Riding the bailout roller coaster
By David Hoyt
The College Voice

After two weeks of heavy debate and negotiations, the House of Representatives passed the $700 billion bailout plan on Octo- ber 3, by a margin of 263 to 171. The rescue bill was signed hours later by President Bush and aims to end the economic crisis that, for the last month, has been at the forefront of the news.

However, questions still exist about the effectiveness of the bill as the solution to an economic problem that most Americans still do not fully grasp.

The roots of this crisis can be traced back to 1977 when President Carter passed the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). The CRA required that banks serve the needs of the community in which they do business. The CRA had the noble goal of curbing the illegal practice of "Red-Lining" (a process where banks would only target their lending to wealthier neighborhoods) and to ensure that inner city residents could obtain credit and become home owners.

Fast forward to 1995 when President Clinton amended the aforementioned CRA to pressure banks to expand their lending such that anyone could obtain credit and become a home owner, regardless of their in-

come level or ability to repay their mortgage. These mortgages became known as "NINJA" Loans, that is No Income, No Job and No As-

sets.

Next Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac came, the two biggest mortgages companies, publicly traded and Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs). GSEs buy loans from banks, repackagge them as mortgage backed securities and then sell them on a second-

ary mortgage market guaranteeing that they will be paid irrespective of whether or not the initial buyer pays. These two GSEs became major players in buying and selling mortgag-

es because of a widely held, and erroneous, belief that both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac some how have an implicit Federal govern-

ment guarantee of their securities because of a vague reference in their founding charter.

The managers at Fannie and Freddie acted as if this "legend" was a fact; by 2008 the two GSEs owned or guaranteed about half of America's $2 trillion mortgage market. In fact, Fannie and Freddie have no actual ar-

rangement that ensures the government will guarantee them.

In the last 6 months both Fannie and Fri-

die have been investigated and fined by the Federal government for illegal fund raising for the politicians who kept them in power. Although many Democrats advocate stricter
government regulation, Fannie and Freddie have given huge campaign contributions to Democratic political candidates, including Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), and Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY).

Over time, the bad loans that these two GSEs were trading defaulted and the result was a massive collapse in the bank-

See BAILOUT page 2

Books break banks
Facing the soaring cost of textbooks
By Daniela Weinapple
Reporter

A week before the first day of classes be-
gan at Mercer County Community College, Melysssa Guthrie, a freshman Liberal Arts major, stepped into the campus bookstore for the first time. She shuffled through the shelves, jotting down the prices textbooks she had to buy. Total price? More than $500.

Although Melysssa was not happy about the price, she says she was not sur-

prised. She had heard from previous stu-
dents that the cost of books at the cam-

pus bookstore was not easy on the wal-

let. "I knew they'd be expensive, so I pre-
dicted a number like that," she said.

Guthrie's situation is not a rare one. At a time when the economy is in crisis, students are becoming especially cautious when it comes to the amount of money they are spending and what they spend it on. Community college students are apt to be particularly concerned as they often work to pay their own tuition. Although textbooks cost a lot whether you attend a two year or four year college, the amount of money a two-year student spends on

See COSTS page 4

Reality vs spin: VP Debate fact check
By Daisuke Katsumata
Reporter

Last week's Vice Presidential debate be-
 tween Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Biden and Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin was watched by 69 million viewers. Many viewers tuned into see if either candidate would make a verbal blunder as both have been known to do. Neither candidate made a major gaffe, but VOICE fact checking in-

dicates there were plenty of errors made in the facts that were presented.

Here's a brief run-down of what was said during the Vice Presidential debate fact-checks that sets them straight, and why it matters to your vote.

CLAIM: Palin repeatedly claimed that Obama had voted for increasing taxes on families making less than $42,000 a year.

FACT-CHECK: Obama did not, and the $42,000 figure was referring to singles. A family of four would make at least $80,000 before seeing their taxes raised.

WHY IT MATTERS: Due to the state of the economy, these figures have very real importance to those being addressed, both in reality and in the politi-
cal rhetoric. The nature in which these misleading figures can be highly influential despite their questionable credibility makes it very commonly political rhetoric by both parties.

CLAIM: Biden claimed that McCain voted the same in the budget bill that would increase taxes on singles making $42,000 a year.

FACT-CHECK: McCain ac-

Understanding the Wall Street bailout

By David Hoyt
The College Voice

Cont. from page 1

ing market. On Monday, September 14, Lehman Brothers (a 158 year old investment back) filed for bankruptcy. Hours later, Bank of America paid $50 Billion to acquire the broker Merrill Lynch. The same day, AIG, the world’s largest insurance company, was grudgingly grant- ed “conservatorship” under the control of the U.S. Treasury. Four days later, on Sept. 25th Washington Mutual avoided collapse by agreeing to be bought by J.P. Morgan Chase.

