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STUDENTS SPEAK UP AT NOVEMBER SENATE MEETING

by Haresh Oudhnarine - Editor-in-Chief



Hepburn Hall, the administrative building at NJCU.

Photo by Haresh Oudhnarine.

Students expressed multiple concerns at the recent University Senate meeting ranging from campus dining, communication issues, meeting organization and productivity, campus safety, rain damage to dorms, faulty fire alarms, and more.

Khadija Diop, a student senator-at-large, said, “NJCU could do so much better for their students, and we need to fix the big gap in communication if we want more student engagement and feedback because how can we expect students to stay in the school that doesn’t give them the information or respond to their needs? We can’t.”

Thyquell Halley, the president of the Student Government Association (SGA), spoke about a recent survey sent to students about Gourmet Dining food concerns. He said that there were over 400 responses and that SGA met with Ed Mallaney, the director of Gourmet Dining, to discuss what students reported, which included undercooked chicken and other issues.

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Laney Fox, a student senator-at-large, said that the faculty Senate meetings need to be more organized. Fox said, "As a collective group, we are frustrated with the way individuals conduct themselves on these meetings. It is important to understand that our goal is to make this university a better environment and experience for students, faculty, and staff. As the Senate of NJCU, we cannot be a productive governing body if we are making personal attacks and screaming at each other."

Diop highlighted communication issues within the Senate and the university as a whole. Diop said, "For the past two Senate meetings, there has been a great amount of disorganization that could be resolved if we planned a little bit more ahead. There is no reason why a senate meeting should be interrupted for people to decide on meeting formats and voting formats and whether we have a chat. These are things that should have been discussed prior."

Diop also called out the Senate for only allowing student senators four days to look over the documents that they had to vote on for the October meeting. She said, "We are voting on important matters that affect the entire university, so we should have enough time to think, discuss, ruminate, and exchange on the topic before making any decisions."

Storm Dangers and Residence Hall Concerns

Communication from the university regarding the cancelation of in-person classes presented safety concerns, according to Diop. She said that she found a commuter student sheltering from the rain near the library who had no knowledge that in-person classes were canceled for the day. On top of that, Diop said that email communication about the delayed opening for GSUB was sent out

much later in the day.

The Vodra and Co-Op residence halls need to be "desperately repaired," according to Diop. She said, "There is no reason why we should be paying over \$7000, before aid, to live here if I have to worry about falling panels and rain damage to the roofs above our heads."

In recent weeks, students have reported problems with heat in Vodra Hall, the Visual Arts Building, and Karnoutsos Hall. There have also been issues with leaking ceilings in Fries Hall.

Diop also said that fire alarms have been easily set off in the residence halls from shower steam and even blow dryers. "There are reports from the past eight weeks that can confirm this."

Ron Hurley, associate vice president for the Department of Public Safety, provided information on the building damages in an email interview. He said, "As you know the surrounding area was severely impacted by tropical storm Ida. Yes, we did have issues with flooding and ceiling damage from the heavy rains. Most of these issues, if not all, have been addressed. We are still investigating complaints as we are made aware, and will take corrective action as needed."

Regarding the fire alarms, Hurley said, "As for the fire alarm issues, we did have problems with the smoke detectors at WCV. All smoke detectors in WCV have since been changed, which will minimize the amount of fire alarm activations. As for fire alarm activations in COOP and Vodra Hall, each has been investigated and were determined to be accidental activations by occupants, not mechanical."

Alnoor Cheema, the senior class president, spoke about her experience with Tropical Storm Ida from the first week of classes. She said that her class was set to end at 9:45 PM the Wednesday night of the storm and her professor

refused to end class early without any notification from the university. She said that this presented a major safety concern for students who had to travel home in the rain.

Cheema wants the university to be better prepared for storms in the future.

Crystal Genthe, the freshman class president and student senator, also spoke about safety concerns from Tropical Storm Ida. She said that students in Vodra and Co-Op halls experienced flooding during the storm.

Despite the storm in October not being as bad, Genthe said, "Messages that were being sent out were miscommunicated. GSUB hours were all over the place, classes were made virtual, yet some professors canceled classes completely."

"Why is NJCU so unprepared when it comes to dealing with these emergency situations and how can we improve on being prepared with these unpredictable predicaments?" Genthe asked.

Information on Emergency NJCU Alerts

Tropical Storm Ida resulted in a 1 PM delayed opening for NJCU on September 2. The October 26 Nor'easter resulted in a completely remote day of classes.

Ira Thor, the senior director of University Communications and Media Relations, explained that delayed openings, changes to remote operation, and other temporary changes made due to weather events are determined by the University Crisis Leadership Team. He said, "All students, faculty, staff are notified through multiple notification methods, including a university-wide email, and phone calls and texts messages from the Gothic Alert system. Additionally, all primary social media platforms are updated, as is the home page of NJCU.edu, including an alert



Vodra Hall at NJCU. Photo by Haresh Oudhnarine.

banner at the top of the page. We are very thorough, thoughtful, and consistent in our notification process.”

