Refund policy tightens starting summer 2013 semester

By Brandon Castro
Senior Reporter

Effective summer of 2013, Mercer will enact a new refund policy which prevents students from receiving a 100% discount once a course has begun. This follows a recent $4.00 increase in tuition, approved by the Mercer Board of Trustees for Aug. 2013, previously covered by the VOICE.

The new refund policy, beginning in the 2013 summer semester, will allow a 50% refund for 15-week courses or shorter dropped the first two days of the term, and 15 week sessions dropped within the first seven calendar days of the term.

President of the SGA and second year Liberal Arts student at Mercer, Anderson Monken, said, “[Mercer] has taken a step backwards in its mission to provide a nurturing college environment with open admission.”

Previously, full refunds were available to students choosing to drop a 13 week or more course during the first 3 days of class. Any course dropped after this time would result in no refund for the student. Now, in order to receive a complete refund, students will have to drop the course before the first day of the class.

“It’s really disappointing that students might lose the ability to firmly decide if they want to make a large financial commitment after meeting their professor and looking at their syllabus,” said Monken.

Joseph Schachter, a third year communications major at Mercer said, “I’ve taken classes that I was really close to dropping, because I didn’t think it was on path. I didn’t like the syllabus. I ended up dropping it later because of that. If I was put in that situation again, I would hope I could drop the class early.”

Mercer students will need to research their classes prior to the first day to avoid taking the financial hit. However, Some students are worried they will not be able to properly judge the course until being in the classroom.

“How else are you going to judge whether or not you want to take a class?” said Alexa-Rae Martinez, a liberal arts major at Mercer. “I’ve actually dropped courses based on the first day before. My spanish class, Spanish 201. Within the first day I knew it was too easy.”

Dr. Diane Campbell, Dean of Student Affairs at MCCC, identifies the reason for the change in policy as limitations in course slots. “I believe it has to do with seats,” said Campbell. “Once a student has paid for a seat, if we allow the student to hold onto the seat for a week or so, and then they drop, they might have taken a slot from someone else who wanted to get into the course.”

Dr. Campbell says that

See Refund Policy page 7
Artwork made exclusively out of skateboard parts was featured at an exhibit called “Hit the Deck” on March 8 in Trenton. The show was sponsored by the SAGE Coalition, a Trenton based non-profit lead by local teens and twenty-somethings whose mission is to “remind those in economically depressed neighborhoods that unity and pride can thrive through creative problem solving and civic engagement,” according to their official website.

The crowd sitting through the works and participating in friendly conversation, gave the place a welcoming vibe.

According to the artist known as “Melone,” who is also a skate team member of the SAGE Coalition, there were “between 15 to 20 artists” attending this event, including photographer CJ Harker, a graduate of Mercer. (Full disclosure: CJ Harker was a staff photographer at the VOICE who won several awards for his work including a first-place national Mark of Excellence award from the Society of Professional Journalists for his sports photography.)

Harker told The VOICE in an interview that he has been shooting seriously for about 5 to 6 years. Harker attended Mercer for photography and says that Mercer professors John Monahan and Michael Dalton were “pivotal roles in my career.”

Harker explained how he got involved with SAGE Coalition. “These guys were talking about doing a skateboarding show a couple months ago and it was a matter of fact that I never have done a show up, so I got a hold of Kasso, I went from having one wall with a couple pieces up to taking the whole front room and gave a feature for the show.”

As of now, halfway through spring semester 2013, if students try to log in to their MyMercer portal, they arrive at a page that claims the system is in transition and to choose a login option based on their needs. If a student is looking for information related to the spring 2013 semester or earlier, they are to use the old portal where all their information is stored and everything looks the same as students are used to.

New students or returning students looking to register for summer 2013 or later are introduced to the new portal.

“Don't understand it,” says Brittany Magasmen, a third year student. “It seems very high tech, I haven't even tried to use it. It scared me off. I didn't even bother.”

For those who don't understand how the new portal works, there is a small “Need Help?” button at the bottom of the log in box, as well as instructions for log in.

“All I've done so far is log in and look around,” says Rauth. “Logging in was a little confusing at first, but I figured it out simple enough. Looks nicer than the old one, at least.”

For now, the only services the new portal offers is a new look and registration for classes. In the future, the portal is expected to host every student related service they may need (i.e. email, registrar, student ID, campus and direct links to the Mercer online learning system (Angel Learning).

The new program is called College Portal, modeled closely after the Blackboard system at other institutions such as Drexel and Fordham University.

The new portal is part of the ERP system that was purchased from Ellucian. The design, colors, layout and content was developed by the Project NASA Portal team. This team is comprised of staff across the campus and include many members of our Web Advisory Committee and Bowen.

According to Bowen, “the majority of community colleges across the nation use the College league system” as opposed to “the very small number in Florida that use our system and a couple others.”

Of course with this new system, some students may have concerns. The first concern that arises is the issue of security.

When asked about the online security with the last August wherein someone hacked the personal files of all the students, Susan Bowen told The VOICE, “The security issues that happened last August had to do with network drives and the information on those. This is totally separate, not even related to it. Not related at all.”

