Mercer will be offering classes over the winter break for the first time this December and January. Almost 30 courses will be offered, both on campus and online, giving students a way to brush up on core skills or accelerate their path to a degree by fitting in a few extra credits. Students from other colleges may also use the opportunity to take classes while on holiday break.

The new winter session will offer two different varieties of classes. First there are three-week courses that will be offered from January 4, 2010 to January 22, 2010. These classes will meet three or four days a week. The second kind of classes will be offered online through Mercer’s Virtual College. These courses will be six weeks long, beginning December 21, 2009 and running until February 1, 2010. Although not every course will be available during the new session, the college believes it will be beneficial to students and the public.

“Mercer was one of three community colleges in the state of New Jersey that did not have a winter session. We believe we are providing a need,” said Dr. Donald Generals, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Mercer.

The new winter session will mark the first time in Mercer’s history that classes will be held during the winter break. Registration for both sessions began on October 26, and initial interest has been high.

“There was interest and based on early enrollment, that interest continues. Two classes filled after the second day of early registration. We are adding new sections after the first week of early registration,” said Generals.

Josh Onorot, a sophomore business major at Mercer, plans to take a class during the winter session. “I have to take Macroeconomics for my major and the winter session is convenient because I can get the class over with in less than a month,” he says.

The college is also hoping that non-Mercer students who want to get ahead or catch up during their winter break from another college will sign up. “We have advertised the session to the public and Mercer students,” said Savita Bambhroliya, Director of Admission and Outreach at Mercer.

Sam Kelly, a student at Delaware Valley College, said she may take advantage of the winter session at Mercer. “I might have to because I have way too many science class requirements so I just don’t have time for the other stuff,” she said.

While the winter session offers students more options than they previously had, it is not necessarily helpful to all students because the options of courses to take are still limited.

Since Mercer offers courses in over 60 different disciplines, the largest of which, Information Technology Systems Technology (IST), still contains over 30 different courses, the courses being offered over the winter represent only a small portion of what is available in the fall.

More Mercer students have to take remedial courses
NJ mandates higher cut scores for entrance into college classes

By Ron Russell III

A large portion of new students entering Mercer every semester are placed into foundations-level reading, writing or math courses by scoring below a state-mandated percentage on the Accuplacer placement test. This year the number has grown, as state-mandated “cut scores” have been raised.

Cut scores are the minimum scores necessary for the Accuplacer tests in order for a student to place into college-level classes. Until last year, colleges across the state each had different standards. Now the cut scores are the same for all community colleges, a change that has resulted in more students taking foundations-level classes and some really skewed anomalies,” according to English Professor and Reading Coordinator Carol Friend.

According to Mercer’s most recent Institutional Profile data, which can be found online at the New Jersey Commission of Higher Education website, in 2005, 57 percent of first-time, full-time students were enrolled in one or more remedial course, and in 2008 that number dropped to 54 percent. Although this year’s data has not yet been tabulated, and there has been an overall jump in enrollment of 9 percent, the change in cut scores has clearly forced more students than ever into remedial classes.

In math, “the old raw cut score was 61. That has gone to 72 as part of the statewide mandate,” says Math Professor and Coordinator of Foundations Math Betty Peterson. She went on to say, “this fall the Math department had to add extra sections of MAT 033 and extra sections of MAT 037 to keep up with demand.”

The English department has experienced an influx of foundations students as well. Although no formal action is being taken, as yet, “The English department is looking at assessing the impact of the Accuplacer scores on our curriculum,” says the Chair of the English Department, Professor Frances Davidson. Reading Coordinator Professor Friend is particularly concerned with anomalies in the writing test, WritePlacer. “The WritePlacer cut scores are ‘much higher than the reading score so I don’t have time for the other stuff’,” she said.

While a prospective NJ STARS student does not lose eligibility for the scholarship if she is placed in a remedial class, she must enroll at his own cost,” says School Counselor Joan O’Neill. “Since there is no remedial time in the spring, students will be forced to pay for the classes themselves.”

By Peter Cosma

Although not every student is enrolled in one or more remedial classes, students who are placed into foundations math are eligible for a scholarship, according to Math Professor Betty Peterson. She went on to say, “the raw cut score was 61. That has gone to 72 as part of the statewide mandate,” says Math Professor and Coordinator of Foundations Math Betty Peter- son. She went on to say, “This fall the Math department had to add extra sections of MAT 033 and extra sections of MAT 037 to keep up with demand.”

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Parking still a tight squeeze at Mercer

As few students leave mid-semester, Mercer’s parking lots are overflowing

More than half way through the semester the parking lots at Mercer are still fuller than the Parkway on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Student enrollment at community colleges across the country is up as a result of people returning to school during the economic recession. Mercer’s enrollment is up 9 percent over last year, and parking on the commuter campus is tighter than ever.

Mercer is set on 292 acres of land and preserved landscape that many students are eager to cut down in order to obtain a better parking space.

“I think that the parking lot needs to expand a lot more towards the school. There is no reason that we have to walk that far. We don’t need scenery to enjoy at school, we have parks for that,” said third-year Exercise Science major Gianna Marchesi.

“I took all online classes this semester to avoid the long walk in the rain or snow and avoid falling on ice," Marchesi added.

In addition to the weather conditions, a struggle to obtain a parking spot before class has left many students with no choice but to park along side curbs, subjecting themselves to warnings, tickets and fines for not parking in designated spots.

“The parking at Mercer is horrendous. It has been bad in the past, but this year it is much worse. Not only does it take 10 to 15 minutes to walk from the parking lot to your class, but this year you can’t even find a space to park. I had to park on the grass, and then security gave me a warning,” said James Burton, a second-year Criminal Justice major.

Just how bad is parking at Mercer compared to parking at other community colleges in New Jersey? The VOICE made some calls to find out. Turns out other commuting students face the same troubles.

Parking still a tight squeeze at mercer

“How are things at Burlington? Just as bad. “The parking at the Pemberton campus is at Burlington County College is horrible. If you don’t have an 8AM class then most likely you will have to park far away from the actual buildings,” says second-year Education major Ashley Demi.

“The first day of classes parking was so bad that people were parking on the grass and making up parking spaces and then were getting tickets for it, but all the lots were full,” Demi adds. As for getting parking permits, we are supposed to have a sticker on the back window of our cars that says BCC and has a number, but I know a lot of people don’t have them, and they don’t get ticketed,” Demi said.

“When the lots are full at the Pemberton Campus they block it off with cones so you can’t even get into the lot to see if maybe someone left and there is a spot open,” Demi adds.

Mercer students aren’t yet parking on soccer fields, or making up parking spaces, but supply is still not keeping up with demand. With the economic crisis continuing, there is little end in sight for the parking crisis.

Mercer’s parking permit policy which went into effect last semester does not seem to have helped the situation. There are still cars parked on the grass, and not every student in the parking lot displays a decal on their window.

When asked about campus parking and use of parking permits this semester, security refused to comment.

