



The Matthew (2015 Mar-Apr)

Item Type	Other
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Download date	2025-03-17 14:53:45
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14490/603

THE MATTHEW

VOLUME XI ISSUE V

MARCH - APRIL 2015

www.johncabotnews.com

MUN Society Goes to Seoul



Photo Credit: MUN Society

A group of 11 John Cabot University (JCU) students traveled to Seoul, South Korea on March 13 to participate in Harvard University's World Model United Nations (WorldMUN) conference. At WorldMUN, the JCU students represented the country of Ghana in a variety of committees, including Legal; International Monetary Fund; Social, Cultural and Humanitarian.

WorldMUN welcomes around 2,500 students of over 80 nationalities each year. The JCU students who participated were: Asia Guerreschi; Helen Kotsar; Lulu Huang; Laura Di Girolamo; Iglia HM; DeShawn Muldrow; Jimena Puga; Davide Orsitto; Cristian Tracci; Sarah Traylor; Neal Huddon-Cossar. The group was also accompanied by the club's advisor Prof. Pamela Harris.

Letter from the Editor

The Matthew's March/April issue features all the writing that was submitted for the Fuller Prize of 2015. The Fuller Prize, generously sponsored by marketing professor Susan Fuller's family, is a way for students, faculty and staff to write on important issues surrounding our university community.

Submissions for the prize included everything from commentary on access to healthcare, academic integrity or the lack thereof to the rising cost of tuition.

As always, the newspaper board wishes to thank our advisor, journalism professor Rosamaria Mancini, school administration, for endorsing the open dedication to free speech, and the students who have made the time to submit their work.

The newspaper club is currently looking for new students to join our editorial board. For more information, or any criticism or commentary on this issue of the newspaper, please email newspaper@johncabot.edu.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cater
Editor-in-Chief

The International Relations Society Goes to Holland



Photo Credit: International Relations Society

By EKATERINA SOUBEVA

The International Relations Society, accompanied by Prof. Pamela Harris, embarked on their first study trip to The Hague, Holland, where they had the privilege of visiting the International Court of Justice, the Dutch Parliament, as well as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

On Thursday, January 29th, Genoveva Madurga welcomed the group to the International Court of Justice located in the Peace Palace. After a tour of the court room, and a presentation of the court's history, the IR society found themselves in the infamous Red Room, where judges discuss and review important cases.

The following morning, at the Dutch Parliament, the society was treated to a tour of the Hall of Knights, where every September the King of Holland himself delivers his annual speech for the opening session of Parliament. The trip continued with a visit to the Hall of Representatives, where members of the Dutch Parliament meet and discuss new legislation. The last excursion of the study trip consisted of a visit to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Tunisia, the Arab Spring and Terrorism

By MARTINA LIBURDI & KRISTEN YOUNG

Liburdi and Young are interns for the Guarini Institute

On March 16, just two days before the murderous terrorist attack on the Bardo Museum in Tunis, the Guarini Institute for Public Affairs welcomed three distinguished experts to host a panel, "Tunisia: An Exception to the Arab Spring?"

The event began with a screening of the film "Our Best Years," directed by Matteo Calore and Stefano Collizzolli, which interviews young Tunisians who fled to Italy during or after the 2010-11 revolution, followed by reflections and insight from the panel.

Our Best Years

"I came to find freedom here", Mouez tells us during one of the first scenes of the documentary. Later, Adel explains that "freedom is to express oneself in any way without hurting anyone; freedom is going anywhere you want in Europe; it's seeing things." It is the lack of freedom given by the political repression in their homeland, Tunisia, and the possibility to live a free life in Italy that motivates young people such as Adel, Mouez and Mehrez to leave their country, friends and families - to abandon their lives with the hope of starting better ones. But "burning the frontiers" is not a choice, it's a necessity; "even if I am alive, I am a dead man here," Mehrez tells us, as a result of the dehumanizing social conditions of poverty, misery and unrecognized basic human rights. Freedom of expression was banned under the government of Ben Ali, as he controlled the TV and the press and torture techniques were used on political dissidents. Bouazizi, the fruit vendor who set himself on fire on the street as an act of rebellion against the despotic system, is described by one of the Tunisian activists as "a revolutionary symbol of freedom, dignity, and democracy." Once Tunisians have ob-

tained the freedom to leave Tunisia and come to Europe, the expectations of democracy and possibility of living happy lives collapses. The men are labeled as "political refugees" and even categorized by some politicians as "illegal immigrants" and they are not allowed to exit from the refugee camps that they see as prisons.

Maria Ponce de Leon, a professor of Italian at Temple University who moved to Tunisia to teach in 2011, began the discussion by noting how the film brought back the emotions she had felt when she lived through the overthrow of Ben Ali. She spoke of the euphoria and excitement surrounding the Arab Spring, which you could "breathe in the air."

Ouejdane Mejri, a distinguished researcher and Tunisian native and president of the PONTES association of Tunisians in Italy, shed light on what it is like to grow up in a dictatorship. She spoke of how Tunisians knew what freedom was even though they could not exercise it.

Valentina Colombo, a researcher and professor of the Islamic world, followed up on Mejri's remarks by saying that Tunisians, specifically journalists, wanted to learn how to use their new freedom in the aftermath of the revolution. According to Mejri, Tunisia had the infrastructure and constitutional parliament already in place before the revolution. Civil society needed to learn how to function now that it was no longer controlled by the regime. Associations quickly began to form in order to take control, as freedom allowed Tunisians to discover just how diverse and multicolored their population and interests were.