What about the concerns about the difficulties of navigating the new system and making sure that the student works?

Bowen says that this project...has been in the works for years now...and for the past few months they’ve been testing the system with live simulations.

Recently, they did a simulation of the student team running through the process, “Having a student apply, making them a student in the system, taking them through registration, all the way through their transcript...Stu- dent system is so large they have multiple teams working on it. So far it’s been going very well.”

With those concerns addressed, Bowen began to outline some of the benefits of this system.

“New system—benefit is—it’s part of the ERP system. Most of the services that will be available online to students will be enhanced. The portal that we will be implementing is really a true portal. So you'll be able to get your Mercer mail, you'll be able to do all your work with the administrative system registering, paying bills, seeing grades, things that they do now.”

But in addition to that, that will become the interface to online learning, LNS, Angel, and all the library resources, so there’s a lot more interactivity that we’ll be able to have in there.”

“Coming live, we're just focusing on registration, but you'll see that the portal has the capability to have many more links on it, and then it will be single sign in. So when we go live, when we start our classes, you'll actually be able to get your email in there.”

When you sign in it will be right there so you don't have to log in again to Google mail from Mercer mail. So it'll be really easy of use for students. And if you have an Angel everything will be right there as well.”

Now that take some time, because they're looking at a new learning management system, but it will happen. It’ll be about a year to roll this out, but that's where we’re going with this.”

Yes, the system is all take time. However, Bowen spoke with en-thusiasm about the new system, seeming very excited about what's to come. Lately, she’s been working on spreading the word about the new system, hoping students won't be too confused or sur- prised.

She claims to have “…utilized the new site in a few classes, as well as used flyers in the hall, and also held multiple information sessions for students interested in it.”

Still, she has a few concerns about the transition, saying what to do with the new system, especially since older students will be receiving new ID numbers.

When told about the new ID numbers, Rauth groans, “I don't get why we need new ones at all, I barely know the one I have now. Where are we supposed to find out our new IDs?”

“Of course, it’s a challenge, especially for students. That's why we’re having these information sessions. Students now will have a new ID it’s a 7 digit number. Their current ID will be linked to the system, and if you go to the student offices they should have both the old and the new. We’re not reprogramming the ID tags because we can link them.”

While the hopes of these transitions will be enough to inform stu- dents.

“Registration events will be held the second weeks of March and April. We’ll be having dining centers at both campus’s, helping students and provide opportunities for them.”

And while the name “Proj-ect NASA” come from?

Bowen said the name was suggested by members of the ERP implementation team. The think- ing was NASA stood for “not a simple assignment” and that slo- gans used such as failure “is not an option”
In the 1970s, Prof. Canter of Mercer's Radio Program found himself drawn to record stores. "I grew up listening to records," he says, "and when I was in college buying records was the thing to do. I saved money from my job and I went to record stores to see what was new." His suspicion is confirmed at Mercer because only 10 percent of students have a physical CD to be able to "I have a mobile DJ Business and I used to lug around these albums and CDs. So when things started going digital it got easier for me." Now his business is even more portable. "(There) heavy crates of albums are all in a hard drive that I can fit in the palm of my hand." With both smaller speakers and compressed music files, Canter thinks the sound quality is the real victim of this progress. "Even though the technology has developed so far, the quality of the recorded music has taken a giant step backwards."

The idea of lesser sound quality resonates with the average MCCC student. "In the VOICE survey only 20 percent of students I interviewed think that CDs sound better than downloads." Kristi Giannone, a first year photography major, says she cannot hear a noticeable difference in between iTunes downloads and CDs. "If I like compared both of them, I wouldn't really see any difference at all." Mark Moses, a seventh semester double major in Music and Recording Production Engineering, says he still prefers CDs. "MP3 players have so much capacity that we can buy records." Dave Dorf for Record Store Day 2013. As of now, "People who aren't going to get their music on Amazon and want to go to a brick and mortar store will flock to those few outlets that are left."
In his first college basketball season, the 6-foot point guard El Amin won the 2013 Region XIX player of the year for the Mercer Vikings. He averaged 19 points per game, which ranked him thirty-sixth in the nation amongst junior college players according to njcaa.org. Mercer men’s basketball coach Howard Levy says, “He’s strong. He’s fast. I don’t think he’s got too many weaknesses.” El Amin led Mercer to a 21 and 10 record this year.

“I’ve put in a lot of time and hard work to become the player I am today, and I’ve been to twenty plus basketball camps,” says El Amin. He also told The VOICE that he is receiving looks from a few Division II Colleges, Chestnut Hill being one of them. He hopes to have another breakout season for Mercer next year, then eventually earn a full scholarship and someday play professional basketball overseas.

Mustafa El Amin

At 6 feet 10 inch-es tall, the center for Mercer’s basketball team has used his size advantage to his benefit since moving to the US from Danilovgrad, Montenegro in 2011. He has averaged 11.5 points per game in his two years here, and ranked top 5 in Region XIX in rebounds at 7.8 per game in his college career. He won Second Team All-Region in 2012 and 2013 and was named “Best Young Player” in Danilovgrad in 2010. He knocked down 17 three point shots this season and claims to have had a dunk in each game.

