

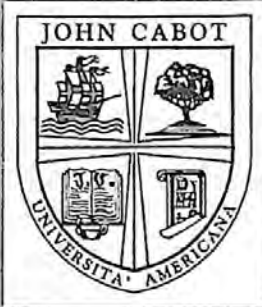
# JCU ScholarShip

## The Matthew (2008 Nov 11)

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# The Matthew

The Student Newspaper of John Cabot University

Volume 1, issue 2

11/11/08

## Special points of interest:

- US Presidential Elections
- JCU Housing Poll
- Italian Ministry of Education Protests
- Art & Culture
- JCU Cyprus Fieldtrip

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## Obama's Victory: A Chance for Change

By Kristie Cole

This election was just a *chance* for change, Obama insisted in his victory speech on Tuesday night. Despite the end of such a rigorous campaign in which he broke countless records, and being the United States' first African-American president, Obama hardly smiled. His words were serious and his facial expression, stern. He instead urged his supporters to celebrate this monumental victory with humility—this act in itself is proof enough that Obama was exactly the kind of change we needed.

come a mess in the last eight years, largely because

polarized and the Republicans have fallen from their high ideals and based their campaigns on intolerance. This is why as a registered Republican (GASP!) I voted for Barack Obama.



Obama is a true unifier. Whether it is his promise to listen to the American people, even those who choose not to support him; or his ancestral ties, as people from Asian, African-American and

of the Bush administration, although many other scandalous factors have contributed (Delay, Abramoff, Stevens). The political parties have become extremely

Middle Eastern countries identify with him, he encompasses the characteristics of a politician that the world needs (cont' p.2)

Politics has be-

## Protests for Change in the Italian Education System

By Giorgia Chillè

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, JCU students were warned to avoid the Trastevere area because a group of individuals were leading a protest towards the Ministry of Education. In actuality, Rome was dealing with a strike of nearly a million students, teachers, research-

ers, professors and unionists. Their objective was precisely this: to paralyze the capital city of Rome, because "the government is paralyzing our future".

A common fear is spread among the young generation of Italian students; they believe that

the effort that is put into their studies is pointless. Many say that the Italian education system works only for those who are friends of someone important.

No value is given to merit, competence and capability. There is a deeply (cont' p.3)

### Obama's Victory cont'...

in this time of crisis to conquer intolerance, overcome prejudice and battle terrorism.

The American people have their ears tuned to what he is saying. Two great friends of mine, one a liberal Democrat and the other a conservative Republican, have taken the words of Obama's acceptance speech to heart. The liberal Democrat did her best to celebrate the victory with humility, as Obama encouraged. She has not taunted our conservative, Republican friend. And our conservative, Republican friend has agreed to listen to Obama and is anxious to see what he can do. I cannot believe the two have not viciously torn each other apart, or at the very least argued, as I have seen them frequently do in the past when debating politics. They seem to have finally found some type of common ground

or peace with the election of Barack Obama.

His election brings a positive light to America. It fills the void lost in recent years that used to make America so great—the belief that anything is possible in the United States. And as we have seen with Obama's election, anything truly is possible. Perhaps Obama can unite the polarized parties, perhaps he can handle the financial crisis, perhaps he can change our healthcare system for the better, and perhaps he can bring peace to the Middle East. At this point, it is impossible to know what he will accomplish. But one thing is for sure, as his facial expressions show, he is very serious about change and will not celebrate until America makes some serious progress.

behind us once again, or will be. With our ballots we stood up to the critics and the naysayers that said Barack Obama is too inexperienced, too liberal, and too different. With a collective voice we sent a message to the entire world that the American people will no longer stand for a President that tears us down. Instead, we will have a President that appeals to our better nature and inspires us to do better. The international community was hungry for an American leader that would participate in the global community and work with our allies to create a more peaceful world. With the election of Barack Obama we now have someone to look to for guidance and the wisdom to lead our country through the perilous times ahead.

Even though American citizens were the only ones voting, I knew that the majority was rooting for the Democratic candidate, and had their fingers crossed that we would make the right decision. With the election of a brilliant, young black man with an incredible story, America's promise has been renewed and its democracy strengthened. In the United States politics is often a business, but on this night most of us could not hold back our tears of joy. After the announcement was made people across the world poured out onto the streets in celebration and hugged complete strangers because they knew that tomorrow the world would be different. And it was on this night that I realized I was part of something much bigger than myself, I was just one of the millions of people around the world who said, "Yes, We Can!" I was just one of the millions of people around the world who believed with all my heart that the world has changed.

