Santa out of work for Christmas
Famous Trenton Santa laid-off from job at art museum

By Anna Bosted
Senior Reporter

For 14 years, Trenton resident Brian Hill has been a Christmas Santa, featured in Trenton’s annual Thanksgiving parade. Last year, Trenton’s mayor Tony Mack publicly acknowledged Hill during the parade, saying, according to an article in The Trentonian, “It’s time to give it up for Santa. We love you. We’ve got a lot of great plans for our city, and we cannot do them without [Santa].” Less than a year later, Hill was laid off from his job as the director of the Ellarslie city art museum director by the mayor’s office.

In a recent interview with The VOICE Hill explained the situation as he sees it. He said, “Ira, a mayor’s office spokesperson, “Existing city employees were solicited to play Santa” by “a committee of City employees and faithful volunteers.”

Two days before this year’s parade, Jason Rodgers, a city sanitation worker, was asked to step into the role. Rodgers apparently turned his life around while in prison, receiving a GED and completing 26 college credits. According to Facebook, Rogers (known as “The Wise Santa”) is also a member of The New Name Alliance, a spiritual group that describes itself as “an association of different innovative ministries and programs that are the hope of change in the world.”

When asked who had contacted him, Rogers told the VOICE, “That I cannot answer. I got a phone call, and I accepted.” He added, “I’m the chairperson of Fathers and Men United for a Better Trenton. We do a lot of community service, so that might have been why I was chosen.”

According to The Trenton Times article “Honoring Outstanding Trentonians,” printed Sunday, October 2, 2011, Rogers was awarded the public employee of the year award by the Trenton Council of Civic Association. The article also notes that “Until 2004, Jason was in and out of trouble and in and out of incarceration.”

Rogers apparently turned his life around while in prison, receiving a GED and completing 26 college credits. According to Facebook, Rogers (known as “The Wise One”) is also a member of The New Name Alliance, a spiritual group that describes itself as “an association of different innovative ministries and programs that...”

Corn field replaced by solar field at Mercer
MCCC to become home to largest solar installation on a college campus in North America

By Anna Bosted with
The Staff of The College VOICE
Reporter

Mercer is set to become the home of the largest solar panel array on a college campus in North America. The energy installation is to be built in one of the corn fields adjacent to the college and is scheduled to be completed by December 2012.

Mercer’s President, Dr. Patricia Donahue, told The VOICE, that the solar project will not cause student tuition to be raised as the funds are coming from a renewable energy initiative at the state and county level.

Donahue believes the project will ultimately save MCCC money. She said, “We have cut an awful lot of our budget lately...part of the savings [on electricity] we hope will help stabilize some of the cutting [of staff] we’ve had to do.” Actual figures on how much the college will save will not be available until the project is complete, but a Mercer press release issued in September estimated the savings at $1 million per year.

Donahoe explained that the total combined utility bills for the James Kearney Campus and the West Windsor campus are around $3.4 million and are responsible for roughly 6 percent of the budget. Donoho says the goal is for the solar panels to provide 70 percent of the power usage for the West Windsor campus.

Professor Garry Perryman who teaches Solar Installation Technology at Mercer says that the solar field will be “a real specialty to maintain.” When asked about potential student involvement with the project, Perryman said “Someone from the solar field design company will do...”
Soccer star Irene Calabria learned to play with the boys

By Stephen Harrison

Irene Calabria, co-captain of MCCC’s women’s soccer team, got her first soccer ball when she was six years old, and every since that moment a love for the sport was born. However, she grew up in Madrid, Spain, where young girls are not given the opportunity to play soccer.

“When I was in school, it was soccer just for guys... my mom had to go and say to the professors my girl wants to play soccer so let her play,” she said.

Calabria played with the boys until the age of 14 when it was first possible to play on a all girls team. However, she said the girls “weren’t so good,” and decided to take some time off from soccer until she got to college.

After graduating from the college with a bachelor’s degree she decided that she wanted to pursue opportunities in America. In August of 2010, Calabria traveled overseas to a foreign land to begin a new academic and athletic career.

“It was difficult because of the language,” she said, having never spoken English outside of a school setting before.

After three semesters at Mercer, Calabria has adapted and flourished in her new environment. Playing the position of left defender, Calabria earned second team all conference honors in her first year, and this past semester she was voted to the first team all conference as well as the Garden State Athletic Conference First Team.

