President Obama’s flagship aviation program to end?

By Jason Pomerantz

Mercer County Community College’s Board of Trustees along with the President and Vice President made the decision to stop accepting new students into the Aviation Technology program and are currently in the process of deciding whether or not to continue it.

Dr. Guy Generals, Vice President for Student and Academic Affairs, stated in an interview with the VOICE that there were financial issues with the current program. He said that students’ tuition does not fully cover the cost of fuel, expensive maintenance procedures, airport fees, and other necessary expenses. “The program looses a lot of money every year...the college winds up picking up anywhere between $300 and $400,000 a year,” Generals said.

Dr. Generals added, “Educationally [Aviation] is a sound program, but it has a high attrition rate. Students drop out regularly. So when you look at these traditional academic measures, you know, we decided we have to improve it considerably or teach it out; terminate it.”

“I really feel bad for the new kids, I was in their shoes at one point. When I started here they were not sure [Mercer] was going to keep [Aviation],” said Chris Moyers, a third year Private Pilot in the program.

The college is considering the option of outsourcing key functions of the Aviation program to Royal Karina Air Service, a flight training school located at Trenton Mercer Airport. This is currently the only alternative the college has to keep the Aviation program alive. Outsourcing the flight training to Royal Karina “would reduce the deficit that’s involved by a huge amount,” said Mercer’s Aviation Technology Program Coordinator, Joan Jones.

The County College of Morris also offers an aviation program but due to the fees associated with the aviation industry has always outourced flight training and has never owned aircrafts. “Owning airplanes is not cheap anyway you look at it,” said Venancio L. Fuentes, Department Chair of Engineering Technology/Engineering Science at the County College of Morris.

“All of the costs associated with the flight training would be absorbed by Royal Karina,” said Moses Frenck, President of Royal Karina Air Service about the proposal. As the administrators review the Royal Karina option the Aviation Technology Program has suspended recruitment for a minimum of six months.

“Until January we will not take any new students until we’ve gone through the process of due diligence to ensure the integrity of the company and if not we’ll teach it out, permanently,” said Dr. Generals. The college is reviewing whether Royal Karina is stable financially and has adequate resources such as equipment and instructors that meet the needs of current students as well as room for potential growth.

According to Dr. Generals students already enrolled in the program will be unaffected if the program terminates.

“We’re bound by law to continue for those students who are in the core part of the program...we stopped enrolling new students with the focus of trying to determine whether or not we want to continue the program as well as make sure the ones that are in there get the attention they need,” said Dr. Generals.

When I see an opportunity like this on the verge of being extinguished I can’t describe how bad I feel and I can’t describe how desperately I hope that it will go on,” said Jerry Kuhl, Aviation Management Coordinator at Mercer.
**Q&A with Mercer bball star who went pro: Mirak Babiraz**

**SPORTS**

**Mercer Infelder Michael Constantini (#8), Tags Out Gloucester infelder Ronny Tanner (#2) at second base during the fifth inning of Mercer's home game vs. Gloucester on March 20, 2011.**

**Mercer baseball team heads into post season**

By Val DaGrain

Senior Reporter

Former Mercer Basketball stand-out, Mirak Babiraz, went on to play three years of professional basketball in his native Poland. The following are excerpts from an interview he conducted with The VOICE.

**VOICE:** What was your dream job growing up as a kid?  

**MIREK:** As a kid it was to play in the NBA. Realistically that’s probably not going to happen. Today, my dream job would be to train pro athletes. I’d love to train basketball players, but all athletes.

**VOICE:** What is your favorite NBA team?  

**MIREK:** The Lakers. I’m not feeling too good right now cause we are 2-2, but we were 2-2 last year, but Kobe wasn’t injured last year.

**VOICE:** Who was your idol growing up?  

**MIREK:** No surprise, Michael Jordan. I remember watching his games [on TV in Poland] and, because of the time difference, the games would come on at like three or four o’clock in the morning, so I would watch the game, then go straight to school!

**VOICE:** What is the best part of playing pro basketball?  

**MIREK:** Loving your job, ‘cause you’re actually playing ball and going to practice and your getting paid for it.

**VOICE:** Through your experiences, what is the main characteristic an athlete should have if they want to play professionally one day?  

**MIREK:** Hard work comes first. A lot of kids these days think that they work hard but in reality they have no clue what hard work is really about. I never had much talent but you can ask anyone that knows me and they will tell you that I hustled my ass...there are no shortcuts.

**VOICE:** What is something you have at all times?  

**MIREK:** [I learned] to give everything you have at all times. The three C’s: commitment, consistence and character...

**Mercer’s own Howie Landa enters the Hall of Fame**

By Val DaGrain

Senior Reporter

BUCKS COUNTY, PA: Howie Landa, who served as Mercer’s Head Basketball coach and Athletic Director in the 1960’s and 70’s, was inducted into the Bucks County Sports Hall of Fame on Monday, April 11.

“The [Hall of Fame] was the one that really made me famous so I had to go back and thank everybody” said Landa in an interview with the VOICE, who’s already been inducted into 11 previous Halls of Fame including the James Naismith Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA.

Landa’s fame dates back to the late 60’s and early 70’s. He brought national attention and prominence to Mercer athletics by coaching the basketball team to win the Junior College National Title back to back years.

“He was considered one of the top coaches in the nation at the time,” says Mercer’s current Athletics Director John Simone.

Landa’s first Junior College National Title win was in 1973, when his Vikings beat a Kansas, who were coached by a young Gene Keaty, who went on to coach at Purdue University.

This was first time in history that an east coast team won the national title.

Landa went on to coach professionally in Italy, was a scout for the NBA and even coached at the division-one level with the Rebels of the University of Las Vegas (UNLV) in the mid 1990’s. He is now in his last year of teaching Physical Education courses at UNLV, and is in the beginning stages of writing a book. He also holds basketball camps in Hawaii during the summer months.

Landa had this to say about his time at Mercer. “The greatest thing is the friendships I’ll never forget, and all the kids we sent onto four-year universities.”

Landa’s name is also being considered to be put on the floor of Mercer Gym, in donor recognition.

“They’re still in the talking phases; nothing is defi- nite,” said Mercer Athletics Director John Simone.

