College overhauls advising system, did anyone notice?

Some students don’t know to find advisor using My Mercer webpage

By Sarina Prior

By Danny Vukcevich

The high cost of textbooks is not the result of a school or bookstore policy designed to take advantage of struggling Mercer students’ pockets. According to a study done by the state Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs), soaring textbook prices are a concern nationwide and can be traced directly to the practices of publishers and bookstores.

In an effort to keep textbooks current, publishers routinely generate new editions, which helps in doing so limits students’ ability to buy used textbooks and sell their old textbooks back to the bookstore at the end of the semester. In the PIRG study, most faculty agreed that new editions were justified only “half the time” or less.

Another publisher generated issue is textbook bundling. Although publishers promote shrink-wrapping and bundling textbooks with CD-ROMs, workbooks and website access codes as a convenience to professors, many students say that products are not reusable and students can’t sell bundles back to the bookstore.

Publishers say that producing and printing textbooks is an expensive process, involving years of knowledge and expertise, and they note that they only make money when the original new book is sold. Moreover, while tuition at community colleges and other public universities is heavily subsidized by the taxpayer, textbook costs receive no such subsidy.

Although many students believe otherwise, both Melissa Zanjani, Mercer’s Vice President for College Advancement, and Dean of Students Dr. Diane Campbell say that textbook selection at Mercer is done solely by the faculty, neither the academic departments nor the bookstore does not have input in the selection process.

Follet, the company that runs the school bookstore makes money, in part, through selling books for more than the cost to purchase them in large quantities from the publishers. In this way, Follet is like every other bookstore in the nation from Barnes & Noble to Borders Books. Students are paying for the books themselves and for the convenience of having access to them in the right place at the right time.

Morgan does make money off of the bookstore, but not in the way that many students believe. The college leases the bookstore space to Follet, but does not set prices for or receive revenue from book sales themselves. The revenue from the lease has gone up this year as the size of the space provided for the bookstore was increased during the renovation and building of the new one-stop student center. (At the same time the square footage of the library was reduced, but the library’s physical and electronic resources were upgraded.)

With the economic recession deepening, more students are trying to find creative ways to cope with high textbook costs. The three most popular strategies are buying used books online, purchasing used textbooks through ads on student bulletin boards on campus rather than through the bookstore, and simply using reserve copies of the textbooks that instructors place in the library. Each of these methods presents benefits and drawbacks.

Although students can often find textbooks online at cheaper prices than those offered in the school bookstore, the time it takes to receive the books and the additional shipping and handling fees often cancel out the benefits. Further, Dean Diane Campbell cautions students purchasing online that they should be sure to verify which edition of a text their instructor is using before purchasing.

Buying and selling books through student advertisements avoids the shipping fees and delays associated with online textbook purchases, but the titles available are limited.
MCCc.edu has a new look.

The website has a new look, and the structure is different, but it has lost none of the old features that allow students to register for new classes and use online libraries.

Some students have noticed the changes and the time to adapt to them. “They moved stuff around recently, and it took a while to find stuff,” said third-year student Danielle Arichison. She added, however, “it was easy to use.”

Tim Fitzpatrick, one of the web developers who worked on the update, said, “Many

changes were made in the new web site design. We wanted to give the site a new look and feel. The previous site’s home page was cluttered with too much information that was not necessarily relevant to students.”

Fitzpatrick says the site has a great deal more useful and aesthetic elements like flash objects and slideshows.

Some students have noticed that there is information that was listed on the previous version of the site that is now difficult to find. For example, the link to The CollegeVOICE homepage is no longer available and the Honors Program is hard to find.

According to the web development staff, many of the organizations choices were determined by asking instructors for input as well as issuing and online survey for students to participate in.

Online classes were not affected by the change and the method of locating them remains the same.

STUDENT LIFE

Want the swine flu vaccine? Get in line!

By Angelique Platas

The H1N1 Vaccine is expected to be available to the public at over 9,000 locations this fall. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the vaccine will be ready once clinical testing is complete. The government expects over 190 million doses to be received before December.

The vaccine will first be offered to people who are at the most at risk to contract the H1N1 flu. According to the CDC the first people to get the vaccine will be pregnant women, childcare and healthcare workers, children under age 10 and people with compromised immune systems.