Please turn to page 3

Movie Review: 50 Shades of Bad

By PAUL ANTHONY

What arises from *Fifty Shades of Grey* is only the best piece of cinema that could become of an already fragile and mediocre novel. I will not waste time writing about the plot of the story, for I will assume that anyone reading this review has most likely read the book by E.L. James, on which this film is based. Needless to say, *Fifty Shades of Grey* follows in the footsteps of all films based on fantasy novels: it does not live up to the hype of the media. Perhaps, by reading the book, readers can infuse their own imaginations and personal experiences into the plot, rendering the book more per se.

The movie, however, was simply an erotic, light porno in which the surreal plot creates an idea that sexual violence (whipping, handcuffing, and sexual objectification by physical brutality) is “okay.” In fact, I felt like a foreigner in the movie

theater, where everyone besides me was exploding with excited expectations. It seemed like the brutal and questionably sensual scenes provoked sentiments of love from the watching couples.

During one particular scene, when Jamie Dornan was whipping Dakota Johnson like one does to cattle, the man in front of me turned to his wife and said, “*Ti amo, amore,*” to which the wife responded with a kiss. Maybe my preferences are different than most, but I definitely would not have been motivated to confess my love for a woman with that on the screen in front of us. Surely, I am not judging anyone about whatever it is that gets their crank turning. But, if this movie is working, perhaps you need to take that thing out for a spin more frequently. That being said, I think it is time for all of us to recognize that fantasies come in more than 50 shades; they are, in fact, not real.

John Cabot's Alliance Is Back

By LUDOVICA PIZZICHELLI

This semester, after John Cabot University's LGBTQ Alliance lay dormant as a result of its entire board graduating, it was revived by freshman Katie Kehoe. Kehoe has always felt like an ally to the community and began in middle school to challenge the negative stereotypes formed in schools against LGBTQ people. When asked what spurred her to restore the Alliance, she said, “Having a GSA (gay-straight alliance) is important to any university. Whether the organization is the most popular club on campus or if its just a few friends who meet once a week, its presence is important. I believe that we can be a valuable resource to our community by answering any questions and offering support.”

With her leadership, the Alliance has been newly built from the ground up based on three important values: building community, understanding, and support.

One of the core values of the club is the importance of creating a community. JCU is an institution where students from all backgrounds congregate to not only further their education and reinforce their goals, but to meet others from around the world and share ideas and cultures. The Alliance is committed to furthering a community surrounding both LGBTQ students and straight and cisgender students, bringing together people from different backgrounds to learn from each other. As stated in its constitution, the club “embraces the idea that person-to-person interaction is essential in the establishment of an open, accepting, and inclusive environment or campus that allows the free expression of ideas.” This standard is one the club is dedicated to holding itself to and hopes to create strong bonds both with students and other clubs. According to Heads Up Educational Counseling, there are 4,000 alliance groups in American schools, ranging from high schools to universities, and the Alliance is ready to build its own community at John Cabot.

A second principle of the Alliance is attention towards building understanding within the JCU community. Often, people outside of the LGBTQ community are hesitant to ask questions about LGBTQ issues or vocabulary definitions, which is why the club strives to serve as a forum for discussion, delivering education and awareness. As of yet, the Alliance has hosted two important meetings since its relaunch: a session to discuss vocabulary and terms and a presentation on LGBTQ activism.

The Alliance pushes for these meetings to reinforce understanding within JCU, both by raising awareness and answering questions that students may have felt embarrassed or out of place in posing before. The club asks people from all walks of life to attend, because you never know when you could learn about an issue or a perspective which you would never have thought of on your own. Understanding LGBTQ issues and terminology is essential in furthering the rights and safety of trans and non-heterosexual people, both within JCU and beyond. As J.K. Rowling wrote, “Understanding is the first step to acceptance, and only with acceptance can there be recovery.” These meetings are an opportunity for students to learn more about the LGBTQ community and how to support it in a space free of judgment and full of valuable resources.

Another significant foundation the Alliance is built on is that of creating a source of support for students, especially for those struggling with being accepted at home.

Throughout this academic year, both in the United States and beyond, there

International Women's Day Celebrated at JCU



Left, Serena Romano, President of Corrente Rosa Women's Association on March 2 at JCU. Right, flowers given to students by Ipazia club on March 9.

Photo Courtesy: Instagram

International Women's Day is a day that women of all cultures celebrate. At our university, home to so many nationalities, the Ipazia and Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) clubs collaborated to make March 8 noteworthy.

They however began on March 2 with a panel discussion in which three women in politics, business and social service participated in. The panel was opened by Serena Romano, President of Corrente Rosa Women's Association. Romano shared lessons and stories about women who have had an impact on her life, including Emma Bonino, Italy's former Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Livia Malcangio, the Permanent Secretariat, World Summits on Nobel Peace Laureates and author of “Being Nobel” was the next speaker.

Malcangio talked extensively on the people who have influenced her life, including Mikhail Gorbachev and the Dalai Lama. Malcangio also shared dozens of photographs of herself standing with people portrayed in her book.

Lastly, Jackie Norris, who worked as a political advisor and the Chief of Staff to Michelle Obama at the White House, spoke to students. Norris shared stories on the White House, but also encouraged students to think about personal fulfillment outside of work as well.