On September 18, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, along with Federal Reserve Board (the Fed) Chairman Ben Bernanke, presented Congressional Leaders with a large-scale bailout plan. But the credit crisis raged on. By September 21, the last two remaining independent Wall Street Investment Banks, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, converted themselves into traditional commercial banking companies which will increase their regulation by the government. At the same time Treasury Chief Paulson, along with Fed head Bernanke began to pitch the $700 billion bailout proposal to Congress but they faced stiff criticism from both parties and especially the public.

Paulson’s initial plan was just three pages long, however the House Banking Committee bill expanded the proposal to 110 pages. Ten days later, as the world watched and held its breath, the House voted the bill down by a 23 vote margin. By the end of the day the Dow Jones Average had plunged -778 points, the largest point drop ever. Overnight, the stock markets in Australia and Asia followed suit with steep plunges. Two days later original House bill was further amended by the Senate to a whopping 453 pages roughly 150 times larger than Treasury Paulson’s initial proposal. On Friday, October 3, the amended Senate Bill was passed by the House and signed by President Bush an hour later.

The new bill contains many more provisions than initially expected. For example in the 473 pages, less than 30 pages apply to the bailout. The remaining 420 plus pages cover such “goodies” as tax rebates of $150 million dollars for the Sugar industry for Rum subsidies, $23 million in tax credit for makers of wooden arrow shafts, and $300 million for “Friends of the Forrest” as well as incentives for Hollywood movie studios to film in the U.S. rather than Canada.

In a series of televised addresses, President Bush obliquely compared the current crisis to the Great Depression and warned that if Congress did not act swiftly a massive recession was ahead. But at least for the moment, the comparison appears to be an exaggeration. In the Great Depression there was over 25% unemployment compared to today’s six percent. Similarly, 96 percent of all homeowners are still currently meeting their monthly payments, while two percent of American homeowners are in foreclosure. That being said, America and the world at large are not out of danger.

Two percent of American homeowners are in foreclosure. That being said, America and the world at large are not out of danger. With less than a month to go before the presidential election, voters recognize that the burden of solving this crisis will fall to the next man to gain the Presidency of the United States of America.

Checking facts on the VP debate

By Daluike Kambwata
Reporter
Cont. from page 1

income level. Again, highlighting negative or unpopular policy decisions can be very effective in influencing voters. In this case, the same rhetoric can be applied in defending a candidate.

CLAIM: Palin claimed that McCain’s health care plan was “budget neutral” with no cost impact to the government.

FACT-CHECK: Although McCain’s plans details are too vague at this point to make definitive projections, independent analysts predict that, in its current form, it will cost the government billions of dollars annually.

WHY IT MATTERS: If it sounds too good, chances are they are, especially in the middle of a presidential campaign. This sort of rhetoric plays more to the base, than converting new voters. However, the topic of health care is of great importance to the vast majority of Americans and voters would do well in checking out the economic claims any party may have in implementing them.

CLAIM: Biden claimed that McCain “wouldn’t even sit down” with the government of Spain.

FACT-CHECK: Biden was referring to an interview in which McCain did not reject the idea of a meet- ing, but would not commit himself to any position on the matter.

WHY IT MATTERS: The foreign policy impact is that Biden is implying McCain to be of irrational temperament. However, the manner in which Biden pulls things out of context is common practice by both parties and may make sense to most casual observers, despite their obvious error.

CLAIM: Palin claimed that Obama’s tax proposals would increase the taxes of “millions of small busi- nesses.”

FACT-CHECK: At most, hundreds of thousands would be affected.

HEADLINE NEWS BRIEFS
Everyone is family at Italian-American fest

By Mabel Duran-Sanchez
Senior Reporter

The Mercer County Italian-American Festival took place on September 28. Note: Shot by Alex Bower.

The crowds turn out to ride the Ferris wheel despite cloudy skies at the Italian-American fest in Mercer County Park, September 28. PHOTO | ALEX BOWER

Everyone is family at Italian-American fest

By Mabel Duran-Sanchez
Senior Reporter

The Mercer County Italian-American Festival took place on September 28, and it was high despite a weekend of rainy weather.

Restaurant stands offered everything from gyros, to Philly cheese steaks, pizza to calzones. The Ferris Wheel, merry-go-round, and other amusement rides bustled with children while live bands and singers performed classics.

