The first of three forums between the NJIT community and President Dr. Joel Bloom took place on Wednesday, February 22, 2012, in the Naimoli Athletic Center. Directed toward discussions with NJIT faculty, this event will be followed by two more forums, designed for student and staff audiences, respectively.

The objective of these forums is to discuss the strategic plan for NJIT with particular regard to the FY’13 budget. Bloom initiated discussion with an overhead that highlighted the exact purpose of these assemblies, that is, "to discuss and receive broad-based input into the University vision, institutional priorities, and a model for the leadership and management of the University."

Bloom pointed out three particular areas of interest relevant to this: the NJIT ’10-’15 Strategic Plan, the NJ State Strategic Plan, and the UMDNJ.

After a well-received performance last year, the Klang String Quartet of two violins, a viola and a cello returned to NJIT. Gregor Kitzis, one of the violinists and acting spokesperson throughout the show, provided an overview of Klang’s philosophy and purpose.

In order to provide more than "mindless entertainment", he said, they deliberately choose "unusual" pieces. Drawing on the student body’s technical background to create an analogy, Kitzis explained that just as technology could be used to transform abstract ideas into concrete objects, so too could a simple melody be embellished and altered into something more via creative use of musical elements.

The afternoon’s repertoire was comprised of four pieces: Carl Nielsen’s String Quartet No. 4, Julian Carrillo’s 2 Boquejos, a piece by John Morton with particular interest to the FY’13 budget.

Enjoy this week’s Entertainment section with more previews, reviews, and enjoy a good game of sudoku.
The opening faculty comment pertained to the current NJIT vision as delineated by the Plan. One faculty member stated he was uncertain of what vision included the College of Architecture and Design, to which Dr. Bloom responded by saying that in many ways, COAD is leading the way in technology and research, and that it is an integral component of the University. Another faculty member replied by suggesting the word "design" be incorporated into the statement, which would infuse COAD's mission into the University's vision.

The next concern raised challenged the role of athletics in the university and questioned what portion of the budget is or should be allocated to that department. The President started by explaining that $7 million of the $300 million dollar budget, or 3%, is spent on athletics, and half of that $7 million goes to student scholarships. He proceeded to highlight that there are currently 240 student athletes on campus, 60 bloom are in the Honors College.

Bloom also pointed out that, on average, student athletes have higher SAT scores and grade point averages, as well as have a higher retention and graduation rate when compared to the general student body. These student athletes also generate $1 million in revenue for the University, while attracting alumni and adding to campus life.

Bloom further mentioned that he is working with Lenny Kaplan and Dr. Charles Dees to get NJIT into a conference closer to home, which will dramatically reduce both travel costs and travel time, thus granting the students more time to focus on their academics.

The next question posed was about the application to create a joint medical school program with St. George's University in Grenada. Dr. Bloom reported that NJIT pulled the application, deciding to focus instead on increasing its presence at UMDNJ. He described the declining number of seats afforded to NJIT students in recent years, which is far exceeded by the number of qualified students. He stated that he will be working to expand this number, thus allowing for more of our talented students to gain access to UMDNJ.

The next part of the forum concerned expansion of the Computer Science building, which Bloom noted that the University planned to renovate the fourth floor of the Computer Science building, using it for biology labs. The close proximity of the fourth floor to the roof allows for the better ventilation that is required for lab space, and thus construction would skip the third floor. Though these new facilities were expressly dedicated to use as teaching labs, it was noted that research labs are needed as well.

The next faculty member to speak stated that he did not see an active plan for innovation and entrepreneurship within the University and asked if we really can have that we lived up to those words chosen for the vision statement. The improved research in this area for NJIT's continued success and growth was discussed at some length.

Another faculty member questioned whether the University should be expanding to 11,000 students what is the knower to the current students are not up to par. He stated that this class sizes quickly diminish because students are not prepared for the material, and that each year he needs to make his classes easier.

Bloom reported that the majority of the growth will be in enrollment of one-year, online Master's degree students, and not of undergraduates. He also emphasized that NJIT is the state's Public Science and Technology University, not an Ivy League university.