Landa, who says he will never forget his friends and time at Mercer, and still stays up to date on Mercer’s athletics. He joked about the matching initials (H.L.) that he and current Mercer Men’s Basketball Head Coach, Howard Levy, have and said “You guys have an outstanding coach now and he will lead you back to great- ness,” about coach Levy.
The Trenton Steel look to catch Erie Explosion

By Val DeGrain
Senior Reporter

The Trenton Steel, of the Southern Indoor Football League (SIFL), are currently in the middle of a three game winning streak. After starting off cold and losing the first three games of their inaugural season, they now have a record of 3-3. They are in second place in the Northeast Division, four games behind The Erie Explosion with six games remaining in the regular season.

All three games The Steel lost were by three points each, so it’s fitting that their first win would also come by three points. Trenton kicker, Craig Camay, hit a 33 yard field goal as time expired to put Trenton up 65-62 on April 9, versus the previously undefeated Erie Explosion.

“I tried not to think too much about it, I know from experience the last thing you want to do is actually think about the kick, you just keep your head down, and follow through. I did just that, and it went right through the middle,” said Camay in an interview with the VOICE.

Six days later, on April 15, the Steel were gearing up for a home game vs. the Carolina Speed. In the first half the score remained tight but the Steel had a seven point lead going into halftime. Solid play came after this break out game for him: “I’m not estranged to the defense at all. You know I got one of the best defensive coaches of all time in my brother that you can possible have, and the rest is just adapting.” His brother is two time NFL defensive player of the year, Ray Lewis.

In the third game of the winning streak, the Steel were hosted by the Harrisburg Stampede at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in front of 7,431 fans. It was a low scoring first half. With only 24 seconds left in the half, Harrisburg running back Collis Martin ran the ball up the middle for Erie’s second touchdown bringing the score to 23-15 in favor of Trenton going into halftime.

The second half saw a bit more action as Trenton quarterback and Hamilton native E.J Nemeh (#15), lead the offense to victory with four touchdowns passes while rushing for another in the second half. Nemeh finished the game with 10 touchdowns altogether, and the game ended with a Trenton win of 61-45.

“We started off 0-6, you know for the first part of the season, we started off slow with a young team,” said Steel Head Coach Rod Miller in an interview with the VOICE.

“Now I think we are progressing, now we’re gonna take the second part of the season and keep getting better, and improve our record,” Miller said.
Nazi rally in Trenton draws crowds of protestors

On Saturday April 16 2011, The National Socialist Movement (NSM), a neo-Nazi organization, appeared for a two-day national meeting with a rally in front of the State House in Trenton, New Jersey. Despite heavy rain and cold temperatures, approximately 25 individuals from The National Socialist Movement arrived at one o’clock to protest illegal immigration, high taxes, crime and corruption. The group wore the swastikas on their clothing and carried flags that displayed the Nazi symbol as well. The rally attracted approximately two hundred counter-protesters which included the Anti-Racist Action and the Trenton chapter of the New Black Panther Party.

Security measures for the event included over 600 police officers from the Trenton Police Department, including some officers with K-9 units, the New Jersey State Police, SWAT team members as well as staff from the Mercer County Sheriff’s and Prosecutor’s offices, and the U.S. Department of Justice. Barriers surrounded the two opposing crowds keeping them at least 100 yards apart at all times and sectioning off the state house and the NSM members. There were also metal detectors set up by the public entrance to the rally. A large crowd gathered on the streets to witness the rally, but no one in attendance appeared visibly intimidated or frightened.

A Mercer alumnus Eric Wiggins said of the event, “This is not a method or act of any kind of animosity or hate. Even though we know the directive in which these organizations or particular individuals choose to get together...We need to be proactive. You can’t shut someone up. This is our civil liberty. This is what our constitution was built on. This is what our forefathers did. This is way beyond just a protest. This is this. If we don’t get in tune with mother nature, we don’t get in harmony with the universe.”

The NSM group included both men and women. They were dressed in black clothing with SS and swastika emblems. Upon approaching the statehouse building, the NSM members made hand salutes like those made by the Nazis in Germany during WWII. During all three of the NSM representative’s speeches the NSM members continuously chanted “Sieg Heil!”

Jason Hiecke, the National Socialist Movement’s chief of staff, spoke with aggression in the tone of his voice. Hiecke began his speech by saying, “You may not agree with what we say and what we stand for, but don’t be afraid to open your mind and listen to what we have to say.”

Hiecke went on to say: “We are patriots just like George Washington, fighting for our freedom, fighting for America...If George Washington were alive, he would be here with us today.”

After the NSM representatives were done speaking, the New Black Panther Party rallied through their loud speaker across the 100 yard distance. The leader of the NBPP Washington were alive, he would be here with us today.”

According to police records they had arrested three counter-protesters all on separate counts. These individuals were arrested for breaking a window at a bank, a weapons offense (the type of weapon unknown) and shooting off fireworks.

Bobby Holland a student majoring in Information Systems at Mercer County Community College said of the event, “I feel that the National Socialist Movement had every right to speak and hold their rally. As a country we seem to pride ourselves on being a democracy but when confronted by something like this rally that a vast majority will oppose [it], we seem completely horrified. I’m not going to defend their message, I can’t even comprehend it, however I would suggest the fact that this is a price of having a democratic piece of government. Anyone, regardless of opinion, is allowed to speak and demonstrate.”
Tha Funky Velvet Division: Sex, drugs, and...oh yeah, rock n’ roll

By Ali Mirza  
Reporter

Impersonal sex, diverse drug use, and an apathetic attitude towards musicianship define the culture of New Brunswick’s local music scene that is epitomized by the band Tha Funky Velvet Division. Consisting of four Rutgers University students, Tha Funky Velvet Division is a rock band reminiscent of the American and British punk movements of the late 1970’s.

Before there was a band, the four members first met during their freshman dorm orientation on the Busch campus of Rutgers University.

“Everyone was so damn ideological about shit. It was like being in a room full of hippies,” says guitarist Mike Witwer. “Everyone was talking about changing the world through some form of art. No one was realistic about shit, and that just seemed disingenuous to me. There were only three kids there that saw through that bullshit, and I was glad to be in the same building as them” adds drummer Kevin Cenac.

The band formed in the second semester of their freshman year. According to Tha Funky Velvet Division, the band formed out of necessity more than choice. “We never wanted to form a band. Only two of us played instruments, and not well. But our first semester was rough. We never had money for drugs, none of us were getting laid, and dining hall food got boring real fast,” says bassist Ednan Rizvi.

The idea of house parties became very attractive as it was a venue for sex and drugs. However, to get invited, you had to be a part of the scene. “We totally don’t dig the idea of a scene. We hate the word ‘scene’ in itself. But we noticed people were going to these house parties and coming back happy for free. Especially the bands that played. They got the most shit for free, so we thought: why not us?” says Cenac.