A week later, the Ipazia Club handed out hundreds of flowers to faculty, staff and students.

has been a surge in LGBTQ teen suicides. As mentioned in an article of *The Matthew* on LGBTQ media representation, LGBTQ teens are 40% as likely to attempt suicide at one point in their lives. Within the past month there has been another victim, young trans man and activist Blake Brockington. Though he was only 18, young adults in their early 20s are nevertheless susceptible to suicide and depression as a result of lacking acceptance. Even when a student is in university, like JCU, and perhaps away from family, lack of acceptance beyond the household is still a pervasive and negative force in a student's life. “It is important for safe spaces like The Alliance to exist so that even if individuals are uncomfortable joining, they understand that there are people in the school who support them and recognize their struggle,” Kehoe said.

For this reason, the Alliance is particularly adamant about creating a support group and acting as a “safe place to seek opinions of other students and find people willing to listen to one another.” The Alliance thrives on inclusivity and maintains an open door policy and outside resources for students. As a result, on April 1 the club hosted its first “Share Your Story” evening, where students met at the Gianicolo Residence to casually discuss their own stories, whether it be about the struggles of being gay or trans, about coming out, or about learning their friends or family members were LGBTQ. We value this event very much because it is an opportunity to open up about our respective experiences and form ties with other people that may have undergone something similar. It builds community as well as support and understanding, and holds on to a “vegas” policy --what is said in this event stays in this event-- to encourage students to share their stories without fear of others outside knowing their private information. Not only will it serve as an opportunity to offer fellow students support, but also to further the community the club is seeking to promote.

Although it is a still a newly-initiated club, the Alliance is ready to embrace JCU students and is always accepting new members, whether they are part of the LGBTQ community, are strong allies, or are just wanting to learn more about us. This year, April 17th is the Day of Silence, a day wherein people around the world take a vow of silence for the day to commemorate those LGBTQ people lost or forced into silence because of who they were and continue to be. Because this year the day falls on a Friday, the Alliance will be hosting it on Thursday April 16th. Afterwards, there will be an event called Breaking the Silence, a party to end the day and celebrate the LGBTQ community and the community at John Cabot. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend to enjoy a fun and relieving evening. The Alliance has many plans for the upcoming semesters at JCU and is asking for a lot of support from the John Cabot community to build a community, understanding, and support for JCU students.



Dutch Hooligans in Rome

In February, the “Stadio Olimpico” was the location of a soccer match between AS Roma and Feyenoord. Before the game, a group of Dutch hooligans decided to meet up in Piazza di Spagna

and began to riot.

Our Christian Frajia was there in the thick of it. Here is some of his photojournalism: to see more of his photographs, turn to page 7.



Photo Credit: Christian Frajia

Tunisia, the Arab Spring and Terrorism

Continued from front page

Mejri's conclusion was that the largest goal was and still is to create both a democratic state and a democratic societal reality.

Colombo admitted that though she would love to be enthusiastic, she has concerns about the future of Tunisia. She fears that external Tunisian opposition and Islamist parties are pragmatic enough to begin to control the population. The Ennahda party specifically has already won a majority of votes by providing money and organization to rally Tunisians who seek freedom but do not have enough means.

Mejri responded to these concerns by saying that she recognizes creating a true democracy will be difficult, but she must continue to have a revolutionary way of thinking and look towards the future. She has faith in the social, culture, and educational background of Tunisians. The event concluded with thoughtful questions from students, professionals, and Middle Eastern natives. Many of the questions focused on what religious leaders like Rached Ghannouchi could offer to society, if anything, and comparisons to revolutions in other Middle Eastern countries.

The three panelists offered great insights into Tunisia and sparked an engaging conversation among all of the guests in attendance. It seems that Tunisia will need to be monitored for years to come to see if the country is truly successful enough to be an exception to the Arab Spring.

The devastating attack of March 18 was an all too clear warning on how difficult such path will be.

Rome's Free Bus Ride Culture

By ALESSANDRO CESCHI

Ask a local, and you'll realize that to get on a bus with no ticket in Rome is like drinking your espresso while standing at the counter or casually eating bread during your meal—just something that people here do every day, and take for granted.

Not buying bus tickets in Rome is an innocent piece of Italian culture in the country's capital. But in Italy, which was run for nine years by a President convicted of tax fraud, the word “innocent” should always sound suspicious.

“I've never bought tickets,” says Kelson Adams, an International Affairs and International Business major at JCU. He rubs his right thumb against his forefinger to indicate he doesn't buy bus tickets to save money. The hand gesture Kelson learnt is as much part of the local experience as not buying bus tickets is. He understands that. “It's almost cultural,” he says.

Adams, a 22-year-old from Manitou Springs, Colorado, has been caught on a bus without a ticket only once in three-and-a-half years in Rome, and he got away with it. He blamed his ticketless condition on his origins. Adams told the ticket inspector that riding buses is free in Colorado. It worked.

ATAC, which runs Rome's public transport, has been losing €130 million average every year from 2004 through 2013. It is one of the most destitute companies controlled by a broken city council. Italian taxpayers gave Rome €580 million every year from 2009 through 2012 to fix its debt. So far: no luck.

No one will come and check whether you have a bus ticket or not—this seems to be what people rely on. “The hearsay is that in Rome there are no checks [on bus tickets], so nobody tends to buy them,” says Lucia Bezzato, a 20-year-old Communications major at JCU. “Inspectors are never there.”

“I don't buy it because no one checks,” says Marco Pecchio, a 21-year-old Communications major at JCU. “And the service is really bad. Why should I buy the ticket?”

Equally to the point: bus tickets, which cost €1.50, are not always easy to find. Newsstands and tobacco shops sell them, but once they're closed, people are left with few options. Only some buses are equipped with machines that allow passengers to buy tickets after they get onboard. Metro stations do have automatic machines that sell tickets; bus stops don't.

