John Jay’s Got Talent...

By Pauline Marzana, Irene Gjoka & Arjun Nagpal

Even a rainy cold day couldn’t stop John Jay students from showing off their talents. On Feb. 23, students and faculty got together at the Gerald W. Lynch Theater for the second annual John Jay’s Got Talent show. Also the winner’s picture would be posted all over kiosks at the college, and they would receive honorable mention in the John Jay newsletter.

The show, which lasted approximately two hours, showcased a wide array of talented students ranging from poets, to singers, to comedians. The evening also consisted of a master of ceremonies, who tried his best to keep the show running smoothly— which was not always easy. While the audience was entering the theater, the contestants were behind the stage getting ready for their performances, some fighting the nervousness while others were raging with adrenaline. The show started off with Travis giving a welcome speech to the audience and getting the crowd pumped up for the show. The grand prize was a trophy, along with a lunch with John Jay President Jeremy Travis. Also the winner’s picture would be published in the John Jay newsletter.

The show consisted of a master of ceremonies, who tried his best to keep the show running smoothly— which was not always easy. While the audience was entering the theater, the contestants were behind the stage getting ready for their performances, some fighting the nervousness while others were raging with adrenaline. The show started off with Travis giving a welcome speech to the audience and getting the crowd pumped up for the show. The grand prize was a trophy, along with a lunch with John Jay President Jeremy Travis. Also the winner’s picture would be published in the John Jay newsletter.

Music/vocal, spoken word/stand up comedy, and dance were the three categories that the contestants could participate in. The show consisted of a master of ceremonies, who tried his best to keep the show running smoothly— which was not always easy. While the audience was entering the theater, the contestants were behind the stage getting ready for their performances, some fighting the nervousness while others were raging with adrenaline. The show started off with Travis giving a welcome speech to the audience and getting the crowd pumped up for the show. The grand prize was a trophy, along with a lunch with John Jay President Jeremy Travis. Also the winner’s picture would be published in the John Jay newsletter.

...but not a spring play

By Tricia Lewis

Every semester the Communication and Theatre Arts Department receives a budget from the administration to put on a big production for the John Jay community. But the college will not have a production this spring because of financial difficulties.

In the past, the administration has approved a budget of $15,000 per semester, or $30,000 per year, for the department to run a successful production, but the administration decided to cut the budget to $25,000 this year. This resulted in the cancellation of the production altogether, which was the decision of the director, Professor Kathryn Wylie.

Ben Rohdin, the director of operations at John Jay, confirmed that the administration approves the budget for productions. He believes that the students’ exposure to art is just as important as any academic curriculum, and the department would require a budget of $20,000 to $30,000 to achieve its goals.

Rohdin responded in an e-mail message that the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts’ original budget was only reduced to $24,375 at mid-year. The department spent $13,643.60 of which approximately $12,500 is directly related to the fall theater production.

Martin Wallenstein, the chairman of the Communication and Theatre Arts Department, replied that he doesn’t believe that the director for the fall production, Seth Bauman, went over his budget. But he is still waiting for the numbers from the administration. He said the cut was bigger than what Rohdin described.

“This is the first time in 30 years John Jay will not have a production because the budget was cut in half this semester,” Wallenstein said.”

According to Wallenstein, many...
# College Calendar: March 2010

## Women’s History Month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>*Spring Recess ——&gt;</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>*Spring Recess ——&gt;</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Debate, 1212NH 3:6p</td>
<td>Cheerleading Club 2200.04NH, 5:7p</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Veterans, Justice In Action MPR 6:4p Movie Night: Brooklyn’s Finest Lincoln Center Theater 6:30p</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Jostens Cap &amp; Gown, NH Lobby 10-6p College Council Student Election Review Committee Appeals, 5p Debate, 1212NH 3:6p</td>
<td>Jostens Cap &amp; Gown, NH Lobby 10-6p OSA FELA on Broadway</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Jostens Cap &amp; Gown, NH Lobby 10-6p OSA Wi Wednesday, NH Café, 12-3p OSA Dance Class, 1212NH 4-5p Desi Club mtg., 1212NH 5-6p Candidate Appeals &amp; Complaints, 7p</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Jostens, 11-7p NHL Student Gov’t Elections, 9am-7:30p @ T Bldg., NH Lobby, Westport Debate, 1212NH 3:6p</td>
<td>Jostens, NHL 11-7p Student Gov’t Election-dump 7:30pm @ T Bldg., NH Lobby, Westport Election Results Announcement, NHL</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Jostens, NHL 11-7p Student Gov’t Election complaints 7:30pm @ T Bldg., NH Lobby, Westport Election Results Announcement, NHL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>*Spring Recess ——&gt;</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>*Spring Recess ——&gt; Action on Election Complaints &amp; Appeals, 7pm</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>*Spring Recess ——&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information contact the Office of Student Activities
OSA 1521N — (212) 237-8698 -- studentactivities@jjay.cuny.edu

---

**THE JOHN JAY SENTINEL**

Care of: Department of English
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
City University of New York
619 West 54th Street, #728
New York, NY 10019
(646) 557-4546
acapeloto@jjay.cuny.edu

Contributors:
- Uchenna Anyanwa
- Amanda Aponte
- Norhan Basuni
- Anita Bradley
- Mary Doherty
- Jayelle Dorsainville
- Trisha Gangueden
- Irene Gjoka
- Eric Jankiewicz
- Tricia Lewis
- Tajjuna Martinez
- Pauline Marzana
- Desiree Matharin
- Robert Moretti
- Arjen Naggal
- David Rodriguez
- Michael Rodriguez
- Katharina Rollins
- Stephanie Trinidad

Faculty Adviser:
Alexa Capeloto

We welcome letters to the editor and stories relevant to the John Jay College community, to New York, and to our nation and world.

