These changes are the various sections. Out the work load across majors, in addition to evening requirements of most majors, curriculum to satisfy the number of changes in their department has put forth a introductory classes. The department is situating incoming students and staff regarding recently arisen among A heated debate has arguing it's benefits. Changes in Math has students leaves the feel of its pangs bonds a nation and still a terrible event occur that in a generation does such of ten years ago. So rarely member the tragic events and solemn occasion to re- the 9/11 Memorial this past Sunday came an emotional and solemn occasion to re- member the tragic events of ten years ago. So rarely in a generation does such a terrible event occur that bonds a nation and still leaves the feel of its pangs

9/11 Memorial: A Somber Remembrance and Noble Project

A look at the 9/11 Memorial and the work on One World Trade Center

John Fostek
Editor-In-Chief

With the opening of the 9/11 Memorial this past Sunday came an emotional and solemn occasion to remember the tragic events of ten years ago. So rarely in a generation does such a terrible event occur that bonds a nation and still leaves the feel of its pangs ten years later. To also honor the 9/11 Memorial, the PBS program NOVA aired the "Engineering Ground Zero" documentary, sponsored by NJIT. "Engineering Ground Zero" first aired on PBS on September 7th of last week, and has since aired two more times. The program took an emotional and inventive look at the work being done at Ground Zero, and the engineering and design decisions being made on site. After the presentation of many different contending plans for Ground Zero over the years, construction has begun and made considerable progress. The NOVA video mainly covers the construction of two of the major structures at Ground Zero, the new tower being built to hold numerous workers and visitors and the 9/11 Memorial built alongside it. The two archi-

Hey NJIT! What’s the Deal With Math?

Changes in Math has students arguing it's benefits.

Danielle Judka
Contributing Writer

A heated debate has recently arisen among students and staff regarding how the math department is situating incoming students into their introductory classes. The department has put forth a number of changes in their curriculum to satisfy the requirements of most majors, in addition to evening out the work load across the various sections. These changes are meant to help students who might be struggling and are in need of a stronger foundation in mathematics. As engineering is founded on mathematics, building these skills is the core to most students' success. The basis of the curriculum changes follows a detailed set of guidelines to set students on the right path. NJIT formerly had Pre-calculus courses below Math 110, which now have been eliminated, with many adjustments being made to the remaining courses. Incoming freshmen are now ranked into their math classes according to their placement test scores and high school credentials; they are placed either into Math 111 or Math 110. Math 111 students that believe they escaped the Pre-calculus requirement are now hit with a new task: the first common exam. Those in Math 111 must pass this hurdle to continue in the class; otherwise, they are put into a three semester calculus sequence. Students that pass but are still performing poorly must take mandatory tutoring sessions, where they must prove they are making significant progress to both their tutors and their professors. Potential changes to students' course placements after the common will not affect their scheduling. As stated by Dr. Jonathan Luke of the Mathematics Department, "The first common exam will have no effect on the course scheduling of students in Math 110, except some students will be assigned a tutoring group. The reorganization of Math 111 will result in a change in course section (into another Calculus class [Math 131]) and instructor, with tutoring for some students. Class times, however, will remain the same in all cases." Though some say that failing the math common will result in demotion to Pre-Calculus, this is entirely untrue. "NJIT has never had the intention of inhibiting a student's ability," says Provost Dr. Ian Gatley, "we only intend to help students further their education at their own pace." Dr. Gatley also mentioned that a student must put out the same effort to succeed as they would in any subject matter. Homework can easily put a student on the right track, but this does not mean ignoring the books for hours straight either. By using the tutoring center,
The Vector meets every Friday at 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM All students welcome!

The editorial board would like to say Thank You to

A.J. Polanco for designing this issue’s 9/11 Section and

Nic Thibodeaux for designing this issue’s Entertainment Section

Weather with Ollie: It’s Crazy!

Tuesday, September 13 High 85 | Low 68
Wednesday, September 14 High 86 | Low 68
Thursday, September 15 High 74 | Low 54
Friday, September 16 High 68 | Low 54
Saturday, September 17 High 69 | Low 58
Sunday, September 18 High 71 | Low 58
Campus Life
NJIT’s Newspaper, The Vector
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Campus Thoughts: Where Were You on 9/11?

Louie Carreiro
Freshmen
Chemical Engineering
3rd Grade Math Class

Danielle Quijano
Freshmen
Chemical Engineering
3rd Grade

Aarib Nebdugivub
Freshmen
Chemical Engineering
3rd Grade Math

Nida Riaz
Freshmen
Chemical Engineering
Elementary school in language arts class

Christopher Sam
Senior
Industrial Engineering
8th Grade Chemistry in West Orange, saw smoke out the window

Jakub Turon
Freshmen
Chemical Engineering
3rd Grade Math Class

Philip Silva
Freshmen
Undecided
3rd Grade

Erica Vigliorolo
Freshmen
Undecided
3rd Grade English

Continued from the Front

able to withstand weather and security risks, as well as be functional for the many people who will pass through it daily. Childs's design of the One World Trade Center uses a unique manner to give it a new shape not common to skyscrapers. At the base of the tower, the structure remains square, but as it rises, steel beams are held together in various different forms to give the tower a twisting shape that steadily turns into an octagon. Once the structure reaches its top, it becomes a square again; when looking at it from ground level this gives it a remarkable shape that dominates the skyline.

In the video, Chris Ward, Executive Director of the Port Authority for New York and New Jersey, and manager of the site at Ground Zero, remarked “This is a once in a lifetime, once in a generation, once in the history of the United States project. This is about fundamentally rebuilding an entire downtown and creating a new city within a city.”

Next to the One World Trade Center now stands the 9/11 Memorial, its grand opening having just passed last Sunday. Designed by Michael Arad after winning the contract for the project, the 9/11 Memorial sits on the site where the Twin Towers once stood. In the exact footprints of the Twin Towers are now two pools of flowing water contained in the square frames where the towers were. Each square contains a smaller inner square where the gentle flow of water empties to be recycled and reused. Originally, the 9/11 Memorial was not expected to be completed until 2013, but this was unacceptable to those working on the project, so the original plans were changed and made for completion in this year.

The 9/11 Memorial located in New York City.

As this week progresses, and the 10th anniversary of 9/11 has come and gone, it is important that we remember there is still much work to be done at Ground Zero. When fully completed, there will be six new towers that stand along the 9/11 Memorial, and a whole new city will rise within to honor and remember what the site stands for. Ground Zero is the site where our past and present collide, and where inevitably our future will be realized, and it will be with great pleasure that we look upon the completed work now taking place.

