Student suicide prompts outreach to at risk groups

By Kelly Smith
The College VOICE

Twenty-year-old Mercer student Nicola “Nick” Roccio committed suicide by hanging himself at his college apartment in Lawrenceville on Wednesday, September 22, 2010. There was no note left behind to explain his actions.

According to Riccio’s obituary, published on October 5 in the Hunterdon County Democrat, he was an avid fan of basketball and had enjoyed playing the game prior to a sustaining a shoulder injury.

Valerie Brooks-Klein, Senior Counselor at Mercer, was one of the first to be notified by the Lawrence Police Department of Riccio’s death. With the goal of starting an outreach program for students at Mercer, Brooks-Klein met with President Dr. Patricia Donohue.

The Mercer student suicide is compounded by several other local suicides including the death of Snigdha Mohanty, a 40-year-old Indian female who was found in the water in Mercer County Park on September 10, 2010, and the death of several individuals who have taken their lives by standing in front of on-coming Acela trains which routinely travel up to 135 miles per hour.

But no suicide has left a stronger mark on the community than the highly publicized September 22 suicide of Tyler Clementi at Rutgers University.

As was widely reported in the press, Tyler Clementi was captured on video by his roommate Dharun Ravi. Ravi used his friend Molly Wei’s room to turn on a video recorder and then stream a video of Clementi having sexual relations with another male student online. This is believed to be the reason Clementi jumped off of the George Washington Bridge.

Ravi and Wei are charged with transmitting sexual images without consent and face up to five years in prison.

Due to the Clementi suicide and then Riccio’s, Mercer’s counselor Brooks-Klein felt she needed to reach out to at-risk groups on campus, including the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Friends club (LGBTF).

Brooks-Klein said, “No kid should feel alone and unsupported.”

With Brooks-Klein, the LGBTTF decided to conduct a program at lunch time in the cafeteria the week following Riccio’s death. They set up an outreach table staffed by Brooks-Klein and LGBTTF members and offered information regarding signs of suicide and places and programs available for help.

Although Brooks-Klein is the only counselor on campus with more than 12,000 full and part-time students, she is the conduit to services that are available in the area for students in need. She can connect students in need to counseling centers such as Princeton House and Crisis Center at Helen Fuld.

President Dr. Patricia Donohue said in an interview with the VOICE, “I think a really important thing is not just assuming [suicidal thoughts or signs in friends] will go away.”

See SUICIDES page 2

Crime upick at MCC: police deal with thefts, fights and drugs

By Kelly Smith
The College VOICE

In the first three weeks of this semester, a series of crimes have been committed by Mercer students on campus, constituting a significant uptick in crime that West Windsor police say mirrors a general increase in crime in the area, possibly related to the struggling economy.

Six car break-ins and a student caught smoking pot on campus were reported to West Windsor Police on Tuesday September 14. A week later, on Thursday September 23, a fight broke out in the student lounge between two female students.

The first of these crimes was committed by female Mercer student Del Rasizer who broke into six cars at midday in the East student parking lot 1. Rasizer admitted to the police that she was under the influence of a substance and was breaking into cars in order to pay off a fine.

Rasizer said she was after textbooks so that she could sell them back for money. According to the police report, she also stole electronics such as iPods and calculators, because they were accessible.

After breaking into the cars, Rasizer left the school and took the electronics to a pawn shop where they were sold before they were able to be retrieved by police.

Rasizer was able to break into most of the cars as a result of them being unlocked or the windows being down far enough for her to stick her hand in and unlock the doors. In one instance however, she had to slit the back window of a Jeep in order to be able to climb into it. While entering the jeep, she was spotted by a Mercer student who then reported the incident to security with a partial license plate number.

The next day, another student who had also witnessed the break-ins, saw Rasizer’s car and took down the license plate number.

And reported it to security. After a full confession to the police, Rasizer was charged with six counts of burglary, six counts of theft, and two counts of criminal mischief. Also on September 14 around 5:30 pm, 20 year old Mercer student Peter Ratzlaff III of Hamilton was found by West Windsor police smoking marijuana in his car. While driving through the parking lot, a police officer smelled the odor of burnt marijuana and then noticed Ratzlaff and another person listening to music in his silver GMC.

When questioned by the police, Ratzlaff confessed that he had been smoking marijuana. His friend, female Mercer student Stephanie Sprecher, said that she had not. Sprecher was let go without charges while Ratzlaff was charged with possession under 50 grams.

In a brief interview with the VOICE, Ratzlaff said of the incident, “A series of unfortunate events happened and you deal with it.”

Mercer security indicated that they were not aware of the Ratzlaff incident, but Mercer Chief Security Officer John Ramondi said, “West Windsor police drive through all the time.”

One week later, on
Following MCCC student suicide, new focus on at-risk populations

By Kelly Smith
The College VOICE

Continued from page 1

Donohue said there are a number of places Mercer can contact to help support the family, friends, and even faculty who knew either of the two students who committed suicide. The primary one which works with Mercer and Brooks-Klein is The Mercer County Traumatic Loss Coalition.

Donohue went on to say, “Whenever there’s a trauma like a suicide both faculty and students can feel vulnerable, particularly to the thoughts of was there something I could have done? Did I miss a signal? Could I have helped him or her? So it really is important for the people around, whether it’s the teacher or the counselor, the best friend to have a way to think through that.”

The Student Center on Mercer’s West Windsor campus is open from approximately 9AM-6PM, where the office of community colleges to help themselves get ahead.

Having to decide between the school and the workforce is a complex decision that more and more people have to make in this economy. Juggling school, a job, and children can be frustrating and many single parents say they come to a time when they have to decide what they are willing to sacrifice in order to survive. For many, the possibility of attending school and not working is not an option, so they opt to drop out of school and stay in the workforce where they have to provide for their children.

“Education is the best way to prepare yourself to be able to have a job, to be productive in society,” said Mercer’s Executive Dean of Students Dr. Diane Campbell when asked why she believed single parents are returning to school.

Dean Campbell said during the interview that the number one issue single parents at Mercer complain about has to do with their financial situation.

“I think we have to acknowledge that this is happening and that regardless of some people having a child, we are providing everything we can to support them so they can have better finances and opportunities,” said Dean Campbell.

Dean Campbell maintains a list of emergency contacts to help students who encounter financial issues while attending classes at Mercer.

The list includes resources for assistance towards rent, utilities, food packages, clothing, and emergency placement. All requests are kept confidential.

Although there are students who are struggling to manage work, school, and family, there are those who are thriving as they opt to stay in school regardless of the effort and sacrifice they must make.

Recent graduate L-...
Philadelphia’s Parx Casino holds its own
By Matthew Rosenberg

The Philadelphia Parx casino is no Atlantic City, but it is definitely the next best thing. You can see the bright lights of the newly built casino from the highway. Parx was completed two years ago and just recently added table games including poker, blackjack, and roulette.

The casino is small and smells of cigarette smoke. Employees check ID’s at the door as sultry cocktail waitresses in skimpy outfits walk around offering drinks. Complimentary drinks are offered to those who are gambling.

The table minimums are $10 a dollar, which may be steep for college students but, after all, it is gambling and for those who have lost out already there are penny slots, which are much more rewarding than playing waitresses-- and a few cented dollar or more reward, much more rewarding than playing. The drinks are offered. Complimentary drinks are offered at the door as sultry cocktail waitresses in skimpy outfits walk around offering drinks.

