Wind storm batters MCCC’s aviation fleet

By Jason Pomerantz
The College VOICE

According to Dan McGrath, Aviation Dispatcher for Mercer, the Mercer County Flight School found all three of their Cessna 172 airplanes damaged at the Trenton-Mercer Airport on November 17 when a 70+ mph wind-shear ripped the planes from the ground.

The storm of November 17 began at 4:30 am and ended very quickly. “It was over in two minutes, then took eight hours to clean up,” said Shift Captain Jay Davidson of the Trenton-Mercer Airport Fire-Rescue Station 34.

A recently purchased Cessna Skyhawk SP 172 (retail cost $301,500) was torn apart within seconds from where it was tied down. Planes were thrown over an eight foot barbed wire fence and landed upside-down, 100 feet away. Nearby, only several hundred feet away, a similar Cessna was left untied yet was completely unaffected. “It gives you a sense of how localized it was,” said Wolcott Blair, General Manager of Ronsson Aviation.

A total of eight aircraft and the roof of a nearby hangar were blown away by the wind-shear. Wind-shear is similar to a normal gust of wind, yet radiates outward as it rushes toward the ground.

Valerie Servos, Aviation Dispatcher at Mercer County Community College, said it will have an obvious effect on airport operations, causing cancellations and longer waits for students, but they will still get their ratings.

Communication problems between the Federal office of Veterans’ Affairs, states’ veterans departments, and college campuses is creating a difficult situation for soldiers reentering civilian life. The GI Bill, originally created to address the work and education needs of veterans returning from World War II, has undergone a series of changes intended to clarify some issues, but which may have complicated others.

Eugene Marsh, a Vietnam veteran who graduated from Mercer last May says, “There’s an issue where veterans have to pay out of pocket, I call it upfront money, to pay for tuition and books, then wait for the GI Bill to cover it. That’s an issue for low-income veterans or unemployed veterans who can’t finance it upfront. The hardship financially is when you have to wait three, six months to find out if you’ve been accepted into the program.”

The issue Marsh exposes is a decades-old concern for veterans. For Dawn Whetstone, now working in Mercer County’s Department of Veterans’ Services after her transfer from Mercer to Rider, having to pay up front was only half of the problem. “If paperwork isn’t sent out within a three or four month period, you can’t get your housing allowance or book stipend…I was on financial hold for the fall semester because I had a huge balance while my paperwork sat in processing for months.”

Tuition issues compound upon one another if the Office of Veterans Affairs fails to process paperwork in the promised 18-24 day period. Months of lateness lead to veterans having housing and registration issues at college. For veterans this is frustrating, and for Mercer it means complications with accounting and paperwork, creating tension on both ends.

Among the ever-changing components of the GI Bill is the introduction of electronic transaction systems between schools and Veterans Affairs. Mercer’s Dean of Veterans Services Paul Scheid said, “Using an electronic transaction system will hopefully ease up the system. Regardless of the potential ease of an electronic system, Scheid noted that, there are only four regional processing centers [for Veterans Affairs]. Ours is in Buffalo, NY.”

The amount of paperwork handled by these four national centers creates the holdup faced by veterans. But bureaucratic headaches aren’t the only thing affecting Mercer’s veterans. Another serious concern is veterans’ reentry into civilian life and onto college campuses.

As returning veterans are sent back into civilian life, the reality of bills, employment and education often conflict with the lingering stresses of combat. For the majority of veterans, the transition isn’t traumatic, but it is seldom easy. “Vets as a group are pretty reticent about talk-
How useful is website for rating professors?

By Susan Johnson

After weeks of juggling classes around, Joe Perilli’s schedule is finally set and his last semester here at Mercer looks like a dream. He’ll get to sleep in three times this week, have two hectic days and only one night class. Life is good.

Unfortunately, there is one surprise: according to ratemyprofessor.com, Perilli’s rating is a tough grader, assigns a lot of homework and is ugly. Learning this, Perilli wonders if he can handle such a professor, especially for his toughest class. That dream schedule may have to be on hold.

Perilli talks with other people on campus to get their opinion of the professor in questions and gains a new perspective. He decides to keep the dream schedule, but his friend, who had signed up for the same class, reconsidered and decided that an ugly professor is better than a lot of homework is okay, but add in the tough grading and it’s too much to contemplate.

Instead, he opts for a good looking, laid back professor who lets him out early every week.

For the last ten years, students have the option of checking out their professors on ratemyprofessors.com. The website states they are the largest listing of college professors with millions of students using the site each year in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The question is, how much weight do they give to the website, which is owned and operated by mtU, MTV’s 24 hour network dedicated to college students (full disclosure, The College VOICE’s website is also hosted by mtU’s College Publisher network). The students have the option of rating their professors on four categories on which professors are rated—Overall Quality, Helpfulness, Clarity, Easiness, and Hotness. The website states that it is built “...for college students, by college students, and does what students have been doing forever—checking in with each other.”

Kelly Cammisa, a freshman in the Nursing Program at Mercer says “I like it. I think it’s useful and pretty accurate. I check it if I want to see what the professor is going to be like, but it doesn’t determine if I pick the class, or the professor, or not.”

Francisco Macario, a second year student in the Criminal Justice program, has a different opinion. Macario said he visited the website once but does not rely on it. “The comments about the professor were negative, but I stuck with the class because I didn’t want to lose my money. By the end of class, I realized she wasn’t as bad as the website described,” Macario said.

In a recent VOICE survey of 20 Mercer students who use ratemyprofessors.com, 16 said that negative comments steer them away from choosing a professor and 18 said that positive comments steer them towards choosing a professor. Most of the students have not rated a professor on the website and they also check with their friends before choosing a professor. On the comments section of the survey, students suggested the following categories be added to the website: professor’s workload; how many students dropped a class; how the teacher presents material; and the grade of the student who is commenting. Two students requested that the “hot or not” chill pepper rating be dropped. (The chill pepper rating is given to those considered by reviewers to be “good looking professors”). Guidelines are given on the site asking that reviewers give honest, objective, constructive and helpful comments which reflect the professor’s teaching and communication skills. Further, the website states that inappropriate comments will be removed, as will multiple ratings from the same IP address, as only one comment per person per course is preferred.

Mercer professors hold varying opinions about the usefulness of the ratemyprofessors.com site. Dr. Renee Walker, Professor of Social Sciences, says she does check the website if a student refers to it, especially if the student is stressed, so that she can understand them. "I’m from the era of the 60’s; freedom of the press is good and it is important for the students to be able to express themselves,” said Walker. She said she does realize, however, that comments are subject to bias and influence and may not carry the highest degree of reliability.

Steve Wothers, Assistant Professor of TV and Director of Cable Programming, says he has heard of the website, but he knows little about it and has never checked his own ratings. “The evaluations you get from your class—that’s what you take seriously. On the computer—how do you know who put the evaluations there?”

According to one Mercer professor who asked to remain anonymous, “It’s tempting to read your reviews on ratemyprofessors, you hope you’ll find nice comments there, but use read what two kinds of students ever post there - the ones who loved you and the ones who hated you. A lot of my colleagues call me ‘hardai’ and ‘hard grader,’ I guess I could be offended, but instead I hope those reviews will drive the slackers away. In that sense, the site may be useful after all.”

No AA meetings offered at MCCC

By Tim Hester

Senior Reporter

According to a study done by the Journal of American College Health, 20–25 percent of college students could be diagnosed with alcohol and drug abuse, while one in 17 (7%) is dependent on alcohol and drug consumption already.

In a given semester, Mercer has an estimated 13,000 students enrolled in classes, suggesting that approximately 4,300 students attending Mercer could be diagnosed with alcohol and/or drug addiction. If all students were on campus it would be ‘sweet’ to see people in my situation, ” said Dr. Valerie Brooks-Klein, senior counselor at Mercer. Mark Burns said, “I would love to start one myself, but I work and go to school, I just don’t have the time, but I hope somebody does.”

Other schools in New Jersey such as Rutgers University, Princeton University and Montclair State University have student-run 12-step meetings including Al-Anon and Nar-Anon which are for people who have loved ones struggling with addiction. “We don’t have a meeting here or on campus, and does what students have be a meeting has not taken place since Colnaghi retired in 2006.”

Although Mercer has no groups for people in the local community does. “I go to a AA meetings regularly, but if they were on campus it would be more convenient, not to mention it would be ‘sweet’ to see other people in my situation,” said Brooks-Klein.

Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous are for people who are dependant on drugs or alcohol. Of the students surveyed eight percent of them were members of either AA or NA, which is slightly higher than the seven percent of students dependant on substance recorded by the Journal of American College Health.

"AA and NA are designed to help give drug addicts and alcoholics a new way of life. The most important thing [for addicts or alcoholics] is to go to a twelve-step program, get a sponsor, and begin to understand the disease. It’s mental and physical," said University of Pennsylvania graduate student A.A. Hargis, 39, an analyst for Mercer’s Virtual College. “There is definitely a need for it, but the anonymity is an issue. If all students are aware of where the meetings are, they can easily find out who is a member and there is a stigma attached to it," said Hargis.

"We haven’t had anyone try to organize a meeting but they should," said Dr. Valerie Brooks-Klein, senior counselor at Mercer. Mark Burns said, “I would love to start one myself, but I work and go to school, I just don’t have the time, but I hope somebody does.”

"The most important thing [for people in my situation] is to go to a AA meetings regularly, but if they were on campus it would be more convenient, not to mention it would be ‘sweet’ to see other people in my situation,” said Brooks-Klein.

