



# THE GOTHIC TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

VOLUME LII

ISSUE 3

GOTHICTIMES.NET

APRIL 2022



A hole in the wall of Grossnickle Hall where an exposed pipe can be seen.



A bucket catching leak water on a stairwell in the Visual Arts Building can be seen with growth on the surface. It has since been removed.

## HOLLYWOOD COMES TO JERSEY CITY

by Nick Camejo - Arts & Entertainment Editor



Queen Latifah filmed scenes for *The Equalizer* season one in Jersey City. Photo by Barbara Nitke/CBS.

When one thinks of movie sets, film production, and big-name celebrities, Hollywood comes to mind. Jersey City, however, is quickly becoming the new Hollywood of the East Coast.

Jersey City has been home to dozens of famous movie and television shows throughout the years, but recently there has been an explosion of interest in local neighborhoods—and our very own NJCU campus—for productions.

Stepanie Chaiken, director for the NJCU Center for the Arts, said, “One of the very appealing aspects of the NJCU campus is that we have buildings from many different periods all in one location. Hepburn Hall was built in the 1920s, the library building in the 1960s, GSUB is newer, and the Science

Building is the most recent. We have nice grounds, so it’s a great place to film.”

Most recently, the 2019 release *Joker* was filmed near Journal Square featuring the Loew’s Theatre and William H. Brennan Hall. *Annie*, released in 2014, had a variety of scenes filmed in Liberty State Park, parts of downtown Jersey City, and near the waterfront. Even films from the 1970s through the 1990s were no stranger to Jersey City, including blockbuster hits like *The Godfather* and *A Bronx Tale*.

Jersey City has a long list of credits when it comes to being used as filming locations. Look carefully and you will be able to spot what Hudson County natives immediately and proudly pick up on when watching the big screen.

1997’s *Men in Black* used Liberty State Park as the location for the birth of an alien squid. *Paulus Hook* is where you can find the home in *A Beautiful Mind*. A short walk down Montgomery Street takes you to The Beacon, which once was the the Jersey City Medical Center; its beautiful art deco lobby has been used in many different movies. Located a couple of blocks away from the NJCU’s main campus, you can find the Miss America Diner which has also appeared in commercials and on the big screen.

NJCU has been a part of this entertainment explosion as well. This variety makes it much easier and less expensive for film



# HOLLYWOOD COMES TO JERSEY CITY



**Joker (2019) filmed scenes in Jersey City's Journal Square area.**  
Photo by Warner Bros, Inc.

companies to have everything in one location.

Chaiken explained that there are certain square footage requirements that must be met for large sets and NJCU fits those requirements. GSUB has many multi-purpose rooms, and the School of Business has been used for lunch and as a holding area for film crews.

Queen Latifah has also filmed at NJCU and around Jersey City for her show *The Equalizer*. Her home can be seen a short walk from NJCU's campus on Gifford Avenue near Lincoln Park. Both the main campus and the School of Business have served as holding locations for the series.

Recently, a production by Searchlight Pictures, *Eileen*, which stars Anne Hathaway used Jersey City as a key location. Based on a novel by Ottessa Moshfegh, the movie will take place in a local youth prison where Hathaway will come in as a new counselor. Many scenes were filmed across the street at the A. Harry Moore school and NJCU's campus was once again used for holding and parking. (Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 surging with variants such as Delta and Omicron, this film is yet to have a release date but is expected to come out in early 2023.)

As the director of the Center for the Arts, Chaiken is responsible for bringing in shows and professional artists and works with the mayor's office to bring these opportunities to our campus. She



**The Beacon in Jersey City. Its lobby has been used in many films before.** Photo by King of Hearts via Wikimedia Commons.

also helps promote student productions and works with NJCU's art gallery along with different art organizations and the local community.

Stepanie Daniels, the Creative Director of FilmJC, a part of the City of Jersey City Office of Innovation, works very closely with film and production companies shooting throughout the city. She explained that while Jersey City does not offer financial incentives: "New Jersey offers tax credits for shooting films in the state under specific conditions. What we do offer is support for productions to help them get their

movie, series, or commercial shot. Not all cities do that."

Last summer, Governor Phil Murphy cut the ribbon to the brand new Cinalease Studios at Caven Point. This 70,000 square foot studio is the largest in Jersey City and hopes to be used for two to four major film and tv productions each year. What has now caught the eye of the people in Jersey City are not these movies from the past, but rather a resurgence of Hollywood right in their backyard.

