

JCU ScholarShip

The Matthew (2009 Feb 24)

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THE MATTHEW

The student newspaper of John Cabot University based in the heart of Rome.

VOLUME II, ISSUE II

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

International conference held at JCU

By Rose Jeremie

ROME- This past weekend JCU student government hosted its Second Annual International Student Government Conference (ISGC), that brought together a diverse group of English-speaking Universities in Europe and the Middle East to discuss how to improve their universities.

Participating universities included American University of Kuwait, American University in Bulgaria, Franklin College in Switzerland, Glion Institute of Higher Education, Les Roches International School, and the American University of Rome.

As stated on the ISGC website, "the primary focus of the International Student

Government Conference is to foster methods of cooperation among the student governments of each representative institution." The ISGC covered a variety of topics including

the role of student government, sustaining progress accomplished by student government, incentives and team-building within student organizations, and working for their student constituency.



The conference had the foremost American perspective on student government as head of the American Student Government Association, Butch Oxendine spoke to students via Skype. Mr. Oxendine said that the primary role student governments should take is advocating

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Stimulus Bill signed into law

By Alessandro Lanuto

NEW YORK - In an effort to prevent a deepening of the recession that has crippled economies across the globe, President Barack Obama traveled to Denver, Colorado February 17 and signed the \$787 billion stimulus package into law – known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The signing comes after Congress approved the package last week February 13 where, despite efforts at bipartisanship and compromise, approval came along party lines as no House Republicans broke rank to vote in favor for the measure. The Senate was similarly divided with three Republicans siding with the Democrats

In remarks delivered at the signing ceremony at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the President sought to lessen expectations of a quick fix, as he would not pretend "that today marks the end of our economic problems." He acknowledged

"this does not constitute all that we have to do to turn our economy around."

The President did, however, seek to strike an optimistic tone. He noted that the day marked "the beginning of what we need to do to create jobs for Americans scrambling in the way of layoffs." The White House expects money to begin flowing in about a month, although many economists believe it is too late to have an impact on 2009 because unemployment has risen to 7.6 percent.

The plan is aimed at saving or creating 3.5 million jobs while boosting consumer spending and rebuilding infrastructure through tax cuts and federal spending on public works projects, education, health care, energy, and technology. Extended unemployment benefits and aid with health care coverage will be provided, in addition to more food stamps and job

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In This Issue...



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TURN TO PAGE 9 FOR ELUANA CONTROVERSY



READ THE ITALIAN



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JUMP 4 AFRICA

By Gianluca Pesce

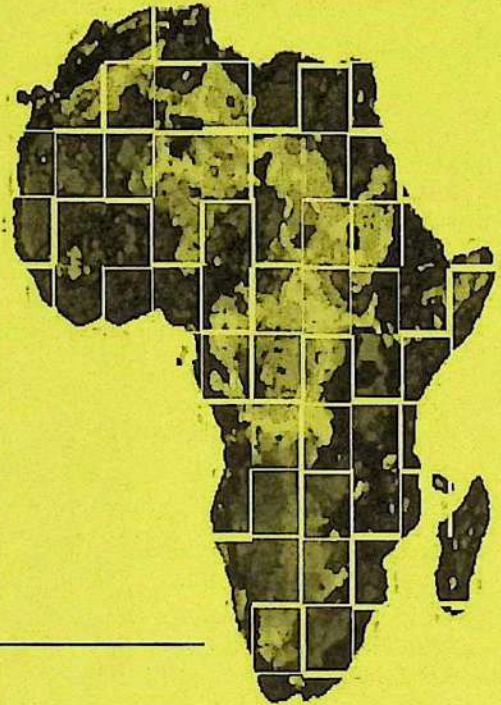
Jump for a noble cause. Jump for Africa, a student organized foundation (sponsored by JCU Student Government) is raising money for the Buduburam Liberian Refugee Camp in Ghana.

This past January, five JCU students spent two weeks on the American University of Rome trip to Ghana, administered by Professor Alessandro Signorini, where they had the unique opportunity to study social marketing while experiencing life in a developing country.

While in Africa, the students were inspired to undertake Jump for Africa, a project that will help give JCU students the opportunity to use the concepts and theories they learned and directly apply them to real life situations.

Jump for Africa will be hosting two fundraising events: The Rock Concert on March 3, featuring last semester's Battle of the Bands winner and a photo exposition on on March 12, which will be held at Casa delle Donne, on Via san Francesco di Sales 1/a. This event will spotlight some of the wonders and realities of the situation in Ghana, accompanied with a live African performance.

Look for posters with more details regarding upcoming events around JCU and Trastevere and for more information, contact Gianluca Pesce at stugov@johncabot.edu.