Secrets to maintaining a healthy lifestyle, by college students...
Rally to Restore Sanity draws diverse crowd
Comedians’ efforts appear to have little effect on midterm elections

By Laura Pollack
The Voice

Catherine Makoski, 18, a college student from Bethlehem PA, heard about the Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear being held by comedians Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert in Washington D.C. “I was really excited to be voting for the first time and I wanted to get involved in the political scene,” she said.

On October 30, she headed down to D.C. The rally was in response to conservative pundit Glenn Beck’s Restore Honor rally that was held on August 28, but Stewart and Colbert’s rally was aimed at a moderate or left leaning demographic.

According to the rally’s website, they were “looking for the people who think shouting is annoying, counterproductive, and terrible for your throat; who feel that the loudest voices shouldn’t be the only ones that get heard; and who believe that the only time it’s appropriate to draw a Hitler mustache on someone is when that person is actually Hitler.”

Over 215,000 people, who felt their opinions were getting overlooked by the far right or far left, showed up on the national mall to finally express their moderate opinions that they feel the media overlooks.

Those people were of all different ages and races. Parents brought their small children and stood next to senior citizens and teenagers as they watched a rally filled with antics and sincere speeches. Makoski noticed the diverse audience. “I think there were people from all ages there. I saw babies and old ladies,” she said.

Attendees with posters during the Rally for Sanity on October 30, 2010 in Washington, DC.

Stephen Colbert, who plays a self-centered faux conservative political pundit, brought the comedy aspect to the rally. He entered the stage through a Chilean-mine-rescue capsule dressed in a red, white, and blue bodysuit. Jon Stewart was more serious when he gave a twelve minute speech at the end of the rally. He explained how the media is no longer helping America solve problems and how Americans need to start working together.

“The country’s 24-hour political pundit perpetual panic conflagrator did not cause our problems but its existence makes solving them that much harder,” Stewart said. He continued, “…Democrats, Republicans, liberals or conservatives.

Americans live their lives more as people that are just a little bit late for something they have to do—often something that they do not want to do—but they do it—impossible things every day that are only made possible by the little reasonable compromises that we all make.”

Mercer student Conner Byrne, who attended the rally, said, “Stewart made a really good point. [The rally] brought together a lot of people who feel the same way.”

As the rally was wrapping up, people were very pleased with what they saw. “Jon Stewart always does seem so rational,” said Naia Polyer, a Philadelphia college student, “I thought a gathering of people who weren’t going to yell and scream would never happen, but it did.”

Jen Miller, a resident of Virginia, called the rally “a spectacle.” However, the question that lingered among both rally goers and the news media alike was whether or not the rally would have a political impact.

“It seems that the rally did not have a direct impact on the November midterm elections. The results of the elections showed more people were returning to the GOP. The Republicans were able to challenge the house with 242 seats compared to the democrats 192 seats, but only gained six seats in the senate leaving the Democrats with the majority.

Obama was recently interviewed by Jon Stewart, and he responded to people questioning his first two years in office, and the growing anti-incumbent movement.

“When we promised during the campaign, ‘Change you can believe in,’ it wasn’t ‘Change you can believe in in 18 months.’ The President explained, ‘It was ‘Change you can believe in, but you know what, we’re gonna have to work for it.’”

Even if the rally does not have a serious impact on politics, it certainly brought the comedic aspect of both Stewart and Colbert’s shows to the National Mall.

Many people carried less serious signs that reflected the comedy aspect of the rally. One sign read, “Am I too late for the Glen Beck rally?” while another one ironically said “I hate crowds.”

One sign that read “It’s a sad day when our politicians are comical, and I have to take our comedians seriously” seemed to perfectly sum up the attitude of the rally.

LGBTF sponsors “It gets better” week 11/30-12/4

Need for support of at-risk and LGBT youth is made evident by poster vandalism

By Kelly Smith
The Voice

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Friends Club hosted a series of lectures on suicide prevention and LGBTF services at 12 noon each day the week of November 29.

The event was organized by LGBTF members in response to the suicide of Tyler Clementi, as well as a series of YouTube videos titled “It Gets Better.” In the videos, LGBTF people from around the world discuss how they overcame wanting to commit suicide, and how they realize now that life does, in fact, get better.

Anthony McElrude, co-president of LGBTF said, “Rather than mourn or memorialize people committing suicide we wanted to take action.”

With the help of LGBTF Advisor Alex DeFazio and Mercer counselor Valerie Brooks-Klein, LGBTF members organized the “It Gets Better Week.”

The LGBTF wanted to ensure that non-LGBTF students could be aware of what they could do for either themselves or friends in cases of possible suicide attempts.

“We were telling people - if you have a friend, they may not know the resources but because you came today you could tell them,” said McElrude.

Thursday’s lecture entitled “Safe Schools Step Up” was facilitated by speaker Carol Watchter, Co-Chair of the Central NJ Chapter of the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network, also known as GLSEN. GLSEN’s 2009 National School Climate Survey revealed that “9 out of 10 LGBT students experience harassment in school, 4 in 10 report physical, emotional, and Goals. It was discovered by LGBTF advisor DeFazio.

LGBTF sponsor’s “It gets better” week 11/30-12/4

Need for support of at-risk and LGBT youth is made evident by poster vandalism

“LOL FAGS” included, one of the posters hung in the SC building became vandalized when someone wrote “LOL FAGS” next to Tuesday’s event entitled “Di- versity at Mercer: Challenges and Goals.” It was discovered by LGBTF advisor DeFazio.

“LOL FAGS” is not the first time the LGBTF has seen its posters defaced. “For me, the like ‘lol fags’ represents hatred at worst, and a sort of cavalier ignorance at best. Neither is acceptable in a community of higher learning,” said DeFazio.
For many people, a nightmare is an inconvenience in their sleep — sometimes vivid and frightening, but always followed by the relief of awakening. “I also had a nightmare, but mine lasted 1,388 days. They took away our names and gave us numbers. Mine was B2886,” said Sol Lurie, 80, a holocaust survivor. This number was tattooed on Lurie’s arm during his captivity at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. He was a prisoner in five other camps including Buchenwald, from which he was finally liberated on his fifteenth birthday in April of 1945.

Lurie emerged with a message. “People should stand up to bullies and love each other, that’s my message. Help one another, that’s my message!” said Lurie.

Lurie told his story to a Holocaust and Genocide class at Mercer on November 16. Lurie witnessed the Nazi atrocities first hand. In June of 1941, he found himself in a hole in the ground in his family’s stables in Kovno, Lithuania, hiding with his cousin and her seven-month old baby. “When we were discovered [by the Nazis], the baby began to cry, and a German soldier took the baby, threw it up in the air, and caught it on his bayonet, “ said Lurie. Lurie mimicked the soldier waving his bayonet, “I am the soldier!” and Lurie also took issue with something else entirely. “The biggest enemy is religion. They teach you ‘my religion is better than yours.’ We are all human beings. My religion is I’m a good human being and I help people,” said Lurie.

Professor Joanne Maiso, a senior adjunct professor at Mercer, invited Lurie to speak. “I met him four years ago. I was a docent for an Anne Frank exhibit in Princeton, and he came to speak,” said Maisto. “He motivated me to think that what I was studying was very important and I needed to let people know.” Lurie has come to speak for Professor Maisto’s classes four times, but it wasn’t until seven years ago that Lurie would even discuss what happened to him with his own family. “I couldn’t talk about my experience because it was too hard to talk about hell, but my granddaugh- ter begged me to speak to her high school class,” said Lurie. “Now when I get a chance to speak, I do it to tell people about the hatred. Now you can’t get me to shut up,” said Lurie. “When I speak, I don’t take a penny. I go to teach love and not hate, and when I get the letters [from students], I know what I get in return,” said Lurie.

The effect he has on students is evident in their re- actions. “I had guys, you know, tough guys? With tears in their eyes. And they were the kids who couldn’t be bothered to come to class. It is incredible,” said Maisto.

“I feel bad — his people were brutalized and he’s all about love and not hating,” said Moore.

Since coming to America in 1946, Lurie joined the US Army and served in Germany during the Korean war as a transla- tor. “I am the proudest American you’ll ever meet. I will do anything for this country,” said Lurie. “It’s up to us to do something so that the future isn’t a mystery but a beautiful place for everyone. I want to see love.”

The presentation began with the sounds of tree frogs playing over the speakers and slides that depicted nature from sources as varied as influential naturalist Rachel Carson to a poem written by 12-year old boy. Self-described “nature nerd” Jeff Hoagland was the guest speaker at Mercer’s Distinguished Lecture Series on Tuesday, November 16. Hoagland is the Education Director of the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association and Di- rector of Building Environmental Education Solutions.

As a result of his years of work, Hoagland received the National Medal of Conser- vation in 1987, the Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award in 1997, and the Patricia Kane Lifetime Achievement Award. Hoagland discussed the “sense of wonder” or awe that experiencing nature can provide and the benefits of this, especially for children. Hoa- gland posited that the reason children and adults have started to disconnect from nature is because of parental fear, or stranger danger, or a fear of li- ability.

In Hoagland’s earliest memories, he explored his own back yard without fear and while basking in the freedom. His parents’ willingness to al- low him to explore touched on his second point, that children not only need to have a sense of wonder but also need an adult to facilitate the exploration. The author Richard Louv came up with the phrase “nature deficit disorder” in his 2005 book Last Child in the Woods, in which he argued that children suffer developmental- ly from the lack of connection to nature and its experiences.