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# HOW FILMJC IS BRINGING HOLLYWOOD TO JC

by Nick Camejo - Arts & Entertainment Editor



Anne Hathaway also filmed in many other locations around new Jersey for her movie *Eileen*. Photo by Susie Allnutt/Warner Media.



Movie poster for Men in Black (1997) which has scenes filmed in Liberty State Park. Photo by Columbia Pictures and Amblin Entertainment.

I recently spoke to Stephanie Daniels, the creative director for FilmJC. She offered valuable insight on why so many film studios are drawn to Jersey City.

Daniels described what she believed the appeal is. She said, “Jersey City has so many architecturally diverse neighborhoods that it can stand in for lots of other places and that’s a big draw, particularly to series television and films that don’t necessarily want to be running around the state to shoot a scene. And we have what’s arguably the best view of NYC, which lots of productions want. Equally important is Mayor Fulop’s commitment to bringing film to Jersey City, because no matter how visually interesting or perfect a location is if the municipality isn’t a willing partner, it can be very frustrating (impossible) for a producer to shoot a film there. We aren’t only willing but are welcoming and work with all stakeholders - the production, the

neighborhood, City Council, and all the city departments to assure that ordinances are being respected and everyone is comfortable with the project.”

Undeniably, one of the largest attractions for film and production companies is Governor Phil Murphy bringing back the film tax credits. Without this incentive, Daniels said, “Film and television projects would not be shooting in New Jersey or by extension in Jersey City.” She credits The NJ Motion Picture and Television Commission staff who worked very hard to make this a reality.

Daniels went on to say that there is currently an indie feature shooting at several locations daily for a month throughout the city. When she discovered that the LGBTQ rom-com wanted to find locations that were LGBTQ-owned or allies, it struck her “as a particularly

thoughtful way to do business... I appreciate the care they are taking on their side and how they are dealing with Jersey City and our residents.”

Daniels has worked in television most of her career and it’s her love of television and film that makes her want to see projects made in Jersey City. She said that with Parlay Studios and Cinelease Studios opening in Jersey City, they have added value to the area with their presence. Daniels said, “Every time a production rents a parking lot shoots in a business or residence stays in a hotel, or orders catering, Jersey City benefits. Most residents seem to find it intriguing when there’s a film shooting on their block - it’s interesting to see how the sausage is made, and who doesn’t want to catch a glimpse of Zac Efron?”

You can visit the FilmJC website at [filmjc.org](http://filmjc.org) for more information.



The A. Harry Moore school across the street from NJCU where Anne Hathaway recently filmed scenes for her movie *Eileen*.



# INTRODUCING A BAND NEAR YOU, SIR SYNTHESIS

by Edgar Echeverria - Contributing Writer



**Sir Synthesis at JSQ Lounge. Photo by Edgar Echeverria.**

If you've been looking for new music/artists to listen to recently, then you're in luck! Hailing from Hudson County, Sir Synthesis is an up and coming four-piece band consisting of members Thress (bass, vocals), Arlo Bloom (guitar, vocals), Royer Zamu (guitar, vocals) and Sellos Solde (drums). Throughout the years each member has worked on multiple projects individually and together. Zamu is even a media arts student here at NJCU.

When Sir Synthesis formed in 2020, they began working on music reflecting their Latin American backgrounds. The band picked up momentum last year in Jersey City, performing at places such as the 902 Brewery and JSQ Lounge.

As a huge fan of The Lo-Fi's, which Thress, Zamu, and Bloom

had originally been a part of, I was looking forward to seeing what Sir Synthesis would be like. After reaching the legal drinking age, I did get around to that this past February at JSQ. Their chemistry was great. Those guys don't miss a single note, and the Johnny Marr-esque guitar work was a pleasure to the ears.

Performing in support of their singles "Besame" and "Walk True", the band's debut album Monsoon was released the following month in March. Blending indie, Latin, and psychedelia into one nice package. "Besame" and "Buen Provecho" are my personal favorites... now if only I could get guitar tabs for those songs.

Monsoon is available to listen to on Apple Music and Spotify and you can follow the band on Instagram @SirSynthesis.



