Students and faculty clash over classroom cellphone use

By Laura Pollack
Senior Reporter

In a survey of 50 Mercer students, 90 percent said they regularly use their phones during class. What are they using them for? Seventy-five percent of the students surveyed said they use their phones in class to play games. Jon Adams, a first-year Communications major, said he feels how a student spends his or her class time is up to each individual.

"This isn't high school anymore. We are paying to take these classes. We're at the point where we're old enough where if we fail it's our own fault," said Adams. He added, "If we don't do what we're supposed to do than that's on us. If these professors are going to expect us to handle the responsibilities of their classes like adults, they need to let us make our own decisions, and deal with the possible consequences, like adults would.

"Professors and administrators see things differently. Dean of Liberal Arts Robin Triano feels that texting while a teacher is giving a lecture is "beyond disrespectful." He went on to say, "Anybody who is caught texting in class, the instructor should say, "What are you doing here?""

"Professor Tracey McCarthy believes that using cell phones during class actually disrupts the work taking place. One English professor who spoke on the condition of anonymity said, "Seeing a student text during class distracts me while I'm teaching and distracts others."

Beyond being disrespectful, many professors feel that the use of cell phones during class actually disrupts the work taking place. One English professor who spoke on the condition of anonymity said, "Seeing a student text during class distracts me while I'm teaching and distracts others who are actually there to learn something. Telling people to put their phones away wastes my time. If their brains are elsewhere, why don't they take their bodies and get out of my classroom so I can get on with educating people who give a damn?"

Christine Delozier, a second-year criminal justice major, believes that texting in class is acceptable under certain circumstances.

"I usually just use [my phone] to check the time, and then check it if we're not doing anything important, or if we're taking notes and I finished writing the notes down already," said Delozier. "I think it's sometimes disrespectful. If you're sitting there clearly not paying attention to what the teacher is saying, and they tell you not to text, then it's disrespectful."

The biggest problem with texting is class appears to not be students disrespecting the teachers, but how there is no set social standard for texting.

Communications Professor Tracey McCarthy believes that the confusion over proper cell phone etiquette extends outside of the classroom.

"As a student, ask the teacher before you text. It's not always the right time to text. As a professor, I can set a policy about texting. But then it's up to you to follow that policy or not."
Mercer County Park dedicates 9/11 memorial

Hundreds of locals gather to mourn and remember the fallen

By Anna Bosted Senior Reporter

A ceremony to dedicate a September 11, 2001 memorial took place in Mercer County Park on Sunday, September 11, 2011. A decade after the attacks, the ceremony on Sunday’s gray afternoon brought together over a hundred spectators to commemorate the now infamous date of 9/11. While the crowd was comprised of a diverse group of people, there was striking unity in emotion and response to the memorial.

“We’re gathered today, shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand, much like we were on that tragic day 10 years ago,” said Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes at the dedication ceremony Sunday. Behind Hughes stood a ten-foot beam that serves as the focal point for the memorial.

The beam itself is a recovered piece of steel from Ground Zero. The steel beam is anchored to the curved cement wall behind it with 13 metal cables, symbolic of the 13 municipalities within Mercer County. Benches around the memorial are designed to represent the four planes that crashed that day, and the physical orientation of the memorial’s back wall, north-to-south 180 degrees, are the same heading as the first plane that hit the North Tower.

This symbolic construction was commissioned by Kevin Bannon, Executive Director of the Mercer County Parks Commission, designed by Clarke Caton Hintz, a Trenton-based architecture, planning and landscape firm.

“We wanted to make a park within a park,” Executive Director Kevin Bannon told The VOICE. Three months of landscape transformed the formerly flat piece of land behind the Mercer County Marina into the sloping hill that now encompasses the memorial.

“Our goal was to make it an easy place to visit,” said Bannon, noting that the area is one of the busiest places within the entire park. “We hope a lot of classes can come to visit,” said Bannon.

Katarzyna Mazerant, an Honors student at Mercer County College, attended the ceremony. “It’s very close to home,” she said, remembering the attacks of September 11, 2001. “I was watching TV and on every single channel we saw what happened...it was pretty scary for all of us, even in Europe.” Now, a decade later, Mazerant considered what the memorial symbolized for her: “Something is left for everyone.”

To mother of three Jennifer Anson, the memorial means something rather similar. “It’s very close to home,” she said, adding, “It’s a part of history that I lived through that I can teach my children about how I felt that day.”