Hoagland’s earliest memory was seeing just a simple mushroom in his yard. Hoagland had an epiphany in college that made him realize that he had to use his passion for nature in a ca- reer. He now works to incorpo- rate education into nature and nature into education.

Professor Laura Blin- derman, Associate Professor of Biology, had heard Hoagland speak 20 years ago and remem- bered his philosophy. She invit- ed Hoagland to speak at Mercer. The Stony Brook Mill- stone Watershed Association and nature center offers about 400 educational programs each year, and is located at 31 Titus Mill Road in Hopewell, NJ.
Joseph Blasenstein, also known as Mr. B, was Chief Pilot, Professor, Coordinator of the Aviation Program, and was an inspiration to countless students at Mercer for 26 years. On Friday November 19, Mr. B retired after 47 years of teaching. Blasenstein plans to spend time with family, continue contributing to aviation through his non-profit organization, and will continue flying.

Through Blasenstein’s leadership in coordinating the Aviation program, there are currently Mercer graduates circling the globe at 515 miles per hour flying a 30 million dollar piece of technology. “Mr. B has a legacy. He sends pilots around the world. They start here and go everywhere,” said First Officer Jeff Tramontano, who started at Mercer on his way to becoming a professional pilot, then finished his studies at Embry Riddle McGuire and now flies Embraer jets.

Blasenstein shared a common vision with Jaqueline Sanders, who retired after 18 years as Dean of Business at Mercer and is currently an educational consultant for the National Business Aviation Association.

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On one occasion, an aviation conference was scheduled at Beaver College, now known as Arcadia University. “Do you want to go? I’ll fly,” Blasenstein asked Sanders. It was a sunny day with clear skies, and Sanders accepted. White-knuckled at first, Sanders gradually relaxed as the Cessna cruised thousands of feet above the earth. The relaxation abruptly ended halfway into the flight when they lost radio communications.

“Whether it was good, bad or indifferent, Joe would never hide the truth,” said Sanders, “Joe didn’t even appear worried.” Blasenstein was prepared for this situation and assured Sanders there was no reason to worry before making an emergency landing at the nearest airport. “Joe was a very focused person with a driven personality, and he rose to the occasion,” said Sanders.

“Joe kept coming up with ideas - let’s get planes, let’s fly out of Trenton, we need a building,” Sanders said of Blasenstein’s desire to improve the aviation program.

Before the purchase of ten airplanes in 1985 through Attorney Eric Perkins, former Vice President of Administration and current faculty coordinator of the paralegal program at Mercer, the program changed airport locations several times between Robbinsville and Princeton Airport, then moving to Ronson Aviation at Trenton-Mercer Airport and flying in rented aircraft.

PROFILE: Vinh Le exemplifies international ambition at MCCC

By Sarina Prior
Senior Reporter

Many students attend college far from home. Mercer student Vinh Le is a very long way from his home in Vietnam. At a school like Mercer at which 92 percent of students are from New Jersey and even 78 percent are from within Mercer County itself, Le stands out just by being an international student. But that is not the only reason Le stands out.

In his native Vietnam, Le had a job in information technology. He had studied computers and had a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certificate. But he didn’t like his job and wasn’t happy. On the advice of relatives, he decided to come to the U.S. to go to college.

He left behind his parents, two older siblings and a girlfriend to come to New Jersey to attend college while living with his aunt and her family. His aunt, uncle and cousin live in Mercer County, which is how Le ended up at Mercer.

Le arrived in the United States in June of 2008 and spent that first fall semester in the ESL program at Rutgers learning English. In January of 2009 he started taking classes at Mercer as a Business major.

Communications Professor Kathi Paluscio had Le in her Public Speaking class and said, “He’s amazing - the quality of his work is so high that, as a teacher, I felt like I couldn’t challenge him enough.”

Le has a high regard for Mercer and for his professors here, saying that, unlike the teachers in Vietnam, they are extremely accessible by email and office hours. “I feel like they are friends, not professors,” Le says.

“In Vietnam, you cannot talk to your professors like that. We are afraid of asking questions - it’s our culture. Here you can talk about your ideas but in Vietnam you just come and listen to the professor [lecture],” Le said.

Ashley Milhok, a second-year Business major who will be graduating in December, was in a statistics class with Le. “Vinh is a very genuine and sincere person,” said Milhok. She described how Le noticed that she was having trouble in the statistics class and offered to tutor her.

“I didn’t have to ask him. Vinh actually sought me out after class one day,” Milhok said. “He helped me out a lot with the class. He’s gone out of his way to come early before class to help me prepare for an exam.”

In addition to academics, Le is also involved with the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter at Mercer and the Global Trade and Finance Club, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), and the International Students Organization (ISO). Le is currently the Treasurer of the FBLA.

Chris Soprych, a second-year Business and Finance major and the President of the FBLA club, said, “Vinh is thoughtful; he thinks before he speaks.”

Soprych says he is expecting big things of Le in representing Mercer in the regional, state, and perhaps national FBLA competitions.

Le will graduate with an A.S. in December, just two years after he entered Mercer. (Only 9 percent of Mercer students graduate within two years with an associates degree.) And, depending on this semester’s grades, Le may graduate with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Le plans to continue on at a four-year school to get a B.A. in Finance, at either Rutgers, Drexel, or NYU. Eventually Le hopes to get an MBA. According to Le, American education and degrees are highly respected in Vietnam. He plans return to Vietnam where he is finished with his education, and put it to use in business there.

Meanwhile, Le’s girl friend of now five years is still waiting for him back in Vietnam. Le says that they are in contact by email and internet. “We talk and chat online every day,” Le said, “I have to; we need to. It’s the only way.”

Aviation Professor Blasenstein retires after 26 years

By Jason Pomerantz
Senior Reporter

Joseph Blasenstein, also known as Mr. B, was Chief Pilot, Professor, Coordinator of the Aviation Program, and was an inspiration to countless students at Mercer for 26 years. On Friday November 19, Mr. B retired after 47 years of teaching. Blasenstein plans to spend time with family, continue contributing to aviation through his non-profit organization, and will continue flying.

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The Mercer Arts Department faculty has taken their teaching out of the classroom and into the gallery. The current show at Mercer’s Gallery, located on the second floor of the Communications building, is comprised entirely of works produced by Arts faculty members.

The display is an opportunity to showcase the talent of the faculty as well as an opportunity to meet the professors. Mercer professors are actively practicing what they’re teaching, serving not just as instructors but also as artists.

On opening night, the gallery was filled with professors, students and community members. Professors discussed different pieces with colleagues and viewers. The murmur of conversations was background to the beautiful hodgepodge of works, ranging from intentionally imperfect hand thrown bowls to incredibly realistic paintings.

The range of art produced by the faculty was incredible, and it was wonderful to see such different kinds of art displayed together, however unconventional it might be.

“A lot of students come in, and a lot of faculty too,” said first semester student and gallery volunteer Judy Schultz. Students were curious to see the work of their professors, and some night classes came as groups to view the show.

In fact, quite a few students are coming into the gallery. In a on-campus survey, one third of respondents said they visited the gallery. All of those who visited the Gallery said their visits were either prompted by curiosity, friends encouraging them to visit, or a general interest in art. Notably, none of those surveyed said their visit was a mandatory part of a class, demonstrating the Gallery’s success in reaching out to students beyond the classroom.

Although the students feel safe and most of the students surveyed could not name the services that Mercer security provides, several commented they want more security to “pinpoint” a student’s location in the case of an emergency. These phones are a similar method to those used at Mercer. Also similar to the university, security will escort students to the parking areas after dark as well.

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By Anna Bosted

PHOTO | JASON POmezRTz
Student observes sculpture at Mercer art gallery’s latest exhibition of faculty work.

By Katherine Bovoso

According to reports in the Star Ledger on Tuesday, November 16, a female student at Seton Hall University was sexually assaulted. While walking to her dormitory around 11 p.m., she was overpowered by a man and forced into a nearby vacant parking lot where she was then attacked. When the student reported her attack to security, the South Orange Police Department was immediately contacted. An alert was then issued to the Seton Hall campus community.

According to the article “Seton Hall takes steps to assure student safety after campus sexual assault” by Steven Hockstein from the November 16 edition of the Star Ledger, vice president of student affairs at Seton Hall University, Laura A. Wanekel, is quoted having said, “While you can absolutely guarantee the prevention of such random acts of violence, Seton Hall has taken and will continue to take — the necessary steps to provide the safest possible campus environment.” Since the attack, the university has expanded its use of security cameras and continues to work with the South Orange Police Department. The university also uses other services to keep their students safe such as blue-light emergency phones, 24-hour security patrol, CASE Van Service for shuttle rides within South Orange that run from 5 to 2 a.m., and a free Rape Aggression Defense Course that is given on campus. In light of these events, students at Mercer County Community College were asked for their opinions on the security they receive on campus. According to a survey of 30 Mercer students, 20 percent think security is doing enough to keep the college campus safe. Twenty-four out of the 30 students surveyed did not think campus security is doing enough to keep the campus safe, yet all 30 reported feeling safe while on the MCCC campus.

Ryan Renzi, a third semester architect major at Mercer County Community College stated, “I don’t feel like there is a high level on danger on (the campus).” When asked if there is anything on campus that makes him feel uneasy, Sean Christiansen, a third semester music major at Mercer paused and started to reflect on a shock he once came across on campus. He said, “It seems like this is always a random animal on campus.”