**Sir Synthesis is an up and coming four-piece band. Photo by Edgar Echeverria.**



**Sir Synthesis formed in 2020 while working on music to reflect the band members' Latin American backgrounds. Photo by Edgar Echeverria.**



# DO I BELONG? THE IMPACT OF IMPOSTER SYNDROME ON FIRST-GENERATION MINORITY STUDENTS

by Kamila Esquivel and Nicolle Vilca - Contributing Writers



**The Science Building at NJCU where most STEM classes are taken. Only 7 and 12 percent of Black and Hispanic students pursue a degree in STEM. Photo by Haresh Oudhnarine.**

For most, getting accepted into a prestigious university is cause for celebration, but excitement can quickly turn into feelings of dread as thoughts of inadequacy creep in. As a person of color, these feelings can be due to imposter syndrome, where high-achieving individuals are unable to accept and internalize their success but rather attribute it to outside forces such as luck or receiving help from others.

Studies show that minority students and first-generation college students are especially inclined to develop imposter syndrome; as are those within STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). As first-generation, Latina STEM students, we constantly fight to overcome these feelings to reach our full potential.

It has been found that Black and

Hispanic students are not as likely to get a degree in STEM compared to their white counterparts. And with Black and Hispanic students earning only 7 and 12 percent of all STEM bachelor's degrees respectively, they are underrepresented in college STEM majors and departments, according to Pew Research.

Emily Hu, a clinical psychologist said, "We're more likely to experience imposter syndrome if we don't see many examples of people who look like us or share our background who are clearly succeeding in our field." Therefore, a lack of diverse professionals and peers in STEM careers and college majors can make minority STEM students feel like they don't belong.

Recognizing the intersectional nature of humans, minority undergrads are often also first-generation college students.

In fact, 54 percent of all first-generation college students are also racial minorities. A study published in *Translational Issues in Psychological Science* found that the sciences are less culturally supportive of first-generation college students, particularly those from racial minorities who come from communal cultures, where collaboration and working together is valued over competition. We believe that this culture clash contributes to first-generation students of color developing imposter syndrome.

But imposter syndrome can be overcome. Support systems are crucial for first-generation students of color to succeed and move beyond feelings of self-doubt. As NJCU students, we have access to programs supporting our academic success, and making us feel more confident in our schoolwork. "On Pace for STEM Success" pairs STEM students with departmental faculty mentors and provides educational and career support.

Similarly, STEM Success Academy provides students with foundational STEM courses through a summer intensive preparing them for more advanced coursework. Participating in these programs has provided us with access to mentors and foundational skills as we continue down our academic path, helping to combat the feelings of inadequacy that come from imposter syndrome. They have been the first step in what we hope will be successful careers in STEM.

Having the right resources and tools is the first step in overcoming feelings of self-doubt for first-generation minority STEM students,

but it doesn't stop there. Separating facts from feelings, taking note of your accomplishments, and simply faking it until you make it are all common tools to overcome imposter syndrome. And it's important that we do. Diversity in STEM fields is essential to innovation and there is no better time to think about this important issue than now during New Jersey STEM Month. Using the resources and tools available to us, we can rise to this challenge to achieve our goals and dreams and to be an important part of the future of STEM.

Kamila Esquivel is a sophomore at New Jersey City University majoring in psychology and minoring in biology. She hopes to work in the mental health field and make it more accessible to low-income communities. Nicolle Vilca is a freshman at New Jersey City majoring in biology. She aspires to become an emergency medicine physician to improve minorities' accessibility and quality of healthcare in the future. They are both 2021 Governor's STEM Scholars which gives students in grades 10 through the doctoral level a chance to explore STEM and helps keep talented students in the state.



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# CAMPUS CONDITIONS CAUSE CONCERN

by Haresh Oudhnarine - Editor-in-Chief

Some students at NJCU are worried about infrastructure on the main campus and how it is affecting them—including cold classrooms, leaky ceilings, problems with elevators, issues with hot and cold water, and more.

The Gothic Times spent several weeks talking to students and staff, as well as visiting buildings to investigate a variety of issues. We saw a cracked window repaired with tape, holes in the wall, and stained ceilings. In the Visual Arts Building (VAB), The Gothic Times observed two buckets on a stairwell filled with water from leaks. In one, there was bright green growth on the surface. The buckets have since been removed.

We heard stories about classes being canceled or moved to Zoom because of the temperature, and mushrooms growing on the second floor of West Campus. Ruth Diegue, the chairwoman of the Residence Hall Association, said of the mushrooms, “Every time they are removed, they come back.”

Katha Patel, a sophomore Biology major, said that her lab class in the Science Building had to be dismissed early in early April: “We did not have our lab because the room was too cold.”

Some students in Rossey Hall and the VAB said they’ve seen roaches, and a student in Vodra Hall said they saw a mouse. Administrators said that exterminators come once a week.