NEW WINTER SESSION
HAS BROAD APPEAL

By Peter Cosma
Senior Reporter

Cont. from pg. 1

“The problem for me is that none of the courses I need to take are being offered [during the winter session],” says Brendan Belluscio, a first-year Exercise Science major. “I don’t have any credits in [English] at Mercer from Wake Forest."

The decisions of which courses would be offered in each of the disciplines were made by their respective deans, according to Generals. “[Their] decision was based on their view of high demand courses and courses that were adaptable to their respective disciplines,” said Generals.

In order to fulfill the course requirements, students must complete the same amount of course work during a typical 15 week semester, but in less than half the time.

“The courses will contain the same information; and students will be expected to meet the same academic standards,” said Generals.

In order to do this, students will need to spend more time in class each week. Similar to the summer sessions, the time will be condensed. For example, the average 3 credit course will require class attendance for four days a week and three and a half hours each day,” Generals said.

The Arts and Communications Division, the Business and Technology Division, the Science and Health Professions Division, and the Liberal Arts Division are all offering courses on the West Windsor Campus during the winter session. Three courses are available on the James Kerney campus. They include English Brush-Up (ENG 036) which is designed for strong students who narrowly failed ENG 034 or ENG 024 in the fall semester, African American History (HIS 109), and Tech Studio (IST 033).

The following is a list of courses available during the winter session and their prerequisites are available on Mercer’s website.

The deadline to register for on-campus classes is December 23 in-person and January 4 online. The deadline to register for online classes is December 21 both in-person and online. Any changes to the list will be viewable on Mercer’s website.

Changes in Accuplacer cut scores prompt questions

By Ron Russell III
Senior Reporter

Cont. from pg. 1

English Professor Diane Rizzo, the NJ STARS club advisor at Mercer. Prospective NJ STARS students are required to pass any necessary remedial requirements are met,” says Rizzo. "The problem is that nearly all new students to Mercer must take the test, "many students do not understand the importance of the Accuplacer test as it relates to their course placement. Many students take it without any preparation what soever and in less than ideal circumstances," says a study by Professor Peterson at Johns Hopkins University.

After taking the tests and not reaching a state-man dated score, students are often surprised to find that they must take remedial level classes.

Faculty appear to be deeply concerned not only that students are coming to Mercer underprepared for college-level study but also because students in these classes may be burning through their financial aid money. Further, foundations level courses do not factor into scholarship. "All scholarships are deferred until students aren’t placed properly, "students aren’t in the right course for success," says Professor Peterson. "If students aren’t placed properly, they may end up leaving Mercer out of frustration," Peterson adds.

Keeping your car’s tires inflated properly improves gas mileage and helps the environment by reducing the amount of emissions your car expells. Save cash and the planet. Use your car’s owner’s manual to determine the correct air pressure for your tires. If you can’t find your manual, many are available online for free.
Fall TV Reviews

Glee - (Fox) Wednesdays 9PM

Glee got a lot of hype and most of it was worth it. Much of the show’s comedy comes from the comedic stereotypes of its high school characters including the popular and self-absorbed cheerleaders, the dorky jocks who won’t share the spotlight, the flamboyant and fashion conscious gay kid, and the tight knit group of misfits from Community college that hit the road by Robert J. Sawyer.

Bored to Death - (HBO) Sundays 9:30PM

What is a novelist going to do after he writes his first book and is facing writer’s block after a bad breakup? Become a private detective of course. Jonathon Ames, played by everyone’s favorite whiskey Rushmore straight man Jason Schwartzman, began solving crimes as a phony private detective to escape the monotony of football jobs. What will leave the viewer rolling in laughter are the diatribes of Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch), the politically incorrect coach of McKinley High’s cheerleading team.

The Cleveland Show - (Fox) Sundays 9:30PM

Cleveland Brown, the most boring character on Family Guy, moved to Stooolbend (not a typo), Virginia with his son Cleveland Jr. and now he has his own show. This show contains the constant exploitation of cheap jokes that aren’t even remotely clever. Cleveland Brown was never really fleshed out as a character before he moved to Virginia. He is kind of a jerk. The whole basis of Peter Griffin’s appeal is his oblivious nature and infallible ability to misconstrue things completely out of context. Cleveland is just a regular guy who handles things by growing orders at others. It doesn’t matter if you like it or not: FOX has given the green light to this season and the next after just 4 episodes.

Flash Forward - (ABC) Thursdays 8PM

Unfortunately, what drags this show down is the main character, Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler). She comes off like an impecuous five year old with severe con- stipation. Poehler seems to be trying her hardest to make this role, and this show, work, but it just comes off as a tired and ineffective Office Clone.

The Good Wife - (CBS) Tuesdays 10PM

Modern Family - (ABC) Wednesdays 9PM

Modern Family lives up to its name as this modern family attempts to get along. Highlights include Cameron and Mitchell struggling with the typi- cal limitations as parents and perceived stress from their status as homosexu- al parents, Claire dealing with her new, same-aged stepmother Gloria, Jay attempts to bond with his new, unwanted, stepson, and Phil struggling to keep track of his kids as they grow older.

Parks and Recreation - (NBC) Thursdays 6:30PM

In theory, this show should work. It has decent and perfectly like- able characters/actors with wannabe playboy Tom Haverford (Aziz Ansari from Human Gi- ant), nurse Perkins (Rashida Jones, be still my needy heart), city planner Mark Brendanawicz (Paul Schneider), deadpan boss Ron Swanson (Nick O’Fer- rman), and apathetic intern April Ludgate (Au- brey Plaza). Unfortunately, what drags this show down is the main character, Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler). She comes off like an impecuous five year old with severe con- stipation. Poehler seems to be trying her hardest to make this role, and this show, work, but it just comes off as a tired and ineffective Office Clone.

Community - (NBC) Thursdays 8PM

On the outside, it may seem like a show that was created as a cruel mock- ery of community college students by the liberal elites who can’t help but laugh at those poor losers, but it is much more than that. Community focuses on a group of funny stock characters.

I wouldn’t be do- ing the comedy gods jus- tice if I neglected to men- tion the fact that Chevy Chase is on this show. His character, Pierce, is a moist-towelette tycoon. Married seven-times, he is hilariously out of touch with the current culture and all standards of de- cency.

Sometimes parts of the episodes fall flat, but there are usually enough sub plots going on to keep the viewer entertained in some way. Come for the cheap jokes about community college that he is moving to, Virginia with his son Cleveland Jr. and now he has his own show. Cleveland Brown was never really fleshed out as a character before he moved to Virginia. He is kind of a jerk. The whole basis of Peter Griffin’s appeal is his oblivious nature and infallible ability to misconstrue things completely out of context. Cleveland is just a regular guy who handles things by growing orders at others. It doesn’t matter if you like it or not: FOX has given the green light to this season and the next after just 4 episodes.

The title and promos for the show are quite watching a show about a politician’s wife trying to get her life back together after a high profile scan- dal. The show is just another procedural court- room drama. As such it succeeds. Florrick is working at the bottom of the legal ladder as a junior at- torney on pro bono cases. The cases aren’t bad, but the show has nothing new to offer. It is a run of the mill courtroom drama.

