and Finance, described as previously being “dystopian parking lots.” A studio apartment starts at \$1,700 a month while a 1- or 2-bedroom apartment ranges from \$2,110 to \$3,005 a month. There are 163 units and according to the building manager, 69 leases have been signed by mid-October. They were unable to confirm how many of those leases were signed by students,

but in August there were none.

“A lot of their current leases that I know of are commuters. They work in the city and they don’t want to pay a waterfront bill so what I see here, is you take the light rail and go into the city and live here for hundreds of dollars less,” says Jeffrey Sica, president and CEO of Circle Squared Investments, one of the companies involved in the project.

University Place is a \$400 million redevelopment project between Jersey City and NJCU that will result in a “total eight buildings, 1,000 new luxury residential units and access to more than 120,000 square feet of retail, a vibrant performing arts center, cafes, theaters, and lush green space” according to an NJCU press release. The project is made possible by Private-Public Partnerships (P3s),

which allows the university to lease land to private developers. Rivet was developed by The Hampshire Companies and Claremont Companies and backed by Circle Squared.

Currently, two apartment buildings led by KKF University Enterprises, LLC, are under construction. According to a project report released in May 2018, this development is expected to include apartments, commercial space, retail units and parking spaces. The first phase of the project, the first 139 apartments, will be located between Route 440 and West Side Avenue and the second phase “involves the construction of two buildings with a total of 152 apartments in Carbon Place just west of West Side Avenue.” These new luxury residential buildings have raised concern for many Jersey City locals

who have been priced out by new unaffordable housing developments being built around the city in recent years. When asked if Rivet and the growth of University Place will be a push for more affordable housing, especially for students, Councilwoman at Large Joyce E. Watterman said she believed it is. “We’re pushing for affordable housing. I sit on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund so I’m always looking for affordable housing. But what you have to understand is that when you talk about affordable housing, you’re talking about the government... Because the federal government isn’t giving much money for it [affordable housing], we partnered with the private sector to give them some type of incentives to build it for us. Because you know, everybody’s being priced out so we have to really sit down and negotiate and come up with better ideas for affordable housing. I’m all for that, because I’m a strong proponent for affordable housing. So, if I want it, I have to agree with development and agree with the incentives because I have to give it to the people.”



In August, The Gothic Times attended a ribbon cutting for the Rivet Apartments. Mayor Steven Fulop, President Sue Henderson, executives from The Hampshire Companies, Claremont Companies and Circle Squared were all present.

Student investors at NJCU

by **Crystal Simon** | Events Editor

Did you know that some of your fellow students are also on the path to becoming successful investors? They're all part NJCU's Student Investment Management (SIM) Group meetings, and they're investing actual money.

That's right; your classmates aren't just using one of those virtual stock market games you may have played online, they're working with the real deal. With this in mind, it's not surprising that during one of SIM's first 2018-2019 school year meetings, new members were enthusiastic that participation in the group would help them learn to evaluate companies and better research sectors. It's a chance to work

with someone who has 20 to 30 years of experience in the field, new member Antonio Cruz explained as he gestured to club advisor and Assistant Professor of Finance Richard Mayell, who supervises the meetings. Mayell will be teaching and guiding the group throughout the year as they get started.

SIM's students are investing money from NJCU's foundation with the goal of increasing the foundation's funds, so there's quite a bit of pressure to do well. With the S&P 500 as their competition, the objective is to raise their portfolio value in each sector above that of the industry and their track record isn't half bad. Over the past five years the

group has seen an 8-9 percent per annual increase from their hard work, and their efforts do more than just benefit their own resumes. All of the profits SIM generates will go back into the foundation to fund other initiatives for NJCU and its students.

Mayell has divided SIM's portfolio into five sectors (Tech, Consumer, Health Care, Interest Rate Sensitive and Industrials) to somewhat simplify the S&P 500's list of ten. With the goal of matching a real investment team's structure, the meeting was also used to decide which members would take on various club positions; Andreas Petrou was elected as Chief Investment Officer and

Sector Managers were also recently selected.

"The more the merrier," Mayell reminds everyone during the meeting. The club is a one to three hour commitment between regular weekly meetings, at home research and meetings with your sector teams. It's a great opportunity to learn more about investment and work with a team similar to how you might in your future career. So, if that's something you're interested in, then you will definitely want to check SIM out.

For more information contact Richard Mayell at rmayell@njcu.edu.

JOIN

The Gothic Times!

Meetings every Tuesday at 1:30 PM in GSUB Room 301

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Kusama: Infinity

by **Michi Suazo** | Features Editor

The documentary “Kusama: Infinity” tells of how a Japanese artist rose from shame to fame. Yayoi Kusama started as a tenacious painter in a family of conservatives to becoming one of the best international artists to ever come from Japan. Behind the glamour and success, Kusama faced hardship as an artist first at home with a mother who frowned upon her fascination with painting and then after moving from Japan to New York City in 1958 seeking to be recognized for her art. As a Japanese immigrant and a woman, she dealt with racism and sexism in the art world on top of her depression.

Kusama’s career

flourished in the 1960’s when the hippie counterculture began and she rivaled Andy Warhol for the spotlight. She caught the public’s attention by making her mark as an anti-war activist. She is known for her installations such as “Infinity Mirror Room—Phalli’s Field” (1965), an arrangement of hundreds of soft, polka-dotted phallic forms in a roughly 25 square-meter mirrored room; and “Narcissus Garden” (1966), an installation of hundreds of silver reflective balls. She also held naked performance shows and adorned her subjects with vibrant polka dots. Works like these gave her the title of the “Princess of Polka Dots”.