Sekulic has committed to Division II school Chestnut Hill on full scholarship and will play basketball there next season. “When I came to the US I realized the game was more aggressive. I realized I had to work harder. I’m going to keep working hard at Chestnut Hill and I hope it pays off and I sign a contract to play basketball in Europe some day,” said Sekulic.

Filip Sekulic

Even though she missed a month of her freshman season with a knee injury, Martinez still led Mercer’s soccer team in 2012 with 12 goals. That statistic earned her Mercer’s golden boot award, as well as First Team All-Region XIX and First Team All-GSAC. She’s battled knee injuries since high school, where she started out at Notre Dame and graduated from Ewing in 2012. “I was anxious to see how good I’d be after sitting out my whole senior year, but Mr. DeAngelis (Assistant Soccer Coach) and my teammates really helped me regain my confidence this season.” Martinez says her experience, aggressiveness and unselfishness gives her the edge over her opponents. She’s looking to avoid injury and keep improving as a soccer player and hopefully play for the University of Tampa, Westchester or Monmouth after Mercer.

Rachel Martinez

Dan Denton

As a freshman athlete, Clee takes on the roll of leadoff hitter and shortstop for Mercer’s current 16 and 7 softball team. She’s a switch hitter, and so far this season she has a .434 batting average and 3 home runs. She’s played for several travel teams since she was 9 years old and claims to have played in 32 different states while with those teams. She started varsity all four years for Neshaminy High School before graduating in 2011, and received All-State and All-Area recognition in three of those seasons.

Clee attended the University of Delaware out of high school but didn’t play softball due to some issues with the coaching there. “I thought it would be alright to see how my life would be without softball, but I hated it,” said Clee. She’s currently in contact with schools like Rutgers-Camden and Westchester in hope to play for their softball teams after Mercer.

Courtney Clee
Al-Shawafi and men’s tennis team: making a racquet

By Russ Chizek

Reporter

Tennis is considered an individual sport but a tennis player need more than just individual skill in order to be successful. “When I was playing in Yemen, I was chosen to participate in many international championships but with very little support from my club I was unable to participate. That made me feel that even though tennis depends on the player and his effort on the court, he also needs the support and encouragement of the people around him,” said Ahmed al-Shawafi.

A first year Liberal Arts major, al-Shawafi has been playing tennis for 8 years. Before coming to the United States for his senior year of high school at Hopewell Valley, he was making a name for himself by playing tennis in his home country of Yemen. “In Yemen, we had very little. We had very few courts and getting tennis balls could be difficult because, as players, we could not afford to buy many to practice with but we were able to beat places that had much more than we did because we were so passionate about the game,” said al-Shawafi.

The men’s tennis team at Mercer works to be able to have a chance to compete in the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) National Championship which takes place on May 11-17 in Plano, Texas.

There are two possible ways for the team to qualify for the national championship. The first is for the team to rank within the top three schools in the regional championship, held on May 3-4 in Mercer County Park. The other way was for the First Singles player on the team to go undefeated over the course of the season.

Currently, al-Shawafi holds the position as First Singles on the team at Mercer. This position is selected at the start of the season and is based on challenge matches that are played against the rest of the members of the team. First is the highest ranked position on the team.

Al-Shawafi won the first six matches he played in the tennis tournaments but took an 0-0 loss last week against Bergen County College. “I was not mentally ready for the player from Bergen. However, we played again soon and I hope to do better. I’m trying to never underestimate anyone. I’m going to take one match at a time and play every point if it’s match point,” he said.

He moved to the United States because he was selected for an program to study abroad because of academic merit. He played tennis during his year at Hopewell Valley High School. “I probably played around 20 matches matches while in high school, and I only lost two of them,” al-Shawafi said.

Most members of the men’s tennis team are only playing their first year of tennis at Mercer. Since Mercer is a community college, the athletic teams see a much shorter turnover rate than a traditional four year school would. This means that the team lineup has the possibility to change completely on a year to year basis and according to Matthew Vecchiolla, Director of the tennis facilities in Mercer County Park and Mercer’s Tennis coach, only one player returned from last season to play this year.

“We needed nine guys for the team and nine guys came out. Our chemistry as a team has been very good so far though,” Vecchiolla said, “I want us to work hard, to have fun. And if we win a lot of matches it’s fun. That’s what’s important.”

“Teach time management, strategic thinking, and problem solving.”

I want my players to commit to the sport but also to each other as a team. Even though tennis is an individual sport, having dedication to the team is important,” said Vecchiolla.

Deleon and al-Shawafi are both satisfied with the tennis team at Mercer. “Thanks to the indoor courts, we were able to start practicing before other Spring sports, since the weather has been so bad, which was great. The coaches are very helpful and the facilities we have here are fantastic. We’ll travel to other schools and the courts are terrible, all cracked up,” Deleon said.

