Tuition hikes and increased student fees
In dragon year no economic relief for Mercer students

By Amanda Knoblock
Senior Reporter

Chinese New Year, also known as the “Spring Festival,” marks the end of winter for China and other parts of the world. The exact date of the festival is based on the cycles of the moon but generally falls in late January or early February. The Chinese zodiac rotates on a 12-year cycle with each year represented by a different animal. 2012 is the year of the Dragon and is believed to be the most royal and lucky of all the animals bringing with it the promise of prosperity and good fortune.

It looks like the good fortune of a dragon year will be skipping Mercer, however, as students can look forward to their fourteenth consecutive tuition increase. An open meeting proposing a tuition and fee increase was held on Mercer's West Windsor Campus on January 31. The decision to increase student tuition will take place in the upcoming weeks and will go into effect for summer 2012 courses.

During the meeting, Mercer President Dr. Patricia C. Donohue explained that Mercer's
See DRAGON YEAR pages 6-7

Dressed in traditional Chinese costumes, women marched in New York's annual Chinese New Year Parade from Little Italy through Chinatown on January 29, 2012.

By Amanda Knoblock
Senior Reporter

In dragon year no economic relief for Mercer students

Print card machine moved, still not near printers
A new vending machine prompts admins to move the print card machine 40 feet

By Sierra Downs
Senior Reporter

The printers are in the library, but the machine that sells the print cards is a building away, in the Student Center. After running out of money on her print card and having to forgo her place in line so she could make the trek to the Student Center to refill her card, Barbara Schaeffer, a Medical Billing student at Mercer, decided to take action.

Schaeffer wrote to Mercer's Vice President for Administration and Chief Business Officer Jacob Eapen last April, letting him know that it was inconvenient to have to go from one building to another and then back again to purchase or refill a print card, and suggesting a solution: move the machine to the library.

Eapen responded to Schaeffer saying, "the matter will be looked into.” She followed up but got no more information. To her surprise when she arrived at campus on Monday, January 9, she saw that the Vend Print machine had indeed been moved, but rather than putting it in the library, where it is most needed, it had ended up just around the corner from its original location.

In an interview with The VOICE Commanding Officer of Security, Michael Flaherty explained the reason the machine was moved. He said, "I know why they moved it. The vending machines, the new Red Bull machine was interfering with [the Vend Print] machine. The machine was moved to make it more accessible to students.”

Schaeffer is not the only one who finds the print card locations (both new and old) frustrating. The College VOICE conducted

The Voyage of the Print Card Machine

By Sierra Downs
Senior Reporter

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Washington crosses the Delaware for the 59th time

Every Christmas day since 1953 hundreds of re-enactors and spectators have made their way to the sides of the Delaware river to watch the annual re-enactment of General George Washington and his army’s crossing on December 25, 1776.

Budget cuts at the park have been offset by the efforts of a volunteer group named The Friends of Washington Crossing Historical Park, who coordinate the annual reenactment and run educational programs at the park.

Bruce Cobb, a historical interpreter at the park, explains that the re-enactment was started by a local actor and a few of his colleagues. “He started out with four or five guys and a small boat and then it built from there. St. John Terrill was his name. He [played] George Washington from 1953 until 1977.”

Terrill was also owner of the Lambertville Music Circus, and according to Terrill’s October 1939.


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On Monday January 16, at Mercer’s James Kerney campus in Trenton an “I Can Succeed” event was held to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The keynote speaker at the event was Mercer alumnus John H. Harmon, who is president and founder of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. Harmon gave a speech about the state of Dr. King’s dream and what parts of it are still yet to be realized to their maximum potential.

Harmon recounted that the message of this commemoration was that “Dr. King was all about the people and not about himself.” Harmon said he thought King would have a “mixed reaction” if he saw the world today.

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Print card machine moves for Red Bull

Continued from page 1

ed a poll of 70 Mercer students which showed that of the 30 percent of students who regularly use the printers on campus, 85 percent find the location of the print card machine to be thoroughly inconvenient.