Midori Yoshimoto,

gallery director, author (Into Performance: Japanese Women Artists in New York) and Art professor at NJCU, partook in the documentary. When asked what Yoshimoto hoped the film would teach the public about the art world and Kusama, she said, “I hope the audience will realize how hard it was for Kusama to face a demon in her mind and overcome it through the act of creation to reach where she is now, and the importance of researching women artists who might not have received recognition they truly deserved due to the patriarchal structure of the world.” She also commented on her experience in recording the movie and how it made her feel to be a part of

a documentary that features a Japanese woman artist. “It was my honor to be included in a significant documentary on Kusama since she was one of my dissertation subjects (five Japanese women artists who came to NYC). Heather [director] took various footages of me discussing Kusama’s later happenings, but those were not included. The film went through significant changes recently and turned its focus on artist’s own statements and biography.” Yayoi Kusama has been crowned as the most popular artist in the world according to a survey of museum attendance in 2014 conducted by the Art Newspaper.



Artist Yayoi Kusama in the Orez Gallery in the Hague, Netherlands (1965) in KUSAMA - INFINITY. Photo credit: © Harrie Verstappen. Courtesy of Magnolia Pictures.

New Season; Same Protest

by **Kristen Hazzard** | Sports Editor

A powerful protest in the sports world has caused a political uproar.

August 2016

Colin Kaepernick, the former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, began his protests on the field in hopes to end police brutality and racial inequality in America by sitting on the bench and later kneeling during the National Anthem. Since then, a majority of the NFL teams have participated in the protests. Participating players faced backlash when critics said the demonstrations were unpatriotic, however, some Americans said that the players were exercising their First Amendment right. However, some would say president Trump's words escalated the issue further when he criticized the athletes.

May 2018

The NFL enacted a new anthem policy that all players stand during the National Anthem and if the players kneel then the team will be fined and have the option to discipline the players. The policy was approved by all NFL team owners in the league who were eligible to vote. Despite the approval, not all of the owners agree with the policy. Steve Tisch, owner of the New York Giants, Robert Kraft owner of the New England Patriots and Jeffrey Lurie owner of the Philadelphia Eagles criticized both the policy and President

Trump's involvement.

In a statement by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, he wanted everyone to be respectful to the National Anthem by standing, but also allow the players to have choices. Although the policy gives the players an option to stay in the locker room, it doesn't specify what qualifies as disrespectful. The end result of the policy is that protesting leads to fines or suspensions and fines could affect the players' wages and hours. From the looks of it, the NFL won't directly discipline the players, however, teams are now authorized to punish the players. Goodell also said, "It was unfortunate that on-field protests created a false perception among many that thousands of NFL players were unpatriotic. This is not and was never the case." The league anticipated that the rule would calm the unrest within the country so that they could focus on the game, the athletes and fans.

July 2018

The fairly new policy faced obstacles in July when the NFL met with the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA). Both parties agreed to hold off on the policy until a better resolution could be found and no new rules regarding the anthem are issued until further notice. Both parties met face-to-face again on July 27 and released a joint statement. "A short time ago, the

NFL and NFLPA concluded a constructive meeting regarding the anthem policy and the very serious social justice issues that have been the basis of some players' protests. We are encouraged by the discussions and plan to continue our conversations." There was no permanent solution released after the meeting and the policy was on hold as preseason began. Once the standstill was rolled out, President Trump continued to criticize the athletes and the NFL and the controversy lingered as politicians politicized the issue.

August 2018

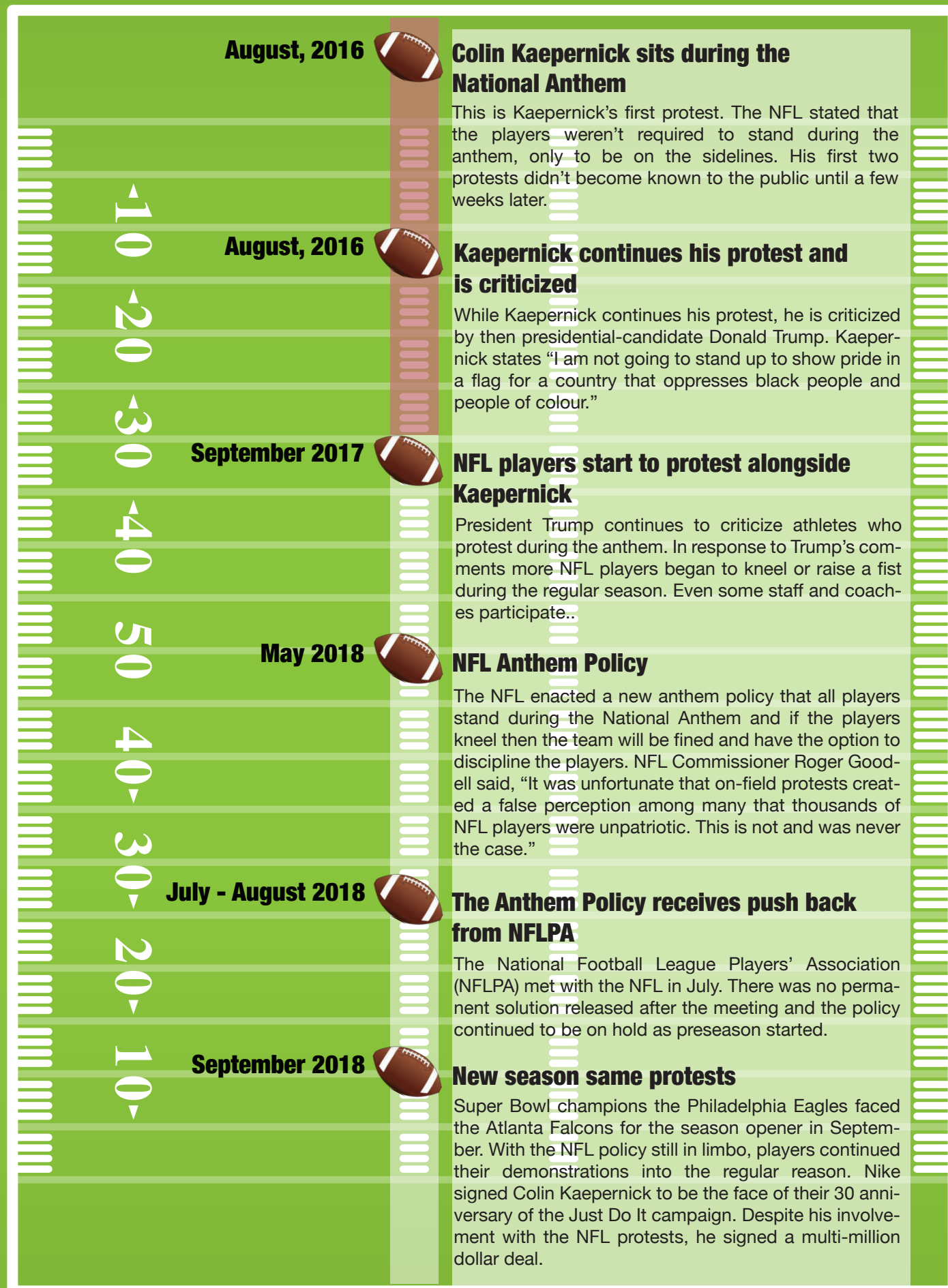
Preseason kicked off and not much had changed since July. While the NFL and NFLPA were still in talks with each other, several players continued to kneel or raise a fist during the anthem. The protests became more controversial and politicized since the demonstrations started in 2016. The president continued to involve himself in the conversation by tweeting, "The NFL players are at it again... wanted to show their 'outrage' at something that most of them are unable to define. They make a fortune doing what they love...Be happy, be cool!... Find another way to protest."