John Fostek is a senior majoring in Computer Science and can be contacted at editor-in-chief@njitvector.com
Meet The Greeks Block Party
Grasping the idea behind
Fraternities and Sororities at NJIT
Marie Zoghbi
Staff Writer

A new academic year at NJIT has begun, and so have many campus wide events. Organiza-
tions on the campus start the year off strong in wel-
coming the freshman class to their new home. One
of the largest and most active of these student
groups are the fraternities and sororities at NJIT.
The Inter-Fraternity Sorori-
ty Council (IFSC) and the Inter-Sorority Council
(ISOC) work together to bring new students into
the fold of NJIT. The big event of the fall, the Meet
The Greeks Block Party, is held on Wednesday,
September 7th at the Campus Center.

The annual event featured games, music, prizes,
food, and activities for students. Some fraternities
and sororities held their own activities at their
respective tables. NJIT also welcomed a new
colony to the campus, Pi Kappa Phi Epsilon Psi, who
made their debut with a step and stroll perfor-
mance. Some students may ask why events like
these are so important. Steven Tran, a junior stud-
ying Electrical Engineering and member of Pi Kappa Phi
Fraternity responded with, "It was a fun event held on
campus. It gave students on campus time to relax
and just have fun. This event helps students under-
stand Greek life from a different perspective spec-
fically from the male perspective."

The Inter-Fraternity Sorority Council (IFSC), also
referred to as the Greek Life Council, is responsible
for coordinating the Meet The Greeks Block Party.
They work with the Inter-Sorority Council (ISOC) to
coordinate events and activities for the new students.
"This is a great way to introduce new students to
Greek life at NJIT," said Nick Schoenberg, Chair of
the IFSC. "It helps to create a sense of community
and belonging among the new students."

In addition to hosting events, the IFSC is also
responsible for representing the interests of the
fraternities and sororities on campus. They work
closely with the Office of Greek Life and Wellness
to ensure that students have a positive experience
while they are here.

Meet The Greeks Block Party is just one of the
events that the IFSC organizes to welcome new
students into the Greek Life community. Other
events include Welcome Week, which is held in
September, and the Greek Life Welcome Week,
which is held in October. These events provide
opportunities for new students to get to know other
students and to learn more about the different
fraternities and sororities on campus.

The IFSC also works with the Office of Greek Life
and Wellness to provide resources and support for
the fraternities and sororities on campus. They
work to ensure that students have a safe and
supportive environment while they are here.

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Greek Life

A group shot of a large portion of Greek Life members at NJIT campus.

Photos Courtesy of Greg Wysockanski

more in depth details about the passport program.

"Within the passport are opportunities to get stamps from our different chapters because in the end those who have completed their passport will be entered in to win a prize; not sure what the prize will be at this time."

Furthermore, to add to the traditional programs which have become signature events, Greek Life is adopting the HERO campaign. The office of Greek Life is joining forces with other clubs and offices on campus help promote the idea of the HERO campaign designed to spread the message about the designated driver.

With improvement, come many changes. First, we have welcomed a new colony to NJIT. A culturally based South East Asian Fraternity, the men of Delta Epsilon Psi.

"They had to go through a rigorous process to get accepted to come to campus. They have been working on getting oriented this summer and they are ready to hit the ground running this fall," remarks Schoenberg. "We unfortunately had to close a chapter due to membership; Sigma Lambda Beta is no longer recognized on this campus. We hope that in the future they are able to reorganize, that they could come back with better numbers.

"...Plenty of students will say to me “Thea, I would have transferred if I wasn’t in my fraternity” or “Thea, my sorority was the only reason why I stayed here...”"

They know the value that Greek Life brings to this campus and also what it does for our students. Plenty of students will say to me, Thea, I would have transferred if I wasn’t in my fraternity, or, Thea, my sorority is the only reason why I stayed here. It’s remarkable what an impact our groups have on our students. "We want to be able to spread the word about fraternity and sorority life to as many as we can."

With this spotlight in the freshman seminar class, with a homework assignment, which is to watch this commercial and discuss it in class, we are really hoping that it shows the freshman the wonderful things our groups do," says Schoenberg. Many future changes are in store for the Greeks at NJIT specifically, the Greek Village.

"Many organizations have signed on to rent or lease in the Greek Village. A lot has been accomplished this summer and everyone is excited. These buildings will be the premiere housing on campus, with prices comparable to living in the residence halls," states Schoenberg. A state of mind that drive en NJIT students have is to strive for success no matter what changes occur, such an outlook is present with some of our most involved students. Thea Schoenberg is the Assistant Director for Greek Life & Wellness at NJIT; she can be reached at thea@njit.edu.

Plenty of students will say to me, "Thea, I would have transferred if I wasn’t in my fraternity" or "Thea, my sorority was the only reason why I stayed here...""

"I think the event is important for everyone because it shows a social side of Greek life outside of the realm of parties. I think it definitely helps to alleviate some of the negative stereotypes of Greek life when everyone on campus is able to see the community as a whole working together and sharing a good time together while inviting others to learn more about each organization hosted."

"It is divided up into different sections: academic, chapter management, new member education, etc., and within each section there is a listing of everything that is expected of the chapter, namely a list of merits. Chapters who wish to go above and beyond can start to check off some of those things so that they know they are going above and beyond. Doing so will make them eligible to win a Highland Student Achievement Award or a Fraternity or Sorority Achievement Award," says Schoenberg.

This new agreement will be rolled out this fall semester and fully implemented this spring. Once the organizations submit their shared standards agreement to the office every semester, they will be reviewed, and meetings with the leadership of each organization will follow to let the organization know where they stand. There have been some other changes on campus that impact our new students and Greeks as well. The Office of Greek Life has been given new opportunities, courtesy of Dean Gentili and Director of Residence Life, Lynn Riker, who revamped the freshman seminar program to highlight Greek Life. An integral part of the new program is to encourage freshman students to really get involved on campus. "Even up to the president of the college, doing so will make them eligible to win a Highland Student Achievement Award or a Fraternity or Sorority Achievement Award," says Schoenberg.

"With this event, students have the ability to gain insight about organizations achievements, heritage, history, benefits and values - most of which are sadly overlooked," said Evan N Rekiec a senior majoring in Communications and Media and can be reached at m2zoghbi@njitvector.com
Welcome to Newark!
Adventuring out into the streets of Newark for the first time?

Charles Bell
Staff Writer

Welcome to the city of Newark, New Jersey, where you will find a lot to do if you only keep your mind open and choose to explore the vast history that it holds. Staying safe within the borders of campus is easy, but it can be exhilarating to find out what your new home is all about.