For those unsure about starting and maintaining an exercise program, DeAngelis says, “We’re going to make this fun and suitable for everyone. Everyone feels too much, stop and rest.”

Ailyn Ports Lopez, Teaching Assistant in the Fine Arts Department, said she had no interest in the idea of Boot Camp because “I thought it was great,” said Lopez. “It was a wonderful opportunity and it’s free. It was nice to see such a wide range of ages, sizes and athletic ability.”

With itinerary and timer sizes and athletic ability, the “best indicator of health, more so than weight.” DeAngelis says that is because a lower percentage of body fat will add muscle, which may actually increase your weight.

DeAngelis says that is because a lower percentage of body fat will add muscle, which may actually increase your weight. He also says he wanted to come up with a new and fresh way to work out. DeAngelis said his main goals are to get as many people as possible to work out and for the program to grow.

Before entering the gymnasium on the inaugural day, DeAngelis welcomed everyone wearing his Viking helmet complete with beard. Once inside, he provided an overview of the class. Since all fitness levels were welcome, he provided a demonstration to help participants decide which level to choose.

Aidas Gedeka, a second year Exercise Science major, instructed the advanced students while DeAngelis instructed the beginners. Gedeka’s effort is part of a 15-week internship under Professor John Kalinowski, Exercise Science Program Coordinator.

DeAngelis credited Gedeka with helping him to create the program. “He was a key contributor in developing the workout,” said DeAngelis. He said that through the process, he and Gedeka decided together which ideas and workouts to include in the program.

Besides the workout, body composition assessment is available for participants. DeAngelis said that he feels body composition, which measures percentage of body fat, is the “best indicator of health, more so than weight.”

Allyn Ports Lopez, Teaching Assistant in the Fine Arts Department, said she had no problem deciding which group to join. “As a beginner beginner, I thought it was great,” said Lopez. “It was a wonderful opportunity and it’s free. It was nice to see such a wide range of ages, sizes and athletic ability.”

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DeAngelis says he feels that benefits of exercise are both mental and physical. “Starting an exercise program can be the beginning of a whole new healthier lifestyle. It also helps manage stress,” said DeAngelis.

Viking Boot Camp continues through October for those interested in joining later.

Viking Boot Camp shapes up
By Susan Johnson

Vikings “Boot Camp” started on September 20 at Noon in the gymnasium. Mike DeAngelis, Fitness Center and Swimming Pool Coordinator at Mercer invited all staff, faculty and students to the “muscle toning heart pumping” class as his “call to shape.” Thirty-nine people chose to accept the call.

So far the Boot Camp initiative is scheduled for a 5 week trial period. DeAngelis says he is hoping to generate enough interest to continue beyond that time. He intends to make each week a little different by adding and substituting exercises to keep it fresh.

For those unsure about starting and maintaining an exercise program, DeAngelis says, “We’re going to make this fun and suitable for everyone. Everyone feels too much, stop and rest.”

Mike DeAngelis, director of MCCC’s fitness center also runs the new Mercer Viking Boot Camp.

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The Mercer County Library may have one of the best kept secrets around. Free adult computer classes. In 2009, they offered 343 classes with 2,948 attendees according to Rina Banerjee, Library Director and Computer Instructor.

Anyone 18 years of age or over who lives, works, owns property or attends school in the participating municipalities of East Windsor, Roryg, Hightstown, Hopewell Township, Lawrenceville, Twin Rivers, Washington, or West Windsor may obtain a free library card. Senior citizens who do not reside in a participating municipality may purchase a card for $10 per year.

“I’ve taken two of the classes in August and [the instructor] is very good, very patient,” said Mary Ann Conboy of Lawrenceville after attending a recent class.

Open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, the library offers several levels of Microsoft Office 2007 classes at the main branch in Lawrenceville. Registration begins on the twenty-fifth of each month beginning at Noon. People may register in person at any of the library’s branches or by logging onto http://www.mcl.org.

Computers are guaranteed to the first 16 people who sign up and arrive on time. If the class is full, one can attend as an observer, or use the computer of a person who did not show. Anyone may be an observer many times or retake classes as needed.

Banerjee schedules the courses and sets up the lesson plans. She says that when she came to the library about five years ago, she welcomed the opportunity to tap into her creative side by developing the program.

“People who come to classes are eager to learn,” said Banerjee.

Some courses may qualify for New Jersey Department of Education Professional Development Credit. Educators must register and attend in the same manner as the general public and request their completion certificates at the end of each program.

Microsoft’s Word and Excel programs are the two most popular classes, but there are other offerings from resume writing to learning how to use email. Open lab times are offered.

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Rachel Young, 19, a first year Mercer student, with a 3.8 GPA, is majoring in Elementary Education and is also the president of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor society. Young has plans of transferring to TCNJ in the Fall of 2011 where she will continue to study Early Elementary Education. 

Originally from Maryland, Young was a Maryland Distinguished Scholar. Young was elected president of Mercer’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter in the Spring of 2010. In addition to maintaining a strong GPA, PTK members organize different service projects in an effort to help the surrounding community and individuals in need.

One of the current projects that Young is working on with PTK is “Gray Matters,” a golf fundraiser to help raise money for brain cancer. Another project is the “Walk for Autism.” Young speaks passionately about these events saying that she “wants to do as much as she can to help.”

“Rachel is a bright, cheerful and positive student and student leader,” said Kenneth Howarth, a Mercer Philosopher and PTK faculty advisor. Young took a class with Howarth in the Spring of 2010. In an interview with Kristen Stankeviciw, a second year Mercer student and PTK member, she said that “Rachel is a very out-going, extremely nice person. She is very positive and is always willing to help others.” Stankeviciw is also majoring in Elementary Education and has been friends with Young for almost 2 years. It may seem that Young could not have time for much else with her heavy academic responsibilities, yet she makes time for tennis. Young is on the Women’s Team here at Mercer, she has been playing since she was 16 when she joined her high school tennis team. She was also the Captain of the soccer team.

Young practices tennis Monday through Friday for an hour and a half at Mercer County Park. “Rachel is a quintessential team player. She lightens up the atmosphere. She sets a great example on the court, she is fair, friendly but kills herself to get every ball. We’re lucky to have her on the team,” said women’s tennis coach Marc Vecchioni. 

When asked about the women’s tennis coach, Young said with a bright smile, “we have an absolutely fabulous coach, he is without a doubt the best coach I have ever had. He is always positive and encouraging, and offers a lot of good advice in order to help us play to our full potential.”

Young speaks highly of her teammates as well, saying that they are “all very talented... We have a wonderful team of players that are always fun to be around and we have good chemistry.” Young goes on to say that we “should watch out for Kati Courtney, she’s a really good player.” Young said that she is looking forward to the rest of the season, and that she hears that Brookdale is a hard team to beat and she “looks forward to playing them because they will be good competition.”

Mercer has not won any tennis matches so far this season. However, Young and teammate Melanie Hunter won a doubles match against Ocean. Their next event is scheduled for October 6 against Ocean. Young said that she has “faith in her team.”

Young says she hopes to become an elementary school principal so she can guide and shape the minds of young children. She also plans to participate in PTK to the fullest while she has the chance, because, “as a member of PTK you have the chance to help others on a much larger scale than you can ever do alone. When one of us has an idea on a way that we can help our community, we all get involved.”
IN FOCUS

Oh, the spines they are a changin’,
Macawber’s becomes Princeton U Store

By Anna Bosted

While Princeton’s Nassau Street has long forgone any illusion of being supported by quaint mom-and-pop shops, the bottom-line of business was never so apparent as in the sale of the property of Micawber’s Books and the properties from 116 to 122 Nassau Street.