September 2018

Super Bowl champions, Philadelphia Eagles, faced the Atlanta Falcons for the season opener in September.

With the NFL policy still in limbo, players continued their demonstrations into the regular season. Sam Acho, linebacker for the Chicago Bears and NFLPA representative said to the Chicago Tribune, "We come from so many different backgrounds and experiences, so it's going to be hard to figure out one solution that fits everyone. But the great thing about a team is when you do something for your brothers, you're doing it for yourself. And so even if you don't believe wholeheartedly in some issues, you believe in your teammates, so you do it for teammates." Even athletes with opposing views have banded together to figure out a solution to the controversy.

As the regular season started, Nike signed Colin Kaepernick to be the face of their 30 anniversary of the Just Do It campaign. Despite his involvement with the NFL protests, he signed a multi-million dollar deal. In the ad, Kaepernick said, "Believe in something. Even if it costs you everything." Nike wanted to create a new meaning to the Just Do It phrase for the next generation. Believing that by adding an influential figure like Kaepernick he might help energize the movement. After the announcement was made, some customers destroyed their Nike apparel in protest while others applauded the company and Kaepernick.



Dealing with Depression

by **Darshan Chokshi** | Production Manager

My journey just started with a feeling. One day I didn't feel good about getting out of bed, I felt like I was lost, started breaking down for no reason and withdrawing from friends and activities. I was unable to understand what I was going through, and I had to force myself to go to work and college.

I suffered through this for a few months without telling anyone because I was hesitant to seek help, but one day I just broke down in front of a friend. It was surprising how well he understood my problem and called a family friend who is a therapist. One phone call with her made me feel so secure and like it was completely okay to feel this way. She encouraged me to open up about my issues. Initially, I was also reluctant to take any medication because I didn't think it was that big of a problem that I would need medication, but at one point I was just so exhausted with keeping myself up that I

agreed to accept it. During that treatment phase, I still kept it a secret from people around me because I didn't think they would understand my struggle. It was also a battle for me to get outside the house because I had to look happy and act in a certain way that I was not feeling internally.

Sometimes being around people helped because it took my mind off of it, but sometimes it didn't help and made me feel even worse. Eventually, after few months of treatment, it did get better and I was able to overcome it. Today, I have a lot more awareness regarding this matter, but I wouldn't say that I'm completely over my depression. Moving past that phase in my life had been such a horrible time for me, that it's always a fear in the back of my mind that I might relapse.

One of the significant barriers to healthcare is the social stigma associated with mental illness. Despite its prevalence in our society,

clinical depression remains a taboo topic of discussion for many. People don't realize that depression is a severe illness and not a sign of weakness or a character flaw. One may not have experienced clinical depression, but is bound to encounter someone that is suffering or has suffered in the past – even if they haven't been open about it.

I know that if I ever went back to that headspace, I wouldn't think twice about sharing the way I feel. I think a large part of one's road to recovery is to accept what you're going through and not to challenge it, but to embrace it. You should allow your body and mind to go through that experience and know that there is a road ahead that will get you out of it. I don't think

I would have treated myself without

reaching out for help, and you often do need help to get better, and it's completely okay to do so.



Courtesy of Darshan Chokshi

Resources

NJCU Counseling Center:

GSUB 308 / 201-200-3165

M-Th 8:30am – 7:00pm

F 8:30am – 4 :30pm

Bridgeway Crisis Intervention Services

152 Central Ave., Jersey City

201-855-2539

M-F 9:00am – 8:00pm

Sat-Sun 10:00am – 6:00pm

If you or a loved one are experiencing trouble with depression, please reach out for help.