You are very lucky in having a chance to see a city in its developmental stages, where many buildings will be built, many people will move in, and many businesses will enter. Invite your friends to enjoy the city with you, learn about the Newark Riots that took place just some forty years ago, or about our energetic Mayor Cory Booker and his plans to bring safety and education back.

You can learn about how our school is expanding at an even greater speed. Did you know that King Building was once a Central High School, which had a championship basketball team? Did you know that the building has a pool and a magnifi- cient auditorium? What do you think NJIT will use these spaces and the rest of the building for?

The City of Newark is broken down into five wards: The North Ward, East Ward, West Ward, South Ward and Central Ward. The New Jersey Institute of Technology is located in the Central Ward along with most of the city's other universities. Essex County Community College is located just down the street from NJIT, on the corner of Market and MLK. Many NJIT students elect to take some of their General University Requirements (GUR) there for transfer credit. A new addition, Berkeley College, is located on Broad Street in the bustling Downtown area.

Rutgers Newark is located across Martin Luther King Boulevard, formerly High Street. Their Law School, one of the best in the nation, is down the road on Washington Street, and Seton Hall Law School is located nearby on Raymond Blvd. near Penn Station. The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, which houses the local medical and dental schools, is located on the corner of Bergen Street and South Orange Avenue. Many NJIT students will embark on a challenging accelerated road, by which they will enroll in medical school, dental school, or other health related professions after their third year of college.

The Central ward is home to the Prudential Center, known as "The Rock", which the NBA's New Jersey Nets and NHL's New Jersey Devils call home. The WMBA's New York Liberty team is temporarily using this as their home court. Central Ward also has a minor league baseball team, the Newark Bears, located at Riverfront Stadium, which is just a light rail ride away. The light rail system can help you access many of the adventures you will find in Newark. The closest station, NJIT's Warren Street Station, is located next to the soccer field on Lock St. The light rail's "underground fare" will cost students $0.70 cents, allowing students to ride between Penn Station and Warren Street for one hour, except between 4:00PM and 6:00PM when fares are increased to $1.50. Students often take the light rail from Penn Station when commuting from home to school or from school into NYC.

The average commuting time from NJIT to NYC's is about 30 minutes via the World Trade Center PATH stop, or about 45 minutes if one goes into the heart of the city at 33rd and Sixth Avenue using the Port Authority Transportation Hub or PATH. The path charges $1.75 per ride, which is $0.50 cents cheaper than the $2.25 it will cost you in NYC MTA transportation system. Central Ward is also home to some of the best arts and free education databases in New Jersey, such as, Newark Symphony Hall, Newark Library, Newark Museum, and New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

I haven't named everything that you can do here in Newark, but I challenge you to find the things that are not listed above by not sheltering yourself within the invisible walls of NJIT. I challenge you to mentor at a local school, or to volunteer at the Museum or Library. I challenge you to make friends not just inside our college but also outside our campus and at different universities. I challenge you to see the real beauty of Newark and not let the outside media tell you what it is about. I challenge you to love Newark, because like it or not, it will be your home for quite a while. So live up your years in college, and let Newark have an impact on them as well!

Do You Hookah?
Visiting one of University Heights most prominent cafes, Intrinsic

Greg Brendlinger
Contributing Writer

Do you Hookah? When asked this question, most people respond "What's a Hookah?" A mundane answer would be "A Middle Eastern tobacco pipe in which the smoke is drawn through water before reaching the lips; hookah" (Dictionary.com). And in fact, on Friday September 9th, many people indeed asked that very question, but instead of receiving the generic answer, all one had to do was look around at the crowds of students engaging in what seemed to be a sea of young minds engaged in conversation with anyone and everyone.

Last Friday night, Intrinsic Café in conjunction with Green House Chimney held a free hookah night sponsored by Theta Chi Fraternity. Normally, a mere eleven dollars would grant you a hookah session which generally lasts anywhere from forty five minutes to an hour and a half, and sometimes even longer. Though, free hookah wasn't the only deal going on that night, Intrinsic Café jumped on the event wagon and offered a combo of any two bubble teas for five dollars (normally $3.50 each). Throughout the night, board games such as Scrabble and card games like Zombie Flux started to emerge, and people started to realize that hoo-kah is much more than a smoking activity – it's a catalyst for social interaction beyond the confines of the "dorm world". As people made their pilgrimage across Central Avenue, the excitement only intensified! Strang-
Continued from the Front

making study groups, and asking classmates and professors questions, all students can easily succeed. All departments have made adjustments to help out a student in any way, including the Math Center and the現在 formed Mathematical Sciences Tutoring Center (located in Cullimore 214). Many students took Pre-calculus during the summer at NJIT. By taking these classes, students prepared directly for their upcoming Calculus courses and received the credit they needed to meet the Pre-calculus requirements. For many students it was the edge they needed to get on the right track for their majors. “It was my best bet,” said one student, “not to mention the class was free for the most part, so it made even more sense to take up the offer.” Better to be ahead than three steps behind all the time.” Cer-

tainly, for those who could not commute to NJIT for these classes, NJIT will credit courses taken at local community colleges. Now is taking a different math course a bad thing? Not necessarily, claim the math department and the Provost. The students’ academic success if the key goal for all departments involved in these changes, thus changes must happen for both the depart- ments and the students to make it work. Allowing a student to get the proper introduction may build them a better and faster foundation for the future. What is Math 131, and how will this three semes-
ter course assist students? Dr. Jonathan Luke, Chairman of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Provost Dr. Gatley, and the Center for Academic and Personal Enrichment (CAPE) clarify the answer. Math 131 is a course that meets the require-

ments of both Calculus I and Calculus II in three semesters, allowing a student to proceed at a pace he or she can han-
dle. It will give students a slower-paced schedule by which they can truly master Calculus, which provides the critical foundation for engineering or math based major.

With the support of the NJIT community, any questions can be direct-
ed to the Math Department, the Provost, advis-
ers, or even a professor. Dr. Gately and Dr. Luke both agree that “students should take a positive ap-

proach” and every student has the ability to succeed in any course they are placed into. Now is the time to look at the books harder for your goals! NJIT has your back all the way!

Students spend large amount of times trying to understand the mathematical concepts.

NJIT: The Pressure Cooker
Stressing out? Who’s fault is it for all this stress.