Tips for transfer: knowing the facts reduces the trouble

By Jackie Pachuta

More than 35 percent of MCCC students will transfer to a university upon graduating, according to Mercer’s website. There local universities at which many graduates choose to continue their education are: TCNJ, Rider, and Rutgers.

In order to transfer to either TCNJ or Rider, you are required to complete the college’s application. Called the Common Application, it is a standard form that is accepted at 381 colleges in 42 states.

On this nine page Common Application, you are asked to fill out information about yourself and family members. There are also questions regarding your academic history, testing you’ve taken (such as SAT’s), and activities in which you’ve participated. There is a small writing portion at the end where you describe yourself in 150 words or less.

Finally, there is a short personal essay where you reveal why you want to transfer to that particular school and what your future goals are. Students can also choose to complete an optional activity list, in resume format.

Finally, there is a supplement for the Common Application is online and must be filled out by all students. It has questions regarding your major and residency status. Finally, $570 fee is required to submit the Common Application.

“The Common Ap. is straightforward and easy to use; it wasn’t confusing,” said Krista Canavera, a Mercer student who transferred to TCNJ last spring.

For students wishing to transfer to Rutgers, the process is slightly different. You are required to complete the Undergrad Admissions Application. This application is ten pages and asks for your personal information, test scores, current courses and other colleges you’ve attended. There is space to list academic achievements and extracurricular activities. A personal statement is optional but recommended. The non-refundable fee to apply is $65.

“I sent my application to Rutgers. It wasn’t a hassle since they didn’t ask for much, just transcripts and SAT scores,” said Elena Stremlo, who applied to many schools before transferring to TCNJ last year.

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS:

Once you’ve decided where you want to apply, visit the schools’ websites and make a checklist of the things you will need to send in and the date by which you will need to complete for the Common Application.

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Mercer offers new study abroad program

By Lisa Olson
Reporter

Mercer is now offering students the opportunity to study abroad beginning spring semester 2010. Eligible students will be given the chance to take classes while touring Italy, or Germany and Switzerland.

Classes for the Italy trip include Food and Culture (HOS115) and Architecture and Culture International (ARC141). The Germany/Switzerland trip includes Global Environment of Business (BUS203). All courses are taught by Mercer faculty.

Mercer’s study abroad program differs from study abroad programs offered at four-year colleges. Rather than being a full year or semester long, the Mercer study abroad is nine days long and is part of a regular semester schedule. Students are required to attend pre-trip classes and three hours of post-trip wrap up instruction. During the trip, 30 hours are spent on guided tours, demonstration and instruction.

According to the new Study Abroad page on the Mercer website, the goal of the program is to “broaden the global exposure of students and faculty” and to “better prepare students to be successful while advancing the principles of globalization.”

So far, six students have signed up for the Italy tour, and zero students have signed up for the Germany/Switzerland tour. The economic recession may play a part. The Italy tour costs $3,100, the Germany/Switzerland tour, $3,350. These costs do not include general tuition, lunches, dinners, beverages with meals, or tips and gratuities, as stated on the official program website.

Students such as first year business major, Alex Thompson, say they would be interested in the program “if it was free, or at least was included in tuition,” but the costs are prohibitive for the many students who receive financial aid.

“I’m not taking more classes than I have to, and the courses offered don’t fit my major,” said Erica Nelson, a first year art major.

Most students heard about the new study abroad program by way of mail before the start of fall semester. Flyers were sent to each student’s home outlining the basic information. This flyer included the general itinerary, courses offered, faculty in charge, and the program’s cost.

The school also made an official news announcement along with a WWFM radio interview with Andrea Lynch, the program coordinator.

GREEN TIPS

Brought to you by Go Green Club

• One million trees would be saved if every U.S. household replaced just one 250-count package of virgin fiber paper towels.
• 544,000 trees would be saved by replacing a 70-sheet roll of virgin fiber toilet paper.
• 424,000 trees would be spared by replacing a 500-sheet roll of virgin fiber paper towels.
• 170,000 trees would be saved by replacing one 175-count box of virgin fiber facial tissue.

Source: MSNBC.com

Italian Americans celebrate heritage

By Dechele Covington
Senior Reporter

October is Italian American Heritage month and local festivities began with the Italian American Festival on Sept. 25-27 in Mercer County Park. Though rain threatened, the festival attracted more than 100,000 people over three days.