Hudson County Mental Health Crisis Hotline

201-433-6161, 24 hrs. a day

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

800-273-8255 , 24 hrs. a day

National Hopeline Network

800-442-4673, 24 hrs. a day

A Journey in Rio

by **Diana Sanchez**

This summer I was able to experience teaching abroad in Brazil, the largest country in South America. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities partnered with NJCU (and four other schools) to pilot a program called *Idioma sem fronteiras*. My colleague and I, Madai Garcia, were two

out of 10 participants chosen to represent the U.S. in Brazil. The school that was assigned to us was Universidade Federal de Pelotas (UFPEL), located in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sol, in the city of Pelotas.

The neoclassical and art nouveau architecture of the Mercado Central market and the park, Praça Coronel Pedro Osório, were one of the first things we saw. I was shocked when, during an in-depth tour with student guides, we learned that centuries ago the market had been used to sell slaves. Pelotas had a reputation of brutally punishing slaves and because of this slaves from other parts of Brazil were sent there to be whipped and tortured when they disobeyed their masters.

Even two centuries after slavery's abolishment, prejudice is still at an all time high in the area, as many wish to keep the image of Rio Grande do Sol as white. Despite a 2014 quota requiring UFPEL to be more inclusive, we ran across very few black people during our stay at the university. Yet, Pelotas is considered a predominantly black city. In fact, I remember wondering if this was really Brazil. It seemed that this country of more than

211 million is not immune to racism.

English Professor David Blackmore, coordinator of NJCU's Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies, said in an email interview, that similar to the U.S., "a great deal of the inequality that marks Brazil today can be traced back to the transatlantic slave trade...There are some

resources while a much larger group faces the challenges of varying levels of poverty."

Racism and prejudice, however, is not just an issue in Brazil. When visiting Montevideo, Uruguay, we encountered a bigoted, hostile beggar who cursed us out for not giving him any money to fix his guitar strings. This white, blond, blue-eyed beggar

those negative encounters, I had a very enriching experience. In UFPEL, many of the teachers and students were cordial and inviting. Some of the most rewarding experiences for me, were both inside and out of the classrooms. Our coordinator paired us up with different English and Spanish speaking Idioma teachers. The activities we developed ranged from discussion groups to analyzing excerpts of literature. We also had students participate by deciphering diction and dialects in the pieces we had them read. Upon our discussions of race, culture, identity and traditions, we also received invaluable information from other teachers and students about Brazil. One of the activities I enjoyed being part of was radio matutina. One of the teachers we helped out, Camila, had all of her students' research a particular country and relay the news they read back to the entire class. This exercise was done in order to make everyone aware that there is a much bigger world out there. In fact, Camila's exercise made me realize: with technology readily available, there is no excuse to be ethnocentric.

Although we encountered some unfair treatment, for the majority of the trip, I was fortunate enough to experience the warmth of the international students and Brazilian people I got to know during my stay. When the showerhead in our apartment broke down for example, our neighbors let my roommates and I take turns using their showers. After two days, one of



Pelotas, Brazil. Presenting about identifying and what it is like being Latinas in the United States in a Spanish class at UFPEL university. Photos courtesy of Diana Sanchez.



La puerta de la ciudad (Montevideo, Uruguay)

clear correlations between a racial hierarchy that places people of European descent at the top and people of African and indigenous descent at the bottom, and a socioeconomic hierarchy in which a small elite controls most of the society's

called us "Mexican whores." In Argentina, a light-skinned woman working at a ferry terminal scrutinized us after we arrived late and gave us the once over because of our darker complexions. When we handed her our U.S. passports she asked us if we were Peruvian. We were confused, and wondered why that mattered. Even though she clearly saw that our passports said "United States of America," she was incredulous. These incidents, and many others, made me realize that everywhere within the Americas, racism is still very much alive and rampant.

Nevertheless, despite hearing about the racial tensions that still exist and experiencing

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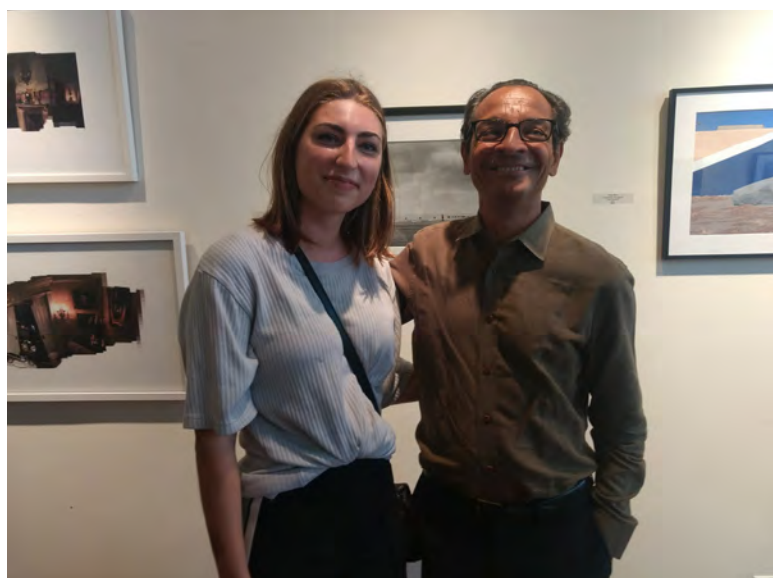
Photography Exhibit Celebrates Alumni and Retired Professor

by **Michi Suazo** | Features Editor

In her photographs, Leona Strassberg Steiner, a 2013 NJCU graduate, explores global warming. One such example lays at the NJCU Alumni Photography Exhibition, where black and white photos of children's feet lay on top of Japanese bamboo trees that were cut down. "In New Orleans, the rising waters provide a sociopolitical impact. Who's left behind? Who's going to get saved first?" said Steiner. "It presents an issue about race. What about the prisoners?"