To county executive Brian Hughes, the memorial and ceremony “means a very strong reminder that freedom and personal liberty will triumph over religious fundamentalism,” he said. “That’s why you build reminders like this...you want future generations to know something of seminal importance happened on this day."

Mercer County Park dedicates 9/11 memorial

Hundreds of locals gather to mourn and remember the fallen

By Dan Asnis Senior Reporter

On Sunday, September 11, 2011, following the dedication of a new September 11 memorial site in Mercer County Park, a local policeman took time to mourn and pay his respects to the fallen.

On Sunday, September 11, 2011, a ceremony to dedicate a September 11, 2001 memorial took place in Mercer County Park. The event was held in the Kelsey Theater on Mercer County Community College’s West Windsor campus.

The second discussion was held at Mercer’s James Kerney campus in Trenton two nights later. Both panels served as a form of commemoration of the tenth anniversary of 9/11.

The panel explored the lasting impact the events that transpired on September 11, 2001 had on “Psyche and Soul” of America as Mercer’s Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs, Dr. Guy Generals, who organized and moderated the event, put it in an email inviting faculty and students to the event.

The panelists included Imam Dr. Malik Ali of Masjid UT-Taqwa in Trenton, Dr. Paul Winkler, executive director of The New Jersey commission of Holocaust Education, Rev. Samuel Archison, President and CEO of the Trenton Ecumenical Area Ministry as well as Mercer Professors Michael Dalton, Kenneth Howarth and Noreen Duncan.

The theme of the discussion was learning to understand the differences between people of different backgrounds and religious beliefs. In particular, the discussion revolved around how race and religious relations have changed in the 10 years since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The consensus among the panelists was that people of different backgrounds need to try to build a better understanding of one another and learn more about our differences.

In a brief interview after the event Dr. Ali stressed that education is an important step in building tolerance, saying “you don’t get more tolerance unless you do it. There has to be some kind of program or something put into place where people can understand it through a process of education, through process of discussion, through process of being around one another.” According to Dr. Ali the conversation is the key. “Without the conversation where are we?”

Dr. Winkler responded to a question about what students should take away from the event saying, “respect your fellow student, respect the person next to you accept the differences I believe I love that there are differences. I’m glad that there are different religions. Some people say I wish we were all the same. I would hate that. I like the idea that there are differences.”

MCCC holds 9/11 diversity discussion panel

By Dan Asnis Senior Reporter

On Monday September 12 at noon the first of two “Unity Through Diversity” panel discussions was held at the Kelsey Theater on Mercer County community College’s West Windsor campus. The second discussion was held at Mercer’s James Kerney campus in Trenton two nights later. Both panels served as a form of commemoration of the tenth anniversary of 9/11.

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Flooding complicates first day of classes

By Anna Bosted
Senior Reporter

Following Hurricane Irene West Windsor Township was in a state of emergency Sunday August 28 through Wednesday August 31. That weekend was also the fist week of classes for Mercer's Fall 2011 Term. While classes were cancelled on Saturday, August 27 and Sunday August 28, Mercer reopened Monday.

"Every class is important," said President Donahue, who made the final call on opening West Windsor campus. The campus was deemed safe for students, however, security did issue an MAAlert broadcast message which read: "Delayed/ Cancelled classes designate someone to collect attendance roster. Stay for next class. Faculty will address classes missed/ delayed based on storm issues."

While the administration was ready for the new term to begin, West Windsor police were more hesitant to allow drivers on the road.

"What we had was pretty much every road that bordered a pond, a stream, or the Millstone River was impassable Monday, as well as the Delaware-Raritan canal," said West Windsor Chief of Police Joe Pica. "That included Alexander Road near the Delaware-Raritan canal, Alexander Road at Little Bearbrook, Clarks Mill Road at Grovers Pond, Lower Fishier Place, Meadow Road, Rabbit Hill Road, South Field Road, Washington Road, and Lower Harrison road."

"There's a lot of other roads, but those are the main through-fares that were flooded," said Pica, noting that the above list did not include smaller roads and neighborhoods roads that had been affected by the storm.

"The college where its located was in a pretty dry area, there was no problems with flooding in that area," said Pica. Mercer itself had no problems with flooding and President Donahue reported that the "West parking lot was full," with students who had made it to campus.