In 2007, the US economic recession was still a growing, yet un-developed issue, but by growing foreclosure rates. It was in this same year that Princeton’s iconic independent bookstore Micawber’s closed its doors and sold its property to Princeton University for an undisclosed amount. Though the primary reasons for Micawber’s closure were a combination of slowing book sales and competition against chain bookstores like Barnes and Noble’s and Amazon.com, the economic aspect of the closure and subsequent changing of ownership tells a surprising story of hope for the literary world.

Initial University plans in 2007 determined that Princeton would use the newly acquired space to house its U-Store. Books would be sold through Labyrinth Books. At the time, Labyrinth was enjoying recognition as an independent, alternative book company serving a select few campuses, including Columbia University’s Morning Side Heights and Yale University’s New Haven.

Micawber’s founder and co-owner Logan Fox endorsed the concept of Labyrinth’s discounted prices and community and campus friendly stores, which reportedly helped to smooth the sale. Now, three years later, Labyrinth is successfully maintaining its operations in Princeton while simultaneously expanding to reach out to a broader audience base.

There was significant public outcry regarding Micawber’s closure. Labyrinth owners Dorethea von Moltke and Cliff Simms took this community concern not as an insult or business challenge, but rather as a positive sign of literary life.

"There was a real regret about seeing Micawber go...but we were thrilled to be in a town where people cared enough about their bookstore to be upset," said Moltke. "Initially [Micawber’s customers] would come in, and they would be very frank and say things like, 'why is the lighting so bright'!"

Beyond the change in number of light fixtures, Labyrinth’s take over and remodeling has completely renovated the space. Today, there is room for an entirely new selection and organization of books. The larger, more diversely stocked Labyrinth is inherently attracting more traffic than Micawber was able to. While Micawber mastered the sale of used books and hidden literary treasures on a community level, Labyrinth has worked to build upon that tradition while expanding the selection and clientele. Currently, it funnels Princeton students into the downstairs of the book store, which is now the principle textbook distributor for the university.

In addition to building upon its already close relationship with Princeton students, Labyrinth began hosting weekly book talks and other events, free to the public, while also becoming involved in community outreach programs. "We started having a full range of events, which is something Micawber just didn’t have the space or resources to do," said Moltke.

The size and structure of Labyrinth that was so initially feared by many is now responsible for a wider range of programs and community events. "There is a very close partnership here with the University and the town, but also the county, including work with organizations in Trenton focusing on issues from homelessness to poverty, and we’ve done a lot of work for prison literacy," said Moltke.

And while the successes of Labyrinth have been widely recognized, the company faces some of the same trials as its predecessor. "The most difficult competition is the internet, and in a recession, internet sellers can drive down prices," said Moltke. "We keep looking to adjust our business model so we can grow or at least stay stable with the challenges of the economy and the new media."

Swathed in awnings denoting the famous black and orange colors of Princeton, the store does not try to hide its University and town connections. Rather, it embraces the relationship.

While some begrudgingly accept that the town of Princeton appears to be increasingly dependent on the University in the economic downturn that continues to affect the US and local economy, others embrace the university for working to maintain the success of the town and promote a business environment capable of being self-sufficient.

Without the Princeton campus effort to promote business traffic in Labyrinth, there is the question: whether the independent quasi-chain would have fallen to the same fate as Micawber Books—a well intentioned, thoroughly appreciated, but hard to fund bookstore. Yes, Labyrinth "is new, and it’s part of a chain," said shopper Chris Rowland of Flemington, "but I don’t see it as a bad thing. In the world of books, Labyrinth is hardly a chain." While Micawber’s dark, crowded corners and cases have been replaced, the basic intent remains the same. At Labyrinth, as with it was with Micawber, "Rather than having the book become some kind of precious object...its about connecting the book to the reader," said Moltke.

In Princeton, the college voice | File Photo
PHOTO | ANNA BOSTED

Macawber’s becomes Princeton U Store
Oh, the spines they are a changin’
The final attraction is the Haunted Hayride. Field of Terror Haunted Cornfield, and the Unknown Haunted Barn. They also offer a Non-Scary Friendly Flashlight Maze only costing $9.00 for children and families.

Even with the economy still struggling to get back on its feet, this scare fest is not going to burn a hole in your pocket. Each attraction costs $13 separately, or $30 for all three, which is reasonable for the area. New this year, you as walk in they snap a picture of you and your friends, “in case you don’t make it out.” When you leave you can preview the picture and buy it to commemorate the event.

If you enjoy being scared till you can’t breathe, Field of Terror gives that feeling for cheap price and without wasting a whole tank of gas.

This year’s attractions at Field of Terror are definitely better than last year’s. Besides the addition of the pictures, this year’s Terror Ride-Haunted Hayride is an adrenaline pumping fifteen minutes of being totally terrorized by ghoulish actors in terrifying make-up.

The next attraction, the Field of Terror Haunted Cornfield includes a maze full of different houses, buses, and boats with creative and spooky design. Showing any type of nervousness causes the actors and actresses not to leave you alone. Being followed through the corn for twenty minutes is thoroughly creepy. At the very end the churning of the chainsaw begins and this comes the man in the horrifying mask. Word to the wise: wear running sneakers! The cornfield is the scariest part by far.

The final attraction is the Haunted Unknown Barn. The walk through is almost pitch black, making it impossible to not wak under a couple of walls. The dark cornfield is turned to a disorienting affect.

Located at 831 Windsor-Fairview Road, Field of Terror is the place to be this fall on Saturday, Fridays and Sunday nights. They are open this year since they stop selling tickets at 10 or 11 p.m. They have live entertainment on some nights but there’s always a choice of food to chow down on once you’re done. Foods include nachos, funnel cakes, fried oreos, apple cider, and more.
By Barbara Stoffels

The Cruz family of Ewing, N.J. was enthusiastic about their first ride in a Cessna 172 at the Flight Fair Saturday at Trenton-Mercer Airport. The fair is one of several held each year by Mercer’s flight team to help raise funds for them to attend area competitions.

“It was our first time up in a small plane,” said Richard Cruz, with an arm around daughter Imani and son Ricardo. “We actually flew over and saw our complex. It was one of the best days to fly.”

Imani nodded and added, “It was scary at first... but then it got steady and I was more comfortable.” Seven year old Ricardo agreed, “Very good.”

Their enthusiasm was echoed by Cindy and “Zig” Ziegarski of Lawrenceville. “We started to see the leaves change,” said Cindy. “It was great!”

“She took my life!” said Zig. “We picked our landmarks and were able to see the skyline of Philly, although New York was a bit hazy.”

Aviation School Dispatcher Valerie Servis said, “Flying now, the foliage burning with color, just last week it was all green leaves down there. But now you can see pumpkins, bright orange dots, where we were practicing.”

Saturday, October 2 was a busy day for aviation faculty and flight instructors who gave visitors a bird’s-eye view of local countryside from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Flights took off and landed at thirty minute intervals. Rates were set by weighing riders and charging twenty five dollars per person.

Aviation Program Coordinator, Professor and Chief Pilot Joe Blasenstein says he prefers the Trenton-Mercer Airport site for several reasons. “Our pilots have to fly in day-light only. If anything were to happen, you have a tower, fire and police to respond. Some smaller airports where the pilot is in control are tough in an emergency and there could be shorter runways. There is separation of services, control of airport operations with a tower, and responding to a tower is also more professional for students with ‘mike fright’. The tower makes a difference.”