Red, white and green flags were flying. Children laughed and screamed as they rode the spinning Himalaya ride and the smell of sweet Italian sausage with onions and green peppers filled the air. The event included numerous carnival rides and games, more than 30 vendors selling art and Italian products such as olive oil and wine, and 50 food vendors. Children were amazed with the petting zoo, the funny Poppytown puppet show and fireworks that filled the air on Saturday night.

There was also live entertainment, including a performance by Joe Piscope, the Italian American singer and comedian who starred on Saturday Night Live from 1980-1984.

“I thought he was great, he did imitations, dancing and a tribute to Frank Sinatra, the audience were standing and dancing in the rain for his performance,” stated John Scarpati, president of the Mercer County Italian-American Festival Association.

According to Scarpati the festival began over 10 years ago with a budget of only $400. The very first festival had 13 stands and it raised.

This year, despite the recession, people still came out to the festival. “I don’t think the recession stopped people from coming, the rain scared more locals but people still came from all over,” said Scarpati. He also said that the festival brings families of all nationalities and heritages together and some of the money made goes to charities that help children and the needy.

The festival was one of the events to showcase Italian American Heritage. Another was the 5th Annual Columbus Day Parade, which took place on Saturday, Oct. 10 in Hamilton, N.J. The route on Nottingham Way near the Nottingham Fire company and ended at the Board of Education on Park Avenue.

People filled the streets watching the band play their instruments. Children sat at the edge of the parade route waving Italian flags and running to pick up candy that the parade participants threw out.

Family members Lindsey Mason and her Mother-in-law Joan Mason of Hamilton Square, sat on the curb with their blankets on their lap. Lindsey Mason watched her husband bounce their daughter on his shoulders. “I thought the parade was nice, it never came down this street before, which was very nice,” (Maple Shade Street) stated Lindsey Mason. Joan Mason stated, “I thought the parade was wonderful, it was very intimate, came right down my street. They put more into this parade than the Memorial Day parade. It was very pleasant to see.”
SPORTS

By Peter Cosma
Reporter

The Mercer men’s soccer team earned its ninth victory of the season Friday, Oct. 2, with a 2-0 win over Bryant and Stratton College in an intense and physical national game at Mercer. Mohammed Conteh and Victor Angelo scored for the Vikings while Sean Duble was credited with the shutout in goal.

The Vikings set the tempo for the game early by putting high pressure on Bryant and Stratton and forcing them to make mistakes. Less than a minute into the game, Mercer had two shots on goal and looked poised to take an early lead.

“What really helped us was we had a lot of pressure on the ball. Our front guys did a good job. They really did set up and won some balls for us,” said head coach Charlie Inverso.

Bryant and Stratton’s defense held firm, however, and kept the Vikings from scoring during a flurry of action in their own box early on. The Vikings, despite the pressure they were applying, were doing it in a few ill-advised decisions and sloppy ball handling which repeatedly killed their early offensive opportunities. After one errant pass, Inverso let his team know what he thought of the play, yelling, “Play the damn ball, simple!”

A few minutes later the Vikings responded. Sophomore midfielder Iliy Igiety threw in from the left side-line and found Conteh open in front of the goal. Conteh leaped above a defender and headed the ball into the right side of the goal past the outstretched arm of the opposing keeper, earning the Vikings’ first goal of the game with 32:18 to play in the first half.

Mercer took a 2-0 lead with 22:20 to play in the second half when sophomore midfield/forward Frank Tweneboa received the ball at midfield and bent a pass between two defenders to sophomore defender Victor Angelo, who was streaking down the right side of the field. Angelo’s shot beat Bryant and Stratton’s charging goalkeeper and found the back of the net just before the two collided.

The collision left Angola lying on the field for several minutes and he limped off with the help of two teammates. He did not return, but Vikings head coach, Charlie Inverso, said he hopes Angola will be ready for the Vikings’ next game.

With 38:45 remaining in the second half, Mercer freshman midfielder Niv Bernstein took an elbow to the face and went down directly in front of the stands, inspiring shouts of rage from the home crowd.

As play continued, the crowd became more vocal. With 17:00 to play in the second half, Vikings’ sophomore midfielder Amit Aburmad faked out his defender, sending him to the turf and prompting someone in the crowd to yell, “You just got schooled!”