Thor also explained why some people might not receive emergency alerts from the university. He said, “If students, faculty and staff are not getting messages, that means they have opted out of receiving email communications. If they are not receiving Gothic Alert notifications, they have opted out or have not updated their contact preferences. An email is sent out at the beginning of each semester to students, faculty, and staff to update their contact preferences.”

The NJCU community can sign up for emergency alerts from the university on their GothicNet accounts. Detailed instructions can be found on the Public Safety webpage.

GSUB Dining Hours and COVID Concerns

Ruth Diegue, the sophomore class president, said that the GSUB cafeteria hours are not very accommodating for student-athletes who have late practices and students who have late classes.

The hours for the GSUB cafeteria are 8 AM to 8 PM on weekdays and 11 AM to 5 PM.

Diegue said, “What we ask for is that the weekdays are extended to 10 PM and the weekends to 7 PM.”

Diegue also expressed concern about high school students having access to the GSUB cafeteria regarding COVID safety. She said, “These students come in large groups in which there is no room for NJCU students to enter the cafeteria, get their food on time in the small window in which they must get to their next class, or handle other business. This is a COVID concern and this can increase the spread of the virus. We ask for the safety of the students, staff, and facility workers that we limit outside access to our resources.”

Relating to these concerns, Jodi Bailey, the vice president for Student Affairs, explained in an email interview that high school students are considered guests at the university and how that relates to the COVID policies. Bailey said, “All members of the NJCU community must be vaccinated to be on campus. This is the first round of defense and the best fight against COVID. Anyone in a public

space must wear a face mask and practice safe social distancing protocols. NJCU has not had a single case of COVID from high school students utilizing our space. They are no different than any other guest or visitor on campus.”

Bailey also said, “We clear all of our safety protocols with our University doctors, contact tracers, and dining requirements and have been praised by the Jersey City Department of Health for all of our testing, vaccinations, and COVID protocols. We have not had a single COVID outbreak on campus as determined by the Board of Health since the inception of COVID.



WEATHER ADVISORY

Weather Alert | September 2, 2021

Dear Members of the NJCU Community,

Due to the impact the remnants of Hurricane Ida has left on Jersey City and its surrounding communities, please note the status of academic and business operations planned for **Thursday, September 2:**

- The University will operate with a **delayed opening**. All classes will be **delayed until 1 p.m.**
- The campus will open at 1 p.m. for all employees. Employees should work remotely **prior to 1 p.m.**
- This announcement **does not apply to weather-essential personnel**, who should report as usual.
- Updates regarding our location at Fort Monmouth will be determined and posted on our website (www.NJCU.edu).

For more information, please sign up for the **NJCU Alert Us** system.

Please continue to remain aware of your environment, be careful of any damage the storm may have caused, and take all necessary precautions to remain safe.



New Jersey City University
2039 John F. Kennedy Boulevard | Jersey City, NJ 07305

Email that was sent out for the delayed opening on September 2. Thor said it was sent prior to 6:30 AM.

THE CURSE OF IMPERIALISM ON HAITI

by Nevin Perkins and Grace Perez

In late September 2021, images of the U.S. Border Patrol agents on horses surfaced to national media attention. Seen on horseback, the photos show officers attempting to apprehend Haitian migrants and brandishing horse reins in a manner that has the nation asking, “Are Black people being whipped at the border?” These photos have been nothing short of a nightmare for the Biden administration.

Much of the outrage is highlighting that the unfair treatment of Haitians is due to systemic racism and anti-blackness. Here’s what NAACP president Derrick Johnson had to say about it: “The humanitarian crisis happening under this administration on the southern border disgustingly mirrors some of the darkest moments in America’s history. If we were to close our eyes and this was occurring under the Trump administration, what would we do? The inhumane treatment of the Haitian refugees is utterly sickening.”

When asked about the crisis at the border, President Biden responded, “It’s horrible what you saw. To see people like they did, with horses, running them over, people being strapped, it’s outrageous.... I promise you, those people will pay. There is an investigation underway right now and there will be consequences.”

Similarly, Vice President Harris was also questioned about the situation to which she compared the treatment of the Haitians at the border to the violence against indigenous people and African Americans during slavery. Despite the Biden administration’s comments, the crisis at the border continues.

It’s clear that President Biden needs to take a stand on how his immigration

politics will be remembered. Perhaps he already has. According to a recent NY Times article thousands of Haitians have already been deported, with 4 scheduled flights a day beginning September 4th. More than 6,000 Haitians have been deported between September 19 and October 1.

Biden, despite making promises to end the Trump immigration policy era, has been rapidly deporting Haitian immigrants using policy from the era he’s claimed he wants to end. Title 42, a policy implemented by the Trump administration that allows rapid deportations, essentially stripping migrants of asylum-seeking rights, under the pandemic claiming it is a public health hazard. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) successfully sued the government (government is currently appealing), demanding the end of Title 42.

Haiti, a nation that has been through recent turmoil, including a presidential assassination and a severe earthquake which displaced countless Haitian citizens. Fear of violence from organized crime has also drawn Haitians to leave their home country and seek asylum with the United States. However, despite the disasters taking place in Haiti, not all migrants seen at the border are coming directly from Haiti. Many are coming from South American nations, having lived there for some time. With the promises of a new leaf in immigration politics, it is no wonder there has been a spike in migrants seeking to enter the nation.

