



# THE GOTHIC TIMES

The Official Student Newspaper of New Jersey City University.

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April 2020

## WHERE DID EVERYONE GO?

How COVID-19 Stole 2020 Sports

by **Zoe Viant - Managing Editor**

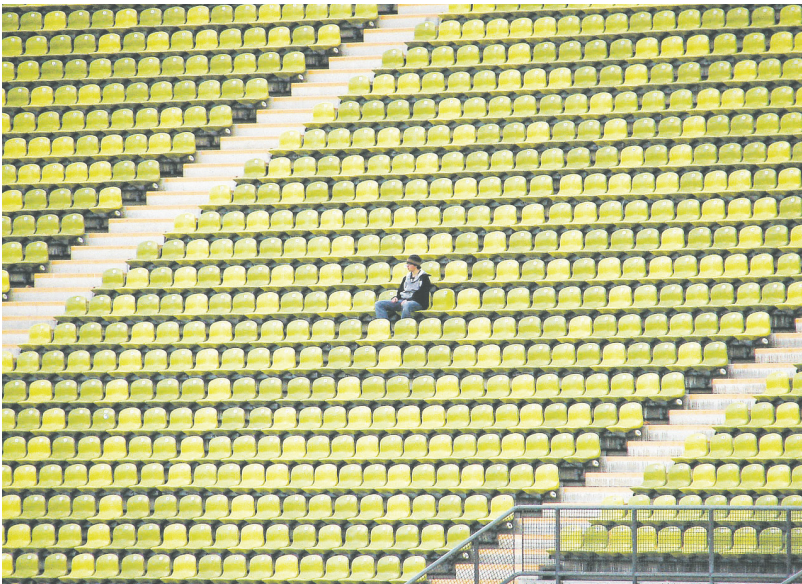


Photo displays stadiums going empty due to virus.  
Photo courtesy of Wgbiebert/Pixabay

**T**he COVID-19 has left people with nowhere to go and for those die-hard sports fans, nothing to do at home either. Being that everyone is quarantined, now would have been a good time to sit back, relax, and watch some good ol' ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network). However, any sport that was to take place during this season has been cancelled. Tragedy struck when Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz basketball team tested positive for COVID and after that it was a downward spiral.

The next day, Donovan Mitchell, also on the Jazz, tested positive for the virus. Associations such as the NBA (National Basketball Association) and FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) were trying to find a middle ground to not have the virus spread anymore and at the same time give viewers at home a chance to watch.

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## FOOD SUPPLY FOR DORMING STUDENTS

by **Kenise Brown - Editor in Chief**

**M**ore than 90 students remain at NJCU's residence halls despite the university being closed. While many forage for supplies due to the Coronavirus, the students on campus are being taken care of. According to Jennifer Luciano, assistant dean of Residence Life and Student Engagement, Gourmet Dining has a variety of to-go meals for students. The Food Pantry is also open if they need additional supplies."

Robert Quinones, assistant director of Community Engagement

says the Food Pantry is opened "from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday." In addition, the pantry provides the students with backpacks. "The backpacks contain basic essentials such as rice, beans, pasta sauce and canned vegetables. Students may also select a box of cereal and shelf stable milk while supplies last," Quinones says. "I will continue to do all I can to keep the pantry stocked to meet student needs."

In continuing to meet student needs, Luciano says Residence Life contacts students to see how they are

doing and if there is anything they need. Luciano says: "We support and provide the students whenever we can. We would even take runs to grocery stores to see what we can help them with."

However, due to limited supply, not all students on campus have access to masks and gloves. "While we cannot provide each student who is currently dorming with gloves and masks, we ensure them to always wash their hands and have good hygiene. The cleaning staff has some gloves to

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## WHERE DID EVERYONE GO?

Their solution was to not have any spectators come and watch the games. The seats would be empty, but the game continues.

That idea was short-lived when the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention advised everyone not to gather in groups of 10 or more. Teams in general would not be able to play in the same space, forcing these associations to cancel their seasons. As the days passed, more and more athletes in the United States and other countries like Italy, were being diagnosed everyday with this fatal virus. The President of the United States has advised everyone to stay indoors until they can get this virus under control, but the numbers keep going up in new cases and deaths.

April 30th seems promising with hopes that the virus dies down a bit and they see fewer cases. With this information, it is likely that seasons that begin in the Fall may be pushed back a couple of weeks. Kelly Cohen, a reporter for ESPN, said in an article in early March, "Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach agreed to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Olympics by about one year." It has been 80 years since the last time the Olympics was cancelled, coincidentally, it was also supposed to take place in Tokyo (bad luck or what?). Although it is postponed to no later than summer 2021, the name will still be "Summer Olympics 2020." As for NJCU, the

athletic department has made the decision to cancel the remaining season leaving six programs behind.