Mercer’s defense played a tight game, allowing Bryant and Stratton just two shots on goal. Duble did not have to make his first save of the game until 33:55 to play in the second half.

Five minutes later, on #10 of Bryant and Stratton beat Duble on a header, silencing the crowd and sending the home team to a critical blow to the Vikings, but the goal was discounted by the referee because the player was offside. After that, Mercer controlled the game by keeping possession of the ball.

A few minutes easily satisfied, but yeah, I think we did a good job. I don’t have that many complaints,” Coach Inverso said. He then quickly added, “other than I think we could have put them away earlier and made the game simpler for ourselves.”

The win against Bryant and Stratton brought the Vikings record to 9-1 on the season, keeping them third in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XIX standings.

“The game was intense, but I think we played better than our opponent and we won. We’re in the middle so it’s a really big win,” said freshman midfielder/forward Moham med Conteh, who scored the Vikings’ first goal of the game.

Vikings’ Coach Charlie Inverso echoed that sentiment following the game, saying: “We’ve played [Bryant and Stratton] in the district final three times in five years, so we always seem to run into these guys. It was a good win for us.”

Women’s soccer beats Montgomery Mustangs

By Alexis Hansh
Reporter

Juricic suffered an injury to her right eye just minutes after her goal. In and attempt to head the ball, an opposing Mustang kicked the ball into her face. The injury kept her on the sidelines for the remainder of the game.

Kasey Kenny, an All-American in the forward, scored the final two goals of the night.

“We’ve learned how to play with each other better,” said Captain Erika Juricic while asking what she thought of her teammates’ performance. Kasey Kenny also said that the team has great chemistry, which they are able to bring out on the field.

“Our team played well,” said Head Coach Jodie Ricciardi who’s been with the team for three years. “I think Mercer and Montgomery only having two subs contributed to their play, but not so much to our win. I feel even if they had more subs we would have still had a really good chance at winning that game.”

By Glenn Grey
Reporter

The Trenton Devils finished second in the American Conference of the East Coast Hockey League with 40 wins, 25 losses and seven ties to make the playoffs in the 2008-2009 season. They are now trying to add an offensive line and found Conteh open in the second half, Mercer freshman midfielder Niv Bernstein took an elbow to the face and went down directly in front of the stands, inspiring shouts of rage from the home crowd.

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Trenton Devils hockey team shoots for Kelly Cup repeat

By Peter Cosma
Reporter

The Trenton Devils finished second in the American Conference of the East Coast Hockey League with 40 wins, 25 losses and seven ties to make the playoffs in the 2008-2009 season. They are now trying to add another Kelly Cup Championship this season.

In early May, general manager Chris Lamonriello named Rick Kowalsky general manager Chris Lamoriello. Kowalsky was a member of the 2005 Kelly Cup championship team and was the team captain.

An important addition to the team’s roster is Matt Voke, of Auburn, MA, who finished his collegiate season with the by League, Brown Bears

There are several other players to keep an eye on. One is Tony Zanccanaro of Trenton, MI, who has been playing for the Middlebury College Panthers from 2004 to 2008, Matt Fori of the Colgate Raiders and who was named “Best De fenseman” in his senior year, Dave Leaderer of the University of Massachusetts, and finally the goals of the Devils is Charlie Effinger. He was traded from the Gwinnett Gladiators and who has played fifty-two games and had four hundred and seventy-eight saves.

The Devils lost their first game of the season 4-0 to the Elmira Jackals on Oct. 9. Their first home games will be held on Oct. 17 and 18 against the Kalamazoo Wings at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton, New Jersey. Tickets are available online at www.trentondevils.com.

Women’s soccer beats Montgomery Mustangs

By Alexis Hansh
Reporter

Mercer’s women’s soccer team had a 3-0 win on October 1 against the Montgomery Mustangs from Rockville, MD. The Vikings, who were ranked second in the NJCAA Region XIX Conference last year, held a record of 8-3 for the 2009-2010 season following the Montgomery win.

The game started 45 minutes late as two local high school games ran overtime prior to the Vikings’ home event. In addition to the late start, the scoreboard was not operating properly for the entire first half of the game, causing trouble for both the players and fans. Besides making it difficult to keep track of playing time for the soccer teams, the broken board made causes spectators to be constantly asking each other how much time was left and what the score was.