“When the doors she’s energetic. She’s one of the best female defenders I’ve seen in a long time,” said coach Michelle Ogborn-Heywood. She continued, “[Calabria’s] the whole package of what you look for in a female athlete.”

According to her coach and teammates, Calabria deploys a combination of hard work, leadership through example and competitive spirit.

“She’s in the gym every single day, sometimes more than once a day” says Michelle Ogborn-Heywood.

Despite a grueling injury early in the season, Calabria played through the pain to help the team.

“Without a doubt a couple of games we won would have been lost without her. She was a major factor in all of our wins,” said Ogborn-Heywood. When things looked bleak after the women’s team got off to a seven loss and one tie start this past season, Calabria’s competitiveness wouldn’t quit.

“When we were losing she just kept going and giving,” said Ogborn-Heywood. Eventually the team would turn their season around, finishing with a 7-12-1 record.

Goalkeeper Jessica Larsen believes that Calabria’s best moment from the season was when she broke away form her left defenders position to help out the team offensively. Calabria took the ball and headed up the field. Irene weaved the ball down the field and took aim from around mid-field and soared the ball past the head of the opposing goalkeeper for a goal. “It was the most amazing shot I’ve ever seen in my life,” said Larsen.

While her position as defender occasionally offers her opportunities to score goals, her real mission is to make it more difficult for an opposing player to get the ball past teammate and goalkeeper Jessica Larsen. “She saves me constantly and I love her for it,” said Larsen.

Calabria plans to graduate with a physical therapist assistant degree, and hopes to transfer to a four year college, preferably one that allows her to continue playing soccer.

Women’s XC crosses country for Nationals

By Laura Pollack

Four of the seven runners from the women’s cross country team traveled to Hobbs, New Mexico to run in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Championship. Erika Manley, Sierra Downs, Jacqueline Goncalves, and Abigail Register competed in the five kilometer run on November 12.

In order for a team to officially finish in the race there must be at least five runners represented, which left the team one runner shy of being able to officially score. Coach Erin Cahill indicated that only four girls on the team posted times that qualified them for nationals this year.

This is an improvement over last year when the team only had two runners, neither of whom qualified for nationals. 2011 is only the second year Mercer has had a women’s cross country team.

Erika Manley posted the best time from Mercer with a 25:30.56. Despite not the fact that none of the women on the team placed, coach Erin Cahill said she believes that it was a learning experience for those who attended.

Downs, who had the second best time with 24:56.85, said she took a lot away from getting to travel to New Mexico. “Going to nationals put the entire season into perspective. We worked really hard during the season for something. It made everything come together. There was a purpose to it,” she said.

Cahill believes that the team still stuck together to support one another. “Even though [the whole team] didn’t go they still pushed each other. It shows how close we grew as a team. [The women] are Calabria through for everyone at Mercer,” she said.

The last race of the season set the stage for good scores at Nationals. “The team placed second at the Region XIX Championships on October 22, 2011. Manley placed fifth over, while Downs, Goncalves, and Register placed seventh, ninth, and tenth respectively.”

The runners said that the New Mexico climate added new challenges that the runners were not used to. “The thing that added the most pain to me was it was windy and dusty. I don’t think any of the girls are used to that,” said Downs.

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Cahill realized the wind added an extra factor, but thinks that the girls overcame it. “The girls did pretty well. The only issue was it was very windy. The wind effected everyone’s times,” Cahill said.

The weather was surprising, she said, but the course that we ran was so awesome. On the course there were hills that were too steep, there’s five or six of them in a row, and the rest of the course was flat,” said Downs.

“Until the off season the runners will continue to train together. Next season Cahill hopes to bring five or seven girls to nationals. “Then we’re going into the spring and the rest of the season is to have a full scoring team,” she said.

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Women’s Soccer Team

By Laura Pollack

Mercer’s women’s soccer team started the season off down seven games to one, but turned it around to finish the season with seven wins, twelve losses and one tie, enabling them to compete in the Region XIX semifinals.

Mike DeAngelis, the assistant coach of the team for four years, said that the team had a lot of “tough luck losses” at the start of the season. “The games we lost were very close,” he said. DeAngelis says that the team turned their season around during a weekend trip to play against Lackawanna. During the trip, he says, the players became closer, which then translated to better on the field play. “We were losing the first half and came back and won,” said DeAngelis.