The United States has long been involved in Haiti’s affairs. After the assassination of their president in 1915,

President Woodrow Wilson sent the U.S. Marines to restore order and stability. This occupation lasted until 1934. Since 1973, the United States has been Haiti’s biggest donor.

In fact, since 2004 the United States has given around \$600 million to Haiti for improving governance, security, the rule of law, economic recovery, and critical human needs. Furthermore, the United States has exercised its influence on Haitian politics since 1994 with the goal of encouraging democracy.

While it would be hopeful to believe that this involvement has helped Haiti for the better, this might not be the case. President Bill Clinton once demanded that Haiti drop tariffs on the importation of subsidized U.S. rice. This action created a negative effect on northern Haitian farmers. The U.S. aid provided to the country was given based on U.S. policies and not on Haiti’s needs.

On October 22, 2012, Secretary State Hillary Clinton gave a speech at the opening of the Caracol industrial park - a project that destroyed the natural and archeological potential of that area. And then in 2011, WikiLeaks revealed that President Barack Obama’s administration fought to keep Haitian wages at 31 cents instead of the proposed 61 cents that the Haitian government had passed.



NJCU in 10 Podcast
Dr. Natoschia Scruggs |
Director of the Lee Hagan
Africana Studies Center

All in all, U.S. intervention in Haiti has been a controversial issue for years in past and for years to come. For years the United States has debatably helped the situation in Haiti become worse and worse. Now, as millions seek asylum from the problem the United States has helped create, the U.S. has turned them away and abused their power once again. It is clear that change needs to be brought to the Border Patrol and that a better response is required from President Biden.



Map of Haiti.

COLLEGE: *AN OVERWHELMING FIRST IMPRESSION*

by Jaren Couvertier - Contributing Writer

Starting college is meant to be a life-changing experience that gets you excited for the betterment of yourself and the next four years of education. If that's the case, then why are so many college freshmen unprepared for what college has to bring?

According to a survey done by publicschoolreview.org, approximately 60 percent of college freshmen felt that high school did not prepare them for what college brings. This is a major issue because so many of those freshmen tend to drop out because of the unexpected stress put on them.

Take it from a college freshman, there is a lot of uncertainty during the first semester, ranging from how your schedule works to learning how to use the new tools given to you such as Blackboard. That stress alone is enough to affect one's mental health and get some students to drop out before even their sophomore year, according to collegeatlas.org which found that 30 percent of college freshmen drop out.

The pain point can be traced back

to their high school career because it is so different from college not only in structure, but in expectations. The crucial difference between high school and college is in high school you are always watched and reminded of what is needed to be done as well as given a set timeframe for your classes and homework. In college you're expected to do this for yourself, and it can be overwhelming for freshmen.

Not everything about college is all doom and gloom; college has a variety of resources that can benefit students in a multitude of ways, ranging from tutoring centers to guide those from low-income areas.

Low-income students may face different challenges than other freshmen. Some students who struggle in all four years of high school may have only moved up because their low performing high schools are required to meet a graduation rate in order to maintain their budget.

Reporters at baltimoresun.com have written about cases like this. For

example, in one, 1,500 low performing students were allowed to graduate.

Luckily, there are resources such as the HUB (NJCU's main tutoring center) or the TRIO Learning Community (TLC) that students can access to gain the help they need and clear up the first semester confusion that plagues most freshmen.

It's clear to see that a college freshman has a lot to deal with during their first semester and that overwhelming nature can be traced back to a multitude of factors, but times are changing. More and more students are pushing past that first confusing hurdle and experiencing college the way it should be thanks to the resources provided by the university.

Sure, college can look intimidating at first glance, but that does not mean you should call it quits and walk away. There are a whole lot of different resources that can aid you out in NJCU alone that can help ease the frustration college can bring, all you have to do is go out and accept that help.

BATTLE OF THE BOULEVARD

by Charles Villanueva - Contributing Writer

The wait is finally over: the Gothic Knights have returned.

In early November, the men's basketball team had an exhibition game against Saint Peter's University (SPU). An exhibition serves as a warm-up for the season in the realm of collegiate sports.

NJCU and SPU are less than 2 miles apart on Kennedy Boulevard, which is why the annual matchup between the schools is called the "Battle of the Boulevard." The game hadn't happened, however, since 2019.

The game provided an opportunity for the community surrounding both programs to observe local talent. The match-up is especially great for NJCU, given the fact that this is an opportunity to spotlight their talent against a bigger school. NJCU is seeking to build on its great season last year by channeling the same spirit and collaboration into this year's campaign.

NJCU started the game hot, with excellent possessions on both sides of the ball. They traded blows with SPU for the majority of the first half. Going into halftime, the Gothic Knights were down three points, the score was 43-40. The strong play in the first half showed glimpses of last season's success.