At one point, The Gothic Times saw caution tape in multiple spots in Grossnickle Hall, floor tiles removed in Fries Hall

because of persistent leaks, and even a handwritten note on a classroom door in the VAB announcing that there would be a room change because of the “extreme heat.”

Patel said, “They should look over all the problems here on main campus before expanding to other campuses.”

Ron Hurley, associate vice president of Public Safety, has been overseeing facilities at NJCU. Hurley said, “Yes, we have had some issues related to our facilities but are getting a handle on things. Temperature fluctuations are common this time of year because of the change over from heating to cooling. As for leaking ceiling tiles, elevator issues and hot and cold water issues, we address each complaint as we receive them. However, we’ve had a few instances where it has taken a little longer than expected to make these repairs. In those cases where we encounter delays, it is usually because we were waiting on parts and or there was a scheduling conflict with our contractors.”

Hurley also said, “As for the mushrooms/fungus, this was attributed to moisture and was taken care of immediately.” Regarding where the moisture came from, Hurley said, “The source of the moisture was undetermined, we will continue to monitor.”

Ira Thor, senior director of University Communications, said that the caution tape in Grossnickle was only there because of old lockers that were removed from those spaces: “The caution tape was in the area surrounding where the aging lockers were once located prior to their removal. The tape has since been removed. We are in the process of closing that space.”

The Student Government Association



**Danger tape on the third and fourth floors of Grossnickle Hall. It has since been removed.**



**A cracked window in the Visual Arts Building on the second floor.**

(SGA) met with Hurley in early April to discuss concerns that students had brought forward.

Thyquel Halley, the SGA president, said, “SGA has received a plethora of complaints





**Looking out at Hepburn Hall from Grossnickle.**

across campus regarding facilities issues throughout this academic year. Myself and the VP of Internal Affairs have worked diligently to address these matters. Some have consisted of broken/malfunctioning elevators, no hot/cold water available in some bathroom sinks, no heating in residence halls throughout the winter, Wi-Fi outages, growing of mushrooms in WCV, leaks, and holes in ceilings in Vodra, and even classrooms/labs missing ceiling tiles.”

Halley also said, “SGA continues to work hand in hand with Student Senators and RHA to identify and address these issues before we meet with administration to bring them up. Over the summer RHA & SGA will be living on campus and one of the priorities is to do walk-throughs of the residence halls & other buildings on campus to see what maintenance and repairs are needed to make the administration aware of the issues at hand.”

NJCU renovated the Science Building in 2017. Other

improvements have been made to the Margret Williams theater, areas within the John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center (JMAC), and the Gothic Lounge. At the March Senate meeting, president Sue Henderson noted plans for the renovation of the Grossnickle Hall elevator, the JMAC pool, as well as the OSP office in Vodra Hall. Damage from storm Ida in early September was quickly addressed, according to staff in affected areas.

### **“The Temperature In This Building Is Never Correct”**

In the VAB, some classes were disrupted in mid-March for being too hot. One student told us that their class was moved to Zoom for the day. The Gothic Times observed a note on a classroom door indicating a room change “because of the extreme heat.” (The VAB opened nearly 20 years ago in 2003).

Alec Kucure, a junior Illustration major, said, “This building is very hot, especially in the basement,” about the VAB.

Dalenys Drugas, a freshman fine arts major, said “The temperature in this building is never correct,” about

the VAB. Drugas also said, “If it’s hot outside, it’s still hot inside because they don’t take the heater off.”

Hurley said, “In the case of the Visual Arts Building we had an issue with the HVAC system and were waiting on replacement parts.”

Another student said the same about the Science building. They said, “It is either too hot or too cold.” Many students have also reported that Karnoutsos Hall is usually cold in the winter.

One student reported that, in March, one of their classes was dismissed early in Rossey Hall by the professor because it was too cold.

In mid-February, the library was closed halfway through the day because of heating issues. This resulted in the tutoring center, the HUB, having to temporarily relocate for the day. An email from NJCU said the library was closed because of “an issue with the library’s heating system and associated maintenance. Repairs are currently being conducted.” This was resolved by the next day.

The main door for the Gilligan Student Union Building (GSUB) was open all day with temperatures near freezing from January 31 into February 1. Some students reported that this made it cold in the building. Patrick Bartole from the Department of Facilities Management said that the situation was being monitored and that staff were trying to close the door manually. The doors were repaired on February 1 toward the end of the day, and Bartole said that the issue was caused by a “faulty exterior sensor.”