However, the faulty scoreboard had no effect on the Vikings’ performance. Erika Juricic, who made the All-Region XIX First Team last season and serves as team captain this year, scored the first goal within the first ten minutes.

Yet again, the team was able to have the help of two teammates. He then quickly added, “other than I think we could have put them away earlier and made the game simpler for ourselves.”

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In early May, general manager Chris Lamonriello named Rick Kowalsky general manager of the Devils. Kowalsky left Trenton to coach the Norfolk Admirals for one season and is now the eighth coach of the Devils franchise. According to the Devils website, General Manager Lamonriello said, “We look forward to continuing the winning tradition to Trenton, and developing our players.” When he was a player for the Devils, Kowalsky was a member of the Kelly Cup Championship team and was the team captain.

An important addition to the team’s roster is Matt Voke, of Auburn, MA, who finished his collegiate season with the by League, Brown Bears.

There are several other players to keep an eye on. One is Tony Zanccanaro of Trenton, MI, who has been playing for the Middlebury College Panthers from 2004 to 2008, Matt Fori of the Colgate Raiders and who was named “Best Defenseman” in his senior year, Dave Leaderer of the University of Massachusetts, and finally the goals of the Devils is Charlie Effinger. He was traded from the Gwinnett Gladiators and who has played fifty-two games and had four hundred and seventy-eight saves.

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As training intensifies, some drop out, others excel

As the police academy recruits of class 04-09 continue their 21 weeks of training, the class starts to thin out. Some recruits are injured, others cannot handle the intensity. By week 10, the class has lost five members and will lose one more in the coming weeks. The class gels as a team as they move into more specialized training. The recruits are taught how to defend themselves and handle the kinds of threatening and dangerous situations they will face on the job. One of the classic tools used in the most serious conflicts is the PR-24, a police restraining tool, known to most people simply as a nightstick.

The PR-24 has undergone few modifications over the years. There have been some changes to material it is made out of and a collapsible version has been added, but it remains largely unchanged since it came into wide use at the end of the nineteenth century. Recruits are drilled thoroughly on how to defend themselves from all angles during an attack.

Recruits also learn how to defend themselves without the aid of the PR-24. During a typical morning session with instructor Robert Smith, the recruits are taught tactics for hand-to-hand situations. Many of the defense tactics taught can be traced to Krav Maga, which is described on the International Krav Maga Federation website as a practical and tactical system for overcoming violence and attacks.

Krav Maga was developed in Israel under realistic conditions and demands. The system includes tactics for avoidance and prevention of violence, strategies for handling throws and falls, and ways of handling armed and unarmed attacks.

The recruits eagerly anticipate going to the Krav Maga training studio in Hamilton which is run by brothers and expert instructors Able and David Kahn. The brothers demonstrate a number of non-lethal techniques for controlling threatening suspects who may cause harm to either the officer or other people. By the end of Krav Maga, the class present is the one that will graduate, one more student having been cut.
At Exxxotica, sex is commerce

By Kenneth Napier
Reporter

Exxxotica Expo, the adult entertainment convention, was held at the Edison convention center on Sept. 25. Sponsored in part by The Harem, All Nude Cabaret, Club Magazine, Pleasure Productions and PORN-VIDEO.COM, the convention was a who's who of the adult entertainment industry.

Convention goers entered through a set of papered-over glass double doors and passed through a small lobby into what appeared to be a stewing caldron of sexual fantasy and wet lust on the convention center floor.

Topless dancers in their late teens and early twenties bordered the entrance way, performing in cages and grinding on poles, or lying on silk sheeted beds positioned beside the many booths and stages. Performers smiled coyly as men of all sorts slipped singles and fives into their garters and G-strings. Camera flashes popped incessantly as thousands of photos were taken to create digital memories.

Many of the women who were working at the convention refused to talk to reporters as their manager had threatened to fire anyone caught talking to the media. Those willing to be interviewed agreed to do so only under a veil of anonymity, for fear of losing their livelihood. All of those interviewed who worked 8 to 12 hours a day, dancing on a pole or in a cage, and for most of them, the only break they got was a 20 to 30 minute slot on a bed before having to go back to stand up dancing.

One girl who wasn’t afraid to talk said “we aren’t paid by the company at all” and that “the only money I get to keep is money if they get to sit next to you, and because I get a chance to sit down for a few minutes.”