SPU went on a scoring spree to begin the second half. They won the game thanks to the strong second-half start. The game ended with a 90-66 score. Despite the loss, NJCU fans were encouraged by their team's performance throughout the game.

Not being able to participate because of an injury, freshman guard Zaire Jefferson said, "It's tough to sit games



Photo of Zaire Jefferson from home-opening game against Farmingdale State.

Credit: NJCU Athletic Communications.

out but I was happy to be with the team." He also said, "It felt good to be in that atmosphere again, it felt good to see the fans in the stands." When asked about his enthusiasm for the season, he stated, "I'm excited; we are all eager to play together and have fun."

Up next for the Gothic Knights was a match-up against Alvernia University, where the score was 60-70. The match-up took place as a part of the USJ Tip-off tournament. The tournament marks the start of a string of competitive matches for the Gothic Knights. Aside from their conference schedule, NJCU will try to win some games against non-conference opponents. When asked about the upcoming schedule, Zaire said "As a whole, we are ready to show teams what we got. Some games will be more difficult than others, but that is part of the fun of competing."

Basketball season elicits a great deal of excitement at NJCU. Both the men's and women's teams have created a

tremendous amount of buzz within the last couple of years. Basketball represents a ray of hope, a deviation from the norm. Because the basketball season was cut short last year, this year's season is extra special, and the entire community has been looking forward to it.

NJCU in 10 Podcast
NJCU's Black Student Union



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SUCCESSFUL RETURN FOR THE ALLIANCE

by Ivana Estime - Contributing Writer



Left to Right: Luis Garzón (President), Artemis Kozak (former acting Vice President), Abby Shivers (Secretary), Crystal Stanley (Vice President).

The LGBTQI+ Alliance returned with a successful meeting in late September. It had been the first time the club met physically since 2019 because of COVID and their short disbandment in 2020. The disbandment was caused by a difficulty to maintain membership but that may no longer be the case.

The room was decked out in colorful pride flags along with delicious cookies and treats for all in attendance. The room was filled with pride as the room becomes packed with new members and old. The first meeting back was a huge success for the club. Alliance advisor Liz Hickey stated that the meeting was “the biggest attendance in all her five years” of running the club.

The officers of the club are set on making this a successful semester for the Alliance. The officers are the president, Luis Garzón, vice president, Crystal Stanley, secretary, Abby Shivers, and treasurer Allie Naeseth.

“The Alliance seeks to create greater awareness about the issues and unique experiences faced by the Queer

community. Being the president of the alliance has taught me how diverse, supporting, and resilient the queer community at NJCU is. Everyone is welcome,” said Alliance president, Luis Garzón.

During the meeting, future goals and plans for the club were discussed. Many students had expressed their wish for field trips with the club such as going to The Stonewall Inn, the historic place where the LGBT fought back for their rights.

“I really want to organize a trip somewhere. Maybe a museum or a drag show if possible. Maybe Pride [Parade]. We’ll have to see,” said Alliance treasurer, Naeseth. Others wanted to watch more films and study the history of the LGBT. Events like DragCon in which students can dress in drag and be fabulous on the catwalk are in the works for the club.

The officers of the Alliance are making it easier for members to have their voices heard and to share ideas. All are welcome to join and have their input on how to improve the club.

Earlier this month, the Alliance also hosted National Coming Out Day on campus. A door was set up with pride decorations and encouraged to be used to come out. Some members participated and stood proud of themselves.

Meetings for the Alliance are usually on Mondays from 3PM to 4PM. For information about the scheduled meetings, follow @njcualliance on Instagram!



Main logo for the Alliance.



Logo for equality.



Logo for respect.

DIGNITARY: *NEW JERSEY'S NEW PUNKS*

by Edgar Echeverria - Contributing Writer



Vinci playing a Fender Mustang guitar that is crucial to the band's sound.

In the Punk Rock scene there's always an identity crisis: one either tries too hard or just isn't punk enough, there's never any winning. This happens with any band that is just starting out.

Anthony Vinci is a Media Arts major in his third year at the university. In his spare time, he'll do photography, build, and paint custom guitars or produce music. His latest project was producing the EP *Total War* for a local band called Year of The Rat.

Outside of school, however, he is in a band known as Dignitary. The name came from Anthony's desire to express this sentiment of feeling like a fraud. By choosing such a grand name as Dignitary he plays into this idea: Dignitary being a loose synonym for king. This year with everything opening back up they've been able to play shows over the summer.

The band has been together since the beginning of 2020. Their current lineup consists of Anthony Vinci (Vocalist/rhythm guitar), Sid Diamond (lead guitar), Jack Solis (bass), and Isaac Cortez (drums). They've performed at venues in New Jersey such as The Meat Locker in Montclair and most recently at Stage Dive in Glassboro. Their sound is very reminiscent of the likes of Sonic Youth and Nirvana.

The dissonant feedback on their amps, the abrasive distortion, it's all there when you hear them play live. You can also see the influence through the choice of instruments. Anthony's main guitar is a Fender Mustang which was popularized

by Kurt Cobain. In addition, you're also treated to unique instrument choices. Their most recent gig at The Colonial Bar in Ridgefield had lead guitarist Sid pick up a saxophone for a couple of songs.