Donna Wolf, Mercer’s Reference Librarian, is familiar with the print card issues. She told The VOICE that between the hours of 8 and 10 am on February 14—a typical day at her job—she was asked “at least five times” where the print card machine is located.

“We’re very service-oriented in here. When [students] need to print, they need to print now because they’re headed to class. It just seems like poor student service,” Wolf said.

Security Chief Flaherty proposed a solution other than moving the machine again. He said, “Why not put a second one in? I don’t know what it costs, but if it would make the students more successful, then doesn’t that just make common sense?”

Lucia Brown-Joseph, Manager of the Bursar’s Office, has an opposing view. Brown-Joseph handles refilling the machine with cards and money. She adds that “Mercer can’t afford” having an additional print card machine in the library, as one machine “costs [approximately] $7,000 dollars.”

In an interview with a marketing vendor at ITC Systems, the company that makes Vend Print machines, a single unit costs $3,685. The Vend Print brochure experienced a “19 percent savings because their clients have

A string of burglaries hit Princeton in January

By Emily Maggsamen

Reporters

The Princeton Township Police Department is currently investigating a string of burglaries at homes primarily in the riverside area of Princeton. All of the burglaries (some successful, but most just attempts) have occurred within a half-mile radius of one another. The total value of things that have been taken from six occurrences is $615.

The last reported incident was on January 17, 2012.

Sergeant Michael Cifelli of the Princeton Township Police Department said in an interview with The VOICE: “Most, if not all of these instances are open opportunities. In other words, an open car door, garage, unlocked window, etc.” He also said: “The good thing is that this is the basic parallel.

Concerned residents in the area have placed many calls to the police department asking whether the burglars may be just kids, considering the amateur nature of the theivery, or if they should be worried about a more experienced criminal.

The events occurred on Sycamore Lane, Princeton-Kings- Town Road, Prospect Avenue, and Shadysbrook Lane.

Sgt. Cifelli said “Although we have not been able to draw any conclusions yet, it is important that you lock your doors and windows, make sure you don’t leave your vehicles open, and don’t put yourself through the aggravation of something small happening.”

Madeleine Barrett of Jeff-erson Road in Princeton said, “We have not taken any extra precautions because we always lock all our doors and windows if we remember. We are on the corner of Jefferson and Valley, which gets lots of foot traffic so we have always been careful not to leave the garage door open on anything that would be inviting to someone looking for an opportunity.”

According to Stephanie McMullen, a second year Education major at Mercer, this new dual ID policy in the bookstore is not always being enforced. When asked if she had to produce two forms of ID when purchasing books McMullen said, “No, I only had to show my license.” Bookstore employees would not comment on the policy.

The bookstore is not the only place at Mercer that has to deal with students’ abuse of financial aid. In the February, 2008 issue of The VOICE, reporter Shab-eed Morris and Patrick Amural reported that some students have been scamming the system by attending classes only long enough to receive their financial aid checks at which point they take the money and disappear.

According to Morris and Amaral’s article, then-Director of Financial Aid, Reggie Page, said those students cost the college approximately $100,000 a year. It does not appear that this form of fraud would be alleviated by the current dual ID policy that Dean Campbell’s letter says will now be used in the bookstore.

When asked how these new ID policies will benefit MCCC’s campus Campbell said, “If students wear their ID, hopefully we can keep kids safer. It’s the question of enforcing the ID.”

According to Campbell, Mercer’s security officers have been extensively trained in enforcing the ID tag policy. “If there’s any disruption they will look for student’s ID first,” Campbell said.

Mercer’s Security Direc- tor Bryon Marshall declined repeated requests to comment on the bookstore incident and on Mercer’s ID tag policy enforce- ment.

Identity theft in the bookstore?

A woman bought $1,500 worth of items using another student’s ID

By Kelly Renda

Senior Reporter

According to Lt. Brian Melnick, the public information officer at the West Windsor Police Department, Tiffany Chappel (41) was arrested by Det. Dranchak of the WWPD.

Chappel was later arrested by Det. Dranchak of the WWPD.