Both DeAngelis and head coach Michelle Ogborn-Heywood noted how the women’s teamwork began to improve during the second half of their season.

“The players started to buy into the system,” said DeAngelis.

According to defender Irene Calabria, “[Ogborn-Heywood] tried to keep us together. She kept us as a group, as a family.”

Calabria attributes the team’s improvement to a growing “confidence between the girls on the team.” She went on to say that the players “changed some behaviors” such as selfishness. “We learned we have to give our best in every game and don’t give up. Accept when you lose and why,” Calabria said.

Calabria believes that game in which they played their best was their last home game, in which they lost to Ocean County College 0-1 in overtime. Ocean, for the season, was always favored to win, but Mercer played hard until the end.

“We played overtime, and we played so good,” said Calabria.

Irene Calabria and Samantha Bisandi were picked for the Garden State Athletic Conference First Team, and were also named to the First Team All-Region XIX.

“Irene has tremendous heart, she’s a team leader... Sam is a huge leader on the field,” said DeAngelis.

Chelsea Pitonyak was also named to the Second Team All-Region XIX.

“Chelsea is a young player and did an awesome job in her first year. She’s the sky for what she can do next year,” said DeAngelis.

After losing the semifinal game 0-1 to Burlington, the top ranked team, the players will spend the off season training and getting ready for next fall.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN CAHILL
Mercer lady Viking’s cross country team participated in the NJCAA Division I championship in Hobbs, New Mexico.

PHOTO | MATTHEW G. ARNOLD
Mercer Vikings women’s soccer star, Irene Calabria, earned her second team all conference honors this fall.
Mercer TV prof goes to Hollywood

Mercer’s Associate Professor of Communications Steve Voorhees was chosen to represent Mercer Community College in a program sponsored by the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences from November 8 to 12. The program was called, “See How Primetime Entertainment Works Behind the Scenes.”

Prof. Voorhees travelled to Hollywood to experience television production firsthand and interact with Hollywood professionals. The participants were invited to attend seminar panels with professional directors, writers and Hollywood producers.

Twenty faculty members from both two and four-year colleges were selected to participate. Mercer was one of three community colleges represented.

In an interview with The VOICE Prof. Voorhees said “It was really great to meet with my other colleagues who were teaching the same courses that I am and have the same academic interests.”

Voorhees went on to say, “Every panel I went to I gained something from. It’s rare that that happens and it was just a tremendous experience.”

Voorhees’ colleague Professor Barry Levy says he believes the insight Prof. Voorhees brought back from the experience would be beneficial to Mercer’s Communications program. Levy says, “The more outside perspectives we get the better, so we can teach our students better.”

SOLAR ARRAY

Continued from page 1

a presentation. I hope they will broadcast to the students too.”

When asked if Mercer’s Solar Energy Technology students will be involved in the project, President Donahue said, “Because we’re not building it, we cannot say students can help build it... We hope that degree programs will use this as an education opportunity... While we cannot say students will intern [with SunLight Company], getting to see the plans and walk the fields will benefit them.”

“If we’ve sent students in there and disrupted the process, then there’s a problem. We’ve muddied the waters on who is liable,” said Donahue.

The solar array will be hidden somewhat by plantings. According to Professor Amy Iseneker Ricco, Coordinator of Ornamental Horticulture, “There will be plantings around the field and the plants will be of significant size.” She continued, “I haven’t been asked for recommendations, and as far as I know, an outside contractor will be doing the planting.”

According to Donahue, SunLight Company will be responsible for contracting planting in the buffering zone. She also said that “The horticulture program will certainly have the opportunity to study (the planting process).”

Ricco, who is on Mercer’s Sustainability Task Force, expects that Mercer will continue taking steps to ensure that minimal plant life is destroyed by the solar panels. “Other than the corn growing in the field, I do not believe that anything will be disturbed.” Ricco said.
Neo-Nazi groups in Hamilton Township, and in the Mercer and Bucks county areas, have received increased media attention in the last year. From April's neo-Nazi rally in Trenton to the Mercer student who was attending classes wearing a Nazi armband this fall, there is a notable white pride movement in our area.

According to the FBI's most recent hate crimes statistics released in November under the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), New Jersey ranks third in the nation (behind California and New York) for the number of hate crimes committed. Racial and religiously motivated crimes are among the most prevalent, and though hate crimes against Muslims have been on the rise since 9/11, Jews are still the victim of the greatest number of religiously based hate crimes.