Interest in business club wanes

By Sonia Malpeso

According to The Princeton Review's list of the ten most popular college majors, the number one spot goes to business administration. With business being the most popular major at JCU – 53 business majors are enrolled this semester - one can only wonder why the Business Club has only five members.

"Students have no interest in extra-curricular activities," said Business Club President Dafina Lalevska. Excluding the small fraction of the student body who is enthusiastically involved in school activities, such as Student Government, Model United Nations, and the Italian Culture Club, the majority of JCU students seem uninterested.

"With several members expected to graduate this May, the future for the Business Club looks bleak," said Lalevska. Since the club was started in Fall 2007, Lalevska and her dedicated board members

have worked tirelessly to keep the club running and their projects alive.

Alongside the traditional fundraisers and second-hand book sales the club organizes each semester, the Business Club will host a Virtual Stock Exchange Game based off the website MarketWatch (www.vse.marketwatch.com). The game provides students with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the real world's market trends and patterns. The student who gains the most profit by the end of the semester receives a money voucher of their preference.

The club will be initiating a new tutoring center for business majors. Despite the existence of math, writing, and Italian tutoring offered at JCU, a fairly significant area of JCU's academics seems to be left out of the program: "Who do finance and accounting students turn to when they need a hand?" said Lalevska. So the Business Club has taken the matter into their own hands and is now of-

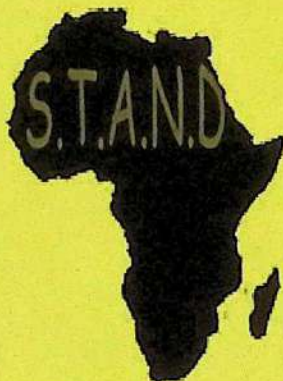
fering assistance to students, appointment-based and free of charge.

What incentives do students like Lalevska have in dedicating their time and energy to activities such as fundraising and volunteering? Participating students do not receive payment or credits, but they do gain vital experience and preparation for the stresses that will accompany them throughout their careers.

So whether you are looking to give back to your community, for a taste of the real world, or to boost your resume', joining an organization like the Business Club is where you will find it.

The Business Club is currently in the process of recruiting students to take over key positions for next semester. If you are interested in learning more about the club, you can contact them at jclubbusinessclub@johncabot.edu or join the group at their weekly meetings, held Tuesdays at 1:15pm in room G.K.G.1.

Help Fund The Dream



Do you enjoy running long distances? Maybe even 26 miles? If so....
Run the Rome Marathon March 22 on behalf of the STAND club.
Spread awareness about the genocide in Darfur and get a great
work-out all at the same time!

For more information contact
Rose Jeremie at:
stand@johncabot.edu

 **MARATONA
di ROMA¹⁵**
AceaElectrabel

Faculty briefings continue

By **Cristiana Rein**

JCU faculty members continue to stimulate with interesting topics of discussion.

Professor Carlos Dews led a faculty lecture February 16 on Harper Lee's classic, "To Kill a Mocking Bird." He described the historical steps taken in the United States toward racial equality and the effect the novel had on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Professor Dews concluded that even though the United States has been through a lot and racism continues to be a hot topic, the country has made considerable progress with the recent election of an African-American president.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" de-

picts a story of a white southern lawyer who defends an innocent African-American farmer in a rape trial. It is known for depicting the entire situation through the innocent eyes of the 6 year old narrator.

The novel is still taught today in American high schools, and it is one of the most popular books of the 20th century with 30 million copies sold by 2008.

A cultural project set to take place in fall 2009 was also announced at the lecture. The program, called "The Big Read Rome" is funded by a grant from the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts and will allow JCU to have programs throughout October 2009 to encourage the English-speaking community of Rome to read and discuss Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird."

ISGC

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for student issues. He stressed that in order for student governments to help make their universities a better place, they have to share the concerns their fellow students have with the trustees and the administration. He also emphasized the importance of student governments as "the liaison between the administration and the students," and recognition from both sides is essential for a progressive student government organization.

JCUBusiness Professor Pietro Paganini delivered a motivational

speech during the opening ceremony. He highlighted the concept that student government leaders are the leaders of today. Student government is a landmark organization because of its ability to demonstrate motivation, passion and commitment. He said student government members should make it so students understand that they exist first and foremost to serve the needs of the student body. Student governments are the primary medium for student change and they must be taken advantage of in order to bring about that change.

Upcoming JCU Faculty Briefing:

Brunella Antomarini:
*Theatre of Knowledge:
Representations of
Theories*

Date: Wednesday, Feb 25
Time: 1:15pm
Place: G.K.1.1

Sponsored by Student Government

The conference demonstrated the capacity of student governments to enter into cross-cultural borders for the promotion of the interest of all students. President Franco Pavoncello summarized the conference very well when he stated that "this International Student Government Conference allows for active members to perfect change, become true participants of their university, illustrate the value of grass-roots organization and highlight the value of student organizations in general."