However, "people come from all over the county to get to the school," said Pica. Many Mercer students from surrounding towns including Hightstown, Lawrenceville, and Trenton were unable to make it to Monday on Class Day as a result of road closures and un-working traffic lights.

"I live 15 minutes away, but it took me an hour and a half [to get to school]" said Alyssa Downey, a first year Liberal Arts major. The Trenton resident said that both Route 1 and 239 were shut down. Both roads are major access roads to Mercer. "They should have canceled classes," said Downey.

"It's unnecessary to wear it all the time," she said. Bowers also argues that wearing an ID tag still tells you people's names, which in and of itself not enough to make her feel safer.

By contrast, Mercer's security personnel feels that the ID tag policy makes Mercer's campus more much secure.

"By having all students and faculty members display their ID's it aids greatly in providing security to the campus. The purpose of the ID is to help provide a safe learning environment for both the faculty and students," said Michael Flaherty, the Commanding Officer of College Safety who is new to the position.

Security has noticed the lack of students wearing their ID tags and plans on cracking down on the policy during the 2011-2012.

According to Flaherty, the Office of College Safety and Security set up a three week program at the beginning of the semester in which students were issued a warning slip if they were caught without their ID tag on campus.

"The warning slips will allow us to track repeat offend- ers while continuing with education rather than enforcement which includes a fine," said Flaherty.

When questioned, however, many of the campus security officers did not seem to be aware of the three week warning slip policy. After the three week program, Flaherty said, security will start enforcing the ID tag policy. Any student found not wearing their ID tag will face a $10 fine. There are conflicting reports about where money collected from these fines will go. One security officer said he thought the money went into purchasing more ID card sup- plies, while another employee in the security office said she thought the money goes into Mercer's "general fund." Mercer's Chief Business and Finan- cial Officer Jacob Eapen was not available for comment.

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Local flooding in Mercer County. Following Hurricane Irene, New Jersey governor Chris Christie issued an emergency declaration to declare a state of emergency as thousands of residents experienced flooding, blocked roads and extended power outages.

Does anyone know Mercer's ID tag policy?

By Laura Pollack
Senior Reporter

Walking through the hallways of Mercer can give someone the impression that no one wears, or even displays, their student ID tags. Interviews with dozens of students reveal the same thing: hardly anyone knows what the official ID tag policy is, and even those who do, very few follow it.

The actual requirement for students, faculty and staff is that they must wear their ID visibly on their body.

In a previous VOICE article regarding the ID tags Mercer's President, Dr. Patri- cia Donohue, was quoted as saying that the purpose of the tags is so that we "know who is supposed to be here." Dean of Students Dr. Diane Campbell said in the same article that the ID tags make it "easier to keep track of the campus safety." It's not clear from their comments why keeping the tags visible is safer than simply keeping them in a wallet or purse, something many stu- dents and faculty members have questioned.

Bowers, a first year Liberal Arts major, feels that as long as you have your student ID tag on you it doesn't have to be displayed.

"I think you should have it on you, but I don't think it's necessary to wear it all the time," she said. Bowers also argues that wearing an ID tag still tells you people's names, which in and of itself not enough to make her feel safer.

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"That weekend was also the first weekend of classes missed/ delayed based on storm issues."

"I think it's like a bigger societal problem," said Mc- Carthy. "The technology moves faster than the etiquette around it. It moves so fast weren't not teaching people what is the appropriate way to talk on the phone. Should they text con- text? What's the appropriate way to behave? We're losing that overall."

Professor McCarthy feels that students cannot be tuned into their phones and other activities at the same time.

"There's this idea that we can do a lot of things at once. There's this idea that we can multitask and that we're good at everything. And every young college student I've ever met is able to do all these things and nothing suffers," she said. "But the truth is there are studies that say everything suf- fers. What I try to tell students on the first day of class is that you're really not achieving all of your goals."

Many multitasking stu- dents disagree with Professor McCarthy. Both Delozier and Adams feel that they perform their activities better, or just as well, when they are multitasking than if they were to do one activity at a time.

"I feel that when professors see a kid texting, they assume that the student isn't paying attention, which isn't always the case," said Adams. "There are students, myself included, who can absorb what the professor is saying, and send a message at the same time. The fact that professors say 'you can't focus on what I'm saying and texting' is generalization, because while that applies to some students, it doesn't apply to all of them."