As a product of the Mercer program herself, Valerie Servis called the College Aviation Program one of New Jersey’s best kept secrets. She said, “It is a valuable under-utilized program. Guidance counselors may think that you only go to a community college if you can’t afford or you’re not ready for a four year program. We have had pilots from MCCC qualify for careers flying commercial airlines, helicopters, military and State Police, even banner planes.”

Judith Stillwagon, Senior Technical Assistant and Assistant Chief Pilot for the Mercer Aviation Program, said, “We have about sixty students enrolled full time in the associate degree aviation program and are a low cost opportunity for high school graduates to qualify for a professional career in aviation.”

Stillwagon discussed the exposure of intercollegiate student competition and said, “There are only a handful of teams in regional competition, but there are twenty eight across the country in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association. Our team has qualified to compete with major schools like Purdue University.”

Mercer’s team competes regionally with Schenectady County Community College, NY, and Bridgewater State College, Mass. The top two winners are able to go to the Nationals. The 2011 NIFA SAFECON (Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference) event is scheduled for Ohio State in May. Funds generated from Saturday’s visitor flying tickets will be used for team travel expenses. Many examples of MCCC Aviation Team Trophies are clustered at flying head-quarters at the Trenton-Mercer Airport. Some over three feet high have to sit on the floor. As you pass them on your way to the infield gate, you can’t miss the sign, “It’s that time again. Please check for birds nests.”

The sign sums up the attention to detail necessary to produce qualified and professional pilots. Emphasis here is on safety and preparedness and no detail is overlooked.

Jerry Kuhl, Professor of Aviation and Assistant Chief Pilot, said, “We are basically a step one ‘stick and rudder’ school. In the second term, students use the simulators. You can program in emergencies so it reinforces other procedures, but the end is to fly the aircraft.”

The college has three flight simulators. Practice prep student pilots for actual flight. If students fall behind, flight team members are encouraged to mentor them.

The three Cessnas, two 172s and one 172B used Saturday in the Flight Fair, are part of the current college fleet of six aircraft. At one time Mercer had eleven planes but now it has six.

According to a 2009 report by the Trenton Times, the Mercer Board of Trustees received $500,000 in grants from New Jersey’s Department of Transportation and the Buehler Foundation of Paramus, payable over three years, to update the fleet. Proceeds from the sale of a plane currently up for sale will also help offset costs.

The Mercer certification program also offers aviation management and aviation customer relations tracks which do not require flying. Many alumni also help staff team competitions, working without pay to support the program.

Dan McGrath, Mercer Dispatcher and alumnus of the aviation program, sums up, “We start at flying at 9a.m., weather permitting. Early birds go to the head of the line. This place looks like Kennedy Airport on weekends.”

Perhaps Professor Jerry Kuhl put it best, “It gets to be a love affair.”
Fine dining at Rat’s Restaurant in Hamilton

By Anna Bostad  
Reporter

In an unassuming brick building on Lambertville’s North Union Street resides Bell’s Tavern, and the greatest slice of bread pudding ever imagined. Bell’s Tavern, originally established in 1938 and currently under the watchful eye of owner and Chef Paul Eschallier, has long been recognized by Lambertville locals as a hidden treasure. From the outside Bell’s Tavern appears to be nothing like what one would expect a Zagat-rated gastro-bar to look like.

With a solitary green sign hanging from the building, regulars applaud the restaurant’s rather clandestine operations. Neighbors were wary of answering too many questions about their favorite Bell’s take-out dishes and patrons joked about wanting to keep Bell’s their secret, and not without reason: the quality of food and service found at Bell’s is unparalleled.

Heaping portions of freshly made pasta, mountains of creamy mashed potatoes and succulent steak, not to mention the flowing and reasonably priced, draft beers and imported wines, would be enough to induce anyone into a blissful food coma. The menu itself is comprised of two separate groups. There are the standard dishes, including pastas, steaks, and traditional pub fare, which are complemented by an ever-changing specials menu that serves Chef Paul Eschallier, in his own words, as an opportunity “to stretch his legs and stay active” in the kitchen.

This balance of comforting pub and Italian based entrees complemented by the more imaginative dishes created by Eschallier adds up to a unique dish.

The close relationship between the kitchen and the customers has been built consistently over the years. Though Eschallier purchased Bell’s a decade ago, many of the staff has been there for even longer, some for more than 20 years.

Customers, too, savor in the longevity and consistent quality of Bell’s. “It’s really wonderful, we eat here every Sunday. It’s like Cheers; if someone isn’t here on a Sunday, you worry something’s wrong,” said Alan Olswing, a Bucks county resident.

One isn’t here on a Sunday, you worry something’s wrong,” said Alan Olswing, a Bucks county resident.

“Sometimes I have to order two,” laughed Chris Marchion of Lambertville, “One to eat, one to take to the bedroom.”

To keep prices down, Bell’s only accepts cash, but a dinner for two, including a special and beverages can easily come in under $20.

The superior service, low costs, incredible portions of rich, homemade desserts, and preparation make Bell’s Lambertville one of finest dining experiences anywhere.

In the words of customers Lars Crooks, “It’s just a great place to be!”

Reasonable food, service and prices at Bonefish in Woodbridge

By Uniquea Antley  
Reporter

BoneFish Grill Restaurant is located in The Plaza at Woodbridge on Route 1 in Woodbridge, NJ, across the street from Woodbridge Mall and provides reasonable food and service for good prices.

Before walking into BoneFish Grill, it’s worth noting that parking is scarce because a lot of the spots are blocked off for motorcyclists. But even in the parking lot, the smell of the food is enticing. Entering the restaurant the smell of the food is even more pungent. The host and hostess are friendly, as is the overall atmosphere, though it is a bit dimly lit.

Sometimes you may walk into a restaurant where it’s too loud and stuffy; this restaurant is just right in terms of the levels of noise. The after-work crowd is fairly diverse; this restaurant provides large-screen televisions for sports viewing, but that doesn’t cause excess noise.

The tables are clean, generic and comfortable. Service is speedy. The menu is separated into four different sections: Hand Helds, Grilled Fish, Grilled Specialties and Sautéed & Baked.

BoneFish provides large-screen televisions for sports viewing, but that doesn’t cause excess noise.

The tables are clean, generic and comfortable. Service is speedy. The menu is separated into four different sections: Hand Helds, Grilled Fish, Grilled Specialties and Sautéed & Baked.

The main dining area is spacious, with large-screen televisions for sports viewing, but that doesn’t cause excess noise.

The tables are clean, generic and comfortable. Service is speedy. The menu is separated into four different sections: Hand Helds, Grilled Fish, Grilled Specialties and Sautéed & Baked.
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Fall brings increased crime

Increase in crime on campus appears to mimic overall increase in the area

September 23, Mercer student Franchesca "Fancy" Crespo of Trenton allegedly assaulted Mercer student Keisha Brown of Princeton. According to police reports, Brown had been staying with Crespo and the night before the incident, they had had a private conversation about a male that Crespo wanted to be involved with. The next day in school Brown told other students about the conversation and word got back to Crespo.

Police reports indicate Brown told the police that Crespo entered the student lounge and yelled, "Stop talking shit." They began to argue and then Crespo left the lounge. Brown then began to cry and Crespo returned and yelled, "Stop crying like a baby," and threw a plastic cup.

According to Brown, Crespo then punched her in the right side of her face, knocking Brown off her chair and onto the ground. Brown says Crespo then climbed on top of her and began pulling her hair and grabbing her throat.