As for his role in the band, Anthony is the front man, rhythm guitarist, and main songwriter. When composing a song, Anthony's main goal is to make sure every note counts. For him, a simple melody can mean so much more than a flashy solo which to him is a trope he finds played out, viewing it as a means to get a saturated result out of the melody.

His interest in music has always been with him since he was young, but he has considered himself a "late bloomer" as he feels like he didn't understand music at first. Influences such as Daft Punk, Gorillaz, and especially MGMT inspired him early on in his life.

Having listened to them since he was around seven years old, MGMT has been one band that has stood the test

of time for him. The complexity of their songs and lyrics inspires him to better himself not only as a musician but a writer. Anthony elaborated with saying, "Listen to 'Siberian Breaks' by MGMT... I wish I could write like him lyrically. I wish I had that lyrical skill to communicate."

Currently the band is in the works of releasing an album. You can find out more of the band on Instagram @dignitary.nj to keep up with future gigs and upcoming music. To check out his work with Year of The Rat you can find the EP Total War on streaming services such as Spotify and iTunes.

Tensions Arise at the October SGA Meeting by Monica Ortiz



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Dignitary playing at Stage Dive in Glassboro NJ

It's All Too Well: How (Taylor's Version) Has Taken Over the Charts by Grace Perez



Check out our recent online coverage and podcast episodes

THE JERSEY CITY POETRY SCENE: AN INTERVIEW WITH RESCUE POETIX

by Joy Akeju - Contributing Writer

Rescue Poetix (Susan Justinano) is the current Poet Laureate of Jersey City. She is a poet, spoken word artist, and musician who has performed her heartfelt and introspective work at live events throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Mexico.

Brief History of Poet Laureates in Jersey City

A Poet Laureate is a position granted to a poet who is elected by citizens of their city and appointed by the mayor. Along with the title and literary merit comes various duties such as reciting poems at various events, creating programs to promote literacy within schools, and using the position's platform to honor the city's history and culture.

The tradition of appointing a Poet Laureate is a longstanding part of Jersey City's earlier history, but after some time it was no longer seen as a priority. Aaron B. Jackson had the position in 2004, and for the following 15 years, no one was chosen to fulfill the role. The Poet Laureate position was revived due to the passionate campaigning of the Jersey City Arts Council, on which Rescue Poetix has served for about five years.

In 2018 Rashad Wright, who is a twenty-four-year-old poet and NJCU alumni, became the first Poet Laureate in 15 years and served a two-year term before opting to move out of Jersey City.

Rescue Poetix was elected as Poet Laureate of Jersey City in December 2020 and is currently serving the 2021-2022 term.



Photo from @RescuePoetix on Facebook.

Rescue Poetix on the Rise

Rescue Poetix has been a resident of Jersey City since 2006, and she received her stage name in her earlier years of being active in the underground arts scene in Jersey City.

"I was always the person who wanted to help, wanted to get things done... and that hasn't changed. At one point, someone turned around and said, 'Well, here comes Susan to the rescue!' and it kind of stuck. I wanted to utilize that, and I wanted people to understand. For me it was all about poetry, and it was about the arts... so I adopted Rescue Poetix so that it would be a clear connection between poetry and art and the name Rescue," the Poet Laureate explained.

Rescue Poetix came to Jersey City to attend an event she described as "legendary," which occurred at the Waterbug Hotel, which was a community center of sorts for the city's art performance arts community where poets, musicians, and other artists congregated.

"It was that gritty arts scene that was raw and beautiful and amazing," Rescue Poetix reflected, afterwards describing how she fell so deeply in love with Jersey City that she ran away from her hometown in Patterson, NJ as a young woman and moved into the area.

Artistic works of Rescue Poetix

Rescue Poetix's works have been published in literary anthologies and magazines and showcased in art galleries and official calendars. Some of her most popular works include "By the Light of the Ghetto Moon," which was chosen to be a part of In Full Color: The First Five Years Anthology 2015-2019, and Exposed, which was part of the 2021 Jersey City Public Art Showing event.

Rescue Poetix is also a musical artist and has multiple tracks released on Spotify including her singles "Eye of the Beholder," which was released in 2016, and "Bohemia," which was released in 2020. She collaborated on tracks with a many different artists, creating primarily eclectic electronic music

Rescue Poetix's work can also be found on her YouTube channel, where she shares spoken word poetry and various other projects.



Rescue Poetix passionately performing spoken word poetry.

Organizations and Artist Entrepreneurship

Rescue Poetix has and continues to serve within multiple nonprofit organizations that work to improve equity while creating opportunities and bringing the New Jersey artist communities closer together. She has served on Word Seed Inc (Paterson NJ), committees for Bergen County Players, Hudson County Chamber of Commerce/Hudson Gives, Hudson County Committee College Poetry Committee, and Paterson Performing Arts Development.

Within Jersey City alone, Rescue Poetix has been on the Board of Directors for In Full Color: Empowering Women of Color through Arts and Education (Jersey City NJ), as well as the West Side Arts and Music (Jersey City, NJ) organization, in addition to her seat on the Jersey City Arts Council.