Despite the grim statistics (which may be deceptively inflated simply because New Jersey is better at gathering and reporting hate crimes data than many states) New Jersey is a leader in Holocaust education and programs relating religious tolerance. Starting in 1973, New Jersey pioneered a statewide system of Holocaust and Genocide Resource Centers overseen by the Department of Education. The Holocaust curriculum is now mandated in the state of New Jersey for pre-k through twelfth grade.

There are now 25 Holocaust and Genocide Resource Centers located on New Jersey's public college campuses, one of which is located at Mercer on the second floor of the student center. According to the VOICE, of 26 Mercer students, only a quarter knew the campus had a Holocaust and Genocide Resource Center.

According to Mercer's Dean of Student Services, Dr. Diane Campbell, the center hosts a variety of programs but may not be reaching a large number of students. She says, "In terms of the students and staff [events] we have had movies, we have had programs on Darfur, we had speakers come in. There have been books that different people read and come in for discussion. And the impact is small but I think the programs are rich."

The center's resources include a collection of textbooks on the Holocaust and Genocide. There are also DVDs and the technology to view those films in the center itself. There is a display on the genocide in Darfur and pictures of propaganda from World War II. There are also books written by teenagers during the Holocaust. In addition, the resource center also contains the holocaust curriculum for pre-k through twelfth grade.

When asked why students are not taking advantage of the center, Elizabeth DeGiorgio, assistant Prof. of Education and Psychology and Co-Director for Mercer's Holocaust Resource Center says, "In many cases I think people go 'Oh that's just the Holocaust/Genocide Resource library, how does it relate to me?' Or 'oh that's too depressing.' You can't be talking about this topic with joy. This is emotional and it should be."

According to DeGiorgio, many faculty members do not yet know the operating hours of the resource center and the center was not opened full-time until three weeks ago. The center is currently open mornings from 9 am to noon and afternoons from roughly 3 pm to 7 pm. Specific time slots are posted in the center's window, but nowhere else on campus. There are plans, however, to make the Holocaust Resource center a more dynamic and interactive part of Mercer's campus. There is an open house set for the end of January; the directors will be sending out a calendar of events so faculty and students will know what is happening the Holocaust Center. "We want people to come in at any time and see the genocide in Darfur.

Professor Elizabeth De Giorgio talking with students about the genocide in Darfur.
Continued from page 4

new things going on,” said DeGiorgio. According to second-year Business Management major Randy Brickhouse, the Holocaust Center never appears to be open when he is on campus. Brickhouse said he would visit the center if it was open more. “There’s a lot of things that I don’t know that happened or are happening and what’s going on in the community. It’s something that I feel that as a student, an American citizen, these things we ought to know. It’s something that’s important.”

Students, however, are not the only people on campus to visit the center. Professors have taken classes of up to thirty students to the center to read books off the shelves and learn of different genocides from DeGiorgio. There are also several Mercer County professors on the Holocaust Center’s committee board. Susan Goldberg, Co-Director of the Holocaust Center, explained that there are both Mercer professors and professors spread throughout New Jersey that come visit the center. She says, “There have been a series of educators in the history of the center who have come and done different workshops and lectures.”

The center has recently undergone a significant leadership change. Saul Goldwasser, who ran the center for more than eight years, retired this past fall. Goldwasser says he worked to reach out to students, faculty, and the community as a whole, and to spread awareness of the Holocaust and other past genocides. In a recent interview with The VOICE, Goldwasser said, “One of our focuses [at the center] was an attempt to reach public schools teachers so they could fulfill the state’s mandate to teach the events of the Holocaust as a basis for developing prejudice reduction among the young students of New Jersey. From introducing workshops for teachers to lectures, film, book discussions and exhibits, we have also tried to make the public aware of historical and on-going genocides.”

Succeeding Goldwasser are co-directors DeGiorgio and Susan Goldberg. Goldberg says “To even be appointed as co-director was a really big honor and it’s certainly something that you do understanding that you’re a guardian of the history of this place and of what we try to do and of the stories of others who have survived and those who didn’t. The more I’m here, the more powerfully I understand what it is that we do and how powerful it is,” Goldberg said.

Goldberg says of the importance of the Resource Center, “If you’re able to take the lessons and mistakes of others have made and learn from them, then you’re going to make a better place for you and your kids. I think that really ultimately the bottom line to learn from the mistakes that others have made and learn from the bad choices others have made and choose not to be like that.”