At the beginning of the school year, The Gothic Times reported on complaints about excessive heat in Fries Hall and the VAB. A thermometer read 86.1 degrees in a Fries hallway in mid-September. Students said the heat was distracting and even made them feel sick. Students and faculty were also concerned about the potential spread of



**Bathroom conditions in the Vodra residence hall.**

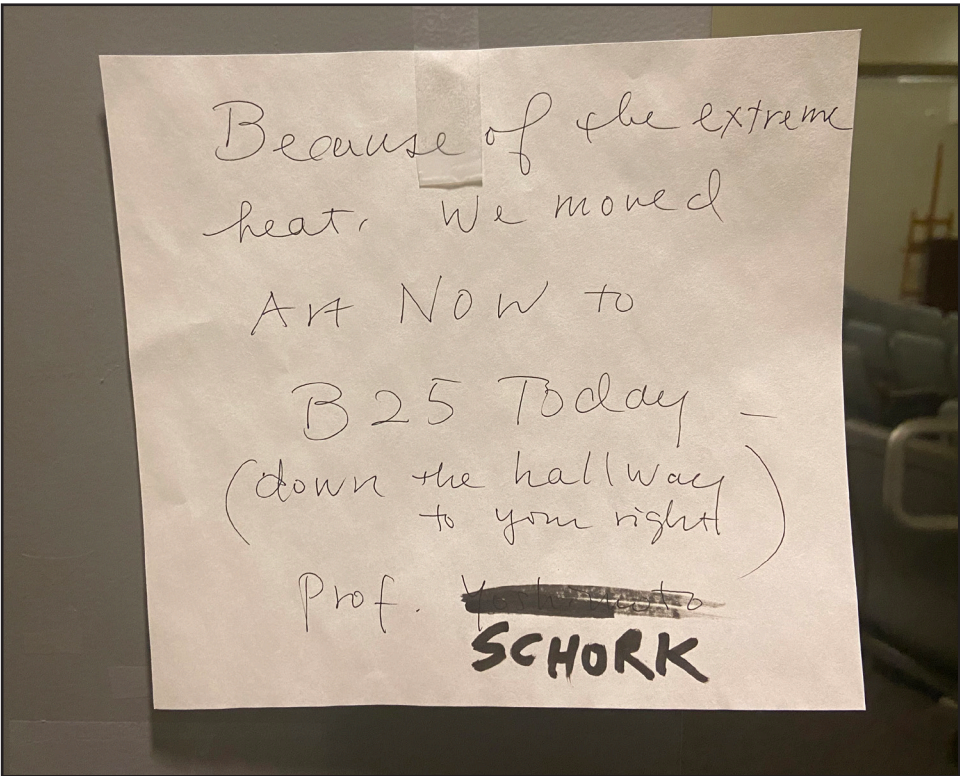


**The center elevator was out of order for about a day early in the spring semester. Many students have reported that elevator makes strange sounds when it gets to the top floor.**





Radiator in Grossnickle Hall.



A handwritten note on a Visual Arts classroom door revealing a room change because of “extreme heat.”

COVID in the hot environment.

The Gothic Times observed rusted radiators in Grossnickle, some of which appeared to be falling apart. Thor said, “The radiators in Grossnickle are operational. The rust is cosmetic and will be addressed once the locker area work is completed.”

Extreme Water Temperatures—  
Only Cold, or Only Hot

Reports from the VAB said that there was only hot water in the silkscreen studio for a while. A senior graphic design major who took a silkscreen class in the fall said there was only hot water in that room. They said “When I had that class, we can’t really use hot water... There was no cold water or anything.” They explained that hot water washes out what students expose onto the silkscreens and that the screens are very expensive.

Longstanding issues with a lack of cold water and excessively hot water have also meant some photography students have issues with developing their film.

One student taking a ceramics class said that there was no hot water in the ceramics studio at the beginning of the semester: “At the beginning of the semester, we only had cold water.

Hurley said, “The issue with the cold water at VAB is not related to the HVAC system and is an issue that has taken longer to resolve than expected, we now have a good idea as to what the problem is and are scheduling a repair.”

Leaks and Stained Ceilings

There are stained ceilings in numerous buildings that appear to come from leaks including Fries, Rossey Hall, and the VAB.

The main hallway in Fries was leaking off and on for most of the school year. Small trash bins were seen in new locations every week to catch water with sometimes up to three bright

yellow “wet floor” signs lining the center of the hallway.

Thor said, “Two issues were identified [in Fries Hall]. One was a plumbing concern and that has been repaired. The second is a roofing issue and a repair is pending. The floors will be repaired in the next few weeks with new flooring.”