More than 27 restaurants were represented at the festival. Bakery stands offered a wide array of desserts from chocolate pizza to Nutella paninis along with more traditional fare. For adults there were wine tents and even a cigar parlor.

Television shows like The Sopranos may have reinforced stereotypes about New Jersey Italian-Americans, but if the mobster stereotypes bothered festival-goers, they didn’t show it. Ball caps and t-shirts emblazoned with the word ‘mobster’ were on display as well as some visitors forced stereotypes about New Jersey Italian-Americans, but if the mobster stereotypes bothered festival-goers, they didn’t show it. Ball caps and t-shirts emblazoned with the word ‘mobster’ were on display as well as some visitors.

Mr. Scarpati said the event created a “show it. Ball caps and t-shirts that say it is rarely found.” Mr. And Mrs. Scarpati are the President of the Mercer County Italian-American Festval Association and is also the creator of this festival.

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The Italian-American festival attracts no only Italians. Italian and even Spanish language could be heard.

One woman, a mother of four, Mrs. Iorio said her family likes to conclude the weekend celebration by attending a Catholic mass on Sunday presented at the festival.

The Italian-American festival is organized by only Italian Americans. Italian and even Spanish language could be heard.

One woman, a mother of four, Mrs. Iorio said her family likes to conclude the weekend celebration by attending a Catholic mass on Sunday presented at the festival.

The festival will be held again next year on the last weekend in September.

West Windsor Police Blotter

By David Hoyt
The College Voice

WEST WINDSOR Drug arrest Patrolman Jay C. Jones was driving on Village Road just before 10pm on September 26, when he stopped a car that had a headlight out.

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One woman, a mother of four, Mrs. Iorio said her family likes to conclude the weekend celebration by attending a Catholic mass on Sunday, presented at the festival.

The festival will be held again next year on the last weekend in September.

West Windsor Police Blotter

By David Hoyt
The College Voice

WEST WINDSOR Drug arrest Patrolman Jay C. Jones was driving on Village Road just before 10pm on September 26, when he stopped a car that had a headlight out.

The behavior of the car’s driver, Dylan Inzero (20) of West Windsor, prompted a search of the car. The search revealed three hypodermic needles containing heroin residue, two silver spoons containing heroin residue, three wax paper decks containing heroin ready for a hit, and 90 more wax paper decks containing trace amounts of heroin. Inzero was placed under arrest with a charge of heroin possession and possesion of drug paraphernalia and processed at West Windsor police headquarters.

PRINCETON Shoplifting Abigail Abramson (21) a resident of Princeton, was arrested on October 2 with a charge of shoplifting from Kohl’s department store at 200 Nassau Park Blvd, Princeton. Abramson is accused of shoplifting two necklaces, one t-shirt, hosiery worth $110 by removing them from store displays and concealing them on her person and within her purse. The arresting officer was Patrolman Anthony Magistro. Abramson was processed at West Windsor police headquarters and released on her own recognizance.

Do you see a typo?

We strive for journalistic integrity with every word.

If you see an error in our spelling, punctuation or grammar let us know!
E-mail us at MercerVoice@gmail.com

RACE FOR THE EXIT: Princeton lecture fails to hold audience

By Susana Sanchez
The College Voice

On September 23, Professor Cornel West and Phyllicia Rashad had a conversation at Richardson Auditorium located at Princeton University as part of a series of graduate distinguished lectures. It’s not every day you get to hear a lecture on race relations by a Tony award winner, and a professor with both a PhD and a rap CD.

Dr. Cornel West is best known for his best selling book, Race Matters, which has inspired and influenced the national conversation on race. Phyllicia Rashad is best known for her role in The Cosby Show as Clair Huxtable.

Half an hour before the conversation started, people were already lining up to take their seats and listen to the speakers. The conversation took place around a coffee table that made it more like a personal dialogue. In the audience were Princeton University President and recipient of both the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize for Literature, Tony Morrison. Also, the auditorium was overwhelmingly filled with Princeton undergraduate and graduate students as well as some visitors.

However, the conversation turned more like a friendly interview conducted by Dr. West because most of the time Dr. West asked and Rashad answered.

Rashad talked about her childhood and how her mother shielded her from racism. She also talked about her role as Aunt Ester in August Wilson’s Broadway play,Gem of the Ocean, where she asked herself, “How [do you] find the joy of American slavery?” She said by playing this role she learned to listen to her own voice to connect with the character. Dr. West added that finding the joy was what African Americans had to do during the times of slavery to keep them sane.

The conversation, however, did not engage the audience enough to keep them until the end of the dialogue. People, including Tony Morrison, began to leave before the conversation ended.