Steiner is one of the many photography alumni whose work was displayed both at the Visual Arts gallery and the Harold B. Lemmerman gallery in September. An array of pieces such as Bart Babinski's stunning 3D-esque "JD Allen"; Cristine Posner's "Point Guild", which looks like a surreal wallpaper image on TV; and Alissa Laurie's two digital inkjet print pieces called "Fragmented Body I" and "Fragmented Body II" were on view.

The exhibition was also held in part to honor Professor Mauro Altamura, who retired last year. Altamura attended and said he missed his students. He also expressed gratitude towards his colleagues. "The main thing is the students. I had such a great time. My life here was all about the students. What a gift to be a teacher and to work with you all," said Altamura in



Prof. Mauro Altamura with one of the participating artists, Stephanie Durante (B.F.A. 2017).

Both photos courtesy of Professor Midori Yoshimoto.



a speech. Altamura was hired as an emergency replacement in April 1985 by Louis Tiscornia, the media coordinator at that time. He started as an adjunct teaching photo history and just kept getting hired by Tiscornia. "If it wasn't for him, I would never have been here and my great journey at Jersey City State

College (present day NJCU) would have never started." President Sue Henderson also attended the event to express her gratitude for the program.

Justin Linsangan, a photography major who graduated last semester and who had Altamura as a teacher, said "He was a really good

professor and was always trying to push your ideas past the line of comfort and boundaries." Brian Roy, a photography major who graduated in 2010 had Professor Altamura for Photo as Fine Art class, said, "Mauro was amazing, kind, and understanding. He made us really think about our work critically."

The exhibition was curated by Alissa Alurie with the help of Midori Yoshimoto. Select artworks are also available for sale. Half of the proceeds will be donated to the Tom Reiss Memorial Photography Scholarship. Established by his family and friends in memory of Tom Reiss, an NJCU professor who passed away in 2000, this scholarship will be awarded each year to two students. A portion of the funds will be used as a juried award presented to an outstanding high school photographer who has submitted work to the Art Department's High School Art Exhibition. A second award will be given to a student majoring in Art or Photography who has demonstrated an interest in completing a worthwhile project related to art, education or the environment that could not be completed without this money. Both awards will be made based on recommendations by Art Department Faculty.

Continued from previous page

our neighbors opted to fix our shower for us, free of charge. These are things very customary of Brazil. Neighbors tend to help out one another and often invite you over to enjoy a cup

of coffee or even dinner. These wonderful day to day exchanges have made me thankful for being selected to be a part of Idiomias sem fronteiras. Each place I visited and every interaction

was special. I was blessed with way more benevolent people and eye opening experiences to remember for a lifetime.

Frankenstein: Two Centuries of Influence

by **Sean Quinn** | Op/Ed Editor

Frankenstein's monster is one of the most iconic villains in the history of popular culture, and this year is the 200th anniversary of Frankenstein's publication. Let's take a look back at one of the most influential stories of all time.

Most people know the story of Victor Frankenstein, a scientist who plays God by creating a humanoid creature who, upon being animated, turns out to be an abomination, or a monster. The monster escapes after being unattended to and attempts to assimilate with humanity, but develops a seething hatred for people after

being scorned and shunned for his ghastly appearance and gigantic stature.

After reuniting with his creator, the monster begs Victor Frankenstein to make a female companion for him. Initially starting on the project out of fear of his own creation, Frankenstein scraps the unfinished body after pondering on the multitude of ways in which the situation could turn disastrous from a second monster. Frankenstein's monster, enraged, takes revenge by killing Frankenstein's best friend and bride-to-be. Victor Frankenstein ends up chasing his creation all the way to the

North Pole with the intent to end its life, but dies before he even sees it again.

Not many readers know of the more interesting facts about Frankenstein's background. The novel was written by "18 year old" Mary Shelley, the wife of famed poet Percy Shelley, and was initially released anonymously when she was 20. The story came about from a trip she and her husband took with poet Lord Byron to come up with the best horror story. It's also considered to be the first ever work of science fiction, since Dr. Frankenstein uses science to achieve fantastic results. Frankenstein's monster

also takes a great departure from traditional monsters in literature at the time, being very eloquently spoken in its portrayal, and with strong undertones relating to the nature of man.

Even after two centuries, Frankenstein remains one of the most influential works of all time, especially in literary, feminist and cultural circles. The monster remains a symbol of the pitfalls of attempting to play God and change humanity, and remains one of the most critically acclaimed horror stories of all time.

Censorship and Bradbury

by **Diana Sanchez**

Envision a world where creativity and critical thought are limited. Where the masses are controlled and indoctrinated into knowing only as much as the government allows. That is exactly the dystopian world Ray Bradbury presents to his readers in the short story "The Pedestrian," which would later go on to inspire his debut novel, "Fahrenheit 451."

In "Fahrenheit 451," Bradbury puts an ironic and unconventional twist on the protagonist, Guy Montag's, occupation. Montag and his posse are firefighters, but rather than putting them out, they are in charge of breaking into people's homes and creating fires to eliminate any traces of books. In this bleak American future, books are outlawed and

must be destroyed at all costs.