Despite these claims from students, Professor Mc- Carthy still tries to get her stu- dents to only focus on the task at hand.

"I want people to learn how to focus on one thing at a time because that's how they'll get a better education," she said. "I don't want people to feel that texting in class is more than to do with the act of texting than the student not wanting to pay attention."

"People would rather be somewhere else than where they are." she said. "I want the person they are texting, if they were next to them they'd be on their phone texting someone else. It's hard to have to do with the class or setting. It has to do with the digital medium."
Local clothing designers hit the streets...in a food truck

Two locals are trying to raise funds to buy an food truck from which they plan to sell apparel. Andrew Marshall and Stephen Thompson -- also known as the Chef and the Butcher -- are owners of Pyknic, an apparel company based in Robbinsville. Selling their wares from a food-truck makes sense since their clothing designs incorporate a culinary theme. Thay've been producing jerseys with utensils embroidered on the back pockets, t-shirts screen-printed with images of burgers and pizza slices, and evenbracelets charred with coffee and doughnuts since 2006. It all started when Marshall and Thompson met as business majors at DeSales University in Pennsylvania. They sold their first do-it-yourself design to 200 friends and peers. Thanks to social networking and involvement with the local music scene, their customer base grew, and they began to sell their original designs online.

After coming in touch with retailers such as PacSun, Hot Topic, and even international stores, Marshall and Thompson realized they would have to look into an official home for their company. They settled in an empty warehouse on Route 130 in Robbinsville, NJ in early 2010. By the time the warehouse had turned into their office as well, Pyknic had exploded with band sponsorship and online sales. In October, they were named among America’s Best Young Entrepreneurs of 2010 by Bloomberg Businessweek. In summer 2011, Marshall and Thompson announced on various social networks that they were planning something big. In the middle of August, the pair launched a Kickstarter project and started taking pledges. Kickstarter is a website on which original ideas are funded by interested donors. The title of the project is “Pyknic ‘Food’ Clothing Truck.”

When asked why he and his co-owner decided to embark on this creative adventure, Marshall said, “We wanted to have something different and unique, and we thought what better fitting way to sell our products than from a food truck?” For each amount someone pledges to donate, Marshall and Thompson have promised prizes ranging from stickers and buttons, to limited edition t-shirts, to a lunch date with them.

Almost immediately after the project was launched online, donations began to come in. Most backers are promising between $10 and $60 toward the cause (which, if you’re curious, gets your plenty of t-shirts, buttons, and stickers). “We weren’t sure what to expect really,” said Marshall in response to how quickly the Kickstarter page took off. He added, “but to have such loving support from our friends and family truly means the world.”

As of the afternoon of September 13, the Pyknic “Food” Clothing Truck is fully funded, a full day ahead of the deadline. With time still left on the clock, there were over 175 donors, and over 10,000 dollars pledged.

Look for their truck to hit the streets sometime soon. In the meantime you can check out everything Pyknic and browse their food-based clothing shop at pyknic.com.

Racial tensions and a prominent Nazi symbol are at the center of two students’ altercation

Continued from page 1

Tube videos and complaints at length about the number of “dot head indians” he has to put up with. He did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Campo appears in the videos displaying his red armband, and tells the camera “Get the picture of the peace, love and harmony,” referring to the emblem on his armband. In another video, also posted by Triano, Campo continues to explain that the emblem on his armband is “the symbol of love” and that “it comes from the Buddhist, it comes from Confucious, Mongolia and China.”

Campo is not far off. The word swastika comes from the Sanskrit svastika, which means “good fortune” or “well-being,” according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Early images of swastikas date back 5,000 years prior to Adolf Hitler’s use of the swastika as a military symbol in the Nazi army. But the Buddhist version of the symbol looks different from the Nazi version. The black symbol in a white circle on Campo’s red armband is identical to one listed to be sold as “a high quality replica of the NSDAP arm band” and a “Nazi Arm Band” on AryanWear.com. “If he came decked out as a buddhist monk and had the symbol people would still be hesitant,” said Alex Albarran, a third year Game Design major. Albarran is familiar with Campo and his nickname from seeing him around Hamilton. “I know about that guy. You see him all the time,” said Albarran.

Albarran explained his confusion about Campo’s attire, saying, “[the armband] is for peace that’s fine, but the gestapo get-up? There’s nothing peaceful about it.”