What began as a strategy for access to house parties soon lead to a functional band with a local fan base. Since the band’s inception in 2008, they have played a multitude of local shows in people’s basements and garages. Although they have refused to market themselves in any capacity, they have garnered a local following and have been invited on several occasions to perform their music at local bars and cafés.

In spite of all the recognition, Tha Funky Velvet Division has remained in the basements and garages of their college peers, vehemently denying any opportunity for further visibility. “It’s not about being anti-establishment or any of that nonsense, it’s about being realistic. We’re college students with loans and negative outlooks on the job market. We could give a shit if people want to hear us play. And we have no illusions about making it. We rather milk this music thing for free sex and drugs and then go get jobs after graduation,” says guitarist Shane Mehdi.

Cenac adds, “Free sex and drugs go a long way. It saves us money that we’d otherwise spend on movie tickets, restaurants, and other shit to entertain us when we’re bored. This way, we get the milk for free without having to buy the cow shit. That’s more money for rent and utilities.”

Musically, Tha Funky Velvet Division are the quintessential post-Pixies punk band. “No shit we rip off the Pixies. We’re not trying to reinvent the musical wheel here. We have exams to study for. We’re just playing make-believe with our favorite bands in mind. A few more months till the semester’s over and then we’ll grow up and get jobs,” says Witwer.
REVIEWS

Nino’s Pastry Shoppe: The best you’ll ever eat

By Karin Judkins

The best cake, doughnut and butter cookies I have ever ate came from Nino’s Pastry Shoppe, located at 3800 Quakerbridge Rd, in Hamilton, NJ. The cake was a chocolate and vanilla three tier wedding cake that was so moist it just melted in my mouth. It was covered with a vanilla, whipped cream icing that was so light and fluffy it was like biting into a cloud of creaminess. The filling was fresh, sweet, ripe strawberries on top of a layer of decadent chocolate mousse.

Sarah Benson of New Castle, Delaware said, “At most weddings the cake is beautiful to look at, but not good to eat, this cake was beautiful and it was really, really good.” The cake soon became the center of attention, standing out more than any of the food that was served at the reception. Sherman Hendryx of Hamilton, NJ was also talking about the cake and he said, “The food was great but the cake took the cake!”

As for the doughnuts the best is the Butter Cream which looks a little like a hamburger! My first thought was that it would be really sweet because of the huge mound of butter cream icing smacked between the plain donut that is cut in half like a hamburger bun and sprinkled with powdered sugar on top. The donut is so light and airy, soft on the inside and a little crispy on the outside. The butter cream is creamy, fluffy, and light but not at all too sweet.

The butter cookies are bite sized buttery, flaky, crispy wonderful little delights that just melt in your mouth. You can really eat a whole lot of them because they’re not too sweet.

Nino’s is an Italian bakery and has been in business for 16 years. The shop is small with showcases on either side housing cookies, brownies, individual cake squares, donuts, and bread loaves.

When you enter the shop the smell of sweets overtake your senses, then there are rows and rows of different treats, to choose from such as tiramisu, cannoli, napoleons and eclairs.

Although no one at Nino’s was willing to be interviewed for this article, according to Nino’s advertisements everything is homemade and hand made from scratch.

Nino’s also has reasonable prices on their items for example a double layer half sheet cake, with filling that can serve 50+ people starts at only $57, and donuts starting at $1 each.

Nilomee Patel, a customer of Nino’s Pastry Shoppe who has been buying pastries there for about two years, says, “Nino’s is the best bakery in the area. I don’t really go out to other ones.”

Three B’s Bar & Bistro: Do three B’s do equal an A?

By Steven Hanson

Three B’s Bar & Bistro is Lakehurst’s newest dining experience at the newly constructed shopping center on Rt. 70. It has opened to much hype and curiosity, but does that hype translate into something worthy of your hard earned cash?

Will you enter you can either go to the left and have traditional restaurant style seating with wait service, or head to your right where you’ll find a typical sports bar, assuming of course that your typical sports bar includes a cash counter.

Service can be slow at Three B’s but despite long waits the servers are very personable.

The menu provides a wide variety of food. You can go traditional American with burgers or steak, try Italian with various pasta dishes, or go for the sushi flair.

“My why not?” restaurant manager Carla Rinaldi says when asked why open restaurant like this in Lakehurst.

“There isn’t a restaurant like this. We’ve got a lot of Italian pizzerias, but not a full menu restaurant that supplies sushi,” said Rinaldi, who has owned and managed restaurants since 1972.

On a recent visit I ordered the eel roll. It took 13 minutes after placing the order before my roll was put in front of me, a long time for single roll. The sushi bar is definitely not for show, as the rolls come out fresh. However, fresh sushi does not necessarily mean great sushi. Unfortunately the cucumber in the roll left more of a taste in my mouth than the eel.

After the sushi I placed an order for a simple Italian fan-favorite, penne pasta with vodka sauce. And of course, no pasta dish is complete without some salad first. Within two minutes of placing the order, I had a plate of caesar salad in front of me. Although there was a catch for that speed. The caesar salad tasted like nothing more than lettuce, croutons, and dressing hastily thrown into a plate with little regard for the final product. There wasn’t even cheese on it. It left quite a bit to be desired.

Still, there was a pasta dish coming. Could this be the plate that would give a reason for a return trip to Three B’s? The resounding answer to that question, was no. The sauce used was creamy, and that was about the only memorable thing. The pasta did not taste like any seasoning was used at all and was exceptionally bland.

Even though the meal to this point was nothing to write home about, it still was time for dessert. And for as much as the meal up to this point failed to wow, the dessert was a complete 180. First, ask them for their dessert menu. They won’t just bring you out a dessert menu, you get a nice tray with everything they have. Okay, maybe not that unique, but their desserts actually taste as good as they look.

I placed my order for a tiramisu and some cappuccino. As the tiramisu was being prepared, my server brought out the cappuccino, which had just the right amount of cinnamon flavoring on top. Also, they serve it the perfect temperature so you get a nice warm dessert drink that doesn’t scald your tongue.

Then came the tiramisu, which was heavenly. Usually when you order tiramisu you get stuck with a tiny little cup. But at Three B’s you get a nice, large, filling, chunk of dessert. It tastes rich with a hint of mint. This is truly one of the best tiramisu’s out there.