The Mercer men’s tennis team will play their next home match against Gloucester County College on April 16 in Mercer County Park.
LOU BORCSIK: Multi Instrumentalist Lou Borcsik, a 21 year old music major at Mercer, started playing guitar at age seven and has wanted to be a musician ever since. He is a founding member and one of two guitarists for the band DaddyGreenJeans. Borcsik has written the majority of current their material but “everyone contributes by writing their parts and bringing new ideas to the table,” said Borcsik.

Influenced by The Allman Brothers Band, Umphrey’s McGee, Phish, Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band, and Steely Dan, Lou said that if he could play with any band ever, “I would have to go with Steely Dan... but if they didn’t want me, I’d go for The Allman Brothers Band.”

He says, “Music in general has changed my life and made me who I am today. I can’t pick any bands in particular that I would say imparted me because I love them all so much, but it is safe to say that Professor James Kelly is a huge inspiration to me and he will perpetually drive me to improve as a musician, composer and person for the rest of my life.”

KEVIN ROYNER: A 31 year old music major at Mercer, also plays guitar for DaddyGreenJeans. When asked when he decided he would be a musician, he said that “he couldn’t really pinpoint an exact time, I’ve just sort of always known.”

Royner is influenced by “a list that is way too long,” but if he had to choose three, he said, “…it would be Duseane Allman, Jerry Garcia and Trey Anastasio. I grew up listening to and learning their work, so guess I take a little from each of them.”

Royner further stated that if he could ever play with any band he said, “Either [the] original lineup of the Allman Brothers or the Grateful Dead.”

In addition to guitar, Royner also plays several other instruments. According to Royner, “I started out as a drummer, and I’ve played bass with a band or two. I’ll play keys if necessary.”

You can listen to Kevin performing in DaddyGreenJeans as well as other projects here: https://soundcloud.com/kevinroyner

FICTION

La Corde

By R. C. Lages

Jean-Luc, on the threshold of adolescence, walked into the office of a strange old man with solemn eyes, magnified by heavy spectacles, bade him sit at a formidably exquisite desk of mahogany. A lavender envelope bearing his name lay before him near Jean-Luc, inhaled the familiar fragrance of lilac before he slit it open with his forefinger. Sighing, he took up his station and removed the white envelope retrieved from the envelope. His mother’s choice of pale stationery afforded him a launching platform for the extraordinary—even after she was gone. The letter, written in her hand, was smoothed on the desk under his drooping chin. Heavy tears falling from milky cheeks dropped the paper as he began to read.

If you are reading this mon Cherie, I, La Corde—your devoted mother, are dead. Do not let your spirits be so low, for I have surely died a glorious death. Your eyes must not fog from tears. They should remain focused on a path that leads to your glory. I have sworn you are following mine. So, I have written this to encourage—not instruct—you. For where you tread, the steps can never be learned. And they must be walked with a stout and valorous heart.

My heart always belonged to the wire. I grew up travelling the fairs of Paris with my father, as he peddled herbs and elixirs, astounded by his spectacular feats; I inherited the abysmal of these fairs. Pierre, the friendliest of them, walked the high wire. One day, he begged for my company while he labored over threads of transparent steel entwined around a core of rope. Pierre stressed that the rope was too thin and I could not sustain any of its weight. I wanted to be La Corde—the Rope.

Pierre’s intuition had told him of my desires to promenade in the sky—not! I never offered that I should learn. In fact, he explicitly told me that the art could not be taught. But Pierre never discouraged my following him about and studying the intricacies of his practice of it. It is no wonder he initially engaged me while toiling over his wire. If a person dares to truly walk, one it is to be regarded as a lifetime. And they, in turn, must become a living entity of it. Pierre told me his wire was a snake. He recited it from the tall grass of Belle-Ille. There, it had hibernated for years to the textures with which it was conceived. Pierre, with petrol and emery, revived his snake in a state where all it lacked was the bristles of a brush and the curves of a tunnel. These removed all that was foreign to the soul. Thus, what is often equated to death is prepared to adhere with life. Pierre lived for the wire and, when he walked it, he was the serpent.

The wire I saw in La Corde brought to life the length of a pole used for telephone lines. It straightened it between two sturdy oaks that stood adjacent to a stream where livestock drank. Pierre then secured, with a clamp, an end to one of the trees. He lifted the other and stretched it to its limits, asking if I could do the same. I obliged, leaving back to keep the wire taut. He travelled over it with a cloth, trying to discover kinks and splinters. Once scalloped if guilty. Pierre opined an eye, to fit a_thinble, in my end—attached it to a bistit—then he bowed the wire with a pulley fastened to the other tree—joined them—and tightened the span, across those oaks, where I learned, watching le Serpent, eight feet off the ground, go through his exercises.

Pierre put on slippers that appeared to have grown on his feet. Looking at the tree, he visited onto the wire and propped himself on one foot. He switched to the other, then reached for the tree, turned around, and rest his back against the knarly back. Le Serpent remained there long enough to fit his eyes on the far oak, when he poised himself on his right foot. Later, I learned that this was the foot he depended on for stability. He then planted the other for two ticks of a clock, and switched again in this manner. He walked the length of the wire accompanied by the gurgling breath and disinterested glances of cows.