## The World is Smiling

By Kristine Keeney

Last Tuesday night at 11 P.M. Eastern Standard Time Barack Obama was projected to be the 44th President of the United States of America. It was at this moment in time when the world changed forever.

As an American living abroad during this election season, I have had a unique perspective on the impact of this election around the world. When I first arrived in Italy a few months ago, I quickly understood that being an American was not looked at very highly in Europe. I even remember at times trying not to speak English too much in public for fear of negative comments or harassment from others for being American. I knew this sentiment stemmed in part from the actions

of the Bush Administration throughout the past eight years but I couldn't help being frustrated because people did not understand that my President did not represent me or my country in its entirety.

But on Tuesday night that all changed. The United States found the courage to choose hope over fear, progress over status quo, and now the world is



**School Protest Cont'...**

rooted mistrust in the institutions which are perceived as being corrupt and unable to function for the greater public good.

There are two waves of dissent: the one of the students, who ask for a stable system that can guarantee the possibility of a successful career in the future; and the workers of the university system, who are only asking for stable jobs and decent wages in order to sustain their families.

The protest is the explosion of years of unjust cuts of resources. The government is taking over the administrative positions of the system. The political influence has always been immense in the school system and has changed it for its own benefits, forgetting the people who should be the real benefactors: the students.

The law that has been criticized the most is "Law 133", signed by the Minister of Education, Mrs. Gelmini, and the Finance Minister, Mr. Tremonti. Although the plan for university reform has not been

**...the Italian education system works only for those who are friends of someone important.**

written yet, the law evidently sees to the cutting of resources for the future functioning of public universities.

The forecast is quite dark. This new law promotes higher taxes on students, but at the same time, fewer tools, less infrastructural help, and fewer changes for a future in the research field.

What does it really mean to cut research resources? A

clear example was explained by a chemistry professor during a famous TV show called "Annozero". Money is research, research is discovery of chemicals, and chemicals are the basics for all medications. Cut out the money and no research gets done.

In the 1980s, a chemical was discovered by an Italian team of researchers and then used by American experts as the primary element for a medicine that helps slow the spread HIV/AIDS. With the reduction of research,

important progresses such as this will never be made, and the general progress of the world is slowed.

Citizens accuse the government of being responsible for the economic crisis and now they refuse to pay for it. The government has to take its responsibilities and help its population.



"We are not going to pay the price of

the crisis", shouted the protesters.

What hurts is the fact that this young generation might have to give up on its natural optimism, energy, hopes and dreams—unless they fight for it. What makes them optimistic is the fact that the common passivism of the Italian people is politically related and has been turned into activism.

The young people are now fighting every day in order to obtain a safer future. Perhaps one day this sort of energy will be transmitted to all generations and social classes and will spark a new and real interest in the governance of this country.

**Obama's Victory and the Middle East's Reaction: A Mixture of Relief and Wariness**

By Federica Malpeso

The global reaction to Obama's victory on November 4<sup>th</sup> was one of overwhelming jubilation and relief. Obama's victory has already created change for the better in America's image in the world and has sparked the interest of many. However, Obama supporters now must wait and see if his optimistic call for change will become reality.

Obama's diverse cultural background makes him a compelling figure that many individuals all over the world can relate to. With a father from Kenya, a mother from Kansas, a stepfather from Indonesia and a middle name—Hussein—with origins in the Middle East, Obama has captured the imaginations of individuals across the globe.

Although the world is overjoyed and relieved with the outcome of the US Presidential (cont' p8)

## HEADS UP!

### BATTLE OF THE BANDS: November 18th, 2008

10 € donation to attend! (This includes a t-shirt and snacks. All donations will go to Haiti.)

PRIZE FOR THE WINNER!!!

Contact [studentservices@johncabot.edu](mailto:studentservices@johncabot.edu) if you would like to showcase your talent!

## They Spent What?!

By Laura Remson

So the votes are in and the numbers are counted. Re-counted probably, considering the controversy of the last few elections. But how much money was actually spent?

More than any other campaign that has ever been conducted. It's estimated that in the end the two campaigns together will spend at least over \$1 billion dollars together. Obama's fundraising is at \$659 million, more than double the combined fundraising of John Kerry and George W. Bush's 2004 run.

In a recent SNL skit, a McCain and Palin look-a-like, played by Tina Fey, made comments on just how expensive campaigns are.

"This past Wednesday, Barack Obama purchased airtime on three major networks. We however, can only afford QVC (a home shopping network). Isn't that right?" said Fey. "These campaigns sure are expensive" (as she fiddled with what can be assumed as a new suit label).

"They sure are" said McCain.