Although the students feel safe and most of the students surveyed could not name the services that Mercer security provides, several commented they want more security to “pinpoint” a student’s location in the case of an emergency. These phones are a similar method to those used at Mercer. Also similar to the university, security will escort students to the parking areas after dark as well.

Marshall notes that students are now allowed to park in the faculty and staff lots during evening hours. This is to keep students closer to the school and in a safer more monitored zone. He also notes that the monitoring of the parking lots has also been increased and there are more patrols on campus from the West Windsor Plainsboro Police Department and the Trenton Police Department.

The West Windsor Campus’s security office is also open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The James Kerney Campus’s security office is open from seven in the morning to 11 at night, except on Sundays.

By Anna Bosted

Continued from page 1

For MCCC’s returning vets, very little peace of mind

While veterans are known to suffer high rates of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), fear of filling a stereotype or attracting added, potentially negative attention, many veteran students from openly discussing these issues.

“There was an incident once, years ago, where a vet had PTSD in the classroom. The issue wasn’t huge, but he was so worried that he’d get thrown out of school. That not what we’re here to do, though,” said Schied. Helping civilians to understand the military as well as offering veterans more easily accessible resources would appear to be what is needed to ease reentry into college life for veterans.

“In order to achieve the mission of returning veterans, there needs to be a program to address veterans’ whole-ness. Addressing concerns about everything. Employment, relationship, education, the stigma of PTSD. There needs to be an inclusive program where veterans can go to at least get help and get pointed in the right direction,” said Marsh.

Do you see a typo?

We are always trying to improve our proofreading! If you see an error in our spelling, punctuation or grammar let us know!

E-mail us at jmoomeran1211@gmail.com

WANT MORE VOICE? VISIT US ONLINE AT MCCCVOICE.ORG

Follow ing an assault at Seton Hall, a look at our own safety concerns

By Katharine Bovoso

Director of campus security, Bryon Marshall, also advi ses students to keep their cell phones when walking to parking lots at night, but to keep it in hand and ready if needed in an emergency. He also says for students to use their panic alarms to attract attention if involved in an assault or attack.

The tips also tell students to be aware of the emergency phones inside the buildings and outside along the walkways, these phones allow security to “pinpoint” a student’s location in the case of an emergency. These phones are a similar method to those used at Mercer. Also similar to the university, security will escort students to the parking areas after dark as well.

Marshall notes that students are now allowed to park in the faculty and staff lots during evening hours. This is to keep students closer to the school and in a safer more monitored zone. He also notes that the monitoring of the parking lots has also been increased and there are more patrols on campus from the West Windsor Plainsboro Police Department and the Trenton Police Department.

The West Windsor Campus’s security office is also open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The James Kerney Campus’s security office is open from seven in the morning to 11 at night, except on Sundays.
Christie cuts funds for NJN leaving it to unknown fate

By Pierce Willans
Report

In his first budget address, on March 16, 2010, Governor Christie said that New Jersey “does not need its own television network.” The Christie budget, passed in June, eliminated funding for the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Network (NJN) as of January 1, 2011. With that, the governor set in motion a scramble to find a new owner for the financially battered NJN.

NJN was created in 1968 when New Jersey passed legislation enabling the creation of New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority, the governing body for the network. The body’s mandate was to establish, own, and operate non-commercial educational television and radio stations.

At the time, the state and its political leaders, led by then Governor Richard Hughes, felt that New Jersey was being ignored by the commercial media in New York and Philadelphia.

NJN’s first live broadcast was in 1971. Since then, NJN has grown to include five television programs, seven radio frequencies (part of the NPR PBS network) and seven radio stations.

Among its concerns were that past difficulties have left NJN finances in dire straits. According to the Task Force’s report, published on November 16, 2010, “by which time NJN must be independent.”

The Task Force was created July 1, 2010, to seek comment were unsuccessful.

The enabling legislation did not empower the Authority to negotiate the sale of the radio and television assets to another entity. Therefore, the report calls for legislative action to create such an entity or amend the Authority’s powers.

Published reports of parties interested in acquiring NJN include Richard Stockton College (where NJN’s South Jersey Bureau is already located), Montclair State University (which has a program of study in broadcasting), and New York’s public television network WNET.

On November 16, 130 state employees who work at NJN received layoffs notices to be effective Jan 1, 2011. If NJN goes dark on Jan 1, they have one year before the FCC can terminate its licenses and reclaim the broadcasting frequencies assigned to them.

Numerous attempts to contact NJN and management seeking comment were unsuccessful.

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Elmira Jackals take down Trenton Devils

By Barbara Stoffels

The Trenton Devils home is an arena rink of cold grey concrete, studded with lights and advertising signs, smoothed by ice conditioning zamboni and scented with lingering hints of popcorn and beer.

For the November 17 game against the Elmira Jackals, the Trenton Devils had just come off a hard fought on-the-road game, heading PA the night before.

First string goalie Dave Caruso was promoted upstream to the NJ Devils, previous alternate goalie Jeremy Akeson was scratched, and emergency goalie Anthony Felice was signed just this week earlier. Although Felice suited up, Jeff Lerg, with more team experience, got the start and played two straight. Lerg, incidentally, is short for a goalie; at 5’8” he has to scramble more than taller players.

Elmira’s larger players proved to be a challenge for Trenton’s defense. Elmira’s Andrew Sweetland scored a hat trick, and teammates racked up four more goals. Lerg fought hard but the Jackals took advantage of a tired Trenton defense.

At intermission, Trenton resident and first-time hockey fan, Sheila Powell said, “I like [the game] but I think it would be better with more people. It’s exciting. It’s a very ‘busy’ game...” Period play was rougher as the score became more lopsided. Several fights broke out in the third period. One intense exchange between 5’10”, 180 pound Ryan Hayes and 6’3” Brennan Turner at 2:20 LKG, underscored the lopsided game.

The taller Brennan seemed to be swatting, instead of seriously punching, the smaller Devil. There were so many helmets, sticks and gloves littering the ice after one skirmish, that a Jackal player glided along unnoticed, flicking white helmets and red gloves, Devil-sticks one way, Jackals the other.

Playing hard right down to the last 17 seconds on the clock, the Devils finally sneaked past Elmira and scored Trenton’s second goal of the night. Final score: Elmira 7 to 2.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Kevin Dean, now coach of the Trenton Devils ice hockey team, studied Business Administration at the University of New Hampshire. He played hockey in college and that launched a professional career spanning almost a decade. Dean has a love and a talent for hockey. Now his job is to train players and anticipate constant change in the line-up. Practice is ten o’clock in mornings when the team is in town.

Dean never knows for sure if he has a full team or if one of his men has been “called up”, meaning called to a major NHL team.

Before being sold and renamed the Devils, the Trenton Titans won their league’s championship, the Kelly Cup, and local fans hoped the new franchise will be as successful. About this prospect, Dean hedges saying, “It’s too soon in the season to say anything about the Kelly Cup play; it’s too soon.”

Dean goes on to say, “We have to find our own identity as a team. We have a young team, new players, and we have to bring some wins together. The younger kids get in and everything changes.”

The Trenton Devil’s hockey franchise is a work in progress. Originally established as a farm team for the Philadelphia Flyers, the Titans had a good fan base and ticket sales because of regional identity with the Flyers. The New Jersey Devils purchased the Titans in 2008 and renamed them the Trenton Devils.

Forward Amir Bell, #42 shoots over Gloucester guard, sophomore Kevin Booth, #10.

Elmira’s Matt Kowalsky scored a hat trick on Trenton goalie Christian Zilliker, #43. The home team has dropped a few games early, yes, but once these players start clicking and the men start playing with confidence and intelligence, they’re going to be hard to beat.

The men have 24 games remaining in their schedule, not including the post-season, and from looking at their schedule, 13 of those games are definitely winnable. However, I’m going out on a limb and saying that they go at least 18-6 the rest of the regular season. Then we’ll be watching and waiting to see what happens in the post season.
Mike Ziegler was playing right guard for the Nottingham High School football team one day in mid-October. He says it was a big game; that much he remembers. As the game went on, that's when things start to become fuzzy.

Ziegler says he took four blows to the head in a matter of an hour and a half. By then, he had no idea where he was, had a bad headache and was vomiting on the sidelines. He realized after the second shot to the head he wasn't right. So did other people, who were telling him he didn't look right and that he was "just blocking air."

Ziegler is part of Mercer's "Jump Start" program where he earns college credits towards his music production major. He is also part of a growing concern about sports concussions which has been the subject of many recent articles pertaining to all levels of sports.

According to the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) at www.aan.com, concussions are a common consequence of contact sports which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate occurs three million times in the United States every year. Concussions are second only to motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of traumatic brain injury among those aged 15 to 24.

The AAN consists of more than 22,500 neurologists and neuroscience professionals that advocate for policies regarding the safe care of athletes playing contact sports.

Based on their clinical experience, the AAN released a "Position Statement on Sports Concussions" in October 2010. The major points of the Position Statement recommend that: a physician evaluate, treat and give approval for the athlete to return to play; a certified Athletic Trainer be present at all sporting events; and education efforts be maximized to improve understanding of concussions by all athletes, parents and coaches.

Other organizations are following suit. According to www.njsiaa.org, the website of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, they have developed an Official Policy Statement regarding concussion identification, management and return to play guidelines. The NJSIAA also wants every official to take the 20 minute "Concussion Rule" that the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) created online. The NFHS recommends that every student, athlete, parent, coach, athletic trainer and physician employed by the school take this course.

