Anita Hill, Senior Advisor to the Provost and Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's Studies at Brandeis University, came to speak at Mercer's West Windsor campus Wednesday evening May 2. Hill spoke to a packed house, though few students were in attendance. She addressed a range of different issues and discussed her new book titled “Reimagining Equity: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home.”

Hill is most well known for her testimony against current Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas during his confirmation process. Hill testified that Thomas sexually harassed her while she worked for him when he was the head of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. Despite Hill’s testimony, Thomas was elected a justice of the Supreme Court, where he remains, the only African-American among the nine current justices.

At the lecture, Hill discussed the reasoning behind her coming forward with her testimony against Clarence Thomas in 1991. “I had information about an individual who was going to be appointed to a lifetime position, who was going to be deciding the rights of people and I had information that I believed he did not respect those rights... and therefore you could not count on him to respect them in the way that he judged the cases that came before him. The integrity of the court was at stake and the integrity of the court is only as good as the integrity of the people who sit on the court.”

Hill went on to say that she was proud to have been a part of the conversation that followed the Thomas hearings and that she was most proud of the fact that women began talking and “women talked to their mothers and they talked to their daughters...my testimony didn’t change things, your reaction to my testimony didn’t change things, your reaction to my testimony didn’t change things, your reaction to my testimony didn’t change things.”

Hill questioned how far women’s rights have actually come.

By Kellie Rendina
Senior Reporter

Mercer President, Dr. Patricia Donohue, confirmed for The VOICE on May 1, 2012 that English Prof Jamal Eric Watson had tendered his resignation effective May 18.

When asked if Watson is to be paid for the semester classes that he will no longer be teaching, Dr. Donohue told The VOICE, “The college is meeting its obligations in his Fiscal Year 2011-12 contract.” Donohue would not specify if those contractual obligations include the approximately $6,000 in summer classes that Watson was scheduled to teach.

In an interview with The VOICE on May 9, Watson refused to comment about questions concerning his resignation.

As originally reported in an article published by The VOICE on April 4, Watson’s problems began in early January when the chair of the English Department, Prof. Sharmila Sen, received an email from a dean at The University of Delaware. The letter revealed that Watson had been scheduled to teach classes at both schools at overlapping times during the fall 2011 semester. The dean also noted that students had complained because of Watson’s absences.

Later investigation by The VOICE found Watson had, in fact, been scheduled to teach 17 different classes for five different colleges in fall 2011. Some of those classes were scheduled for identical times even though they were held at different locations, sometimes even in different states.

This past January, the board of trustees voted for Watson to receive tenure, effective this coming August. However, by mid-March, both the college and the West Windsor Police had begun investigations into Watson that went beyond questions about his outside employment and problematic teaching schedule. Additional concerns were raised about Watson’s professional credentials and his past criminal record.

The VOICE discovered that Watson had presented himself as having completed his Ph.D. when, in fact, he had not yet received the degree (according to his thesis advisor, Watson is supposed to graduate from UMass Amherst later this month). Watson told VOICE reporter Kellie Rendina, “I have a Ph.D.” in a video interview conducted March 29, 2012.

Watson later spoke to the questions of credentials. In an April 7 article by Alex Zdan of The Trenton Times, Watson is quoted as saying, “When your dissertation is done, when it is written, you are a doctor.” He continued, “If you’re talking about a conference of a degree, that’s just walking down the aisle.” But Watson’s dean at Mercer, Dr. Robin Shore, told The VOICE that a person can “say he has completed a Ph.D. when it is officially documented on his transcript.”

In addition to questions concerning his credentials, Watson also had a long history of legal troubles. He pleaded guilty to a felony in 2007 for pocketing more than $1,700 in checks intended for summer interns at The Amsterdam News, where he was the Executive Editor. The VOICE obtained copies of the court filings from the Amsterdam News case. Apparently, Watson did not report that he had plead guilty to a felony when he filled out his employment application for Mercer. This fact was confirmed by English Department Chair, Sharmila Sen.

At the same time as Watson was dealing with the felony
Lucas Ristorante: a diamond in a dump

By Jamie Strickland

Lucas Ristorante is a charming BYOB restaurant that is, unfortunately, lost in the disgrace that is Country Plaza, a strip mall located off Route 27 in Somerset, NJ between an auto repair shop and another strip mall.