This is when the check arrived to the tune of just under $30, tax and tip included. Overall, a reasonable price for the amount of food, even if it was sub par. My advice: if you are looking for a certain type of food, stick to the restaurants that specialize in it. Go Italian if you want pasta, go Japanese if you want sushi, and find a salad specialist if you want Caesar salad. If, however, you are looking to go out with a group and everyone wants something else, and you find yourselves willing to sacrifice taste for the convenience of everyone getting what they want, then Three B’s is just right.

Nino’s is willing to be interviewed for this article, according to Nino’s advertisements, everything is homemade and hand made from scratch.
Princeton’s House of Cupcakes falls short of the hype

By Meredith Maiorino
Reporter

As recent winner of the Food Network show “Cupcake Wars” one would expect amazing things from Princeton’s own “House of Cupcakes,” but quite frankly, the offerings are somewhat disappointing.

On each episode of “Cupcake Wars” four specialty bakeries face off in three different kinds of challenges to become the winner of cash and exposure. The judges are difficult and so considered to be prestigious.

The website states the 23 different flavors that the shop has available for purchase. However, when I was selecting which one I wanted to try there were only 11 different types for me to choose from. Now I know making 23 different kinds of cupcakes in stock is time consuming but it’s misleading to say that they’re all always available instead of just seasonally or some of the time. The prices are reasonable, they charge $1.25 for a half dozen, $2.25 for a dozen cupcakes and they’re sold individually for $2.25 each. However, I expected more for my money.

The website said that the two teams left had to make hundreds of cupcakes and come up with a display concept. Coming from all around the country, the bakers involved in the competition are considered to be prestigious. The judges are difficult and so are the challenges in which competitors are expected to come up with flavors and cupcake concepts and make them in short amounts of time.

I chose the “candy cup” flavor to try first. It’s a vanilla cupcake with your choice of either vanilla or chocolate frosting topped with chocolate candies. The treat was good but not fantastic. It was definitely better than something made from a box or a supermarket, but it didn’t quite live up to what I thought a winner would taste like. I’m glad I only got one instead of the half dozen that I planned on getting.

“I went there and got the peanut butter cup [cupcake]” says Liz Bruno a major at Mercer. “It tasted just like a regular chocolate cupcake with peanut butter cups on top, and they weren’t broken up into small enough pieces. They were big and bulky sitting on top of the cupcake. It just wasn’t what I expected. I’m glad I only got one.”

The decorating looked far better on TV. I’m glad we have a local cupcake bakery, but I was disappointed that they don’t necessarily live up to their Cupcake Wars champion honors.”

When I arrived at the House of Cupcakes I expected the shop to be more elaborate. It was pretty regular and modestly decorated. The atmosphere was charming and the service was good. However, when it came to the actual cupcakes, the food network told a different story than what I experienced.

The House of Cupcakes menu.

The website told a different story than what I experienced. The wontons are filled with a mixture of shrimp and pork, covered with a mild chili vinaigrette, and are very popular according to the staff.

Entrées, which are available until midnight, will please any serious food critic. The Ikan Bakar (Malaysian grilled skate) is grilled in a banana leaf rubbed in a mild chili sauce. Topping the skate and wontons are a golden brown fried mixture of basil, garlic, onion and pork, adding tender flavors.

Another entree worth trying is the sea bass poached in “aromatic coconut broth” and served with white rice and baby bok choy which is perfectly tender and nicely portioned for one person. It’s $16. The entrees are reasonably priced for the sensational quality and luxurious atmosphere that comes with them.

Sometimes there is a line of people waiting to enter 230, but it moves very quickly and there is never a cover charge, except on New Year’s Eve. The 230 website encourages a dress code that asks patrons to “dress up, not down.” Priority admission and seating is available for $250 which includes a bottle of premium alcohol. Between six people you will quickly spend the same price waiting in a mob at the bar, left standing without a private table.

If you are planning a special event where outstanding drinks, music and atmosphere are wanted, 230 is a good choice. Anyone 21 years of age with good taste and a desire to experience the unforgettable should definitely visit 230 Fifth Ave.

The Manhattan skyline as seen from 230’s rooftop bar

PHOTO | JASON POMERANTZ
PHOTOS | ROB SACKS

PRINCETON’S HOUSE OF CUPCAKES

We Won!!

By Jason Pomerantz
Senior Reporter

On Fifth Ave and West 27 Street in New York City there is a partially heated rooftop bar and a penthouse lounge voted number 1 by NBC in 2009 as Best Rooftop Bar in New York City.

The venue known at 230 Firth, is open 365 days a year, 230: NYC Upscale Rooftop Bar & Lounge. During the weekend it’s pretty regular and modestly decorated. The atmosphere was charming and the service was good. However, when it came to the actual cupcakes, the food network told a different story than what I experienced.

The venue known at 230 Firth, is open 365 days a year, 230: NYC Upscale Rooftop Bar & Lounge. During the weekend it’s pretty regular and modestly decorated. The atmosphere was charming and the service was good. However, when it came to the actual cupcakes, the food network told a different story than what I experienced.
The addiction can also be frequently end up in detox and rehabilitation centers, when used responsibly by prescription drugs to lead to addictive painkillers. While many of the students surveyed do not believe that prescription pills are readily accessible at Mercer, 94 percent of those surveyed said they are easily accessible in the area.

In the survey, the 66 students who said they had taken prescription pills for reasons other than their intended use also said they had taken anywhere from two to 18 pills at a time. Forty-five percent said that pills can be bought for $2 to $45 each. Fifty-two percent of the students surveyed said that they knew of someone who is either dependent on prescription pills or addicted to them. There are currently a growing number of patients with chronic pain who depend on narcotics such as oxycodone and hydrocodone. While many of the students surveyed do not believe that prescription pills are readily accessible at Mercer, 94 percent of those surveyed said they are easily accessible in the area.

According to a recent survey of 100 Mercer students conducted by The VOICE, 66 percent said they had taken prescription pills for reasons other than their intended use. The survey also found that 94 percent of those surveyed said they are easily accessible in the area.

"Fentanyl is the only opiate that gives me the warm opiate sensation," says Pete (not his real name), a Photography major in his last semester at Mercer who started abusing prescription pills together with other medications at the age of 14. "I want the lollipops so bad," he says.