There have also been leaks in the Hepburn hall admissions office which was in the process of being repaired in early April.

Issues in the Residence Halls

The Residence Hall Association (RHA), run by students as a part of SGA, held town halls this semester where some students expressed concerns about problems with temperature/thermostats, elevators, and laundry facilities. Residence life officials said that students are able to change their rooms through work orders.

The Gothic Times reported in 2020 that West Campus had heating and hot water issues from the very year it opened in 2016 based on email communications sent to students.

At least two students have reported that there were about three days at the start of the spring semester where there was no hot water in West Campus.

Josiah Ramkellewan, a junior Media Arts major, said that his room had no heat in late March: “There’s a problem with my thermostat. Mine is completely broken. Right now my room is cold. It is off completely.” He said that when he would take showers, he would have to dress quickly and in layers just to stay warm. Ramkellewan also said, “Me and my suitemates, we’ve



all been sleeping in long sleeves until it’s fixed.” Ramkellewan said that his suite was given space heaters until the issue was fixed.

An email sent to resident students in Vodra Hall encouraged them to go home over spring break. The email read, “At this time, the boilers are being repaired and you may experience issues with heat and hot water. Since we entering spring break we are encouraging everyone to go home during this time. If you are planning on staying on campus for the break be aware that you may have issues with the heat and hot water. You are able to utilize the showers in Co-Op hall and if you are having issues with the heat, please let us know so we can assist you with temporary relocations if needed.”

Students aren’t the only ones who have worries about the conditions at NJCU. A parent commented on The Gothic Times website about a cracked window in West Campus and other problems. They said, “The food is limited with one dining hall still not open, the west campus building is in need of so many repairs with my daughter’s window still cracked and held together by tape... I think the kids pay quite a high price for housing and food that doesn’t equal the value. This is where you need to start focusing if you want to increase enrollment. Quality of life on campus needs to be more of a priority.”

**Inconsistent Elevators**

There have been reports about issues with elevators across a few buildings including West Campus, GSUB, and the Science building.

A student posted on the NJCU Mobile app on March 21 pleading for the elevators at the West Campus residence hall to be fixed: “Can somebody PLEASE FIX THE ELEVATORS AT WEST? It has been at least three weeks and they still don’t work right.” The elevators have since been repaired.

Ramkellewan described how the elevator situation in West Campus impacted him. “We couldn’t get it from downstairs. We had to go upstairs from the second or third floor to send it downstairs for anybody. It was a struggle for me too. There was a time I came back from grocery shopping and I was like ‘oh man, the elevator is broken’ and I had a bunch of stuff and the cart coming in. I had to ask somebody to go upstairs to send it down for me.”

On February 7, the center elevator in GSUB was down for the day with “out of order” signs taped to the doors. It was reopened by the next day, but some students have reported that the elevator sometimes rattles when it gets to the top.

At least two students have also reported to The Gothic Times that there was an issue in the Science Building where the elevators were moving while the doors were still open.

Patel, a sophomore Biology major, said that for the first two months of the semester, only one elevator was working in the Science building. Patel also said, “The elevator was not stopping level with the floor.” She explained that it was either a little above the floor or a little below.

Thor said, “The issue with the elevator [in the Science Building], caused by a faulty part, has been resolved.”

Shahod Augustin, a freshman Business major, said, “I feel like the school should address these issues because it affects our education.”



**There were leaks in a Fries hallway throughout entire school year. Garbage buckets and yellow wet floor signs can be seen lining the halls on many days.**



**Mushrooms growing on the second floor of the West Campus Village residence hall. They have since been removed.**



**Buckets collecting leak water in a VAB stairwell. They have since been removed**

**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR AN EXTENDED VERSION OF “CAMPUS CONDITIONS CAUSE CONCERN” WITH MORE PHOTOS.**





# I REMEMBER IT ALL TOO WELL: *THE LASTING IMPACT OF TAYLOR'S MUSIC*

By Monica Ortiz - Contributing Writer

Taylor Swift's fourth studio album technically begins and ends with the same song. "State of Grace" opens the album with a loud and upbeat pop-rock track about the trials and tribulations of love that did not last in the end. The closing track on the deluxe version is "State of Grace (Acoustic)," a slow, somber, and aching track. It's sung softer and slower and goes on for almost five minutes. It's the same song, same story, same lyrics, but told differently. The same can be said about a lot of her songs now that Swift is rerecording her first six albums.