Athletes that play for the school are disappointed including senior Baseball outfielder, Juan Peña. Peña says: "It's very disappointing my senior year has come to an end due to the COVID. Although we get eligibility for one more year, that isn't the case for other seniors that are graduating this May. Any athlete shouldn't have to end their career like that. Some of us will end up in debt because we love what we do so much, that we want to stay another year." Not many seniors need to stay an additional year considering they will have fulfilled their credit requirements, but some are willing to stay full time students.

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## FOOD SUPPLY FOR DORMING STUDENTS



Canned goods that can be found inside the food pantry. Photo courtesy of Salvation Army US West/Flickr

share but not for all the students," Luciano says.

Luciano also says the amount of students on campus usually increases to 120 students but always decreases to about 90. "It ranges because everyday you have students checking out and coming back to grab more things they left behind since Spring Break. No one anticipated this would happen while we are on Spring Break so students would come back to get their school supplies and the things they need.

In early April, President Sue Henderson announced through email

that an international student who dormed at NJCU had tested positive for Covid-19. However, the student had already returned home.

Residence Life made sure to sanitize all the dorms. Students had no concerns after precautions were taken.

Luciano says: "We encourage social distancing and a 24-hour quiet place. No outside guests are allowed in the halls ...Overall the residence community have been good at responding and being diligent towards one another.

**Additional reporting by Sandra Mendez**

The Gothic Times would like for everyone to remain safe indoors. Please take precautions of social distancing. This will all be over soon. We hope to see you all next semester.

**Again, stay safe!**



# HOLLYWOOD TAKES A HUGE HIT

The Entertainment Industry Bends the Knee to COVID-19

by **Haresh Oudhnarine - Contributing Writer**



Photo displays an empty movie theater.  
Photo courtesy Bahman Farzad/ Flickr

**M**ajor blockbuster films, such as the James Bond movie “No Time to Die” and Marvel’s “Black Widow” are getting new or pending release dates due to the coronavirus pandemic. Movie theatres across the United States are forced to close their doors in order to help flatten the curve of the COVID-19 spread as ordered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for all non-essential businesses to halt.

Some other films which have been affected by this are “Mulan”, “Wonder Woman 1984”, “A Quiet Place II”, “Fast 9”, “The New Mutants”, “Peter Rabbit 2”, and dozens more.

Warner Bros’ “Wonder Woman 1984” has its third new release date scheduled for August 2020 after being pushed to June 2020 from its original November 2019 date because the producers wanted the film to be released in the summer. Paramount’s “No Time to

Die” also faced multiple new dates and is now slated for November 2020. Universal Studios’ “Fast 9” has been pushed back a complete year to May 2021.

Disney’s “Mulan” and “Black Widow” have new release dates as well. Although both films’ final trailers have already been released, marking the end of their ad campaigns; they will still be able to have their run in theatres. “Mulan” already had its world premiere in Los Angeles on March 9th before it was ultimately pulled from being launched. “Mulan” is now set to be released in July 2020. “Black Widow” is set for November 2020, on the date Marvel’s own “Eternals” was to be released; all of the Marvel release dates have been pushed back due to this.

With COVID-19 being declared a pandemic on March 11, most theatres remained open for one last weekend. Based on information from Box Office Mojo, a total nearly \$54 million was made at the box office for the weekend beginning March 13. The Hollywood Reporter revealed that this was the lowest weekend box office total since September 2000, which was even lower than the totals from the following two weekends after the September 11 attacks.

The movies which were released before March 11 proved unable to make a significant impact in the overseas box office since many other countries were battling the virus before the United States. Paramount’s “Sonic the Hedgehog” was able to make a huge splash in the domestic market with about \$146 million after a dismal first-reaction to its debut trailer. Although grossing slightly more domestically than a similar live-action video game movie, “Pokémon Detective Pikachu”

foreign gross was less than the U.S. Pokémon film by more than \$100 million. “The Invisible Man” and “The Way Back” were also performing fairly well at the box office for films of their size before theatres ultimately closed.

Disney Pixar’s “Onward” was severely undercut from its potential success by being in theatres for only a little over a week. The film had a massive 72.9 percent drop in its second and final weekend. The movie only made \$42 million overseas and \$61.5 million domestically.