If you would like to write for us, drop us a line.

---

### Student government elections just days away

#### Presidential Candidates:
1. Joseph Omwu
2. Marko Kepi
3. Norhan Basuni
4. Aliou “Isaac” DIALLO

#### Vice President:
1. Maxine Kerr
2. Tyler Garvey
3. Stanley Jean Baptiste

#### Treasurer:
1. Christopher N. Sui
2. Jose Rosario
3. Anastasia Williams
4. Jacqueline Serrano

#### Secretary:
1. Harrison Garcia
2. Pablo M. Romano
3. Elizabeth Cyran

#### Graduate Representatives:
1. Ajbade Longe
2. Clement James

#### Senior Representatives:
- Chad Infante

#### Junior Representatives:
1. Courtney Taylor
2. Paulique Cardona
3. Oscarina Diaz
4. Brian Costa
5. Lewquay Williams

#### Sophomore Representatives:
1. Winderline Petit-Frere
2. Mehak Kapoor
3. Michelle Tsang

#### Freshman Representatives:
1. Akuba Chinebuah
2. Davinder Paul Singh
3. Alex Griffin

#### Judicial Committee
Representatives:
1. John S. Cusick
2. Lewquay Williams
3. Stanley Okwudili
4. Ajbade Longe

#### Candidate Debates
Wednesday, March 17 at 3 p.m. GWL Theater Lobby
Thursday, March 18 at 6 p.m. 1311N

#### How to Vote
Saturday, March 20
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. T-Building Catwalk ONLY
Monday, March 22
9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. T-Building, North Hall Lobby, Westport
Tuesday, March 23
9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. T-Building, North Hall Lobby, Westport
Students stage event for quake-ravaged Haiti

By Amanda Aponte

“As students, and as we grow older, we should look at the Haitian people for their strength, and rethink our values in life,” said Sheila Longchamp, a former president of the Haitian Student Association, during a speech about the Haitian flag and culture. The “Remember the Dream Haitian Relief Fundraiser” took place Feb. 17 in the Gerald W. Lynch Theater in Haaren Hall (also known as John Jay’s T-Building) as a show of support for Haiti, which suffered a devastating earthquake Jan. 12 that killed at least 200,000 people. The event was a collaboration between Student Council and a few of John Jay’s finest clubs. Student Government allocated $3,000 for the Haitian Relief event, including food, beverages, flyers, and “John Jay College Help Haiti Relief” bracelets (which cost $450 for 1,000.) Approximately $640 was received from donations. The money went to Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild infrastructure in Haiti.

Music blared from the entranceway of the Gerald W. Lynch Theater, bringing in an influx of students. Alissa “Isaac” Diallo, a candidate for President of Student Council, and the John Jay International Musicians played a cross between Afrocentric rhythms and American rock at the fundraiser for Haiti, which suffered a devastating earthquake Jan. 12.

Approximately 800 people attended the event. Students staged an event for Haiti in order to raise awareness for the Haitian people and to gather donations for Haiti relief.

LLisa Marie Williams, vice president of Student Council, smiled and waved to students exiting the elevators to come to the event. “It took about two weeks to get everything together, and using the actual theater itself requires more people, and so we wanted the event to be more personal. We want everyone to interact and be close to each other,” she said in regards to the extra work involved to rent the Gerald W. Lynch Theater.

The entire event, although triggered by the commoration of Martin Luther King Jr., was brought together through the need of human rights. Clubs like Keep a Child Alive and Amnesty International represent John Jay’s finest through international humanitarism.

Longchamp, a John Jay graduate from 2008, gave a speech about how the strength of the Haitian people can be seen through the changes in the Haitian flag. Similar to her speech, a flyer was handed out stating “The Haitian Flag is a true symbol of the country and its people. If we understand the History of the Haitian Culture and the premise of Haitian Flag, the rest will be clear.”

Haiti was the first black country to become independent, and the people of Haiti have fought over the years for their freedom and will keep fighting to survive in this capitalistic world. The bloodshed, success, and history of Haiti is depicted in their national flag.

There are donation bins for Haiti relief in each of the John Jay buildings, but you can also donate non perishable foods and any other kind of donation in the student government office. Just 10 days after the fundraiser, on Feb. 27, another massive earthquake hit elsewhere, in the South American country of Chile...

Financial Aid Office gets mixed reviews from students

By Tricia Lewis

What do students think about the Financial Aid Office? Students have mixed views, even though the line is out the door and students become discouraged about waiting on the One Stop line.

Criminal Justice major Jarrel Watkins recalled standing on the One Stop line to receive a slip to speak to the Financial Aid counselor. He watched students get off the line while saying under their breaths, “Forget it, I’m not going to do it today.” Many students believe waiting on the line is frustrating and time consuming.

Sylvia Lopez, the enrollment manager of the financial aid office, said that One Stop works very well because it’s easier for students to drop off information to One Stop rather than wait on the financial aid line.

Meanwhile, other students, like Socrates Alvarez, a Criminal Justice major, had a great experience with the office. He arrived on the line earlier, which resulted in him waiting 15 minutes on the One Stop line and 5 minutes on the financial aid line. This was a speedy experience compared to others.

Sally Guirguis, 21, is looking forward to going to law school in the future. She says that going to the Financial Aid Office is one of the worst experiences in her life.

“Workers are impatient, they will always rush me into signing documents” said Guirguis. She said there were many occasions when she called the Financial Aid Office on the phone and the workers would repeatedly hang up the phone, ignore phone calls, put her on hold or never respond.