I once asked a 20-year-old local hairdresser and at the time my roommate, where to buy bus tickets at night. “You still don't know how it works,” the hairdresser said. “You don't really need bus tickets in Rome.”

Padua, my hometown, covers an area 14 times smaller than Rome's, and it has found a better way to sell bus tickets. People can send a text message and buy an electronic bus ticket. Ignazio Marino, Rome's mayor, promised some time ago that such a system would be employed in January 2014. That didn't happen. The City may be Eternal, but Rome can't afford people taking buses for free forever.

Italy's Bittersweet Life

By ALESSANDRO CESCHI

American study abroad students in Rome like to write blogs about beautiful weather, ancient churches, and amazing ice cream. Friends and family back home enjoy a glimpse of an everyday "dolce vita," The Sweet Life. Those blog posts are pleasant, but misleading.

Rain is pouring down Via Jenner in an early February Friday morning in Monteverde. My roommate Slavik and I are walking to a public office in Via Fabiola for him to get residency in Italy. Cars honking aimlessly make it difficult to talk to each other. An old lady stands in the middle of the street. She's shouting and gesturing, probably giving someone directions to park.

As we enter the office, a young mother is screaming. "Tell me, what do I have to do?" she asks desperately to a bunch of people sitting behind a counter. They're clueless, and Italian bureaucracy is possibly a challenge to the Dalai Lama's nerves, but the woman's reaction seems to have gone too far nonetheless. We pick up our ticket, A95, and we take a seat.

Not long after, an electronic voice calls our ticket code. We quickly walk over to an employee, a short, middle-aged woman. "We need to get a residency," I say as I hand over two folders full of forms and documents carefully prepared over the past two weeks.

"They don't match," the woman says, and she shows me Slavik's passport and stay permit. "The city of birth is different from one to the other."

I look carefully at the documents. The passport says "Lithuania." The stay permit says "Visaginas," a Lithuanian city. I don't see why they wouldn't match, although I'm afraid I know it.

"Here we have Lithuania," the woman says, pointing at the passport. "And here we have Visaginas." She points at the stay permit. "It's not the same."

We will need a formal statement from the Lithuanian Embassy to prove that Visaginas is in Lithuania. Slavik watches calmly as the woman and I keep saying the same things--her bureaucratic claim, Lithuania and Visaginas are not the same word; my logical answer, Visaginas is in Lithuania.

"Can I please speak with someone who doesn't talk nonsense?" I ask, raising my voice. And here we are, I have just become the mother who was shouting wildly at the entrance. In an Italian office, what you call overreacting once can seem perfectly normal just minutes later.

We leave. "I could have never imagined it'd be so hard to get residency in Italy," Slavik says. "You're the only person who was born in two different places," I say. We go to RossoVino, a restaurant on our street.

The rain touches gently the windows as a waiter walks through the room carrying our food. Slavik gets straccetti with porcini mushrooms; I get pappardelle with bacon, and crispy artichokes.

And of course it's beautiful. The food tastes great, and it feels nice to sit in the silence and not to stand shouting. But I wouldn't call it "dolce vita." Bittersweet may just work better.

These articles were submitted to the annual JCU competition, Fuller Prize. As such, they were not edited by The Matthew staff.