Jay Leno Show - (NBC) Too Often 10PM

I dislike Jay Leno because he is not daring with his comedy, his jokes always go right down the center so he can appeal to the larg- est demographic. On his first show he had Koree West after the VMA/Tay- lor Swift incident. What does he ask Kanye West? “What would your moth- er think?” Kanye West’s mother died recently. Further, Leno seems to rely heavily on other shows for inspira- tion. The chicken do- ing NFL picks? A similar bit appeared on Howard Stern. The green car chal- lenge? It looked like a piece from Top Gear. Who Cares What They Think? Bill Maher did it first on Politically Correct. Sadly, despite the incompetence and worn out nature of the new show, it probably won’t ever be cancelled. It is infinitely cheaper than any other show that NBC could find to run in the 10 PM spot.
Famous photographer, Thomas Roma, gives Distinguished Lecture

By Ariana Renick

Thomas Roma, a prominent photographer among the art world, visited Princeton on November 5 as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series, giving a talk on his past and recent works.

Roma is a professor and director of the undergraduate and graduate photography program at Columbia University. He showcased his work, focusing on his most recent projects, as well as some of his more recent works.

Roma’s style of teaching changed during his lecture. He cracked jokes and engaged with the audience throughout.

He showed a few works from his published books.

Roma’s style of lecture is a perfect cocktail of humor, defiance, reason, and gratitude. There is a level of poignancy in his work that could not be overshadowed by his self-deprecating humor, which by the way is better than most stand up routines these days” said Fine Arts Professor Lucas Kelly.

“It was highly entertaining. He seemed very accessible and down to earth, real. Like he didn’t take himself too seriously and had a very interesting story,” said Sara Ziegelbaum, a student in attendance.

Another Mercer student, Dmitry Gurvits, said, “Mr. Roma was an engaging, dynamic, and funny lecturer. True to his Brooklyn roots, he pulls no punches and takes no mess from his audience, while being informative and interesting.”

Mercer students have been introduced to two well-known artists recently. Professor Lucas Kelly says, “I think that the Student Body, the art department in particular, is very lucky this semester. We’ve had the opportunity in just a few weeks to hear drastically different lectures from two extremely accomplished artists: Hanneline Roffenberg and Thomas Roma. What I think is great about both of these lectures is that regardless of your level of involvement in the arts, each lecture had something for everyone.”

The lecture ran over the allotted time but the audience members stayed until the lecture was over, an uncommon occurrence at Mercer.

Roma only uses camera of his own manufacturing and photographs in black and white. He spends hours with the people he is photographing, and years with each project. In regards to making mistakes, Roma says, “It is very interesting to fail. To do things you’re not good at.”


Roma currently resides and does most of his photographing in Brooklyn, which is where he was born and raised. He describes himself saying, “[I am] a high school dropout with friends in high places”, and is a well respected photographer, having received two Guggenheim Fellowships and published 11 books with a twelfth in progress.

Mercer students have been introduced to well-known artists; Professor Lucas Kelly says, “I think that that Student Body, the art department in particular, is very lucky this se-
Seventeen year old Alan Strang takes a sharp metal hoof pick and stabs and blinds five horses at the stables where he works. Rather than sending him to jail, magistrate Hester Salomon commits him to a mental institution under the care of psychiatrist Dr. Dysart, whose task is to get inside the mind of Alan and discover why he has committed this abhorrent act. The gripping psychodrama *Equus* completed a six show run at the Kelsey Theatre last weekend. The play was written by Peter Shaffer and originally staged in London in 1973. The Kelsey Theatre production was presented by PinWorth Productions and directed by Lou J. Stalsworth. The story is narrated by Dr. Martin Dysart (played by John Shankan-Kaye) and presented in flashbacks, both to the initial plot setup, the play goes further and further into a mesmerizing inquiry into a whole range of topics – the existential angst of Dr. Dysart as he digs deeper into Alan's mind and begins to question his own life and values, the power of parental dysfunctions, the psychological scarring of a child, the nature of lust and sexual taboos, the role of religion, as well as its misinterpretation, in controlling human behavior. The casting for the show was done well, and Kaye as Dr. Dysart presents a convincing psychiatrist. Of course he looks the part - the beard, the hair and his mannerisms and postures evoke the archetype of the intellectual professor – but it is his smooth-as-honey voice and nuanced inflection of vocal intonations that draw you in. Matty Daley, currently a student at TCNJ, takes on an incredibly challenging role as the tormented Alan Strang and delivers a passionate and worthy performance. The range required of an actor in this role goes from evoking an innocent, young six year old to a mentally and physically disturbed 17 year old doing a nude seduction sequence. Daley shows fine depth and maturity. Even when he is merely glowering while sitting off to side of the stage, he remains in character. In his first scene he seems a little hesitant, unsure and feeling bewildered at what he has done. In the final climactic scene, Strang lays bare all of his vulnerabilities (both literally and figuratively) as he reveals his powerful exhaustion for the cat- alyst for his grizzly acts. Two other strong supporting actors who round out the cast include Jean Prall Rosolino as the mother, Dora Strang, and Sean McGrath as the father. Frank Strang, the parents, and their son's warped mental state. In her impassioned defense one can almost hear the parents of any criminally deviant youth pleading the same justification with the same tur- ment and anguish. Director Lou J. Stalsworth has brought a critical acclaimed script to a local venue, making it affordable and accessible to a local audience which allowed no full nudity would not be accept- able and at least minimal cover- age was necessary. Questions of artistic censorship were then raised by students. Kelsey's artistic direc- tor Kitty Getlik agreed with the decision, saying that the ad- ministration as a general rule is very supportive of the theater. "I know my audience," Getlik said, "and I know what they will and will not accept." She noted that the Kelsey's audience includes a diverse group, ranging from young students to senior citizens, with diverse standards of propriety. "It works somehow, and we as the audience find that imagi- nation on the part of the audience - most of the props are imaginary, the horses are played by actors wearing open horse head- pieces and clopperty hooves, the sets and costumes could be termed starkly minimalist, and all of the actors remain on stage throughout the play. But it works somehow, and we as the audience find that imagina- tion on the part of the audience - most of the props are imaginary, the horses are played by actors wearing open horse head- pieces and clopperty hooves, the sets and costumes could be termed starkly minimalist, and all of the actors remain on stage throughout the play. 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The Big Apple Circus's new show "Bello is Back" is a mesmerizing spectacle that is currently running in New York City's Damrosch Park and will be there until January 18, 2010. With tickets starting at $28, the Big Apple is appealing not only for its artistry, but also for its bargain price.

College students may think the circus is just for little kids, but it has a much broader appeal. Those who are used to the fast-paced world of gaming, Facebooking and multitasking, will feel right at home at the circus. Before the antics of the clowns can wear thin, the show moves on to an adrenaline pumping human juggling act— one man tossing another full grown man into the air and catching him over and over. Next come the twin Chinese contortionists, followed by the trained dogs (all from animal rescue), then a high flying trapeze act. There is no chance of becoming bored.