Movies are not usually available for purchase until after three months from their theatrical release. Due to the ongoing pandemic, most of the films whose run have been cut short became available for purchase on Apple TV and Amazon. A few of those films are “Onward”, “Birds of Prey”, “Call of the Wild”, “Bloodshot”, and “The Invisible Man”.

Netflix is one of the biggest competitors to the movie industry. Although the streaming service grossed \$20.15 billion worldwide in 2019, its business model is very different from that of theatres. Netflix’s goal is to always keep their members subscribed through the constant release of new content; the main difference in comparison to the theatre model is that Netflix users pay a set price once a month whereas, in order to watch a movie in theatres, each person would be charged to watch the film. Netflix also has a surplus of content slated to grace their platform in the upcoming months. They recently released “Self Made”, “Ozark” season 3, and the “Tiger King” docuseries.

Many have posed the idea for studios such as Disney to put their

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# WHO'S ON YOUR BOOKSHELF?

## Own Voices in the Classroom

by **Rebecca Richardson - Contributing Writer**

**Y**ou can tell a lot about a school just by looking at its classroom libraries. Classroom libraries are collections of books and magazines used to encourage independent reading in a designated space of a K-12 classroom.

Whether there's a lavish space with comfy bean bag chairs accompanied by the latest bestsellers, boxes of roughed up bent paperbacks on a windowsill, or no classroom library at all, this component of a classroom can reveal a school's culture and priorities.

Students of NJCU's College of Education are reminded about the importance of encouraging literacy as a part of everyday life. Some students are easier to convince than others that books are magical—a whimsical escape from reality that fuels ideas and possibilities. Maybe the struggle to convince K-12 students to read is a lot closer to home than one may think. How can we expect students to want to read, if they can't see themselves within the literary world?

Just like in the movies, in sports, and even in Congress etc. representation matters. While books centered towards diversity and multicultural themes are

great, the issue occurs before the book even has a spine.

Recent strides to push diverse authors onto the forefront of the book market occurred in 2015 when Corinne Duyvis, a YA (Young Adult) fantasy and science fiction author, pioneered Own Voices, a twitter hashtag to shed light on books where the creator and main character share a form of marginalization. According to Blue Crow Publishing LLC, a small press that only allows submissions from Own Voices authors:

“Own voices” means that if you are writing a main character who is part of marginalized group, you are part of that marginalized group. If you are writing a trans\* main character, you are a trans\* person. If you are writing about an American Indian main character, you are American Indian. If you are writing about a disabled main character, you are disabled. And so on.

Still in 2017, only 7 percent of the new children's books published that year were written by Black, Latinx, and Native authors combined. In our classrooms at NJCU, we're above the

national average in overall diversity, ranking #154 in the nation as above average in student body ethnic diversity. For this purpose, Professor Tamara Tallman, an adjunct professor at NJCU, says, “Students at NJCU should feel inspired to write their own stories and look to have them published to add to the classroom

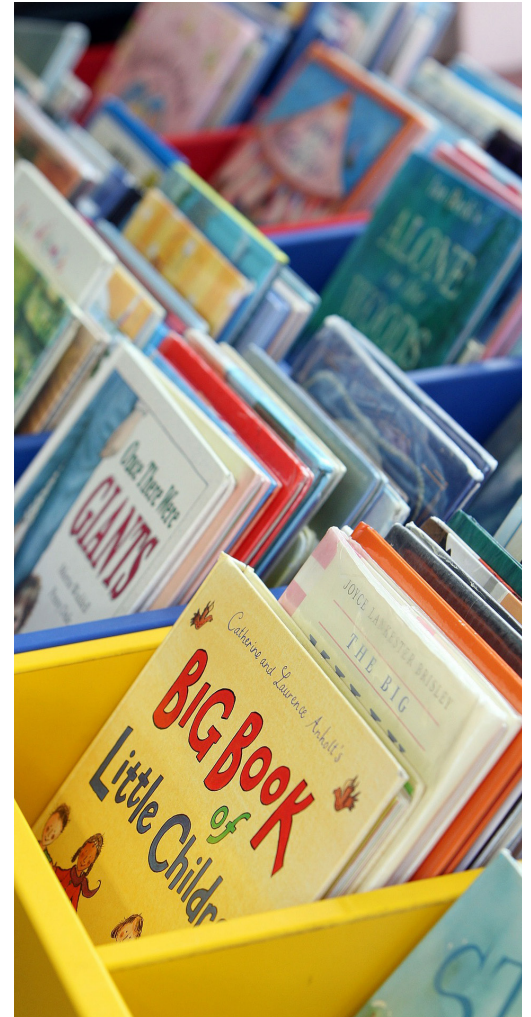


Photo displays Children books.  
Photo courtesy of Wokingham Libraries/ Pixabay



Photo displays Children books.  
Photo courtesy of Wokingham Libraries/ Pixabay

libraries of their colleagues and make the classrooms of America truly representational of the neighborhoods in America.”