The Republican campaign would know. Sarah Palin spent an eye-popping \$150,000 on clothes for her and her family during a

shopping spree between Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, Macy's and Bloomingdale's at the end of October. What's interesting though is that this act went against one of McCain's policies from 2002. The McCain-Feingold law bans the use of campaign funds for purchasing clothing. The campaign has said that the clothing will be either returned or donated after the election.

ragamo "Pregiato" moccasins were his choice on the campaign trail, which included a meeting with the Dalai Lama and a stop at a discount grocery store Bethlehem, Penn.

Obama's suits retail at \$1500, but a more controversial number comes from a TV spot which aired the weekend before the election. The campaign spent an estimated \$5 million dollars

on a 30 minute infomercial which encouraged voters to support the Democratic candidate.

The ad aired on several TV networks including CBS, NBC, MSNBC, Fox, BET, TV One and Univision, the Spanish-language network. The ad even pushed back the start of a certain Major League Baseball game. The McCain campaign was quick to respond to this: "It used to be that only rain or some other

act of God could delay the World Series," said McCain. "But I guess network executives figured an Obama infomercial was close enough."

For now, the campaigning is over. The spending however, will probably not be. The candidates have been left with a mountain of responsibility—or in Palin's case, a mountain of clothes.



What's the reaction to this spending? Junior History major Abby Worland responds: "For politicians, looking good is absolutely part of the job, but men can wear black suit after black suit and no one will care, whereas women like Palin get berated for wearing too much red or not looking stylish enough," said Worland. "Why don't we look at how much McCain is spending on his shoes or Obama on his suits?"

McCain likes his shoes leather and Italian. \$520 Fer-

## Welcome to the Neighborhood

Laura Remson

Trastevere has changed in the last few weeks. Maybe you've noticed. If not, well, sniff around. You'll find out about it.

I'm talking about birds, lots of birds. European Starlings to be exact. They bring a certain something to the neighborhood. Just don't out out a welcome mat for them just yet.

Even so, the birds can't be that bad. Mozart had one as a pet. They are described as beautiful birds, with green and purple iridescent feathers that, as Jonathan Rosen of the New York Times will attest, can even, "occasionally bring down airplanes."

At least we know these birds are eating well. During the day, they feed on olives in the countryside surrounding Rome. They get back home early, right around twilight, unlike most Italians. It is right about the time I get out of class on Tuesday/Thursdays and right about rush hour.

Many tourists and first time viewers are fascinated by the starlings. Then "it" hits—the smell. As someone who was forced by a friend to watch Hitchcock's *The Birds* as a child, and then made fun of for being afraid

of birds, I'm not so fascinated.

"A bird pooped on my shoulder," said Ashley Crape, a junior sociology major from Connecticut, "Then while I was trying to get it off, another one got me on the head! I had to wear a scarf all night on my head. An Italian guy made fun of me because he thought I was pretending to be a saint."

***"Birdie, birdie,  
in the sky.  
Why'd you do  
that to my eye?  
Tastes like  
sugar, looks like  
sap. Oh my gosh,  
it's birdie..."***

Sounds like double good luck, or bad luck, depending from what side of the line you are on. Just today, one got me on the way home from class. People stared at me on the tram.

There are two theories on why the birds have come to Trastevere in the last few years. One is that there are now trained falcons that are set off to hunt the starlings by Termini, so they moved to Trastevere.

The second, if not more plausible, is that officials have installed speakers that play owl sounds near the station. As the starling's enemy, the owl sounds frighten

the birds away to Trastevere.

As migratory birds, the starlings don't stay in Rome all the time. But, thanks to global warming, they now have found the warmer Roman winters suitable, as opposed to where they once went; Sicily.

And it's not like Rome is the only place dealing with the starlings. In 1890, a Shakespeare-enthusiast in New York City wanted every bird mentioned in Shakespeare's works to live in North America. After releasing 100 of the European starlings in Central Park, the population is now estimated to about 200 million in North America.

So my friends, I leave you with a small poem. *Birdie, birdie, in the sky. Why'd you do that to my eye? Tastes like sugar, looks like sap. Oh my gosh, it's birdie...* well you know the rest. And a word of advice if you are walking through Trastevere, carry an umbrella—even when it's not raining.



## ART &amp; CULTURE SECTION

## Art Superlatives: Bello, Bellissimo...Bellini!

By Anna Bottinelli

Two years after the memorable exhibition on Antonello da Messina, the Scuderie del Quirinale has opened its doors to the works of another Renaissance artist, Giovanni Bellini.