He stated that 15% of the current freshman class is enrolled in the Honors College, and that the freshman class averages an SAT score of 1140, versus the national average of 1020. He also stated that the majority of students will be recruited from urban centers, and that only 6% of NJIT students list their desired major in the SAT's in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math.

The issue of athletics spending was brought up a second time, with a special request made for its own individual forum. Dr. Bloom agreed to this, but urged the audience to ensure the forum would be composed of informed discussion.

The next forum revisited the issue of math preparedness and considered the possibility of looking into other criteria for admissions and math placement outside of the SAT, such as the SAT II or class rank. The general SAT was noted to be a poor predictor of math preparedness, as the test can be learned.

One forum participant noted that Carnegie Mellon has the same issue as ours. Dr. Bloom also added that even Harvard has to remediate a third of their incoming freshman for a difficult curriculum. The faculty members further mentioned that the NJ algebra II exam was cancelled as a solution to low math preparedness, as such as the SAT II or class rank. The general SAT was noted to be a poor predictor of math preparedness, as the test can be learned.

He also stated that the math department, which is the same issues in their math preparedness, as the test can be learned. Dr. Bloom also added that even Harvard has to remediate a third of their incoming freshman for a difficult curriculum. The faculty members further mentioned that the NJ algebra II exam was cancelled as a solution to low scores, showing that there is a general indifference to math preparedness within education as a whole.

The next issue brought to the forum was the organizational structure of the Office of University offices, with specific reference given to the large amount of non-academic offices operating under the Office of the Provost. Dr. Bloom stated that communication was key to University offices, and that he will look to the Deans for input on such topics.

Another discussion was the need for more productivity from university faculty members.

The issue of registration eventually came up, and participants criticized that there was a lack of trial and error with the Infosol system before it was implemented. The system was admittedly put into place before much was known about it because the University was making way for Banner, which was implemented two years later.

Bloom stated that he would be happy to coordinate a group that would work closely with the registrar to resolve related issues, and a few faculty members agreed to join said group.

The last big concern was an issue relating to faculty sabbaticals. Participants stated that doing research, writing grants, serving the community, and teaching was too taxing for faculty members, to which Bloom replied by emphasizing that the University's hiring plan was, at $10 million a year, alleviate the pressure on the current faculty and allow for an increase in such sabbatical opportunities.

Bloom called forum participants to reconsider the role of Banner, which was stating that decreasing the number of adjuncts while granting more sabbaticals would represent cost savings equities. He further noted the positive outcomes of previous sabbaticals, and stated that it would be helpful to inform those interested in granting sabbaticals of these outcomes.

Finally, in relation to the wording of the vision statement, it was suggested that in the ECE vision statement, the phrase "teaching and research" be used in equal amount to the phrase "research and teaching," thus maintaining the same level of emphasis on both. Also noted was the necessity of including "teaching" in the vision statement, as it is important to prepare and be taught that students come to NJIT.

Dr. Bloom closed by pointing out that the leadership in the University now consists of the Vice Presidents, the Deans, and ultimately the Board of Trustees, who would give due consideration to the concerns raised by other parties.
We all have sat through countless history lessons on Adolph Hitler and the atrocities he orded, but do you think about the people who let it happen? How about the ones that chose him as their leader? With the world going through great political and social reform, the time could not be more opportune to watch the eternally heart-wrenching musical Cabaret, to be presented by the NJIT-Rutgers theater program.

"I don't want people leaving the play thinking Thank god Hitler is dead but instead... I had no idea," says Director Michael Kerley; "What we need right now is a wakeup call."

Based on Christopher Isherwood's Berlin Stories and John Van Druten's A Man a Camera, Cabaret takes place in the turbulent city of 1931 Berlin, just prior to Hitler's ascent to power. The plot revolves around Sally Bowles, a Cabaret performer who has a brief affair with American writer Clifford Bradshaw, who serves as our objective view on the situation of Berlin. And the seductive Kit Kat Club where Bowles performs serves as microcosm for the tumultuous state of late Weimar Germany.