Publishers, it's 2020. It's time that you invest more in pushing books by Own Voice authors to the front shelves. From there, the representation of a creator from a marginalized group can inspire readers to read, create, and transform any field because of the inspiration drawn from one book. This is the magic of literacy and it all starts in the classroom library.



# THE QUEST FOR WATER ON CAMPUS

by **Monica Ortiz - Contributing Writer**

**B**etween commuting, going from class to class, clubs and extracurricular activities, students can get thirsty very quickly. There are multiple places on campus where thirsty students can get water, e.g., Dunkin Donuts, the cafeteria, book store, and vending machines all sell water for various prices. However, it can be quite costly to constantly buy water bottles throughout the day.

Doctors recommend people drink eight 8-ounce glasses. To give you a perspective on how much that is: it is estimated to be about 2 liters, or half a gallon of water a day. So, people might have to buy 3-4 bottles of water daily when they're on campus. This is where these water bottle refill stations come into play. The idea for the stations was developed by President Sue Henderson.

What do these filters do? Well, as Anthony Rago, Director of Facilities, explains, "the purpose of the filter is to screen out general impurities in the water and 'polish' water for a more palatable taste by tempering chlorine and turbidity." These filters provide cleaner and safer water for all of our students by removing sand, silt,

chloramines, and chlorine.

The water bottle refill stations are not only convenient but also good for the environment. Instead of using 3-5 plastic bottles a day, you could use one reusable bottle and simply refill it throughout the day.

The main company behind the filtration systems is Elkay. The cost of one of these stations is about \$1050.00, not including installation and piping. Rago has said that as of January 16, 2020, all the stations have been paid for by the university. So far these stations have been implemented in Vodra, Hepburn, Rossey, and Karnoutsos. After that people were starting to wonder why they were not installed in the building where most students go to.

Suddenly, a station appeared in the Gilligan Student Union building (GSUB) despite all the talk that they couldn't and there wasn't enough money in the budget. That leaves questions of "How?" and "Why?". I spoke to Anthony Rago




"The plumbing behind the existing water fountain had to be completely removed, replaced and relocated to make it work with the

fill station. The installation required unforeseen piping and electrical reworking," according to Rago.

Now that four buildings on campus have these stations, students can enjoy filtered water while saving the environment and saving money. I personally haven't paid for bottled water in months because of these stations.

The next step is to have the refilling stations implemented in other NJCU dormitories like West Campus Village and Co-op. Since there is already one in Vodra, it only makes sense to have one in the other dorms as well for the students who spend the most time on campus since they should have access to convenient, filtered water in their dormitory.

These water filtration stations are great for the environment because it cuts down on plastic. It is also beneficial to the students on campus so they can save money on bottled water. Plastic is extremely damaging to the environment and every little step in using less plastic helps the environment.

	Cafeteria	Dunkin	Vending Machines	Book Store
	\$1.95	X	\$1.75	(20 oz) - \$2.59
	X	\$2.30	X	X
	\$2.45	X	\$2.50	(23.7 oz) - \$2.29 (33.8 oz) - \$2.99



# THEY LOST GOD AND FOUND TRUMP:

## A New Conservitive Wave

by **Keion-Mekhi Jackson**

Keion-Mekhi Jackson is a minister, activist, commentator, and contributing writer for the Gothic Times.

“In the “lynching era,” between 1880 to 1940, white Christians lynched nearly five thousand black men and women in a manner with obvious echoes of the Roman crucifixion of Jesus. Yet these “Christians” did not see the irony or contradiction in their actions.”

*James H. Cone, The Cross and the Lynching Tree*

Conservative people have historically fused together their belief in Christ with their patriotism. The Christian-right sees Jesus from a place of privilege, they see him as a nationalistic, patriarchal mascot, Aryan; and not a reformed Jewish rabbi. There lies a question, would they recognize Jesus if he walked through their church doors. The Christian-right does not see Jesus as a dark-skinned, curly haired, Palestinian Jew who liberated the poor, and stood up to religious and Roman leaders. In 2016 Donald J. Trump was elected to be the 45th President of the United States of America. This shocked some people but for some of us it did not. Trump added more coal to an already burning fire rooted in racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and pigmentocracy which is the basic foundation conservative social theology and American society as a whole. This then sets the precedent of the conservative view of President Trump in 21st century American politics.