Another complaint, voiced by all who were asked, was the number of “guests” or general public who had paid the $50 entrance fee, that assumed the girls were prostitutes and tried to touch them without their consent. One such incident, witnessed by this reporter, ended with the gentleman being escorted off the premises by security.

When asked to comment on the incident, security denied any such events had occurred, saying the only problems they had were people trying to get in without paying.

Security guards, all of whom refused to give their names, also refused to talk. One dancer said she preferred to work on the beds, “because men tend to give more [money] if they get to sit next to you, and because I get a chance to sit down for a few minutes.”

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Do you feel Mercer campus health centers could go to get to get transmitted infections (stis), receive contraception even if having such information on sexuality and contraception ever a center would be required a student fee or a tuition increase?

“For me it’s a great way to get people tested and [help them] be safe.”

“We have a center where students can go to get tested. It’s an anonymous survey where students want to use it and if they need it, then yes I think it’s a great way to get people tested and [help them] be safe.”

“I agree with Derek Williams, cause I’m pretty sure there are other clinics out there that people can go to.”

“Nah, cause I wouldn’t want to pay extra, I don’t know about anybody else.”

“I think it would be beneficial but I would want to know how they were going to control the costs of it.”
XXX convention comes to Jersey

Exxxotica draws 18,000 despite mayor’s attempts to make it go away

By Sara Gatling  Reporter

The fourth annual Exxxotica Expo, an adult film industry trade show, took place at the Raritan Expo Center in Edison, NJ Sept. 25-27. Both this year and last, Edison Mayor Jun Choi tried to ban the convention.

Last year, Exxxotica was forced to relocate from its original venue in Seacaucus due to a state law that prohibits a venue with a liquor license to portray pornographic material. This year Mayor Choi tried to ban the Expo by referencing a law that states that sexually explicit material and shows cannot be shown within 1,000 feet of a school, church, hospital or playground. The mayor’s efforts were unsuccessful, as the Raritan Expo Center is not located close to any such structures.

Although last year’s last minute venue change meant the expo only had a fraction of the space it had planned to use, it still drew in more than 18,000 people during the three days it took place. This year the convention drew roughly the same size crowd, but it took up nearly twice the amount of space.

The Voice made numerous attempts to contact Mayor Choi and his communications director, Jerry Barca, for comment, however, Barca’s secretary said “Mr. Barca] doesn’t really return calls for school newspapers.”

When asked for his opinion on the controversy, 70’s adult film star, Ron Jeremy said “the issue the mayor has is moral, not constitutional, and obviously the public likes it so he needs to back off.”

The crowd at Exxxotica was extremely diverse and consisted of men and women, couples and singles, people of every race and age above 18. The show included many different attractions including over 100 adult film stars, each with his or her own booth to sign autographs and take pictures (often times charging a fee) with eager fans. Along with the booths of current porn stars, Exxxotica also featured a line-up of “Legends of Exxxotica” which consisted of around 10 retired stars from the 1970s and 1980s.

The convention also featured an all day schedule of different stage events. These included everything from “Manlove the hypnotist” who hypnotized volunteers into pantomiming from their chairs sexually explicit scenarios, to “Strip for Pain,” a game show in which contestants put through physical trials in order to win a strip tease and lap dance.

There were also a series of seminars and discussion panels on topics ranging from “Legal Issues of Starting and Growing an Adult Entertainment Business” to “This Ain’t Inside The Porn Actor’s Studio XXX with Seka.”

Besides the seminars, the entertainment and autograph-signing, there were numerous booths set up by vendors of adult novelties and XXX DVD’s, as well as two non-profit organizations.

One of the non-profit booths was distributing “Jesus Loves Porn Stars” books which explain that “Jesus loves porn stars just as much as he loves everyone else,” through a number of biblical passages and testimonials from ex-porn stars and directors, as well as sex addicts. The book is published by sexchurch.com, a website which is based in Christian philosophy and provides awareness and recovery help for people with pornography addictions.