This year's show celebrates the return of Bello Nock, named "America's best clown" by Time magazine in 2001. Nock left the Big Apple and went to the larger Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus in 2001, but he has now returned to the one ring venue. The single-ring set-up of the Big Apple Circus is highly intimate and allows for more direct interaction between audience members and performers than a multiple ring circus can. No seat is more than 50 feet away from the action, and performers— particularly the clowns— enter into the audience throughout.

"I have come here many, many times. I feel I am part of the Circus," said one attendee, Cindy Aguilera. To tie the "Bello is Back" theme into the show, Nock participates in many of the acts. Bello doesn’t speak, but performs through pantomime, a tradition which he engages so that it seems vital and invigorating rather than old fashioned. His cartoonish facial expressions and actions carry well with audiences members big and small.

"A few years back we went to see Bello in the Ringling Brothers Circus, and he is part of the reason that we came to Big Apple circus," said audience member, Nick Ruggeri.

Bello takes a central roll in one particularly engrossing act called the "Wheel of Wonder." It consists of two massive "hamster wheels" that rotate on a giant scaffolding. Performers do flips and stunts within the wheels as they spin high above the crowd.

The show is very well executed in terms of lighting, sound and staging. Colored lights are used to spotlight the performers, and help maintain the magical feel of the event. The music matches the tempo of each act precisely.

Although the Big Apple is particularly good at maintaining a modern feel, those who seek the nostalgia of cotton candy and popcorn will find their wishes granted at the concession stands.

"The show was very well organized, good pace, lots of excitement, good mix," said attendee Josh Orenstein.

The Big Apple Circus is flawless in its combination of performances, and unexpected twists on traditional circus elements. There is nothing hokey or juvenile about The Big Apple. Instead, each act is both timeless and fresh.
Kevin Venardos is the new ringmaster of the Big Apple Circus.

The Big Apple’s current artistic director, Guillaume Dufresnoy (profiled by the VOICE in November 2008), says Venardos is the ideal choice for ringmaster. In a phone interview Dufresnoy described the position of ringmaster as a “very, very specialized and very difficult job and I think what [Kevin] does in the show is...remarkable.”

When asked how it feels to step into Binder’s shoes, Venardos said, “I will never fill [them], nor do I portend to fill any shoes, whatsoever,” adding that he is simply glad Binder has shown confidence in his ability to carry the show.

As a rule, Venardos, downplays his role in the Big Apple. “I don’t do anything...I do my best to make sure that everyone performing in the ring, here, is acknowledged in the way that they deserve to be.”

Venardos considers himself as more of an ambassador of the circus and a facilitator for the performers, and less of a star. He describes himself as being just a piece of the puzzle.

Not so, says Dufresnoy, who hand-picked Venardos to replace Binder. “I’m sorry to tell him, but Kevin is no small piece of the puzzle.”

In terms of the direction Venardos is taking the Big Apple, he appears to be picking up where Binder left off, but he also brings a youthful energy that he says will help him to carry the artistic program he’s helped create. For example, in one skit, developed with the famous Big Apple clown known as “Grandma” (played by Barry Lubin), the two explore an iPhone and its various Circus appropriate applications, including “Place Popcorn Here.”

Kevin Venardos is modest, deferential, and all about the kids. He embodies the spirit of the circus. “It’s just really special, all kids, whatever their size, shape, age. There’s something about the circus that I’ve come to really, really love,” he says. “When people ask if he hopes to have children of his own one day, Venardos said, “That’s an interesting question, I don’t really know. Life is a great big adventure. Who knows...I’m enjoying the ride, and I’m just trying to be thankful and grateful for every day.”
Fedora Cafe: delicious + eclectic dining
Lawrenceville cafe offers fresh food and exquisite desserts

By Matthew White
Reporter
Fedora Cafe, located on Main Street in Lawrenceville, provides excellent food in eccentric atmosphere. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert and caters as well.

Entering the cafe customers find an eclectic yet comforting atmosphere. The walls are decorated with paintings from local artists and an enormous mural of ancient columns and a surreal cloudy sky. The ceiling fans are adorned with dragonflies and velvet pillows dot the mismatched chairs and plush patchwork couches.

Fedora’s strength is its food, which is mouth-watering. The cafe is known for its zesty salads with fresh ingredients, warm seasoned paninis that drip with melted cheese, enormous plates of pasta (filled with ingredidants chosen by the customer), and most importantly a large case filled with huge interesting desserts.

All the food is good, but the desserts are Fedora’s best offering. All the basics are present. Fedora is represented -- cannolis, biscotti, pies -- but the best items are the unique unusual fare which includes: peanut-butter cup brownies, caramel apple crisp and Reese’s Pieces.

Naan seems to be something of a specialty for Masala Grill. “The naan was very fresh and better in general than other naan I’ve tried in the area,” says Aaron Thompson, a Mercer Student from West Windsor.

Masala Grill, located at 15 Chambers St. is one of only two South Asian restaurants in Princeton. the restaurant has an excellent variety of delicious, but somewhat overpriced Indian food including many vegetarian and vegan dishes.

The atmosphere at Masala is romantic when there aren’t enough crowds of Princeton students being loud, and the hosts are pleasant and welcoming, but service is sometimes slow, and waiters are not always attentive to their tables. Some servers are hard to understand, and a considerable amount of background noise does not help.

Appetizers include everything from sausages to curry and chicken spreads. These cost between $6 and $10, and satisfy about 2 guests. To cut your bill down a bit, a simple plate of naan or garlic naan costs just $2 to $4.

Masala Grill: great Indian food at Princeton prices

By Lisa Olson
Reporter
Masala Grill, located at 15 Chambers St. in Princeton. Right: Chicken Tikka Masala, rice and vegetables.

The “Holy Grail” of sandwiches can be had at Hoagie Haven

By Mike Lorenzo
Reporter
The smell of sizzling burgers and french fries immediately seeps into one’s nostrils when stepping out of the car. The mass of people on the street eating various sandwiches can be seen from a distance and the small sub shop frequenly has a line of people out the door.

From the inside, one can feel the warmth, not only from the cooking food, but also from the excitement and joy of the customers. Hoagie Haven, located in the heart of Princeton, New Jersey on Nassau Street, has a unique menu that provides all ages a wide selection of innovative sandwiches and other specialties for reasonable prices.

So what is all the rave about this little local subshop? “A dirty sanchez is so good, the first time you have it you will say ‘oh my pants’,” says Wake Forest freshman Jeff Gerdes, 18 of Robbinsville, New Jersey.

“A Phat Lady is the Holy Grail of sandwiches,” says University of South Carolina freshman Mark Normandin. But what is a Dirty Sanchez or a Phat Lady? “It’s a generous amount of the greatest flavors known to man,” said Gerdes.

Hoagie Haven’s signature sandwiches are the Dirty Sanchez and the Phat Lady. The Dirty Sanchez consists of chicken tenders, french fries, and mozzarella sticks on a submarine roll covered with Hoagie Haven’s own “Sanchez Sauce,” along with any toppings the customer deems necessary.