President Trump, in his first 100 days in office not only deemed himself an evangelical Christian, but also created an anti-christian manifesto which led to the building of a wall along the Mexican border with a concentration of immigrants who are Latinx descent. This led to a travel ban which vehemently focused on West African, North African and Middle Eastern countries which are predominantly Muslim. By putting fourth anti Latinx and anti-Muslim rhet-

oric we see the rise of conservative nationalism which puts into perspective the american view of terrorism, without realizing that xenophobia is a type of terrorism itself. This xenophobic ideology propelled itself into conservative theology especially with its most “profound” voices such as Franklin Graham and Pat Robertson in an article by the Christian Daily spoke highly of Trump’s Armed Forces trans ban and immigrant detention centers. Now, when we read the gospel of Christ it calls us to be rooted in love across religion, orientaion, sex, gender, and skin color. Jesus in nature expanded his ministry by engaging people deemed unfit for his time. Trump, if he is truly a Christian, a student of Christ, he should destroy walls not construct them.

Furthermore, when Trump enjoins that Haiti, El Salvador, and an assortment of African nations are “Sh\*\*thole countries” he has then radicalized, tribalized, and verbally recolonized these places which allows his followers to re-assert their whiteness in everyday life. Whether it be telling Spanish speaking folks to speak English or telling Black people to go back to their country these types of behaviors are cruel and rooted in whiteness. In the Garden of Eden when God tells Cain that his brother's blood cries out to him from the ground, asking him if he has realized what he has done by killing his brother, calls us to question if Donald Trump and his conservative cronies realize the impact of their legislation and

usage of biblical philosophy. This has been the central issue of their theology. In the words of the Rev. Dr. Ottis Moss III, when we look critically at the gospel, it is a political manifesto of liberation and change. When Jesus tells Peter to drop his fishing net and follow him in the gospel according to St. Luke, Rome the Oppressor was without fish, Jesus then places the power back into the oppressed people under the rule of the Roman government.

Since then, I have been basing my critiques of this movement from my Judaeo-Christian background as a Theologian, Pastor and African-American man. It is safe to say that Donald Trump has appropriated a neo-slavocracy in America, being that this rhetoric seems to be rooted in Jacksonian philosophy regarding people of color. This said philosophy is problematic, because the appropriation of Jesus Christ as capitalist is false. Jesus Christ is a socialist, because his whole work was centered around taking from Caesar to restore life back into Lazarus, not just in the form of liberation, the gospel, but alms for survival. The truth is that in order for America to be cleansed of its past he must realize that racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and pigmentocracy is demonic in nature. America must define itself once and for all as either an Anglo-Saxon nation or a melting pot for all people. Then and only then will this land be the land of the free and the home of the brave.

# THE BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS

by **Monica Ortiz - Contributing Writer**

**D**id you know, Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which requires 12 million containers of oil to produce? The average family only recycles 15 bags a year while the rest end up in landfills or as litter. This is an incredible waste of resources that Jersey City has been leading the charge to fight.

Starting in the summer of 2019, Jersey City started enforcing a ban on single-use plastic bags. Jersey City was the largest city in the state to implement this ban, causing a ripple effect of other towns and cities to soon follow along.

Despite the ban, the cafeteria at NJCU still has plastic bags available for use. According to Ed Mallaney, an operational controller for Gourmet Dining on campus, Gourmet Dining was told to continue having plastic available and to operate as usual. Plastic bags are being used to bag Subway Sandwiches and plastic bags are available by the cash registers for students to put their lunches in, regardless of regulations.

According to Jodi Bailey, director of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, “this law has not been enacted yet, and all entities have up to 18 months to comply. Gourmet Dining has the right to use its supply up before needing to adjust their practices accordingly”. Whether NJCU should go through and ban plastic is up in the air at the moment. “Yes, because they’re only for temporary use and they’re thrown away and then end up everywhere afterward.” says freshman Kimberly De Leon on whether plastic bags should be banned on campus.

According to Waste Management, only 1 percent of plastic bags are returned for recycling. Plastic bags are

made of polyethylene. Ethylene is derived from natural gas and petroleum. Reusable plastic bags can be made of recycled plastic, recycled bottles, thick plastic that is more durable than disposable plastic bags or cloth.

New Jersey started banning plastic bags town by town starting in early 2020. Back in December, N.J. lawmakers forwarded legislation to ban the use of plastic and paper bags, as well as plastic foam containers. The ban is making its way through several towns across the state. There is still a debate on whether there should be a bill or not banning plastics.