Students were first alerted to the incident the week before the semester began, when an email from Executive Dean for Student Affairs Dr. Diane Campbell was sent out alluding to the bookstore incident and informing students that the MCCC bookstore will require two forms of ID to purchase books. Your MCCC ID is required. The second form of ID can be a driver’s license, a passport or some other form of ID with your picture on it.

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Princeton police say houses left open were the prime targets in a series of six burglaries

By Emily Maggsamen

Reporters

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The Princeton Township Police Dept.
Local theater company Maurer Productions staged a revival of Neil Simon’s classic comedy Laughter on the 23rd Floor at Mercer’s Kelsey Theatre from January 27 to February 5.

The generational tone of the piece did not seem specifically intended for current college students, but the opening night audience, made up of mostly older people, was extremely receptive even to the harsher language and the dirtier jokes.

The entire show is set in a writing room in 30 Rockefeller Center and follows the workplace antics of Lucas Brickman (played by Mercer’s own Mark Swift, a Theater major), an eager, level-headed writer recently hired by NBC to write for “The Max Prince Show” — patterned on the Sid Caesar show that was popular in the 1950’s.

Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco sold out The Stress Factory in New Brunswick.

It took seven years of waiting tables in LA before he’d catch his big break, but Sebastian Maniscalco knew he would be a comedian since day one. He has been featured on Leno, Comedy Central and HBO, and January 26 to 29 he played a local run at The Stress Factory in New Brunswick.

“His 60 degrees in LA and people start breaking out their North Face. They wouldn’t last a day in Jersey” the 39 year old, Chicago native joked.

Maniscalco has national tour dates lined up for the next year. He sold out his opening night at The Stress Factory and two shows the following day.

Maniscalco’s material comes from his life experiences. He jokes about growing up in an all Italian household but steers clear of Italian cliches. His Stress Factory set included bits on flip flop sandals, picking out a grill at Home Depot, extreme water slides and the chaos that is shopping at TJ Maxx.

In one piece he talks about teaching his dad how to use the computer. Maniscalco instructed his father to “open the window,” to which his father responded, “Why? It’s freezing outside!” The whole set was so funny that the man beside me was jumping out of his chair.

Maniscalco also riffs off his audience and routinely steps away from planned material. Looking around the room at The Stress Factory people were falling out of their seats laughing, and some were scared they might be Maniscalco’s next victim.

In a brief interview with The VOICE Maniscalco said the audience’s reaction can be the best part of the show. He said one of his favorite memories on stage was during The Wild West Comedy Show with Vince Vaughn, when he got a standing ovation in Nashville, Tennessee.

Comedy show fanatic and Monmouth University graduate, Agata Gorski, said of Maniscalco’s performance, “It’s one of the better shows I’ve seen in a small venue.” She went on to say that she loved the way he connected with the audience, and that everything he joked about she could relate to.

As for the venue, however, The Stress Factory is literally stressful. The tables are too close together and waiters and waitresses have to lean over guests to get other guest’s orders.

Tara Weiss a 22-year-old audience member from Boredentown NJ, complained of the “awkward” service and high prices. With a minimum purchase of 2wotstems off the menu or more, per person, you are forced to spend some money. It’s worth going to see a great performer like Maniscalco, but the venue wouldn’t be worth the effort for a lesser act.

Maniscalco has shows set up all across the states for the next year already booked. He will be back in the tri-state area at the end of April in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. Maniscalco also has a TV special on Showtime airing now called What’s Wrong with People.

MANICIALCO'S NEXT VICTIM.
MOVIE REVIEW

Finally, a musical genre that will make your ears bleed

Bombastic electronic music genre known as DUBSTEP keeps pushing the limits

By Noelle Gilman

Before pressing play Jessica Hall, a third year Liberal Arts major at Mercer, full-time employee of Bristol-Meyers Squibb, and mother of two, smiled under her headphones. She was eager to listen to the music her kids liked, a relatively new genre known as dubstep. Then the music began. A small then deep winker started forming between her brows. The corners of her mouth dropped downward into a frown. After thirty-four seconds of heavy throbbing warbs and wooms, punctuated by radical distortions and glitches, Hall had enough. “Oh hell no!” she exclaimed. She looked up from the device she held in her hands and said, “I’m rather liberal with my children’s music consumption, but this makes me feel uncomfortable. It sounds like rave drug music!”