Picasso at the Vittoriano: a Colorful Pastime

By Anna Bottinelli
Cultural Correspondent

The exhibition *Picasso 1917-1937, L'Arlecchino dell'arte*, presented at the Complesso del Vittoriano since October 10 2008, ended February 8, 2009. Curated by Yve-Alain Bois, Art History Department Head Professor at the School of Historical Studies, Princeton, NJ, the result is both disappointing and intriguing. Even though the setting was mediocre, as most of the exhibitions at the Vittoriano are, the theme of the exhibition was very engaging. In fact, the ambivalent title refers to both Picasso's trend of depicting Arlecchino (one of the famous Italian Carnival masks, famous for its colourful custom and complex language) and to his extreme multifaceted style as a painter. Like Arlecchino, Picasso, is able to change identity, wearing someone else's costume or, for that matter, artistic style.



Pablo Picasso, *L'Italienne*, 1917. Fondazione Collezione E. G. Bührle

From a Neoclassical style to a Cubist one, from colours to pencil drawings, from theatre scenographies and costumes to still lifes, Picasso never tires the spectator. The artist destroys the concept of the evolution of art, and takes on a continuous experimentation which allows him to embrace, but at the same time transform, anything he wants. In this respect, it was the perfect the choice to open the exhibition with the *Arlecchino* and *L'Italienne* in representing a full length figure- neither of which can hardly be attributed to the same artist.

Overall, it was an exhibition worth seeing. But for those who saw the exhibition *Picasso and his Master* at the Grand Palais in Paris currently on display, will agree that there is no comparison.

DARWIN 1809-2009



Two hundred years after Darwin's birth, the Palazzo delle Esposizioni dedicates to the scientist the biggest exhibition ever realized in his name. Here, the great theories of evolution and natural selection are explained together with experimental research of the present. The exhibition has been organized with the help of the American Museum of Natural History (New York), the Museum of Science (Boston), The Field Museum (Chicago), The Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto), and The Natural History Museum (London.)

Until March 8, 2009
Villa Medici (French Academy) – Viale Trinità dei Monti, 1 (Spanish Steps)
Tuesday to Sunday 11:00am to 7:00pm
Tickets: full price € 8,00 reduced price € 5,00



BERTRAND LAVIER



Past and present fuse together in an exhibition meant to show the artistic journey of the French artist. About 40 works of art are on display, including the sensual, red, and flashy *Mouth*, at the bottom of the stairway. Explicitly inspired to Duchamp's ready-made, Lavier shapes his approach around the analysis of the different aspects of language. It is a must see even if you are not a fan of contemporary art because you will certainly enjoy the Medicean Villa, the Italian-style garden, and the incredible view of Rome!

Until May 3, 2009
Palazzo delle Esposizioni – Via Nazionale, 194
Tuesday to Sunday 10:00am to 8:00pm
Friday and Saturday 10:00 am to 10:30 pm
Tickets: full price € 12,50 reduced price € 10,00

WORLD & ROME



Stimulus

Continued from page 1

training opportunities.

The funds that states will receive in order to prevent cuts in aid to schools and local governments come as California announces that it will layoff up to 20,000 state employees.

Other provisions of the plan include billions of dollars for road and bridge construction, mass transit, high-speed rail, and national parks. Additionally, middle income and wealthy tax-payers will be spared from tax increases, while tax cuts will be provided to others in the form of \$400 for single wage earners, and \$800 for couples. College students, poor families, and people who make their homes more energy efficient will also get breaks, the AP reports.

The package carries considerable criticism. House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) denounced the plan saying the President made clear that "this was about jobs," adding that "It has turned into nothing more than spending, spending, and more spending."

Mr. Obama has not ruled out the possibility of yet another stimulus package if necessary. While he said the plan will put Americans back to work in critical areas that its citizens need, he also hopes "this investment will ignite our imagination once more" so as to "make our economy stronger, and our nation more secure, and our planet safer for our children."

Carnevale!

By Federica Nuzzolese

'Tis the season to stay indoors! Why? Every February there is a tradition here in Italy called "Carnevale".

Carnevale is a festival season that takes place immediately before the Christian holiday Lent. It is known as Mardi Gras in the US and generally consists of parades, drinking, and eating lots of food.

Here in Italy, children mix three ingredients together: eggs, flour, and shaving cream. With these concoction, they hide near trees, bushes, cars, or pubs and throw them at people on the street for fun.