Luis Gonzalez
Staff Writer

College life at NJIT is a real pressure cooker. The NJIT curriculum features highly demanding courses with professors who look to get the most out of every student. For many reasons that is a good thing, as it should ac-

tually be students’ prerogative to get the most out of their tuition payments, and not earn some lackadaisical degree that other colleges may handout. If a student attends NJIT they must be ready study long hours. How-

ever, I have grown increasingly disturbed at the lack of study space NJIT has to offer to its students. By now students should have noticed that the Campus Center no longer remains open until 1am, it now closes at 11pm. A reduction in Cam-

pus Center hours means less availability space for students who are hitting the books late night. More than any other building, the Campus Center was the perfect solution for students who emerged from night classes and had an exam or paper due the next morning. NJIT students out-

wardly boasted about its 1:00 A.M. Campus Cen-
ter closing time, as a sign that their University cared about what their students wanted. With that gone, NJIT falls short of Campus Center equivalents at other colleges, which enjoy later closing times, such as TCNJ and Kean, which feature 12:00 A.M. closing times on most weekdays.

The expansion that NJIT has gone through in the past number of years has made life increasingly difficult for students who will not have the op-
portunity to experience the finished product. This may come off as selfish-

ness, but because NJIT spends so much time looking to the future (as any credible university should), the students of today can feel overlooked.

In no way am I sug-

gestig that NJIT should halt expansion; after all, it was expansion that brought us our beautiful Campus Center. Other students and I just wish it felt like NJIT is trying to make students feel com-

fortable rather than a spoke on the wheel. That feeling could very well be far from the truth; however, if students don’t feel their importance (which is hard to sense after a visit to the Student Mail), they will believe their campus does not care about them.

For instance, the NJIT Van Houten Library closes at 7pm Monday-Thursday, and at 6pm on Friday. That’s right, NJIT, our Holy Grail in academic & studying resources closes before night classes end. During a 7 day week the NJIT Li-

brary can be open an average of 7.2 hours a day, a shame compared to other colleges which are open until the A.M. hours. As a student who has enjoyed his time here at NJIT such hours really do make this campus feel like less of a real college. I dislike the idea of stu-

dents being locked out of the library when the sun is still out, or being forced to leave the Campus Cen-
ter events unusually early due to their new hours. It’s almost like students are being told: “Get Out! But remember to finish all your homework and pay your bills to the college since you love us so much.”

Writing this article without including NJIT’s side of the story, how-

ever, would make this a serious journalism farce, since there are always two sides to a story. Like all other colleges across the state (except Princeton), NJIT is bleeding money. The economic downtown has removed a lot of state-

aid NJIT once received, while alumni donations are down. Each department has had to make their own share of sacrifices in order to keep this campus run-

ning, including the Cam-
pus Center and library.

What tends to be un-

fortunate at times is how a student will very rarely no-
tice positive adjustments to NJIT, but immediately identify negative changes at NJIT and hark on them. In an era where educa-
tion matters and money is tight, people will not hesitate to criticize what-

ever investment appears to not be delivering all that has been promised, and the university will al-

ways be made out to be worse than it actually is. NJIT is still supplying students with an educa-
tion, but it has been made more difficult with reduced access to facilities. Dur-

ing the day time hours, both buildings appear to be close to capacity, so simply suggesting to stu-

dents to study earlier is not a great solution. As a member of the NJIT community I envy those col-

lege students who attend universities that have their libraries and other Cen-
ters open in to the A.M. hours or even all night. Then again, I would ask people to look at the tuition these colleges before passing judg-

ment on NJIT. Many stu-

dents who came to NJIT are here because of its af-

fordability, which at the time seemed like a great bar-

gain when considering the degrees this college hands down and their facilities. Yet once those facili-

ties become unavailable and other perks begin to be removed…NJIT begins to lose its appeal. Money is the issue, but to the stu-

dent who is paying tuition, they still expect their col-

lege to supply them with the very best higher learn-
ing experience possible which may just seem like a two-hour reduction to administra-
tion, but it is a direct hit to studying and even stu-
dent activities. When events and study time seem-

ingly cut short, NJIT has become a bit unhappier.
Game Review: Dead Island

There's a zombie. On me.

Andrew Harrison
Contributing Writer

In any video game there are certain elements you will have to suspend your disbelief of to enjoy. Dead Island however has a few too many of those moments. I suppose I shouldn't be surprised, for on the short list of "amazing" features used as promotional hooks for the uneducated, is "first-person melee combat".

First make a zombie game about melee combat. Unfortunately this superior melee combat where you imagine bludgeoning zombies to death with a pipe and slicing them up with a katana is limited by three distinct flaws.

Flaw one is the stamina system. After exerting yourself by jumping, running, or swinging your heavy object of choice, your stamina is quickly depleted and can only be regained by standing still or walking around while zombies chase after you in an attempt to rip you to pieces. You can attempt to exert yourself by swinging your weapon, and the game does a good job at mimicking how difficult it would be to slice through a horde of zombies with a pipe. After the tenth one, your arms would fall off from sheer exhaustion. But the game deals with not wanting to animate someone's arms falling off by simply making your weapon do minimal damage and not knocking the zombies away from you. A realistic stamina system is a refreshing change of pace for realism in a game, but it feels unnatural.

Flaw two is the durability of your weapons. It is another attempt at making the game more realistic, but at the same time it takes some enjoyment out of the game. Your weapons degrade as you use them to defeat the armies of the dead. Unfortunately your weapon is almost completely useless after about the fifth or sixth zombie you back to pieces.

This type of system encourages you to throw away weapons that are no longer in good shape for ones that have some life left in them. In a typical RPG, there's some benefit associated with gaining a new weapon and keeping it to defeat your enemies. In Dead Island, once your rusty homemade meat cleaver is out of juice, you have little to no incentive to keep it. Sure there are spots where you can repair your weapons, but who wants to keep doing that when there are weapons to pick up everywhere you go? Flaw three is the ability to kick zombies. Not that kicking zombies in the face is bad or not cool, but the melee combat I had in mind did not involve kicking zombies, knocking them to the ground, and then kicking them in the face until they die.

Zombies in this game are incapable of standing back up and fighting while you are kicking them. There is no downside to doing it, and you can save some durability on your weapons. Many times while playing I've thought, it would be really cool if I actually had to use my weapons, but I'll just kick them to death instead.

Next up on the list of characteristics that are used to promote Dead Island is four-player coop. Won't much in the same way that Borderlands (2010's game of the year) is more fun when played cooperatively, Dead Island is more fun when you play with more people. Most of the fun comes from watching your friends screw up, or screwing them up. Luckily Dead Island makes it fairly easy to join games with random people that are at the level and part of the story you are; one of its few redeeming features.

Next on the list is weapon customization, a feature plagued by the durability system. You may have just put nails in your brand new baseball bat, but in about five minutes it's going to look like you pushed it into a garbage disposal, and there is not much incentive to clean the blood off and put a new coat of paint on it.