The VOICE, 12-12-11

The Transfer Opportunity Program (T.O.P. Scholars) from Berkeley College offers scholarships to students who have earned an Associate’s degree from another college. Scholarship amounts are based on a student’s grade point average (GPA) and range from 25% to 50% of the tuition at Berkeley College.

Who is eligible?
To be eligible as a T.O.P. Scholar, a student must:

• Have an Associate’s degree from another college.
• Be enrolled as a full-time student at Berkeley College.
• Remain continuously enrolled for his/her first academic year (three quarters). After that, the student may take one quarter off without losing the scholarship.
I N

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN BOLET

I eat to live. I don't live to eat.

In my day, children knew their place.

At least I know I can count on your sister.

I need to get home and check on the cat.

Don't look at me. I'm not saying anything.

Why can't you marry a doctor?

By Ken Napier, Matt Arnold, Amanda Knoblock, and Dan Anis

DIE HARD

When I think Christmas, I think Die Hard. Nothing fills me with more holiday spirit than popping in the old VHS and revisiting director John Mctiernan's enduring tale of justice, honor and perseverance in the face of extreme adversity. Hard-nosed NYPD detective John McClane (Bruce Willis) embraces the spirit of giving and sharing on his journey to spread warmth and peace to a skyscraper full of angry German terrorists. Nothing warms you up inside like hot lead. McClane even shows his lighter side when, after killing blind terrorist #3, he sends the body down to arch-villain Hans Gruber's headquarters in an elevator with HO-HO-HO written on the corpse's chest. This is a heartwarming tale of one man's attempt to bring Christmas joy to some very angry, Christmasless people. Die Hard embodies the masculine side of the holiday season, and doesn't cause a diabetic coma like the rest of the Christmas fare.

THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

The Nightmare Before Christmas is a refreshing, off-beat holiday film written by the eccentric Tim Burton. In this masterpiece of stop-motion animation, Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloween town, has grown tired of the monotony of having only one holiday year after year, and wishes for something more. The quirky film provides a break from the garish green and red pallet of Christmas and instead relies heavily on grayscale. There is a moody, brooding quality about the visuals but the film is laced through with a core of seasonal warmth and includes catchy songs that are a lot better to have stuck in your head than "Jingle Bells."

HOME ALONE

No movie rocks Christmas quite like Home Alone. It features fear, loneliness, neglect and m-u-u-u-rder. But it's also really funny. In the movie, the McCallisters (Pigeons count). Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern play the quintessential bumbling burglars who are up against a ten-year-old version of Macgyver named Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin). With this movie you can show your kids what really happens when they are naughty: Abandonment! The McCallister family gets it right: forget about your least favorite child and fly off to another country with the children you actually love! As Kevin sets ingenious booby traps for the hapless burglars, you can sit back and think about all the cunning traps you'd like to unleash on the irritating people in your own life. That's the holiday spirit right there.

MYSTERY SCIENCE THEATER 3000

First airing on December 21 1991, the Santa Claus Conquers the Martians episode of Mystery Science Theatre 3000 has become one of the series' trademark episodes. It is Christmas time on the satellite and mad scientist/overlords Dr. Froster (Trace Beaulieu) and TV's Frank (Frank Connioff) force Joel Robinson (Joel Hodgson) and his trusty robots to endure the film Old Chris Kringle, in which the plot focuses on two kidnapped Martian kids (the Martian girl is played by future movie star Pia Zadora). Can Santa ultimately save the day and get himself and the kids home in time for Christmas? Can Joel and the bots survive this Christmas turkey and keep their sanity? This is MST3 at its best, turning a movie that on its own would be unwatchable into a Christmas classic.

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING GUIDE: PRESENTS FOR IMPOSSIBLE PEOPLE

The VOICE recommends Etsy as your go to source for holiday gifts, especially for people who are impossible to shop for. Etsy is an online marketplace (like Amazon) that specializes in handmade, vintage, upcycled and artisinal goods. Find gifts that fit a student budget; please hipsters and grandma, too. There are thousands of vendors, so you can find something for every taste.

Want to make your own BINGO board? PHOTOS | PATRICIA BUZO

The Passive Aggressive Relative Edition!