Their main targets are elderly people and women because they like to aim for targets with more hair. This is a traditional prank that has been going on in Italy for a long time. Don't



worry, though, this event is purely innocent. But if you do go out, watch your back.

Hair stylists are especially busy this month, so why don't you make an appointment beforehand if you really want to experience Carnevale!

Chavez here to stay

By Silvia Cavasola

The streets of Caracas, Venezuela, were packed with happy faces February 15, as Hugo Chavez's supporters took to the streets to celebrate the victory of the referendum allowing for infinite re-election to the Venezuelan presidency.

President Chavez appeared on the Balcón del Pueblo shortly after the referendum verdict had been made official. He announced the results constituted a "victory of the people" and "a victory of the revolution."

President Chavez has been talking about a constitutional amend-

ment to remove the limits of eligibility to presidency since he started his second six-year mandate in 2007. Initially, the referendum was outvoted

by an organized opposition front because it was placed in a larger context of constitutional reforms. This time the re-election referendum was submitted on its own.

Opposition parties responded with chants referring Chavez to an authoritarian ruler. There are claims that the 54 percent

majority that voted in favor of the referendum was swayed by Chavez's intensive propaganda campaign.



Where to watch Oscar-nominated films:

By Michael Natali

For those interested in seeing any of the five films nominated for the "Best Picture" category this year, being thousands of miles away from Hollywood will not prove to be an issue. All of the films are currently being shown in cinemas in centro and here are a few that are easily accessible on linea A on the metropolitana.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button is the story of a man who only grows younger in age, starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. It can be seen in its original English format with Italian subtitles at the intimate Nuovo Olimpia right off of VIA IN LUCINA. Metro stop: Spagna.

Frost/Nixon recounts the series of controversial David Frost interviews of the former president after his resignation, and stars Frank Langella and Michael Sheen. It's being shown at the Metropolitan on VIA DEL CORSO, also in its original format, and just steps from Piazza del Popolo. Metro stop: Flaminio.

Milk is the story of San Francisco's Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in America, and stars best actor winner Sean Penn and James Franco. It's being shown at the Quattro Fontane cinema, on VIA DELLE QUATTRO FONTANE, dubbed in Italian. Metro Stop: Barberini.

The Reader tells the story of a man who looks back on his past affair with an older woman who is currently being charged with war crimes that she committed in Germany during World War II. It stars best actress winner Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes and is also playing at the Metropolitan in its original version. Metro stop: Flaminio.

Slumdog Millionaire, best picture of the year recipient, is the story of a disadvantaged teen from a Mumbai slum who is accused of cheating while on the Indian show *Who Wants to be A Millionaire?* It stars Dev Patel and Anil Kapoor and is being shown at the Fiamma theater, on VIA LEONIDA BISSOLATI, dubbed in Italian. Metro stop: Barberini.

JCU students getting by

By Brian Schepis

College is expensive, especially with the financial crisis, but most JCU students seem relatively untouched by the current economic problems.

For the past six months stock markets have plummeted to record lows, tuition costs have skyrocketed, and loan providers have closed their doors. If students are even able to obtain a loan, they enter the workforce with a pile of debt and are subjected to financial enslavement for years.

Applications for federal aid have increased by 10 percent since last year according to the Department of Education, and many have turned to federal student loans as private-based loans have become scarce.

Some schools have attacked the problem drastically. The George Washington University in Washington DC, one of the most expensive universities with a yearly tuition cost of \$53,000, increased their allocation to student financial aid by \$8 million last semester, and there are talks of increasing it even further. However, this is paralleled by the increase in tuition costs.

"Educating is expensive when you consider all of the faculty, staff and faculties that are required," said Dr. Mary Merva, Professor of Economics and Dean of Academic Affairs at the John Cabot

University. "As with all universities, we are being careful."

Just recently, JCU expanded its scholarship opportunities for new degree seeking students from Europe. "For students in the economic situation, JCU provides scholarships and work-study," said Dr. Merva. "We are a small school and we do our best to provide opportunities for students."

"It bothers me so much," says Italian Freshman Davide Minotti, "Without my scholarship it would be very difficult for me to continue studying, but with it, apart from books, there are little costs."

JCU is relatively expensive to most universities in Rome, as most are publicly funded.

"I haven't noticed any big concerns by students," said Minotti, "Many JCU students are well-off financially, so they don't have to worry about it."

Several study-abroad students commented that by sticking to cheap means of transport, such as RyanAir, they haven't had a problem visiting Europe this semester.

"The excitement of exploring ideas and questioning our world is something that can survive any crisis," said Merva. "You only need curiosity and the desire to explore - and that is always free."