Politics and race in the political campaign was not mentioned, except once when Rashad mention God, and Dr. West said, “But not the same God of Sarah Palin,” after which what was left of the audience laughed.
Students find creative ways to cut costs

By Daniela Weinapple
Reporter

Cont. from page 1

books make up a far greater percentage of their overall college costs (as much as 17 percent) compared to a four year student (approximately 2.6 percent). When asked why the books are so expensive, Rachel Reeb, the general manager of the bookstore, said, “Why is anything expensive? That’s just the way it is.” Reeb went on to explain that textbook prices were “out of our hands,” and that “Prices are set by the publisher. Producing texts is an expensive process.”

Reeb noted that used books were available to students at a reduced cost, saying, “We do our best to get used books which we then sell for 25% off the original price. Pretty much every bookstore in the country does that way.” She also noted that when faculty use the same book over again, students can sell the book back to the bookstore. “The best scenario is that you would get half of what you paid if the book is needed for an upcoming semester,” Reeb said.

Reebalsoexplained that, “We give a percentage of sales to the school, though she did not give the exact percentage, saying that it is a private figure. Reeb added that “Every year we give a $5000 scholarship for textbooks.” These scholarships are granted to students who are in dire financial need.

High book prices are an issue on campuses across the state and the nation. Amanda Eisenbrey, a first year Liberal Arts major at Middlesex County College said the books sold at her school are “very expensive.” She spent over $400 on textbooks at her campus this semester. When asked if her campus bookstore had any offers available that could help a student save money, she replied, “yes, but there’s only a limited supply. It’s hard to get the used books if you don’t go to the store super early.”

Aside from the scholarships and used books offered, students are finding alternative ways to save money on required texts. Melyssa Guthrie, the student mentioned earlier, managed to reduce her spending price on $500 to around $320 by purchasing some books online. Guthrie mentioned that her campus bookstore had the books sold at her school “were “perfect. “Students are finding alternative books offered, students are finding alternative sources for purchasing some books online. Several websites, including half.com, textbooks.com and ecampus.com sell textbooks for almost half the price of what they are in the bookstore, even after taking into account shipping costs. When Guthrie was asked about the condition of the books she purchased online, she noted that they were “perfect.” Students who order books online often contact their professors before the start of the semester to find out what books they need so they have time to get the books shipped before classes begin.

Another way students are saving money is to watch for flyers around campus advertising used textbooks. Many provide a low price for mandatory textbooks. “I bought my math textbook for over $100 and then saw a flyer for the same book for $60,” said Guthrie.

Following the Student Center renovations, the Mercer bookstore will be housed in a larger space that will accommodate more textbooks, both new and used. With job markets tightening and financial turmoil looming, however, more students may turn to alternative sources for purchasing their textbooks in the coming years.
### Oil Companies Are Making a Profit of $4,902 Every SECOND or $155,000,000,000 Per Year*

- **OIL**: 72%
- **Pharmaceutical**: 9%
- **Retailers**: 12%
- **Agriculture**: 7%
- **Distribution/Marketing**: 9%
- **Refining**: 7%
- **Taxes**: 3%
- **The crude oil**: 2%

So if you filled up your tank and paid $50 then you just paid $36 for the actual oil, you paid $6 in taxes, $4.50 for the refining and $3.50 for the distribution. Gas stations usually add on a few cents per gallon.

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**TOP 4 GAS GUZZLERS**

- **Ford Expedition**: 14city/18hwy
- **Chevy Tahoe**: 14city/18hwy
- **Nissan Armada**: 13city/18hwy
- **Dodge Dakota**: 14city/19hwy

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**Comparison of Industry Profits (in billions)**

- **Oil**: 100
- **Pharmaceutical**: 80
- **Retailers**: 60
- **Agriculture**: 40
- **Distribution/Marketing**: 20
- **Refining**: 10
- **Taxes**: 5

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**Event Calendar - October/November 2008**

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**Payment Less**

- **THE CHEAPEST GAS IN YOUR AREA**
  - **Pilot Barrenstown**: US286rieb.
  - **Gasco Hamilton Square**: NJ33.
  - **Gasco Mercerville Nottingham way**: $3.13.

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**Comparison of Industry Profits**


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**Comparison of Industry Profits**

Presidential Election 2008 - How will you vote? Obama vs. McCain
See where the candidates stand on the issues and who you agree with most.