The other nonprofit organization represented at the convention was the “Pink Cross Foundation.” The organization was started by former porn star Shelley Lubben and provides aspiring porn stars with education regarding their rights, and how to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections and diseases. Pink Cross also provides support to people trying to leave the sex industry by helping them write resumes, finds jobs and get support with transitioning into the mainstream job market.
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**SUDOKU**

Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

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 4 2 9
 7 6 3
 2 1 5
 9 4 8
 5 2 4
 6 1 7
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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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9 1 8 3 4 6 5 7 2
5 7 3 2 8 1 9 4 6
2 6 4 7 5 9 3 1 8
6 8 2 1 9 7 4 3 5
1 4 5 8 6 3 2 9 7
8 3 6 5 1 4 7 2 9
7 5 9 6 3 2 1 8 4
4 2 1 9 7 8 6 5 3
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HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

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STUDENTS FIRST
Sex workers suffer from an overt stigmatization attached to their trade that causes them to be bereft of many rights which in turns allows them to be oppressed both from within their industry and from without as well. With proper rights and legal protection these workers would be safer and live much better lives.

Dubbed “sex workers” by activist Carol Leigh, this term does not refer purely to illegal prostitutes but rather all the same rights as you and I. The crusade for rights for sex workers began in the 1970’s in France. Since then it has grown, but real rights have only been attained in Europe. In 2005 The Declaration of the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe was enacted. This declaration affirms basic rights for sex workers throughout Europe from life and liberty to acknowledging that they can legally work. They pay taxes on their earnings, just like everyone else. There is nothing shocking in the declaration. Rather, denying any individual these rights would be shocking. Then the question is: why don’t we have such a declaration in America?

The common arguments are moral ones. Those opposed to rights for sex workers claim that they degrade the moral fiber of our society. But this argument ignores the immorality of allowing women and children to suffer in hunger and poverty, not only in far away places, but right here at home. The FBI estimates that well over 100,000 children and young women are forced into sexual trafficking here in America. The victims range in age from 9-18, with the average age being 11.

Not granting women and children basic human rights is immoral. Because of the lack of regulation protecting sex workers they are subject to vast abuses. They are routinely hired if they take even a single sick day or stay home with a sick child. They are not unionized and so have no powers for collective bargaining that would help them attain things like health benefits or sick days.

As our reporter Kenneth Nagier writes in his article about the Exxxotica Expo in Edison, the performers he talked to work eight to 12 hour shifts with only a 30 minute break. They are threatened with the fear of losing their job if they simply talk to a reporter. Some say poverty is the real issue, not morality. Poverty forces people, usually girls, into the most dangerous parts of the sex trade. Women ensnared in sex trafficking rarely break out of this hellish life. The dangers of this life, especially involuntary prostitution, make 12 hours of dancing seem like paradise. It is believed that decriminalization of this trade would improve the lives of many marginalized citizens, particularly women. Martha M. Ertman, an expert on the subject, argues that by criminalizing prostitution it reduces the number of willing workers.

In doing so it creates a market for illegal human trafficking in the sex slave trade as well as involuntary prostitution. By decriminalizing this trade she argues that prostitutes in these destitute situations could actually obtain help from law enforcement and by having a larger supply of willing workers it could lower the demand of involuntary prostitution.

Anyone who says they are interested in doing what is decent and moral and right should feel compelled to stand up for the rights of marginalized people everywhere.
Porn reduces our capacity for intimacy

Of course there are people who will read this and yell at the paper that they watch porn, and their partners don’t mind, or watches it with them and loves it too. Others will say they don’t watch it enough to get addicted. Still more may say they don’t have to worry, since they aren’t even in a relationship so their porn viewing won’t hurt anyone.

I acknowledge that there are always exceptions, but by far, porn can be more damaging than most young people realize. Partners may act okay with it when they really are not. People under 20 watch a little now, may find themselves addicted eventually. The person who watches porn and isn’t in a relationship may struggle when they do have a real partner because they assume all partners behave like this and do the things done in porn movies.

In this era of hook-ups and cyber sex, it may seem cool to admit it, but many of us — both men and women — long for serious, passionate, committed, and deeply intimate sexual relationships with loving partners. Porn may teach you a new position or two, but it will never teach you to become a good lover, one prepared for true sex.

Why are we so hypocritical when it comes to porn?

Sara Gatling

For weeks the mayor of Edi-
son, New Jersey, Jun Choi
evaded my calls. His press of-
ficer finally told me the may-
or didn’t talk to student jour-
nalists, but I bet he would have talked to me if I’d been calling to report on an article about some new initiative of his or about, let’s say, a Girl Scouts convention. He didn’t want to comment on was the Erotica Expo which attracted an average of 18,000 visitors over three days, and generated significant revenue for the city of Edison, despite an economic downturn.