One of the features on this list was actually one I was looking forward to. The game is "set on a gorgeous open world tropical island". Well the island is gorgeous. For those of you that get to play the PC version, you're able to fly around the island and really take in how much time they spent making it look visually stunning. There are a few details left out as to how practical this island resort actually is, given that in my time of wandering the island I have yet to find a single bathroom. Maybe they just all use the pools, I don't know.

Unfortunately the second part of this feature, the so called "open world" style of the game, is simply another way of saying you are allowed to go outside. I was optimistic in exploring the island for new ways to decapitate zombies, but that ended quickly as soon as I realized around 95% of the doors in the game can't be opened. The open world gimmick vanished from my mind when I swam out into the ocean in an attempt to kill myself because I had lost the capability of opening doors, but then the game abruptly told me I was "leaving the playable area" and promptly "teleported" me back to the closest shoreline. It didn't kill me or even put an invisible wall there, this open world game, focused so much on realism, simply teleported me away from where I wasn't supposed to be.

I chose to start with the PC version of Dead Island, which now seems a poor choice since the developer made the mistake of releasing the wrong version of the game to customers. I got to choose from four different characters, which is the traditional number of characters for any console game converted to the PC. I chose Purna, the firearms expert, and silly me, I actually thought I would get to use firearms. Well, as it turns out, guns are a scarcity on the remote, tropical, and fictional island of Banoi. And if finding guns wasn't hard enough, finding ammo is even tougher. I was slightly confused by this since Purna actually has a handgun strapped to her hip at all times.

Dead Island is labeled as a zombie action RPG. A more accurate description would be a hack and slash zombie game with RPG elements. If you are looking for that, then Dead Island fits that description perfectly. It does have a lot of entertainment value, and I would definitely recommend buying it, especially if you have a few friends to play it with. If you are looking for a cool RPG to play though, it isn't worth your time.

Andrew Harrison is a Senior Information Technology major and can be contacted at ah56@njit.edu
Entertainment

Restaurant Review: Empanadas and Red Chips

Daniel Ovale
Staff Writer

Completely knowing that this place is a bit far from campus, I decided to go anyway since everyone talks about how amazing the empanadas are here. Just hop on the path at Penn station, transfer to Journal Square and hop on the Path train to 33rd street.

It’ll probably be a 10 minute walk, the best part of which is passing through Times Square. Total travel time is probably 40-50 minutes, but it’s worth it to look at the scenery.

This is more of a place to go at night if you’ve got nothing to do and you’re feeling a bit spontaneous. But beware though, if you’re not into small, homy, fun, delicious restaurants that are open 24/7, it might not be for you. People weren’t kidding when they said this place was small. I went on Monday evening around 7 and it was packed. There was already a line. The room was just big enough for me to spread my arms twice.

Me and my friend managed a table but decided to leave because it was just way too uncomfortable. It wasn’t a bad idea at all. It’s the type of food that won’t taste bad if you order out. The best part is? You can just walk a few blocks down and go to the Red Steps at Time Square.

If you do go to the Red Steps, just make sure you plantain chips and guacamole, and an arepa (I could’ve gotten 3 more empanadas as a substitute for this). My friend paid for drinks but they weren’t really to accommodate everyone? Well, not here. Even the guacamole was nice and spicy like it should be (you can ask for non-spicy though).

The plantain chips were also really good. Perfectly thin, but miraculously not greasy either. That’s the one thing I hate about chips—the grease factor.

Though the empanadas were smaller than what I’m used to, I felt as though it was perfectly sized. Loved the dough, it was so perfect. Perfect crunch and NO grease, these empanadas were all gorgeous and disappeared within seconds.

There were also two sauces that came along with the food, one was green (salsa verde) and the other was red (just spicy salsa I guess). I loved the green sauce, the empanadas were fine with them but they’re so awesome some dipped. The arroz con pollo was great, too, and the huge portion, is more than enough for one person. I was a bit disappointed that they shredded the chicken though.

This is probably the cheapest meal I’ve had in NY (next to the dollar slice of pizza). I honestly couldn’t find any place that was enough to feed 3-4 people. We were way too full. I had it the next day, but arepas aren’t something you can eat the day after, it was way too stale. You can probably toast the empanadas the next day, but not microwave an arepa (don’t do it!).

This really is more of a take-out place; it’s way too tiny to eat in if you want to have a conversation with a friend. But anyway, it’s fun food to share and a good place to try a bunch of empanadas since they really are dirt cheap. Give this place a shot—they’re the best empanadas I’ve ever had.

Bored? Anime is your solution!

Philip Chen
Contributing Writer

Ever wonder what to do on those dreary days in which you and your friends have absolutely nothing to do besides vegetate on the computer—those days where the only option is to play the same dusty games, or watch the same repetitive TV series for the umpteenth time?

Whether you dorm at NJIT or commute back home, I am positive that all of you fellow readers have experienced the wonderment of complete and utter boredom. It’s a shame to waste such valuable time doing things you would consider monotonous when you could be experiencing the pleasurable life has to offer, one of those pleasures being a type of Japanese animated cartoons called Anime.

Anime is suited for bored college students because there is such a massive variety of genres to watch. Whether your interests lie in extremely flashy swordfights that bedazzle your mind, romances that literally drive you to tears, or comedy that will make you laugh your head off, Anime has it all and more.

Anime is much more than just a simple animation with a standardized plot and un-relatable characters. As educated individuals (college students), you can appreciate the mind-blowing twists, along with the elegant plotline, as well as the ever-increasing quality of animation that intends to astonish year after year with A+ rated masterpieces.

However! Japan easily spits out 20+ new series each semester, and it is easy to say that many of them fail to meet my expectation of what would be a marvelous Anime containing a riveting plotline, engaging characters, and excellent animation. Many are actually far from masterpieces, and maybe 20% of them, if anything, might qualify as interesting work that is worth keeping up with.

But do not fret because help is indeed on the way! It will be my job to inform and rate the very best Anime for your benefit, because as we all know, not everything in the world is perfect, but some things are pretty damn close. I have 8+ years of Anime experience, as well as, 3-years of experience on the NJIT Anime E-board so I hope to be able to guide you all through some of the best must see Animés. Starting next week I will be reviewing one series per week, and I guarantee it will be worth your while so stay informed! I’ll see you next week!

Philip Chen is a senior majoring in mechanical engineering and can be reached at pc62@njit.edu
Freshmen teams competed with each other in multiple songs to impress the judges and the crowds!

A race to fill the cups with plastic tubes...

Using knowledge to build up a tower...