I was eight years old the first time I heard a Taylor Swift song. She performed at the America Country Music Awards (CMA) on November 11, 2009. My mom was playing it in the living room. All I saw was a tall, blonde, teenage girl throwing a chair off a large platform, throwing herself around on the stage, and singing her heart out about Joe Jonas (a third of the Jonas brothers) who broke up with her after a 30-second phone call. My elementary school self was transfixed.

I begged my mom for over a week to buy me her second studio album, *Fearless*. Not just the basic standard edition with only 13 tracks, no no no, I wanted the platinum edition with a whopping 19 tracks and 11 additional videos including music videos and behind the scenes footage. I would play "Forever & Always" every morning before school and tried to recreate her CMA performance over and over again.

*Red* (Taylor's Version) ends with the ten-minute version of "All Too Well." A track that fans have been

badgering her to release for nearly a decade. Recorded during the *Speak Now* Tour rehearsals, allegedly about her breakup with actor Jake Gyllenhaal, it is regarded as one of her best. The new version has seven total verses and goes on for an additional five minutes. While the original version is nostalgic, bittersweet, timely, and sad, the 10-minute version is vitriolic and bitter with one of the most damning lines "and I was never good at telling jokes, but the punch line goes 'I'll get older, but your lovers stay my age,'" putting a decade-old relationship that lasted 3 months into a darker perspective.

It ends with a fade out of Taylor's vocals layered on top of one another asking the question over and over again, "Do you remember it all too well?" Yes, Taylor, I do.



**Taylor Swift is rerecording her first six studio albums in order to own the masters. Album cover for *Fearless* (Taylor's Version). Photo courtesy of Taylor Swift/Republic Records.**

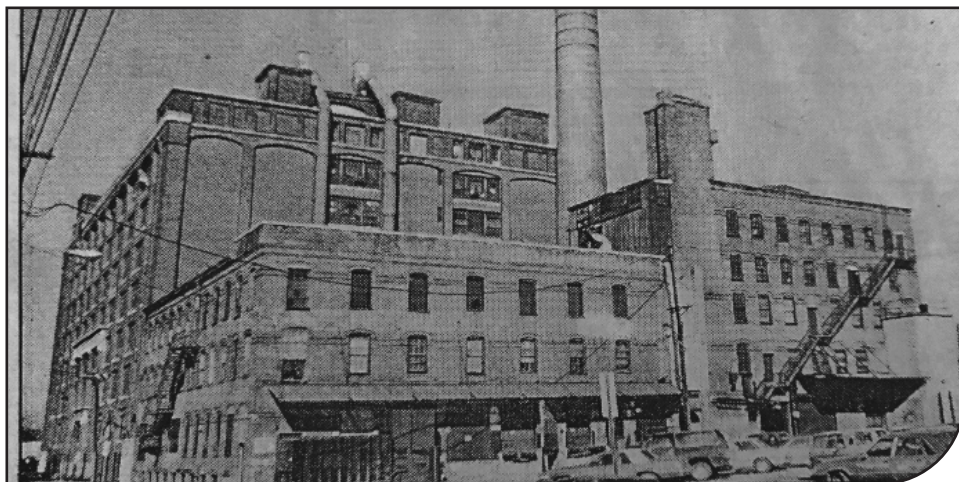


**Taylor Swift's rerecordings feature the same songs, same stories, same lyrics, but are told differently. Album cover for *Red* (Taylor's Version). Photo courtesy of TaylorSwift/Republic Records.**



# THE BITTERSWEET HISTORY OF A BUILDING NEAR CAMPUS

By Brandon Gabriel - Contributing Writer



**A historical image of the Jersey City Board of Education (JCBOE) building. Photo courtesy of the New Jersey room at the Jersey City Free Public Library.**

Every day, hundreds of students get off at the West Side Avenue Light Rail stop when coming to NJCU. Along the way, they pass an eight-story red brick building adjacent to the station. You would probably never guess that the building almost became the world's largest candy factory.

In 1921, the Continental Candy Corporation, formerly the Novelty Candy Company, began building a factory on the corner of Claremont and West Side Avenue because their decade-old office near present-day Exchange Place wasn't big enough. According to a 1910 clipping from *The Jersey Journal*, they manufactured "all kinds of confectionery, crackers, and cake." But within two years of its construction, the company filed for bankruptcy and couldn't afford to continue building. So, the property was taken over by a few different companies for the next couple of years, including Western Electric, which would later be bought by AT&T, and the Jenkins TV Corporation, which would create the first TV station in America. The lighting fixtures company Lightolier, which still exists, eventually took ownership of it in 1927.