Guarini Institute presents:

ITALY AGAINST ITSELF
Alexander Stille – San Paolo Professor of
International Journalism, Columbia University

Time: 6:30pm

Date: Wednesday Feb 25

Place: Aula Magna

Reception to follow



L'Italiano Menefreghista

By Diana Mastrodomenico

In una pagina del Corriere della Sera di qualche anno fa, N. Ammaniti asseriva provocatoriamente: "Il nostro è un paese disgregato, sgrammaticato, popolato di persone senza passato e senza futuro".

Condividendo tale opinione, la reputo oggi sin troppo benevola. Ammaniti, in quella che si propone di essere una sentenza irrevocabile, preserva del millantato paese una zona

franca, la parentesi di un presente possibile che è limbo per coloro ai quali passato e futuro non sono concessi.

Alla luce di un'odierna realtà che si fa portavoce di un individualismo sfrenato, di un'autistica omertà culturale e socio-comunitaria, lo stesso presente è inevitabilmente negato. Siamo la società di ciechi predetta da Saramago, la sovraesposizione agli impulsi mediatici ha vaccinato la nostra coscienza critica, l'ha resa immune allo stupore, alla meraviglia e allo sdegno. Come annoiati automobilisti lungo la strada, rallentiamo innanzi ad un macabro incidente e osserviamo morbosamente: meritiamo la nostra catabasi. E allora ci si continui pure a illudere che i nostri superficiali dinieghi siano frutto di un baccanale organizzato, si perpetui nella retorica buonista e quella pseudo critica, fintamente interessata. Si parli anche del diritto all'eutanasia, della crisi economica, dell'inettitudine di questo o quel premier, della costituzione obsoleta e di riforme sociali innovative. Ma non ci si scordi alla sera di mostrarsi

telespettatori ubbidienti, e guardare i reality; non si provi a nutrire interesse per episodi e casi d'attualità che non siano quelli sottilmente imposti dalle forze mediatiche; non ci si spinga al di là del proprio naso; non si formino idee nuove che non siano critiche alle attuali, ci si cimenti anzi nella critica della critica, è il modo migliore per seppellire, argomentandole, le prime argomentazioni.

L'uomo moderno non è più l'homo economicus delle ideologie, né l'inetto est-europeo. Siamo la civiltà della contraddizione compiaciuta, la cui onnipresenza sociale cela, mistificandola, la profonda assenza spirituale, e culturale.

Ogni uomo ha la propria isola, ancora, ogni uomo è isola di se stesso, e si crogiola nell'idea di un atollo immaginario, naufrago della propria esistenza, fedele non più al cielo, e non ancora alla terra. Nascondendoci nelle crepe dell'ovvietà, attendiamo trepidamente l'era in cui al commento passivo subentrerà il silenzio. Solo allora potremo tacere e forse, inaspettatamente, pensare.

Crisi per Benedetto XVI

By Silvia Cavasola

C'è crisi, all'interno dello Stato Vaticano: difficile negarlo. I sintomi sono apparenti; li vediamo spuntare come funghi giorno dopo giorno sulle pagine della stampa italiana ed internazionale, in un tam-tam mediatico che va avanti ormai da settimane.

Un giorno è la notizia dell'intenzione di reintrodurre la messa in latino; il giorno dopo è l'affiorare di scandali di pedofilia clericale; il giorno ancora seguente sono le accuse di eccessiva ingerenza negli affari politici del governo della Repubblica.

Insomma, la Chiesa di Benedetto XVI si trova oggi nel bel mezzo di una crisi che - così dicono gli istituti di statistica - sta avendo l'effetto

di rendere sempre più silenziosa e desolata la celebre piazza dell'Angelus. Ma le conseguenze di questa crisi non si misurano solo in base ai numeri di pellegrini in Piazza

San Pietro durante le udienze pontificie: il problema è più ampio.

Io penso che Papa Ratzinger sta avendo sempre maggiori problemi a far rispettare la sua voce, ed a farla risuonare sopra a tutte le altre nel nome della linea ufficiale decisa in



photo by Fatema Barsari

sede di Concilio Vaticano II: quasi che all'aumentare della spinta papale in senso tradizionalista, aumentino anche le correnti deviazioniste e libertarie da parte di gruppi clericali che avevano fino a poco prima rispettato senza (eccessivi) clamori la parola del Summus Pontifex.

I Giovani senza valori

By Arianna Catti de Gasperi

Hanno ragione gli anziani quando rimproverano i giovani a causa della loro troppa libertà e maleducazione? Gli episodi di violenza minorile cui assistiamo oggi giorno sono diventati normalità, oppure sono solo eventi sporadici che non rispecchiano la realtà di una comunità molto più vasta?