The Karaoke Night was successful thanks to the efforts of Alpha Sigma Tau sorority.

And reaching for the skies with the Vector!
Intense games of Volleyball were played... and many people were served.

Pie-Eating. ‘Nough said.

Tug-Of-War was waged by all teams as they were able to show off their physical strength!

The centipede race was dominated by the Red3 Pirates.

Freshmen were all Dizzy Izzy? Izzy Dizzy?

Photos Courtesy of Romer Jed Medina
The process of grieving for daughter. Not only is he in for the couple’s teenage (Matt Damon) alone to care immune husband Mitch son, leaving her apparently Emhoff but also her young rus takes the life of not only minutes of the film, the vi- tion scientist Dr. Leonora Orantes (Marion Cotillard) embarks on a mission to understanding the contagion embarks on a mission to tracking the virus, audiences are forced to contemplate just how difficult disease control can be. While the team of scientists is stuck estimating the number of patients infected, the num- ber of subjects susceptible, or the transmission rate between these populations, the virus is spreads as fast as polio in the 1940s, and the researchers lag behind.

Contagion is also incred- ibly successful in instilling a sort of paranoia in the viewers. In the words of Dr. Mears, “The average person thinks, ‘Oh my God, that’s not me’ and five times every min- ute, and in between we’re touching doorknobs, water fountains, and each other.”

With countless close-ups of people sneezing then han- dling the same objects or shaking hands immediately afterwards, it is near imposs- ible to leave the theater willing to put your hands on any sort of surface!

On a more human note, the film portrays ideas both troubling and inspira- tional. As the severity of the pandemic sets in to public’s mind, looting and rioting scenes appear on screen, which are disturbingly reminiscent of news footage from the aftermath of Ka- trina, making the scenes not only frightening of their own right but also shudderingly realistic. However, there is the occasional uplifting scene, in which someone altruistically gives up their dose or otherwise puts him- self or herself in harm’s way for the sake of another.

In any event, whether scary or entertaining, this is most definitely an engaging film, and leaves the viewer with much to think about long after the credits finish rolling. With a high-profi- le cast to deliver such a sus- penseful, dramatic plot, this film is most definitely a worthy watch!

**Game Review: Dead Island**

*There's a zombie. On me.*

Monica Pajdak
Managing Editor

Director Steven Soder- berg’s new film Contagion wastes no time in establish- ing the central plot of the story, which follows a set of characters affected by and trying to beat a novel and very deadly virus, MEV-1. The story begins with “Day 2” in which the obviously ill Beth Emhoff (Gwyneth Paltrow) has returned home to Minnesota from a business trip in Hong Kong.

Within the next few minutes of the film, the vi- rus takes the life of not only Emhoff but also her young- son, leaving her apparently immune husband Mitch alone to care for the couple’s teenage daughter. Not only is he in the process of grieving for his lost wife and child, he is also policing his daughter in an effort to keep safe the only person he has left a she puts herself at risk for infec- tion, regularly interacting with and even trying to kiss her boyfriend. Meanwhile, Dr. Ellis Cheever (Laurence Fish- burne) leads a team of scien- tists working for the Center of Disease Control and Prevention as they attempt to understand the novel vi- rus and develop a vaccine to beat it. As the CDC scien- tists struggle to understand the virus in the laboratory, World Health Organiza- tion scientist Dr. Leonora Orantes (Marion Cotillard) embarks on a mission to understand the contagion ecologically, by travelling to Hong Kong in an attempt to identify patient zero.

As the race progresses, freelance journalist Alan Krumwiede (Jude Law) embarks on a mission to undercut the efforts of these organizations by actively blogging about how the government is withholding vaccinations, or sneaking doses to loved ones before it is their turn to receive it. Additionally, he tries to convince his followers not to be vaccinated, promoting instead a homeopathic remedy called Forsythia.

Krumwiede and news- casters in the film illustrate the kind social difficulties that the agencies portrayed personally to keep their loved ones safe.

Overall, Contagion paints an interesting, and at times disturbing, picture of how slow science can be in responding to nature. As CDC researcher Dr. Erin Mears (Kate Winslet) ex- plains the complexity behind tracking the virus, audiences
Weekly Horoscopes of Awesomeness

Aries – (March 21-April 20)
Yay Aries! Remember that cliff I told you to hide on last week? Well you can come down now! No one’s hunting for that crazy thing you did two weeks ago. In fact, I believe someone from the IRS is coming to tell you that in fact, the government owes you money. Exactly how much they owe you though, the stars will not say. But I can drop a hint or two. It would seem that a long lost relative of yours was once an ambassador who incurred injuries of yours was once an ambassador who incurred injuries. But don’t worry, the stars don’t discriminate. Often, there’s bound to be a strapping young lad in danger for you as well.

Taurus – (April 20-May 21)
It has been said Taurus that this week you will have an intense urge to play Dungeons and Dragons this week. You’re not normally the kind of person to take part in this kind of game, but you are feeling adventurous, and want to experience what it’s like to sit in a dark room for hours on end with four to six other people. Take care to stock the fridge and have money for takeout, cause once you enter that room you’re not likely to emerge for quite a while. Mountain Dew and Hot Pock- ets will sustain you I’m sure. Also, BEWARE, you are likely to be eaten by a grue.

Gemini – (May 21-June 20)
Have you ever been more ever in your long legged life met a long legged sailor and his long legged wife? I don’t know where that came from, but it’s plainly written in the stars this week for you. I’m gonna take a guess and say that if you know anyone who’s a regular seafarer, or have never met a person who frequents the sea, you are about to meet one. Whether they are an old friend or new acquaintance, they are going to ask you out on a voyage. Best take some time to learn how to fish and fend off pirates, the high seas are still a very dangerous place!

Cancer – (June 21-July 22)
Well gee Cancer, aren’t you just prone to heroics this week? I mean, I know you’re a swell person and all, but damn! You’ve been saving so many people recently you can’t even count them all! Keep it at cancer, cause there may be a damsel in distress one of these days, and she’s bound to be grateful. Whooops! I forgot about all the lady Cancer’s out there. But don’t worry, the stars don’t discriminate. Often, there’s bound to be a strapping young lad in danger for you as well.

Leo – (July 23-August 22)
You Leo, in your past life, were a serf for a European lord. But now it’s time to strike back. It’s time to start your own royal house and create a lineage that will be the envy of all lesser peoples! Do not fear the other houses that will rise to contest your greatness. They are weak, and you will emerge victorious! But you should probably prepare for a huge and lengthy war that will span the ages. Greatness comes at a price Leo; do not let that price be your head.