When you have to attend a holiday event with a passive relative, bring this bingo board with you. Secretly circle answers on the board. When you get five in a row, yell "BINGO!" who has to suffer along with you. Compete to see who gets a BINGO first.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOREN BOLET

By Ben Bolet of Charlotte, North Carolina is an entomologist who frames specimens of non-endangered butterflies from eastern Peru. More than just bugs under glass, these are elegant pieces of art that will light up any room. Each butterfly is carefully preserved to show its intricate delicacy. These are perfect for family or friends who say "I don't want anything big this year!" Prices vary but start around $24. Bolet takes special care to use sustainable and humane practices.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOREN BOLET

CollageORama makes whimsical prints on dictionary pages from books that were going to be destroyed. Each print is $6.99 (you have to provide your own 8.5"-11" frame) but they often have deals if you buy multiples. Know someone who would appreciate a print of an otter wearing a top hat or a pink hippo in a snorkeling mask? These prints are perfect for dog and cat lovers, Harry Potter fans (lots of owls), for anyone needing to spruce up a college dorm room with hipster style. Even a sedate family member with no sense of humor can be appeased.

DoodleBirdie

These low maintenance terrariums feature live plants in elegant glass containers. Doodle Birdie's creator, Patricia Burzo began her career painting huge wall murals, but now focuses on these small, ornate creations. Along with her larger terrariums, she sells 1" tall versions that you can wear as a necklace charm. The warm, lush green mosaics can chase away the winter blues. They are reminiscent of the fairy houses children make in the woods. The necklace charms start around $10. There are lots of larger terrariums available in the $35-$45 range.
BINGO Relative Edition!

Give this, not that

Old gift

NEW GIFT

Barefootweaver

Call Throop's wrist bands each have a main color --kiwi, plum, indigo-- set off by surprising complimentary strands in shades umber, turquoise or teal. Though most of the designs lean toward the feminine side, the earther colors of a few might make them a good bet for the kind of boyfriend who plays you love songs while watching the sunrise over a New England mountain. If bracelets aren't your thing, barefootweaver also features scarves, caps and purses with similar inspiration. Wrist bands start are each $24.

JimAndGina

There is always someone on your holiday shopping list who you just can't get to warm up. For them we suggest a cup of tea (or even a cup of chili) in the covered, microwavable ceramic bowl pictured left. The handmade stoneware from Humming Bird Studios, which can be found at JimAndGina on Etsy, takes its inspiration from the nature and wildlife of northern Minnesota, including chickadees, bluebirds, owls, cardinals and blue herons in glazes soft hues that are reminiscent of watercolors. Mugs start around $15 and most of the products are in the $15-$45 range.

New gift

Beardhead

Wine

New gift

Micro Brew

 metre.

New gift

Soap

Crayons

Old gift

Poster

New gift

Framed Poster

Give this, not that

Old gift

SCARF

WINE

NEW GIFT

Explaination: Wine is fine, but boring. Instead of guessing at which wine they'll like, pick up a bottle of champagne, sparkling wine, or a six-pack of micro-brewed beer. Our picks include Azienda Agricola Moletto Prosecco, which goes for $9.99 at Joe Canals, and Lambertville, New Jersey's own River Horse brewery's Belgium Freeze. You don't need to break the bank to get a different holiday-worthy booze.

Explaination: If your friend you're buying the scarf for lives in a place cold enough to need a scarf, they probably could also use a hat. This is a comical, practical way to keep their whole head warm. Besides, they probably don't already have six others in the same plaid.

Explaination: While the difference between these two gifts may seem small, it's not. Giving an already bored with2 get them a new one. As long as it's for something they actually need.

Explaination: If the friend you're giving someone soap, you are weighing in on their personal hygiene routines. Instead of cluttering their lives in a place cold enough to need a scarf, they probably could also use a hat. This is a comical, practical way to keep their whole head warm. Besides, they probably don't already have six others in the same plaid.

Explaination: If you're thinking of giving someone soap, you are confident that they bathe. If they bathe, they probably already own soap. Instead of cluttering their shower with a holiday scented gel that's likely to be as stinky as old mistletoe, give them the gift of fun. With bath crayons, they can doodle, write notes and reminders, and turn their daily shower routine into artist escape.

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The VOICE found that 84 percent of 50 students at Mercer, a Liberal Arts major at Mercer, spends her time volunteering in places all over the country. Some places Muka has volunteered include North Carolina, West Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, and even Toronto, Canada.