According to The Drug Abuse Warning Network’s (DAWN) website, it is estimated that out of 118 million emergency room visits in 2008, 4.3 million were related to drug use, abuse or misuse either in conjunction with alcohol, illicit drugs or pharmaceuticals. DAWN estimates that 31.5 percent of emergency room visits are associated with non-medical abuse of painkillers that leads to allergic reactions, detox, overdose and doctor-shoppers who are people who will act out pain in order to get prescribed the painkillers.

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Prescription Drug Abuse: Has the problem come to Mercer?

FAST FACTS: ADDICTION VS. DEPENDENCE

PHYSIOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE. ACCORDING TO COLVIN, ADDICTION, AND ARE NOT LEGAL IN THE UNITED STATES. SCHEDULE II DRUGS HAVE A HIGH POTENTIAL RISK OF PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ADDICTION AND ARE SUPPOSED TO BE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED. OXYCODONE AND HYDROCODEONE ARE SCHEDULE II AND SCHEDULE III NARCOTIC ANALGESICS USED IN THE RELIEF OF MODERATE TO SEVERE CHRONIC PAIN. THEY WORK ON THE BRAIN TO BLOCK SEVERE PAIN AND IF STOPPED SUDDENLY OR IF THE DOSAGE IS DRAMATICALLY REDUCED AFTER LONG TERM USAGE IT CAN CAUSE SERIOUS AND PAINFUL WITHDRAWALS.

Dr. Valerie Brooks-Klein, Mercer’s Senior Counselor and a licensed psychologist, says she has dealt with two cases of Mercer students who struggled with abusing prescription pills.

“I have a couple of people that I worked with who were coming here because they had issues with chronic pain and depression. In the course of discussing that, we realized that there were some issues in the frequency in which they were taking the painkillers,” Brooks-Klein said. According to Dr. Brooks-Klein, high school kids are having cocktail parties where they grab as many pills as they can from home and dump them in a jar before taking hands full of pills at a time. Dr. Valerie Brooks-Klein said that “The addiction is fast and furious and most people need to be hospitalized to get off pain medications.”

“Besides self medicating, [painkillers] insertly numb your emotions and your personality,” said Matt, a recovering drug addict from Hamilton who does not want to be identified by his real name because of a pending legal case.

“At Steinet (Hamilton East High School), everyone was on pills all the time. Three of my friends were pill-counters at CVS pharmacies at the time, and bags containing multi-colored pills would just fall on our desks. We would help ourselves and sell the rest,” said Matt.

“Not everyone has the same tolerance as me. I would have to take thirty 3mg Percocet pills by cold water extraction to feel anything,” said Pete. Percocet contains both Oxycodeone and acetaminophen (Tylenol), and cold water extraction is a method used to extract the opiate and remove the acetaminophen since drug abusers only want the narcotic and large doses of acetaminophen can cause severe or fatal liver damage.

According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdose deaths caused by controlled substances are on the rise. In 2000 there were about 4,000 and in 2007 the casualties were up to 11,000. Pain medication is the fastest growing drug addiction in the United States.

Last September, the DEA conducted an operation to collect old prescription pills with no questions asked, in over 7,000 sites across America. According to statistics from the DEA, 242,000 pounds of prescription pills were turned in.

On April 19, 2011, President Obama’s Administra tion announced a plan to fight the abuse and misuse of controlled prescription drugs. This problem is not new, but re ajudicating controlled prescription drugs.

In the recent federal government attempt to reduce America’s prescription drug abuse, President Obama said he is aiming to cut the abuse by 15 percent in the next five years. He aims to tackle the problem in three ways: through education programs for doctors on how to prescribe and monitor these controlled substances, by tracking prescription pills using a database, and by having better training for law enforcement officials.

“Education and regulation will not solve this issue,” said Dr. Smith. “As long as doctors have mortgages to pay, and pharmacies and companies’ relationships to doctors are not regulated, this will become a pandemic,” she added.

MATT’S STORY

Matt, a 27-year-old addict was one of the first ones out of his friends to use and abuse drugs. For the past 14 years of his life he has experimented with and abused opiates and illicit drugs such as cocaine, heroin, crack, marijuana, mushrooms, Ecstasy, LSD, and alcohol.

“I am an adrenaline junkie and my downfalls are opiates,” said Matt. He says he has taken as many as ten 80mg OxyContin pills a day, or 30 of the 30mg of Rauycet, and he believes that his tolerance is extremely high.

In an interview with THE VOICE, Matt spoke openly about his addiction and the battle it has been for the past four years. Because of his addiction issues, Matt stated that he has made many bad choices that changed his life in many ways.

Matt does not remember how many times he has been arrested or arrested.

“I was arrested 12 times one summer,” he said. However, he said the criminal charges he had against him. Counting misery, he has also been arrested for DWI four times. The most recent DWI arrest came just after he returned from rehab two months ago.

“The drugs changed my personality, everything I did was based on my addiction,” Matt says. Although he has abused drugs for half of his life, he says it wasn’t until the past four years that addiction took over.

He graduated from TCNJ with a bachelor’s degree in Finance, he worked for a well known bank as a Financial Advisor. He also worked part-time as a waiter to support his habit. In the past six months, Matt was fired from both jobs for misappropriation of funds and for being intoxicated while on the job. Matt’s family had an intervention in an attempt to send him to rehab. They have spent more than $250,000 on his addiction over the years, paying for rehab, lawyers, and getting his arrest

At the intervention, Matt decided to go in rehab for the sixth time. He says he has never used opiates again. “I have been drinking vodka like water instead, “ he added.
Chevy Volt vs. The Nissan Leaf, what can we expect?

By Dan Asnis
Report

At the beginning of the twentieth century, legendary inventor Thomas Edison believed he could develop a battery for electric cars that would be more economical and could go longer distances than the short-range electric vehicles that were around at the time.

Just over a century later, Edison’s dream of a practical electric car has come to fruition with the introductions of General Motors Chevrolet Volt and Nissan’s Leaf. While the Leaf is all electric, the Volt has a nine gallon gas tank according to GM-Volt.com. The gas is used to power the engine if the electric battery charge runs out.

While GM’s Chevrolet division started selling the Volt in this area back in the fall, Nissan has yet to roll out the Leaf in this region.

According to Malouf Chevrolet Cadillac sales consultant Barry Dworkin, demand has been high for the Volt. “We got an allocation of six,” said Dworkin. The floor model brought the total number to seven.

“We have presold sold all six,” Dworkin said. Dworkin did not expect the seventh, which had recently arrived at the dealership to last long in showroom.