Hall’s reaction mirrors that of many people encountering dubstep for the first time. In a recent article in Philadelphia Weekly, Elliot Sharp writes “dubstep is all about externalized aggression and rage, and it’s made audiences across the country fill large clubs and stadiums to get sonically pumped and dance their asses off!”

While dubstep’s origins can be traced back to the late 1990’s, it wasn’t until 2002 that the term “dubstep” was thought to be coined by Ammunition PR who worked with a number of artists on showcases across the country fill large clubs and stadiums to get sonically pumped and dance their asses off. “

The near constant brutal nature of the main character, when the survivors stop to catch their breath, a subtle tension.

"Dubstep is all about externalized aggression and rage, and it’s made audiences across the country fill large clubs and stadiums to get sonically pumped and dance their asses off!" - Elliot Sharp, Philadelphia Weekly

ran a club in Soho London and was involved in the formation of the genre. Furthermore, electronic music, long popular in western Europe, has only recently been embraced in the United States. Dubstep is a distant cousin of house and rave music. It is directly descended from dub, a reggae sub-genre, and 2-step garage. From the beginning it attempted to combine darker, more experimental sounds with the components of its parent genres. A whole culture is growing up around dubstep. In Elliot Sharp’s November 16, 2011 article, titled “Dubstep Posed to Take Philip’s Music Throne,” he notes that electronic dance music (EDM) festivals like Electric Daisy Carnival in Las Vegas are drawing in as many as 223,000 fans. There is Electric Zoo in New York and Ultra Music in Miami. Warped music that only had a home in small clubs is moving into the mainstream. In fact, many main- stream, and underground, artists, have now incorporated dubstep into their work. From hip-hop like Yelawolf to nu-metal like Korn's newest album "The Path of Totality," dubstep is being em- ployed across the genres. Even 17-year-old pop star Justin Bieber has expressed interest in using the sound for his upcoming album.

Dubstep has come so far that purists are now splitting with some even calling the genre too even further limits. One of dubstep’s most well-known performers is Skrillex, who received a Grammy nomination for “Best New Artist” this year. Skrillex has been pushing the boundaries of the genre to the point where his sound (and that of others like him) is distinctive enough to earn a new title: brostep.

In the article “90’s Angst Bobbing to Dubstep Beats,” written by David Peen of the New York Times this past December, he writes, “As the genre has grown in popularity...it has transformed into a noisy, aggressive...spectacle that detractors refer to pejoratively as brostep...Skrillex...has become, fairly or unfairly, the face of brostep.”

Popular DJ, Rusko, who is often credited (or blamed) for originating bro-step, said on the BBC’s 1xtra show, “I kinda took dubstep and now everybody else has taken it too far...I’ve been in America touring...and even more so, they just want it as hard as you can. They’re like ‘Rusko, I want you to melf my face off!’ A lot of dubstep fans just come ‘cause they wanna hear the most...dirty, distorted music possible, and that’s not what [dub- step] is about.”

While purists and newcomers continue to fight over the future of dubstep, parents like Jessica Hall are likely to do what parents have always done when their kids start listening to rebellious music: tell them to “turn that racket DOWN!”

Put down this paper and go see this movie. NOW!

Muddy Heart
by R.C. Lages

The paramedics did not know where the artery was. They did know it was the femoral, and they had less than five minutes to keep the man alive. A crucial minute had already been spent locating the wound. This involved taking off the now worthless attire of the rider. The helmet was easily removed, as the wound. This involved taking off the now worthless attire of the rider. The helmet was easily removed, as was the mandatory flak jacket, but slicing the chaps stole precious moments. That is when they realized the femur had split, clear ‘round the racetrack, “That fella got drug face off!’…A lot of dubstep fans just come ‘cause they wanna hear the most...dirty, distorted music possible, and that’s not what [dubstep] is about.”