North Bergen resident Maria Elena said, “Overall, I think it’s a great idea and a step in the right direction. People need to take issues regarding our environment seriously. I do think however there needs to be more promotion about it because I feel like a lot of people walking into stores with no clue about the ban.”

Despite the positive impact on the environment, some people think a ban on plastic is an inconvenience. Some say the ban can hurt the people that produce the bags because it can lead to layoffs for people who manufacture plastic bags. Many people find the upfront cost of buying reusable bags inconvenient and would rather just use plastic bags and go about their day.

Susana Fernandez, a resident of Secaucus where plastic was banned in



Photo courtesy of publicdomainvectors.org

January, said, “I think it’s extreme and quite annoying. I will not only have to purchase reusable bags for me but for my mother. If the president of the United States does not care about saving the environment, how is not using plastic bags in the supermarket really going to help? It should start at the top.”

“I know there are stores that collect plastic bags and say they recycle them, but I don’t think they do”, says Jon Wagar, Deputy Executive Director from Duke Farms. “I don’t think anybody has an answer [whether reusable plastic bags can be recycled]”. Duke Farms is a nature preserve in Somerset County.

Despite some disagreement from people, the positive effects of plastic bag bans outweigh the inconveniences it may have for some shoppers. Research shows that plastic bans reduce trash, waste, and improves the uses of resources. Disposable plastic bags lead to more problems than reusable ones and banning them is a step in the right direction to helping the environment.



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delayed releases on their streaming service Disney+. This begs the question if the company would risk not making a billion dollars from “Black Widow”, a film in the Marvel franchise where each entry has earned more than a billion or at least gotten very close. In

2019, Disney earned over \$10 billion in the worldwide box office, the most for any studio of all time. This does not include the money which Disney has earned from their multiple theme parks, merchandise, and other sales, which added up to over \$69 billion in 2019.

With the future of Hollywood in limbo, it is unknown what the situation

will be for movie theatres within the upcoming months. There is a lot left up in the air about COVID-19; whether it will dissipate by May or August, a range many experts have predicted. Many theatres are already facing possible bankruptcies. Will the movie business be able to return back to normal after COVID-19 passes over? Only time will tell.

# MULAN: A FAMILIAL REFLECTION

(Film Preview)

by **Arianna Bianciella - Contributing Writer**

Upon watching the trailer of *Mulan*, the differences between the live-action and animated release are prevalent. The Imperial Chinese Army, stricken by the traumas of war, the familial detachment, the mystical elements, and the reality of an aging father without a son to carry an engraved weapon into war. It is not meant to be a remake but a retelling of *The Ballad of Mulan*—a focus on an age-old epic lost over time.

Compared to the animated story of *Mulan*, the live-action film continues to shock audiences. There are no song-and-dance sequences and instead instrumental versions of the original songs. It is a story highlighting bravery - one that does not cut corners. Western audiences might be conflicted with the upcoming film, its lack of musicality and focus on a direct storyline.

Through the steady scope of the trailer, one can view *Mulan*'s perseverance and fiery optimism as a testament to her father's sacrifice for the Hua family. Li Shang, *Mulan*'s original love interest, is replaced with Commander Tung and Chen Hongfui, the latter of whom *Mulan* gravitates toward. Hongfui's character is on a similar playing field being a soldier. The focus might appeal to wide-ranging audiences, and those seeking *Hua Mulan*'s true story vaguely retold through her father's eyes.

Understandably, it is a darker retelling of *Mulan*'s journey. The cinematography is noticeably vibrant and flashy. Undoubtedly, audiences are drawn to the characterization of *Mulan*'s façade, the darker themes, and the color scheme of the film itself especially the usage of red. A transformative, multifaceted shade reflecting *Mulan*'s growth as a character from a frightened woman to a dignified soldier appearing in flashes through *Mulan*'s pancake makeup, lit candles, and traditional garb.

In spite of Disney's intervention, the story of *Mulan* is relatively unknown. Moreover, Disney has chosen to glamorize cultural details. Talkative

sidekicks, Mushu and Cri-Kee, both of whom were adored by Western audiences and initially provided for comedic relief, might have detracted from *Mulan*'s mission. In an earlier cut of the live action film, Chinese audiences abhorred themes of romance.

Chinese audiences believed the animated spin to be too unoriginal, Americanized, and preferring accurate storytelling. China did not enjoy the animated take on *Mulan*'s story abhorring the character Mushu as the dragon is symbolic in Chinese culture—a representation of willpower and dignity. When facing war, Chinese warriors did not trim their hair as *Mulan* famously did before her departure. However long hair is a subtle symbol of confidence.