Virgo – (August 23-September 22)
Always use precautions. Don’t play a football game without proper padding. Don’t ride a bike without a helmet. Don’t jump out of a plane without a parachute. Get the idea. I don’t mean to scare you, but when you go about things unprotected, bad stuff happens. You’re a smart person, and I know you’ll take my advice. But this isn’t just advice – it’s astrologically predetermined this week! Don’t you dare leave your protection behind this week! Bad stuff will happen...

Libra – (September 23-October 22)
Lady Justice is blind, or blindfolded in the very least. But guess what? She’s taking that blindfold off this week for you Libra, and dishing out a whole ton of justice with her own two eyes this week. Look out evildoers and lawbreakers! You’re not going to court if you’re caught this week. You get to skip that part and get stuck with the pointless end of Lady Justice’s sharp blade. But if you haven’t wronged a Libra recently, you should still expect to go to court.

Scorpio – (October 23-November 21)
My stinger is ready! Watch out for people who make you angry this week Scorpio. You’re gonna be in a foul mood for a good part of it, and for no good reason either. Why is that? Well, I’m gonna tell you a little secret… the sun is trying to kill you. I mean, the sun is trying to kill everyone this week, but it really has it out for you Scorpio’s, hence your foul mood. Stay inside whenever you feel angry because of this, and don’t look directly at the sun. At least the Moon says you’re cool with him this week. Can’t say for the rest of the planets thought, but don’t make them angry either. Especially Jupiter, that guy’s got a pretty nasty big red eye.

Sagittarius – (November 22-December 21)
I’m watch’n you! Don’t think I don’t know what you’re up to this week, with all your sulking and sneaking about. That big heist just isn’t gonna happen for you though. The sun is keeping an eye on you before you pick anyone’s pockets this week, and he’s shining especially bright (which is making all the Scorpio’s angry by the way). But if you do manage to snag that big jewel you’ve been eyeing, bear in mind that those bear-loving Cancer folks are liable to tear you limb from limb for it.

Capricorn – (December 22-January 19)
Would you like an apple pie with that? What? No, I do not work at Burger King and I do not wear paper hats! And it’s called the BK Lounge just so you know. You have a serious taste for sweets this week and I was just curious to know if you wanted an apple pie with that fifth serving of croissants you have on your plate. Don’t you lick your lips at me! I’m not made of sugar, and I’m certainly not a confectioner!

Aquarius – (January 20-February 18)
Put your pants back on for the love of god, please! I know you have the urge to go about your week in the nude, but this is just unseemly and disgusting.

Pisces – (February 19-March 20)
I know how you like to keep things brief Pisces, so I’ll be short and sweet with you. This week will be sticky for you, and I mean that literally. Think of all the sticky things you can think of and put them togeth- er. Taftly, Duct Tape, regular tape, gum, syrup, you name it. Things may be a slow go for you unfortunately.

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**Random Musings**

(At 3 A.M.)

**Musing #1**

“I don’t care if it’s danger, I’ll accept all cookies.”

**Musing #2**

“Thank you backpack of awesome-ness, you’re better than Dora’s backpack.”

**Musing #3**

“How exactly does one join the lollipop guild?”

**Musing #4**

“Sometimes I look at a can of spam and for some reason I think of Papa Smurf.”

**Musing #5**

“Has the Highlander ever thought of riding a pony?”
PUZZLES

Across
1. Runner Nermi, "The Flying Finn"
2. Prefix with -nautics
3. Bell tower emanation
4. Like much running gear
5. Take to the soapbox
6. Sunscreen ingredient
7. Supporting org. for Goucher and Rupp
8. Like legs after speedwork, perhaps
9. Leave the house, as for a run
10. Boston qualifying times, e.g.
11. Half: Prefix
12. Kara's hubby
13. Site of Bikila's barefoot Olympic marathon win
14. Lamprey fisherman
15. Tennis great who said, "Success is a journey, not a destination."
16. Fix, as after a false start
17. Winemaker Mile structure
18. Dinghy or dory
19. Muslim leader
20. Absent-mindedly got off-schedule
21. Lariat
22. Seductive sorts
23. Wide shoe width
24. Christmas season
25. Magician prop
26. Allergy season sound
27. Milwaukie Brewers, since 1998
28. Pie ___ mode
29. Fawcett's "Charlie's Angels" successor
30. Desilu co-founder
31. Invite to enter
32. First name in American marathoning
33. Robert Frost poem
34. Young's partner in accounting
35. Like some oaths or vows
36. Weighty book
37. Updated, as a factory
38. WordPerfect producer
39. Magician prop
40. For each
41. Pavarotti, e.g.
42. Scatterbrains
43. Assortment
44. "I did it!"
45. Land of Coghlan and Treacy
46. Scatterbrains
47. Motif
48. "I did it!"
49. "I did it!"
50. Motif
51. "I did it!"
52. ___ Games (Summer Olympics preview)
53. Meet prelim
54. Land of Coghlan and Treacy
55. Motif
56. Land of Coghlan and Treacy
57. Motif
58. Motif
59. Mexico City "other"
60. Young zebra

Down
1. "Cool!"
2. White House staffer
3. Magician prop
4. Take to the soapbox
5. Yoga leg
6. Sunscreen ingredient
7. Supporting org. for Goucher and Rupp
8. Like legs after speedwork, perhaps
9. Leave the house, as for a run
10. Boston qualifying times, e.g.
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57. Motif
58. Motif
59. Mexico City "other"
60. Young zebra

Sudoku #1 - Easy

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Sudoku #3 - Challenging

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Sudoku #4 - Super Tough

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On September 11th, 2001, I was in second period social studies at Roosevelt Middle School in Westfield, New Jersey when the plane hit the first tower. My teacher was called out of the room, leaving us on our own for a few moments. The room erupted with chatter. When she returned, she had a grave look on her face, but said nothing. The room turned quiet.

After a few long moments, she resumed teaching. As the day progressed, I could detect the change in mood that enveloped the adults in the school, but I was 11 years old, and didn’t understand it. I went along with my day.

When school was out, I saw my dad waiting for me in the car. I asked him, “Is it okay if I invite my friend Danielle to come over tonight?”

“I don’t think that’s going to happen today, sweetie,” he replied.

“Why not?” I asked.

“Didn’t they tell you at school what happened today?”

“No…”

I wasn’t sure what he was talking about. He then explained to me that a commercial jet had crashed into the North tower of the World Trade Center that morning and that soon after, a second one had followed, crashing into the South tower.

As we drove home, I was unsure what to think. New York City seemed so far away from our suburban New Jersey town.