The Venetian painter, also called "Giambellino," lived in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century and is regarded as the forerunner to Leonardo da Vinci. Considered as "the best of all painters" by Albrecht Dürer, the pre-eminent German painter and printmaker best known for his *Apocalypse* woodcuts, Bellini introduced a more systematic use of oil paint, which was already commonplace in the art of Dürer's Northern Europe. Bellini is the one who conferred to his paintings soft colours and warm atmospheres, which will later be perfected by Giorgione and Titian. Bellini is the one who gave feelings to a landscape and painted human figures in harmony with nature, and has earned widespread acclaim as Leonardo da Vinci's precursor.

The spectacular *Pesaro Altarpiece* opens the exhibition. Enriched by its original frame, it shows the Coronation of the Virgin Mary. The scene is dominated by the back of the marble throne on which the Virgin and Christ are seated. The frame within a frame creates a kaleidoscopic effect, which intrigues and compels the

observer. Four saints, typical in a "sacra conversazione" setting, are concentrated on their readings and meditations. The mix of divine and human power here is the major force of Bellini's work.

Among the many works on display, two figures of Madonna hone a spectator's understanding

which is especially visible in the face of the Baby Jesus. A similar development can be observed in the traditional style of the *Genzano Polyptych*, the human *Christ Supported by two Angels*, and the naturalistic *Resurrection*, from Staatliche Museen in Berlin. Other works of art such as the *Barbarigo Altarpiece*, the *Baptism of Christ*, for the commissioner Battista Graziani, or the *Alzano Madonna*, were of invaluable importance for the inspiration of fellow artists.

Bellini painted what he saw; nothing less and nothing more than that. This will make him subject to criticism from conservative artists, who believed in the arts as idealization and not the reproduction per se, of nature. It is this naturalistic touch, though, that always renders the viewing of Bellini's paintings as an enigmatic, breathtaking experience.

But praise must also be given to Mauro Zocchetta and his sublime exhibit design. The spectator

looks at the works of art through windows of plaster in a warm, dark-red atmosphere. Sixty of Bellini's paintings from all over the world will be on display until January 11, 2009. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!



of the creative process of Bellini's style. The *Madonna of Amsterdam* (1460) is closer to the style of Mantegna, with its solidity and sculpture-like taste; the Veronese *Madonna* (1480) exhibits an extraordinary sense of modernity,

## A Preview of Art in Rome: OCTOBER

### MARCO DELOGU – NOIR ET

**BLANC** - Black and white photographs illustrate the artists' career from the end of the '80s to the present day. Mainly portraits, the subjects are full of humanity and spans from cardinals, to Roman statues, from gypsies to jockeys, from prisons to peasants to shepherds. Opening also toward nature, Marco Delagu shows also a peculiar interest for the relationship between human beings and nature, visible in the last projects such as the two migrations and the four studies of horses.



**Date:** Until 30 November

**Location:** French Academy – Villa Medici, Via Trinità dei Monti, 1

**Museum Hours:** 11:00 am – 7:00 pm (closed Monday)

**Tickets:** full price € 8,00 (reduced price: € 7,00)

### INVENZIONE DEI FORI IMPERIALI. DEMOLIZIONE E SCAVI: 1924-1940

The exhibition wants to show the demolition inflicted on the Capitoline Hill during 1924-1940. 140 works between photographs, paintings, frescos and archaeological finds show the massive devastation of the Trajan Forum and Market, the Forum of Augustus, Caesar, and Nerva. The exhibition is meant to find a balance between desire of encouraging restorations and reminiscence of the of destruction.

**Date:** Until 23 November

**Location:** Capitoline Museums - P.zza del Campidoglio

**Museum Hours:** 9:00 am – 8:00 pm (closed Monday)



## HEADS UP!

CAREER SERVICES CENTER Lunctime Workshop Program:

### HOW TO USE LIBRARY RESOURCES TO FIND THE PERFECT INTERNSHIP / JOB Livia Piotto, Librarian

Whether you are looking for internship opportunities, preparing job applications or doing background research for an interview, you are not alone: the Library can and will help!

Wednesday November 12

Guarini Board Room

1.15 – 2.15

(pizza and drinks provided)

## Football Anyone?

By Joseph Bramanti

For Americans, sports bars are just not the same when in Italy. Sure there is a different culture here, and not everyone speaks English, but the biggest obstacle for some Americans to overcome has to be the lack of venues to watch American Sports.

Yes, anyone who really cares about his or her favorite sports team comes to realize that spending hours reading articles or checking box scores on ESPN.com just doesn't cut it, and even Gamecast can only take you so far.