However, Lopez believes that she might have been on hold because someone was trying to find the answer to her question.

Guirguis remembers a similar incident when she called the Financial Aid Office and was put on hold for 40 minutes. Her questions regarded a course that she was taking that would help replace another course for her major and the Financial Aid representative replied, “We don’t help in that department. You need to call this number.” This person directed her to another department and the other departments directed her to One Stop.

Lopez replies “Financial aid is financial aid. Questions about transcripts or courses are not financial aid related. The department only deals with financial aid information and scholarships.” Lopez says if the student had a question regarding her concerns about financial aid covering for her classes, the department would be glad to answer her question.

Armachi Udogwu, a junior, uses the term “very disorganized” to describe the Financial Aid Office. Udogwu explains that the Financial Aid Office had misplaced her Pell Verification Form because they had the wrong social security number “They messed up the last digit of my social security number, they put a 3 instead of a 8, so it was under something else,” said Udogwu. Lopez was concerned about the student’s situation and wanted more details with another follow up about the student’s incident. “When people are filing for their financial aid they often make mistakes when filing out their information,” Lopez said. Her example is that students will type very fast and make careless mistakes like writing their last name in the first name box when applying for financial aid.

There are many students who are completely satisfied with the Financial Aid Office services and continue to make walk-in appointments for advice. Leslie Rosado a sophomore, is often disappointed with the Financial Aid staff. But one of the staff members who she is satisfied with is Valentina Morgan.

“She speaks Spanish in case my mom has to come in the office to speak with her and I never had a problem with her,” said Rosado.

Another student named Shawn Brown, explains that he is satisfied with Financial Aid’s service because they try to accommodate and take care of the situation as best as they can. When asked on a scale from 1 to 10 how satisfied he is with the financial aid service he explains that the Financial Aid Office scores an 8 because he has not received full aid for the past two years in college.

“It has to come out of my pockets which is my savings.” Yet, Brown continues to say that the Financial Aid Office gives great service and he doesn’t hold them accountable when his information is not processed.

John Jay students and the Financial Aid Office agree that students should apply for financial aid as quickly as possible.

Lopez conveys that many students wait for the Financial Aid Office to send out a notice about the documents needed in their file to process their information. Lopez believes that 75% of the John Jay population files for financial aid on time, while the rest wait days before school starts to fill out the FAFSA form.

John Jay students believe that the affairs Financial Aid and One Stop handle should be separate; however, Lopez believes that One Stop shortens the line for Financial Aid. Furthermore, students will have fewer complaints about financial aid if they file for financial aid as soon as possible.

When students procrastinate over filing for financial aid they run into problems. Twenty-seven year old John Mendoza who is close to graduating, said, “If you’re having problems with your Financial Aid, handle it as quickly as possible, otherwise it will bite you right in the behind.”
Q&A: The debate over textbooks vs. tech-books

By Katharina Rollins

Most students at John Jay use a variety of texts each semester in each class. So if there were a way where students could get those texts without the hassle of carrying three or four books to class each day, would they do it? Would the professors be in favor of this?

Considering how often students may text or sneak an email during class, is that the reason professors and students feel this way? In the English major in particular it is all too rare that a professor will use one text to base the entire semester on. Well, as technology expands each year and becomes more accessible, books have become electronic. One can get a Shakespearean text right on their Blackberry. So the question becomes: Is this an acceptable way of learning. Is it easier to have electronic books than a hard copy?

"I don’t believe that the use of Auto-Tune has become the next big thing in the music industry. That’s just a myth. The newspapers are just spinning it. It’s not happening. It’s just a fad. It’s not going to stick. It’s not going to work." - Jay Paul Gates, Assistant Professor of English

"I don’t think the use of eBooks is going to replace print books completely. There will always be a place for print books. However, I do think that eBooks are a convenient way to access information. They are also more environmentally friendly." - Vonyke Akers, Senior, English Major

"I think that eBooks are a great way to access information, especially for courses that have a lot of readings. However, I do think that there is something special about holding a physical book in your hand. It’s a tactile experience that you don’t get with an eBook." - Elizabeth Bucknam, Junior, English Major

Although the professors oppose the use of eBooks, how do students feel? Do you think that eBooks on your phone are better than bringing your textbooks to class? What are the pros and cons of using textbooks versus using eBooks?

Question: Do you think that students using their devices instead of an actual text causes focus problems for students?

Veronica C. Hendrick, Assistant Professor of English: “From experience, I know that some students using computers in the classroom become distracted by other web-based items they can access.”

J. Paul Narkinussen, Assistant Professor of English: “Students with electronic devices can move between several media beyond class notes or the text, and therefore will have focus issues. The compulsion to want to check new items that come up on their devices is a major distraction.”

Felipe Gonzales, Upper Sophomore, English Major: “I think that eBooks are better, but it’s really the same. I like holding the text in my hand.”

Jim Anderson, a noted music professor at New York University’s Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music and President of the Audio Engineering Society, related this story in a recent Time Magazine article: “The other day, someone was talking about how Aretha Franklin at the Inauguration was a bit pitchy. I said, ‘Of course! She was singing!’ And that was a musician talking! People are getting used to hearing things dead on pitch, and it’s changed their expectations.”

How absurd. ‘We’re talking ARETHA here! Someone ought to teach that musician a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T!’ I’m an avid devotee of live music. The unpredictability and spontaneity of an honest, live performance adds so many more levels of emotion, musicianship and surprise to the musical experience that the thought of compromising these key ingredients via the use of electronic gimmickery just leaves me cold.

Are we living in an Auto-Tune nation?