I, however, was enraptured. Not realizing this beginner’s exercise was done for my benefit, I was repeated several times. Pierre even jumpped off intermittently, only to thrust himself immediately back on. If not for this example, I might have been too embarrassed, during my first attempts, to allow myself to leave the wire when my balance be_ trayed me—I was simply mimicking le Serpent. It was vital for me, at this stage, to know I should not struggle with what I had to learn to trust. There is no doubt that day inquired my conviction to walk the wire. After the performance of elementary exercise I was taught. Once scalloped if guilty. Pierre opined an eye, to fit a_thinble, in my end—attached it to a bistit—then he bowed the wire with a pulley fastened to the other tree—joined them—and tightened the span, across those oaks, where I learned, watching le Serpent, eight feet off the ground, go through his exercises.

When I decided to copy the wire, I purchased it with an endless attention to detail. My senses borrowed all available capital from seasoned acrobats. None was given freely. Preparation became a priceless investment. Developing an exclusive panache was a golden deposit. And rehearsal fortified the account. You, mon Cherie, did not inherit this account. You strolled, ran, and chased the drawers. All he did, boasted ownership of that portion of space he occupied, as though it was the atmosphere’s duty to sup port him.

When a patient begins to walk the wire, I purchased it with an endless attention to detail. My senses borrowed all available capital from seasoned acrobats. None was given freely. Preparation became a priceless investment. Developing an exclusive panache was a golden deposit. And rehearsal fortified the account. You, mon Cherie, did not inherit this account. You strolled, ran, and chased the drawers. All he did, boasted ownership of that portion of space he occupied, as though it was the atmosphere’s duty to support him.

He stood with a determination to remain on the wire. I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. In this distant, I was destined to die on it, in this wire. I, however, was enraptured. Not realizing this beginner’s exercise was done for my benefit, I was repeated several times. Pierre even jumped off intermittently, only to thrust himself immediately back on. If not for this example, I might have been too embarrassed, during my first attempts, to allow myself to leave the wire when my balance be_ trayed me—I was simply mimicking le Serpent. It was vital for me, at this stage, to know I should not struggle with what I had to learn to trust. There is no doubt that day inquired my conviction to walk the wire. After the performance of elementary exercise I was taught. Once scalloped if guilty. Pierre opined an eye, to fit a_thinble, in my end—attached it to a bistit—then he bowed the wire with a pulley fastened to the other tree—joined them—and tightened the span, across those oaks, where I learned, watching le Serpent, eight feet off the ground, go through his exercises.

La Corde could not fall victim to a slip or a fall or a stumble or a stilted like a tourist returning to his train. He ran, danced, and did gymnastics—revived without dismounting—then on one knee saluted his audience, which numbered only me and the lingering cattle. All he did, boasted ownership of that portion of space he occupied, as though it was the atmosphere’s duty to support him.

When I decided to copy the wire, I purchased it with an endless attention to detail. My senses borrowed all available capital from seasoned acrobats. None was given freely. Preparation became a priceless investment. Developing an exclusive panache was a golden deposit. And rehearsal fortified the account. You, mon Cherie, did not inherit this account. You strolled, ran, and chased the drawers. All he did, boasted ownership of that portion of space he occupied, as though it was the atmosphere’s duty to support him.
MCC President Dr. Patricia Donohue could not be reached for an interview about the new refund policy. When contacted by the VOICE, Jacob Eapen, Vice President and Chief Business Officer at MCCC refused to talk about the refund policy.

Monken states that MCCC is acting as a business instead of a college. “Even a good used car business offers a 30 day return policy. If the school feels that they’re providing a good service that students appreciate, then they shouldn’t be afraid of providing that one-week drop policy,” said Monken. “They should be confident that students will be happy with their first class and want to continue.”

See a typo?
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poviod@student.mccc.edu

Chris Moyers(left) goes through a preflight check with Fausto Paez(right) at the Trenton Mercer airport.

Continued from page 1 “

Mercer control tower grounded?

Concerned about the prospect of flying without the assistance of the control tower, Curtis Landsberger is enrolled in the MCCC aviation program to expand his aviation education, but has worked in the aviation industry in various capacities for over thirty years.

“I don’t think there will be any mistakes there, the pilot in command has to pay attention to situational awareness. There is still radio communications among aircraft. There are traffic patterns you have to follow both inbound and outbound.” Says Landsberger.

According to Stillwagon, the closure of the control tower could also impact the amount of money flight students need to use during training. Students need to pay to use the aircraft that they train on at a rate of 140 dollars an hour, plus an additional forty-five dollars an hour to fly with an instructor. “The students will end up acquiring more time on the ground waiting, thus increasing their cost because they still need to be proficient at their maneuvers in the air” says Stillwagon.

Additional airport closures in the area surrounding Philadelphia could create additional risks for students at Trenton Mercer Airport. “They’ll be closing towers in the area, which puts a load on Philadelphia approach control. They are generally the ones who will give us traffic advisories on other aircraft in the area. It will be a heavier workload for them, which means they may not be able to give us those traffic reports.” Says Stillwagon.