The show was originally made famous by its jazzy score and the iconic performance of Joel Grey as the creepy emcee. Time has passed since the musical first swept Broadway off its feet in 1966, and the NJIT-Rutgers Cabaret promises to be just as daring as the original.

What makes this rendition unique is the addition of projected video clips from the era. The videos subtly serve as a window to what is going on outside the oasis of the Kit Kat Club. "Most guys will come for to see our gorgeous women!" Jokes Bryan Orellana, who plays the emcee.

Aside from the ever-engaging plot, one of the iconic aspects of Cabaret is the Dance. The original choreography of Bob Fosse has a very distinctive style, with very turned in and subtle movements that are something to look for in the performance.

"This is different than any performance we've done before because there is a sexier nature to it; also it is more of a play within the musical [...] It is more about the dancing and less about the actual story", says long time theater program choreographer Emily Edwards.

"We're having a lot of fun being provocative and sexual," says dance captain Dominique Nogueira. "I hope that the audience has just as much fun as we do!"

But don't let the risqué dance and attire fool you. Even in the sultry play poster there is much fun as we do!"

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It was a meditation on the movement, "Meditación", which describes the piece perfectly. For the second movement, "Harp", the eerily beautiful Nielsen piece started with a lighthearted waltz tune and rhythm. Before long, this familiar sound began alternating between major and minor, so suddenly that it was hard to pinpoint what exact feelings the piece was supposed to evoke, perhaps one of unease, as you listened and waited for those classic melodic phrases which were hinted at but never came.

The first movement was a variation of Somewhere Over The Rainbow from "The Wizard of Oz". Initially, the strings provided gentle background accompanied as the music box sweetly played out the melody. However, the music box's sweet sound began warping and duplicating and the tune grew less recognizable, leading the strings to rise up and begin a melody of their own as the music box stuttered along in the background.

For the second movement, Morton demonstrated his sound generation from a single music box. By pulling a piano wire through the box holes, he could control the speed and direction of its revolution and with a paperclip could pluck individual tunes to generate single pure notes.

The final string quartet act served as a traditional foil to the more contemporary tone of the first. Kitzis described the piece as attempting to mimic the sound of a full symphonic orchestra using only four stringed instruments. To accomplish this, the musicians alternated their play to create a multi-layered effect like that of many more instruments joining in at staggered intervals. Adding to the illusion, plucked broken chords simulated the harp that the piece was named for.

Worn out as I was by the end of a wild one-and-a-half hour long auditory journey, it was a worthwhile experience. Contrary to what some scientifically minded individuals may think, artistic expression is not at complete odds with scientific precision. Events like these highlight the links between the two, and hopefully will provide those present with alternative insights that help enhance the rigid, one-answer mentality needed to tackle much of NJIT's curriculum.

The Vector, NJIT's Student Newspaper

Fatima Ali
Staff Writer

Cabaret

February 27, 2012

Campus - Theater Preview

Two movements: Pandemonium and The Parting, and Beethoven's String Quartet, Op. 74 "Harp."

John Morton was actually on location to present his work. Most of his music incorporates live electronics, in this case music boxes hooked up to microphones and run through sound processing software. The software generated random sound elements such that part of Morton's performance was on-the-fly improvisation based on what he was given to work with. The first movement was a variation of Somewhere Over The Rainbow from "The Wizard of Oz." Initially, the strings provided gentle background accompanied as the music box sweetly played out the melody. However, the music box's sweet sound began warping and duplicating and the tune grew less recognizable, leading the strings to rise up and begin a melody of their own as the music box stuttered along in the background.

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Campus - Career Fair

Career Fair

Philip Chen
Staff Writer

With competition in the job market at all time high, it is absolutely necessary to take every measure possible to boost your chances above the rest of the potentials. One of the ways to do this and gain that extra edge is by participating in NJIT’s regular career fairs, which incidentally is approaching this week.

Choosing to ignore or failing to prepare for the spring career fair that unfolds on Wednesday 2/29/12 is indeed a very silly mistake for anyone that is serious about obtaining a one of the many potential internships, co-ops, or job offerings, some of which will come from companies like Apple, AT&T, Colgate, Johnson & Johnson, PSEG, and Vonage, among others.