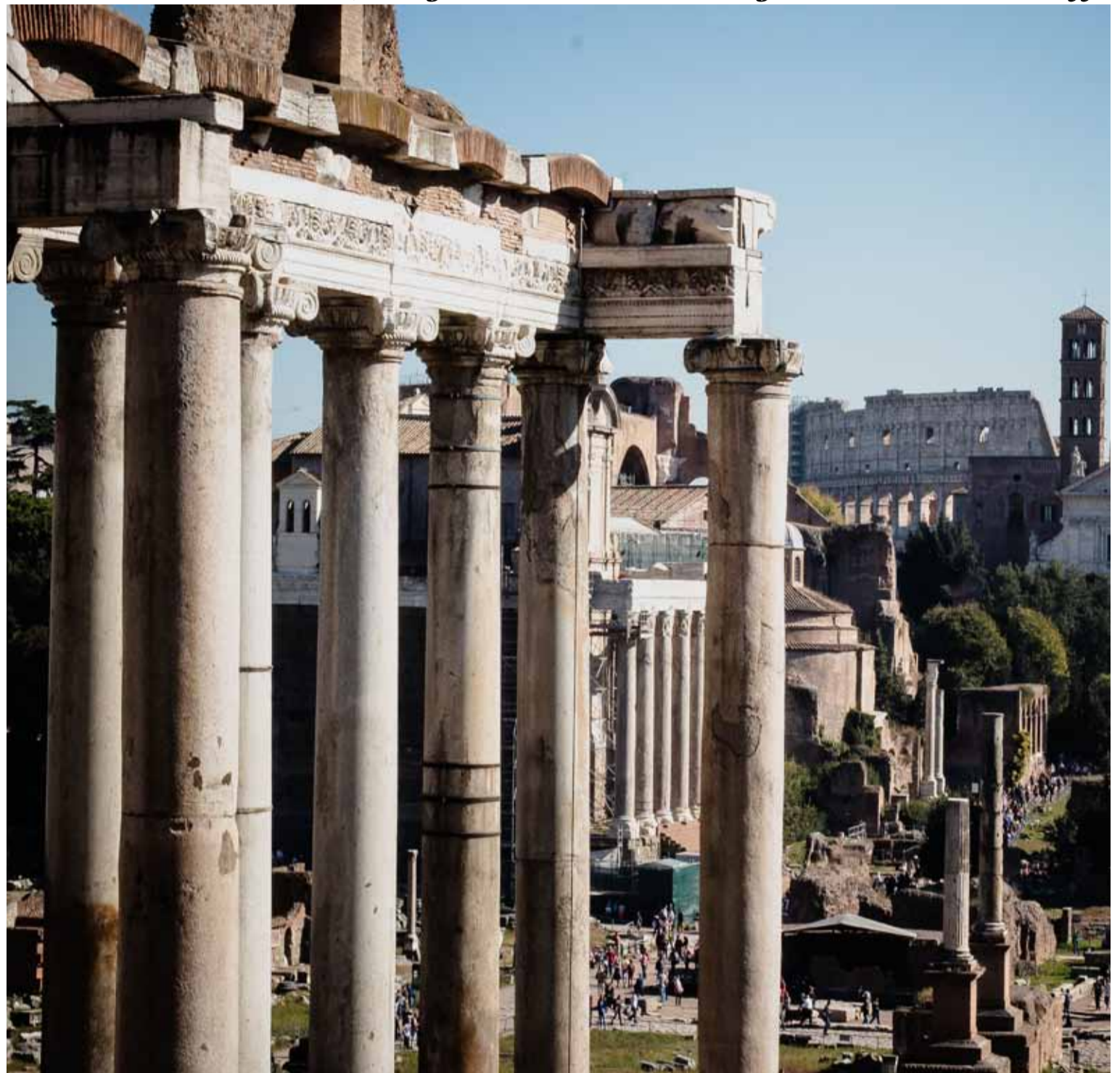


Photo Credit: Emily Wilson

JCU Students Dissatisfied with Medical Offering

By AXEL KEICHER

John Cabot University students are not satisfied with the medical options offered by the University – and many of them are very specific about the deficiencies they perceive. Katie Kehoe, a JCU freshman from Oregon, described her experience with the in-house doctor, Ida Ponzio, when she went to see her because of an ear infection.

"It was during my first month at school. I had to go back three times before I managed to see her, the line was always too long," she said.

The doctor wrote her a prescription for a generic antibiotic and pain medications. Still, nothing worked. After two more weeks in pain, Kehoe went to a local hospital, which gave her, she says, different and more efficacious medications. Three days later, she was healthy again. She described her experience with the JCU doctor as "unsatisfying."

Kehoe is not the only student unhappy about the medical care at JCU. Many students are surprised and discouraged by long lines in front of the doctor's office and also the very limited visiting hours: Mondays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Thursday from 3:00pm to 6:00 pm. The students are seen on a "first come, first serve" basis, and not everyone always manages to be visited when in need.

"I heard these complaints as well," Dr. Ponzio acknowledges, adding, however that in her opinion, "a doctor at school every day isn't really be needed. Besides, the Italian system is very good in case of emergencies," Ponzio said. However, she

continued, it would be useful to have one more visitation day, especially in the periods of time when more people get sick, like the spring. When asked if she would be open to the possibility of working one day more at JCU, she said: "It is definitely a possibility. The administration and I are considering it."

Over the past few weeks, many students were also concerned about the fact that the Dr. Ponzio was not writing doctor's notes anymore – necessary to be excused in the event of a student's absence. Dr. Ponzio says a professor complained about the medical excuses she issued, but she added that things were now back to normal.

"I went back to how I was doing things before. Students who were not excused during this period of time can now be again," Dr. Ponzio said.

Finally, students have raised concerns about the amount of information students receive regarding medical issues, especially who to talk to in case of need.

"The Health and Well Being office is also the Student Employment and Student Conduct office. Elizabeth Tyrie, who's the coordinator, has to manage all three offices. She's often out of the office since she's accompanying or checking on students at the hospital. Worse, and most confusingly, nobody tells foreign students how the Italian system works," said Samantha Ahear, a senior and Financial Aid office worker.

In other words, it's time for JCU to beef up medical care for the students who need it.

Where Is Our Money Really Going?

By MILENA RIVOLOVA

"The second I lose my scholarship will be the end of my career," says Jessica Islami, an Italian degree seeker at John Cabot University. According to the JCU website, as of Fall 2015, the tuition will increase by €600 (\$1000) per semester. Although the change is not drastic – a 3.6% increase – many students have expressed concern or confusion about where the money is going. Franco Pavoncello, president of John Cabot University, describes the increase as "peanuts." As for Andrea Giummarra, JCU's Vice-President for operations and finance – he insists that the university isn't in it for the money "We don't want to make a profit, we want to exist in the future," explains Giummarra.

On September 9th 2014, President Pavoncello sent an email to all students explaining the reasons for the tuition increase. It is increasing; the email explained that because of the "Regional accreditation by the Middle States Association," according to the email. Nonetheless in a recent interview, the university president seemed to backtrack a bit. "We are paying very little towards the Middle States Association," He explained, "The regional accreditation is nothing, it doesn't cost anything." So why is it the first bullet point in the email Pavoncello sent student? Here in fact, is the email:

- Regional accreditation by the Middle States Association,
- Acquisition of the Kushlan Wing of the Guarini Campus,
- Acquisition and renovation of the Tiber Campus, including the Spiegel Student Center and Tiber Café,
- Creation of the *Gianicolo* and the *Trastevere* Residences,
- Opening of the new wing of the Frohring Library,
- Development of the *Largo Fiorentini* Studio and Graphic Arts facility,
- Opening of a new Digital Media

Lab,

- Tripling of the number of semester courses offered,
- Sustained increase in the quality and quantity of services offered by the University,
- Significant growth in the number of our Faculty and Staff.