Muka says, "I love going on these trips to help others. But we all [other volunteers] share a love of helping others and being able to make someone's life just the tiniest bit better in whatever way we can. Being together and having a great time while we're working is just an extra benefit."

In a survey conducted in 2006 by the Corporation for National and Community Service, it was found that college students contribute a considerable amount to their communities. Approximately 30.2 percent of college students participate in volunteer work. This number exceeds the percentage of general adults who volunteer, which is 28.8 percent. According to a recent survey conducted by the corporation for National and Community Service, the state of New Jersey as a whole was found to rank 46th in the country for amount of citizens volunteering. This number far exceeds the national percentage of college students who volunteer. Only 16 percent of students at Mercer have volunteered, approximately 30.2 percent of college students volunteer. This number exceeds the national percentage of college students who volunteer.

While a typical college student spends their weekend partying or cramming in last minute homework assignments, Trish Muka, a Liberal Arts major at Mercer, spends her time volunteering in places all over the country. Some places Muka has volunteered include North Carolina, West Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, and even Toronto, Canada.

Muka says, "I love going on these trips to help others. But we all [other volunteers] share a love of helping others and being able to make someone's life just the tiniest bit better in whatever way we can. Being together and having a great time while we're working is just an extra benefit."

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While around a quarter of these students who volunteer at Mercer did it because they had to for school or for other varied requirements, around three quarters said they volunteer simply because they want to. As Muka said, "Some courses require a certain amount of volunteer hours, other students may just be looking for more ways to space up their resumes." But according to the survey conducted of Mercer students, almost 75 percent say they volunteer simply because they want to and enjoy helping those less fortunate than themselves.

Out of the students who have volunteered, some are not sure whether they will volunteer again because it conflicts with their work and school schedule. However, out of the students who have volunteered, approximately 64 percent say they plan on volunteering again in the future. Overall, Mercer students seem to contribute liberally to their community just because they love doing it and find the experience extremely rewarding. Muka seems to say it best, "Seeing how we can touch the lives of others is a rewarding experience. Others have so much less than we do and it feels great to be able to give them something."

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My cigarette habit isn’t as unhealthful as you toiletries

Oh, dear, do you like skittles?
What about Mountain Dew, Sunny D or orange juice or quarter-pounders, scented body wash or Avon makeup?
Would you like them if I told you that all the above products contain known carcinogens? I’m not saying they cause cancer, I’m just saying that respectable studies have shown a positive correlation between their use and the appearance of cancer. Don’t believe me? Sodium Benzoate, a preservative in orange juice, carbonated sodas and some fruit flavored products, can transform into Benzene. When Sodium Benzoate is combined with an acid and exposed to heat, both conditions found in your stomach, a byproduct of the chemical reaction is Benzene. Benzene is a carcinogen, and also an additive in commercial gasonline.

What other “healthy” products can give you cancer? An American Cancer Society [ACS] study shows that regular consumption of red meat can double the risk of colorectal cancer.

In what the ACS called a “Well done study” red meat was shown to double the risk of developing breast cancer in women under 40. That’s right, eating Big Macs and steak can double the risk of developing the number one killer of women in the country.

And what about hygiene products, body wash, shower gel, shampoos and conditioners, even makeup and deodorant. The majority of these products use a type of preservative called an ester-paraben. In a study by molecular biologist Phillips Darbe at the University of Reading, 90% of cancerous breast tumors tested contained ester-paraben preservatives. These chemicals are not naturally occurring in the human body, but are easily absorbed through the skin by the action of deodorant and body sprays and similar products.

The above products have a high positive correlation between their use or consumption and the presence of certain kinds of cancer.

Much way cigarettes have not been proven to cause cancer, but chemicals contained within have a positive correlation with the formation of certain cancers.

In a person who smokes two packs a day for up to 15 years, the overall assessed risks of cancer can be as high as one percent. But that number is as a little sensationalism, the real figure being, 7% or 7 out of every thousand persons in the random screening of smokers who fit the criteria. At least according to Claudia I. Henschke, a M.D., and the principal investigator of the International Early Lung Cancer Action Project.

Not only is smoking less dangerous than you have been led to believe, it has some health benefits that have gone unmentioned. These include treating heart and gum disease as well as being good in relation to the risk of breast cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and even breast cancer.

Right now, I’m going to tell you things your doctors don’t want you to know.