Rescue Poetix elaborated on how In Full Color, one of the nonprofit organizations she is involved in, advocated for marginalized artist groups while uniting the community as a whole. She said, “For In Full Color, the vision is to support women-identified artists through education and empowering women artists through education and the arts. That has changed because we are now all-gender inclusive.”

Rescue Poetix is an advocate for artist entrepreneurship and believes that it is important for artists to understand their importance and the power their diverse perspectives hold, not only within their social communities, but within the economy as well. She asserted that as the arts are a \$985 billion dollar industry, it is important that artists are able to utilize the resources available to them.

“As artists, we are entrepreneurs, and it’s important to recognize the contribution of the arts, everywhere, in your daily life. And each of these organizations that I’m involved with brings a little of that recognition to that ideal, which is why I’m involved with them.”

Intersections of Identity and Diversity in the Arts

Rescue Poetix has made history as the first female and the first Puerto Rican Poet Laureate of Jersey City. She openly shared how those two aspects of her identity have helped her cultivate a unique passion for her work.

“Being bilingual, being Puerto Rican and being based in New Jersey has always been an unusual dynamic. Being a girl in a Hispanic home has always been an unusual dynamic. As a woman, it’s a unique perspective in an industry- in a culture that’s mostly male dominated, in a society that is also mostly Anglo-Saxon, or white dominated. Being Puerto Rican adds that sazón.... the arts should always be diverse, the arts should always be evolving and changing.”

Rescue Poetix holds all of her titles, professional and personal, proudly and views her experiences as badges of honor that shine through in her writing. She lists them all with enthusiasm: “I think that being an artist, a woman, Puerto Rican, a mom of three children, having traveled around the world, I think that experience makes a big difference.”

Fortunately, there is no shortage of diverse perspectives in Jersey City, which has become a beloved home for artists from all over the world to come together and engage in self-expression. Rescue Poetix proudly declared when asked about her thoughts on the city’s demographic: “That’s the great thing about Jersey City- you could go a single day, a week, and there’s something happening every day. Jersey City is the most diverse city in the country as well. You can find artists here that speak Spanish, that speak English, that speak Tagalog, that speak French, that speak Hindu... and it’s so beautiful to have it here right in our own backyard.”

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MOVIES TO WATCH OVER WINTER BREAK

by Julie Marie Frances DeVoe - Copy Editor

The holiday season is a time to reflect and be grateful for what we do have, instead of what we do not have. One thing that we can do during the holiday season now that things have opened back up is going to the movie theaters.

I am personally interested in Spider-Man: No Way Home, despite being a DC fan instead of Marvel (sorry Marvel fans), because my significant other loves Spider-Man. Since we saw Spider-Man: Homecoming in theaters, I feel this may be a bit of a date night for us.

Another movie that I am interested in is Being the Ricardos because I am such a big fan of I Love Lucy. Lucille Ball is funny, charismatic, and charming. That is what we need for the holiday spirit although I am not entirely too excited about Nicole Kidman playing Ball.

Here is a list of movies set to release from December 1st to January 17th:

Being the Ricardos

Release Date: December 10

A movie about the famous Hollywood couple, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. The movie is said to take us into a glimpse of what Ball and Arnaz went through during one week of filming an episode of the show, "I Love Lucy."

West Side Story

Release Date: December 10

Rachel Zegler stars as Maria alongside Ansel Elgort who stars as Tony. Set in New York City in the late 1950's, this is a tale of love.

Spider-Man: No Way Home

Release Date: December 17

The sequel to "Spider-Man: Far from Home" and tells the tale of how Peter Parker deals with everyday life now that he is unmasked as Spider-Man.

The Matrix Resurrections

Release Date: December 22

The fourth film in the latest installment of the Matrix and is reuniting cast stars such as Carrie-Ann Moss and Keanu Reeves. Jada Pinkett Smith is also set to star in it.

The Tragedy of Macbeth

Release Date: December 25

A movie adaptation of William Shakespeare's play, Macbeth. Starring Denzel Washington as Lord Macbeth.

The 355

Release Date: January 7

It stars Jessica Chastain as a CIA agent who needs to join forces with women from various governmental organizations.

Scream

Release Date: January 14

Set 25 years after the initial attacks and seems to be targeting the family members of the past victims.



West Side Story Poster.

Photo by 20th Century Studios [Fair Use].



Spiderman: No Way Home Poster. Photo by Columbia Pictures/Marvel Studios [Fair Use].

THE RISE OF ANIME

by Tia Warren - Contributing Writer

A few years back I would have never imagined that I would become an anime fan. I didn't really know anyone who watched anime. The only thing I knew about anime fans is that they used to get made fun of for being into something that was considered "cheesy." But during the pandemic I was tired of watching the same kind of shows over and over again.

I was scrolling through Netflix when I came across a popular anime called Naruto. I wasn't into it at first but the more I watched, the more hooked I became on a show about a struggling child who wanted to be the best ninja in the village. Throughout watching Naruto, I both laughed and cried as I watched him go through his journey.