Sometimes I get tired of spending my nights and early mornings repeatedly hitting the refresh button when I just really want to catch a game. Believe it or not, there actually are a few bars to go and watch American sports—and they are all Irish pubs! However, even these bars

primarily show football, by that I mean soccer. But they do often show *real* football (for Americans); and if you are really nice to the bartender or have a hot friend, they might even put on some basketball, they are:

### Mulligan's Irish Pub

Via del Boschetto 28

This pub has it all. They will put on hockey if you want. They even have darts and pool for all those aficionados of bar games.

### Finnegan's Irish Pub

Via Leonina 66

This is the most Irish of all the pubs, so they will always show soccer over football if there is a

decent game on. The staff is friendly, though, and they also have billiards.

### Scholar's Lounge

Via del Plebiscito 101

Yes, it's crowded on weekends and you see the same people there all the time, but there is a discount on drinks for John Cabot University students and it's the safest bet to watch any NFL or NCAA game that you want.

### Abbey Theatre

Via del Governo Vecchio 51

This seems to be the classiest of Irish pubs (Spike Lee came here recently to catch a game), and it's a great place to just relax, watch a game, and grab a beer, burger, and fries combo for €10.

## Middle East cont'...

Elections, it also has high expectations for what Obama can achieve and waits with great anticipation for the *change* that he has promised the American people.

As the wish list continues to grow, leaders in the Middle East are counting on him to re-establish a sense of harmony and accordance with their nations, especially after years of conflict and disagreement over the war in Iraq.

Although we mustn't forget that Obama may be restricted to domestic priorities for the time being, given the current economic crisis in the U.S., he will still be obliged to undertake the campaign pledge that defined his

candidacy: the return of U.S. troops to American soil and bringing an end to the war in Iraq.

Phil Black, a CNN correspondent reporting from Iraq described the reactions of Iraqis to Obama's victory as "glowing in their praise for the newly-elected president," calling him "intelligent, of good character, and a vast improvement on the current president." Iraqis feel he will change American policy in the country, although only subtly. There was also great surprise among Iraqi politicians upon Obama's win; despite opinion polls, many had predicted a McCain triumph until the end. Hoshiyar Zebari, the Iraqi foreign minister stated that although Obama's election was a great success and an enormous change for the American people, as far as Iraq is concerned, "I don't believe

there will be any changes overnight," he stated. Zebari and other Iraqi politicians alike, however, feel that they can work with Obama and support his policy of pulling out of Iraq—just not until the country is ready.

Meanwhile, relieved by the outcome of the elections in the United States, leaders among other Middle Eastern countries, particularly in the Israel/Palestine region, are hopeful yet equally wary about whether or not Obama will help alleviate tensions in the area.

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas passed on good wishes to Obama and at the same time insisted that he speed up means for reaching an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. Furthermore, he hopes that the peace efforts in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will remain at (cont' p.9)

Middle East cont'...

the top of the list of priorities for the U.S, as it is inescapably a key to world peace.

Concurrently, Hamas, the Palestinian Political party currently holding a majority of the seats in the Palestinian national Authority, hopes that Obama will address the Palestinian issue in a fair and honest way: "The Palestinian question is the mother of all issues in the region, and concerns 1.5 billion Muslims all over the world," stated a Hamas spokesperson. In an Interview with Sky News, Hamas' senior political leader Khaled Mashaal said that they

are ready to hold talks with President Obama and the new U.S. administration; "If the American administration wants to deal with the region, Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, they have

Livni, leader of the ruling Kadima party, stated that "the people of Israel felt he [Obama] is a man who is deeply committed to Israel's security and peace."

Now the question holds:  
**Can Obama deliver?**

no other option than to deal with Hamas."

Israel hopes to continue its unshakable relationship with the U.S. and is looking forward to a bright future; Recalling Obama's visit to Israel in July, Tzipi

W i t h Obama's win comes hope for better relations and cooperation between the United States and the rest of the world. Some call it the beginning of a new era for America, for the world and for the black race. Now the question holds: Can Obama deliver? From this point forward, Obama will no longer be judged upon his words and the power of his oratory, but by his actions and the results.

The Most Surprising Leader Reaction Statement to Obama's victory (or maybe *not* so surprising?...):

*"Obama has everything needed in order to reach deals with him: He's young, handsome and even tanned."*

- Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.



## REACTIONS TO OBAMA'S PRESIDENTIAL VICTORY

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### *Quotes from JCU Professors & Students...*

"This election is important on a global spectrum because it was as if the U.S. took an active step in a direction that not many nations can say they have taken or attempted to take. The election of Barack Obama as president not only inspires members of other nations, but it also legitimizes and justifies American ideals as they stand today."

-Rose Jeremie, Degree Seeking Student

"I am really excited because it is the first time I really feel involved in an election that isn't for my own country of Boliva. Somehow Barack Obama made me feel that I wasn't an outsider but that I was included in this process."