When we got home, my mom was already there; she had left work early. The television was on and I could see videos being looped of two airliners crashing into the twin towers over and over again. They showed clips of suffocating amounts of dust and debris enveloping the streets of New York and frightened people running from Ground Zero. I watched my parents’ faces staring at the television screen, silent and grave.

In the days that followed, I discovered that there were kids that I went to school with who lost their parents in the towers. Teachers lost their kids; friends and family members were gone forever. The cloud of dust and smoke was visible, hanging above our house miles and miles away from the financial district of New York. It was a constant reminder of those that were lost and the changing times to come.

-- Allison Land, a junior Communications and Media student.

When 9/11 occurred I was in the fourth grade and had just turned nine the month before school started. I still believed in Santa Claus and I was missing a bunch of teeth that I was certain belonged to the tooth fairy.

I was in Mrs. Bond’s fourth grade homeroom and her southern accent always made me warm and relaxed inside, even though in my first weeks of school, nerves were at their highest.

At recess I played Four Square with my girlfriends and giggled at the boys playing wiffle ball across the yard. When school let out I jumped into my friend Christie’s car and headed to her house for our long overdue play date. We ran around outside and explored the woods in her backyard until it was time for me to go home. I remember Christie’s mom bringing out snack and seeming distracted when she was talking to us.

When my mom came to pick me up, Christie’s mom stood by the car talking with her. They obviously didn’t want us to hear what they were saying because they told us to go in the house.

I remember sitting in the front seat on the way home. I thought I was so cool to be up there, because my mom made the rule that you must be in middle school to sit in the front seat; I was finally old enough.

My mom’s eyes were extra glassy and looked like the water when we went to Mexico the year before. I knew she must have been crying because her eyes get extra blue and vibrant when she cries. All around her eyes were red and puffy, but she tried to cover the redness with her bangs. I know I didn’t ask her if she was okay because I could tell she did not want to talk about it.

She kept on asking about my day, and if people were called out of class to be taken home by their parents. When we pulled into the driveway she looked at me very serious and I felt a pit in my stomach, like the time I got in trouble for stealing my sister Riley’s lollipop she got from Hershey Park. But I knew I didn’t do anything wrong, and this must have been something serious.

She told me that some people had flown a plane into two very tall buildings in New York City, and how many people were hurt and missing in the damage. She reassured me no one in my family was hurt and everyone was safe, but that many people in my class had parents who worked in the city and to keep them in our prayers.

I know I didn’t fully understand what had happened until that night, sitting in front of the television. The news was on and, for the first time, I saw the footage of the planes flying into the World Trade Center. Watching these two massive buildings fall to the ground knowing that people were still in them made puddles of tears form under my eyes. I remember my family sitting there in silence, crying as we watched the clip play over and over again.

-- Erin Schmitt, a sophomore Communication and Media student.
I was 15-years-old, sitting in my second period class as a sophomore at Watchung Hills Regional High School when the intercom came on and the principal announced that two planes had hit both towers of the World Trade Center. Details were vague, but I could hear the anxiety in his voice. The classroom went into an uproar of panic, and we were instructed to call home.

Many students were picked up by their families, but most stayed in school. Every subsequent class period was focused on the terrorist attacks. Televisions and radios were tuned in, and we watched the scarring images of the plane crashes over and over again. Chaos, confusion and fear consumed our school.

That day, we learned that the Islamic militant group Al-Qaeda was believed to be responsible for the attack. This was dreadful news for me as a Muslim and a Palestinian American. I hoped and prayed that it was not Arabs or Muslims that coordinated the attacks. If that was true, I knew that I would be the target of a lot of undeserved hate and anger.

I recall crying that night for the lost souls of the attack, and also pitying myself and my family. I didn’t want there to be another negative stigma toward Arabs. I even called a tri-state FM radio station, to tell the world that if Arabs really did it, than Arab-Americans had no idea. I worried that my family would be sent to some sort of an internment camp, the way the Japanese were sent during World War II after the attacks on Pearl Harbor. My family is proud to be American. We were caught in the middle.

After the attacks, life really changed. Freshmen year of high school, I was the lead in my school musical, and I was active in other extra-curricular activities like cheerleading and choir. Sophomore year was completely different. I stopped receiving invites to parties, and a lot of my white friends stopped calling and hanging out.

I felt like I didn’t fit in at school anymore. I would get dirty looks and sometimes I would even get screamed at in the hallways. It was pretty crazy. I remember once during a political conversation in class, a girl said something REALLY racist. I can’t even remember what it was now, but I left the classroom in tears.

I tried out for the school play, didn’t make it, not even as a non-speaking role. I tried out for the talent show, didn’t make it. Cheerleading try outs came around...and I didn’t make the team. It was pretty clear that I was being discriminated against.

By junior year, it got better. My old friends started talking to me again. I was cast in the plays, talent shows, cheerleading and what not. However, I didn’t forget my sophomore year of high school. I never will.

-- Hala Taha, a senior Communication and Media student.

My memory of September 11th, 2001 started off in school. At first it felt like any other Tuesday. Classes took place on time, and it seemed as if nothing was happening. I started to realize that something was wrong when my classmates began being called into the office.

First only one student was called home, then another, and another. After a while the day just seemed off. One person going to the office and not coming back was one thing, but as more and more students went without returning, it became clear that something was happening.

Around midday the school finally made the decision to inform us of what happened, but by the time they gathered the entire 7th grade together, you could just tell that we all knew. We were no longer the same 7th grade students, talkative and excited to be getting out of class.

We were quiet, waiting, wanting an explanation for all the odd occurrences throughout the day. My math teacher, Mr. Solomon, began addressing us calmly, without emotion. “On this morning of September 11, 2001 something very tragic has happened. The World Trade Center, the Twin Towers have fallen.”

At first I felt nothing; it was too much to handle, I think. At that time I was unaware that I had any family in the towers at all. (As it turned out, my aunt was on the 72nd floor of the second tower but managed to safely escape.) But at that moment I was focused on Mr. Solomon. He told us that the remainder of the day would be left for studying and activity, and that class would not resume. He apologized for not being allowed to tell us more; it would be up to our parents to decide what to say, he said.

Today I understand why that decision was made, but that day I was upset; I wanted to know more about what was happening in my country. The catastrophe made time feel slower, and I was trapped in school hoping for the final bell so that I could run to my closest friend’s house and see what was happening.

Eventually the day came to an end and I saw the news. I must have fallen asleep to the television because it is the last thing I remember. Just watching the same report over and over again, wanting more information, wanting to know everything was going to be okay.

-- Nicholas Caravella, a fifth year Architecture student.
List of World Trade Center Victims (not including plane crew or passengers)