Purtroppo, a volte, atti di violenza sono commessi anche da coloro da cui non ci aspettiamo tanto odio, da chi dovrebbe essere considerato "innocente", specialmente in un mondo in cui guerre di territori, di fazioni e di credenze religiose fanno già tanto discutere.

Un'ennesima manifestazione violenta è scaturita a Chioggia (Venezia) lunedì pomeriggio presso la Scuola Media "Silvio Pellico", dove uno studente di 13 anni ha accoltellato alla schiena il suo insegnante di violino di 37 anni, Fabio Paggioro.

All'insegnante è venuto in soccorso un collega che stava nella stanza accanto e che ha chiamato l'ambulanza. Il giorno successivo - quando anche il Ministro dell'Istruzione Mariastella Gelmini ha chiamato per verificare l'accaduto - Paggioro è stato dichiarato fuori pericolo.

Dal suo letto del reparto di chirurgia, Paggioro ha dichiarato di non aspettarsi assolutamente una reazione del genere dovuta ad un atto d'ira dello studente e per il semplice fatto che il professore gli aveva ricordato che per non essere bocciato alla fine dell'anno doveva impegnarsi di più negli studi.

Il professore ha inoltre dichiarato di non voler parlare né con lo studente né con suo padre, in quanto ritiene, al momento, di doversi occupare solo della propria condizione fisica.

D'altronde però, il ragazzo non ha nemmeno chiesto scusa per il suo gesto sconsiderato e privo di ogni fondazione logica. Solamente al momento dell'arrivo in commissariato, il giovane ha ammesso di volere più attenzioni poiché sentiva di non essere stimato abbastanza e di essere oggetto di derisione da parte dei compagni.

Gli studenti dello stesso istituto dichiarano che Luca, nome di fantasia perché il ragazzo è minorenne, era chiuso e introverso, che non parlava con nessuno di loro. Luca è stato denunciato per lesioni aggravate e l'unica pena per lui prevista, in quanto non ancora maggiorenne, è

una probabile sospensione da scuola fino alla fine dell'anno scolastico.

A chi dare la colpa di questi gesti fatti da bambini? Questo è chi ha solo 13 anni, un bambino, e dovrebbe solo pensare a giocare, non a stuprare coetanee o ad accoltellare professori? Le scuse variano da videogiochi violenti, televisione con programmi "osceni", frequentazioni sbagliate, genitori che non educano più come una volta e una società costruita su valori sbagliati.

Speriamo di riuscire a sradicare prima o poi questo male che si insinua non più solo in menti già formate, ma anche in quelle di bambini che dovrebbero ancora sognare di fare l'astronauta. Le scuse variano da videogiochi violenti, televisione con programmi "osceni", frequentazioni sbagliate, genitori che non educano più come una volta e una società costruita su valori sbagliati.

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LOOKING FOR A ROOMMATE?

SELLING BOOKS?



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PLACING AN AD IN THE MATTHEW,
CONTACT: NEWSPAPER@JOHNCABOT.EDU**

The tragedy of Eluana

Two Opposing JCU Student Perspectives...

By Dario Gagliano

She surprised us once again. The girl whose life Italians debated slipped away on Monday, February 10, alone, without even her father by her side. Eluana Englaro, who was in a vegetative state for 17 years, passed away after a controversial court decision allowed doctors to remove her feeding tube.

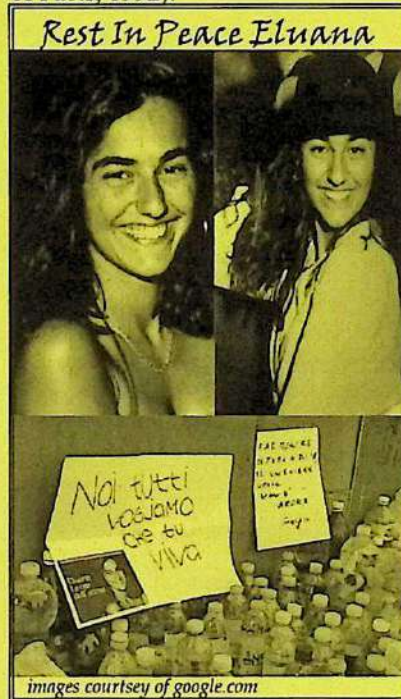
Despite the unnecessary political bickering surrounding the Italian Constitution, the issue at stake was and is far more critical: the honoring the sanctity of life versus the right to die via euthanasia.

In this endless battle concerning the right to die, we tend to forget something more important: the value of life. Widespread use of euthanasia for the suffering, has historically been disastrous, an excuse to exterminate society's undesirables. For instance, according to The History Place website, in 1939 Nazi Germany started a program called Action T4 to humanely treat its incurably sick citizens. Once a society accepts the idea that certain innocent people can be killed, a person's mindset is permanently altered. It begins to numb the sensibilities of the mind, preventing future opposition to similar measures against society's outcasts.