Lisa Camillone, Licensed Athletic Trainer and Associate Director of Athletics at Mercer, says she agrees that a player's health and safety should be a collaborative effort between athlete, parent, coach and athletic trainer. However, Camillone does not believe that one course could possibly provide enough training to determine when an athlete should come out of a game due to a suspected concussion.

"They need a person with credentials to make that call...an Athletic Trainer, school physician or EMT; Athletic Trainers in New Jersey are licensed," said Camillone.

Ziegler said he didn't ask for a trainer because, "I didn't want to come out of the game."

As for Mike Ziegler, when he was injured the trainer thought his concussion was minor. He went to school for two days but suffered from serious migraines. He then saw his personal physician who diagnosed him with cerebral concussion/brain contusion and told Ziegler, "no working his head for a week."

"I am always observ- ing a cart and preparing for the "what if?", says Camillone. She always has an emergency plan ready to go. "Athletic Trainers always knew the significance of concussions in sports," she says.

Concussions are second only to motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of traumatic brain injury among those aged 15 to 24.

- American Academy of Neurology

By Susan Johnson

Reporter

She goes on to say that some parents and coaches try to "live through their children" and push them too hard as athletes.

Ryan Zegarski, Assistant to the Athletic Director and Women's Softball Coach at Mercer says that concussions will always be an issue.

"You can't tell athletes not to go hard. It is something that is part of athletics at every level," Zegarski says. He said he hopes that more awareness will limit the length of time athletes are out of competition because they can come out of games when they should, take care of the problem, and return to play.

Camillone says one tool she uses is the Standardized Assessment of Concussion (SAC), which helps her assess neurological, muscular, orientation, concentration and recall performance. This gives her an athlete's baseline score which she can later use as a comparison when the athlete suffers a concussion. This score is one criteria which helps determine when the athlete can return to play. She also has a checklist card that she uses on the sidelines for quick determination of possible concussions.

Zegarski said he prefers to keep the athlete's safe return to play in the hands of the Athletic Trainer and the doctor.

Winning is not the most important thing; it's great and makes things easier, but the health of the student-athlete is the most important thing," says Zegarski.

Ziegler says the advice he would offer to an incoming freshman athlete would be to "get strong fast, listen to what the coach says, and always stay low," which is what he wishes he did the day he suffered the concussion.

"Be aware of risks in football before you sign up. Be prepared to take risks. I was and I paid the price for it, but I would definitely do it again," says Ziegler.

Camillone says, "My job is to educate and protect kids from themselves and coaches and to give them the best health education." She notes that the body never forgets and that it is sometimes her job to insist that an athlete leave the game. She said she doesn't want athletes to look upon it as punishment, just as motivation to care for themselves and to listen to their bodies.
Creating roadside memorials
State laws on roadside memorials vary widely

By Daniela Rocha & Sarina Prior
Senior Reporters

According to the New Jersey Department of Transportation, there were 583 fatal traffic crashes in the state in 2009. Each of those accidents leaves behind grieving family and friends.

Those mourning their loss sometimes create a visible outlet for their private grief and pain by fashioning a roadside memorial at the site of the accident. Some of these are beautiful little shrines to the deceased. Others are simple memorials to do whatever they think is appropriate and rarely do we ever have any complaints from anyone in the neighborhood,” said Hsueh.

The phenomenon of roadside memorials in this country originated almost 300 years ago in the Latino community of Dayton, Ohio. “views memorials as obstructions and removes them for safety reasons,” as does the state of Washington. Jipson’s research shows 11 states in which the memorials are legal and are regulated, and 12 states in which they are not illegal, but they are removed by DOT crews after a specific length of time.

Currently, the state of New Jersey has no legislation regarding where roadside memorials may be placed or how long they may remain. It is up to individual municipalities to create ordinances either banning or allowing roadside memorials in the area of a fatal accident.

West Windsor Township, like many others, has not specifically addressed this issue formally. “Basically, right now we don’t have any zoning codes or ordinances dealing with roadside memorials,” said Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh in a recent interview with the VOICE. “We never considered it to be something of serious concern in West Windsor.”

“We usually allow anyone to do what they consider appropriate. Until there is a traffic problem, we allow people to do whatever they think is appropriate and rarely do we ever have any complaints from anyone in the neighborhood,” said Hsueh.

The townships recently removed several roadside memorials from the site of an accident that is still a mystery four years later. No alcohol or drugs were involved; the police photographer at the crash scene.

According to the police report, Gabriel was travelling northbound on the road and died at the scene. Jimenez was struck by a car traveling westbound on the road and died at the scene. Jimenez, 36, a pedestrian who died here on May 16, 2005. Princeton-Hightstown Rd just east of Old Trenton Rd; East Windsor, NJ. WHAT HAPPENED HERE: A few yards past a busy intersection of Princeton-Hightstown road sit two crosses, both in memory of Mil-
Private Grief

LOCATION: Youngs Road; Hamilton, NJ.

WHAT HAPPENED HERE: Not far from the Mercer campus on Youngs Rd in Hamilton is a memorial which reflects the personal-ity and hobbies of 25-year old John Gately of Trenton NJ, who died here on October 16, 2009. Gately had been drinking with friends at the nearby Killarney’s Publick House. Around 4pm he left to retrieve his paycheck from Dick Greenfield Dodge Dealership in Lawrenceville. He never made it. Gately struck a utility pole on a curve on Youngs Road. The road was damp from an earlier rain, according to police reports, and even though Gately was wearing a seatbelt, he died at the scene.

STATE BY STATE INFORMATION ON ROADSIDE MEMORIALS*

*Used with permission from Dr. Arthur Jipsen, Director of the Criminal Justice Studies Program, University of Dayton. Valid as of 5-15-2008.

STATES WHERE ROADSIDE MEMORIALS ARE ILLEGAL

STATES WHERE ROADSIDE MEMORIALS ARE LEGAL WITH RULES
  * State maintains memorials for pedestrians or bike riders, no allowance for automobile-based roadside memorials.

STATES WHERE ROADSIDE MEMORIALS ARE NOT ILLEGAL BUT ARE REMOVED BY DOT AFTER A TIME
Arkansas, New Hampshire, Delaware, New Mexico*, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, South Carolina, Mississippi**, Tennessee, Missouri, Wisconsin
  * New Mexico requires family notification before a memorial is removed.
  ** Mississippi allows for civil injunctive relief for repeat offenders

STATES WITH NO SPECIFIC LEGISLATION
Kentucky, Maine, Louisiana, Massachusetts*, New Jersey
  * The state policy of Massachusetts is to not promote or discourage Roadside Memorials in any way.

STATES CONSIDERING LEGISLATION
Maryland, Nevada, Nebraska, South Carolina*, Illinois**

NO RESPONSE
Utah

PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST WINDSOR POLICE

LOCATION: Near the Mercer County Park entrance on Old Trenton Rd; West Windsor, NJ

WHAT HAPPENED HERE: Mary Gabriel of East Windsor NJ died on the scene of an accident that is still a mystery four years later. No alcohol or drugs were involved, nothing evident that will point to a cause for the accident. Lt. Garfalo, who was the police photographer at the crash scene, said Gabriel began to brake in an “emergent fashion” according to police reports; she hit a utility pole and was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the impact. "Had she been wearing a seatbelt, she would still be alive talking to us right now," said Lt. Garfalo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST WINDSOR POLICE

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NO RESPONSE
Utah

PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST WINDSOR POLICE

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“Tis the season to be jolly...on a BUDGET! It’s the time of the year when poinsettias become everyone’s flower of choice and homes are adorned in more lights than an airport landing strip. Ornaments and stockings are being brought down from the attic and eggnog recipes are being swapped. Yes, Christmas is near. In these hard economic times, even Santa is being a little frugal this year.

Here are five thoughtful, yet budget conscious gift ideas:

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2. **GIFT CARDS** – The most hassle-free and convenient option! Plus, they are sold EVERYWHERE!

3. **JEWELRY** – It is said that diamonds are a girl’s best friend. Moreover, both Macy’s and Tiffany & Co. carry reasonably priced items. Oh, and they can be engraved!

4. **KNITS** – Stores like Old Navy and H&M are fool-proof when shopping for stylish, inexpensive hat, scarf, and glove sets. Good with knitting and crocheting perhaps? Be encouraged to make your gift more personal and make it yourself.