-Lucia Campero, Study Abroad Student

"I think we now have a leader who truly represents the people and their views, and in electing him as our president we've finally taken steps to get our country back on track and in good standing with the rest of the world. "

-Anita Dewan, Study Abroad Student

"This election is about the civil rights movement, the goals of which will not be realized until America really becomes a post-racial society. But the election and reality of an African-American president is a triumph of monumental dimensions. As Obama invoked in his victory speech, Americans of all races and backgrounds, old, young, rich, poor, gay and straight, disabled and not-disabled are one. I think this was a part of the euphoria that many of us felt on Wednesday morning. That an ugly, horrible wall that we've been only chipping away at for decades had finally came crashing down."

-Political Science Professor Pamela Harris

“When I was 20 years old, about the age of most JCU students today, I watched the map of the United States fill up with red as Ronald Reagan won state after state against President Jimmy Carter. The reaction of my friends and I was grim - frankly, we knew that our futures had just been hijacked. When I graduated college, in 1982, the economy was in the midst of its worst recession since the 1930s. While graduates today will also face a very bleak economy, the difference is that your generation has reason to hope, where my generation had reason to either despair or to become cynical...”

“....For the first time since 1963, America has leadership. Not snake oil salesmen who tell us that our main enemies are one or another segment of our fellow Americans - Welfare Queens, Gays who want to marry, illegal immigrants or whomever, but real leadership that can provide us with a sense of national purpose and a common project. Further, since the economic crisis is also an opportunity, look to President Obama - that wonderful phrase that still takes getting used to - to push for massive investments in modernizing the American economy and society - a green New Deal that provides work for construction workers, manufacturing workers, salespeople, university researchers, scientists, engineers, technicians. Look for an expansion of the Federal government and of agencies and associations and NGOs that work with government sponsored projects. It is a good time to go to Washington to look for jobs and start a career. The opposite was true in 1980...”

“...The era of identity politics, of postmodern fragmentation and of dominance by the far right through wedge issues, of the lunacy that there is such a thing as "markets" that can better govern the affairs of humans than humans themselves using reason and democracy, has given way to a new era which will see the reconstruction of a new national narrative that can unify and move us in the direction of progressive democratic reform. A new international narrative will sooner or later arise as well to replace "globalization" with its myth that no one is in charge of human affairs and that no one needs to be, that things take care of themselves through buying and selling. A new humanism may arise as the new intellectual fashion, one not based on Western Eurocentrism, but on what the late poet and statesman Aime Cesaire prophesied: "And there is room for all at the rendezvous of victory".”

-Excerpts pulled from a larger statement by **Head of Political Science Dept, Professor Steven Colatrella**

Full statement is available on *The Matthew Online*

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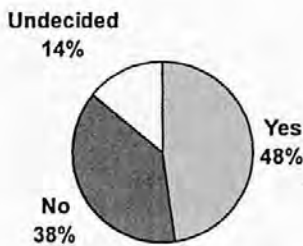
***More statements to come in the next issue of The Matthew!***

## The Matthew's Marco Poll-o: HOUSING IN ROME

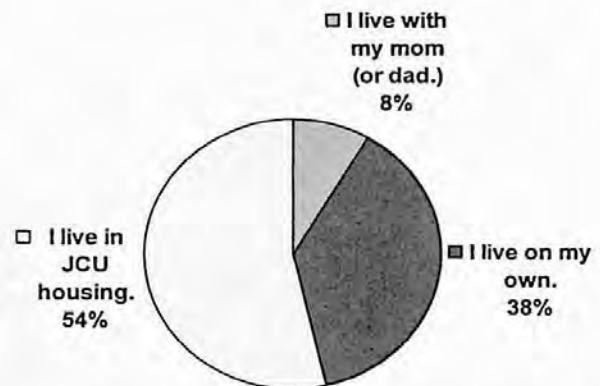
**Marco Polo** (1254 – 1324) was a Venetian trader and explorer who gained fame for his world-wide travels, recorded in the book *Il Milione*. Polo, together with his father and his uncle, was one of the first Westerners to travel the Silk Road to China. (Wikipedia!)

“**Marco Poll-O**” is a “question and answer” survey to see what the JCU students are thinking about different issues. This week's questionnaire investigated “Housing in Rome.”

**Would you recommend JCU housing to incoming students?**



**Where do you live?**



### ATTN: Degree-Seeking Students!

The Housing Office is accepting RA applicants for the Spring 2009 semester.

### RA Open House

Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

1:15 p.m.

G.K.1.2.