Dworkin believes that the Volt is only the beginning for electric cars at General Motors and throughout the automobile industry. “This is a different kind of car; it really changes everything,” he said.

David Borden, the Leaf certified sales repetitive at Halderman Nissan expects Leafs to arrive around July or August, but only for people who signed up online for Nissan’s waiting list. Borden explains “They did a $99 deposit last year for the car. ”

“I wonder if the first year will be a challenge for Nissan,” Borden says. “I wonder what dealer they want to go to.”

And that’s why we don’t know how many of the Leafs will be allocated to Halderman. The floor model listed for at least the first year.

Liberal Arts Major Catherine Manning thinks the Leaf would be very appealing if charging stations to support it. “If there were charging stations. I’m very pro environment, so, I would go for the entirely electric one.” Without that infrastructure currently being a reality, she would now have to choose the Volt with its gas backup system. “ If I had to chose between the two, I would have to go with the gas backup.”

Gary Bergman of North Brunswick plans to buy a Volt in December when his lease on a Lexus Hybrid SUV is up.

Bergman says that he has a few reasons for wanting to buy an electric car, “Primarily for the technology. Also we have solar panels on our house. Makes sense for us to get more energy that way.”

With gas prices on the rise because of unrest in the Middle East, demand for electric vehicles like the Volt and the Leaf is likely to increase.

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Dinos Found in New Jersey!!

Distinguished lecturer presents on history of dinosaurs in New Jersey

By Chikasamara Amu-Nadi

As part of Mercer’s Distinguished Lecture series, Biology Professor Laura Blinderman, invited Dr. William Gallagher to Mercer County College to present a lecture on dinosaur remains found in New Jersey and the Dinosaur Mass Extinction Theory.

Before Snooki, the Situation, and the rest of the Jersey Shore cast reigned in New Jersey, dinosaurs of various shapes and sizes dominated New Jersey’s landscape. These prodigious creatures did not have an MTV show or get paid more than the commencement speaker at Rutgers. Yet the imprint dinosaurs left in New Jersey provides scientists with ample information about New Jersey’s prehistoric landscape.

According to the biographical information provided on the program leaflet for the lecture, Dr. Gallagher received his Ph.D in Geology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990. He worked as the assistant curator of the Natural History, Collections and Exhibits at the New Jersey State Museum’s Natural History Bureau. He is an Associate Professor at Rider University as well as a Science and Technology Advanced Research Fellow at Rider University. He teaches a Mesozoic Ruling Reptile course at Rider University. He teaches a Mesozoic Ruling Reptile course at Rider University. He taught courses at the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers, and Kean University. He has written a popular book called When Dinosaurs Roamed N.J. Dr. Gallagher’s journey to uncover dinosaur burial grounds in New Jersey began when he was a child.

“I saw a show about dinosaurs fighting and going extinct, and from then on I was hooked. I have been traveling the world looking for dinosaur fossils since I was 8 years old,” Dr. Gallagher said.

Dr. Gallagher elaborated on various dinosaurs found in New Jersey. He said “the Dilophosaurus had a long, quasi-flexible jaw, and long, strong, high limbs...They were the kings and queens of the Mesozoic era.”

According to the Dr. Gallagher, in October of 1858 William Foulke found the first complete dinosaur skeleton in Haddonfield, NJ, after a visit to his friend John E. Hopkins’s home compelled him to search for unknown skeletons. It was the first full dinosaur skeleton found anywhere in the world.

William Foulke’s friend, Professor Joseph Leidy concluded from the bones that dinosaurs could stand on their hind legs. Leidy named the creature Hadrosaurus foulkii, which means “Foulke’s bulky lizard.” Artist Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, with the help of Leidy and other colleagues, erected the skeleton bones and displayed them in the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Penn. Dr. Gallagher also said, “though the Dryptosaurus lived in New Jersey and was related to the Tyrannosaurus Rex, its arms were much larger in size.”

Another dinosaur species that Dr. Gallagher studied was the duckbill dinosaur. Dr. Gallagher described how their nasal bones were on their head. He suggests the adaptation was used for communication. The low frequency sound, made from air passing through their nasal cavity, could travel long distances.

Some other excavations involved the discoveries of the tailbone of a dinosaur, found in Medford, N.J. Other dinosaur fossils were found in the Newark Basin and in rocks of the Coastal Plains of New Jersey. Dr. Gallagher said “dinosaurs began to grow in size and abundance during the Jurassic age.” Dr. Gallagher was involved in the discovery of the Mosasaaur, which is an enormous lizard-like dinosaur that lived in the sea of N.J.

To test out their Dinosaur Mass Extinction Theory, Dr. Gallagher and fellow Rutgers professors looked for iridium by conducting a major drilling project in the Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-P) boundary of sediment rocks underground in Freehold, N.J. They believe that it is very plausible that dinosaurs were destroyed by huge asteroids. Iridium shock metal grains are found only after nuclear testing or asteroid impact. They believe that when they drilled the K-P boundary the area with iridium would consist of no plankton or dinosaur fossils. Their theory was supported by their findings. Dr. Gallagher discussed how the eradication of the dinosaurs spurred the growth of mammals. “The biosphere transformed along with many ecological changes,” he explained.

In Dr. William Gallagher’s book When Dinosaurs Roamed N.J. he explains New Jersey’s unique history.excluding Snooki and the Jersey Shore cast, of varying landscape and gigantic inhabitants. He explains, “writing a book takes time, effort, discipline” but he goes on to say that the experience is one of the most satisfying of his career.

The word dinosaur comes from Greek “dinosauria,” which literally means “terrible lizards.”

Dinosaurs weren’t really even lizards! Dino’s closest modern relatives are chickens, and dinosaurs are more avian than reptilian.

Most dinosaurs were plants eaters: 65 percent were herbivores, and the remaining 35 percent were other omnivores or carnivores (http://www.mantyweb.com/dinosaur/)

The Triceratops was recently debunked as a dino, with scientists saying it was not its own species but rather the adolescent stage of another dino, the Torosaurus.