Starring Liu Yifei, Donnie Yen, and Gong Li, the 2020 release is based on the origin story of *The Ballad of Mulan*, where *Mulan* forgoes her family in order to protect them. Becoming a member of the Imperial Army to protect her ailing father from the shadows of war, she is forced to protect herself, the other recruits, her family, those unbeknownst to her whereabouts, and might become subjected to violence and humiliation if her identity is revealed to the public. A story of sacrifice, *Mulan* seeks to lead the Imperial Army to victory.



Photo courtesy of IMDB.com



# CHRIS BENOIT

## The Man Who Almost Destroyed Wrestling

by **Angel Madera - Contributing Writer**

One of WWE's (World Wrestling Entertainment) finest performers, a visionary, idolized by fans and wrestlers alike. If you are a fan, you already know the person by one of their ring nicknames: Canadian Crippler or the Rabid Wolf. We are talking about Chris Benoit, but what people remember about Benoit is the unforeseen double-murder-suicide that occurred in 2007, promptly destroying his reputation and almost-wrestling, altogether. Eldest son David Benoit, sister-in-law Sandra, formerly close friends, members of the famed Guerrero family and Chris Jericho remember the good, the bad, and the ugly of Benoit in the docu-series, "The Dark Side of the Ring," which explores the ills of the industry.

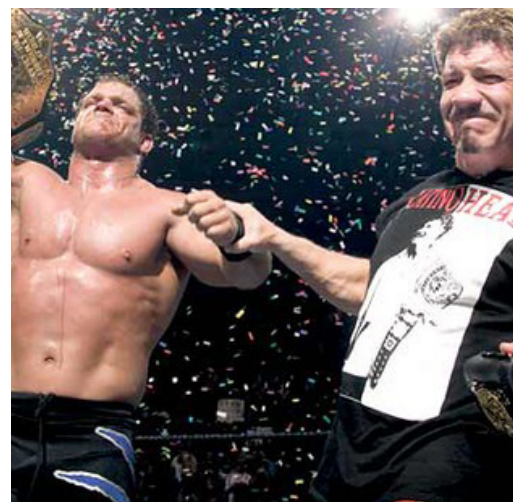
Personally, this two-part documentary by Vice News was the finest piece they have ever done, considering their recent focus on daily news, politics, intense subjects like sexuality and addictions. As a young fan

of wrestling, I remember seeing Chris Benoit every Friday Night Smackdown doing what he loved. The last time I saw him wrestle was in an ECW (Extreme Championship Wrestling) match against Elijah Burke in a pay-per-view event called Vengeance which Benoit ultimately won. I remembered the bewilderment I felt when he was replaced by Johnny Nitro. Soon after, the news of his death was announced on Monday Night Raw and viewers watched the tribute with loss for words. WWE did not know enough details surrounding Benoit's death and later regretted the prerecorded tribute, blacklisting the Benoit name.

Regarding the cinematic aspects of the docu-series, the camera work is stilted and intense. The camera focuses on home-movies of Benoit, his family, his sons, and relationships with the Guerrero family. There were even old photos shown still pressed into albums as if their memories remain alive.

Before that fateful day in June, Chris met his future wife, Nancy Toffolini, where she was then-known by a variety of ring names. Toffolini was said to be a feminine pioneer that revolutionized women in a male-dominated industry. Toffolini's character was one of grandeur, a deadly force during her debut, one starkly before her time where women remained solely at the sidelines to cause disarray in the ring. Tumultuously married to another wrestler named Kevin Sullivan, Toffolini sought an escape. Placed into a storyline-relationship with Benoit, he and Toffolini became permanent as her relationship with Sullivan deteriorated.

After welcoming a son, Daniel, sooner than expected, relatives and close friends reminisced about their marriage



Benoit and Eddie Guerrero as WWE 2004 Champions. Photo courtesy of Sousa Online/Flickr.

as it correlated to Benoit's later actions. Later, the unexpected passing of Eddie Guerrero rocked Benoit, who depended on Guerrero as if he were salvation itself, but Guerrero depended more on his heart which ultimately gave out on him. The memory of Eddie Guerrero weighed on Chris Benoit's emotional well-being, noted by equally devastated family members.

Benoit became overwhelmed by his grief, and the progression of a then-unknown condition lurking in the background. The documentary explores how Benoit suffered at the hands of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a neurodegenerative disease caused by repeated head injuries.

Undoubtedly, sports and wrestling fans will enjoy the series. Chris Benoit was no doubt an icon in the wrestling world. Unfortunately, many of his accomplishments were overshadowed by the abrupt tragedy. Had the tragedy never happened, Chris Benoit would have been inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame and his family could tell the tale of an unflawed athlete.