In the interest of laying the groundwork for a successful career fair, it would be advisable to clean up your resume and confirm it is up to the standards of what your employer would expect, as it is normal for an employer to trash a resume because of a simple and avoidable error. Usual resume changes can range from updating it with new material or changing the objective, catering the resume specifically to the job for which you are applying. To this end, Career Development Services regularly host resume workshops before the career fairs, where you can catch even the smallest issue and give yourself the best chance possible in terms of correct grammar, spelling, format, and layout.

CDS, which is located on the 5th floor of Campbell Hall, is a very useful resource to a person with the resume that needs to be checked. Be sure to print multiple copies of your resume in anticipation of giving it to recruiters to keep during the actual fair. The CDS’s website also has the complete list of registered employers for the spring career fair along with a plethora of other useful information. Simply search “CDS” on the NJIT website to find the complete list and highlight any potential interests and narrow down the focus to a list of 6-13 companies.

It really helps to research the company itself and visit the company’s website to make sure that the internship, co-op, or job matches your skill set. Your interaction with the recruiter at the table will be much easier if he/she doesn’t need to explain what the company does or is looking for, and it does impresses the recruiter that initiative was taken to look deeper into any offer at hand. In fact, researching about the company and the openings available is the initial step to being able to talk confidently to the recruiter about what you bring to the company if offered the position. Keep in mind that most students will forgo this research, leaving the recruiter to explain the company itself and job opening details. The ability to talk about key points of your resume or important projects relevant to the opening certainly makes you stand out as a much more viable candidate for the goal of an initial interview.

For those 3-5 minutes of conversation with the recruiter, you should keep an effort to smile, introduce yourself, firmly shake their hand while making eye contact, make clear that after researching the company/typings you were interested in “x(s)” opening in the company, and explain why you are literally the best candidate for the opening.

Achieving this consistent flow will allow you to present yourself at your peak in the time of most importance, which is literally the first minute of conversation.

Since the recruiter will gauge you within the first minute if not the first couple of seconds, it is also imperative to dress professionally. Find your best professional outfit, get a shape-up, and utilize basic hygiene (at least for that day) to allow the first moment to be your optimal defining moment.

It’s almost near impossible to change a first impression from a bad one to a good one, so be sure to try your best in physical appearance. They say a picture can be worth a thousand words, and it is obviously also true with initial meetings. To assist in a favorable impression, it is very important to stress that, firm handshake and smile go a long way.

Following the advice of this article will certainly lead you down the right path, but in the end it is the efforts of a serious individual that will land the perfect first impression, and the resulting initial interview. Your own efforts and confidence in this career fair are what will give you the utmost chance of success.

Best of luck fellow NJIT friends in the interests of going for gold!

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February 27, 2012

Entertainment
Tech Review

3DS
Portable
Nintendo reaches to the stars
Anthonie Rejär
Staff Writer

It would have seemed last March that 3D gaming would have been impossible on a handheld device. But the clever minds at Nintendo sought to explore this concept with the 3DS.

With improvements that exceeded its predecessors and ever-expanding library titles, the 3DS was slowly gaining momentum as a top competitor in the handheld gaming market.

The Nintendo 3DS was redesigned to be more ergonomic and efficient in address of previous design flaws; it’d be simply wrong to call it a DS or DSi2. It comes in various colors: Flame Red, Aqua Blue, Pearl Pink, Cosmic Black and Ice White. Like the other DS gaming consoles, it comes with two screens: one for viewing and the other for touch play. The screens have been polished a bit and bring out a more crisp quality in graphics.

The button layout has remained untouched, with the exceptions of the home, power, start/select buttons on the bottom screen. It also includes a round Slider pad for analog play.

The 3DS games will retain their card cartridges, and the device has backwared compatibility with older DS titles.

The battery life for this handheld varies between 2-6 hours of play, depending whether or not the user has the 3D feature and brightness at max, low, or off settings.

Other additions include dual cameras, a built-in Nintendo Wii-like motion sensor system, and an SD card slot that serves as the primary source for external data storage. Sounds like a lot for a handheld, huh?