Critics, however, argue that Eluana's case is different because she allegedly stated that she would have preferred death to living like a vegetable, and it was therefore perfectly voluntary. But was it actually voluntary?

Is the world really too advanced and civilized to avoid a fate like Nazi Germany? Consider the Netherlands, the first nation to officially legalize euthanasia in 2002. Doctors and hospital officials have encouraged patients to accept death instead of actively searching for cures in order to cut costs. Some patients have taken the euthanasia route in order to relieve the burden on their families. Worse still, it is becoming

increasingly apparent that euthanasia is shifting from the patient's discretion ("voluntary") to the doctor's. Indeed, Dutch statistics conclude that over 50% of all euthanasia cases have been performed without the consent of the patient in 1990 alone, and an overwhelming percentage of elderly citizens desperately avoid hospital stays for fear of being euthanized in their sleep (World Almanac and Book of Facts, 1992).



After witnessing a heartbreaking tragedy like Eluana's, it is natural to want to have the power to end suffering by any means. Euthanasia is therefore a proposed solution. But history has taught us the dangers of devaluing life. And for once, we should take heed.

Dear Eluana,
Rest In Peace.

By Giorgia Chille'

There is a fundamental right to choose the way we want to live and there should be a fundamental right to choose the way we want to die. Italy has been profoundly involved in a case of a girl, Eluana Englaro, who has spent her last 17 years in a persistent vegetative state and a wide discussion about death has started. Leaving aside the ridiculous accusations directed at her family members, and leaving aside all the political connotations, the primary debate should be aimed at forming our personal opinion regarding euthanasia and living will.

There is a difference between the two of them: euthanasia is the act of either painlessly causing the death or failing to prevent death from occurring from natural causes in an individual with a terminal illness or in an irreversible coma. The living will is a legal document that lets a person decide in advance what kind of medical treatment he/she does and does not want if he/she become physically or mentally unable to make decisions or communicate his/her wishes (World of Health, Brigham Narins Ed.).

These two concepts involve personal dignity and respect, intrinsic values of human nature. Respect, above all, has been banned in this society: where was dignity when a show such as "Big Brother" was set up around the death of Eluana? Where was respect when her personal choice was buried under thousands of critics who accused her of committing suicide? Where was dignity when the entire political sphere of this country has not been able to write for years any kind of law regulating euthanasia? There is a deep hypocrisy that surrounds this case because nobody wants to accept that death is part of the circle of life. Shouldn't we die feeling at peace with ourselves? Shouldn't we give worth to our freedom of choice until the end?

Modern science has brought many new treatments, but also has

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Coming to terms with the past, one truth at a time

By Alessandro Lanuto

Barack Obama February 9 delivered his first press conference as U.S. President. While his opening remarks focused on the deepening economic crisis, the question and answer session ranged from the President's relationship with Republicans to the steroid scandal of A-Rod (re-nicknamed A-Fraud). Yet, it also addressed a potential solution to an issue that has been on everyone's mind: coming to terms with the past.

A day earlier, February 8, Senator Patrick Leahy proposed the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission as "the best course of action for bringing a reckoning for the actions of the past eight years." Senator Leahy, a Vermont Democrat and Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, explained that the commission would be charged with a "straightforward mission to find the truth" on allegations of warrantless wiretapping, abuses and torture of detainees, the Iraq war, and political intimidation. The goal is to invite those with knowledge of or involvement in the transgressions of the previous administration to come forward, generating a better understanding of the truth.

The idea of such a commission is most notably associated with South Africa and its efforts to overcome the wounds of apartheid. Its purpose is multifaceted, as it seeks to make a public record of the wrongs of the past to not only discover the truth, but to make sure it never happens again.

Opposition exists between those who have resisted efforts to investigate the alleged abuses of the

for the rule of law over the last decade, those with information would be dissuaded from coming forward and the truth would be forever lost in the great abyss of secrecy and deceit, as lengthy trials and finger-pointing would force an already suffering nation to focus on pain rather than progress. That is not to say that just because it is difficult to bring up the past, it should be left alone and forgotten. Rather, the solution lies in Leahy's "middle ground" as it would expose these wrongs and force accountability on those responsible, a crucial measure on the path to recovery.