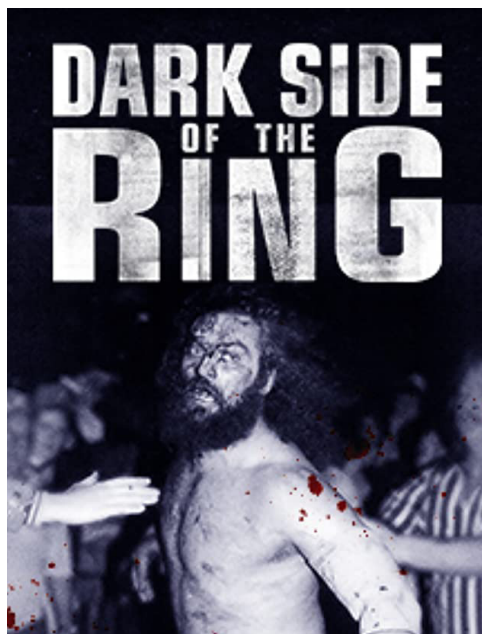


Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

# NO TIME TO DIE

(Film Preview)

by **Angel Madera - Contributing Writer**

**T**here is a new addition to the Bond franchise. As he played the iconic MI6 agent since 2006, Daniel Craig will end his run of his role with this last film, “No Time To Die”. Originally slated to release in the United States on April 6th of this year, the producers have decided to push the release date for November 25th due to obvious health concerns.

In the last film “Spectre”, we left off with Bond leaving the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and settling down with Dr. Madeleine Swann. In the “No Time To Die” trailer, we see that Bond and Swann have settled down in Jamaica and possibly married each other. It also appears that Bond’s American CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) ally Felix Leiter (Jeffrey Wright) is recruiting Bond to help with what looks like another world threatening dilemma. A scientist named Valdo Obruchev (David Dencik) went missing and appears to have been abducted. Action-packed sequences and desperate dialogue indicate that Swann is not all what she seemed. All this takes us back to MI6 headquarters where the services of James Bond are needed again to save Queen and the country once more. However, this does

not appear to be another solo mission for Bond like previous times as a new spy has emerged to stardom at MI6 during Bond’s 5-year hiatus. Played by Lashana Lynch, Nomi is a new ‘00’ agent that may hold skills and talent that matches those of Bond. No doubt, we should expect these two alphas to clash as they face an imminent threat.

From the trailer, we see the new villain, Safin, played by Rami Malek. Producer Barbara Broccoli described the character as “one that really gets



Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

under Bond’s skin.” Malek also says about the character that he is a person that sees “himself as a hero almost in the same way that Bond is a hero.” It is reasonable to ponder whether Safin has any connections to Ernst Stavro Blofeld (Christoph Waltz), last seen in “Spectre” and now imprisoned. Let us not forget as well, the MI6 crew that makes their routine appearances in every Bond film as they will once again assist Bond. These are of course M (Ralph Fiennes), Q (Ben Whishaw), Bill Tanner (Rory Kinnear), and Moneypenny (Naomie Harris). Viewers are in for a thriller that they will enjoy.

Personally, I am excited as a Bond fan and I am looking forward to the end of this iteration of Agent 007. I was especially astonished to hear the theme song by Billie Eilish, “No Time To Die.” The score will also be done by the impressive Han Zimmer who will no-doubt impress fans. There are questions surrounding who will be the next James Bond. Some names have been put out such as Idris Elba, Henry Cavill, or Tom Hiddleston. Whoever the next James Bond may be in the coming years, James Bond will always be the iconic franchise it always has been.

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Hello Students! Welcome to The Gothic Times Photo Challenge Spring 2020. Please social distance while taking photos. There will be two categories.

**Category 1- Inside Environment**, how are you dealing with boredom and online classes while being at home?

**Category 2- Outside Environment**, how is the scenery outside? What landmarks do you see? What basic outdoor activities can you do while being safe?

These are basic guidelines but don't be afraid to expand on them. Photos will be selected based on content, composition, and creativity. The winning photo for each category will receive a \$50 Visa E-Gift Card via email.

If using a smart phone please use the default PNG or JPEG format. If using a digital camera please use JPEG format and at least Normal picture quality.

Please submit photos by email to [dwilsongt764@gmail.com](mailto:dwilsongt764@gmail.com) with a subject line of GT Photo Challenge Spring 2020. Also, please share your entries to social media using the hashtag #GothicTimesPhotoChallenge. Thank you for participating! Good Luck!!

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