The games look a bit more appealing since there was more power packed into this small item. Graphics are much sharper and vibrant. But does one need extra peripherals to get the 3D out of the games?

As promised, Nintendo reassured us that this would be a glasses-free 3D experience. How is this possible? With the implementation of the new 3D depth slider, the impossibility of 3D gaming was made a reality. At an adjusted setting, it projects the screen image outward, giving the impression of a round slider.
of a pseudo-3D environment. There are, however, some drawbacks for using the 3D feature. One, photos and only certain games will be able to take advantage of it. Second, when you use the 3D settings at max, it drains the battery faster.

Being a first generation system, we have not seen a game that is not fully dependent on the 3D feature yet. So a word from the wise: Invest in a battery with a longer life expectancy or turn the 3D depth slider off.

Regarding the interface, the menus for the 3DS were a simplified version of the Wii’s menus, which include photo, music, system, internet, Mii Plaza and eShop channels. Street Pass was introduced for 3DS as a way to exchange and collect Mii’s and data from other 3DS owners while the device is in sleep mode. Any Mii’s picked up could be used for some mini-games provided in the Mii Plaza and other games.

As for online interaction and play, players will be glad to know that Nintendo has dropped the “multiple friend codes for Wi-Fi enabled games” to one universal friend code technology in the architecture. It saves the time and frustration from inputting all those codes.

Currently, the Nintendo 3DS has been doing well on the market, despite the shortcomings it had. Mainly, the $250 price tag possibly prevented everyone from purchasing it at launch. However, it has since had a price drop.

That, however, should not discourage you from buying it. Although the gaming library is slow-growing, there is still much to be desired. Games like Mario Kart 7, Legend of Zelda Ocarina of Time 3D, and a few other titles should be enough to keep everyone staring at the screens.

Will people flock to it like they did for the original DS and DS Lite? It’s a possibility. At one point, when there is some discount, big name title, or an incentive to purchase one, then it will more likely go up in sales.

When companies thought the unreachable fantasy of 3D gaming was out of reach, Nintendo made it a reality with the 3DS. Sure, it has a few nitpicks here and there. But they were putting out a lot more than the average DS. Could we expect more in the near future? Maybe, Nintendo always tend to have a few aces up their sleeves.

The Nintendo 3DS is now priced at $179.99 and is currently available in stores everywhere.

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The Vector, NJIT’s Student Newspaper

February 27, 2012

Entertainment - Tech Preview

Ivy Bridge

Intel’s next big innovation

Edward King
Contributing Writer

The computer processor market is one that is continually evolving and is integral to the technological infrastructure in today’s world. The Central Processor Unit Manufacturer (CPU/Computer Processor) Intel is currently developing a new type of CPU architecture codenamed “Ivy Bridge” that will help to exponentially increase the amount of processing power that a CPU will have.

Slated to be released sometime in 1st half of Q1 2010 or Q2 2012, the CPU architecture seeks to boost performance by almost 15% compared to the current CPU Architecture “Sandy Bridge”. A speed increase this much is staggering because the Ivy Bridge architecture will still be utilizing four processing cores compared to its rival CPU manufacturer AMD which uses eight cores in their flagship CPU. “Ivy Bridge” also seeks to lower power consumption by approximately 19%.

One of the few downsides of “Ivy Bridge” is that to acquire the maximum performance gains, one would need to purchase a new LGA 2011 socket motherboard, which is not only very pricey but also larger than a standard size motherboard.

By making the maximum performance gains from the CPU only available on a LGA socket 2011 motherboard instead of the current LGA 1155 motherboard, Intel is showing off their business savvy. They are very aware that enthusiasts will quickly purchase any new product that they push out, so getting people to buy third party motherboards that only come equipped with the LGA 2011 socket is an excellent way to gain another foothold above AMD in the CPU market.

With this, AMD is going to have to work hard to improve their current eight core CPU architecture platform that is codenamed “Bulldozer”. One of the key reasons that “Bulldozer” is struggling to sell is because the technology in the architecture is actually too advanced for modern uses of a CPU. Most programs only use up to 4 cores of processing, which is what the top of the line “Sandy Bridge” CPU’s have. By adding 4 more cores of processing power the “Bulldozer” CPU’s are spreading the amount of processing across the extra cores, which is a waste because modern programs are only concentrating on 4 of the 8 cores in a “Bulldozer” processor.