The groom was attending Mercer in 2009. On the east coast. Lages started working his wife Johanne and daughter Emma. He has been exercising thoroughbred race horses the past 32 years in the mid-west and on the east coast. Lages started attending Mercer in 2005.

VOICE FILE PHOTO

Dubstep all about externalized aggression and rage, and it’s made audiences across the country fill large clubs and stadiums to get sonically pumped and dance their asses off!” - Elliot Sharp, Philadelphia Weekly

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COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Skrillex, nominated for a “Best New Artist” Grammy, is one of dubstep’s most famous faces, but purists insist his sound has morphed into a new style known as brostep.

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enrollment for this year has suffered a decrease of nearly three percent, resulting in a budget decrease of approximately $333,000. Donohue also attributes the proposed increase to Governor Chris Christie’s state tax decisions for education.

“Over the last four years we’ve seen increasing increases to the pension fund while the state plays catch up. It’s not something we have a choice about. They send us a bill and say this is what you have to pay this year and that bill has been getting bigger every year,” Donohue said while discussing the proposal.

Donohue went on to say, “With our proposed increases full-time tuition using $138 per credit hours for a year will be $3,312.”

The new tuition reflects a total of four courses, the minimum number for students to be considered full-time. However, students who wish to graduate in a two-year time are forced to take at least five courses per semester. This would change the annual tuition rate to $4,140, an additional $828 for each student.

Mercer’s Second-Year Social Science student Dickson Gan celebrates Chinese New Year in a traditional way, surrounded by family, friends, and food. When asked if the dragon will still bring luck despite Mercer’s tuition increase Gan says, “There is always a chance of luck and prosperity that can always come back up despite the tuition increase.”

Other numbers are also affected by the symbolism of this year. Because the Year of the Dragon is seen as auspicious and lucky, believers of the zodiac see this as an opportunity to make life changes like having children, referred to as a baby-booming year.

Birth rates in the United States rose 2 percent from 1997 to 1999, resulting in a birth increase of 3,941,553. Mary Yen, a Chinese-American woman who sold Chinese trinkets and origami Dragons under a tent at the end of the parade, gave her take on the climb in birth rates during this zodiac year saying, “Whoever is born in this zodiac year will be considered to be very lucky and fortunate.”

The dragon is overlook- ing Mercer in another way, too. In addition to the increase per credit hour, there will also be a Technology Fee and College Fee increase of $1 each per semester, changing the fees from their current rates of $12.50 and $14 to $13.50 and $15 each semester.

Mercer Economics Professor Framar Khoushab gave his prediction of the economy for 2012. Khoushab said he hopes for a turn-around in the economy but thinks “The growth will not really be dramatic. The most important [element], consumer confidence, which should be there is not there, because of the crisis which we had over the past couple of years. As long as the consumer confidence is not up we are not going to see a major turn-around in economic growth,” says Khoushab.

Still, politicians are hopeful for the Dragon’s good fortune. New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand was one of the many politicians who participated in the parade. Gillibrand joins believers in thinking the year of the dragon will be an auspicious year for New York.

In an interview conducted by Huffington Post reporter Chris Anderson Gillibrand said, “I know the year of the dragon will be a year of prosperity for all.” Like the senator, many traditional believers of the Dragon also joined in the festivities of the parade with high hopes for a fortunate and flourishing year.

Although Mercer students may be less than lucky to feel the fortunes of the Dragon, some still predict a prosperous future ahead for 2012. Psychic and Intuitive Consultant Nikki Steward gave The VOICE her predictions for the year to come. “A lot of people will see an upswing and the unemployment rates are going to drop,” says Steward. “I have already begun to feel a lot of positive energy in the environment, and people are going to manifest positive thoughts.”
The year of the dragon
cans tend to rise during dragon years because they are considered so lucky. 2012, ringing in the year of the dragon. Dragon years are said to bring economic prosperity and other good fortune. Birthrates among Chinese and Chinese Amer

Women of all ages greet the swarming crowds as they ride a float along the parade route at the annual Chinese New Year parade in New York City on January 29, 2012.