Hadrosaurus Foulkii – NJ’s State Dinosaur (http://www.wikidino.com)
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLLEGE VOICE’s graduating staffers

LISA OLSON
POSITION AT THE VOICE: News Editor
GOING TO: CUNY - Baruch College
MAJORING IN: Journalism and Creative Writing
BEST MOMENT AT THE VOICE: Last minute decision to cover a presidential speaking event. Val and I go lucky that day. We were not on the security list but we went, press passes in hand, and using the “student reporter” card got security clearance and were the youngest reporters there. A memorable experience.
PERSONAL QUOTE: “A good writer possesses not only his spirit but also the spirit of his friends.” - Nietzsche

TIM HESTER
POSITION AT THE VOICE: Managing Editor
GOING TO: Rider University
MAJORING IN: Public Relations
CAREER GOAL: Run publicity for my own restaurant
BEST MOMENT AT THE VOICE: Getting to cover and interview Sol Laurie the holocaust survivor. As a history buff it was one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve ever had.
PERSONAL QUOTE: “Don’t let society and its norms dictate your live. To live by your own standards is to be truly happy.”

DANIELA ROCHA
POSITION AT THE VOICE: Senior Reporter
GOING TO: University of San Diego
MAJORING IN: International Relations and Journalism
AWARDS WON AT THE VOICE: National First Place SPJ Mark of Excellence award for In-Depth Reporting for Megan’s Law. SPJ Regional second place for 9/11 Memorial article.
BEST MOMENT AT THE VOICE: Traveling to Rhode Island to attend the Society of Professional conference. The VOICE won 10 awards and I won two. Walking up to receive them was priceless.
PERSONAL QUOTE: “Well-behaved women rarely make history” - Marilyn Monroe

Congratulations to the graduating staffers of the College Voice! We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

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Military recruiters don’t belong in high school cafeterias

Val DaGrain

With the retirement age rising recently, I think it’s not only fair but also morally necessary that the minimum age requirement for the U.S. military be raised as well. I think 21 is the ideal age, and military recruiters should not be allowed to recruit in high school cafeterias.

In this country you have to be 21 years old to legally buy a beer. In this state you have to be 18 years old to buy a pack of cigarettes. In the Mercer Stu- dent Handbook, students who were 17 years old for a U.S. Military Recruiter to enlist you into their branch of the military, as high school and community college cafeteria cafeterias are popular hangout spots for many military recruit- ers.

At age 17, with a par- ents signature, you can legally sign a contract with the U.S. De- partment of Defense. According to the Mercer’s student hand- book, recruiters are aware of this fact and they expect their students to sign a contract, and they will give them a package and an offer. They will continue to pursue these students, and they will continue to follow them until they are 18 years old.

Military recruiters don’t belong in high school cafeterias

Anna Bosted

1. SHOCK AND DENIAL:
   I did a pretty spectacular job of denying Mercer. I had gotten to in all the other colleg- es I applied to, and continued pretending I was choosing be- tween schools. I knew I would have to pay for college myself, and that I couldn’t afford any of the schools, even with schol- arships. Senior winter was spent dreaming of some distant rela- tive or fairy godmother appear- ing who would pass me a check for roughly $200,000. When May rolled around and all my friends proudly pointed their de- cided schools t-shirts, I wore black for mourning.

2. PAIN AND GUILT:
   It finally set in that I was going to MCCC right around graduation. Graduation was a week away from prom, getting dumped by my boyfriend, my eighteenth birthday, and my mom’s fiftieth birthday. I had a sort of existential crisis, real- izing high school was over, that time was moving on, and that I was going to grow old and die. While it sounds a bit over dra- matic to some, I had a rea- sonably difficult time dealing with so many milestones all in one two week period. At the same time, I began kicking myself for letting the situation get so far out of hand. How had I messed up? Why did I not deserve Mercer? I hated myself for not taking an extra AP class, for not making the top 10. I’d cried, I threw up, and I’ve done so many.

3. ANGER AND BARGAINING:
   Eventually I got tired of spend- ing my senior summer vomiting up my sadness and then having to pretend I was always around friends. That’s when I got pissed. School was starting, my friends were ready to go- ing, and I was getting more upset. I hated my classes. I cried in my IST class when the first lesson was copying and pasting a picture from the In- ternet, then dropped the class a week after.
   I’d drive to class just to scoff at professors and ignore my classmates, then go home and drink. I never really drank anything, but drinking seemed like a good way to get back at them. I wasn’t very good at be- ing bad, but I tried my best.

4. DEPRESSION:
   Around October, my drinking and late nights were begin- ning to be a problem. They were becoming habits, and they were very real. I was scared of what was happening, and I was never so alone as I had always been. I couldn’t drive to class without drinking first. Is was doing something to me. I was in a good mood for the first time in months when I had a reason to spend time together. Exhausted, I did nothing but sit together on the couch and watch movies. I was on break, it was the season of joy, and I was hanging out with my friends. Suddenly I found I wasn’t feel- ing so lonely. There was so much going on in my life that I’d gotten my family sick there was no way we could stay out of meaningful conversations. A friend, a home, a sense of community, and a sense of purpose. Suddenly I found I wasn’t feel- ing so lonely. There was so much going on in my life that I’d gotten my family sick there was no way we could stay out of meaningful conversations. A friend, a home, a sense of community, and a sense of purpose. Suddenly I found I wasn’t feel- ing so lonely. There was so much going on in my life that I’d gotten my family sick there was no way we could stay out of meaningful conversations. A friend, a home, a sense of community, and a sense of purpose.

5. THE UPWARD TURN:
   Just before Christ- mas, my high school friends started trickling home. I gener- ally ignored school, and I would be going to the military as an ally and not the enemy.
   I asked myself what I had been doing wrong. I had been so angry with myself, I felt com- pletely out of control, and I was scared. After my breakdown, the recruiting officer dragged by in a malaise. I was no longer manic or depressed. I was simply empty. Winter was coming, and I was thinking of doing some- thing about it, I was going to be a Viking, and it was sort of worked. By making a conscious effort to stop hating Mercer so much, I actually did stop hating Mercer. I broke my biases down to the foundation, and starting building up my life and future, I was finally ready to work- ing and then studying. Then I was on break, it was the season of joy, and I was hanging out with my friends. Suddenly I found I wasn’t feel- ing so lonely. There was so much going on in my life that I’d gotten my family sick there was no way we could stay out of meaningful conversations. A friend, a home, a sense of community, and a sense of purpose. Suddenly I found I wasn’t feel- ing so lonely. There was so much going on in my life that I’d gotten my family sick there was no way we could stay out of meaningful conversations. A friend, a home, a sense of community, and a sense of purpose.

6. RECONSTRUCTION:
   In doing this, every- thing is broken down to the foundation and the crew tries to salvage any valuable pieces. That’s exactly what hap- pened in my spring semester. I tore down my old ideas about myself, and replaced them with the recruiting on campuses; it was totally accurate. I had a re- cognition that the people I’d met at Mercer that I’d been so reluctant to become close with? What was it about me that made that so easy? It’s not even a five minute phone call to see how I was doing. I was confused, but not unhappy, and for the first time in a long time, I felt like I was in control of my life.