Campo tells the camera “I’m with the Dalai Lama” and that he has “nothing against the American Indians...I have nothing against gays, leasbians, or homosexuals.” Clearly Adrian Edwards did not take it that way.

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Tulip Hookah Cafe is Langhorne, PA’s new “it” spot
Founded by a local 19 year old who was born in Turkey, Tulip Hookah is a hit with young people

By Greg Smith

The first time I visited Twist yogurt on Nassau Street in Princeton I went with two little children and the satisfied, yogurt outlined smiles on their faces told it all. They absolutely loved it, which was no surprise since that same smile was plastered on my face the whole way home.

Twist typically has only seven flavors of yogurt and a flavor of sorbet available, which is something I would usually complain about. However, when you’re in line with your cup getting ready to pour out the delicious and creamy yogurt, this thought won’t cross your mind.

What’s great about this shop is that it is all self-serve. You choose how much yogurt you want and what you want to put on it. There are numerous toppings available, which is something I would usually complain about. However, when you’re in line with your cup getting ready to pour out the delicious and creamy yogurt, this thought won’t cross your mind.

The drawbacks are few and are minor inconveniences considering how great the place is and everything it has to offer.

What makes it so appealing is not just the yogurt, toppings, and fair prices, its ambience. There is a lounge area with artwork from local artists the walls; the artwork sophisticated, not generic, and is for sale. They also have a television and books and games for children. There is dim lighting in the lounge, to create a nice family atmosphere.

The customers aren’t the only ones who are happy, Lisa Moen and Julia Beckmann, employees of Twist, say they enjoy their jobs and agree with the thumbs up I give to Twist. Beckmann says, “Twist is a great place because people can get what they want and pick-and-choose their toppings.”

If you like frozen yogurt, a trip to Twist is worth the effort to find parking in Princeton. Twist is delicious, satisfying, a little piece of heaven.
SHANNON KELLY,  
Freshman Liberal Arts major

“My locker was stuck so I went down to the janitors to see if they could open my locker for me. They had the TV on in the janitor’s closet. They had it on live TV. I actually saw the place crash. I was in third grade. I was really confused as to what was happening. It didn’t really process. Some of the administrators took some kids away whose parents had been in the buildings, and they didn’t tell us. I guess they didn’t want to scare us. When I got home my sister explained it to me. It didn’t really hit me what was going on. I was really confused and kind of scared.”

DR. CAROL BORK  
Professor of English

“I was on the NJ turnpike on the way to Rutgers University. I was working at Rutgers at the time and I went into my office and one of the secretaries said a plane flew into a building in New York. I think [I found out] after the plane hit, but before the second. All classes were canceled at Rutgers. Students were in the student center watching TV and just speechless. I was shocked and horrified and sad. I always had the radio on so I would have heard it, but it was the one time the whole year someone was commuting with me so I didn’t have the radio on. I was the last person to know.”

DR. AMY VONDRAK  
Professor of English

“I was in Syracuse, NY in graduate school. My then fiancee woke me up. Like many other people, I watched the second tower get hit and the towers fall. I grew up in New York, I’m from Queens. I remember when the towers were finished. I had memories of class trips [at the World Trade Center]. Growing up it was part of our playground. Watch them fall I just thought ‘my home. my home. How could they do this to my home.’”

LISA DELFINO  
Freshman Liberal Arts major

“I was in third grade. I was in the library and all the teachers were bugging out, but they didn’t tell us why. I found out when I got home. My sister showed me the news. I knew it was bad. I just didn’t know how bad. It was scary.”

HASSAN GLOVER  
Freshman Accounting major

“As I recall, I was working at Linens n’ Things. I was taking my lunch break, and my colleague and I were at Best Buy and the TV’s flashed to it. I thought it was a movie or something until the newscasters said what had happened… I’m a Muslim, so now if I go fill out an application, they see my beard, my prostration mark… They say they don’t discriminate about Muslims, but I feel more reluctant.”

ISAIAH GORE  
Freshman Funeral Science major

“When it first happened I didn’t know what was going on, but when I heard ‘war’ that word spread like lightning. You could see the army flying up (to New York), and it was scary. I was thinking, our state building could get hit, too.”

TORI CONTE  
Third year Music major

“I was in fifth grade. They called us back to our homerooms, then pulled us out into the hallway, and asked us where our parents worked and if they were at work that day. I went to school in West Windsor, and there were TV’s in the classrooms; our teacher put it on.”