“We always teach our students to look and see and avoid but it was always nice having that extra set of eyes out there.” The aviation instructors expect they’ll need to perform additional training for students as well in order to compensate for the lack of a control tower. “We would have additional training that we would have to do we have a wide area of responsibility at the Trenton Airport. When you’re taking off from one runway you can’t see the ends of some of the other runways, so we would have to go through some extensive training on teaching them how to operate in that atmosphere” Says Stillwagon.

Initially, the control tower was scheduled to close on April 7th, however the closure has been delayed until June 7th as the government agency overseeing the closing of the airports reviews the situation. “It has been postponed but I think it’s unconsolable that it happened in the first place.” Says Kuhl. “This does seem to be something that has entered into the realm of politics and safety has taken a back seat.”

“We’re talking about a very complex operation that demands vigilance, and when you take out this supervisory element, it has taken a back seat.” Says Stillwagon. “We always teach our students to look and see and avoid reports. “Says Stillwagon.

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Continued from page 1 “

“REFUND POLICY”

the new policy will create the biggest problems for students unable to continue with a course due to unforeseen circumstances. “If a student starts a class and they then get, for example, a job offer, and that collides with the class and they ask for a refund, that student may get upset,” said Campbell.

MCCCC President Dr. Patricia Donohue could not be reached for an interview about the new refund policy. When contacted by the VOICE, Jacob Eapen, Vice President and Chief Business Officer at MCCC refused to talk about the refund policy.

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04-15-13

“STUDENTS FIRST”

POLICY”

the new policy will create the biggest problems for students unable to continue with a course due to unforeseen circumstances. “If a student starts a class and then they get, for example, a job offer, and that collides with the class and they ask for a refund, that student may get upset," said Campbell.

MCCC President Dr. Patricia Donohue could not be reached for an interview about the new refund policy. When contacted by the VOICE, Jacob Eapen, Vice President and Chief Business Officer at MCCC refused to talk about the refund policy.

Monken states that MCCC is acting as a business instead of a college. “Even a good used car business offers a 30 day return policy. If the school feels that they’re providing a good service that students appreciate, then they shouldn’t be afraid of providing that one-week drop policy,” said Monken. “They should be confident that students will be happy with their first class and want to continue.”

See a typo?
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STOCKTON DISTINCTIVE Public College
Although there were no flames, no human cannonball and no lions, tigers, or bears, the Big Apple Circus’s latest show “Legendarium” offered an abundance of “oohs and ahs” to the crowds who attended when it stopped at TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, NJ February 28 to March 17.

The theme of the show took audience members back in time to the early days of the circus tradition in the late 1800s. Though modern audiences, especially college students, can be a tough crowd to please, having been raised on fast-paced video games and slick movies like the most recent James Bond flick, but the Big Apple was genuinely entertaining. It was captivating for everyone from broke college students looking for an affordable night out to kids tagging along with grandparents who were re-living their fondest childhood memories.

Upon entering, you were engulfed by the rich aroma of popcorn and cotton candy, which, along with hot dogs, water and other refreshments were offered at the refreshment stand. Everything at the stand was $4 or less. The biggest hits were souvenir glow sticks, circus-logoed t-shirts, stuffed animals and other memorabilia priced from $10 to $25.

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The Big Apple features a 42-foot wide single ring beneath a blue tent spangled with red stars. The transportable tent, which accommodates 1,600 spectators, was set up in the red parking lot of Patriots Park Small of Barnum & Bailey, it is more intimate and less frenetic. Even those in the seats furthest back have a good view is more than 50 feet from the ring

Legendarium was lead by Kennedy Kane, a former concessionaire, magician, fire-eater and clown with fifteen different circuses. He took the The Big Apple Circus ringmaster job this year. Wearing a colorful suit and sporting a white beard that covers his Santa Claus-like rosy cheeks, Kane used his deep voice to deliver cheesy jokes for kids and jokes thick with innuendo for the adults. After his introduction, the show quickly featured wacky half-masked clowns, a passionate animal trainer who got horses and dogs to dance, and troupe of tango dancers.

The Big Apple Circus is one of the only remaining modern circuses with a live band. The seven member band sits high above the ring and accompanies the various acts.

Princeton graduate Christina Gelsone and husband Seth Bloom play the Acrobuffos, Italian for “acrobat clowns.” They replaced beloved Barry Lubin aka Grandma the Clown after he retired from 25 years of performances in January 2012.

The Acrobuffos, who once appeared on The Late Show with David Letterman, stole the show in terms of laughter. They threw popcorn into the crowd and pulled audience members on stage to incorporate them into a scene where the clowns fight amongst each other for the affections of the innocent bystander.

The first act was acrobat Andrey Mantchev by Kyle Kondor

Senior Reporter

Members of the Dalian Troupe perform acrobatic tricks on bikes routine at a matinee performance of Big Apple Circus “Legendarium” show in Bridgewater, NJ on March 14th, 2013.

PHOTOS BY SAM FOSTER


“I remember going to the Big Apple Circus with my father...I loved the show not only because it has got a storyline to it, but because it’s intimate and even if you’re sitting in the farthest seat you still feel close to the performers.”