Prices at Lucas are moderately high, for example it is $18 for chicken parmesan. On a student budget it might be a place to go for a special occasion or treat. But portion sizes are large so you will likely have leftovers to take home. Service can be slow, and the decor is kitschy, but it’s worth it because the food is terrific.

According to chef/owner Andrea Di Meglio, Lucas Ristorante was established in 1994 as “just another” pizza place. Within the past nine years, Meglio transformed his restaurant so as to resemble the island hech, his birthplace. “I couldn’t take pizza anymore,” said Meglio, “I wanted to bring Italy here.”

On entering the restaurant one finds stone tiles, porch-lain vases, a replica of an exterior brick wall from an old Italian villa, and a trellis with artificial grape vines set the ambiance. The room is lit by small chandeliers and the walls feature hand-painted murals of Italy. Soft Italian music plays and candles flicker on the cramped tables.

The Bruschetta Caprese, a typical appetizer, includes two pieces of toasted focaccia topped with a mound of chopped tomatoes and fresh mozzarella, drizzled with olive oil and sprinkled with parmesan cheese.

Andrea Di Meglio, owner and chef at Lucas Ristorante, Somerset, NJ preparing desserts in the kitchen on April 18, 2012.

The shrimp Niouvi is comprised of shrimp, crab, bay scallops, asparagus, capers and roasted tomatoes in a creamy white wine sauce over linguini. The dish is beautifully plated and sprinkled with parmesan cheese and garnished with two crisp breadsticks. The soup is thick, creamy and filled with lumps of fresh crab meat. The corn adds perfect sweet taste. I didn’t want to stop eating but the soup was very filling and there was more food to come.

The Shrimp Fra Diavolo is a classic Italian dish that involves tomatoes in a spicy tomato sauce. It is served with pasta such as linguini or fettuccine. The shrimp are cooked perfectly and absorbed the rich flavor of the sauce.

First time customer Mil-

ly Perez from South Brunswick said she ordered the Chicken Francese and it was amazing. “The price is a little high, but the food is definitely worth it,” said Perez.
The day Lane Jarred, a gymnastics star from Lawrenceville, New Jersey signed the contract that granted her a full athletic scholarship to North Carolina State University in November of 2010 changed her life forever. “It was scary and exciting and wonderful all at the same time,” she said in an interview with The VOICE.

Jarred began training when she was four years old. “My mom took me to a gymnastics birthday party and I had fun so she started taking me to classes. The people that worked there suggested that I try out for the team,” said Jarred.

Three years later, after making the local Arena Gymnastics team in Hamilton, Jarred started competing in regional and national gymnastics meets.

One of Jarred’s first coaches from GymLand, Valdi Kolusa, said, “Lane showed great skills early on in her career and training. She was strong, responsible, talented, and a hard worker at a very young age.”

Jarred explained that she missed out on a lot of normal opportunities in her childhood such as birthdays, parties, school dances, and socializing because of gymnastics. “I can’t even remember a time when I didn’t have practice. Some times I felt like I lived at the gym,” said Jarred.

The time spent working on her gymnastics paid off as she achieved USA gymnastics regulations “Level 10”, which is the highest skill level, and won the NJ State AA championship title five years in a row from 2005 to 2010.

Jarred’s strongest categories are in the beam and floor sections. She took the fifth place overall for her floor routine. Top right: EJ Nemeth during his year at the Trenton Steel. Bottom right: Brett Newlin training for the London Olympic trials.

According to the NCAA, about 2% of high school athletes receive athletic scholarships. Jarred is included in that small percentage. According to the NCAA, about 2% of high school athletes receive athletic scholarships. Jarred is included in that small percentage.

After receiving multiple offers from large, Division I colleges such as Ohio State and University of Pittsburgh, Lane ultimately decided to further her education and gymnastics career at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. The 19 year old is currently finishing up her freshman year as a part of the NC State “Wolf pack” women’s gymnastics team.

As the academic year winds down, Lane says, “This year was really crazy. I met so many nice people and made a lot of friends. I worked hard in my classes and at practice, but also had a lot of fun.”