According to President Pavoncello's email, another reason for the increase is "[The] creation of Gianicolo and Trastevere Residences." The "creation" indicates that they do not exist yet. Aren't they already built and available to students who need housing? Why increase tuition for residences that already are in use? And why should those who choose not to live there – because living in those residences is costly – pay for them? "If we were to ask students to pay for the Gianicolo residence, then it would be a lot more than a 600 euro increase," Franco Pavoncello points out. The email states that the money is going towards the residences. Is everyone paying for Gianicolo, even people who choose not to live there?

The third reason for a tuition increase according to Pavoncello is a 30% increase in financial aid. "The University places a high priority on meeting the financial needs of all students and we will employ our generous financial aid and discount program," he writes. John Cabot University offers scholarships for students who need it or students who excel in their classes. But there will be no increase in the amount of these scholarships. "Scholarships are not being adjusted," says Samantha Abear, a student assistant in the financial aid office. This is unfortunate since tuition is increasing and financial aid supposedly is too. Numerous students have had to increase work-study hours to the maximum 20 hours permitted by the university. Others have had to resort to cheaper housing because of the tuition increase.

It seems that this increase is not "peanuts" for everyone attending JCU.

The Prowl: Street Harassment in Italy



Photo Credit: Emily Wilson

By MORGAN COLLINS

Although it is common knowledge that Italian men greatly value their mothers (possibly because they are under their roof for most of their lives), this attitude does not apply to unrelated women in public. A recent survey I conducted in an official John Cabot University Facebook group reports that 84% of 64 participants have experienced street harassment in Italy.

Street harassment consists of kissing noises, whistles, uncomfortable stares, cat-calling, and unwanted touching from strangers. In an urban Italian environment, a good number of John Cabot University's female students are exposed to a culture comfortable with public harassment of women.

Gabriella Di Bari, sophomore and native Italian speaker, has lived in Rome for over two years, "Usually they try and speak English and what they say is not very creative. It's usually, 'So sexy' or remarks about your physique." "It happens more when I'm with Americans than Italians," adds Di Bari.

Di Bari talks about

how Italian men assume that American women and other nationalities are assumed to be "easy." This assumption intensifies the harassment students at the university have to face. Living in Italy as a woman leaves you targeted and voiceless.

Sofya Efimenkova, a Russian-born freshman at John Cabot, recalls that she and a friend were walking around Trastevere when they were approached. "Old men tried to talk with us and have a conversation even though we'd said we didn't want to. They followed us," says Efimenkova, "We were scared because we didn't know how to protect ourselves from such experiences that were happening."

Mitko Garkov, a Resident Assistant at the Gianicolo Residence, says that John Cabot students can protect themselves by not wearing, "short skirts, dresses or anything too revealing." He also points out that, "If you're dressed up they're going to have an easier time doing whatever they want to do. If you dress normal they wouldn't even try."

It is important to recognize the double standard

Garkov's advice reveals. By implying that street harassment is caused by women's clothing, the focus is placed on the victim of harassment, instead of the harassers. Garkov, and others who place the blame on women, must understand the oppressive logic they are spreading. Street harassment continues to remain in both Italian and global society whether or not the victim is wearing short or long skirts.

Participants in the survey I conducted were asked how John Cabot University prepared them for Italy's culture shock. One anonymous response: "JCU covered a lot of information regarding cultural differences, but many of my friends did not take it seriously." "I wish JCU could offer more workshops on the subject."

In a school with 1241 students, most of whom are women, the student body needs to be aware of the significance of street harassment in daily life. This is not a political debate or a philosophical conversation. These are the actual lives of both John Cabot University students and women around the world.

Technology's Effects to Modern Life

By NGONIDZASHE TARUVINGA

The world is changing fast due to the introduction and upgrading of technology. Most people say technology has brought positive results, whereas there are skeptics about that. Nevertheless, if there was no technology, you would not have been able to read this document.

Technology has enhanced modern life in many ways. Before the invention of telegram and telephones, moving information from one place to another for long distances was challenging and unmanageable. Information can now be conveyed from one end to another swiftly within an instant. The global news networks have helped people all over the world by giving them information. For instance, news tells the public what is happening on the other side of the world instantly. Weather forecast and natural disasters are foretold before they occur.

People and commodities can now be transported from one destination to another reliably and efficiently resulting in the building up of the economy and social well-being of a country.

Technology has cut distances between people and brought the world together making our lives quite

easy and convenient.

Education systems have improved well. It is now easier to do academic research or a work assignment because of the internet, television and other advanced technology. Pope Francis once tweeted "the information and knowledge of the Bible has taught quite a lot of people ever since the creation of Facebook and Twitter".

Long distance learning of certain programs can also be done through the internet.

Medical institutions have improved in terms of examinations, treatments, and researches leading to improvements in most country's life expectancy and mortality rates.

Treatments for many diseases are being discovered. Furthermore, preventive treatments are improving for previously deadly diseases like HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Cancer.

The majority of people in the world now have better knowledge of some of the world's common killer diseases.

Nevertheless, technology has also brought negative impacts. Although medical treatments were improved, it has brought danger to people's lives. For example, the creation of Genetically Modified Organisms

(GMO's) is claimed to have contributed to the development of some cancerous infections. Oils and fumes from vehicles and factories have caused air and water pollution which destroys plant and animal lives. Most people do not know that chemicals used in refrigerators contain fluorocarbons that contribute to global warming.

School children now spend more time on social media than on their academic work. David Volpi an Otolaryngology surgeon said "heavy technology use is linked to fatigue, stress and depression in young adults". Technology has improved the search of information; students now just go online rather than physically get a book from a library.