After finishing the show, I looked into other anime and was introduced to a whole new form of entertainment. It's very clear that there are many other people besides me who became anime fans during the pandemic. Even in popular bookstores like Barnes and Noble, the once small manga section that was no bigger than one bookshelf, is now a whole wall full of manga. There are many reasons why anime became so mainstream.

A lot of what's trending in the media is influenced by what's trending on Netflix. Netflix currently has over 180 anime shows and movies available to watch including around 30 Netflix original anime. Some trending anime include Hunter x Hunter and Naruto. With so many anime options, people are bound to click on one and check it out. Netflix always displays the top 10 trending shows/ movies. So when people see that anime is already trending, it encourages more people to check it out.



Photo by Pixabay.

Another big reason why anime became so popular is because of social media. Anime has been trending on social media for over a year. More anime fan accounts have been made and posting about anime has become a new norm. On Instagram there is over 160 million posts with the #anime tag. A few years ago watching anime was typically seen as something only "weird" or "nerdy" people do. But due to Instagram and other forms of social media, people are starting to express their passion for anime.

Even Tik Toks that are unrelated to anime often use sounds that are from anime. YouTubers have also been doing a lot more videos on anime reviews and theories. There have even been more cosplayers who show off their anime inspired costumes and outfits. People are no longer worried about looking like a "loser" for watching anime so more people have been giving it a chance.

There have been many new generation anime that have been getting extremely

popular in the last few months. Some examples of this would include Boku no Hero (My Hero Academia), Demon Slayer, and Black Clover. These anime and more have been pulling a lot of anime fans around the world. There have even been anime references in the Olympics. The theme song to Haikyuu has been played during intense Volleyball matches. In addition the Greek Long Jumper, Miltiadis Tentoglo, does a famous pose from the popular anime One Piece, before he won the gold. There are many more anime references that happened in the Olympics or other popular sports events. Because of this, I know a lot of sports fans who recently also became anime fans.

I'm very happy that more people are starting to appreciate the great art and storytelling that comes with Japanese anime. Anime has been a popular form of entertainment in Japan for over 50 years and it has been becoming more popular in other countries as well. If you've never watched anime before, I suggest giving it a try. Here are some of the most popular anime in the United States right now: Attack on Titan, Jujutsu Kaisen, Black Clover, Assassination Classroom and Tower of God.



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ISSUE #2

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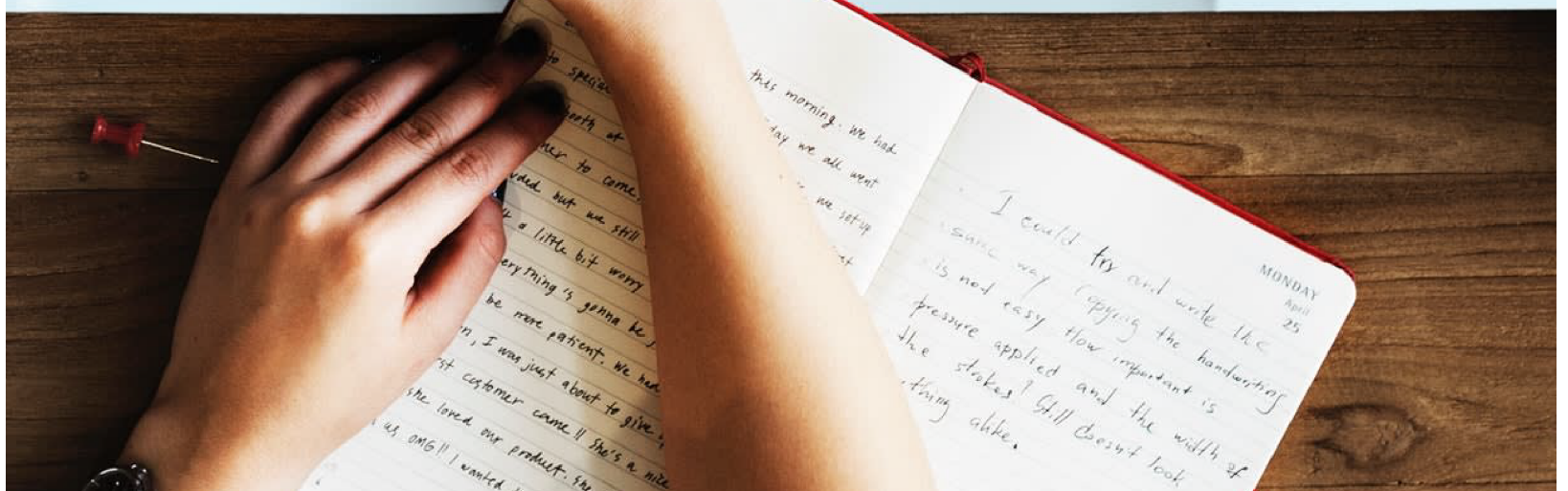
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ART PIECES

PHOTOGRAPHY



10 MOBILE GAMES TO PLAY AFTER A LONG DAY

by Station Rodriguez - Contributing Writer

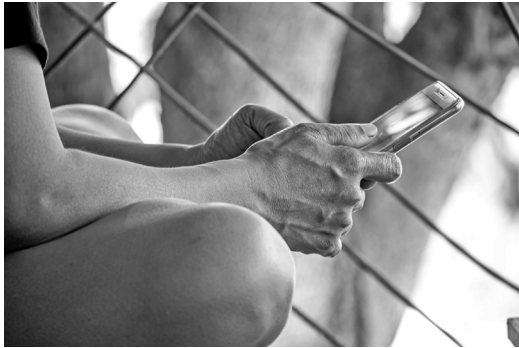


Photo by PankeysonPhotos/Pixabay.