According to E.J. Nemeth (no relation to Joe Nemeth), when an arm injury ended his baseball career before he even got to high school, a football career and dreams of the NFL took its place. Unlike Nemeth, a 20 year old local who had attended Notre Dame High School, went on to play for indoor football leagues rather than the NFL. Despite a variety of setbacks, Nemeth has never abandoned his dream.

Since 2007 Nemeth has played for numerous AIFA, IFL and SIFL teams including the Reading Express in 2007, the San Angelo Stampede-Express and Alaska Wild in 2008, the Baltimore Mariners in 2009-10, and Utah Blaze and Trenton Steel in 2011.

Playing for The Steel last year brought Nemeth back to where he grew up. The team ended the season with a respectable eight win and five loss record that took them to the semi-finals, but the record wasn’t enough to keep them in business. It Steel down after its first season. Nemeth didn’t get slowed down.

Prior to being drafted to the Steel, Nemeth won the AIFA Champion on May 2010 while still at the Trenton Mariners who went 16-0 for the season. Nemeth won the player of the year award for the same season.

In a recent interview with The VOICE, Nemeth said, “Advancement depends largely on who you know and luckily at this point in my career I know people throughout many leagues and all over the country. I am confident in my ability to play the game and with the right opportunity I can show that.” Currently Nemeth is playing for the Philadelphia Soul and the Harrisburg Stampede.

Nemeth says he would like to advance to higher football leagues, but that’s getting older and has begun to lose some of that feeling of invincibility. Unfortunately, he has found coaching, particularly in our local area, provides a way for him to think about staying in the game long term.

He began coaching when he was just 22. “I had never coached before and I was afforded a rare opportunity at such a young age,” Nemeth said of his position as head football coach for Trenton Catholic Academy (TCA) in Hamilton. Nemeth has also served on the football coaching staffs of Bordentown High School and Hopewell Valley High School.

“I respected him from day one because of his work ethic. He is a legend at Notre Dame High School for what he accomplished on the field. Personally, I think he was one of the best coaches that I’ve had the privilege to play for,” says former Trenton Catholic football player, Mark Macaroni (22) a current TCNJ student.

As Nemeth continues to strive to reach his professional goals, local who have been following his career hope Nemeth will stay in the area and perhaps return to coaching and inspiring younger athletes.

Lane Jarred
By Julie Einstein
Reporter

The day Lane Jarred, a gymnastics star from Lawrenceville, New Jersey signed the contract that granted her a full athletic scholarship to North Carolina State University in November of 2010 changed her life forever. “It was scary and exciting and wonderful all at the same time,” she said in an interview with The VOICE.

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As Olympic Rower Brett Newlin sat at the starting line in Beijing seconds before the buzzer went off, he knew the rush of competing in the Olympics would bring him back four years later.

“Everything’s quiet. Even your breathing. Your muscles are tensed in anticipation. Suddenly you’re aware of the fact that all of the years of work you put has culminated to this one moment. You’re competing to win at the freakin’ Olympics! That was it for me. It made such an impact that I decided I was going to go for it again four years later,” said Newlin in a recent interview with The VOICE.

When first starting out on the national team, Newlin used to live and train in Princeton. While living in Princeton, Brett worked for The Princeton Run, a computer engineering firm located in Princeton Junction. He currently has a degree in computer engineering at his alma mater.

Currently, Newlin is using his degree in computer engineering at his alma mater and perhaps return to coaching and inspiring younger athletes.
Watson resigns following investigation

Continued from page 1

charges, the woman with whom he had been residing took out a restraining order against him. Three years earlier, another woman who was a former student of his, had also gotten a restraining order against Watson as confirmed by security records at Northeastern University where Watson had been an adjunct instructor.

In an interview conducted by The VOICE on April 12, President Donohue said, “The severity and currency drives the speed of our actions,” apparently indicating that Watson’s legal issues were not recent and so did not prompt the college to act with any great haste to remove him. Donohue told The VOICE that this is America and that Watson has due process rights.

Sources close to the police investigation say the Mercer County prosecutor’s office, which had initiated an investigation of Watson, is no longer pursuing the matter and a case against Watson as confirmed by security records at Northeastern University where Watson had been an adjunct instructor.