The College VOICE

Student Survey:

Have you ever been the victim of a crime on campus?

Do you know where to report a crime on campus? Yes 2.6% 97.4%

Have you ever committed a crime on campus? Yes 6.5% 93.5%

Student Survey:

When asked, "Have you ever committed a crime on campus?" 2.6% percent of the students answered yes and 97.4 percent said no.

Student Survey:

Do you know where to report a crime on campus?

Security office, or anywhere to anyone working that would be able to help.

Use common sense, if you see something, report it.

Procedure is to call campus security. They will call West Windsor Police.

No, but if I was having a problem I could talk to a counselor or teacher.

Not really, maybe the front desk by the library?

Yeah, it's pretty much posted all over the school, I can't miss it.

Weren't you ever the victim of a crime?

Were you ever the victim of a crime?

Yes: 2.6% No: 97.4%

Do you know where to report a crime on campus?

Maybe: 6.5% Yes: 62.3% No: 31.1%

Have you ever committed a crime on campus?

Yes: 2.6% No: 97.4%


97.4 percent of the students surveyed were never the victim of a crime on-campus and 2.6 percent reported; yes, they were the victim of a crime on-campus.

62.3 percent of the students surveyed said they knew where to report a crime. 31.1 percent of the students did not know and 6.5 percent were unsure.

97.4 percent of the students surveyed said they knew where to report a crime. 31.1 percent of the students did not know and 6.5 percent were unsure.
Increase in crime on campus appears to mimic overall increase in the area

Fall brings increase in crime at Mercer

Crespo told the police that she confronted Brown in the student lounge and then pushed her, at which point Brown fell to the ground. Crespo said she then grabbed Brown’s throat.

Brown escaped to the safety of the radio club office, where she called campus security. Brown says campus security then detained Crespo until West Windsor Police arrived. WWPD arrested Crespo and asked Brown if she wanted a restraining order against Crespo. Brown declined, feeling that the situation had been diffused.

Brown says the reason she did not retaliate was because “I was kinda caught off guard.” Crespo was released without bail and charged with simple assault.

President Donohue, who says she frequently calls security from her cell phone when she witnesses an accident outside of campus, added, “Security’s job is to keep us safe, all of us.”

In response to these crimes Mercer Security Officer Ramondi said, “We haven’t really had that many [crimes this year]. It’s a relatively good year.”

President Donohue, who says she frequently calls security from her cell phone when she witnesses an accident outside of campus, added, “Security’s job is to keep us safe, all of us.”
Seussical brings family fun to Kelsey

By Pierce Willans

The Pennington Players put on an excellent performance of Seussical the Musical on October 3 at MCCC’s Kelsey Theater.

As this play is primarily aimed at kids, the plot is simple. The story is about a kind-hearted elephant named Horton who discovers a speck of dust which turns out to be a tiny planet inhabited by a tiny race of people called The Whos. The Whos are drilling along and ask Horton for help. Horton befriends the son of the mayor of the Whos named Jojo, with whom he forms a friendship. Horton becomes the guardian of the Whos and protects them and their planet from danger. Horton is ridiculed by his fellow animals, who are certain that something as small as The Whos could not possibly exist.

Aside from Horton and The Whos, there is a large and colorful array of characters ranging from a gang of mischievous monkeys, a soulful singing kangaroo, a short-statured general with a Napoleon complex, and of course Dr. Seuss’s flagship character, the Cat in the Hat. While all of these characters were played exceptionally well, there are a few performances that really stand out.

Aimee Robidoux was just tremendous in her role as the Sour Kangaroo and Ian, a powerful singing voice reminiscent of soul-singers of the past, such as Aretha Franklin.

The other major star was the actor playing the Cat in the Hat. The actor known by his stage name, Kryss, stole the show with his incredible performance. While the play was primarily geared towards young children, Kryss’s work as the Cat consistently kept the parents and older members of the audience entertained with imitations of characters as recognizable as Stevie Wonder, a British auctioneer, a news reporter, a circus owner and a pool boy from Palm Beach.

If the play’s strength was in its actors and the characters they portray, then its weakness was in the audio and set departments. There wasn’t much in the way of set design with the designers instead originally opting for use of a projector. While perhaps the crew thought this would enhance the play by making it more modern, in practice it ended up being a huge distraction. The projections themselves were letter boxed and were of low quality. Add to this the obvious and conspicuous failure to move the mouse pointer off the screen during the opening night performance and it was a disaster.

The audio was also lacking. Even so often during the opening night performance there was a large amount of microphone feedback. But the audio-visual problems were worked out at subsequent performances. By October 3 the show was almost completely free of technical problems and the director had wisely done away with projectors this time.

Reactions from the audiences were overwhelmingly positive.

Kate Ingrbritsen, age 9, said “It was really good. I don’t know who is my favorite, probably Horton.”

Her brother Jack Ingrbritsen, age 7, said “It was really funny. I like the bird who first had a little bit of feathers.”

Their father Randy Ingrbritsen said “I think it’s really good. I liked the Cat in the Hat the best. The dancing is also really good.”

Ellie Ancrum, who is an assistant director for musical productions at Ewing High School, had nothing but praise for the performance calling it “absolutely delightful. I love that it appeals to children and adults.” She also praised the cast, saying, “I think the whole ensemble is well balanced and do a great job supporting one another.”

Steve Anzuni, the actor who played Horton, was born and raised in New Jersey. His parents were both teachers and were involved in theater and this he says motivated him to follow suit. On his choice to get involved in Seussical, he said, “I’ve been involved in a lot of serious plays and I thought this wouldn’t give me a chance to be a kid again.”

Overall this was a funny and wacky play. The play’s message of forming one’s own opinions and not being intimidated into conformity, is an admirable one and always relevant.

MCCC student and local musician John Andrews rocks out

By Munath Manneh

The band “I Have Been Float-ed” played at Band Night in the student center known as “The RAT” at The College of New Jersey on Tuesday, Oct 5, 2010.

The Rat was dimly lit; waiters took orders for fried food and beer. The speakers had enough bass to sound a small room. “With other artists, every sample of the new EP, check out his MySpace music fan page.

PHOTO | JASON POMERANTZ

PHOTO | CJ HARKER

PHOTO | CR HARKER

that he had been playing the piano since the age of five but didn’t stick with it. He started again at 16, when he wrote his first song, Ten Arrows. The band’s sound is inspired by Hug- garian myths and story telling. Andrews has never learned to read sheet music and is self taught in the piano, clarinet, violin, organ, guitar and singing. He describes Wisdom Tooth’s sound as a mixture of old folk and blues from the 30s, garage music from the 60s and weird experimental stuff. The band can be com- pared to The Music Tapes and The White Stripes. It’s the love child of Neutral Milk Hotel and Meat Puppets.

When asked on his perspective on stream music, Andrews said, “Main stream music is kinda boring. Everyone else, too. All bands have gotten their influences from bands before them.” He includes, “Artist like Syd Barrett, Blind Willie McTell, and Bessie Smith as well as old car- toons from the 30’s influence my music.”

Andrews recently re- corded a new album entitled, Baby Neptune, which he played all of the instruments and re- corded by himself in his bed- room. “With other artists, every song sounds similar; I made all of my songs sound different by using a different instrument in each song.”