Everyone gets tired after a long day, and there are very few games that are made to help people relax. This list is a quick and easily accessible mobile games that are simple and relaxing to play after any long day, or in the quiet moments in between.

10. Hello Yogurt by LoadComplete

In this slow-paced rhythm game, you play as a yogurt cell making its way through the digestive track after a scientist begins research on how to use yogurt to prolong lifespans. You bounce your way through different body parts, collecting coins and evolving to go further into the human body. This bright, stylized game has a chill soundtrack, easy mechanics, and an educational side plot (if you're into biology)!

9. Cooking Mama: Let's Cook! by Office Create Corp.

If you're a fan of the Cooking Mama franchise, you'll love this mobile version! It has all the fun, mini-game styled mechanics of cooking in the original game and a ton more features where you get to run a restaurant, go camping, farm, and more! Unlock all the

nostalgic recipes you remember while having a fun and bright way to melt away stress.

8. Tomb of the Mask by Playgendary Limited

Reflexes and puzzle solving is the name of this 8-bit styled maze game. Explore through dungeons collecting stars, coins, and "dots" to level up and unlock new skins to play in. If you get tired of a certain level, you can play the infinite mode and build up your skill as you try to stay ahead of a rising wave.

7. Dadish by Thomas K Young

This simple platformer follows a radish trying to track down his hoard of children through different worlds. This genuinely funny and lighthearted game uses simple puzzles and mechanics to create a sweet, simple, and great game for any fan of platformers.



Cooking Mama: Let's Cook!

Fair Use of Office Create Corp.



Cats and Soup. Fair use of HIDEA.

6. TAP! DIG! MY MUSEUM! By oridio

This tycoon 16-bit game allows you to open your own museum, using your resources to excavate and discover fossils to put on display and earn money to expand and discover more. This simple, stylized game is perfect for those times where you don't want to think too hard about a game or its mechanics.

5. Cats & Soup by HIDEA

This adorable tycoon game follows a group of cats making and selling soup from the woods. Expand your shop, make different foods, and collect and dress cats to run your business! The art style, interactive relationships with the cats, and the beyond cute premise can hook any animal lover into playing on any bad day.

4. Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp by Nintendo

Any fan of the Animal Crossing franchise knows about the relaxed,

happy-go-lucky nature of the games. Well now, it's available on the go! Run a campground and make cute animal friends, collect furniture, outfits, and resources, and invite friends to hang out for fun minigames in nature.

3. Bitlife by Candywriter, LLC

Live any life you want from beginning to end in this hilarious and randomized game. Manage life year by year, balancing relationships, jobs, hobbies, and assets while you achieve all your wildest dreams or craziest fantasies. Living through a few quick lives with Bitlife is a fun and lighthearted way to take a break from the stress of your own.

2. Old Friends by Runaway

Any dog lover will tell you about what a gift elderly dogs are. Well, in this game, those gifts are the focus. You

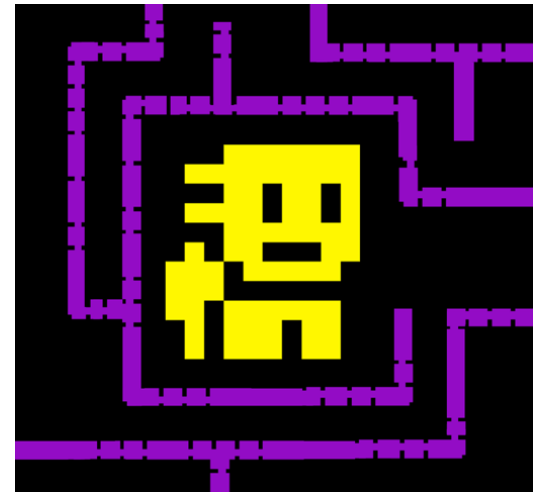
run a sanctuary for old dogs, adopting them, running internet streams to gather supplies for them, and customizing your place to make it feel like home for your fuzzy friends.



Card Thief app. Fair Use of Arnold Rauers.

1. Card Thief by Arnold Rauers

For fans of card-based games, Card Thief is the perfect, slow-tempo mix of strategy and stealth. Sneak through various locations, stealing treasure, and dodging enemies with just a deck of cards to get you from place to place. This surprisingly addicting game is an incredible find for people with a love of cards, dark aesthetics, and quick matches.



Tomb of the Mask. Fair use of Playgendary Limited

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