Watson’s current students, however, have lived in a state of uncertainty as Watson’s situation has unfolded throughout the semester. Sociology professor Denise Ingram, who has acted as a faculty advisor to many of Watson’s students, told The VOICE in a recent interview that “students have expressed concern over whether or not they will receive credit for his class.” Ingram explained that students were worried about Watson’s frequent class cancellations because they knew a certain number of classroom hours are needed in order for a course to bear credit.

According to Ingram not only was she contacted by students at Mercer, but also by former students who have transferred to William Paterson and TCNJ. Of the students’ worries, she said, “It seems all the campus has had the same approach to dealing with this”. which is to give as little information as possible. “That is my major concern. It leaves students to manufacture their worst fears.” She went on to say, “There is a general sense of ‘we don’t know what’s going on’, and that is unnerving for students. In fact, one student said to me, ‘we entrust our education to you people and we need to feel like we can rely on you.’”

Photography Major Tiffany Austin said, “This is my school. So, to have a teacher like that represent this school, it just makes a bad impression. Why did [Mercer] even hire him if he’s not just focused on us?”. Other students, however, are upset that he will not be here in the fall. Asjenee Morris, a second year Criminal Justice Major, said, “Personally I’m mad because I was gonna have his class, and I heard he’s a great teacher so I was like, dang, now I have to pick somebody else.” Morisson continued, “I feel bad for him. I wish he would come back and teach...because all of the students love him.”

According to Ingram, like the students, Mercer’s faculty has been told little concerning Watson. “It has created a very, sort of, I guess the best way to put it is: LA (Liberal Arts) is a wound-ed department. There is a perception of betrayal, being let down by multiple people, most certainly by our colleague...it seems as if everyone can’t wait to get out of here, and that’s unusual.”

Professor Craig Coenen, who substituted for Watson in HIS109 and SOC209 classes on April 25, said, “The administration has been, and I think rightfully so, very cautious in how they deal with this very delicate situation. You want to do the right thing for the students, the right thing for the faculty members, and the right thing for the college.”

According to Coenen, the circumstances surrounding Watson have had an “underlying presence in the classroom.” He said, “There were a few moments in the [SOC209] class where students said things about the situation, not directly but they sort of referenced the problems that Prof. Watson is having, and it elicited a response by some that was sort of supportive and some against it as well.”

Despite the different opinions concerning Watson’s situation, Coenen says the students remained “very professional the whole time.”

Brandon Lee Rivera, a Liberal Arts & Science Major who had two classes with Watson and who is also his advisee, said, “I try not to get involved in it as much. [It’s] just a lot unnecessary stress. I don’t want to worry about it.” Watson is scheduled to teach through William Paterson’s program at Mercer next semester, according to their website. The VOICE contacted Patrick Noonan, Director of Transfer Programs and Special Sessions for William Paterson, but he was unable to respond by the time the VOICE went to press.

Mercer is not the first college from which Watson has resigned. In 2007, Watson left SUNY Old Westbury three weeks into the spring semester. Three years later, Watson parted ways with Philadelphia’s Lincoln University.

Prof. Ingram believes that, “There is a generalized cultural shift in America that is very skeptical of higher ed and the people who teach in higher education. There is some resentment that they are elitist or aren’t useful and all those sorts of things. When things like this happen it reinforces this idea that schools abide by different rules and no one is policing them, ...I’m afraid the backlash will be more intense public scrutiny...and a very regimented school system, which is problematic for higher education because there has been a tradition of integrity.”

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Editors Note: Due to her close connection to Prof. Watson and this story as a member of his department who knows many details of the story that would not be available to students—VOICE advisor Prof. Holly Johnson recused herself from advising on this article. Advising was provided by Prof. Emeritus Jim Franklin.
Russell Chell, second year music major at Mercer, has grown into a killer lead guitarist in the Brooklyn based rock group, The Skins. Chell and his fellow guitarist, Daisy Spencer, have joined with three siblings, Bayli, Kaya, and Reef McKethan to form a band with a refreshing new sound. The Skins create a mixture of the heavy guitar blues of The Black Keys with the new age soul vocals of Adele, all while harkening back to the early 1970s Metal bands. The Skins EP has three tracks, all containing distinct but simple Jimmy Page-style riffs repeating like a mantra. Russell Chell, lead guitarist of The Skins, during a guitar lesson with music professor James Kelly on May 1, 2012.