Almost all of the inhabitants of this world, including Montag's wife, are convinced that books are evil. Instead of reading, they devote all of their time to being glued to their massive television screens. All except a small few; one of them, a "17-year-old girl" named Clarisse, challenges Montag to think and question authority. Clarisse enjoys walking in the rain and looking at the morning dew on the grass, which seems strange to Montag, but entices him to observe the world around him. This inevitably leads him to question the powers that be and think for himself.

In an interview with "American Author," Bradbury recounted how he and a friend were stopped by a police officer

for merely roaming around and walking in an area very few people walk through. The officer told them to go home.

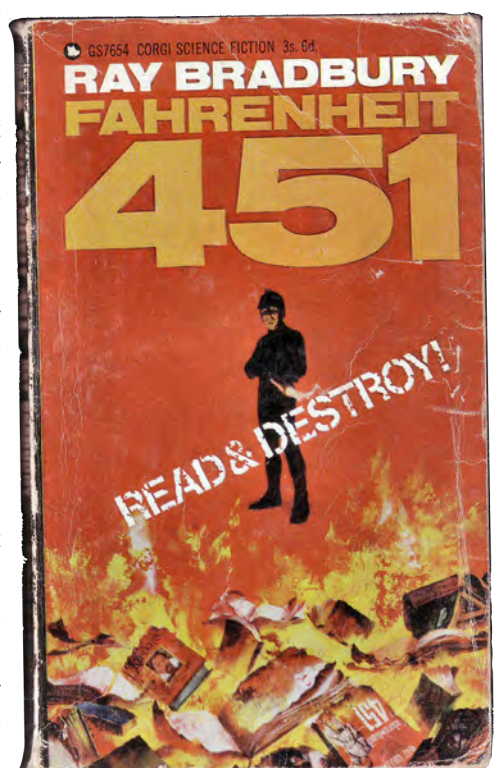
This is what ultimately inspired

"The Pedestrian," a prelude of sorts to "Fahrenheit 451." If it was not for Bradbury and many other great authors critiquing censorship and the state of our technologically obsessed society, where would we be?

So here's to all the rebels, to all the brazen ones that fight the naysayers. To those who stand with conviction and who aren't afraid to fight for their art, for what they believe in and those

that stand up for what's right.

Read the full article online at gothictimes.net.



Continued from front page

In this year's midterm election, the people running have the opportunity to improve the country. Having democrats in office can also help citizens who could be facing a crisis if Trump attacks the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The ACA, also known as Obamacare, affects many people especially senior citizens and millennials who are still included in their parent's healthcare. About 12 million citizens are enrolled in the health insurance program. During a recent appearance on the "Late Show with Stephen

Colbert," NJ Senator Cory Booker urged millennials to vote and said the cost of college education could be in jeopardy. Booker also warned that same-sex marriage laws could be overturned.

According to "USA Today" a "record number of lesbian, gay, and bisexual or transgender candidates are running for office." More Democratic women are also running for office than ever before, many of whom want to stand against Trump and his sexism. They stand for equal pay and against sexual harassment. It's very uncommon for women to have a voice in our

government, which is another reason why it's important to vote. We should not have a Congress controlled only by men.

Candidates such as Michigan State Rep. Rashida Tlaib, for example, the daughter of Palestinian immigrants, is the first Muslim woman ever elected to Michigan's legislature and could soon become the first-ever Muslim congresswoman. Voting in this year's midterm election is one way to stand up for every victim in the U.S., including victims of sexual harassment and police brutality. Voting next month can help lead to justice for black lives,

immigrants, women who have been traumatized and people who still receives backlash for loving whoever they want. People always complain about wishing and wanting things to change, but in order for that to happen we all must go out and vote.

Political Science Professor Francis Moran gives his thoughts on what the outcome on the midterm election could be. Moran said, "I think the democrats will get the majority of the House and the Senate. There's a lot of women candidates. It creates a strong difference and impact in the country."

Put It Out

by **Angela A. Garcia** | Contributing Writer

By June of 2019, NJCU will be a smoke free campus. The university will ban all types of cigarettes and nicotine devices, such as vapes, JUUL, and hookah pens. The initiative comes from a national campaign for

creating smoke-free college and university campuses.

I feel that a smoke-free campus is an important step to making NJCU campus life better. Easier breathing on campus offers a better atmosphere for students,

especially those who have a respiratory problem such as myself.

Walking through clouds of smoke and the ever-changing scents from devices such as Logic, JUUL and other vapes can be overwhelming.

E-cigarette smoke is still considered second-hand smoke. It's also hard to avoid the smells because they spread and leave a thick layer of fog over the area. The air feels so heavy to breathe; I feel like I'm the one who's smoking. A JUUL pod is equivalent to smoking one pack of cigarettes. An hour-long hookah session is approximately equivalent to 100 cigarettes.

The consequences don't stop at addiction, however; even when you vape, you inhale more than just nicotine.

Traces of lead were found in some popular vape devices, according to a study done by Johns Hopkins University. Of the 100 e-liquids tested, 56 contained lead and traces of metal. The coils that heat up the vapes do not contain lead, according to the scientists that tested the devices; it's coming from the oil-like liquid that's jam-packed with flavor.

Becoming smoke-free is not only an NJCU trend, but other universities like Pennsylvania State University and the University of Michigan are also becoming smoke-free campuses. There are more than 2,000 campuses across the United States that are entirely tobacco-free. It is an ever-popular trend NJCU becoming smoke-free is just a better alternative because we all need to breathe easier. College is already stressful, I shouldn't have to worry about walking through another cloud of smoke on my way to class.

Illustration by Nat Hand



Iron Fist 2 is Actually Good

by **Maxine Antoine** | A&E Editor

(This article contains spoilers for Iron Fist Seasons 1 and 2. Be warned.)