5. **1-WAY AIRLINE TRAVEL TICKET** – Airlines like X Fare offer deals to students between the ages of 18-22 to fly to select cities in the US. Tickets are as low as $48!!
# Events Calendar December 2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>BRAVO Wind Ensemble West Windsor Arts Center 3 pm</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Acoustic Soul at Festivals Lounge Philadelphia 8pm $7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>MCCC Chorus Winter Concert FREE</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF CLASSES Usher &amp; Trey Songs at Wells Fargo Center 7:30pm $30-125</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Year Legacy MCC Block Theater 7:30 pm</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ice Land Public Skating 12-4pm 7:30-9:30 LM Pool open swim 11-6pm $4</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>BRAVO Wind Ensemble West Windsor Arts Center 3 pm</td>
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<td>Free MCCC Jazz Band Men’s Basketball vs. Harford home 6 pm</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF CLASSES Usher &amp; Trey Songs at Wells Fargo Center 7:30pm $30-125</td>
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<td>Year Legacy MCC Block Theater 7:30 pm</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Ice Land Public Skating 12-4pm 7:30-9:30 LM Pool open swim 11-6pm $4</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Free MCCC Jazz Band Men’s Basketball vs. Harford home 6 pm</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Acoustic Soul at Festivals Lounge Philadelphia 8pm $7 21+</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Free MCCC Jazz Band Men’s Basketball vs. Harford home 6 pm</td>
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<td>Free MCCC Jazz Band Men’s Basketball vs. Harford home 6 pm</td>
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# Events Calendar January 2011

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Memory of Elvis: A Tribute to the King at B.B. King House of Blues NYC</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Winter Session Begins</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Les Misérables at Philadelphia Academy of Music 7pm Ruby Tuesday Steak &amp; Lobster $14.99</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Rutgers Scarlet Knights vs. Marquette Golden Eagles New Brunswick 7:30pm</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rutgers Scarlet Knights vs. Marquette Golden Eagles New Brunswick 7:30pm</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rutgers Scarlet Knights vs. Marquette Golden Eagles New Brunswick 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Women’s Basketball vs. Brookdale home 5pm Mens Basketball vs. Brookdale home 7pm</td>
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<td>Winter Session Begins</td>
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<td>Winter Session Begins</td>
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<td>Winter Session Deadline</td>
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<td>Winter Session Begins</td>
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<td>Spring Season Begins</td>
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### Sports
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Volleyball

### Theater
- Performance
- Film

### Art
- Gallery
- Exhibition

### Concerts
- Live Music
- Dance

### School
- Academic Event
- Extracurricular Activity

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The Pumpkin Latte & the Hot Red Chai Apple Cider

I love chai tea, then the new Hot Red Chai Apple Cider is a delicious autumn alternative. The spice flavors of the chai complement the fruity apple cider well, and it’s served really hot. (In these lawsuit-happy times, lukewarm coffee has become a more common annoyance.)

The pumpkin latte is another festive seasonal flavor that was delicious on a cold, windy evening. It was hot, steamy, and bagged. Tasting like they just picked the pumpkin. Add the spice flavors of cinnamon and cloves, it was like having pumpkin pie and coffee all in one.

Grover’s Mill Coffee is an independent coffee shop which roasts their own beans and also supplies other coffee shops. It is conveniently located close to the Mercer campus in the West Windsor McCaffrey’s strip mall. Decorated with memorabilia of Orion Welles’ War of the Worlds and antique decor, the effect is quaint, old-fashioned and warm.

The tables and chairs are not very comfortable though, not like Starbucks’ plush seating in some of their locations, and the shop could use more seating and less decor on busier nights.

They also offer a wide selection of enjoyable teas, both loose and bagged. The only coffee blend that is uniquely theirs is the “Concerned Citizen” coffee. Depending on your tolerance, the Concerned Citizen may leave you shaking from its very high caffeine content.

The hot chocolate was a dark brown color, which anticipated a rich, chocolatey flavor, but alas, it tasted watery and not milky. When the whipped cream on top melted into the hot chocolate, it left droplets of oil floating on the surface as if it were not real cream at all, but a fake whipped topping (a la cool cream on top). The Mexican Hot Chocolate is thick and spicy and not really to our taste - we prefer the Mocha or the regular Hot Chocolate.

The chat tea here is spicy (some might say too spicy but like it that way) and not too sweet, while the chai tea at Starbucks is not as spicy and is too sweet.

The Frappe is a sweet, blended ice coffee and coffee drink with whipped cream on top, and it tastes like a coffee smoothie (and probably has a lot calories). It’s hard to imagine being in the mood for one until next summer.

Other popular summer drinks are French soda (milk based) and Italian soda (water based) which you can order flavored with any combination of flavor shots that you desire (strawberry, vanilla and peach, etc.).

Small World Coffee offers a variety of desserts, but the red velvet cake has to be one of the best. They also offer a variety of custom drinks, from hot mix drinks to a variety of iced drinks. The Mocha is a delicious adult version of Hot Chocolate with hot milk, chocolate, and a shot of espresso (and whipped cream on top). The Italian soda (water based) is also very refreshing on a hot day.

Part of a franchise chain headquartered in California, it’s a Grind has a good location next to the new Plainsboro Public Library, in the new walkable “village center.”

Of the three coffee shops, it is the only one that is not independently owned, and it is the one that is most like Starbucks. There are comfortable upholstered chairs surrounding a fireplace as well as tables with seating scattered around. The effect is welcoming and cozy. It’s a Grind offers a variety of coffees and espresso drinks as well as delicious food made in house. Baristas can be seen delivering drinks to guests already comfy in their seats. In that respect, it is more upscale than the other coffee bars.

However, the problem is that they are delivering cold lattes! Because it is the season for pumpkin, and to compare similar drinks, I ordered the pumpkin latte. It was far from steamy and creamy, and almost tasted like the barista warmed up the milk and topped it with cinnamon. Unfortunately, it could be the worst latte I have ever had.

The prices here are comparable to Starbucks, as is the general feel and ambience. There is a Dunkin’ Donuts across the street - clearly not in the same league, but the coffee is hot and costs two bucks.

There are a variety of desserts offered, but the red velvet cake was lacking in richness and was cold and not fresh. This seems to be a common theme and, in general, we can say that you are better off avoiding the desserts.

Open mic night provided live background music as audience members worked on their laptops or caught up with friends. Like all open mic nights, the talent is unpredictable. I walked in to a musician singing Happy Birthday. Looking around for a cake or a birthday celebration, there wasn’t one - that was just his choice of music! It’s a Grind has a great appearance both outside and inside, with a convenient location, but it is Starbucks mediocrity. Now that Starbucks has set a “McDonald’s type standard” for coffee bars, this is another of the same. They do a lot of things right, and so does McDonald’s.

It’s a Grind Coffee

12 - 13 - 10

By Sarina Prior and Daniela Rocha

Seeking the Ultimate Java Joint

Dining

Coffee Crawl

Grover’s Mill Coffee
-West Windsor

The Pumpkin Latte & the Hot Red Chai Apple Cider

The Hot Chocolate (yuck), the “gourmet” desserts were tasty. They are sourced from a sugary sweet but not all that fancy “gourmet” desserts are fake whipped topping (a la cool cream on top melted into the milky. When the whipped brown color, which anticipated the Concerned Citizen may have done that, but there was no available seating at all on that day different visits this semester, and especially after the Christmas shopping season began.

The remodeling added more seating when the full food menu was eliminated at the Witherspoon Street location, but it is such a popular destination in town that the crowd has expanded to fill this additional space. The food menu is still available at the satellite Nassau Street location.

The parking, sometimes the crowds

Princeton’s iconic independent coffee shop, they roast the coffee beans themselves in their Rocky Hill roasting facility using a small-batch process. They claim to have the freshest coffee around, brewed within three days of roasting.

For true coffee aficionados, this is the place to go for coffee in Mercer county. While their regular cup of Joe is a little too strong, the espresso based cappuccino and late drinks are the best. They taste great, they taste fresh, and Small World’s coffee does the job much better than Starbucks’. Our favorite? The full fat (not skim) vanilla latte or cap. With skim, the flavor of the espresso is much more assertive.

The Mocha is a delicious adult version of Hot Chocolate with hot milk, chocolate, and a shot of espresso (and whipped cream on top).
Dear Voice,
A huge mutant junky squirrel hopped out of a MCCC trash can and attacked me on the way to class yesterday. How do I defend myself?
-Once Bitten
Dear Bitten,
We have found that Mercer cafeteria food can repel any creature with at least two of the five senses. Try hurling chicken nuggets.
-The Voice

Dear Voice,
I left my flash drive behind in one class last week. I lost some homework and stuff, but what I think is worse is that there were some naked photos of my little brother on there. What should I do?
-Eek
Dear Inappropriate, WTF? If your brother is under 18 that's a felony! What is wrong with you?
The Voice

Dear Voice,
I chewed on some brown meat in the cafe buffet for five minutes before it broke down. Was it safe?
-No Longer Hungry
Dear Hungry,
I lost my brown leather belt in the cafeteria (don't ask how). Are you still alive?
The Voice

Dear Voice,
Why do you guys think you know everything? I see you at your exclusive Monday meetings with your sub par pizza. Not cool, guys.
Unsigned
Dear Unsigned,
We are a newspaper. We know everything. Come join.
The VOICE

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

Classic Peanuts

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 2 (of 5)

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

11/22/10

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

DIILBERT AND GET FUZZY

DOES MY MOUTH LOOK MANLY AND INTELLIGENT AT THE SAME TIME?

IT MAKES YOU LOOK TOO LAZY TO SHAVE AROUND YOUR LIPS.

AND I THINK THAT ONE IS RESISTANT TO SOUP.

YOU REALLY THINK HE WOULD SPEAK TO THE STOP?

NO. I HATE THE GUY WHO WAS ON THE SPEAKER.

YOU WOULD BE LAUGHING YOUR HEAD OFF.

DO I LOOK LIKE I'M A COWARD TO YOU?

NO, YOU ARE LIKE A CONTESSA TO ME.

NO WAY. AN ABANDONED SHOE SHOES IS EXCELLENT TO GO CONSULTING AND DISCOURAGE THE WIFE EYES OF A WIFE IN FOCUS. I'M NOT BEVERLY SALES COFFEE.

MAYBE IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO TAT A NOISY BAG OF CHIPS NEXT TO A SPEAKER PHONE.

Uh-oh, my common sense has discouraged your ego and made you deflate.

DO YOU REALLY THINK HE WOULD SPEAK TO THE STOP?

NO, I HATE THE GUY WHO WAS ON THE SPEAKER.

YOU WOULD BE LAUGHING YOUR HEAD OFF.