KENNY HAMILTON  
Second year Music major

“[September 11 has] influenced me to live life to the fullest. It’s like you never know when some frickin’ maniac is gonna fly a plane into a building. That day I wish I knew more about what was going on. I feel like a lot of things have been left unsaid.”
OUR MEMORIES OF 9/11

ALEC GROSSO
Sophomore Illustration major

“I was in fourth grade. I found out about it through my teacher. She said that the World Trade Center was just attacked by terrorists. I just didn’t have a visualization of it. I had no idea.”

JUDITH GRAUSSO
On-Site Coordinator - William Paterson

“Driving up the coast you could see the smoke and there was a distinct odor. We didn’t talk about what it was, but we knew.”

GAIL SCHWARTZ
Prof. Early Childhood Ed. - William Paterson

“I was an elementary school principal in Plainfield, NJ at the time. We saw the military planes flying overhead and I remember thinking, How am I going to keep 700 kids safe? It is the most helpless I’ve ever felt.”

MICHAEL DALTON
Professor of Photography

“I was living in Red Hook, Brooklyn. I could see the towers burning from my apartment building, and when fell there was a lot of debris that fell of Brooklyn and where I was. I got covered in debris. My wife was working in Manhattan. We spoke once when the first plane hit, but after that we couldn’t reach each other any more because the phone lines were busy. In the week following 9/11, my wife and I had to wear respirators to go to work in Manhattan and we had to get cleared at a checkpoint on 14th street to get to our jobs. The whole event was eerie, and it was eerie going back into Manhattan afterwards...it took weeks for all the dust to wash away.”

BERTHA GORDILLO
Second year Education major

“I was at school. I found out after the second plane hit because my teacher’s husband was a NYC firefighter, and he called her and told her what happened. The call wasn’t going through. I think it got cut off, and she started crying. She told us planes crashed into the World Trade Center. When I got home my sister was sitting on the couch crying. When I turned on the TV the first thing I saw was the people jumping out of the building, and that’s when I started crying. I didn’t understand why it had happened, why people had flown planes into buildings. It was just horrible.”

COURTNEY BRACONI
Second year Education major

“I was in the fourth grade. A bunch of kids were going home early, and we weren’t sure why. The vice principal came in and said two planes crashed into two tall buildings in New York City, and that was why the kids were being picked up. It didn’t mean anything to me at the time. I was nine. I knew something major happened, but I didn’t know how to respond. Adults do, but kids don’t get it.”

ANNA BOSTED
Second year Liberal Arts major

“I was supposed to have a play date that afternoon at a friend’s house, and when her mom came to pick us up from school early I was really excited. We left school, but she could only drive 20 feet before she pulled over crying. She explained that her husband, my friend’s dad, worked in the Twin Towers, but had forgotten his phone at home on his drive into work. He came home to pick it up, and before he could turn around to drive back the first plane hit the towers. I think so many of us have stories like this, and its amazing to think how different our perspectives of the world would be if the 9/11 attacks had never occurred.”
William Paterson’s program at Mercer is growing

By Brianna Hendrick, Reporter

Kelly Petro has always known that she wanted to work with kids. She has already obtained an associates degree from Mercer County Community College and going away to live at a four-year college, to obtain her bachelor's degree in Education, was not an option for her if she wanted to retain the experience she was gaining at her job at a local elementary school.

Petro is one of many students who have chosen to attend a program that enables students to stay on Mercer’s campus while technically at a four-year school. Petro is currently in this program as a student at William Patterson University, seeking a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and Psychology.

William Patterson University is one of three different colleges (the other two being Fairleigh Dickinson University and Felician College) that participate in the On-Site Advanced Degree program here at Mercer. Students are able to attend and be a student at a four-year college such as William Patterson. William Patterson offers classes that are taught by their professors, and they currently offer degree programs for Business Administration, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Liberal Studies, and Psychology.

Petro, who is in her first semester at William Patterson, thinks that the program offers a lot of benefits to people who are in her situation. She said, “It’s cheaper, it saves me a lot of money. I don’t have to worry about room and board.”

Even without factoring in room and board, participating in the On-Site Advanced Degree program here at Mercer. Students are able to stay on MCCC’s campus while attending and being a student at a four-year college such as William Patterson.