CHINESE Z


Compatible With: Ox, Dragon

ROOSTER
Roosters pride themselves on being hard-workers. Roosters are very talented animals who aren’t afraid to take on new challenges. They have a very strong personality which tends to dominate their relationship- ships with others. Roosters can be conceited and egotistical. Always be honest and blunt honestly towards a difficult challenge ahead this year.

Compatible With: Ox, Dragon

DOG
Dogs are just and generous people. Dogs keep very loyal relationships with others and value honest communication. They are confident and have faith in themselves and those around them. Dogs find most joy in giving back. Find yourself in an act of community service or non-profit organization this year.

Compatible With: Ox, Dog, Dragon

PIG
Pigs are shy, sincere animals. Pigs have an easy-going personality, never forcing themselves on others and always staying away from the center of attention. Pigs tend to be known for being gullible and having low self-esteem. If presented with conflict this year, keep to your logical ways and stand up for whatever your views are.

Compatible With: Sheep, Rabbit

MONKEY
Monkeys are lovable creatures who often find themselves in troublesome situations from their chattiness and constant moving. Monkeys are very clever and witty, but they may use this to trick others. Monkeys keep most of their focus on themselves and the ones they love, caring little about anyone outside of this realm. Work to vanish laziness this year and keep your heart open to the new relationships headed your way.

Compatible With: Ox, Dragon

These zodiac readings are compiled from information on the following site:

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Diehard NJ surfers give summer the cold shoulder

By Julissa Guadagni
Senior Reporter

The winter chill may have forced out the tourists and sunbathers of the Jersey shore, but some surfers remain in the icy Atlantic. Winter surfing is an extreme sport that has become popular in Belmar, Point Pleasant, Monmouth Beach, Manasquan Inlet, Sandy Hook, Mantoloking and Casino Pier.

According to thesurfing-site.com, the water temperature ranges from 32 to 45 degrees, and it’s “not uncommon to be surfing while snow flurries are falling.”

Mercer alumnus and winter surfer, Clint Fisher of Hamilton Township has been surfing for about nine years; his favorite beaches to go to are Belmar and Rockaway Beach.

“It’s the same as summer; just make sure you have good gear. A 3mm or 5mm [wetsuit] for the winter, gloves and hood. Your face feels like it’s getting stung by bees, but with the wetsuit you still feel a little warm and I let a little water in to cool for my body temperature,” said Fisher.

thesurfing-site.com also states that the surf spots in New Jersey break best on a long-period south to southeast swell. This is typically during hurricane or winter season since the low-pressure systems move off the eastern seaboard and into the Mid-Atlantic.

Surfing in a blizzard is nothing new to Fisher. “On the weekend I went there, it was one of the most memorable times. It’s a feeling where you don’t know what it’s like until you actually do it,” he explained.

Winter surfing may seem extreme, but Fisher finds that it simply relieves stress. He says, “My favorite time to be in the ocean is when it’s snowing. Call me weird, but when people go in the winter there [are] bigger waves.”

When asking Fisher about one of his unusual surfing stories he replied, “In the winter I went super early in the morning with really nice waves, and there were four or five dolphins swimming. And that to me I’ll never forget.” However, the sport can also be dangerous. Fisher adds, “I always like to go with someone because no matter how good you are at swimming, there’s always a chance you can get stuck, no matter what the season is. So it’s for safety reasons, especially if you’re just starting off.”

Surfing blog, xtremesports4u.com, states that the most important thing is to “keep yourself warm from the inside out” by eating high fat foods such as peanut butter sandwiches or energy bars. These foods have a slow release which you can draw on later. Chocolate also works well for quick snacks. The site also states that, “...if you start feeling your internal temperature drop you must stop surfing. Involuntary teeth chattering or shivering are signs that your body has already become too cold. Even when mild hypothermia starts to set in, we begin to perform below capacity and can do something stupid.”