By Mary Doherty

It’s not news that the use of Auto-Tune has become the next big thing in the music industry. For those of you who don’t know, Auto-Tune is thisifty little plug-in device used by sound engineers to automatically correct vocal and instrumental pitches in real time. In laymen’s terms, it makes your voice sound consistently and unrealistically perfect.

Even though Auto-Tune has been around for quite some time (first used in Cher’s 1998 hit “Believe”), it lately seems as though everyone is using it. Now, unless you’ve been living under a rock, you should know who T-Pain and Kanye West are (insert Kanye interruption joke here). T-Pain has become such an expert on Auto-Tune that not only did Kanye and Diddy (P. Diddy/Puff Daddy/who knows anymore?) enlist him to work on their albums, rumor has it that Prince has also asked him to work on his upcoming album.

Before I begin my rant on how much I dislike the use of Auto-Tune in today’s music industry, let me give credit where credit is due. T-Pain has created a nice niche for himself. I respect him for that. I’ll also admit I have a few songs on my iPod that are jam-packed with Auto-Tune. But please, for the love of all that is holy, respect the music.

“Dope!”

Apprently, I’m not the only one upset about the increasing use of Auto-Tune. Artists have begun to form an “Anti-Tune” movement. Death Cab For Cutie showed up at the 51st Grammy Awards last year showing their support for the movement by wearing light blue ribbons on their jacket lapels.

The days of singers spending endless hours in the studio, recording take after take, are over. In February 2008, Time Magazine Online featured the article “Auto-Tune: Why Pop Music Sounds So Perfect,” which quoted a Grammy-winning recording engineer as saying “Let’s just say I’ve had Auto-Tune save vocals on everything from Britney Spears to Bollywood cast albums. And every singer now presumes that you’ll just run their voice through the box.”

How tragic! Time spent in the studio is about working and re-working until you’ve attained THE optimal combination of melody, emotion and performance. As troubled as I am about the rampant use of Auto-Tune in the studio, I am even more distressed to see the extent to which it is being utilized in live performances.

Jim Anderson, a noted music professor at New York University’s Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music and President of the Audio Engineering Society, related this story in a recent Time Magazine article: “The other day, someone was talking about how Aretha Franklin at the Inauguration was a bit pitchy. I said, ‘Of course! She was singing!’ And that was a musician talking! People are getting used to hearing things dead on pitch, and it’s changed their expectations.”

How absurd. ‘We’re talking ARETHA here! Someone ought to teach that musician a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T!’ I’m an avid devotee of live music. The unpredictability and spontaneity of an honest, live performance adds so many more levels of emotion, musicianship and surprise to the musical experience that the thought of compromising these key ingredients via the use of electronic gimmickery just leaves me cold.

T-Pain Tune that not only did Kanye and Diddy (P. Diddy/Puff Daddy/who knows anymore?) enlist him to work on their albums, rumor has it that Prince has also asked him to work on his upcoming album.

Before I begin my rant on how much I dislike the use of Auto-Tune in today’s music industry, let me give credit where credit is due. T-Pain has created a nice niche for himself. I respect him for that. I’ll also admit I have a few songs on my iPod that are jam-packed with Auto-Tune. But please, for the love of all that is holy, respect the music.

“Dope!”

Apprently, I’m not the only one upset about the increasing use of Auto-Tune. Artists have begun to form an “Anti-Tune” movement. Death Cab For Cutie showed up at the 51st Grammy Awards last year showing their support for the movement by wearing light blue ribbons on their jacket lapels.

The days of singers spending endless hours in the studio, recording take after take, are over. In February 2008, Time Magazine Online featured the article “Auto-Tune: Why Pop Music Sounds So Perfect,” which quoted a Grammy-winning recording engineer as saying “Let’s just say I’ve had Auto-Tune save vocals on everything from Britney Spears to Bollywood cast albums. And every singer now presumes that you’ll just run their voice through the box.”

How tragic! Time spent in the studio is about working and re-working until you’ve attained THE optimal combination of melody, emotion and performance. As troubled as I am about the rampant use of Auto-Tune in the studio, I am even more distressed to see the extent to which it is being utilized in live performances.

Jim Anderson, a noted music professor at New York University’s Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music and President of the Audio Engineering Society, related this story in a recent Time Magazine article: “The other day, someone was talking about how Aretha Franklin at the Inauguration was a bit pitchy. I said, ‘Of course! She was singing!’ And that was a musician talking! People are getting used to hearing things dead on pitch, and it’s changed their expectations.”

How absurd. ‘We’re talking ARETHA here! Someone ought to teach that musician a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T!’ I’m an avid devotee of live music. The unpredictability and spontaneity of an honest, live performance adds so many more levels of emotion, musicianship and surprise to the musical experience that the thought of compromising these key ingredients via the use of electronic gimmickery just leaves me cold.
Children’s theater finds permanent home near John Jay
Celebrities help The 52nd Street Project celebrate its opening, 30 years after it was founded

By Eric Jankiewicz
Celebrities Lewis Black, James McDaniel and Edie Falco were among those who came together with the Hell’s Kitchen community on 52nd Street and 10th Avenue on Feb. 8 to celebrate the opening of a theater called The 52nd Street Project.

The 52nd Street Project is a theater for children from as young as age 7 all the way to high school, and it’s all completely free. With a red awning the establishment adds some color to a rather bleak, business-like midtown atmosphere. On the day of the ribbon cutting the celebrities hailed its contribution to the new generation. Black, a comedian who often appears on “The Daily Show,” said with nostalgia in his voice, “It reminds me of why we got into theater in the first place.”