If AMD were to lower the amount of cores in their processors or increase the performance of at least 4 of the cores in a “Bulldozer” processor then they would make a serious comeback in the current CPU market. Until then however, Intel’s new technology looks very promising and will usher in a new age of computer technology.

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Aries (March 21st – April 20th)
Without your lucky bracelet on your wrist at all times, many bad things will happen to you this week. Little did you know that bracelet was more than just a lucky charm; it was also a relic that acted as a magic ward for ancient wizards to keep evil at bay.

Taurus (April 21st – May 20th)
There’s a place very special to you that you visit when you’re feeling down. It’s in the woods close to your house. But guess what…they’re tearing down that forest to put up a new housing complex. Guess your special place is now someone else’s living room inside a condominium.

Gemini (May 21st – June 20th)
Isn’t it nice how you always say please and thank you to everyone you meet? Well, this week you should try saying things like “I hate you” and “Get out of my face” because you’ve just realized you were born to be a mean sonuvas%^$! That period ends the sentence, not the curseword.

Cancer (June 21st – July 21st)
If you happen to become something you didn’t expect to this week, whatever it is be a good one. The stars like that expression, and they think you’ll make a good third planet from the sun…or whatever else.

Leo (July 22nd – August 22nd)
Ouch bro. You stepped on a tack. That must hurt. But you know what’ll hurt more if you don’t move fast? That would be those hot coals you’re standing on that extend to the end of the week. Those are some serious coals, since they not only reach through space but time as well.

Virgo (August 23rd – September 22nd)
Get your knapsack ready and put on your hiking boots because you’re about to discover what it feels like to scale Mount Everest in less than ten seconds. We’ve got the cannon loaded and ready. Have a safe trip!

Libra (September 23rd – October 22nd)
Take a look out your window. What do you see? Some trees, grass, and weeds? There’s something else in the bushes you haven’t noticed. No, it’s not a stalker; it’s a dinosaur. Didn’t expect that huh?

Scorpio (October 23rd – November 21st)
You have determined such an effective strategy for winning every board game you play that it is impossible for anyone to contest you. It’s called victory by extinguishing the life force of your opponents. You call it, “Your Death, My Turn”.

Sagittarius (November 22nd – December 21st)
Did you know that if you wore an old style diving suit and it suddenly depressurized your entire body would be forced upward into the helmet of the suit? Did you know that a squished human body makes a terrible mess? Just wanted to give you that image.

Capricorn (December 22nd – January 20th)
Stop in the name of love. We of the police force don’t wish to see you jump off that building to your death. Unless you’re going to jump into the air filled bouncy palace just to the left of where you are. That would be pretty sweet.

Aquarius (January 21st – February 19th)
Adventuring through the galaxy without a care in the world sounds pretty awesome, but were you aware humans from Earth can’t travel beyond the moon yet? Maybe humans from other planets can, but we haven’t met them yet. It is possible monkeys could, so it’s best we just leave space travel to the monkeys. Their adventures will probably be funnier too.

Pisces (February 20th – March 20th)
Hold on tight and don’t let go! Keep holding on buddy. Ok, you can stop now. You’d have to let go of that oversized teddy bear eventually. Plus, you were starting to look really silly.