Winter surfing is gaining popularity, especially in New Jersey. The cold temperatures do not indicate the end of surfing until summer comes around again. But like any other sport, winter surfing has challenges and necessary precautions should be taken.
Sure, there are campus-wide emails sent out written in Comic Sans font, grammar mistakes on flyovers in the hallways, and more bureaucracy than a government office, but those are not the real reasons Mercer students skip classes or don’t turn in assignments. The real reason is laziness and a lack of motivation.

Students can only blame themselves so much of their academic failure on the college. In reality, the students who constantly complain about how much they hate Mercer and can’t wait to leave will be the ones stuck here an extra two years because they are too lazy to apply themselves. If a student can’t find motivation here, then the odds of them achieving academic success at a four-year college is nearly impossible.

In a recent VOICE poll of 30 Mercer students, 94 percent said they skip class without a valid reason to do so.

Every class has a few of these students. They’re students who show up to a class without something to write with and ask if they can have an extension on an assignment that was due a week ago.

Community colleges have sometimes been perceived as “13th grade,” but they are starting to become more credible places to get an education. In fact, President Obama mentioned community colleges in his state of the union address, and according to the most recent edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education, the president wants to spend $2 billion on job training partnerships involving community colleges.

Despite the advantages that result from making a push toward job training partnerships, some students still seem to believe Mercer is a joke.

“This place is so informal no one takes it seriously enough. The way I see it is [Mercer] is too much like high school,” said Paul, a third-year Mercer student who wouldn’t give his last name.

When people don’t feel like doing an assignment they’ll do just about anything to procrastinate. Being a at-year college just provides more distractions. People can simply walk down the hall and find people to hang out with. There are parties thrown all weekend. Even simple distractions such as TV or a cell phone are going to follow students to a four-year college.

Other students cite even more trivial things about Mercer, such as the layout of the campus, that deter them from going to class.

If a person is too lazy to walk from their car to class, then they will probably not be walking down the aisle in a graduation cap and gown anytime soon. There’s no doubt that the path is long, and the cold weather makes it seem even longer, but that is not something that Mercer students will leave behind once they transfer.

Four-year college campuses provide dormitories for their students. Unless a four-year college has created a series of underground tunnels connecting every dorm building to all the academic buildings, students will have to walk in the cold weather to get to their classes. If a Mercer student is too lazy to go to their classes now, chances are they will still be too lazy to go to their classes when they transfer.

Ellen DeGeneres supported by unusual allies

In fact, they have created a massive, unintentional wave of LGBT awareness and support from a variety of very unlikely candidates.

Conservative FOX News correspondent Bill O’Reilly was one unlikely supporter. During a segment with contributor Sandy Rios, who defended the “One Million Moms” (O’Reilly compared the Moms’ behavior to a “witch hunt”) he said, “What is the difference between the McCarthy era of the 50’s and the Millenium Moms saying, ‘Hey, JCPenney and all you other stores, don’t hire any gay people. Don’t you dare! What is the difference?’

It may be less surprising that liberals have shown some support for Ellen’s defense as well, but one unusually strong voice of support came from Howard Stern on his Sirius radio talk show. He said “I am not the world’s biggest Ellen DeGeneres fan, but I’ll tell you what: I will defend her to the end.”

Stern was not alone, as political contender Rick Santorum was one of the few politicians; he simply thought anyone who hires gay people is advocating gay bashing. He likened Michele Bachmann and equally homophobic World War II...”

This is not to say that Ellen is not without her critics. When people don’t feel like doing an assignment, they’ll do just about anything to procrastinate. Being a four-year college just provides more distractions. People can simply walk down the hall and find people to hang out with. There are parties thrown all weekend. Even simple distractions such as TV or a cell phone are going to follow students to a four-year college.

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Ellen DeGeneres then concluded in a more serious manner. “Here are the values that I stand for,” she began. “I stand for honesty, equality, kindness, compassion, treating people the way you want to be treated and helping those in need. I stand for traditional values. That’s what I stand for.”

On that note, I will now be pursuing the topic of sexual orientation and be underworn from Mercer County.
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