DO I LOOK LIKE I'M A COWARD TO YOU?

NO, YOU ARE LIKE A CONTESSA TO ME.
Val DaGrain

Marijuana is not the villain that it is often portrayed to be. In fact, the plant has a lot of beneficial uses which will never be exploited because of paranoia against "weed." Let's start with the hemp fibers that are extracted from the cannabis plant.

According to the article "Hemp: A New Crop with New Uses for North America" by Ernest Small and David Marcus, posted on the website of the horticulture department at Purdue University, hemp is one of the earliest domesticated plants known.

It is a low-maintenance, resilient, soft, and durable fiber that is used to make every thing from biodegradable plastics to textiles, clothing, paper, natural oils and fuels. It is used in construction and even has many medical uses.

Small and Marcus say, "During the age of sailing ships, Cannabis was considered to provide the very best of canvas, as well as rope, nets, sailcloth, and canvasbacks.

Hemp is organic, clean and green, and 100% environmentally friendly. Hemp grows strong and grows quickly. Hemp grows at an amazing rate and requires a lot less water and pesticides than growing cotton, tobacco, or other crops. It has a high fiber and oil content and can be used for thousands of different ways.

Some of the side effects can be seen in medical professionals who might prescribe it for their patients. Others might see some harmful medical effects. Most students who smoke marijuana experience problems with memory and learning, distorted perception, difficulty in thinking and problem solving, and increased heart rate.

Marijuana does not make your life and find another outlet for your problems, it makes you feel as if you’re a person who never had problems. I’d say at least half of college students’ use of marijuana and alcohol are the things we’re supposed to be trying to get away from. For example, if classwork is causing your problems, you have the free yoga classes for R and R. If physical activity isn’t your thing, there are other ways rather than rolling up a blunt. For example, you have the free yoga classes on campus. Not into yoga? I suggest doing an activity that allows for some type of release - kick boxing, swimmers, or just hitting the gym up. If physical activity isn’t your thing, go get a massage to relax, find a loud band or club that plays your favorite music, and enjoy it. You treat your body and mind to some R and R.

If classwork is causing your stress, try altering more time and effort for your assignments. You can check into getting tutoring. If it’s social or family issues, seek out counseling options or other assistance.

The point is, you do not need a mind-altering drug to relax. You need to address what is causing the stress in your life and find another outlet for relieving the tension. Smoking pot does not make your problems go away for more than a few of your time.

Kelly Smith

The reason smoking pot is bad for everyone is not that they are ignorant of the medical effects, but on the social and coping reasons it is used and my opinion, misused.

Most of the college students I know, either as friends, classmates, or work acquaintances, have smoked pot at least once or twice, often, in their lives. In some cases, it has taken over their lives.

Why then are they smoking pot? Quintin Square, a second-year Mercer student, says, "Because weed is awesome. Weed is the awesome breeze in college we all have all of those stressful things and we’re supposed to be trying to get away from. If college students often say that they ‘do it to take the edge off’ or they ‘just needed to relax,’ however, the truth about college students’ use of marijuana is that it is just used as a mind-altering drug to escape and temporarily avoid dealing with the problems that they face on a daily basis.

Face the facts - no matter how much weed you take or ingest, your problems aren’t going away.

Most students argue that they can use pot and function normally without problems. However, they do not realize the real-world effects of smoking weed, nor do they understand the consequences of putting off dealing with their real problems. I’d say at least half of users don’t.

Because the underlying problems and stresses haven’t gone away, and because of the decreased social and coping abilities, students then begin to use pot more often and begin experimenting with different ways to get the high faster and stronger.

I’ve personally seen the deterioration in people’s lives. However, I do acknowledge that not everyone will experience these escalating effects or suffer the devastating consequences of addiction.

BAN IT

Many users won’t. And that is another reason that pot use is insidious - students think that they can handle it, that it won’t ‘spiral out of control.’

The study ‘Health Risks of Marijuana Use’ by Kuhn, et al in 1996 states that ‘acute adverse effects of marijuana use include anxiety, dysphoria, and panic, especially when higher doses are used.’

Another study done by Kuhn in 1998, states ‘The short-term effect of marijuana use may also include problems with memory, learning, concentration, perception, difficulty in thinking and problem solving, and increased heart rate.’

It goes on to say, “because marijuana impairs judgement and complex coordination, its use also increases the likelihood of accidental injury or self-destructive behavior.”

A study done by the National Institute on Drug Abuse in 2003 found that “if a cause-and-effect relationship genuinely exists, the ability to learn and remember information, one of the most basic skills in which marijuana may experience difficulties in accumulating relational job or social skills. Students who smoke marijuana lower their IQ.”

These are all facts about things that could happen. Most college students reason that the things they’re buying aren’t bad and that the scientific evidence themselves aren’t even concrete.

The latter is a rationalization, an excuse to ignore the medical evidence to the contrary that they do have.

And the former is a typical youthful attitude of invincibility. How do students know these harmful effects won’t happen to them? They don’t. There is no test to determine whether one could be the person who never sees harmful effects or the user who begins using other drugs as a result of smoking pot.

Furthermore, if pot distorts perception then who can think of anyone who smokes pot even trust their own judgment? How will they see any harmful effects of it? Our minds are good at justifying our actions, we do and ignoring things we don’t want to know.

So students, if you’re looking to relieve some of your stress, there are other ways rather than rolling up a blunt. For example, you have the free yoga classes on campus. Not into yoga? I suggest doing an activity that allows for some type of release - kick boxing, swimmers, or just hitting the gym up.

If physical activity isn’t your thing, go get a massage to relax, find a loud band or club that plays your favorite music, and enjoy it. You treat your body and mind to some R and R.

If classwork is causing your stress, try altering more time and effort for your assignments. You can check into getting tutoring. If it’s social or family issues, seek out counseling options or other assistance.

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Consider that a person is going through chemotherapy can regain their appetite by using marijuana. The weed helps them to keep their strength when they would otherwise lose very large and unhealthy amounts of weight.

Cancer survivor Todd McCormick, as he was depicted in the 2007 documentary by Kevin Booth titled ‘American Drug War: The Last White Hope’ (please see this documentary which depends on medical marijuana for his health).

Someone with cancer can also use marijuana in place of a painkiller and get a couple hours of peace and pain relief. Marijuana is organic and natural, as opposed to other dichloroacetate effects in them and just as many side effects (including addiction). Regain their appetite by using marijuana could be much worse than what you are putting in the finance, just by knowing where the fine print on your medicine bottles or listen to an ad on television.

Now let’s talk economics. Weed is a cash cow, worth its weight in gold (literally). The state of California pumped over fourteen billion dollars from medicinal marijuana into their recession stricken economy last year (according to Time Magazine, Nov 16, 2010). Fourteen billion they would have had before medicinal weed was legalized, and fourteen billion that other financially strapped states and communities could use. Not to mention the retired people, veterans, and workers who would have made their health care available to twelve, thirteen, and fourteen year-olds like it is now.

I am aware that marijuana has some harmful medical effects. I also concede that there may be some bad or harm that marijuana may cause. With a lot of things (tobacco, alcohol, junk food) some people get addicted and cannot use things in moderation. But my opinion is that the good far outweighs the bad by a landslide.

At the very least, let’s not let our irrational fear of weed prevent us from taking advantage of all of its benefits. So it’s only a matter of time before we get it right. Right?
Merce makes it too easy to blow your financial aid

By Samantha Kenyon
Reporter

As of the Fall 2010, the bookstore now sells laptops, printers, MP3 players and myriad other items. For a student without cash on hand, the temptation to go on a shopping spree in the bookstore is huge.

I can now grab a new $759 laptop, a $100 coffee press, a cute $80 MP3 player and walk out with them right now, even though I don’t have any money. All I have to do is hand the clerk my student ID and provide them with a financial aid award that is directly deducted from my financial aid award, cash that I could have received if I could have just waited two months for my check.

Merce is also offering meal cards now. You can fill the card with money from your financial aid and purchase anything in the cafeteria. The meal cards were offered I was not willing to spend the little bit of cash that I had in the cafeteria. I packed a lunch every day. This semester I blew through a $150 meal card in less than one month into the semester.

If you ask Mercer administrators I say that they are just trying to help the students, allowing them to purchase “necessary” items that they might not be able to afford otherwise. They will emphasize that it is each student’s personal responsibility to save or spend as appropriate, but that Merce is just providing needed tools. These are students who can agree with this view.

Jessica Richardson, a freshman studying in the College of Arts and Sciences, is a single mother whose only income comes from public assistance. She says, “I barely scrape by every month just buying necessities, I can’t afford to go out and buy a computer.” This semester Richardson received her financial aid refund on a laptop with her financial aid and says that it really helps having a computer at home. “I used to have to come into school super early to type papers. Degrade text by 10, now I can do my homework at home.” Richardson adds, “The meal cards are great. I don’t always have money to buy lunch, now I can use my financial aid on the cafeteria, it helps a lot.”

Then, of course, there are the students who are good at being financially restrained. Zadeh Kemah is a junior studying Public Relations. She says, “If you’re dumb enough, you can reel you in, you have to be careful when you’re dealing with the school, they do benefit. After the recent renovation of the bookstore, the book store was given more space, charged more rent, and given more room to sell things, and they have blazoned with the Merce logo which we wear around essentially advertising Merce to all our friends and neighbors.

In short, although personal responsibility is key, Merce could do students a favor by implementing more controls on offering any more products to buy on campus with our financial aid.