A Phat Lady, on the other hand, mixes the prices with french fries and mozzarella sticks also on a submarine roll but minus the famous sauce.

The once unknown eatery, exclusively known to Princeton residents and students, is now being spread internationally with the help of Facebook networking.

The Facebook group has over 4,000 members from New Jersey to California to Germany, and everywhere in between. Hoagie Haven is putting American cuisine on the international map.

Some argue that the “grease trucks” at Rutgers University have a similar menu to Hoagie Haven, but in reality double H has a wider selection of food and also a dessert menu.

The grease trucks only feature the “fat” sandwiches. While they do offer an extensive variety of novelty sandwiches, Hoagie Haven keeps it simple with just six, the Dirty Sanwiches and Phat Lady being the most popular.

Hoagie Haven's other novelty sandwiches include the El Mexicano (CheeseSteak w/Chicken Tacos, Sour Creme, Hot Sauce), the Heart Stop (CheeseSteak w/ Bacon & Egg), and the Bloch (Chicken Parm w/ Bacon & Egg), and the Big Cat (4 Bacon Cheeseburgers w/ Egg). The prices of the sandwich range from around five dollars for a half to around 10 dollars for a whole sub.

Hoagie Haven also offers their own self-proclaimed greatest burgetters on earth, french fries, regular hoagies, hot dogs, chilli, salads, gyros, and even desserts. Hoagie Haven also sells their signature t-shirts for 20 dollars each.

There are no tables inside or outside but no one cares. There are some benches and the point of the sub shop isn’t the decor. Most people take their hoagies and wander around Princeton or take them home. With a Hoagie Haven hoagie in hand, no matter where you go, you will always have a feast.
Christopher Fuentes, a 19 year old second year Mercer student, is in the midst of releasing his first demo. His first CD, “One good thing” will be out at the end of November.

Fuentes was not yet hooked, nor did he anticipate a musical career. After his first drum for Christmas, he was awarded a $70 guitar and a computer. Fuentes’s music explores themes of attachment: to pleasures, to people, to objects, and life, examining all from a variety of angles. Many of his songs are written about or for people he’s come to know in his life.

“It is the pinnacle of music. When you are standing up there, expressing yourself there is a connection with the audience. That’s what it’s all about,” Fuentes says.

However, Fuentes expresses a desire to write more fictional lyrics in his future. “There are lots of topics I have not personally experienced; stronger messages outside my personal life that could be spread. I’m not sure I have the voice to do that just yet,” he says.

Above: Christopher Jay Fuentes. To hear Fuentes’s music, find him on Facebook by searching for “Ossu” and becoming a fan. Tracks such as “Lina,” “Butterfly” and “trilogy: act 1,” among others, are posted.

VISIT US ONLINE AT MCCCVoice.ORG
USE OUR LINKS TO HEAR MUSIC BY CHRIS FUENTES
How to properly roast a chestnut:

**IN AN OVEN**

Supplies needed:
- Baking sheet
- Chestnuts from store
- Oven
- Knife
- Water
- Bowl
- Salt (optional)

Steps:
1. Preheat oven to 425°F
2. After cleaning and drying chestnuts, place them on a cutting board and cut down on an angle twice to make an X in the shell (the X doesn’t have to be perfect, it just lets steam escape during roasting, otherwise pressure can build up inside the nut causing it to explode).
3. Sprinkle a little bit of water on the baking sheet (this will help keep the chestnuts from becoming overly dry and shrivelled).
4. Arrange chestnuts on baking sheet with cut side up.
5. Roast in oven for 14-25 minutes or until nuts are tender and easy to peel.
6. Remove from oven and allow nuts to cool in a bowl.
7. Once cool, peel nuts, being sure to remove shells and skins.
8. Eat nuts! Some people like to add a little salt to taste.

**OVER AN OPEN FIRE**

Supplies needed:
- Open fire
- Long handled skillet that can tolerate direct heat
- Skillet lid or tin foil
- Thick oven mitt
- Chestnuts from store
- Knife
- Water
- Bowl
- Salt (optional)

Steps:
1. Follow steps 2-4 from oven preparation, substituting your long handled skillet for the baking pan.
2. Cover pan with lid or tin foil.
3. Using the oven mitt for protection, hold the skillet over the open fire for 14-25 minutes or until chestnuts are tender and shells are beginning to open.
4. Remove from oven and allow nuts to cool in a bowl.
5. Once cool, peel nuts, being sure to remove shells and skins.
6. Eat nuts!

**HOLIDAYS IN A NUTSHELL**

How to properly roast a chestnut:

**WARNING:** USE CLEAN DRY ROASTING CHEST-NUTS FROM THE STORE. DO NOT USE HORSE CHESTNUTS FROM A NEIGHBORHOOD TREE. THEY ARE NOT THE SAME KIND OF CHESTNUT. USE CAUTION AROUND FLAME OR HOT STOVE.

**ACCORDING TO THREE (BUT NOT PARTICULARLY SCHOLARLY) SOURCES ON THE INTERNET, THE FIRST FOOD NEIL ARMSTRONG AND BUZZ ALDRIN ATE ON THE MOON WAS TURKEY WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS, WRAPPED IN THOSE TINY FOILED ENCASED PACKAGES THAT ASTROonautS LOVE SO MUCH.**

Americans seem to think the tastiest part of the turkey is the breast, so breeding favors buxom birds. Turkeys are now bred so the breasts are so enlarged that some turkeys frequently fall over from the excess weight. So far as we know, no one has tried using silicone implants to create a DDDD-cup turkey.

There are several places in the United States named after the holiday’s main course. Turkey, Texas, was the most populous in 2005, with 492 residents; followed by Turkey Creek, Louisiana (357); and Turkey, North Carolina (269). There also are nine townships around the country named “Turkey,” three in Kansas.

**SHOUT OUT:**

We asked and you answered: What is the worst holiday gift you have ever received?

Maurice Mendenhall

Melissa

Stan Yen

Heather Laslo

“Worst holiday gift I’ve ever gotten was... stocking...Christmas stocking.”

“Umm...a toilet bowl seat.”

“Socks.”

“No gifts is the worst, because you should be happy to get anything at all.”

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How to cope with misbehaved family members at Thanksgiving dinner and other holiday events

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
- Fast moving vehicle
- Pre-planned escape route
- Other events to get to
- Good reason to suffer through it (i.e. love of your partner, the fact that they are paying for your kids’ education etc.)
- Endurance (start training in July)
- Friend to phone who can talk you out of homicide

WHAT TO DO:
Step 1: PROTECT YOURSELF
Spend as little time as humanly possible around toxic relatives. Plan events that you will have to leave to get to. Limit the time you are with them, and ignore their guilt trips about how you never make any time for them. They are just sad you are not going to hang around long enough for them to really toy with.

Step 2: DEFLECT
You know the kinds of things your difficult family member(s) are going to find to complain about and criticize. Although you will want to counter their insults with ones of your own, fight the temptation, as this can lead to bodily injury and damage to property. Instead, do all you can to ignore them and change the topic. Comment on the china pattern, the score of a sporting event that no one cares about, the weather. Stay away from the topics that rile people in your family.