Applications can be picked up at the JCU Housing Office

**DEADLINE: Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 a.m. midnight!**

### Top 10 Housing Hassles:

1. **Location** (Sketchy and Far, “Bum Central”)
2. **Expense** (OVERpriced)
3. **Utilities** (No Hot Water or Internet)
4. **BAD Roommates** (Enough said...)
5. **Overcrowded** (#4 + #5 = DISASTER)
6. **Appliances** (Missing frying pans and dryers)
7. **Strict RA.s** (Someone has to enforce the rules.)
8. **Ridiculous Fees** (“I swear I didn’t do it...”)
9. **Crazy Land Ladies** (Negotiation is USE-LESS.)
10. **Cleanliness** (Not everyone lives with their

## Jcu Welfare, Unfair?

Just like you guys, I too felt the nice, warm, almost fuzzy feeling, as I ran my eyes across the plethora of pantry foods spread, so carefully, across the kitchen table that first day I arrived in my JCU Welfare apartment. Trying Nutella on those funny miniature toast crackers was enough to get me in a good mood, and the sign below my TV promising satellite reception mid-September had made me ecstatic. Surprisingly, WiFi was available in the apartments, despite John Cabot University's website saying otherwise, and lucky for me, I brought my laptop. Yes, JCU Welfare is good at first impression, and can make any fresh-faced college kid studying in Italy even happier.

Or so I thought.

Like so many abroad and degree-seeking students, the happiness I felt upon my arrival began wearing thin as the weeks went on.

The satellite TV that was promised to come in Septem-

ber hasn't arrived yet, the WiFi speed is faster than a turtle, all the appliances have fallen apart with normal wear and tear, not to mention it's becoming clear that my apartment was meant to house five, and not seven students.

### Attention Study Abroad and Degree-Seeking Students:

The Matthew staff knows what's up with housing, and we're here to say we're not afraid to mention it. We've got your back.

A survey conducted by our team of investigators shows my story is relatable to nearly half of the student body.

Some of you kids have bed bugs, and are experiencing unannounced fumigations, while other students are living miles away from campus and are seriously inconvenienced by the commute. The unresponsiveness from the JCU Welfare landlords doesn't help much, and I'm sure it has taken about a week before your problems are looked into. Add the authoritative communication seen in our inboxes from JCU Welfare the first month we arrived; concerning meticulous sub-

jects like clothes on the floor and suddenly JCU Welfare has embodied the character of the mean, unfair, and unresponsive landlord often seen on TV sitcoms.

Breaking any type of JCU Welfare rule is met with a considerably lavish fine along with the automatic revoking of your deposit—uh, if we were ever going to get those deposits back.

What can be done? After all, a majority of the students surveyed are fed up.

We feel that the more JCU Welfare practices are openly talked about and recognized the better the outcome will be.

Let's not mistake the power of a completely active, unhappy, and loud student body in the university system. Our voices speak volumes and are heard, despite the unacknowledgment from the administration.

Should we protest? Should we boycott the 100 euro deposit system? After all, they won't deny housing if every incoming student objects to it. The ball is in your court JCU students, and we're here, reporting it.

## TOP 5 WORST Housing Experiences:

Here are the stories of a few unfortunate souls...and you thought you had it bad...

- 1) "I had a crazy neighbor who smeared dog \$#! on my front door."
- 2) "I found BED BUGS where I was sleeping. The management then had the nerve to start exterminating without any warning."
- 3) "Our land lady accused us of destroying the electrical outlets when the problem was that there were badly installed in the first place. Also, it took a month to get the land lady to let us sign the contract because we were 'children.'"
- 4) "I had to stay in another apartment within the first week because they needed to fumigate. I moved back in, and the fleas were *still* there, so I moved out AGAIN to a completely new apartment two months later. I hear that the fleas are still there."
- 5) "The girls were out of control. I had many things stolen and the housing staff never helped me. There were many electrical problems with the apartment, as well."

## Exploring the Conflict: JCU's International organizations Class Goes to Cyprus

By Riley Yuhas

From Thursday October 23 to Monday October 27, 2008 Professor Federigo Argentieri led members of his International Organizations course deep into the tensions surrounding the international, political, ethno-religious conflict in Cyprus. Participants in the trip, which was organized with the great assistance of student Marynna Saatdjian, included both visiting and degree-seeking students.

Upon our arrival in Cyprus we met with Ms. Anna Papasavva, the Director of the Dae-dolos Institute of Geopolitics in Cyprus, Professor Yiorghos Leventis, a member of the negotiations process between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Leventis spent the duration of the trip guiding us around Cyprus.