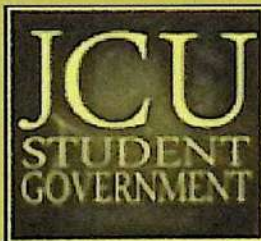
Senator Leahy's proposal comes at a time when the American public is not only suffering from a depression of economics, but a depression of self-respect, the consequences of which are far greater than struggling bank accounts. The United States must be restored back to a position of respectability, and the election of President Obama was a step in the right direction. But without bringing everything out into the open, without directly confronting what the world suspects and offering answers, to the American people, the risk is that the nation will undergo prolonged and indelible agony from this dark chapter in American history.

"Opposition exists between those who have resisted efforts to investigate the alleged abuses of the Bush administration and those who demand prosecution of former government officials at all costs."

Bush administration and those who demand prosecution of former government officials at all costs. Direct and take-no-prisoners prosecution, however, threaten to further enflame the deep division that has strained the United States both politically and socially, solidifying a culture of animosity based on ideology rather than promoting cooperation in a time when it is desperately needed.

Given the reckless abandon

Visit the JCU Student Government Website:



www.jcustugov.co.nr

Log on using your JCU username and password (note: if logging on from Explorer, the username must begin: jcabot\)

Learn more about JCU clubs and student organizations, check out all the latest events and activities, and voice your comments, questions, and concerns!

Ten things that took some getting used to

A JCU student's perspective and experience adapting to the Italian lifestyle

By Molly Newman

As a semester-abroad student in Rome, it has taken me a few weeks to adjust to life here. These are the newest and most confusing Italian customs I have come across:

Mopeds: They are the preferred mode of transportation and the drivers won't hesitate to run you over.



Espresso: No Starbucks frappuccinos here, it's all about the tiny cup of really strong espresso. It's a gulp of liquid.

Street Vendors: There is a group of men who make their living off trying to sell me an umbrella every time the sky looks the least bit cloudy. And with the blonde hair, boy do they know I'm an American (and therefore an easy target).

Works of art: Locals are used to them, tourists gape at them, and they are everywhere. Michelangelo, the Colosseum, the Vatican... and pretty much every church and building I pass is beautiful.

Boots: Not only is Italy shaped like one but all the locals wear them. I think I'm the only woman in Rome without a pair of leather knee high boots- another reason I look super American.



Food: I have not had one bad meal in Rome. Panini, pizza, pasta, croissants- you name it, it's delicious but definitely loaded with carbs. Even if I buy food, it is always fresh and delicious. Some of my new favorite staples are Nutella, sun-dried tomatoes, fresh bread, a million kinds of cheese and biscotti.

Cars: The first time I saw a Cinquecento in Rome, I was surprised and took a picture. Then I saw even smaller cars.

An American SUV is easily five times the size of a Cinquecento.



Electricity: Speaking of efficiency, blowing a fuse here is easy. A hair dryer is considered a major appliance, and I switch between using my computer and turning the light on.

Laundry: Another electricity saver- there are no clothes dryers here, so drying towels on the balcony is commonplace. It means planning days ahead to wear something.



No Superstores: There is no Target. And no bulk shopping. I may go to six stores before I find what I'm looking for, and grocery shopping is an everyday affair.

Eluana

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prolonged the phase of our life spent waiting to die. People are more scared of the process of dying than death itself. In the case of a vegetative state, the chance of waking up and becoming conscious again is about 0,0001%: aided by human hands through medications and machines, is it better to lay on a bed like a stone or is it better to go and rest in peace?

In order to prevent silly accusations about manipulating euthanasia, there should be a detailed legislation that openly states the voluntary desire of ending one's own life. This is why we call it voluntary euthanasia, in contrast to doctor's or state/public euthanasia.

The value and the beauty of life are immense and this is why life comes before death, but whenever an alert and aware life ends we should pause and reflect on the value of a respectable death.

Join the Business Club!

Join them at their weekly meetings:

Date: Tuesdays
Place: G.K.G.1 Guarini Campus
Time: 1:15pm

Everyone is welcome to join!

If you cannot make it to the meeting, but you are interested in joining, please send an email to jcubusinessclub@johncabot.edu

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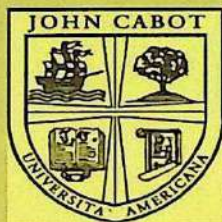
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CAREER SERVICES CENTER

Lunchtime Workshop Program

"How to find the Perfect Graduate School"

Livia Piotto

Date: Tuesday February 24

Time: 1:15-2:15pm

Place: G.K.1.1

Your key to Success...



"Personal Finance 101"

Professor Mary Merva

Date: Wednesday, February 25

Time: 1:15 - 2:15pm

Place: Guarini Board Room

Pizza will be served!

Correction:

In the last issue of The Matthew- Volume II, Issue I- the article titled "Guarini Institute Lectures Kick Off" was inaccurate and should have been called "Faculty Briefings Kick Off."