Chell’s screaming solo on “Summertime” carries all the zeal, vigor and tasty licks you could ask for. In his interview with the VOICE, Chell said, “I use that stuff in my music all the time.” He continued, “Everything I know about jazz, I learned from James Kelly.” That is, Professor James Kelly, Coordinator of the Music program here at Mercer. In an interview with The VOICE, Prof. Kelly said, “From my point of view, we’ve cultivated a great relationship as a sort of mentor-apprentice kind of thing.”

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Miles Applegate caroms over the architectural obstacles surrounding Mercer’s lawn like a kangaroo; one can almost see the springs attached to his black Converse sneakers. As his little body tenses, he prepares to conquer the next barrier; first the paint-chipped handrails, then the cement tiers that tower above. Then he drops casually off the structures, landing with a soft thud. These somersaults, back-flips, and roundoff flash-kicks form a graceful routine in a sport known as parkour. Mercer students strolling to class may be astonished to witness the acrobatic maneuvers, but to Applegate and his friends, this is just another Tuesday.

Applegate, a third year Physical Science major, has participated in parkour since the fall of 2009. Parkour is physical discipline that, according to its founder David Belle, “allows one to overcome obstacles, both in the urban and natural environments.” However, Belle’s definition doesn’t capture the full athletic grace and complexity of the sport or its edgy appeal. In his article “How Parkour Works,” posted on the Discovery subsidiary website HowStuffWorks.com, author Cameron Lawrence paints a more detailed picture of parkour. Lawrence says, “it is creative expression through acrobatic moves like leaping from walls and over gaps, ground rolls and precision jumping... instead of running laps...[one navigating] through the city, making the urban landscape a personal obstacle course, a playground for strength, freedom, courage and discipline.”

It is both the agility and risk involved with parkour which make the sport ideal for movies. Belle’s expertise has been used in several American movies, including Disney’s Prince of Persia and Colombiana (2010). Perhaps the most famous feature of parkour is the opening scene of Casino Royale (2006) during which James Bond, played by Daniel Craig, chases his target through the streets of a city in Madagascar.

Of the media’s portrayal, and the resulting stereotypes of parkour, Applegate says, “People assume most parkour athletes to just be kids, similar to skateboarders, who like to be reckless... kids who have no knowledge of the consequences of doing such dangerous activities nor the disciplined background behind it... but few know that parkour was actually designed around the idea of efficient movement with the least amount of energy expended.”

Parkour is also about individual expression. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Applegate teaches the other Mercer students the fundamentals of parkour. The manifestation of those skills, however, is up to each person’s physical and artistic strengths.

Marcellus Cole, a first-year Early Childhood Education student at Mercer’s James Kerney campus, is one athlete of varied
As a child of the military, Cole lived in multiple locations worldwide including Japan and Korea, where he says he sometimes felt like an outcast. To change his situation, Cole became involved in martial arts. During his time in the United States, Cole also learned how to breakdance. "New parkour artists, go straight into parkour unlike me," says Cole. "When I grew up parkour wasn’t around. [My transition to the sport] was simple. I began with basic running and jumping and getting used to taking the chance and risk, and then I just used my dancing and karate for the rest."

Like Cole, Applegate applies a background in martial arts to parkour. "These skills are manifested in their tricking, a form of acrobatic moves both use. Trickling is similar to parkour in that it derives from multiple sports, including floor gymnastics, to create new forms of movement like flips, twists and kicks. However, unlike parkour, a major component of tricking is showmanship; therefore, the sport is best suited to a gym. For Cole and Applegate, parkour seemed a natural expansion from tricking.

Despite years of experience performing skills such as round-off backflips, Miles and Cole incur frequent injuries - mostly minor ones - including Cole’s shoulder sprain at last Thursday’s practice. Teammate Jonathan Zahn, has suffered the greatest number of injuries. Zahn, a first year Liberal Arts student, says he has broken several fingers and shattered at least one ankle while training for parkour.

Zahn told The VOICE, "Fear has always prevented me from my best...fear is also why I get hurt. [I get hurt] if I become afraid and stall at a critical moment...if one wants to do parkour fully, they must trust their ability." Another Mercer parkour participant, second year music major Solomon Bradley said "You won't get hurt if you know your body’s limits and capabilities."