A participant of the theater, Besart Beqiri, 12, from Public School 111, said “it’s like a community for kids where we can get together and be creative.”

Jillian Zaragoza, 8, who wore a chicken mask and an astronaut costume, perk up when she heard Beqiri talk about the new location. Even through the mask, her muffled voiced shrilled with excitement: “Before we always moved from one building to another and I lost many friends…”

While the location at 52nd and 10th is its first permanent establishment, founder Willie Reale began the theater over 30 years ago.

During those tumultuous years the institution’s migration from one location to another was analogous to the traveling patterns of a snail. First they started on 52nd and 10th then they moved across the street and then back again. This pattern continued for 30 years until the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs began a fundraising campaign. Over $3 million collected by private donors made it possible for the kids of The 52nd Street Project to have a place they can call home.

The feeling of community was strong during the grand opening, where 50 or so children in the audience cheered louder for their Artistic Director Gus Rogerson than they did for the three celebrities, who mostly got their cheers from the 100 or so adult audience members.

“This is where people can come together to be the best they can,” said Gus Rogerson.

For those in John Jay who are inspired by these words of Rogerson you may be asking yourself “What can I do to join the fun?”

Kate D. Levin, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, said that “such establishments affect the whole neighborhood and in doing so enliven the location with culture by getting the whole community involved.” Yes! You are part of the community and can get involved as an intern. Working at The 52nd Street Project requires you to sometimes act out a script that is written by the children or help kids write their poems.

“That is how the structure within the theater works: the children are the playwrights and the adults act out the play,” Rogerson screamed above the cacophony around him. Students ran back and forth saying things like, “The character in my play has struggles similar to those of the main character in Invisible Man by Ellison.”

Zaragoza does not have to worry about losing friends anymore. Now she, Beqiri and other kids have a place where the fun never ends, on 52nd Street.

The new building (above) is at 52nd and 10th. Comedian Lewis Black (L) and Executive Director Carol Ochs were among those at the opening celebration. For more about the theater, go to www.52project.org.

Show celebrates life, music of Nina Simone
By Anita Bradley
American singer, songwriter, activist, dating the Prime Minister of Barbados -- all of this still falls short in describing the life and career of Nina Simone.


The play did not follow a strict script or a storyline. A few women sang and performed as if they were Simone.

“The play opened up my eyes to such a wonderful person that I never knew existed,” said audience member Nicki Taylor.

Simone was born as Eunice Kathleen Waymon in 1933 in North Carolina. Born to a poor family of eight, she lived during a time when skin color was much more crucial in everyday life. In her local church, Simone discovered her love of music. When she performed in church, her parents were forced to sit in the back rows to make way for the Caucasians that attended.

Despite being financially burdened, her mother made a way to enroll Simone in piano lessons. Breaking stereotypes and separation Simone went to the acclaimed school of Juilliard.

The stage name “Nina Simone” came about because Simone did not want her mother to know she was playing “the devil’s music.” “Nina” was a nickname given to her by her boyfriend, and “Simone” was after the French actress Simone Signoret. Simone played local clubs and later became a well known singer and pianist in America. To avoid taxes she moved to Barbados and became involved with the Prime Minister. She later moved around the world, ultimately residing in France. At age 70, Simone passed away and left behind a lifetime of music.

Unbeknownst to anyone Simone suffered from multiple personality disorder and schizophrenia. Yet, she managed to overcome such illnesses and become the great musician that she was.

At the show, the crowd watched in awe as the performers emulated Simone. One show-stopping performance was “I Put A Spell on You.”

“Her life story is just amazing to me. She had so much talent but that didn’t prevent her from facing hardship,” said Brittany Coleman, a Hunter College student.

Simone’s music was an eclectic mix of genres. The songs ranged from jazz, pop, soul and even a taste of rock. The audience never knew just what was coming next.

The play showed how powerful music was and how it got Simone through life. It left you wanting more -- definitely more music.

Class assignment becomes play debut for John Jay student
By Stephanie Trinidad
Kadiatou Sylla, an English minor at John Jay College, staged her play “Guinea’s Rebirth” at an experimental theater, La Mama Theatre, on the Lower East Side on Feb. 20.

Sylla was encouraged to debut her play after she completed a homework assignment her LIT 230 class. After her play “preachy.” Another advised

Invisible Man by Ellison.”

Sylla was encouraged to debut her play “Guinea’s Rebirth” at an experimental theater, La Mama Theatre, on the Lower East Side on Feb. 20.

Sylla was encouraged to debut her play after she completed a homework assignment her LIT 230 class. After her play "preachy". Another advised...
even break any rules. All she did was turn around and bend down. What’s so wrong about that? Some audience members felt it was an overreaction to remove her and even booed the judges. When Landy was asked to comment on the incident she replied, “It was the first time that I saw that sense because I was blowing up the spot.” She also felt she had not violated the terms of the contract, and was annoyed at the judges’ decision.

After an hour of the performers singing, dancing and reciting poetry, the top three contestants were chosen by the judges, who were professors at John Jay as well as a student.

Orlando Diaz, a sophomore majoring in Criminal Justice, was chosen for spoken word. He performed a poem which he started with, “This poem goes out to the strengthful women,” and ended with “This is a man’s world, under women’s supervision,” and had all the females in the audience screaming for him. Diaz said he’d been doing spoken word for the last year or so, and experience interesting. “I was in it last year and it didn’t make it to the finals but still did it to enjoy it,” he said. He also revealed plans to participate in a future talent show. In addition, 10 dancers of different ages who were the winners of last year’s talent show were picked for the dance category, and Ariana Cooper, a freshman from Queens, and Jomaine Redwood were chosen for their song “Cry” in the music category. At the end the audience decided who the winners would be. Using a machine which determined the loudness of the crowd, screaming fans cheered for who they thought the winner should be. Universal Image won third place, Diaz second, and Cooper and Redwood first.