Andrews has had the opportunity to record in multi- plying countries including Mexico and Egypt. His band Wisdom Tooth tour every year and his winter tour kicks off in New Brunswick. He lists upcoming appearances and samples of the new EP, check out his MySpace music fan page.
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The Artisanal Cheese ($8) was three different types of very sharp, very pungent cheeses served with a dab of apple-cranberry relish. If you don’t like very strong cheeses, better avoid this one. Even if you do like them, it’s not really worth it. You could go to a good cheese shop like Bon Appetit in Princeton and have your pick of great cheeses.

The Soft Shell Crab ($16) was an appetizer that was truly divine. Served with a cauliflower coulis (a smooth puréed sauce) and apple-cumin chutney, it was battered and fried to perfection. The condiments tasted strongly of cumin, which added an almost Indian flavor to the dish.

For the entrees we ordered the Grilled Escolar ($28), the Spinach Ravioli ($19), and the Steak Frites ($23). The Escolar is a mild white fish grilled and seasoned to perfection. It is served with an eggplant puree, fried squash blossom, and a brush stroke of tomato-coco-nut froth. The squash blossom was exquisite, the eggplant puree was tasty and interesting. However there was no flavor of tomato or coconut in the froth.

Once again, the froth fell flat without much flavor coming through past the other ingredients in the dish.

The Spinach Ravioli is a vegetarian dish served with a sweet pea puree flavored with mint, porcini mushrooms, baby greens, with the ravioli brushed with a parmesan froth. It is a welcome change from red sauce on pasta, with vibrant fresh flavors of peas and mint. The greens had a nice sharp bite to them.

While the Spinach Ravioli seemed like a light meal that a lady might enjoy, the Steak Frites is a real man’s red-meat meal. Yes, of course that sounds like a chauvinistic generalization, but you get the idea.) The steak was cooked exactly as ordered, medium-well, and was tender and tasty. It was served with a garlic and peppercorn sauce, a watercress salad with horseradish dressing, and the absolutely best French fries ever.

That’s what we were told came with it, the absolutely best French fries ever, and that’s what they were.

After such a delicious meal, dessert (at $8 each) was completely unnecessary. But in the interest of serving our readers, we couldn’t help ourselves. The Browne Sundae was the most decadent and gourmet brownie sundae ever. The brownie was a tender, moist, intensely chocolate circle on the bottom. With a scoop of natural vanilla ice cream on top, a generous scattering of toasted pecans, and drizzles of caramel, the strawberry slices were almost just superfluous.

The White Chocolate Mango Cheesecake was a slightly lighter option, equally delicious in a more refined way, with an interesting basil sauce and pungent red peppercorns sprinkled around the dish.

The lightest dessert is the selection of three sorbets, kiwi-banana sorbet, mojito sorbet, and peach-ginger sorbet. This is a refreshing option that carries on the theme of intriguing flavors to delight the palate. All were interesting, and the peach-ginger definitely had the bite of ginger and also a kind of flowery lavender flavor to it.

Rat’s has gotten a lot of buzz lately since its executive chef Kevin Sbraga won Bravo TV’s Top Chef competition. It would have been fun to meet a local reality-TV star, but Sbraga was not there on this Saturday. 
Viking men’s soccer team takes Essex 2-1

By Val DaGrain

The Mercer Men’s soccer team met their old region rivals, Essex County College, on the frigid night of Tuesday, October 1 and won with a score of 2-1.

“It was an important game,” as Mercer’s Coach Povia put it, “because it will probably be between us and them for who wins the region.” The Wolverines came down to Mercer with an 8-0 record (3-0 in the region), and were ranked third in the country.

The game got interesting early as Essex scored a quick goal just five minutes into the game. Despite the early goal, the game remained tight.

About half way through the first half, Essex Goalie Leidy Cardona (#6) scored the game’s first goal with 39 minutes remaining in the game.

Ironic in a way, because Mercer head coach Jodi Riccardi said before the game that she wanted her players to avoid injury. The Viking women have been battling injuries since day one of the season. No one was seriously injured in the game.

The aggressiveness wasn’t reserved for just the players on the field either. With just over five minutes left to play in the first half, an argument erupted in the stands after Mercer’s Sophomore forward Rockie Kazouh (#9) scored the game’s first goal with 39 minutes remaining in the second, to put the lady Vikings up by one.

Fans from both sides exchanged words and one man in the stands had to be held back. Marissa missed the rest of the first half, in which both teams were held scoreless in intense play, but came back in to play again in the second half.

The second half was promising, and the ladies delivered a fast paced, high activity match. More of the same fast pace, smash mouth soccer that spectators were cheering for in the first half. The game quickly switched gears when Mercer first-year forward Jess Villalba (#8) scored the game’s first goal with 39 minutes remaining in the second, to put the lady Vikings up by one.

With plenty of soccer left to play, the women of Essex County didn’t shy away, and Mercer stood their ground.

While Essex was searching for a break in the defense to capitalize with an equalizer, Mercer’s Cristina Alonso (#15) launched a controversial, game-clinching goal off the post and across the threshold with just twelve minutes left in the game.

“Where most teams would have gave up, Essex showed heart,” said sophomore defender Britney Fornarotto (#9). At the end of the day, Mercer’s defense just proved too tough, only allowing three shots on goal all night.

“The girls found a great balance,” said Coach Riccardi, referring to the way they were able to play tough defense and at the same time translate those defensive stops into fast breaks and shots on goal.

Mercer’s next game will be a Region XIX play-off’s first round. The time and place are TBA. Check mccc.edu.

Lady Vikings beat old rival Essex 2-0

By Val DaGrain

PHOTO | CJ HARKER
The Lady Vikings soccer team came out on top, in a 2-0 win, against Essex County College on Wednesday October 6, boosting their record to 6-6.

“Soccer is a physical game,” said the coach of the Essex County Lady Wolverines. But in a game where the action was stopped on four separate occasions so that players could be carried off the field, that would be a huge understatement.

“We have been working on getting people to tie the game up heading into the locker room at the half.” Play remained evenly matched in the second half, but the Mercer men came out a bit more aggressively, getting a few more shots-on-goal overall than the Wolves did Essex (5-3 shots-on-goal).

The game got a bit intense when Mercer had a goal discounted with twenty-nine minutes remaining in the game, because a Mercer player had run into Essex’s goalie. The home crowd showed their emotions, with boos and yells of disapproval from the bleachers.

Just two minutes after the controversial goal was discounted, Mercer’s Sophomore forward Rockie Kazouh, gave the fans what they wanted with a game clinching header of his own. The crowd erupted.

Mercer’s defense held for the remaining minutes despite strong ball handling from Essex.

“This is a big win,” Coach Povia said after the game. The win puts the Mercer men at a 5-3 record for the season.

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A good criminal show is something that everyone can get enthused in. Criminal Minds gives you the suspense, action and even drama all in one. In addition to solving crimes each member of the group has their own personal issues that unravel little by little each season giving you more insight to each character. Now on its sixth season, the show is still going strong with just as much intensity as its very first season. This season the group of 7 behavioral analysts in the BAU (behavioral analysis unit) was reduced to 6 with JJ having to be reassigned. This left the group devastated but determined to get her back some way. In addition to trying to make their group whole again, the need for their expertise in solving murders is still needed all over the country. You can catch Criminal Minds on CBS on Wednesdays at 8pm.