Charter Schools Are “Last Chapter” for New Jersey Education

By Barbara Stoffels
Reporter

The present surge in charter school applications is a foamy churning whirlpool spinning public schools down the drain. The Trenton Times reports that over fifty charter school applications have been filed recently here in Mercer County. Public school administrators are approved will qualify for public school funding on a student-by-student basis, taking money from recession-hit school budgets while Governor Christie ignores reports from around the country that they do not perform better than public schools.

According to a 2007 study funded by the Great Lakes Center for Education, charter schools in Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, charter schools did not outperform their traditional public counterparts. Robert Bifulco and Helen L. Fadd, in their study, "The Impacts of Charter Schools on Student Achievement", indicated that charter school students do not have as high an achievement rate as public school students in the state of North Carolina.

Kenneth Figgs, Manager of the Office of Charter Schools at the New Jersey Department of Education, insists that New Jersey’s charter schools are different. He did not have figures, but that the AVP (Approximately Yearly Progress) assessments are coming out soon. Past scores were lowest among the disabled and economically disadvantaged students who are likely to be left in public schools.

Figgs said that disabled students will be accommodated in charter and alternative school programs. “Students are chosen by lottery. It is the parent’s choice. It is a pick lottery. If the parents win, Public schools will always be there,” Figgs said. "If a student with special needs would like to face the same challenges and ask them if they have a disability. You can say "is there something we need to do?" and then a school has to accommodate it. If physical facilities are lacking, Figgs said that a school would then be required to "have a resource room, or the class would have to come to the first floor." Of course this might mean more expense for the charter school because of that "special needs" student.

Laura Bruno reported in the Daily Record on March 14, 2010, that Morris County chose to redirect $19 million of special education monies from President Obama’s stimulus funding to non-special education uses. Some uses did include set up of programs that would return disabled students from former out-of-dist- rict placements back to their home school districts.

Brenda Considine wrote to Congressmen Rush Holt on behalf of the New Jersey Coalition for Special Education Funding Reform. She pointed out in her letter of May 19, 2010, that of Christies cuts to education, “nearly 30 percent of special education dollars are set aside in the State’s commitment to support special education.”

Passaic Superintendent of Schools Robert Holster was quoted in a January 2010 article by writer Patricia Alex of The Record as saying, “Charters can pick and choose. I have to en- roll everybody. Inner-city schools need help.”

Trenton’s Darren Green, Administrator of the Emily Fisher Charter School of Advanced Stud- ies, brings his experience with New Jersey’s Correc- tions Department to his school duties, providing stability and discipline to his urban charges. Green said, “Many parents are young themselves. You have to put a lot of his- tory in a student. And they need to be taught basics of civility...” in spite of his best efforts, tharaning of the school is only 1 in a scale of 1-10.

As if that were not bad enough, the U.S. Department of Education recently made it possible for states to determine what percentage of special education and related services funds go to charter schools, and the New Jersey Department of Education is making sure that the money is going to those schools. New Jersey’s legislators recently passed a bill, known as the “Millionaires’ Tax,” intended to help relieve real estate tax burdens, but Governor Christie held it up because it would reduce charter school dollars.

In the NY Times, August 10, 2010, a study by the education think tank, the Center on Education Policy, found that students in charter schools made gains in math and reading, but what about those students who just can’t resist the opportunity to spend, spend, spend? As the date for financial aid refund checks to be mailed out approached, I wished I had resisted the temptation to spend my financial aid refund on expensive computer parts and MP3 players. I could be receiving an almost $2000 refund check enough to buy a car. Instead, I will be re- ceiving $700. It’s my fault, but Merce made it extra easy.

Although Merce does not directly profit from sales in the book store, or set the prices, they do benefit. After the recent renovation of the bookstore, the book store was given more space, charged more rent, and given more room to sell things, and they have blazoned with the Merce logo which we wear around essentially advertising Merce to all our friends and neighbors.

In short, although personal responsibility is key, Merce could do students a favor by implementing more controls on offering any more products to buy on campus with our financial aid.
We're not 13th grade, damn it!

I t's hard to believe that the constant barrage of texting while driving stories is nothing new. In fact, some of the stories have been on the front page of the news for almost a decade. Yet, despite the consistent stream of stories warning of the dangers of texting while driving, the behavior continues to be a major issue on our roads. The use of cell phones while driving has become so prevalent that it is often referred to as the "third hand on the wheel." This behavior is not only distracting, but it is also illegal in many places.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that approximately 1.2 million accidents each year are caused by distracted driving, resulting in over 40,000 fatalities and over 1.3 million injuries. In addition, the cost of these accidents is estimated to be over $120 billion annually.

The majority of distracted driving incidents involve the use of a cell phone. Whether it's texting, talking, or using navigation, the distraction it creates can be devastating. A recent study by the University of Utah found that drivers who use a cell phone while driving are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash than those who are not.

Despite the clear dangers, many people continue to use their phones while driving. In a survey conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 78% of drivers admitted to using a cell phone while driving at least once in the past year. The same survey found that 67% of drivers said they feel safer using a cell phone while driving.

It's clear that more needs to be done to address this issue. We need to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving and encourage people to make safer choices while on the road. This could include increased education and enforcement, as well as stricter penalties for those who continue to put themselves and others at risk.

But until we can change the culture of distracted driving, we will continue to see tragedies on our roads. We need to make it clear that using a cell phone while driving is not acceptable, and that the consequences of this behavior are too high to ignore.

I t's time to put an end to this dangerous behavior and start making our roads safer for everyone.
Vikings beat Roadrunners 58-47

By Lisa Olsson
Senior Reporter

With a final score of 58-47, the Men’s Vikings Basketball team defeated the Gloucester Roadrunners on Mercer’s home court on Thursday, November 17. The win balanced out the Vikings’ season record, which is now 2-2.

The score teetered back and forth during the first half; neither team maintained a lead for more than a few minutes. The first half of the game was peppered with many missed lay-ups by the Vikings and several offensive fouls from the Roadrunners.

The Vikings relied heavily on perimeter passing, but struggled to get inside the paint and complete shots. On the other hand, the Roadrunners used zone defense to keep the Vikings at bay.

By half-time, the Roadrunners had secured a two point advantage over the Vikings, leaving the scoreboard at 26-28.

At the beginning of the second half, Mercer seized the lead. Energy on the court heated up as players on both sides ran faster, yelled louder, and took more shots in what turned out to be a cat-and-mouse chase for the win.

Vikings Coach Howard Levy noted the beefed up intensity. After the game ended he explained that when one team gains a lead, “the other team starts chasing a little bit,” resulting in pressure to take shots more frequently.

Without indicating a specific turning point in the game Levy said, “Our defense got better and made it harder for them to score, so then even if we missed lay ups, they had a hard time scoring and we were just able to gradually get the lead.”

The last moments of the game were filled with more fouls and missed shots as players sprinted from basket to basket. Then, with only two minutes left in the game, Viking guard Anthony Obery, #22, made a three point play by driving to the basket, making the layup and then being fouled. Obery made the free throw attempt “and-one,” which brought the score to 52-45.

The game surged on and a minute later, Coach Levy dropped to one knee, pounded the sideline with his fists, and shouted to a player who just missed a lay up.

Viking forward #24, sophomore Gary Carthan, cited Gloucester’s offense as the biggest challenge his team overcame. “The guards... were way faster than us,” he said after the game.

Surrounded by a small group of fans, a smiling Carthan gave praise to fellow teammate David Melton, #5, a freshman who plays forward, saying, “We got one of our starters back, and he came in and stepped up big time.”

The Vikings have 26 games left in their season. Levy noted the beefed up intensity. After the game ended he explained that when one team gains a lead, “the other team starts chasing a little bit,” resulting in pressure to take shots more frequently.

Without indicating a specific turning point in the game Levy said, “Our defense got better and made it harder for them to score, so then even if we missed lay ups, they had a hard time scoring and we were just able to gradually get the lead.”

The last moments of the game were filled with more fouls and missed shots as players sprinted from basket to basket. Then, with only two minutes left in the game, Viking guard Anthony Obery, #22, made a three point play by driving to the basket, making the layup and then being fouled. Obery made the free throw attempt “and-one,” which brought the score to 52-45.

The game surged on and a minute later, Coach Levy dropped to one knee, pounded the sideline with his fists, and shouted to a player who just missed a lay up.

Viking forward #24, sophomore Gary Carthan, cited Gloucester’s offense as the biggest challenge his team overcame. “The guards... were way faster than us,” he said after the game.

Surrounded by a small group of fans, a smiling Carthan gave praise to fellow teammate David Melton, #5, a freshman who plays forward, saying, “We got one of our starters back, and he came in and stepped up big time.”

The Vikings have 26 games left in their season.

Ladies Hoops defeated by Monroe

By Val DelGrain
 Reporter

Mercer’s Women’s Basketball team faced off and lost against the Mustangs of Monroe on November 28. The Lady Vikings were just coming off of a 12-point win the night before against Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI). It was their first back-to-back games of the season.

The Mercer women fought back, bringing the deficit down to single digits with three minutes left in the first half with solid free-throw shooting (82 percent). But two quick threes by Monroe’s sophomore guard Simone Victor (#13) and their consistent offense put the Mustangs up 46-27 at the half.

The second half was much more tightly contested game. But the coach kept a positive attitude when he mentioned how last year they started with a 1-3 record also, but finished 21-9. He pointed out that Monroe plays in our district play-off tree in the post season and, assuming both teams do well in their regions, Tanaglia said he would be looking forward to the rematch.

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