According to Petro, the classes at William Patterson, in comparison to classes at MCCC, are more difficult. She said, “It’s a lot more work. At Mercer they tell you when things are due. At [William Patterson] they expect you to do stuff just off the syllabus.” Asked if she has any complaints about the program Petro said, “The only thing I would complain about is the availability of classes. One class is only on Saturday mornings, and I don’t want to take a classes then.”

According to the William Patterson University at MCCC website, William Patterson offers their classes during late afternoons, evenings, Fridays, and weekends.

Judy Grausso, On-Site Advisor and Coordinator of William Patterson University at Mercer said, “The program was primarily designed for people who have commitments. When you’re looking at that group of people, later afternoons, Saturdays, and online works well. The other thing you have to consider, too, is that we are a guest here at Mercer County Community College, so it’s only right that they take care of their students first, so they will want to schedule their classes in the morning and afternoon.”

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**SPORTS**

**WOMEN’S SOCCER GETTING READY FOR BIG SEASON**

By Val DaGrain  Senior Reporter

Last year the Women’s Soccer team finished with a final re-
cord of 7-8 and one draw, af-
ter losing to Burlington in the District XIX post-season tour-
ament’s championship game, 1-2 (OT).

During the summer Mercer’s women’s soccer pro-
gram was able to pick up a cou-
ple key recruits including team captain and forward Nicole Tar-
fow (#20) of Nottingham, and forward Chelsea Pitomyka (#5) of Steinert, to pair with key re-
turner, mid-fielder Sam Biondi (#18) of Steinert who looks to bring some experience to the mostly freshmen squad.

The Lady Vikings are currently having a 0-4 start to their 2011-2012 season af-
ter losing to Montgomery of Rockville, Maryland off of a last minute goal on Sunday, Sep-
tember 19. The women’s team has currently have a 10-4-15 start to their season tournament by Burlington-
County, resulting in a final record of 18-12.

In their most recent 1-2 (OT) game against the Steinert Patriots, the team finished with a final re-
cord of 7-8 and one draw. Coach Howard Levy is looking for a couple dozen poten-
tial recruits at this point in the off-season. These include a 6’3” forward from Manateen-
gro named Filip Sekulic, and a 6’3” guard named Maurice McNelle from Nueva Esparanza in Phila-
delphia. New players will join the team Mercer Head Coach, Matt Wolski, has been looking at prospect freshmen like out-
caster for the Prague and the Short Season Sin-
ner at least six new key recruits, one of which is Alesha Betha, who herself is a member of Not-
tingham High School’s 1,000 point club.

“We don’t have much height this year but I’m expect-
ing us to be a more athletic team this year,” said coach Tenaglia. He added, “and we will defi-
nitely be a more team oriented group.”

The women start their season on November 19 against last year’s region champs, Har-
cum.

**Mercer men’s baseball’s season overview**

Chicago Cubs in the 50 round amatuer draft. Pugliese spent this past season in Mesa, Ari-
azona playing rookie ball, before being moved to Boise, Idaho to play for the Short Season Sin-
ner-A organization.

Mercer players who transferred to four year uni-
versities last year include; Joe Leone (#18), Ryan Byrzenski (#30), and Anthony Obery ( #15). These players are joined by at least six new key recruits,

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Hookah fad is worse than cigarette smoking