Step 3: PHONE A FRIEND
Speed dial whomever can talk you out of killing your evil relative. Bear in mind that they may need the same favor from you. Share your stories of familial woe. Hearing someone else’s horror story can be quite a relief. At least you know you are not alone.

Step 4: ESCAPE
So all your deflecting has only made them more brazen and determined to get under your skin. Before you engage them on their idiotic level, cut the visit short. Follow your pre-planned escape route and drive as fast as the law will allow (tip: despite how badly you will need to drink at this event, stay sober so you can drive away in a hurry.)

Step 5: REWARD
Reward yourself for surviving the ordeal. Perhaps go to a movie or treat yourself to a relaxing trip to the shooting range. Consider meeting up with your emergency phone friend for a post holiday debriefing.

T O P 5 E V I L F A M I L Y M E M B E R S

1. The Whack-job
Known for their inedible food (even though they insist they have studied culinary arts), the Whack-job makes the day extra exciting by inserting useless information into the conversation, showing people your naked baby photos and giving ill-fitted foot rubs.

2. The Narc
No matter how happy you are with your life, the Badger thinks you should have done something different (gone to law school, married an accountant, moved to Mars) and is still trying to get you to do it by badgering you about it at every family occasion.

3. The Badger
This person will tell you. No matter how happy you are with your life, the Badger thinks you should have done something different (gone to law school, married an accountant, moved to Mars) and is still trying to get you to do it by badgering you about it at every family occasion.

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5. The Woozle
The most unpleasant personality traits at once!
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The most unpleasant personality traits at once!
Night classes are in demand
Students appreciate night class flexibility but there are pros and cons to consider
By DeCharles Covington
Reporter
As enrollment at community colleges increases during the economic downturn, evening classes are becoming more and more popular. A New York Times article on October 27, 2009 describes several community colleges that are so busy they are now offering classes as late as 11:30PM to 2:30AM and even those classes are filling up. Mercer’s latest classes end around 11 p.m., but they too are filling faster than ever. For those considering night school, there are advantages and disadvantages to consider.
Mercer currently has 2,307 students taking an evening class. The vast majority of these, 2,265 are taking classes part time. Evening classes start anywhere between 5:15PM and 8:00PM and most of the evening classes meet once a week for 2 hours and 45 minutes.
“Teaching at night is quite beneficial. Classes are longer, one day a week and students come with the notion that the class will incorporate a lecture. The students are generally older and more mature, which provides an intellectual environment ripe for a college setting,” said African American History instructor Professor Baye Kemit, when asked what he thought were the benefits of teaching night classes.
“I'm very tired after a long day's work, but coffee can't watch my eight o'clock TV show,” said Georgia Waleoh, first-year Business major. Danielle Garruba-Ice, a junior Business major stated, “I can't watch my eight o'clock TV show!”
According to the survey, the reasons most students decided to take evening classes included wanting smaller class sizes with fewer students, needing the convenience of classes that meet in the evening, and being able to work full time during the day. Survey respondents also commented on the challenges night classes present. Most commonly mentioned challenges included: limited class selections, difficulties staying focused in class and trying to find child care. Some also noted that they feared the long, dark walk to and from the parking lots at night.
“The biggest problem a night time student may face is a case of the munchies while arriving to school at night. The cafeteria is closed by 3 pm, so the evening students are left with vending machines that charge $1.75 for a bottle of water. Evening students must try to eat before arriving to class as some professors do not allow eating in class. Packing a snack may come in handy, however. When asked to describe any downsides to taking night classes, first year Business major Geoffrey Josephy said, “I have access to the same club activities are not limited to day students. The most noticeable update was the ability to create short videos, the existing video abilities were slow and impractical for quick recordings and uploads.” Apple, with its iPod and iPhone phones is now for creating products that are aesthetically pleasing and which facilitate ease of use. This trait holds for Snow Leopard which offers a simple user-friendly interface that enables the user to professionally edit pictures, videos, and all the other different kinds of multimedia.
One of the greatest additions to Snow Leopard is QuickTime Pro, which used to be sold separately for an extra charge. Snow Leopard is a polished operating system in comparison to its predecessor. Instead of adding unnecessary frills, it is geared toward speed, and efficiency. And it only costs $30.00 to upgrade.
Having learned the basic techniques of the martial art known as Krav Maga, the recruits of the class of 04-09 continue learning strategies for physical combat, but they also learn life saving and rescue training.

Although it is only used as a last resort, when an officer must face an attacker at close range, hand to hand combat is a necessary skill for each recruit.

With adrenaline pumping, the recruits are paired up and prepped for a boxing match. As two recruits spar, the rest of the class provides support by cheering. Each match lasts about four minutes, on average, and quickly demonstrates just how very tired one becomes while fighting off an attacker.

At this point in their training, the recruits are routinely completing five mile runs and many are in the best shape of their lives. Nevertheless, as each recruit enters their fourth minute of boxing, the strain on their bodies is evident. Instructor Smith’s call to stop brings each pair some relief. Most real-life engagements will not last four minutes, so the four minute boxing matches are a means of building up physical stamina.

Following the boxing, the recruits shift from offense to defense as they learn life saving skills.

The class completes a water training course hosted by P.R.I. Rescue Training Specialists. Recruits learn how to safely remove an injured person from the water, how to stabilize an injury in the water and effective ways to hold and carry a possible drowning victim.

As the training continues, recruits learn to move effortlessly from one type of task to another, from protecting themselves to rescuing others, from classroom work to physical work and back again.
Men’s soccer team will host but not compete in NJCAA Division Soccer Championship

By Brian Kaplan

Even though they are hosting it, for the first time in close to a decade, Mercer County Community College’s men’s soccer team will not be participating in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Men’s Soccer Tournament.

After their loss on October 31 to Essex, the Vikings failed to advance to the District tournament. Consequently, they will not be appearing in the national tournament taking place from November 18 to November 22.

Despite the missed opportunity to compete for a national championship, the Vikings still performed solidly during the regular season and compiled a record of 14-1.

Led by head coach Charlie Inverso, who has guided the Vikings to four national championships since he took over the team in 1986, the team posted shutouts in six of their 14 wins this season.

Although the Mercer men’s soccer team did not enjoy the outcome that they hoped for this season, the 2010 season will provide a clean slate for the Vikings to renew their bid for the national title.

The Viking women’s soccer team was a dominant force during the 2009 season, compiling a record of 16-5-1 on the way to becoming Region XIX champions for the third year in a row. The women posted a winning streak of 8 games during the season, 6 of which were shutouts.

Multiple key players contributed to the lady Vikings’ 2009 winning season.

Kasey Kenny and Carolyn Walters proved to be an integral part of the team’s offensive game. They led the team in scoring. In order to protect the leads that the team fought for, they turned to defenders Maressa Segal and Angela Modica.

The women of the victorious Vikings take a moment to relax and share a laugh on the bench.

PHOTO | FRANK SUMMERS

Women’s soccer team takes the XIX title for second year!