Most things are now being done through the internet; that is shopping, school work, banking and work assignments. This is literally killing our social behavior because people no longer interact with one another physically.

Some people have become overly dependent on technology which causes them to be lazy and ignorant of other aspects of life. Has technology simplified our lives or it has merely destroyed it?

Is Cheating Fair Game?

By MARIA DELORENZO

A survey I conducted on John Cabot University's own Facebook page shows that seventeen out of forty-eight students reported to have broken the academic policy at JCU and they were not caught. This indicates that 1 in every 3 students at JCU have cheated without paying the consequences for breaking the university's academic policy. Two of the forty-eight surveyed were unsure of what JCU considers cheating.

In February 2015 I witnessed a student using her cell phone during a quiz. When the professor approached her she quickly snapped her phone shut and was given a zero for the quiz because journalism Professor Judy Bachrach claims, it was obvious she was checking out a Google page.

After the class the student admitted to Professor Bachrach that she was using her phone to look up how to phrase something. Professor Bachrach followed university protocol and e-mailed the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Pam Harris, about the incident.

When Professor Bachrach saw Dean Harris by chance in the hall, Dean Harris told her that the student denied the account of the incident; in fact she said the student insisted that she was simply trying to email the quiz from her cell phone. Bachrach replied, "Well it was only 10-15 min into the test, so how could she be done so soon?" "Oh I didn't know that," said Dean Harris, who for some reason hadn't previously informed Bachrach about the meeting with the student.

In an interview with me, Dean Harris had said that only three to four students have been suspended or dismissed from the university in the past five years. Out of the 1,241 students she has about twenty to

twenty-five cheating cases a semester.

Harris says, "We are an educational institution not penal institution this is a chance to learn. So we give students two chances [to cheat]."

The repercussions of any form of academic dishonesty have been taught to all American students as early as middle school. So when Dean Harris told me about a plagiarism incident last year with a visiting student from my former university (Sacred Heart University) I was shocked at what she claimed to believe.

She said that because the student was a science major who has been writing science reports for the past few years, and the individual was unaware of the academic policy. After asking her if she believed the student Harris said, "Yes, he's only been writing science reports."

Daniel Connelly, an English literature professor, believes there are no discrepancies in plagiarizing. "Because if I were to do that now, I would never be able to get a job in academia again," he says.

When asked how a recent situation was handled where a student (who is graduating in May) did not receive consequences from the Dean for plagiarizing, Professor Connelly said, "All I do is push it up to the dean. It was just a case where there had been clear unattributed work taken from another source."

Rutgers University in New Jersey has the students write an honor pledge and sign the bottom of each exam and major course assignment. "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination/assignment."

"Then it becomes a knowing thing. You have to think about what you have written again," says Professor Connelly.