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<th>VOTE</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>VOTE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wants to increase grants for college and reward students who perform community service.</td>
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<td>Supports vouchers and sending federal dollars directly to local schools, cutting back on red tape.</td>
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<th>IRAQ</th>
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<td>Wants to get the US out of Iraq in 16 months and focus attention on actual Taliban strongholds.</td>
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<td>Wants to draw down troops slowly. Opposes a pull-out time table.</td>
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<td>Wants to tighten government regulations and raise taxes on those making $250,000+/yr.</td>
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<td>Wants to cut taxes and make it easier for people who default on their mortgage to renegotiate terms.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOTE</th>
<th>IMMIGRATION</th>
<th>VOTE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supports creating a path to legal status for immigrants that includes paying large fines.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supports border walls and fences but says current illegals can stay in the US under some conditions.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOTE</th>
<th>THE ENVIRONMENT</th>
<th>VOTE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Committed to finding alternative fuels and reducing greenhouse gases while creating green jobs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Led a Senate effort to curb emissions. Favors drilling in Alaska and offshore to find more fuel.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOTE</th>
<th>GAY MARRIAGE</th>
<th>VOTE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not support a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not support a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.</td>
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<tr>
<th>VOTE</th>
<th>ABORTION</th>
<th>VOTE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supports a woman’s right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Opposes abortion and seeks to overturn Roe v. Wade.</td>
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<tr>
<th>VOTE</th>
<th>HEALTH CARE</th>
<th>VOTE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Would make health coverage mandatory for children and try to broaden coverage for all.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Would provide tax credits for health care so families could choose their own health plan.</td>
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</tbody>
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WHO WINS? SUBMIT YOUR VOTES TO THE VOICE ELECTION POLL ONLINE AT MCCCVOICE.ORG!

Mercer students speak out about politics, voting and what they want in a leader.

"I’m not necessarily against socialism, but it seems that the government wants to socialize the debt by using taxpayer money for the bailout without socializing the profits back to the taxpayers." - Talal Tahir

"I get upset when the American dollar falls below the Canadian dollar, this is something that affects me directly." - Evan Callahan

"I’m concerned about how the Iraqi youth will view the United States in the wake of the War...You can’t predict chaos and it seems like America is trying to." - Mabel Duran-Sanchez

"I think we need less military spending, and start investing more back into the country. Many people in America don’t have health care and at the same time we are intimidating nations with natural resources which we depend on." - Keith Harper

"Students are skeptical about how a candidate like John McCain who has supported Bush throughout his presidency will bring the needed change to the military." - Sam Grindlinger,

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"Students are skeptical about how a candidate like John McCain who has supported Bush throughout his presidency will bring the needed change to the military." - Sam Grindlinger,
The weekend of September 23, the Mercer Park Tennis Facil-
ity hosted the first ever women’s Division III Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) tournament. The three-
day tournament featured teams from both in and out of state, playing singles and doubles match-
es. Despite a poor showing last year, and a team com-
prised of mostly new players, Mercer’s women’s team placed second.

By the end of the tournament Mercer fin-
ished third, with Hilary Gall and Rebecca Wolf ranking first place in flight A doubles. Emily Dow, and Marta El-
drissi made second place in flight B doubles. Hilary Gall also made second place in flight A singles, and Rebecca Wolf earned second place in flight B singles.

The women’s vic-
tories in the tourna-
ment are a significant accompl-
ishment for the young team. It’s a potential step toward their goal of win-
ing regionals, and possi-
ibly playing in the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament (NJCAA) this October.

In the first round of the ITA tournament, Mercer played State Uni-
versity of New York at Or-
age, starting with fresh-
man, Rebecca Wolf. It was clear Re-
becca Wolf was fiercely dedi-
cated to winning, “It was competitive, [and I’m] trying to win every match,” Wolf said in an in-
terview before the game. After two hours of intense play, Wolf won the match for Mercer scoring 7-5 for both sets. Wolf was later ousted by Hartford in the quarterfinals of Flight A singles.

Player Hilary Gall moved on and took sec-
ond place for A singles. Later Wolf, and Gall paired up for Flight A doubles against Hartford and won first place. Both will be heading to the Division III Intercollegiate Tennis As-
sociation championships in Mobile, Alabama later this month.

Sophomore Em-
ily Dow and freshman Malta Eldridge landed a big win for their team by taking second place in flight B Doubles. Amazingly, the two who are new additions to the team this year, have never played matches before this season. This was also their first tournament playing on a doubles team together.

"I’ve played doubles before so I was nervous, [but] we really hit it off the second day of the match without coordinating it.” Dow went on to say, "[There is] always room for improvement. Consider-
ing it was our first tour-
nament, we did everything we could’ve done. I was pretty happy with [my performance], [but] we’re going to get to the place we want to go to.“ The team is cur-
rently 2 and 2 for the sea-
son. In order to play in the National tournament they must win the New Jersey Regional Tournament.