If you want a little flashback into high school or singing; if this is you, this is not the show for you. The jock, the ditz, the smart one, the cute couple, and the social satire. As for the music, some have called it Cruella de Ville would admire. A final twist that makes the show fresh. Glee aims at the younger crowd, but that’s not to say your mom or dad won’t like it if they give it a try. Several things make the show have a powerful edge. The first feature is the song and dance numbers that are central to every show. Second is the abundant interactions between the characters, especially the sumptuously evil cheerleading coach, Sue Sylvester, played by Jane Lynch with a sinister abandon that Cruella de Ville would admire. A final key element is the up-to-date cultural references and social satire. For as the music, some have said the first season got bogged down in campy show tunes. This season seems to be headed in a more modern direction. The second episode, for example, was dedicated to Britney Spears (who made a guest appearance) and consisted of the cast reenacting some of her most popular music videos while still keeping up with the clever comedy. A warning to those who don’t like constant singing; if this is you, this is not the show for you. If you want a little flashback into high school or just want a good laugh, catch Glee on Fox Tuesdays at 8pm.

Who doesn’t love a good dancing show? Dancing with the Stars is now in its eleventh season with new celebrities and new dancing routines. This season has The Situation, Brandy, The Hoff, Bristol Palin and many others working with their partners to learn the intense choreography in order to impress the saucy judges and avoid elimination. The opening episode showed promise of a good competition from each set of partners. There are a couple former football players in this season’s competition which should prove interesting to see how well they move on the dance floor. In the past, the sports heroes either won or flamed out early. Palin is also a significant draw. Tune in to ABC Mondays at 8pm and see the mayhem unfold.

CRIMINAL MINDS

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DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES

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DANCING WITH THE STARS

Even your parents won’t watch this.

GLEE

By Miki Reed, Reporter

THE OFFICE

The character Carell is best known for is Michael Scott on The Office. Michael is the boss in the office who is the butt of many jokes, as is his sidekick Dwight. The setting for this show is in a modern day workplace where we witness everything that goes on during the characters’ day. Sound dull? It’s not. Carell is central to the success with his uncanny knack for satire. Each episode includes a familiar situation that we’ve all either experienced and wished we could speak up about at work, or which seems familiar even if we haven’t experienced it. Michael, who fancies himself a true renaissance man, addresses these situations using constant, self-conscious and inappropriate behavior and ideas which each cast member comments on throughout each episode. Need some ideas on how to make your job more entertaining? Need a healthy dose of workplace snark? Watch The Office on NBC Thursdays at 8pm.

HOUSE

He’s smart, he’s mean, he’s funny, he’s angry, he’s good at his job, he’s brutally honest, he’s the Sherlock Holmes of medicine, he’s an addict, he’s aggressive, he’s handicapped, he’s suave, he’s probably certifiable. In this season, Gregory House, is back and better than ever. House, who has always kept away from relationships, prefers the company of cheap tricks to actual intimacy, becomes involved with his flaming hot boss Dr. Lisa Cuddy. Cuddy and House have a history of flirtation not unlike that of Sam and Diane on Cheers or Maggie and Joel on Northern Exposure. Both of those comedies had trouble keeping the steam going after a while. Can House keep the momentum going once the relationship becomes a reality? The medical procedural aspects hold the rest of the show together. This season promises not only the same witty diagnostic part of the show that worked before but with the evolving romance as a backdrop. House himself becomes more bearable while also becoming more intense as he tries to figure out his place with Cuddy. Tune in to Fox Tuesdays at 8pm to test your medical knowledge and watch the drama unfold.
Tyler Clementi, a freshman at Rutgers University, is one of eleven gay and lesbian teenagers in the United States who committed suicide between September 9 and October 5. The suicides have drawn attention to a sad fact: despite continuing strides towards acceptance in our country, LGBT and questioning youth are still at higher risk for suicide than their heterosexual peers.

A 2001 study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that LGBT teenagers are 2.3-2.5 times more likely to commit suicide than heterosexual teens. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, many LGBT suicides can be directly attributed to "anti-gay stigma expressed through bullying, harassment and violence."

"It is important for students to realize that all students have the right to conflict with an individual's, principles to guide France in making its fairness?" Sarkozy's sudden shift to the passions of the right..." Sentiment's 7.5% wage increase." Gov- enor explains the strike "cost the government 3 billion a day." Since the government adhered to its own passions and did not com- promises, they lost a lot of money."

"Send in your thoughts. Do you think today's conflicts are solved based on principles or based on passions?"

The LGBTF launched a "Safe Space" program focused on making LGBT and questioning students feel safe and accepted regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Faculty and staff who are part of the program have "Safe Space" stickers on their office doors, and they want to help you.

Principles vs. Passions: Which Way is Our World turning?

By Chikaamaru Amu-Nahid

Recently in Philosophy Club, we had a political forum in which we discussed the topic of Principles and Passions about the Islamic Center near Ground Zero. Passions are any compelling feelings, such as love or hate. Principles are fundamental doctrines and tenets. The ethos guiding our topic - i.e., are you not entitled to be wrong? Professor Nowarth explained that the constitution on the point to entitled placed responsibility on everyone to give opinions that were reasonable and responsible. Only one who has properly weighed his or her opinions before drawing a conclusion may consider themselves to be correct. As the discussion proceeded, the club realized that the word passion connotes heavy emotions, good or bad. Society can create a forum for all reasonable and responsible opinions by adhering to universal principles, though in this modern day passions (good or bad) are governing the answers to most major disputes. During the forum, some stated that some Americans feel that the building is disrespectful, while others stated that Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the leader of the Islamic center, has the constitutional right to build in the land he bought before 9/11 occurred. Some said, "Just because you have an absolute right to do something, that means you should do it," especially if it offends others.

The problem is that both sides' passions are warranted. There lies a burden on both sides to be understanding. Imam Rauf has to show over time his intentions are peaceful. The other side has to forgo their apprehension and find a way to interact with the center. Thomas Jefferson said, "No man has a natural right to commit aggression on the equal rights of another, and this is all from which the laws owe to restrain him." Opinions are our natural right, but since it can be so easy for one's right to conflict with another's, principles are needed as a constraint. Jefferson must have known Mercer students with varying passions needed some constraints for civil discourse. I hope it is not too late but thanks Thomas.

According to Wall Street Journal writer Felicia Tvertog, Israel will ease its blockade of the Gaza border after a raid on a Turkish aid flotilla killed nine. Israel has agreed to allow certain items in, Turkey is still upset, and their dissent has shown up in certain decisions. For example, they "voted against a UN resolution for sanctions on Iran." Turkey has a right to exist to send aid to the Gaza strip. Israel needs to ensure that Hamas cannot regain power. Also, there were no principles being followed. Now both sides are placating their emotions and the problem continues to exist.

Christopher Dickey of Newweek writes that "Nicolas Sarkozy has requested that naturalized French citizens should be stripped of their nationality for certain crimes." Sarkozy's sudden shift to the passions of the right has raised his approval ratings. Should there not be discreet principles to guide France in making new policies? Or will they always be shifting to the desires of the overarching opinions regardless of its failure? Pershorny Govender from Mail and Guardian Online states that "after a month of strikes in South Africa by public workers, union leaders have agreed to the government's 7.5% wage increase." Gov- evernor explains the strike "cost the government 3 billion a day." Since the government adhered to its own passions and did not com- promises, they lost a lot of money."

"Following universal principles should make transactions among people easier. Since the people with varying passions are the ones who will have to create these universal principles, this idea is easy to state but difficult to implement. Around the world, passions still are the fundamental judge of conduct. Principles shape what allows people with conflicting passions to sit at King Ar- thur's round table (remember all the knights of England coming to- gether to ensure England's safety) or else any gains that could have been made through cooperation and negotiation will be lost."