From Applegate, Cole, Zahn and Bradley to Belle and other professionals, parkour is a way in which people can exercise and have fun simultaneously. Likewise, from amateur to expert, self-awareness remains central to the practice of parkour.

Belle states on his website, "Parkour is firstly about the useful side, to teach people how to trust themselves, to learn to be careful. The philosophy is always to advance, never to stop. If some time you have problems, like in life, if you have an obstacle you must always continue forward."
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You will soon hear a lot of self-congratulatory remarks from your administration about the solar facility it intends to build on campus.

Dr. Donohue will wear a fake construction hat for a groundbreaking photo with a shiny shovel. She’ll tell reporters how “green” the college is and how it is leading the way towards a better future.

Don’t fall for it. The only “green” the college or its commercial partners care about is the kind you find in your wallet. Or, more precisely, in theirs.

Environmental Concerns

The college’s plan calls for the destruction of an ecosystem by removing 130 60-year old trees. Once those annoyances are out of its way, the school will cover 65 acres of productive farmland with 42,000 solar panels and 8-foot security fencing.

This land has been in agricultural use for hundreds of years. Its soil is classified as in the 20% best for farming in the country. And once the panels are hammered into it, the land will be permanently unfit for agriculture.

Don’t trust people who take a chainsaw to woodlands in the name of the environment.

Lack of Community Engagement

Farming and open space are part of the heritage of this area. But we should not be surprised that the college doesn’t recognize that.

The best schools strive to be active and engaged partners with the communities in which they reside. MCCC has never made any such effort, choosing instead to exist in a bubble.

This project is going forward without any meaningful engagement with the school’s host communities – including the neighbors who will live next door to it. MCCC presented residents with superficial information and made it clear it did so only as “a courtesy.”

Look at the strip club-style signs it erected across the street from 250-year-old farmhouses and you’ll see just how out of touch MCCC is with its surroundings.

Financial Viability

The proposed facility depends on a risky financial agreement with a commercial partner. Sunlight General Capital is only two years old and expects only 9% of its revenue to come from generating electricity. The rest is reliant on tax credits and incentives, which have plummeted in value since the project was conceived.

Representatives from the company have stated publicly that they cannot make a profit on the project at current rates. Even worse, almost all of its business is tied up in the New Jersey solar market – where the bubble has burst.

So what happens when this company’s strategy of relying on “Monopoly money” fails? As you might have guessed, a “guaranty” in the deal requires Mercer County taxpayers to pick up the tab.

Smart and Sustainable Development

I want to make it clear that we do not oppose solar energy. We believe it is vital to our future and should be encouraged. But this “land grab” epitomizes the worst practices in development.

The current plan shows a lack of vision, leadership, and good planning. It is a coward’s green initiative.

What has the school done to reduce its energy consumption?

MCCC could have engaged its students, faculty, and community to find innovative ways to build renewable energy, including on roofs and over parking lots. These are already considered best practices elsewhere.

But the school did not have the courage to do so. Instead, it is taking the cheap and easy way out – selling off one of the area’s greatest assets for a few extra dollars.

And we’ll all be stuck paying for it for years to come.

To learn more, visit SmarterSolarNJ.com.

-Richard Campbell (MCCC ’00)
Anyone got a match?
If so, I suggest you strike it against the newly proposed smoking ban policy

O
n March 29, the Student Government Association (SGA) held a meet-
ing to address student concerns about the proposed campus wide smoking ban. Those who attend-
ed discovered that there was no actual, concrete reason given for the ban.

Out-going SGA student body president, Alex Henry, speculated about reasons for the ban. He cited concern for some students and staff who are allergic to cigarette smoke, the mess created by cigarette butts being littered on the ground, and the failure of security guards to enforce the smoking restrictions currently in place.

The SGA then heard arguments, both for and against the ban. They recorded the statements of 30 plus students against the ban, and three who were in favor of it, and said that they were going to present them before the CGC executive team that will be voting on the ban.

A CGC representative at the meeting, who would not give her name, said that there was not an executive team in place but that the CGC was going to hold a meeting to elect one. The elected team would then go on to vote on making the campus smoke free. She wouldn’t say when the meet-
ing to elect the executive team was going to be held, and wouldn’t say who first proposed the ban.