Mercer has won four championships in women’s tennis; the last time Mercer won the NJ-
CAA Regional Champion-
ships was in 2005. The chance to play at nation-
lions is a unifying goal for the team, and a great op-
portunity to inform the community of their pres-
ence.

Coach Marc Vec-
chiola said, “Last year our record was 1 and 9. [We’re aiming] to turn that around. If we can get good, [and go to] nation-
als this year that would be great.” He went on to note that the team was young, but talented and had a good chance to improve.

The tournament for the mercer team is not only an indicator for dis-
playing areas of strength and areas that need im-
provement. It can rank
individual players on division III teams, “The ITA Nationals ranks all small college players in the nation, while the NJ-
CAA nationals only rank us against other Jr. Col-
lege Division III play-
ers and schools. This is the first time the North-
est IA have winners to go to the national ITA Tournament in Mobile, Alabama.” Said Assistant coach Barbara Fevia.

The ITA Tourna-
ment has helped iden-
tify areas of strength and weaknesses that the team can work on as they head toward the end of their season. Training is a by product of having fun and working hard,” said Vec-
chiola, “I’m optimistic we’ll see some special things happen.”

For all current information on how Mercer’s teams are doing, click the sports link on mcccvoice.org.
At McCarter, B.D. Wong delivers thrilling one man show

By Leah Hodge
Reporter

Herringbone is a one man show that brings all the pack and punch of a mainstream musical, but in a very different way. B.D. Wong plays 11 different characters in McCarter Theatre’s production of Herringbone, being shown until October 12, 2008. As soon as you step into the McCarter Theatre, which is located on the Princeton University Campus, you are instantly thrown into the show. Reason being, B.D. Wong is in his dressing room that is placed on stage getting ready for the show. Murmurs of the audience consisted of, “Is this part of the show?” and “Is he (B.D. Wong) acting or is this one of his characters?” These questions are never clearly answered, but that is part of what is so engaging about this show. It doesn’t spell out all the answers for you, but leaves elements to the imagination.

Imagination is important when going to view this performance. Without it the difficulty of enjoying B.D. Wong’s performances increases greatly. Wong states this perfectly on his blog, which says, “And if, as an audience member, you just get on the train, you might just get sucked into the story and all the characters and possibly FORGET that there is just one person on the stage; you might just have a satisfying storytelling experience. Which is, of course, the goal for me.” He has accomplished this goal with, what seems like, complete ease.

Something that was as impressive as B.D. Wong’s performance was the lighting design by Ken Posner. Many scenes were enhanced by the lighting. An example is in the scene when the talented child George goes with his parents, Arthur and Louise, to visit his performance teacher Nathan. The stage is set with just a door and a few other items. The lights begin to flash resembling lightning to fit along with the sound of thunder. Wong stands at the door playing the three characters that are apart of the family. He does this by changing his position at the door between lightning strikes picking up each characters mannerism within seconds. The light design added to this scene with an affect during one lightning strike in which the shadows of three characters, a man, a woman, and a child, appeared on the back wall. This creative use of lighting and action made the tricky shifts from character to character seamless.

The scenery on the stage might have been scarce, but the set designer, Eugene Lee, uses the minimal scenery and props to their full extent. An example of this is the trunk that is used mostly throughout the play. Its first use is to hold all the other props within it. Its second use is to show the audience where George and his family are located, Alabama, Hollywood etc. This was done by simply placing names of different cities on each side of the trunk, and moving it from side to side; simple, yet effective. It was also used as a stage, bed, and an automobile. Who knew you could do so much with so little.

Matthew Zarzeczi from Rutgers-University says, “I thought the play was very good. The actor did an outstanding job playing a very difficult role.”

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Matthew Zarzeczi from Rutgers-University says, “I thought the play was very good. The actor did an outstanding job playing a very difficult role.”
Late Night Series: we like it, we love it, we want more of it!

By Leah Hodge

The Late Night Series is explained on its website as “an ever-changing lineup of poetry, drama, dance, comedy, film/video, and live music.” This blurb does a good job of explaining what the Late Night Series is, but not what it offers to its attendees. The event is an opportunity for students and locals to meet new people, show off their talents and have fun. Anybody can show up at 9:30pm in The Studio Theatre (Communications Building, CM122), on the first and third Fridays of every month, to sign up and perform whatever they want at the Late Night Series.

On the night of September 5, there was a broad line-up of poetry, comedy, live music, a monologue, and two short films. These vastly different pieces were seamlessly intertwined by the emcee, Post Midnight. Not only did he make the audience laugh, but he made the audience think about the world around us, and what part we, as young Americans, have in it.