By Brian Kaplan

The Viking women’s soccer team were a dominant force during the 2009 season, compiling a record of 16-5-1 on the way to becoming Region XIX champions – a title that they fought for, scoring. In order to protect the offensive game, they led the team in scoring. In order to protect the leads that the team fought for, they turned to defenders Maressa Segal and Angela Modica.

The women of the victorious Vikings take a moment to relax and share a laugh on the bench.

PHOTO | FRANK SUMMERS

Men miss championship despite good season

Men’s soccer team will host but not compete in NJCAA Division Soccer Championship

PHOTO | MATTHEW FREEDMAN

PHOTO | FRED SUMMERS

By Jillian Langdon

Ending last season with no regional title and a record of 20-10, Mercer’s women’s basketball hopes to reinvigorate with the help of some new blood and a larger team. The Lady Vikings hope to make it to the Region XIX Tournament this February.

Head Coach Mike Tenaglia kicks off his twentieth season with the same mantra: “talent is never enough.” Through “positivity, teamwork, and hard work, on and off the court” Coach Tenaglia thinks the girls will go “all the way” this season.

“Our competition is Essex and Union” says Coach Tenaglia. Last season Essex County College beat the Vikings in the opening round of the Region XIX Tournament, but later lost the title to Union County College.

Union’s Lady Owls stats precede them. Last year’s win made them Region XIX champions for the third year in a row.

“They have close to as many titles as we do” says Coach Tenaglia.

However, with the number of players on the Vikings at an all time high, depth might prove to be a threat to Union’s Owls. Thirteen women make up this season’s lady Vikings, whereas there are only seven on the Owls’ roster.

Coach Tenaglia says the larger team offers him “flexibility as a coach.”

“What we lack in height this season, we make up for with depth” says Captain Jenn Casper. “With our numbers we can keep a good pace and run even the best teams and players tired. That’s our advantage.”

Casper added.

The starting line-up includes 5’8 freshman forward Alexa Sweet, 5’9 freshman forward Maria Crews, 5’4 freshman guard Ja’Neice Worley, 5’8 sophomore forward Jenn Casper (captain), 5’9 sophomore forward Klaire Bourne, 5’5 freshmen guard Amanda Teremy, and returning forward/center Samantha Foley.

The advantage this season is the players who round out the team: 5’4 sophomore guard Chelsea Lawson, 5’9 sophomore forward Lauren Divello, 5’9 freshmen forward Marelys Williams, 5’7 freshmen guard Laurie Begas, and 5’2 freshmen guard Showana Paul.

The next home game is Saturday, November 28, at 2:30PM against Community College of Rhode Island.

The Lady Vikings face-off against Union, their toughest competition, at home on Tuesday December 15, at 6PM. The upcoming schedule for this season is posted on the Mercer website.
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Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

5
1
8
2
4
6
3
5
4
2
3
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8

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

11-10-09
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10-24-09

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Ed really knows how to make a point. He challenges the conventional wisdom, turns problems upside down, and examines every angle of an issue. So it’s no surprise that in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at William Paterson University, he’s right at home.

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TRANSFER TUESDAY
Dec. 8 – 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Transfer students must bring to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (Hepburn Hall, Room 207) official transcripts from all colleges attended, completed application and an essay. All transfer students must have earned a minimum of 12 college credits with a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

INFO SESSION
at Mercer
January 13, 2010
April 8, 2010
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Faculty Dining Room
Student Center
West Windsor Campus
1200 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550

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STUDENTS FIRST
What it takes to survive college costs

Although quick Google searches suggest there are in- finite possibilities for scholarships, many students find it harder and harder to find mon- ey for college.

Before school even begins, undergrads are forced to work hard. Everyone tries to mold themselves to fit the cri- teria of every scholarship pos- sible. We write a million essays and fill out countless of appli- cations for grants and financial aid, then cross our fingers and hope their favorite school and Uncle Sam are feeling gener- ous. Students must wait for a letter, an email, something that tells them they can afford to go to school so they can breathe a sigh of relief.

Only 47 percent of students, on average, are be- ing awarded federal financial aid. The average cost per year for tuition, fees and housing at a four-year private college are a staggering $30,367! That is 5.7 percent higher than the previous year. The numbers are ris- ing each year for students and no end is in sight.

Some students are forced to work two jobs just to get by. They are left hoping that their schoolwork does not suffer from the hours they have to spend working to pay for their classes.

B r i a n Kaplan, a second- year NJ STARS student at Mercer, when questioned about working two-jobs and handling schoolwork, said “Managing one’s time systematically and efficiently will ultimately lead to success. However, for the all-too-common working student, this strategy becomes more complex when they have to decide between an extra shift at work or their 8-page history paper…”

“We believe in your First Amendment rights and we want your voice to be heard. Here is this month’s letter to the editor.”

Let’s say a student has taken out a loan, waited tables all summer, or become one of 56.6 percent of students that was awarded some form of mon- etary aid and is able to cover the tuition. Even then, college costs can be crushing.

T e x t b o o k prices have tripled over the past 20 years. A Government Accountabil- ity Office study showed that students at four- year schools are spending $900 a year on text- books. At two- year colleges, textbook prices amounted to al- most three-quarters of tuition costs. Some students end up wondering if it is even worth it to purchase the books. Gardner’s Art Through the Ages, over 1,000 pages of art his- tory, costs $171.50. Tack on an- other $166 for that pre-calculus textbook.

Not buying the book becomes even more tempting when prior students tell you that you won’t even crack the “cover.” It is difficult for stu- dents to be money smart and good students at the same time especially when some profes- sors don’t even use the book. It causes students to waste money and lose trust in their professors. It seems like the majority of students that was Mercer graduate Kelly Winkop. But we all know that the books are cen- tral to getting a good education, or at least they should be. How do we know when to use the reserve copy in the library and when to shell out for the expen- sive textbook?

With big bills and little income, many students try to comfort themselves with the knowledge that if they can sur- vive, at least they will come out the other end with a college degree. However, even a de- grade isn’t a guarantee in today’s world. Employers plan to hire 22 percent fewer graduates this spring then in years past, ac- cording to a survey by the Na- tional Association of Colleges and Employers. With an average of $20,000, and up to $100,000 in school loans, students are headed out into a unforgiving job market.

A fruitful of factors con- tributes to such high numbers: unaffordable tuitions, the lend- ing environment, and a lack of proper financial aid guidance; close to eight million students fail to file a FAFSA each year. The lessons students need to be learning in the coming semesters are ones of networking and persistence to survive the rigors of college expenses.

If your GPA is 3.5+ and you’ve completed 12+ credits, contact program coordinator Prof. Carol Bork at borkc@mccc.edu or 609-340-4800 ext. 2900

A lot of us are broke. Sometimes we can scrounge up enough money to eat out, but if you do, make sure to scrounge up enough money in tip your wait- er properly as well. If you don’t tip between 18%-20%, the server basically just paid for your meal.

The U.S. Department of Labor classifies servers and waitstaff as “Tipped Employ- ees.” In the great state of New Jersey, tipped employees get a whopping $2.15 minimum cash wage per hour (much of which goes to taxes).