Perhaps the most offen-
sive reason offered is that no one should be able to smoke because some students are allergic to the smoke. This is a trans-
parent attempt to eliminate smok-
ing while appearing benevolent and caring. If there was any actual concern for student health, Mer-
er would have a full-time nurse and they would have replaced the lone psychologist, who quit last month. The cafeteria and vend-
ing machines should stop selling products that contain nitrates, and start serving low-fat, hypo-aller-
genic choices.

If they are really worried about the mess, they could put more ashtrays at designated smoking areas and acknowledge the efforts of students like third-
year Theater Arts major Nick An-
dreco who organized a cleanup team to sweep up all the stray butts laying around campus. An-
dreco and his team did this in less than an hour on the day of the SGA meeting.

Maybe the real problem is CGC that mad security isn’t enforcing the current policy, but making a more extreme policy is guaran
teed to fail spectacularly. It would be like banning cars because cops weren’t writing speeding tickets. That thinking makes no sense. It’s bad enough that Mercer has a totally unenforceable visible ID tag policy, but adding another completely unenforceable policy? How can anyone take this school seriously because cops weren’t writing speeding tickets. That thinking makes no sense. It’s bad enough that Mercer has a totally unenforceable visible ID tag policy, but adding another completely unenforceable policy? How can anyone take this school seriously because cops weren’t writing speeding tickets. That thinking makes no sense. It’s bad enough that Mercer has a totally unenforceable visible ID tag policy, but adding another completely unenforceable policy? How can anyone take this school seriously because cops weren’t writing speeding tickets. That thinking makes no sense. 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Dear Voice,
So Watson resigned. So what? Obviously he was moving on to go to better things at a better school. What is the story here?
-Aunt Pitty Pat La Rue

Dear Aunt Pitty Pat,
Good to hear from you again. How are Leah, Tim and Samuel doing? We’re sending you all our best.
-The Voice

Dear Voice,
I’m interested in joining the parkour group at Mercer, but I’m afraid to do flips off of buildings that are falling down. Suggestions?
-Hot for Parkour

Dear Hot for Parkour,
When security was asked about the broken down campus they gave us this reassuring message to pass along: “The campus has eyes...and ears – they are everywhere.” Not sure if that’s a comfort to you. Maybe save the parkour for after you transfer.
-The Voice

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-The Voice

Dear Fire Hazard,
So no more smoking huts, huh? What goon thought that would be a good idea?
-Fire Hazard

Dear Fire Hazard,
The admins are saying we can smoke in our cars.
-The Voice

Dear Sneaky Pete,
I resent having to wear my ID tag. If I get busted, what is the fine. The student handbook says $25, but the director of HR told me it was just $10. Security said they weren’t sure. Which is it?
-Sneaky Pete

Dear Sneaky Pete,
Like many student policies Mercer’s official view is don’t ask, don’t tell. If you’re asking our opinion, it’s $10.
-The Voice

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

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
The end of the semester won’t stop you from making new friends. Going out and meeting new people may leave you pleasantly surprised.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
All that studying has not gone unnoticed. A stress-free summer is in your future, but only if you stop over-thinking things.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
Spending some time focusing on yourself this month. Grab a good book, some lemonade, and go somewhere secluded to get a little you-time.

Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19
Keep an eye out for any Virgo you meet this month. Not all first impressions are what they seem.

Leo
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22
The Summer Goddess is feeding whimsical. With the moon currently in the house of Capricorn, you should seek out someone with that sign and begin a new friendship.

---

Classic Peanuts

Dear VOICE,
I’m here to be your role model.

My actions speak louder than my words. Just drink me in.

I think you’re doing your part wrong.

Dog beat the security consultant

Anyone without an ID badge is assumed to be an enemy combatant.

Pounce on the intruder and shake him until his fillings fall out!

How much did we pay for that advice? It’s free. I work for the dentist across the street.

2X Dilbert and get fuzzy

I’m here to be your role model.

My actions speak louder than my words. Just drink me in.

I think you’re doing your part wrong.

2X 12x12 SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY: 4 (of 5)

Solutions:

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.