There were more singers than any other type of performer, but none of the acts seemed repetitive. No performer was being judged, but each was applauded by the audience for their bravery in sharing their talents. The strongest moments of the evening came from the poetry of Post Midnight and Damien Gaeta. Both poets made the audience laugh and think while still presenting thought-provoking themes. One poem was about an uncomfortable couch, the other about the handcapped. The poets kept the audience riveted from beginning to end.

The two short films were wildly different—one a horror film and the other a romantic comedy—but both engaging. Solitaire by Mike Ceresina, starring Patrick Martin, is a gory horror film that had audience members cringing in their seats. Some people were literally peering through their fingers at the screen. The film contained impressive special effects and editing that seemed far beyond student level work. The other short film was entitled Alex “A Romantic Comedy” by Nick Dannali and Sam Kanig. This quirky film had some extremely clever one-liners, and two main characters you could really root for.

Nearing the end of the show, the most unusual act of the evening hit the stage. The comedy duo Alexander Hernandez and Solomon Mason decided that they would auction off audience members to raise money for the Late Night Series. They raised a grand total of $3,255 for Hernandez and Mason may have raised a low amount of money, but they got high amount of laughter.

One audience member, Lindsay Clayton of Rider University said, “I expected [Late Night] to be weird and kind of boring, but it was really fun!” Show attendance on September 5 was not huge, but according to reports from the September 18 performance (where the VOICE’s own Caroline Fling practiced her talent of fire spinning), attendance is growing. An unofficial head count for the most recent performance found more than 60 people present. As LNS buzz spreads across the Mercer campus and to neighboring schools, it seems likely that crowd size for the free shows will increase substantially in the months to come.

Local musician, Jon Lall, a rising star

By Caroline Fling

In the cozy hub for artists and coffee-lovers known as the Slowdown Café in Hightstown, NJ, you might look over to the corner and see a couple swaying in an embrace to the music and voice of Jon Lall. It hits you: this musician is the real deal.

Lall grew up in Princeton. He attended the Berklee Conservatory in Boston, Mass., where he met guitarist, Kevin Cunningham. Cunningham says of Lall’s style, “There’s nothing conservatory about it.” Berklee is the alma mater says of Lall’s style, “There’s nothing conservatory about it.”

Inconvenient Truth. “But the overall theme behind his music is simple, “Hope is what I write about the most.”

Lall’s single “Execution,” is the kind of tune that gets stuck in your head long after the show is over, the kind of tune you want to listen to in your car, windows down at dawn, riding home from a weekend at the beach. It’s the kind of music that evokes a place where you feel most like yourself.

Lall attributes his current success to determination, hope and others’ belief in him. Although wealth and fame would be nice, he says, “Success is being a professional musician, doing what you love and making the same as a guy at a desk job.”

Lall hopes to be signed by a music label, because of the distribution and support that come with it. “Practice is not just with instruments and voice, it’s also the practice of being a completely self-sufficient musician.” Until a label signs him, he is his own booking agent, manager and promoter.

Hear Jon Lall play live at The Connections Café in Flemington, NJ on November 8 at 9PM. For more links and information about Jon Lall, visit the College Voice online at www.mercervoice.org

Local musician, John Lall, playing to a receptive audience at hip hang-out, the Slowdown Café, in Hightstown, NJ.
The minor league baseball heritage in New Jersey

By JessicaRose Fattibene
Reporter

The minor league baseball heritage in New Jersey had some historical moments in baseball. When the Newark Domestics bunched Moses Walker and George Stovey, their two African-American players, in July of 1867, the team set up the color barrier in baseball that would last until 1946. Jackie Robinson, then a minor league player for the Montreal Royals, was the first African-American to play in a “non-negro” league on April 18, 1946, against Jersey’s own Jersey City Giants at Roosevelt Stadium.

Minor league baseball faced some big competition with changes in the world during the 1990’s. Major league games from New York were being televised and people started watching games from the comfort of their own homes, causing a drop in attendance of minor league games in New Jersey. Sports like football and basketball took the spotlight away from baseball’s younger fans. Recreational activities of this decade such as drive-ins and bowling were trumping the minors as well.

When the postwar economy spiked, people packed up trading industrial cities of the northeast, such as those in Jersey, for a quicker lifestyle in the suburbs. Cities that hosted minor league baseball weren’t able to generate enough audience anymore, causing teams in Jersey to step aside leaving our state without successful minor league teams for the next 44 years.