Send in your thoughts. Do you think today's conflicts are solved based on principles or based on passions?
Principles vs. Passions: Which Way is Our World turning?

Community College staff, administration or the board of trustees of Mercer County does not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the faculty, College VOICE the advisement of a faculty adviser. The material printed in Mercer County Community College and published every 3 weeks under The College VOICE is written and edited by students of Mercer.

Editorial Policy: how to contact us:

She is Editor in Chief. Kelly Smith as Managing Editor. The masthead incorrectly identified as being by Val DaGrain rather than DaGrain. The article entitled "Men's Soccer East Coast vs. West Coast" was written by Kelly Smith, without Savery. Soccer New Season, New Coach"." The article entitled "Mercer West Coast was written by Kelly Smith and Val DaGrain. The article entitled "Men's Soccer New Season, New Coach" was written by Kelly Smith, without DaGrain, whereas the article "Down, New Head coach!" was written by Val DaGrain rather than Kelly Smith.

The masthead incorrectly identified Kelly Smith as Managing Editor. She is Editor in Chief.

CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 27 issue of the VOICE the following errors were made:

An article by Dmitry Gurevits entitled "Despite state budget cuts, NJ STARS program is saved," incorrectly indicated that community colleges are required to fund the NJ STARS program, but this is NOT the case.

In the article entitled "Mercer student, musician Cane Byrne establishes a local following," the photo of Cane Byrne was incorrectly identified as being by Oman Aty, it was, in fact, a fake photo.

The article entitled "Women's Soccer East Coast vs. West Coast" was written by Kelly Smith and Val DaGrain. The article entitled "Men's Soccer New Season, New Coach" was written by Kelly Smith, without DaGrain, whereas the article "Down, New Head coach!" was written by Val DaGrain rather than Kelly Smith.

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Kelly Smith

T here is often discussion and debate about how college students dress, but what about the professors? Does the way a professor dresses have an effect on the students in their classes? Yes. While it may not affect whether students like the professor, it will affect how seriously or professionally they are taken by their students.

In her article 'Can’t We Be Smart and Look Good, Too?” published in the Chronicle of Higher Education in 2009, Rachel Toor, assistant professor of creative writing at Eastern Washington University wrote, “Because most of us on the faculty do not have to show up for a job from 9 to 5 to meet with clients we are trying to woo, we are able to care less about appearing "professional," at least as it is commonly defined. Coming to class in disheveled clothes may even be a political intervention to show your students that what you have to say is more important than whether you brush your hair, but still, sometimes hair brushing (or beard trimming or food-on-shirt removal) is in order.”

She went on to say, “I am comfortable with the frumpiness endemic to academia – I find it quaint and endearing – but I squirm when I hear people complain about those who are better coiffed or groomed, implying that they are somehow not ‘serious’.

Being highly educated does not mean that there are lower standards of professional dress for you. So what is okay and not okay to wear for professors? Let me explain the rules. As a student, I am here to give you these helpful tips for free. Cover Up. This is my top rule. As a professor, you are a role model for the college students of our generation. Therefore, it is important to cover yourself up. It is not appropriate to wear a short jean skirt, or clothes you could have just mowed your lawn in. Lavelle Williams, second year student in Culinary Arts, said the way professors dress "sets an example; that’s how [professors] are supposed to dress. [Professors] are professionals, they’re getting paid to do their profession."

Clean It Up. This is my second rule. I understand you might be hot in the classrooms that seem not to have working thermostats, or that you might have been running from your car or office to be on time. However, does this mean that we, your students, have to listen to you as your armpit stains are waved in front of us? Is this a professional manner? Certainly not. The chance ketchup stain you got at lunch and couldn’t get rid of is normal, but the shirt you wore just a couple days ago with the same stain is not.

Bekou Robert, first year student said, “[Professors] can’t look like they just came off the street; you have to present yourself a little bit more.”

Buy the Right Size. This would be my last rule. This is the rule I see professors often do not think about or show concern for. I had a professor who dressed very appropriately in terms of clean and covering clothing. She would, however, wear shirts that would expose her stomach when she raised her arm to point to something on the overhead. It was weird. How do you not notice or care that your stomach is exposed to your students while lecturing? And if you do notice, why don’t you care? This means, professors, when you put on a shirt in the morning do a little test. Raise your arms. If your shirt doesn’t come above your pant line, you’re okay. If you look in the mirror before you leave and your muffin top is visible under a shirt that is obviously too tight, save it for the weekend.

Now I’m not saying you have to trade comfort for professionalism. Don’t get me wrong here. Jeans are professional when they’re the right size and paired with a shirt that is not show ing too much cleavage or, for men, shirts of thin material that show the imprint of your belly button through.

These type of things are distracting to the students and are the opposite of what we want you to be thinking about while you’re lecturing.

So don’t be afraid to dress it up a little. Dressing down is not some type of proof that you’re too intelligent to care about your looks because, as students, the only thing we’re thinking is, “Can’t you brush your hair?”

Goodbye Professor McFrumpy

Does your professors’ apparel affect your learning?

Kelly Smith

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ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUCH QUESTIONS

Dear Voice,
If a security officer kicks you off campus, would you return without thinking twice?
-Banned

Dear Banned,
The proper way to go about this is to steal his golf cart and drive around as long as possible; use your heavy foot!
The Voice

---

Dear Voice,
A guy in the library yesterday continuously walked past me and caressed my shoulder, the last time he wasn't wearing pants. How would you handle this?
-Fondled

Dear Fondled,
Ask a librarian. They can help you find the answer in that handy online data base. Ebsco Host has the answer to everything.
The Voice

---

Dear Voice,
I just caught my BFF sleeping with my BF and I'm all like WTF? How do I get that ho out of my crib, KWIM?
-Irit8ed

Dear Irit8ed,
OMG. IMHO u need to ditch the BF ASAP or the ho will BBL. Besides, u have better things 2 do with ur time. Like learning even more obscure text message abbreviations.
The Voice

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Dear Voice, A guy in the library yesterday continuously walked past me and caressed my shoulder, the last time he wasn't wearing pants. How would you handle this?
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HOROSCOPES

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Don't let your work suffer too much all in the name of fun. Hard work now will reap far greater rewards than you ever realized it could. Think transfer school!

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
Things have been going well for you this month thanks to all your hard work. Keep up the good work and you might get a surprise around Halloween and it's not just candy!

Pices
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
Your friends have been missing you. Even though you're in the throes of midterms, try to find a balance between work and relationships - there IS time for both!

Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19
This month don't forget to thank those around you that have helped you out. Cook a nice dinner, host a movie night, party, you decide.

Leo
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22
Here comes winter! Fall fashion, leaves falling and maybe even time to find a special someone to cuddle up with to keep warm. Aw yeah.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You must have done something right because this month will be filled with an abundance of luck for you. Money, relationships, school - you name it you got it!

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You're finally getting settled into your new routine and you're ready to meet some new people. Why not try saying hi to that hottie you see every day?

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Sometimes you feel a little neglected but rest assured your family loves you more than you ever could possibly imagine and your patience with them will be rewarded mightily.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Money has been a little tight lately and you know why. It's time to make a budget and stick to it. Plus, do you really need to blow a hundred bucks on fall clothes? Last year's fashions can be spiced up for cheap.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

JUST 4 FUN

3x - F MINUS

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

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

UPSIDE-DOWN PUZZLE

2X THE GET FUZZY AND DILBERT!