Vonyke Akers, senior and dancer for Universal Image, decided to just participate in the talent show. “I had fun. I basically couldn’t see anything because of the light in my face but the screaming audience makes you want to do your best.” Akers said. Cooper said she was “surprised” by her win, while Redwood said it felt “good.” The song Cry for which they won with was written by both of them. “Our inspiration was each other and our love in music” Redwood said.

“My encouragement to sing were my parents when I was 8 years old and since then I have been motivated to sing and I know I can do better than I did tonight.” said Cooper.

There was some controversy in the audience whether the grand prize should have been more than just a lunch. One of the winners, Akers were Rauliang and Uba Ray, which is a musical production. The spring production that was canceled was called Bloody Bess, which included criminal justice themes such as piracy. However, Wylie believes that students receive many academic materials, but are not exposed enough to art. She also said that since John Jay College is a commuter college, this is an opportunity where students can come, interact, learn and to support the crew. “The theatre brings the students together and creates a community that is lacking in John Jay College,” said Wylie.

Wylie believes that the administration made a terrible decision when deciding to cut the budget because this play would have been educational and exciting. While the students and professors made the suggestion to the department that they should do fundraising to increase additional funding so that the production would go forward for the semester, but the department did not interfere with the decision.

Rohdin believes that institutions should invest in the Art programs and the administration has taken steps to increase the funding of the arts in John Jay College. “(Provost) Jane Bowers and I have increased far more funding in the arts than any provost in John Jay College.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Rohdin said that the administration made a terrible decision when deciding to cut the budget because the play would have been educational and exciting. While the students and professors made the suggestion to the department that they should do fundraising to increase additional funding so that the production would go forward for the semester, but the department did not interfere with the decision.

Wylie believes that institutions should invest in the arts programs and the administration has taken steps to increase the funding of the arts in John Jay College. “Cry” in the music category. At the end the audience decided who the winners would be. Using a machine which determined the loudness of the crowd, screaming fans cheered for who they thought the winner should be. Universal Image won third place, Diaz second, and Cooper and Redwood first.

Vonyke Akers, senior and dancer for Universal Image, decided to just participate in the talent show. “I had fun. I basically couldn’t see anything because of the light in my face but the screaming audience makes you want to do your best.” Akers said. Cooper said she was “surprised” by her win, while Redwood said it felt “good.” The song Cry for which they won with was written by both of them. “Our inspiration was each other and our love in music” Redwood said.

“My encouragement to sing were my parents when I was 8 years old and since then I have been motivated to sing and I know I can do better than I did tonight.” said Cooper.

There was some controversy in the audience whether the grand prize should have been more than just a lunch. One of the winners, Akers were Rauliang and Uba Ray, which is a musical production. The spring production that was canceled was called Bloody Bess, which included criminal justice themes such as piracy. However, Wylie believes that students receive many academic materials, but are not exposed enough to art. She also said that since John Jay College is a commuter college, this is an opportunity where students can come, interact, learn and to support the crew. “The theatre brings the students together and creates a community that is lacking in John Jay College,” said Wylie.

Wylie believes that the administration made a terrible decision when deciding to cut the budget because this play would have been educational and exciting. While the students and professors made the suggestion to the department that they should do fundraising to increase additional funding so that the production would go forward for the semester, but the department did not interfere with the decision.

Rohdin believes that institutions should invest in the Art programs and the administration has taken steps to increase the funding of the arts in John Jay College. “(Provost) Jane Bowers and I have increased far more funding in the arts than any provost in John Jay College.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”

Wylie said that John Jay College needs to reprioritize when looking to trim the departmental budget and jeopardizing the academic fair. Rohdin explains that every department receives a reduction in the budget—“vast reductions of the production were taken out of the personnel service, which is the full-time substitute faculty members and very little reduction was taken out of the other personnel service. The funding for theatre production comes from.”
Filmmaker talks “Truth” about crime

By Jayelle Dorsainville, Robert Moretti & Tatjana Martinez

Celebrated filmmaker and criminologist Roger Graef gave a screening of his BBC- TV documentary, “The Truth About Crime,” at John Jay. The special appearance took place Feb. 23 and included President Jeremy Travis, Judge Alex Calabrese and Professor Peter Moskos.

“We expect too much from the justice system. Graef a criminologist, writer and award winning filmmaker, said at the screening.

Graef was born in New York City, so his ties brought him to John Jay to show what PBS has to offer people information to authorities here as well.

His documentary is basically a collection of footage taken by criminologists during a two-week period in Oxford, England. The film covered three types of crimes – violent crime, property crime, and anti-social behavior – and how each sector of the law handles these incidents. Students and guests also watched the segment on “anti-social behavior” and upon its conclusion discussed the impact of the film.

The footage consisted partly on interviews with people who have become victims of crimes such as having their home windows broken by a throw brick or their trashcans set on fire. Graef said one of his main goals was to “take pressure off police,” and to reveal valuable information to help police have a better understanding of their community.

Anti-social behavior is most common among teenagers because bored teens act out as a form of rebellion. Graef and his panel discussed teens in relation to anti-social behavior, “Kids don’t pay taxes, so they are ignored,” said Graef.

When it comes to anti-social behavior the film also states teens are often the culprit and the victims. The consistent theme within the segment was the lack of options for children in this part of London. “Guess when youth clubs are closed?” questioned Graef. “On weekends and holidays.” Instead of summoning the law to prevent children from taking part in anti-social behavior, there should be outlets that will suppress their need to act out violently.