"I wouldn't want it as a factory,

it looks better as the board of education building," said Lesly Almonte, one of the many NJCU students who pass by it during her light rail commute.

It is currently the headquarters for the Jersey City Board of Education. Local historians will also tell you that it was one of the main factory plants for the lighting fixtures company Lightolier where elegant chandeliers were made. But what they won't tell you is how its history parallels that of America.

Jerry Randall, a security guard who worked at the building for more than 20 years remembered, "there were explosion-proof chambers and even though it doesn't look like it, there's actually three separate buildings." Instead of demolishing what was already built, Lightolier decided to repurpose and expand the main building as a factory for their company until they moved to Secaucus in 1986. That year, the building became what most Jersey City locals know it as, the headquarters of Jersey City's Board of Education.

During the early half of the twentieth century, America was going through an economic boom that began after the end of the second



**The JCBOE building today. It is location near the Westside Avenue light rail station.**

World War. "Jersey City's industry and factories relied on the railroads concentrated on the waterfront," said John Beekman of the Jersey City Public Library's New Jersey Room.

Many well-known industries like Colgate, Dixon Ticonderoga, and the Atlantic Pacific Company (A&P) were once based downtown near the waterfront. "Once the Interstate Highway System was created and container shipping became a dominant means of transport, there was no need for the factories downtown, and the companies who owned those factories moved or shut down," Beekman continued. Some of the factories, like the one for Lorillard Tobacco, were demolished. Others, like the Whitlock Cordage plant, were converted into apartments. The effect is an example of what would come to affect not just Jersey City, but the entire nation: gentrification.

Gentrification unfortunately still has its impact on the middle-class as the rapid urbanization not only affected downtown, but also neighborhoods like Journal Square, McGinley Square, and Bergen-Lafayette. Increased taxes and housing that's unaffordable for most have forced thousands and thousands of people who lived in Jersey City for decades to move to towns that are sometimes several states away. Many who grew up remembering the city as one close-knit community often come back to their old neighborhoods, thinking they're in "the sixth borough of New York" as the city has been called lately. The Claremont Avenue building and the area within it serve as a reminder of the gentrification that's prevalent not only within its vicinity but in metropolitan areas all across America.



# TURNING RED REVIEW

By Jaren Couvertier - Contributing Writer



Mei Lee and her mother in Turning Red. Photo by Disney Pixar.

After watching “Turning Red” it was clear to me that this movie was not going to resonate with everyone, from the references to products like Tomodachi to the early 2000s lingo used throughout. However, those who were born during that time, such as myself, will be filled with nostalgia and sweet memories.

As a result, there are plenty of people who see themselves in the protagonist, Mei Lee; she might remind them of how they once acted at that age. This allows them to see the conflict between Mei and her mother, to the constant hiding of her true interests and always wanting to be the perfect daughter.

Through the usage of the main plot device, the panda, the movie shows Mei Lee’s struggles in a more exaggerated way to help

convey somebody who is always trying to hide their true self. While they won’t turn into a giant panda when upset, the outbursts of anger may feel familiar to those who find themselves in Mei’s shoes. This is why the panda is more than a gimmick to attract children, it is a clever way to show how being true to yourself is not a burden, but something to embrace.

The movie also delves into the themes of generational trauma and how two people in the same family can end up so differently. Mei Lee’s mother had nobody to turn to which resulted in decades of bottled-up rage and bitterness, resulting in her kaiju-sized transformation.

Meanwhile, Mei Lee did have people she could fall back on which allowed her to break the vicious cycle. This allowed her to change



Poster for Turning Red. Photo by Disney/Pixar.

decades of the self-loathing mindset that plagued her family for so long.

There are some parts of the movie that failed to deliver on, for instance, the humor. While it can be enjoyable at first it does get repetitive as the movie heavily relies on its over-emphasized facial expressions to make you laugh with no real jokes to back them up.

Also, the rushed mending of the conflict with Tyler near the end of the movie was lackluster and felt disingenuous. Throughout the movie, he was seen as an antagonist, even resulting in Mei Lee attacking

him due to his actions. Despite that, the movie is quick to move past that scene and have the two become friends due to a sharing interest in ‘4□Town’, which is this movie’s version of a stereotypical boy band.

Aside from those problem points, “Turning Red” achieves what it sets out to do. Next time you see a movie that you may not like at first, try to imagine yourself as the target audience and you may see things in a new light.