ACROSS
2. Unit of pressure 22. If not 22. Camp beds 32. Assistant 42. Supernatural being
7. Protective wall 27. Similar 27. Camp beds 37. Kind of moss 47. Female sib
12. Loamy deposit 32. Assistant 32. Camp beds 42. Supernatural being 52. Listened to
14. Everglades bird 34. Cad 34. Camp beds 44. A noble gas 54. Again
17. Everglades bird 37. Kind of moss 37. Camp beds 47. Female sib 57. Surrounded by land
20. Transfer 40. Dainty 40. Camp beds 50. Travelled through water 60. Oddball
22. If not 42. Supernatural being 42. Camp beds 52. Listened to 62. Accomplishment
24. Apprehend 44. A noble gas 44. Camp beds 54. Again 64. Winglike
27. Similar 47. Female sib 47. Camp beds 57. Surrounded by land 67. Satisfy
30. Honest ___ Lincoln 50. Travelled through water 50. Camp beds 60. Oddball 70. Part of a foot
32. Assistant 52. Listened to 52. Camp beds 62. Accomplishment 72. Denny
34. Cad 54. Again 54. Camp beds 64. Winglike 74. Skunk
38. Consider 58. Soft drink 58. Camp beds 68. Without company 78. Rhode Island
40. Dainty 60. Oddball 60. Camp beds 70. Part of a foot 80. Oddball
43. Adult male singing voice 63. Hindu princess 63. Camp beds 73. Puffin 83. Alop
44. A noble gas 64. Winglike 64. Camp beds 74. Skunk 84. Alop
46. Achy 66. Therefore 66. Camp beds 76. Purple 86. Alop
47. Female sib 67. Satisfy 67. Camp beds 77. Fossil 87. Alop
48. Splatter 68. Without company 68. Camp beds 78. Rhode Island 88. Alop
50. Travelled through water 70. Part of a foot 70. Camp beds 80. Oddball 90. Alop
Bakemonogatari

The Anime Doctor reviews another must-see show.

Philip Chen
Staff Writer

Plot:
Originally created by Nisio Isin as a light novel, the story revolves around a boy named Araragi Koyomi, who was recently cured of vampirism, and his girlfriend Senjogahara Hitagi, who was saved from a supposedly “incurable” disease.

Supernatural phenomena seem to flock around them as they encounter gods, demons, mythical beasts, and ghosts along the course of the series. Although they often find these phenomena accidentally, they solve the troubles of many unsuspecting souls, both willingly and unwillingly.

Although the plot develops using slow-paced and smoothly delivered dialogue, a patient viewer will be rewarded with fantastic character development that often happens in those times of slow-paced dialogue.

The plot definitely has its own flow, and often makes the viewer hold his breath in anticipation or burst out in sudden laughter.
Rating: 4.5/5

Animation:
The series is produced by Shaft, which is best known for their unique styles of animation and usage of gags. From the moment the series starts, it’s difficult to imagine peeling your eyes away from the stylish animation.

The two biggest strengths of this animation are the way the shading and perspective of the camera always change. Using shading and lighting to literally focus the viewer’s attention and pop out scenes, the studio does a great job of grabbing viewers to the very end.

As scenes in the anime play out, the viewer can be viewing a left side close-up of a character and then suddenly see them from above and farther away. Although the changes in perspective are seemingly random, the studio also does a fantastic job of utilizing multiple perspectives throughout the whole series.

One big complaint often heard is how studios skimp on animation with repetitive scenes, and it’s no surprise that I heard no complaints of the sort during this anime.
Shaft also adopts a unique yet unorthodox style of expressing the feeling the audience should experience at high moments throughout the series by the creative usage of words, phrases, or a vivid image.

Revealing how they can visually mesh simple words or phrases into scenes is best left for viewers to see for themselves.

Expecting the unexpected is normal from this studio, which does not disappoint in any respect in terms of the animation.
Rating: 5/5

Audio:
The audio was composed by Satoru Kosaki, also known for developing sound tracks for other popular series such as Lucky Star, or The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya.

Sound tracks should always fit the variety of moods the audience is expected to feel at that moment in time, and this composer hits those moods spot on.

The unique animation style makes it seem difficult to develop suitable soundtracks, but it seems like the audio was literally a perfect mold to many if not all the scenes.

This track is primarily made up of music that never seems too loud or over the top, but the presence the music makes is definitely noticeable.
Rating: 5/5

Overall:
If you’re ever in need of a break, try this, because it literally had my eyes glued to the screen with the refreshing animation style. It’s definitely a series I would consider re-watching just to see if I missed anything at any point, or I would marathon it with friends simply to show them a fantastic anime.
Rating: 4.75

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Sudoku Challenges

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DO WHAT YOU WANT... #15

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