As a result, the majority of servers pays come from tips. On top of that, a server probably has to tip out a percentage of their net sales to (at least one of the following groups, often all three) the busboys, the food runners and a percentage of all drink sales to the bartender. So that $4 tip someone leaves on a $50 bill is basically a slap in their server’s face.

Of course, if your ser- vice wasn’t up to par and your server was a genuine jerk then I can understand the desire to leave a bad tip, but some people don’t tip because food comes out overcooked or un- dercooked, a problem that isn’t actually the server’s fault. Don’t think you’re teaching your server a lesson by not leaving that 18-20%.

Servers put up with a lot. Yes, we are in the hospital- ity industry, and the customer is often right, but not always. Tip your server or risk the conse- quences.

A t c h e m e n t s

A four-year private college are...
When professors patronize, education is undermined

By Peter Cosma

The key traits of poor professorship, the ones that undermine the educational experience fastest, are: being patronizing, self-aggrandizing and impa- tient, and conveying indifference to student feedback.

Many professors seem to look down on their students. When I attend a college-level course I expect to be treated as a student, not as an elementary, middle or high school student. To some professors there may not be much diff- erence, for instance, some students have just gradu- ated from high school. To the student, however, school and college are miles apart and most of us prefer it that way.

Some of these same professors are patroniz- ing remarks with self-aggrandiz- ing anecdotes. When used properly, anecdotes can be a sound pedagogical tool, helping stu- dents to make connec- tions between new concepts and more familiar ones. The key is that they must be used prop- erly. In order for an anecdote to work, it must relate to the stu- dent's life.

One professor I have used many anecdotes, but their key purpose seems to be to show how cool he is. They focus on the big shot politicians and celebrities with whom he has rubbed elbows, the posh events he has attended. They never seemed to relate back to the sci- ence we are studying.

Of course, some teach- ers lead very different lives from their students and may not real- ize their examples are not relat- able. In order for an anecdote to work, you need to watch students' reac- tions and monitor student suc- cess – did that joke today about having lunch with Hillary Clin- ton actually cause students to get the questions about protein transfer correct on the exam?

For asking for feedback and (then taking it) is another way that professors can find out more about their classroom. This sounds easy in theory, but the key to getting good feedback is showing re- spect for students.

I have had many a professor re- lease a loud, long sigh when a student asks to have a concept clarified or repeated. Those toxic signs of impatience lead to students being reluctant, if not completely unwilling, to give honest feedback.

If from the beginning, questions and requests for clarification are approached with patience, students will feel more comfortable in the class- room, participate more, and ultimately gain more from the professor's lessons.

I suspect that the rea- son some professors resist ques- tioning their teaching habits is due, in part, to the changing na- ture of community colleges. The public's attitude toward them is different than they were 20-30 years ago (when some of our professors started teaching).

The main goal of a community college used to be to merely provide an Associate's Degree or vocational education. Now, however, more and more stu- dents are using community col- leges as a means of preparing to transfer to four-year schools, and those who were trained in earlier eras are not adjusting to these new expectations.

The attitude of "it's just commu- nity college" mindset is best for them. Also, in most cases, it is best for the students who drop a class, the second or third day of class and get caught up. If they can't, Mercer should close registra- tion on the first day of classes. Of course, it doesn't.

A workable policy would address the needs of all parties concerned. It would en- courage students to ensure that they are correctly placed in a class before losing money.

The obvious solution to the problem is extending the deadline to drop a class with a refund and to use a system where the refund received is propor- tional to the amount of the se- mester that has passed. This system is used at many colleges. For example, Macomb Com- munity College gives students a 10 percent refund for the first five business days after the start of the semester and a 50 percent refund before the 10th business day.

All these things have been discussed. I'm not sure we can implement such a policy," says Dr. Campbell.

There is no way students could get a better advantage of this policy. Anyone who dropped a class would still be wasting their own time. If the policy was changed, it would be fairer for everyone.
Dear Voice, What would it take to get moving walkways - like the ones they have at major airline terminals, for the walk from the parking lot to the buildings? - Tired of the Leg Work

Dear Horsey, You are not abnormal. Many a night we’ve lain awake staring into the stars, wondering why, why, why Mr. Ed won’t call anymore. We torture ourselves with “I should have done this” and “I could have done that.” You are not alone.

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

THREE CROSSWORD: X FACTOR

ACROSS
2. Bara the vamp 7. “... a lamp – my friend” 12. Early Canadian
5. Pen points 10. Finished 15. Make doilies

DOWN
1. Second in command 2. One less than neun 3. Command to dribbles
4. Markings, supposedly abnormal. Many a night we’ve lain awake staring into the stars, wondering why, why, why Mr. Ed won’t call anymore. We torture ourselves with “I should have done this” and “I could have done that.” You are not alone.

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2X THE GET FUZZY AND DILBERT!

YOU'RE RIGHT. NOBODY IS NOTICING THE EFFORT YOU PUT OUT FOR THEM, SO IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE HINT. NO MORE FREEBIES! TRY LISTENING MORE AND TALKING LESS. YOU COULD LEARN VALUABLE LESSONS AND GAIN PEOPLE'S RESPECT SIMULTANEOUSLY.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Suddenly you have an urge to be in the kitchen and you may be surprised by your inner Julia Child. Inspiration and creativity are yours and everyone enjoys tasting the results.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
Sure, you’re hot stuff, but don’t let yourself get cocky. Try listening more and talking less. You could learn valuable lessons and gain people’s sincere respect simultaneously.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Get ready to belly up to the turkey, and then get ready to hit the gym. This may not be your best holiday season for will power, but you will get the extra pounds off.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Despite your desire to be a grinch, there is something about yuletide logs and holly wreaths that always suits you. Embrace the season, Ebenezer.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You are particularly charming during holiday festivities this year. Everybody wants your number. Be coy. You think you can do better, and you’re right.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Watch out for mechanical items this month as computers, phones and other gadgets have a way of breaking down on you. Back up your work!

Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19
Holiday travel can be tough on the nerves, but prove to be well worth it for you this month. Aries, friendships and kinships are strengthened as a result of braving the traffic.

Cancer
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22
Your suspicion that you have begun to spend too much time on the Mercer campus is entirely founded. Make time for a trip away, even if just to Atlantic City for the weekend.

Leo
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22
A modest but meaningful gift comes your way from an unusual source. Take the opportunity to reciprocate and a friendship may grow.

Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20
You will put in a lot of extra hours at work this holiday season, and it may feel like a grind, but you’ll be laughing all the way to the bank come January, while your friends are broke.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
You should get a job at the U.N. You are able to be unusually diplomatic with relatives who give you sweaters with snowmen on them instead of the iTunes gift card you asked for.

Gemini
May 21 - Jun. 20
Sure, you’re hot stuff, but don’t let yourself get cocky. Try listening more and talking less. You could learn valuable lessons and gain people’s sincere respect simultaneously.

Gore Vidal’s “The City and the Pillar,” (1948)