- Elaine Kraymer, Argentinian contortionist.
Take a bite out of the Big Apple Circus

of Patriots Park Smaller than the three ring fiasco of Barnum & Bailey, the Big Apple is more intimate and less frenetic. Even those in the seats furthest back have a good view of the action because no seat is more than 50 feet from the center of the ring.

Legendarium was lead by Kennedy Kane, a former concessionaire, magician, fire-eater and clown with fifteen different circuses. He took the The Big Apple Circus ringmaster job this year. Wearing a colorful suit and sporting a white beard that covers his Santa Claus-like rosy cheeks, Kane used his deep voice to deliver cheesy jokes for kids and jokes thick with innuendo for the adults. After his introduction, the show quickly featured wacky half-masked clowns, a passionate animal trainer who got horses and dogs to dance, and troupe of tango dancers.

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The first act was acrobat Andrey Mantchev, a Bulgarian native ironically dressed in red, white and blue and nicknamed Uncle Sam. He has been with The Big Apple Circus since 1999 and took on the high-flying act this year. His aerial flips and turns made it seem like he'd been doing it forever. Another favorite was Magdalen Island native Daniel Cyr, who performed inside a spinning aluminum wheel about six feet in diameter, called the Roue Cyr, that he created. His upper body strength earned him performances at major sporting events such as the closing ceremonies of the 2006 Winter Olympics and his invention is used in nightclubs around the world.

One of the most appealing performances came from Argentinian contortionist Elane Kraymer, 21, bent and twisted in unbelievable ways. Kraymer, a sixth generation circus performer told the VOICE, "I remember going to the Big Apple Circus with my father...I loved the show not only because it has got a storyline to it, but because it’s intimate and even if you're sitting in the farthest seat you still feel close to the performers."

Show tickets ranged from $25 for furthest mezzanine seats to $80 for ringside. The circus offered free parking across the street in a Target parking lot that was very convenient. Township police directed the crowd towards the tent.

After the two hour show and fifteen minute intermission, the audience of all ages gave performers a huge round of applause. The modern day version of yesterday's circus appealed to all. Those still interested in seeing "Legendarium" can head up to Boston where it will be playing until May 12th.

Aerial straps performers Malvina Abakurova and Valeriy Sychev perform their Desire of flight routine at a matinee performance of Big Apple Circus’ "Legendarium" show in Bridgewater, NJ on March 14th, 2013.

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CARL FEDORKO

If you’ve ever hated your job, this article is for you. Stop sacrificing your dignity in order to meet someone else’s bullshit definition of “work ethic.” Is there a point to working when neither the responsibilities nor salary are motivating? Hell no. Those who dauntlessly show up for their 40 hour per week beating silently consent to continued mistreatment. The solution is to stop showing up for the beating.

We all know somebody who is quick to openly hate their job and criticize those unemployed. They’ll tell you the only reason they don’t quit is because the prospects of new employment are low but what about the prospect of new employment after an education? According to Jason Delisle, a New York Times “Economist” mixer, the federal government spent 112 billion dollars on student loans in fiscal year 2012.

Jaqueline Goncalves

NOTE: This column provides the third installment in The VOICE’s new SEX ED series. The column can never take the place of talking to a medical professional about any health concerns, we hope it will provide useful information and food for thought and discussion.

Dr. Heather Jennings, professor of psychology from the Liberal Arts Division at Mercer, says that sexual fantasies may indicate a problem when sexual thoughts interfere somehow in one’s ability to function. The article states that healthy people earn more money, display superior performance, and live happier lives than their less happy peers. Stop making excuses and pursue a line of work you’ll enjoy.

The Mercer Honors Program provides opportunities for science students interested in conducting serious research. To learn more about Honors visit www.mccc.edu/programs_degree_honors.shtml

TIP 2: BRING ME A HIGHER LOVE. - So you’re that guy who took human sexuality this semester. You’re surrounded by women. Sounds like a fantasy come true already, right? You can’t be yourself and you’re scared of how steep the odds are in your favor, but you must resist the urge to burst out what you’re really thinking. Quickly reach for your copy of the VOICE, put it in your lap, flip it over and voice your questions like “how do you want me, you came to Mercer knowing that life might be if I don’t earn and utilize this education thing we all keep paying for. We are a mass with the will to be more than we are. We are the personification of the road less traveled, second-chances and lessons learned the hard way. For get the sick, the tired, the huddled masses, we are the Angry, Young and Poor.

Maybe you can relate.

Dr. Heather Jennings, professor of psychology from the Liberal Arts Division at Mercer, says that a medical profession about any health concerns, we hope it will provide useful information and food for thought and discussion.

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mation captured on peripheral images to be displayed over the wearer’s field of vision. It may not realize they are being recorded. The privacy of people who may not have became more palpable.

The marvel of the IMS is that it is hardened to a patient’s brain, according to a recently published article on tech news outlet extreemtech.com. It may not be long before the inform...