Iron Fist Season 1 left me feeling very disappointed in Netflix and the Marvel creative team. The acting was terrible and the hard-headed main character spent most of his time complaining about how horrible his life was, even after discovering he owned the multi-million dollar Rand Enterprises. The fighting sequences looked fake and on top of that, the show made it seem like the main character is saving a minority group of Asians.

In reality, Danny Rand, was a crybaby who could not stand on his own two feet. He also made self-righteous promises that he couldn't keep. After watching Season 1, I wondered why on earth Colleen Wing, the female co-star of the show (or as I call her, "Danny's lackey with an identity crisis"), was with him in the first place. After summoning up the courage to watch season 2, I stand corrected. Not only does the acting live up to my expectations, the character development is much better. I actually care about Colleen and Ward. Sadly, Danny still needs to do a lot more before I start caring for him, but he is getting there. He is no longer the crybaby that we first saw in Season 1. He owns up to his faults and realizes, by the last episode, that he needs to figure out what he wants and what he's fighting for.

I love the fact that he rejects Matt Murdock's

(Daredevil's) unrealistic self-righteous viewpoint in his way of protecting the city. The scene where he realizes he doesn't fully know who he is was beautiful because for the first time, Danny is acknowledging that he doesn't have a true purpose; this is why he felt as though Colleen was the better fit for the glowing glove.

The fighting scenes are also much better in season 2. Each character had their own style and it was hard to even tell it was all choreographed, except for the scene at Bayard when Danny is trying to sedate Davos. In my opinion, there was a second in their fighting sequence where Danny's fighting lacked energy. But, for the most part, I can honestly say that it looked believable.

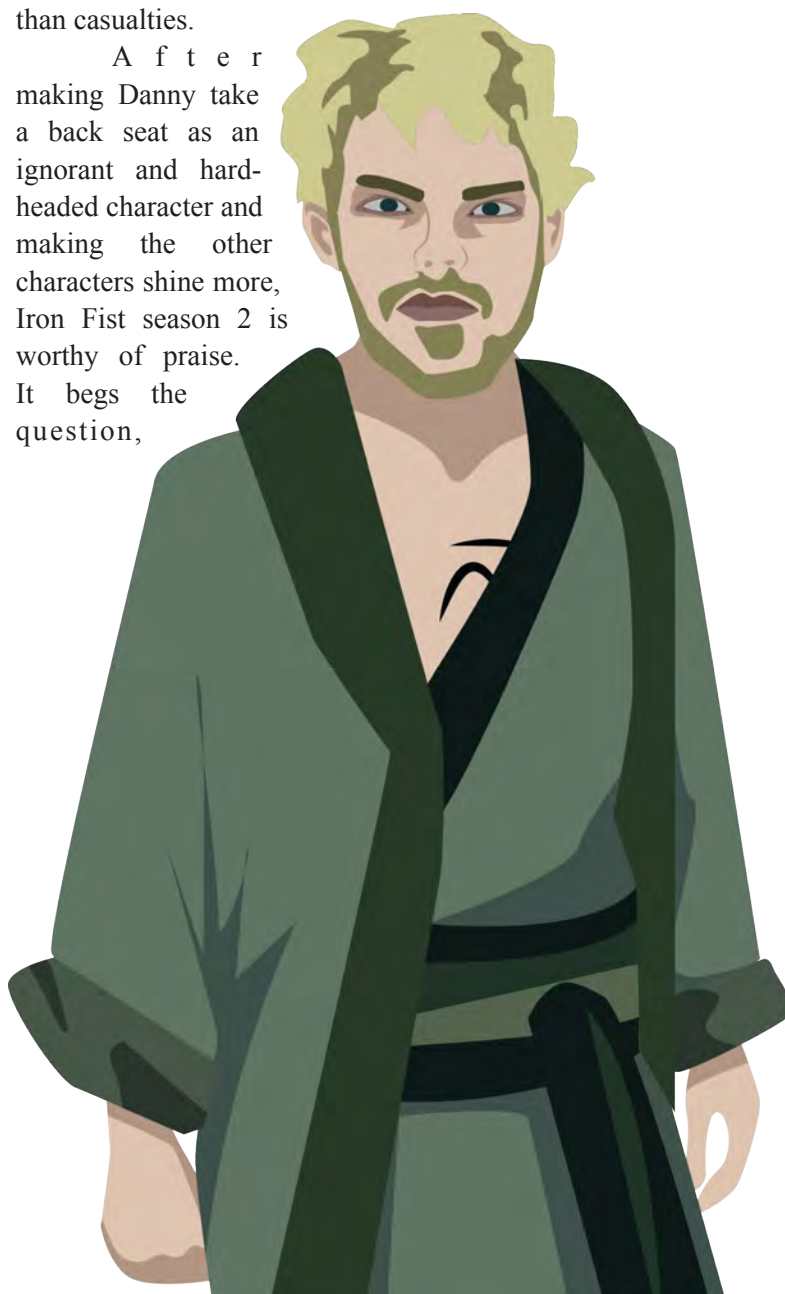
My favorite part about this new season of "Iron Fist" would have to be Colleen's birth as an immortal iron fist. If anyone is better suited to become a hero, it's Colleen. Besides the fact that Colleen is a Japanese-American character, she is also the only character with a lot of clarity; she knows what she wants. She doesn't succumb to anyone, not even Danny, if it means betraying herself. She knows she has potential, potential that she fears, but with a little push from Misty Knight, from Marvel's "Luke Cage" series, Danny, and BB's corpse, she accepts her potential and seizes the opportunity to become an immortal iron fist.