A study by Dr. Brunet, a researcher at the McGill University of the Hospital of University, Toronto, has revealed a cigarette dose related reduction of up to 4% cancer in breast cancer among women with the high risk BRCA gene.

The study suggests that one of the 300 compounds within cigarette smoke is able to combat breast cancer, but according to the Dr. Brunet, “we don’t know what that compound is”.

That’s not the only ail cigarettes can fight. Cigarette smoke has a monumental effect on the risk of Parkinson’s disease.

According to Evan Tacker from the Harvard School of Public Health, “Compared to people who had never smoked and were considered to have “normal” Parkinson’s disease risk, former smokers had a 22 percent lower risk of Parkinson’s disease and current smokers had a 73 percent lower risk.”

This is because nicotine is a central stimulant, which decreases the levels of acetylcholine in the smoker’s brain, as well as stimulating the dopamine pathways in the brain.

Parkinson’s is caused when the effect of dopamine is lost, and the levels of acetylcholine in the patient’s brain.

Alzheimer’s disease is caused by too much dopamine in the brain.

ISO’s fall event was too loud for students in library

The student center is Mercer’s social hub. It contains the cafeteria, library, and club offices and hosts to a wide variety of SGA sponsored club events.

One example is the Multi Cultural Festival Explosion. This activity is held once a year in celebration of International Education Week. The event sponsors - the International Student Organization (ISO) - seemed to be trying to get students involved in cultural awareness, but mostly was resulting in the halls to over-loud music that could be heard all the way in the library.

The Multi Cultural Festival Explosion had a DJ this year which featured music from different countries. This music, however, was playing in the first floor of the student center. Students were dancing in the hallway by the cafeteria which is very close to the library. This music is potentially very disturbing to those in the library studying and working on school work.

A new space for the Multi Cultural Festival Explosion could not be a bigger and better suited space such as the gymnasium.Immordino answered, “The location is ideal if you think about it- it is the perfect place for all faculty and students to see and partake in. It might be the perfect place for students to see the activities going on, but since the activities take place near the library, they can be disturbing for students trying to do schoolwork. The placement of the cafe, which is good in relation to the cafeteria, but since the library and club offices are in the vicinity it could be potentially disruptive.”

I’m not saying these Multi Cultural activities are not important. I believe they’re extremely interesting and they allow for sharing of cultures and ideas. Students can benefit from it, but more thought should be put into the planning of the ISO events so that the ISO events don’t turn out to be a learning experience and really fun for all of the students who attend, but not for the students in the library right next to the event and getting work done.

The activities for the Multi Cultural Festival Explosion are as follows: “The Multi Cultural Festival Explosion. Stop by the first floor of the Student Center from 12:00-1:00 pm, for this Cultural Celebration. It will be open to the public.”

These activities sound both fun and educational, but is the student center, situated right near the library and club offices, really the best place for all? Both students and faculty need that space to accomplish their work and an environment in which there is both low music and dancing is not conducive for that.

It’s not just the ISO that hosts events like these and lure high school students, the ISO events just happen to take place in an inconveneient space.

My hope is that the ISO events will either be moved to a quieter location next year or that a new ISO event is just as enjoyable and keeps students involved in the college life.
MERCER FASHIONS

Why are you wearing that?

*CHRIS ROYSTER (21)
- 3rd year Physical Education
  "I don’t feel like fitting in. I like to be creative and stand out."

*JANNA WOLF (22) 2nd year
- Global Administration and Business Management
  "Mood and color depends on the weather."

*ROBERT FOANIS DONVAN (64)
- Professor of Geography
  "[This outfit] is good for the job. I like bow ties."

*RAVI SHARAN (19)
- Computer Science Programming
  "I didn’t do my laundry and I am lazy."

*RYAN RENZI (20)
- Civil Engineering
  "[I’m an] outdoors person. I’ve got my skateboard, shoes, North Face."

*CHYNNA TAYLOR (19)
- 2nd year Biology
  "I love flowers, purple, skirts, and frogs. I like to dress up and be feminine."

*ADDI DODGE (19)
- Liberal Arts
  "I like to wear fancy things that are low maintenance."

*RANIER "AKI" QUEVEDO (21)
- 2nd Year Business
  "[I’m wearing this] hat because it’s fuzzy and shows my cuddly personality."

*SARA ABBOTT (19)
- Liberal Arts
  "Cause I like it. Sparkly! Bubbles!"