On Friday morning we had the opportunity to visit the University of Cyprus and its library, which includes an extensive journal collection and media facilities for the blind and visually impaired. Subsequently, Professor Leventis gave us a detailed lecture on the Cyprus conflict, explaining the roots of the conflict, starting from the ancient Greek settlement during the middle second century B.C.E. and explaining how Cyprus had been a victim of greater power politics and rivalries over time.

The most exciting part of the trip, however, was the visit to the UN Headquarters in Cyprus, which most people know as the United Nations Protected Area. In the United Nations Headquarters we met with Mr. Wlodek Cibor, who is Senior Advisor to the Nations Peace Keeping Force

in Cyprus (UNIFYCP). Mr. Cibor explained the breakdown of the conflict, the neutral third party role of the UN on the island, as well as the current state of affairs in Cyprus and where he sees the future of the country heading. From our discussion, the students gained another more neutral, international perspective of the turmoil surrounding the country's dismemberment, as well as a sense of optimism regarding the resolution of the conflict.

We left our mark at the Headquarters, signing all of our names in



their impressive guest book, in close proximity to the names of ambassadors and dignitaries from all over the world. By the time we arrived back at the hotel, we met up with some of the students from the University of Cyprus. They were generous enough to spend their Friday night showing us around the town and kept us entertained for much of the evening.

On Saturday morning we met Italian Ambassador to Cyprus, Luigi Napolitano who provided a more international and European Union (EU) perspective to the conflict that we had not touched on in great detail thus far during our trip. We discussed the negotiation process and the work that is

**Cyprus cont'...**

underway to form a government based on dual federalism, which would be the first of its kind in history. The Ambassador also emphasized the serious difficulties that still lie ahead, and the role the international community has played (both good and bad) and will play in the conflict as negotiations progress.

Following our meeting, we regrouped and ventured off to the so-called "Green line," where we crossed from the Greek side through the buffer zone, which was a very bizarre roughly 20-yard stretch of abandoned rundown buildings, to the Turkish side where we were issued 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' (TRNC) 'visas' for the day. Walking down the streets on the TRNC side of Nicosia, one could not help but notice the stark cultural and economic differences between the two sides of the Green line. We seemed to have gone from a more economically stable Mediterranean culture, to an economically struggling Middle Eastern culture all in a matter of minutes. We then headed towards Kyrenia, one of the most symbolic and historic places of the Turkish occupied territory in Cyprus.

Along the way we drove through the Turkish portion of Cyprus, passing the enormous TRNC flag, seemingly engraved across the side of a mountain (which is also very visible from the Greek side in Nicosia). When we reached Kyrenia, we made our way around the castle into the picturesque little town perched on the Mediterranean, surrounded by fleets of charming old boats. Our group dispersed into several directions, some went off to search out the Aga Cafer Mosque built in 1598, while others explored the town until the sun set.



Professor Yiorghos Leventis (L) and JCU Professor Federico Argentieri (R)

On our last day we joined Professor Leventis for a tour of the southern coast of Cyprus, which included the Neolithic settlement of Choirokiatia, the Ayios Minas Monastery, some ancient Greek ruins on the southern coast, and the Kolossi Castle. Our last evening in Cyprus was spent soaking in as much of the town of Nicosia as we could before heading back to Rome.

Following a weekend spent learning about the island's history, geography, and culture, and a chance to appreciate its beauty, we left on Monday morning with a better understanding of the conflict and with a hope for its resolution in the near future.



JCU Students crossing the buffer zone between Southern Greek part of Cyprus to the Northern Turkish Side



JCU student Ximena Alberttis with an Argentinean Peacekeeper at the UN Protected Area in Cyprus

**HEADS UP!**

**Join S.T.A.N.D!**

[Students Taking Action Now-Darfur]

The mission of STAND is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the nature, limits and characteristics of genocide.

The Main Goals of the club are:

- Raising Awareness
- Advocacy
- Fundraising

Stand meets every **Monday** at **5pm** in room **G.K.1.1**

Contact :

rjermie@johncabot.edu for more information

HEADS UP!



Upcoming JCU Soccer Games:

**LADY GLADIATORS vs. TOR VERGATA**

Tuesday, November 11 at 21:00

Bettini Field

Via quinto publicio

Bus leaves from P.za Trilussa at 19:45

**AUR vs. GLADIATORS**

Wednesday, November 12 at 21:15

AUR Field: Via della Vasca Navale 100

Bus leaves from P.za Trilussa at 19:45

The Gladiators need your support!!



If you would like to contribute to The Matthew, look for the posters advertising meetings around school or contact Sonia Malpeso at: [smalpeso@johncabot.edu](mailto:smalpeso@johncabot.edu)

**Check Out The Matthew Online!:**

<http://thematthew.typepad.com>