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Don’t whine, Mercer parking is fine

Chairman and second year History and Po- litical Science major at Rutgers University, attended BCC, said. “BCC’s parking sucked,” Umstead said. “The ma- jority of the parking was so much further away from the school than it is at Mercer. At Mercer, the west lot is a great place to park.”

The time when you arrive to your class at Mercer makes very little difference as far as actually finding a spot. As the day progresses, the lots fill up, but only rarely to capacity. As evening approaches, the lots fill up, and students in night classes have little trouble parking. On the first day of the fall semester, when all of the newly enrolled students show up to their first college classes, do yourself a favor and leave for class few minutes early. Be ready to settle on parking farther than you would like. On the bright side, you could probably open your mind to the trans- formation of robotic psychokinesis.

Researchers have been de- veloping ways to digitally commun- icate with the human brains visual cortex. In a paper published at The University of Tubingen in Germany unveiled the Alpha LMS, a highly sensitive device. The marvel of the IMS lies in the fact that it is hardened to a patient’s brain, according to a recently published article on tech news outlet extreemtech.com. It may not be long before the inform...

RUSSELL CHIZEK

Mercer’s parking lots are awesome. To think otherwise is ridiculous, illogical, and does nothing more than perpetuate the mindset of in- stant gratification that plagues our society.

On every college campus there is a lot of complaints. Some of these complaints can be eas- ily justified qualitatively (ex. The food in the cafeteria is not good enough, or quantitatively (ex. Our club does not have enough finan- cial backing), but the alleged prob- lems with Mercer’s parking lots are not so black and white.

Mike Albert, a second year Game Design major at Mercer said, “Unless you get to the lot about a half hour before your class, you will be wandering the aisles looking for a spot... Not only is parking limited most times, but the walk to the buildings from all the parking lots is very far!”

Arguably the most common complaint about the Mercer park- ing lots is that the walk onto cam- pus is long and arduous. You do the math and crunch the numbers, the journey from car to campus is much more palatable.

If you are not sure about the distance from the farthest spot in the west lot to the steps on the quad with a measuring wheel, you would find that the distance is 1585 feet. Re- peating this same exercise from the farthest spot in the west lot here at Mercer is set up in a possible place to park, many stu- dents have a much shorter walk than this.

Geographically, the parking lots here at Mercer are set up in the most choice locations possible. If you decide to park in the west or east lots, upon exiting your ve- hicle, the campus buildings are lo- cated directly in front of or behind you, which might seem obvious, but this is not always the case.

Students at Burlington County College, located 40 min- utes away in Pemberton explain: “BCC has a lot of parking, but it is not in particularly useful areas. They choose to leave open a huge area in the middle of the college for nothing,” said first year Business Administration and management major at BCC, Ross Patterson.

Jared Umstead, Mercer alum
Dear Voice,
What's the deal with the new refund policy? What if my professor's a dick?
-Peever and Worried

Dear Peeved,
Ever heard of RateMyProfessor.com? Do your homework first, lazy.

Dear Voice,
I'm a vegetarian and the school lacks options for me. What do I do?
-Hungry Vegan

Dear Hungry,
You have two options here: Learn to love salads with limp lettuce or get a job to support your Whole Foods addiction.

Dear Voice,
I want to get involved. Is SAGE a worthy cause?
-Do Gooder

Dear Gooder,
Yes, very. But you’d do one better to stop by a VOICE meeting or two.

Dear Voice,
I'm a vegetarian and the school lacks options for me. What do I do?
-Hungry Vegan
Dear Hungry,
You have two options here: Learn to love salads with limp lettuce or get a job to support your Whole Foods addiction.

Dear Voice,
These athletes are impressive. What do I have to do to get that good?
-Aspiring Athlete

Dear Aspiring,
Practice, practice, practice. And a little bit of steroids.

Dear Voice,
I'm having impure thoughts about my professor. How do I stop focusing on her ass?
-Distracted and Dreaming

Dear Distracted,
Go on a vegan diet on this campus and you’ll be focused on your hunger pains more than anything.

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

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Time to focus on that project you’ve been planning for years. If you don’t take the first step, you will never succeed.

Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
Stop complaining about your life. Things could be a lot worse. So be grateful for what you have and start doing things to get what you want.

Taurus Apr. 20 - May 20
It is now or never! You will have the chance of your life this month. Don’t miss it.

Gemini May 21 - Jun. 20
If you think that Professor is out to get you, you are right! You better watch out and do your assignments on time.

Cancer Jun. 21 - Jul. 22
No more blaming on everybody else for your mistakes. Own up to it. You are an adult for heaven’s sake!

Leo Jul. 23 - Aug. 22
I can see danger coming your way. You better run fast or put on your armour and face it.

Virgo Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
The world does not revolve around you. So get over it and go find something useful to do with your time other than complaining.

Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
What a busy body! Time to relax a little and enjoy the break. Remember you still have half semester to go.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You are smarter than what most people think. But don’t show off all your ability at once. Give them little portions of your venom a little bit at a time.

Sagittarius Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Stop trying to impress everybody. People won’t like you just because of what you have. They will like because of what you have and what you can give them.

DILBERT AND GET FUZZY

JUST 4 FUN

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

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

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