The reason Choi didn’t want to talk almost certainly had to do with society’s ambivalence toward sex. The Expo was a convention for the adult entertainment industry, and though the industry is as strong as ever, the kind of people who may consume porn behind closed doors are frequently the same ones saying they don’t want anything to do with it when the convention comes to town.

Are we so prudish about sex on the one hand and so eager to view it on the other? Frankly, I wasn’t at all surprised by how I was received when I arrived at the Erotica Conven-
tion on Sept. 26. The porn industry is little different from the mainstream entertainment indus-
try. In both cases, people are making money with their bod-
ies. Yes, there were strippers, women riding a penis-shaped mechanical bull, and a naked woman painted in tiger stripes head to toe, but the main at-
traction, the porn stars, were dressed in formal looking bead-
ed dresses or jeans and t-shirts which is no less (and sometimes more) clothing than what A-list celebrities wear to the VMAs or Emmys.

Would the mayor have any problem if Quentin Taran-
tino were signing autographs at Edison’s Memorial Field? I don’t think so, but why do we view the stars, more than perhaps any-
one, realize the importance of practicing safe sex.

People like me of the main adult film production compa-
nies requires that all of their ac-
tors wear some sort of prophyl-
actic, just because these people get filmed having sex doesn’t make them less intelligent than anyone else, nor does it make them less human. Pornography is their job, and the majority of stars I met treated it as such, acting and responding no dif-
ferent than an author at a book signing, and often times, the actors were much more polite and approachable than many of mainstream actors I’ve run into in passing at concerts, airports, or on the streets of New York City.

Correction:
In Sept. 21 issue front page article entitled “Students ask where ENG course fees are going” by Daisuke Katsumata and Dechelle Covington, it was report-
ed that the $30 course fees were increased in 2007, when in fact, a $25 fee was added to all ENG 023, 024, 101 and 102 sections in 2002. The fee was increased to $30 in 2007.

Do you see a typo?
We are always trying to improve our proofreading. If you see an error in our spelling, punctuation or grammar let us know!
E-mail us at: hoytdavid@gmail.com

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Write to the College VOICE
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Write to the College VOICE

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Trenton, NJ 08650
ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUCH QUESTIONS

Dear Voice,

I've been thinking that the world would be a better place if we did not eat people in it. Is there any way I can pursue a career in super-villainy here at Mercer?

-Future Arch Enemy

Dear Arch Enemy, Mercer is always adding new majors, so you propose in the meantime we try proposing yours.

In the meantime we recommend the funeral service program. The Voice

THEME CROSSWORD: REWARDS PROGRAM


- Lost Dick

Dear Lost, Forgive him. He's gone over to the dark side, never to return. Time to find a new Dick.

-The Voice

Dear Voice, My professor constantly brags about how revealed he is rather than teaching. What do I do?

-Troubled by Traveler

Dear Troubled, Use Google to uncover a fact about a place he claims be's been (which he hasn't, not on Mercer pay). Ask him about it in class. When he's stumped, you win.

-The Voice

Dear Voice,

Mercer ID's are so hiddenn that I can't get a date on campus. Help.

-Fashion Forward

Dear Fashion, Use a Sharpie pen to write your phone number under your name. You'll get dates. Trust us.

-The Voice

NOTE: THIS FEATURE IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PROBLEMS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

SUDOKU puzzle

BONUS: SUDOKU puzzle on PAGE 15!

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

It's nearly mistlenose time and if you're not feeling the urge to smooth someone, be assured that someone is feeling the urge to smooth you back, Capricorn.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

In the last month you may have been forced to make some really hard choices. Try not to beat yourself up for not being able to do everything you wanted to do.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

Don't let people make fun of your unusual habits. So what if you like to make little tin foil hats for your goldfish? Your eccentricities will one day lead to monetary reward.

Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

Peacefulness and joy will be yours in abundance this month. Now is a good time to visit with friends and loved ones, to take time preparing for the holidays.

Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

Life starting to feel monotonous? Good news! Starting in the middle of this month the moon is shifting and you will find new opportunities abound.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Sometime around the 23 of this month, someone will approach you with what seems like a good offer. Be suspicious. Check up to make sure it is as it seems.