Oxford was compared to New York City many times and Calabrese, a presiding judge of the Red Hook Community Justice Center who was also a former appointed judge to the Criminal Court of the City of New York, spoke on the Broken Window Theory and how that correlates to anti-social behavior. The Broken Window Theory is the idea that when graffiti, condemned buildings and disheveled neighborhoods are left unkept the community reflects that in their behavior.

“Treat communities with respect and get respect,” said Judge Calabrese. Disorder and crime go hand-in-hand and the film dictates that kids with no structure begin to lash out in people in their own community. This is what Graef wants to change. “It is not only a signature crime within a society but a cry for help from its residents.”

The discussion was also open to viewers, and students offered their response. “The redesign program they instituted on the projects really improved crime rates,” said sophomore Amanda Ocasio. “I wish New York City would change the public housing design too.”

Graef’s film offered ideas for preventing crime, including more lighting on streets, blocking off alleyways with gates, having buildings with better surveillance of outside areas, and getting police more involved with the community.

Oxford police officers took a proactive approach by starting a scourer tramp wins at youth. By participating in the organized sport with them, the teens gain structure and a better relation to the officers that serve their community.

One audience member asked Moskos, an assistant professor of law, police science and criminal justice administration at John Jay who was also a former police officer in Baltimore, if it was believable. NY cops could do activities with teens to help build a relationship like they had done in Oxford. Moskos said he doubted that could happen because cops in Britain were off the clock and this was an inductive task.

One John Jay student in the audience, Gary Hernandez, said he was shocked to hear that. “If we have that kind of attitude coming from officers then what changes can we expect?”

But Calabrese said it can be done here. He is one of the leaders in the community in Red Hook. “Reward kids that haven’t experienced success,” he said.

Community issues can be boiled down to statistics and rates but the problems will remain. “Don’t trust numbers to look for answers to long term social problems” said Graef. Most community members do not report crimes because of fear, which works against their struggle to bring their community to a more positive level. Graef believes there is no one person that should handle the issues of anti-social behavior, “All of the citizens are responsible for doing something.”

For more information about the film, visit www.bbc.co.uk/truthaboutcrime.

Workshop focuses on mentoring students

By Desiree Mathurin

Enlightenment occurred Feb. 16 at the Career Workshop for English Majors and Minors, in the English conference room located at 619 W. 54th St.

As the guest speakers – Alexander Long, Rosebud Ben-Oni and Virginia B. Morris – spoke about their hardships in their careers and the help they received to overcome those hardships, the many students who arrived at the annex building in the mini blizzard listened attentively, hoping to leave with further direction toward their future. Hoping that they would not be lost in the fog of uncertainty forever. They didn’t leave disappointed.

“A great overview of what we can do,” Emilie Herve, 20, a junior, stated at the end of the workshop.

In a college that is mostly focused on criminal justice, it is difficult to pursue a field the way he has strong about his mentor and the aid his mentor had given him.

According to Long, without the help of his mentor, Christopher Buckley, he would “still be writing obituaries,” and not teaching classes like American Literature or History of Poetic Form. Long went from being a technical writer to a published poet. None of that would be possible without the help of his mentor.

Mentors supply students with esteem boosts and road maps to their lives during college and afterward, the afterward being more important. Mentors can supply students with recommendation letters and perhaps job opportunities.

Long said he would “love” to mentor students. He “looks forward” to aiding students in their field. With his newly founded English Major and Minor there is a different venue for students that does not require a transfer to another college. However as students make the switch to the major or the minor they are even more confused than they were to begin with.

“Since English is such a broad major with so many different job opportunities, I don’t know if I should change to it or what I would do if I did,” said Valentina Nezaj, 20, a sophomore, before the workshop. Many students like her need a mentor and

Students talk about success of sci-fi epics

By David Rodriguez

The science fiction epic is still a fairly new concept. House compared “Avatar” to “Blade Runner,” a movie that “gave you the future ahead of time and it pushed our thinking to where we might go” as opposed to “Avatar” and “District 9,” they show you where we are now, but they don’t give you a possible future for where we are going.

Science-fiction films “should be pushing our thinking,” plotting the scenario and our ideas of what the world has in it.”

Nabeela Basheer, another senior, said action movies are more popular because they are “more inclusive,” and it is possible these three films incorporated elements of their community in movies in order to boost ticket sales. The most interesting sci-fi stories to her incorporate “the destruction of the mind and body relationship” as well as showing us that “technology makes us defective and incapable of thinking on our own.”

“District 9” incorporates the style of a documentary in its first half while the second half is a sci-fi epic mixed with ball-to-the-wall insanity; it is the best contemporary example of the two genres meeting. House warns that these movies will not be timeless like “Alien” and “Blade Runner.”

“The movie industry does care any more, with the focus turned away from the message and more on pleasing the masses, and the story loses its value, especially in science-fiction.”

The next workshop will be announced via email. Mentors can supply students with  recommendation letters and college and afterward, the afterward be-

Those who have an interest in the topic they are most certainly welcome to come. The next workshop will be announced via students’ John Jay e-mail addresses.
Basketball team ends the season with a loss

Bloodhounds fall to the Medgar Evers Cougars on home turf, despite Vaughn Mason’s 32 points

By Uchenna Anyaoha

John Jay’s basketball team The Bloodhounds ended their 2009-10 season with a loss to Medgar Evers College’s team, The Cougars, 83-61 at the Bloodhounds’ home court, known as “The Doghouse.”