By Rhea Kapoor
Reporter

When you hear students making comments like, “That stuff hit hard!” they are not talking about drugs or even alcohol, they are talking about smoking a hookah. Blowing a puff of dense smoke from a hookah is the new craze for students in college. For those who aren’t familiar with hookahs, according to the Britannica dictionary a hookah, also known as a waterpipe is a single or multi-stemmed (often glass-based) instrument for smoking in which the smoke is cooled and filtered by passing through water. When asked if she smoked, Kelly Hancanck, a first year Liberal Arts major said, “Oh gosh no…. I don’t really smoke…. I do have hookah sometimes but it’s pretty rare and it’s really not as bad as smoking everyday…is it?” Hancanck, like a lot of students, doesn’t know the facts. According to a survey of 60 Mercer students, 42 believed that hookahs were less harmful than cigarettes. Mercer student Annie Smith provided a typical view saying, “Well smoking hookah is less harmful than cigarettes because the smoke gets filtered through the water and has fewer toxins.” This is far from the actual truth. According to the World Health Organization smoking a hookah is more harmful than cigarettes because the user inhales a lot more smoke from it. On the Mayo Clinic website Dr. Richard Hurt, M.D. a Mayo Clinic internist and director of the Nicotine Dependence Center answers the question: “Is hookah smoking safer than cigarettes?” Hurt says, “Hookah smoke contains high levels of toxic compounds, including tar, carbon monoxide, heavy metals and cancer-causing chemicals (carcinogens). In fact, hookah smokers are exposed to more carbon monoxide and smoke than are cigarette smokers.” A World Health Organization document entitled “Waterpipe tobacco smoking: health effects, research needs and recommended actions by regulators” states that “Contrary to ancient lore and popular belief, the smoke that emerges from a water pipe contains numerous toxicants known to cause lung cancer, heart disease and other diseases. Pre-liminary research indicates that hookah smoking poses many of the same dangers as cigarettes and may involve some ‘unique health risks.” Julia Carter, who is starting at Mercer this fall as a nursing major, said, “Well I don’t personally smoke hookahs or cigarettes, but I believe that hookah would have fewer side effects as compared to cigarettes. At least I hope so, because my younger sister has it all the time.” When Carter was shown the actual facts about smoking a hookah she said nothing to say for the first few seconds, then she responded, “I should call mom and make sure Sheena (her younger sister) is not having a hookah.”

A military cover up betrays American trust

Tillman was killed serving his tour on April 22, 2004 by fratricide - more commonly known as friendly fire. The military proceeded to lie regarding the circumstances surrounding Tillman’s death, informing the public and his family that he was killed by enemy fire while charging up a hill toward the insurgents. Documents explaining his death were destroyed by the military and his family was left to fill in the blanks on their own while at the same time coping with their loved one’s death. Top generals in the military knew the truth about Tillman’s death and still lied outright to all of America and his family. When one soldier attempted to come forward with the truth about the fratricide, he was taken off the front lines and given a desk job. This is not only unjust, but ludicrously un-ethical; punished for telling the truth. I believe Tillman’s death was manipulated and used to the government’s ad- vantage in the most cruel way. The government essentially used him as a recruiting tool so when a person deciding whether or not to enlist sees that Tillman died a hero, valiantly engaging the enemy, they indeed choose to enlist because it sounds honorable. There should be no room for deception in the mili- tary or the government. If you can’t trust the military, then who in America can you trust? The military is supposed to embody the idea of fighting for justice when in reality, as evidenced by Pat Tillman’s story, they are embodying the oppo- site: deception and lies. Sadly, Tillman’s death is only one ex- ample. A terrible accident and tragedy was used to glorify war and draw recruits. War is an ugly business and anyone who enlists should be fully aware of the fact of that fact. Accidents like fratricide do happen frequently, some more severe reaching as high as 30 percent of all military deaths. These are the facts, and young people looking to enlist and the American public do not deserve to be lied to regarding such an important matter. By covering up the truth the military not only did Tillman’s family a grave injustice, but also betrayed his memory and all of America. If America is going to remain a united country, “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,” then all people, no matter who they are, should be told the truth.

For more information about smoking a hookah or even to stop smoking hookah or cigarettes, please visit: www.mcccvoice.org.
Classic Peanuts

Dear Morbid, One word. ZOMBIES. -Morbidly Curious

Dear Gotta Go, Girls in the men’s room? Him. Maybe Mercer isn’t that bad after all. -The Voice

Dear Mike, I’m not out of here yet? -Mike

Dear Irene, Almost a half year has passed since your birthday, and have you really done anything? If you don’t want to feel like a loser the next time you blow out the candles, get busy. -The Voice

Dear The Parking Goddess, The Parking Goddess has not been kind, but this month things will improve. No more trudging through puddles for you. Spaces will miraculously float off into happiness. -Aries

Dear Girls in the men’s room, I can never find a girls’ bathroom on campus. What’s the protocol on using the guy’s room in an emergency? -Gotta Go

Dear Voice, This is my eleventh semester at Mercer. Okay, I admit I had to take a few classes more than once, but how is it possible that I’m not out of here yet? -Mike

Dear Nervous, What do I do? -Nervous

Dear VOICE, Help is here! -The Voice

Dear Gotta Go, Girls in the men’s room? Him. Maybe Mercer isn’t that bad after all. -The Voice

Dear Nervous, Switch brands. The squirrels only like menthol. -The Voice.

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

Difficulty: 2 (of 5)

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