7. ACCEPTANCE AND HOPE:
   Students from my first semester classes said hi in the hallways, and suddenly Mercer wasn’t so lonely. Some days I’d still hate school, and would relapse into my passive-ag- gressive lateness technique of avoiding dealing with MCCC. Still, just showing up to class with an overexposed grin was enough. I worked more, and made more friends. Two old friends moved back in, and I just sort of worked. The recruiter wasn’t so lonely. Some days I’d say to myself, “I don’t think they’re really anything wrong with Mercer. Only the way I handled it. And perhaps all I really needed was a bit of time. I’d accepted that there’s re- ally nothing wrong with Mercer. Only the way I handled it. And perhaps all I really needed was a bit of time.

As for Mercer as an institution, well, Mercer is just Mercer. Maybe it’s true, but I now know it’s true. Maybe it’s true, but I now know it’s true. I’d accepted that there’s re- ally nothing wrong with Mercer. Only the way I handled it. And perhaps all I really needed was a bit of time.

8. SHOCK AND DENIAL:
   It was this time last year that I real- ized what a big mistake I’d made. I wouldn’t say out loud where I was going for college. Now, I’m not saying that I go around saying that I’ve accepted that there’s re- ally nothing wrong with Mercer. Only the way I handled it. And perhaps all I really needed was a bit of time.
Online classes are harmful to students

By Nicole Niemiec

Reporter

Online classes may not be extremely easy with online classes, in fact, online classes are extremely difficult. Some students do not benefit from online classes, especially those who have trouble pacing themselves when they are taking face-to-face classes, how are they likely to do it online? The online class may actually be more effective but it’s not like students hold on to this information anyway.

Most online classes give students the flexibility to set their own schedule and move at their own pace, but if a student is taking an online class, he might feel less motivated because he knows he doesn’t have the added bonus of watching a professor live. He might feel they have to do it at home. This causes students to fall behind and eventually end up cramming everything at the very last minute and not actually learning anything.

In the VOICE survey done on-campus Mercer students, 37 of 40 out of said they struggle with time management when it comes to their school assignments. If students have trouble pacing themselves when they are taking face-to-face classes, how are they likely to fare in the online environment? The online class may act as a distraction to the student and drop out faster.

First year Theater Arts major at Mercer, according to Newitz states, “I think online classes are definitely easier considering you have more time to get things done.”

In “Can You See Me Now?” an article by Ida B. Jones, a professor at the California State University at Fresno, originally published in the Journal of Legal Studies Education, she writes, “If we taught wholly online, the instructor is not physically present. The lecture format is more conducive to the type of learning that occurs best when students are physically present with other students and the instructor. It is arguable that significant learning occurs when the instructor orally instructs and guides students through the learning process.”

Jones notes the fact that most students can comprehend information better when they hear it – a feature that most online classes do not provide.

Online classes take away from the interactive discussion that actual classes provide. Although most professors require online discussion, it is often an internet debate that so effectively takes place in a classroom environment.

Students do not gain from online classes. Between the obvious shortcuts and lack of discipline and time management skills coupled with the impersonal learning environment is a recipe for disaster.

By Dan Ansia

By Dan Ansia

Mercury’s Wi-Fi – where are you when you need it

Mercer’s Wi-Fi is a strong Wi-Fi signal, but if you don’t want to use Wi-Fi devices anywhere else, you may be out of luck. I had a class in ET building last summer, and I learned to expect the Wi-Fi signal to be unpredictable and sometimes next to impossible to use, but ET looks good compared to the CM building, where the student Wi-Fi signal is close to non-existent and unusable.

Catherine De Blasio, a Nursing student in her second year after transferring to Mercer, summed it up best, “I am not trying to stop a Wi-Fi expansion but I want to see more Wi-Fi on campus.” All my science courses are in the MS building, “there is no Wi-Fi there whatsoever.” De Blasio noted that to take an online nursing course she week a site she is here but would love to see more Wi-Fi on campus. “All my science courses are in the MS building. Mercer’s Wi-Fi wherever you need it now there where you need it”
ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUCH QUESTIONS

Dear Voice, 2012 is coming up. Do we all still agree that the world is ending? If not, I’ll have to return the massive amount of psychedelics I bought for New Year’s.

-Party Boy

Dear Party Boy, Actually, the world is ending soon, so perhaps you should stock up on Xanax and Percocet. I hear you can stock up on Xanax and perhaps you should ...

Classic Peanuts

Dear Voice, This week at least ten drivers nearly killed me in the parking lots. I’m starting to feel like skydiving onto campus would be safer. Is this par for the course?

-Frightened

Dear Frightened, I would suggest some of our lovely online courses.

-THE VOICE

Dear Voice, I heard Mercer is imposing a new, more modest dress code. Thinking about courses.

Dear Party Boy, for New Year’s. Psychedelics I bought the massive amount of not, I’ll have to return the world is ending? If we all still agree that 2012 is coming up. Do

Classic Peanuts

Dear Pretty Kitty, It’s time to simplify your life. If your split personality is still fighting, try something new and daring. Try something close, bust out of your old routines and do something new and daring. Try something brave, even if it’s just making a new friend.

-Sagittarius

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Your life has been complicated recently, its time to simplify things. Take a day for yourself to relax and do something calming and peaceful.

-Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

Your month starts on a pugly day where eating is fun. Use the rest of the time to implement that work out routine you’ve been avoiding since New Year’s.

-Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

As spring stars and winter come to a close, bust out of your old routines and do something new and daring. Try something brave, even if it’s just making a new friend.

-P某 Kitty

-ARIES

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

Time to start making some goals for yourself. Start with small attainable things and then shoot for the stars. Worst case scenario you’ll land on the moon.

-PISCES

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Time for you to take stock after a series of near misses. We’re going on here? Look for ways to regain your equilibrium. We suggest yoga and Haagen Dazs.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 2 (of 5)

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

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

11/22/10

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GRIP - BY GREG SMITH AND BYRON CUEVAS

School has definitely changed for me, classes are now so easy. I don’t even have to try, or show up to class. But I do, it makes me feel normal. I keep getting this strange feeling I should be somewhere else. It scares me, but for some reason school takes me to that place.

Sally

Hey Evan!