The home crowd was ready for a win Feb. 15. Many people were rooting for the Bloodhounds, especially John Jay fans, who have stuck by the team even with their 1-24 record for the season. The Bloodhounds were led by Vaughn Mason, who scored 9 points in the first quarter.

As the fans heavily rooted for their players, their hopes and dreams for their team fell when they began to realize that the Bloodhounds were falling extensively behind on the points. By halftime, John Jay was rapidly on the way down the scoreboard. The echoes of screaming fans were heard no more in the Doghouse as the points for Medgar Evers College began to climb up for the rest of the night.

At halftime, John Jay was trailing behind Medgar Evers by 8 points. The points scored by the Medgar Evers’ Cougars were increased with many turnovers by the John Jay Bloodhounds. The final blow to the fans of the home team and to the home team themselves—The Bloodhounds, was the difference in the scores in the last five minutes of the game, which was 69 to 49.

“At this point, even if the Bloodhounds made a quick turnaround and began to score rapid points, it would be impossible to save their title,” a Bloodhound fan Emmanuela Exaklamos exclaimed during the final moments of the game. Eke added “I have never seen a more disappointing game in my life, to think I drove all the way from Westchester for this, what a waste. The coaches have more work to do on these guys... I mean some of their plays were excellent but their teamwork was rubbish.”

The Bloodhounds had failed to lead the game at any point and this was apparently seen by fans as an enormous disappointment. Although this loss was arguably vast, there were many players who awed the John Jay fans. Vaughn Mason, who led the John Jay Bloodhounds, was recognized with a 1,228 career point record. He played his final game as a John Jay Bloodhound that night, scoring 32 points. An additional 13 points for the Bloodhounds were contributed by aspiring and quick footed player Darryl Dennis, a freshman.

On the other side of the fence, leading stars for Medgar Evers’ win were Ronald Holloway, who scored 24 points in both parts of the game, and Winston Douglas, who contributed 12 points in the second half. His 16 rebounds aided Medgar Evers in their win.

“They hammered us,” Rex Trocho said. “They didn’t even give us a chance to lead but they were okay... I think I’m going to go to another one of their games and see if they can keep it up... No lie though, John Jay sucks a-bad-one. I don’t even know how they came this far... I would’ve never paid a dime if it were an event that you had to get it twisted to be able to see. Medgar Evers sucks too. It’s like watching two Special Ed kids argue. At the end of the day, they both lost.”

One student, Melanie Chan, thought the team excelled in their endeavor to win. “I thought they played a good game, they had a few ups and downs but it is expected. I mean, they have come very far and this loss is just a challenge. They can do better.”

The Bloodhounds are scheduled to undergo intense training for the 2010-11 season.

Student government paves way to Broadway

By Amanda Aponte

What is New York City’s best, free attraction for John Jay students?

Broadway in Times Square is the most popular tourist attraction in New York City. The magical lights and music are just a few blocks of John Jay College, yet many students have never seen a Broadway show. The cost of tickets can range from $60 to $200, but if you are a John Jay student you can watch these spectacular shows for free.

Student Government has designated a portion of their budget to provide group tickets for Broadway shows to John Jay students. This past fall students, were able to see shows such as the Phantom of the Opera, Hair, Christmas Spectacular, and Wintuk by signing up in Room 1226 North Hall. The tickets are part of an effort to transform John Jay from a commuter college to more of a campus community.

According to Nadine Hylton, the Student Council Treasurer, the Student Council saw a need for student involvement within the college.

“As an urban commuting campus we saw it as imperative to help build a sense of community amongst our students,” Hylton said. “As such, each month the Council selects a show—thus far it has been a major Broadway production, such as the Lion King and In The Heights, to take students.”

As treasurer, Hylton’s tasks include organizing the yearly budget that the council receives from student activity fees.

“For most shows I budget $1,500 to $2,000 for 30 to 40 tickets,” she said. Usually the price of Broadway tickets are about $80-$150 for rear mezzanine seats, but Student Council is able to get these tickets for cheaper because they are buying group packages.

“Sometimes the group rate allows us the chance to purchase more tickets, which are always handy as we usually have more students signing up for the shows than we have tickets for,” Hylton said.

This past fall the Student Council bought 30 tickets to the Phantom of the Opera at the Majestic Theater. The Phantom of the Opera, the longest running Broadway play, is such a longstanding and prestigious production that they charge $118 for one ticket to sit in the rear mezzanine and $158 for orchestra/front mezzanine seats. Currently the play is starring John Cudia and Jennifer Hope Wills with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

For the spring semester, Student Council planned not just Broadway tickets, but a masquerade ball, too.

NAME

Continued from front page

encompass the wide range of disciplines would not be a first.

According to the college’s online history, the original name of The College of Police Science of The City University of New York (CUNY) “did not adequately represent the mission of the college,” originally established in 1965. “In recognition of its broad education objectives in the process of criminal justice, development of leadership and emphasis on professional achievement in public service, the college was renamed John Jay College of Criminal Justice, in honor of the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court,” according to the John Jay website.

Unlike Wallace, William Murray, a junior majoring in English, said, “Even though Criminal Justice is not my major, I don’t think the name should be changed. Although John Jay has an international reputation for ‘educating for justice,’ its name should not discourage potential students because even lawyers, politicians, forensic scientists and psychologists need to know how to read and write properly.”

Murray explains that even as an English major, many of his classes have focuses on themes of crime, law, and justice. For Murray, this proves that “the school can still upkeeps its reputation.”

However the Student Government President, Wallace said, “the name does not undergo intense training for the 2010-11 season.

Information about free Broadway tickets is either posted on the information boards around the college or e-mailed to staff and students. Students can also inquire about tickets to future shows or sign up in Room 1226 North Hall.