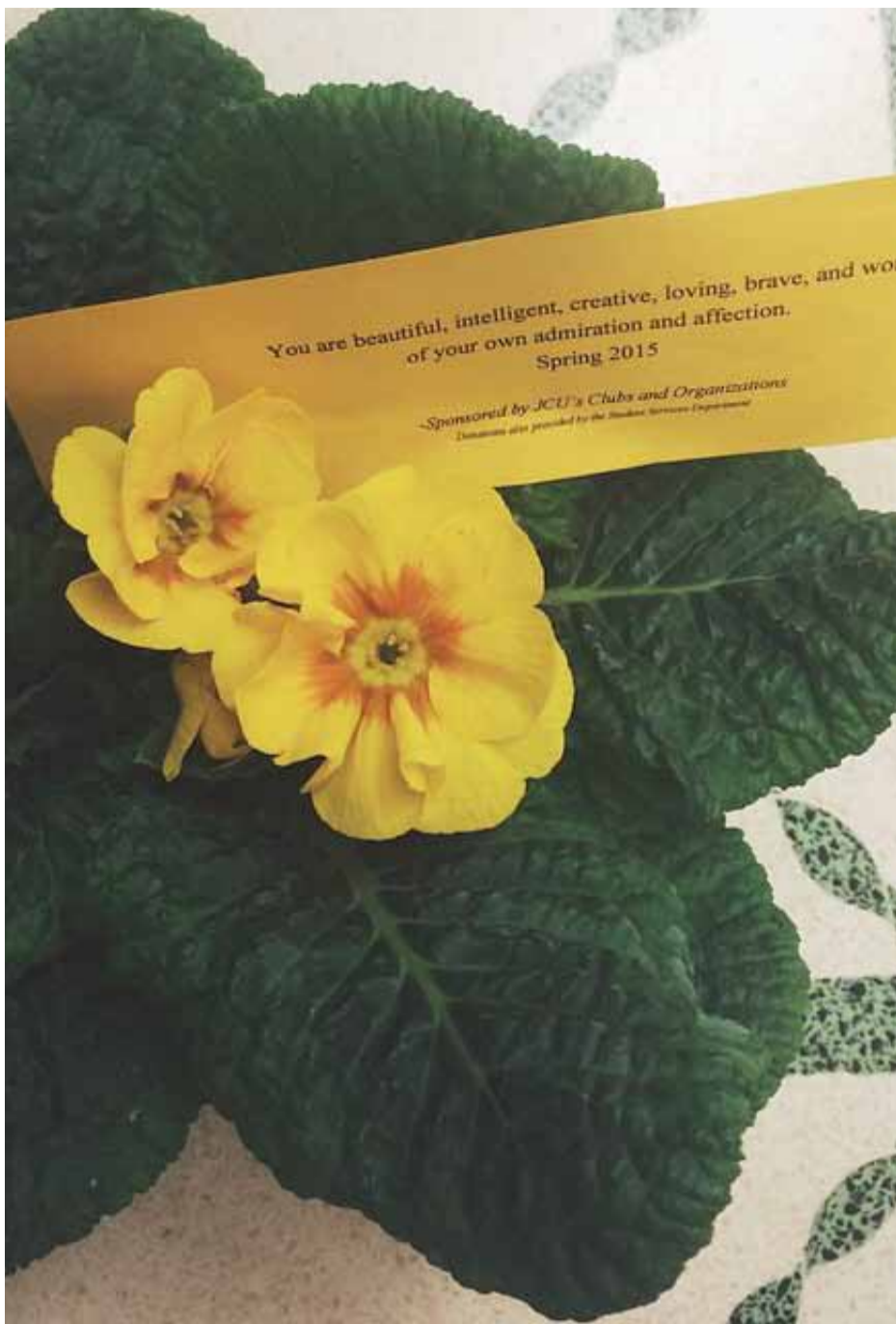


Photo Credit: JCU Instagram

Leave the Bathroom Clean or Leave John Cabot

By LAUREN CECILIA CATER

Open letter to the female trolls of John Cabot University with no bathroom etiquette:

You are most likely a college girl, a thriving student, attractive with great hair and an endearing smile. If you are the person who finds it appropriate to leave your used, urine-soaked toilet paper on the ground, your feces in the unflushed toilet, your crimson, blood-soaked tampons on the floor, your blood smeared across the toilet seat, not only are you exceptionally creative (perhaps you should consider transferring to art school in the UK?), but you are also an expert on turning what should be a tidy college bathroom into an actual biohazard.

Most unsettling is that, you, messy bathroom culprit, are also touching computer keyboards, door handles, vending machines and eating utensils at school.

You see, many of us JCU girls are very clean, carefully washing our hands and drying them in the expensive Dyson hand dryers the school so graciously purchased. Many of us cannot bear to use the soiled stalls.

On a recent Sunday evening when the university was pleasantly quiet and it seemed that the spring season had finally arrived for good, I walked into the lower-level Guarini bathroom.

I pushed the door of the nearest stall and opted against it. Gross, I thought.

The next stall had me more offended by what lay ahead than just a moment prior.

I moved on. The third stall had me gagging. This was not musical chairs, but Russian roulette!

A smear of blood on the toilet seat and

feces in the toilet were enough to assure me that actually my bladder was empty.

I took a photograph and posted on the JCU Undergrad Facebook group. Over 100 people 'liked' the post in solidarity; some shared similar experiences. The next day I had breakfast with two of my girlfriends, also JCU students. We mused about the bathroom, and you. We concluded that this bathroom mess must be intentional — it is a big, dirty, filthy statement — not just a statement of disrespect for the school, but also for the people who work so hard to keep it clean.

The bathroom: a place of vanity, where you fluff your hair and reapply lipstick just after morning coffee; where you seek asylum to call your charming boyfriend in class; where you run to escape the ennui that accompanies a long lecture.

Maybe for you it is the bagno, the baño, the lavatory, the toilette, the crapper, the porcelain throne, the John, the water closet, the dungeon, the Australian Outback.

Whatever this sacred place is to you, it is not a place to vandalize. Your tampons, cigarettes, used toilet paper, urine and shit are not entitled to permanent residency in any public restroom. I am left wondering if you were raised by wolves, or if you are resentful and therefore barbaric to the university, or if you are simply lazy, with awful aim? Did your parents fail to potty train you? Are you afraid of toilets?

The bathroom is not a Testaccio wall to vandalize, nor a misplaced ash tray, nor a biohazard container. Your waste is not welcome. On behalf of the entire student body, I urge you to leave the bathroom clean or leave John Cabot University.



Photo Credit: The Matthew Staff

STUDENT LIFE



Photo Credit: Christian Frajia

EVENTS

JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY

Presents

JCU SPRING 2015 CICERO SPEECH CONTEST

*“Multiculturalism: Has it Failed?”*THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH 2015
5:30 PM - AULA MAGNA REGINA*To register and receive more
information, please e-mail**Prof. Tom Govero:*tgovero@johncabot.edu*Speeches should be
10 minutes in length*CICERO SPEECH
CONTESTJohn Cabot University - Via della Lungara, 233 - 00165 Rome
RSVP: tgovero@johncabot.edu. You will be asked to show photo ID at the door.

- **Thur., Apr. 16, Lemon Tree Courtyard**
Art History Club Presents: John Cabot Spring Cleaning Yard Sale
- **Thur., Apr. 16, 4:30 pm-5:30 pm, T.2.2 (Tiber Campus)**
JCU Welcomes Prof. Veronica Benet-Martinez for a Lecture: “The Psychology of Multicultural Experiences and Identities”
- **Tue., Apr. 21, 6:30 pm, Aula Magna Regina (Guarini Campus)**
The Institute for Creative Writing and Literary Translation Presents: A Reading by Lucio Mariani and Anthony Molino
- **Fri., Apr. 24, 9:30 am-2:00 pm, Tiber Cafè (Tiber Campus)**
John Cabot University Open House (Giornata di Vita Universitaria)
- **Fri., Apr. 24, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Guarini Campus**
JCU Alumni Spring Social Reception in Rome

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The Matthew is John Cabot University's nonprofit, student-run newspaper. The student body's array of over 40 different countries, cultures and backgrounds is reflected in our writing.

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