The only thing that annoyed me would be the feud

between the Hatchets and the Tigers. Danny and Colleen kept telling Mr. and Mrs. Yang to make peace with the Tigers. The only time that they came together to form an alliance was when Davos became their common enemy. They lost so many men because of their stubbornness and lack of reasoning. Their alliance probably would have resulted in a different ending for both groups with a lot more survivors than casualties.

A f t e r making Danny take a back seat as an ignorant and hard-headed character and making the other characters shine more, Iron Fist season 2 is worthy of praise. It begs the question,

then, why Netflix decided to cancel the now-improved series, where there was plenty of hope for season 3. Perhaps it will make a return on Disney's upcoming streaming service, some speculators say, others are petitioning Netflix to bring Iron Fist back for a third season. For now, fans can only hope for a continuation of the immortal Iron Fist.



Courtesy of Monica Sarmiento

NJCU Clubs and Groups

Get involved, meet new people and try new things! If you don't see your organization listed here please email Events Editor at csimon@njcu.edu.

Academic

Health Science Students Organization:

Focuses on representing the Health Science major and its students, networking, community service, and promoting the public health education profession. For more information contact Elhaji Diene at ediene@njcu.edu. (Main campus)

Undergraduate Student Research Club:

Focuses on helping students interested in scientific research learn more about this topic, develop professionally, and network. For more information contact Johanna Riera at jriera@njcu.edu. (Main Campus)

Culture

African Student Association: Focuses on bringing together and representing the African Students at NJCU, as well as discussing, celebrating, and sharing African culture. For more information contact Amirat Adelani at adelaniamirat@yahoo.com (Thursdays, Main Campus)

Black Freedom Society: Focuses on unifying the black students of NJCU and discussing

Caribbean Student Association: Focuses on representing the population of Caribbean students at NJCU, and celebrating the beauty of Caribbean culture. For more information contact Jyorkenne Campbell at jcampbell5@njcu.edu (Main Campus)

Business

Financial Management Association: Focuses on providing students with hands on experience in finance related activities, including trips, panel discussions, resume workshops, guest speakers and more. This group seeks to promote a better understanding of the financial industry and create opportunities for its members. For more information contact William Ianni at Wianni300@gmail.com (Business School, Fridays)

Global Careers Club: Focuses on global networking, helping international students transition, and aiding students who wish to study abroad. Contact Lisa Gauthier or the Global Careers Club for more informa-

tion at lsqgauthier@gmail.com or njcugcc@gmail.com (Main Campus, Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Student Investment Management Group:

Focuses on teaching future investor and anyone else interested about how the market works. This group provides the opportunity to develop portfolio management skills while working with a team to invest real money. For more information contact Dr. Richard Mayell at RMayell@njcu.edu (Business School, Mondays)

Women in Business: Focuses on helping future business women develop professionally, forge connections and prepare to enter the workforce with a level of familiarity and awareness. For more information contact Afiya Thomas at athomas2@njcu.edu (Business School, Fridays).

Community Service

Rotaract: Focuses on providing students the opportunity to volunteer and give back to the community while meeting new people and trying new things. For more information contact rotaract.njcu@gmail.com (Main Campus)

Sports/Exercise

Intramural Sports: Allows students not interested in a school team to stay in shape, meet people, and have fun participating in any of NJCU's different sports and activities listed below. **Deadlines for sign up are towards the end of September and the end of October!** For more information contact Sergio Villamizar at svillamizar@njcu.edu or go to John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center (JMAC). (JMAC, various days)

- Volleyball
- Indoor Soccer
- Bench Press Competition
- Aqua Basketball
- Aqua Golf
- Beginner/non swimmer and Intermediate Swimming Events
- Chess
- Flag Football
- Basketball
- Dodgeball
- And More!

Cheerleading Club: Focuses on creating a positive and motivating cheerleading team where everyone is welcome. For more information contact Jabrayah Taylor at jtaylor1@njcu.edu.

Religious

Elohim Academy: Focuses on studying the Bible from an academic perspective using history and science to explore its teachings. The club hosts seminars, events and community service, and is open to everyone interested in learning about the bible in a new way. For more information contact Cindy Alviar at xelohimacademyx@gmail.com. (Main-Campus)

Muslim Student Association: Focuses on embracing Islamic values through charity work, promoting the Muslim community presence, and encouraging cross-culture events. This group is open to fellow Muslims, those who interact with Muslims daily, and those who just want to learn something new and have fun. For more information contact Ammer Abdin at ammerabdin@gmail.com. (Wednesdays, Main Campus)

Other

Fashion Org: Focuses on promoting self-love amongst NJCU students while exploring fashion trends, participating in fashion shows, hosting various events, and having fun. For more information contact Savinah Mirville at smirville@njcu.edu. (Tuesdays, Main Campus)

LGBTQ Alliance and friends: Focuses on serving the LGBTQ community at NJCU through awareness, support, empowerment and collaborations with our allied clubs and organizations. The ultimate goal is to create an inclusive environment on and off campus where all sexual orientations and gender identities are viewed equally. For more information contact Stephany Estevez at sestevez@njcu.edu (Main campus, Tuesdays)

The Greenhouse Society: Focuses on learning about the beauty of plants, volunteering in the greenhouse, and helping out with gardening projects. For more information contact the Greenhouse Society at greenhousocietyofnjcu@gmail.com. (Various Days, Main Campus)

Nothing on this list interests you? Start your own club! Visit Student Government or contact the SGO Manager Marlon Daniels at mdaniels2@njcu.edu for more information.

POWER MOVES

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EVENT TIME: 4:00PM

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