The 1980’s brought fans back to the stands and a new Professional Baseball Agreement (PBA) forced some necessary changes. The PBA resulted in stadium improvements which helped make the ball park “fan-friendly” and comfortable. This change attracted locals back to minor League baseball.

As major league tickets got more expensive, fans became disheartened. The major league strike of 1994, which lead to the cancellation of both the end of the regular season and the World Series, had fans fed up. The sense of community in the major leagues was gone, replaced by a feeling of being “major-leagued” as Golon describes in his book. Player with attitude problems and high ticket prices defined being major-leagued.

“ ”To get a decent seat you have to know somebody” says Golon. When asked if he has experienced any fan-unfriendliness first hand he said “Yes, but I don’t want to call anybody out [in the book].”

The Trenton Thunder - minor league baseball team, in conjunc- tion with local pet supply shop Dogs & Cats Rule, hosted a “Bark in the Park” event Friday, July 13 at Waterfront Park.

Miles Wolff, owner of the Durham Bulls went on to revolutionize independent professional baseball in America in the 1980’s with the creation of the Northern League. The Northern League inspired the start up of other independent leagues such as the Atlantic League and the Can-Am League.

Minor league baseball returned to New Jersey in 1994 with the Trenton Thunder and with a recession looming, it seems likely that Americans will continue to head to minor league baseball parks to take comfort in the warmth of the national pastime in a friendly and affordable environment.

The college voice | File photo

North Carolina Durham Bulls, starred Susan Sarandon’s character love affair was with what romp through the minor league ball. The movie, called “the Church of Blue” in the book.

The 1998 movie Bull Durham helped bring attention back to minor league baseball. According to Bob Golon, sports historian and author of the book No Minor Accomplishment, the minor leagues in New Jersey had some historical moments in baseball.

In the 1950’s. Major league competition with changes in the world during the 1990’s. Major league baseball returned to New Jersey in 1994 with the Trenton Thunder and with a recession looming, it seems likely that Americans will continue to head to minor league baseball parks to take comfort in the warmth of the national pastime in a friendly and affordable environment.

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Get out there and vote, you lazy, uninformed, self-centered, apathetic bums

THE WAY IT IS

We’re a generation of idios. We are self-centered and lazy. Today, the College Voice sponsored a Rock the Vote voter registration drive. Although many of you (51, to be exact) took time to register, many more told us “I’m not interested” or “I don’t do politics,” and walked away. What is wrong with you people? I talk to fellow students everyday who rarely watch the news or pick up a newspaper. Whether it is lack of knowledge or laziness, choosing not to vote is idiiotic. With the election in November, young adults should recognize how much is at stake and help determine the direction of our country for the next four years.

One excuse that college students have for not following current events is not having enough time. Even though time is precious, world information can be easily found on TV or the internet. Everyone has some time for television. Apparently, new episodes of Rock of Love are more important than ten minutes of CNN. Students need to wake up and smell the reality of the world. The president of the United States will have to oversee the Wall Street bailout and how they do it will affect our lives in profound ways. It will affect the price of the gas we put in our cars, the jobs available to us, our ability to get credit cards, even whether or not we can afford to transfer to a four-year college.

One is not enough for you, the next president will be able to appoint Supreme Court justices that support either conservative or liberal interpretation of the Constitution. Do you care about the environment? Women’s health? The War in Iraq? The death penalty?

By the time you read this, it will be nearly the last day you can register to vote in New Jersey (October 14), but it’s not too late! You can end apathy by standing up to be counted. You owe it to yourself, your family or staff position or alma mater. Americans to stand for something. On November 4, I invite you to leave your bubble and to participate in the life of your country.

Letter to the Editor

A submission from, Nicole Glonek, a Mercer graduate who has returned 10 years later to get another degree.

Ten years ago Bill Clinton was the most powerful and respected country in the world. The US economy was booming, the World Trade Center stood tall and strong. There was peace across the land. Ti- tanic won Best Picture at the Academy Awards and a 17 year old girl named Britney Spears had her first number one song on the radio with Baby One More Time. As for me, I was about to graduate from Mercer with my degree. I loved Mercer’s campus. I worked at the student radio station, was editor-in-chief, and business manager of the school paper and a founder of a brand new club, MCTV. The student government meeting minutes were always packed. Students had a say in what happened on campus and fought hard against tuition increases. Smoking was permitted anywhere outside. Hardly anyone had a cell phone. There was no text messaging, people just talked to each other. No one carried around a laptop. We never even heard of wireless interaction. As I roam the campus I see people on their laptops, doing homework, playing games, IMing each other. When I went to my first club meeting I was shocked. In this world no one stands. Everyone has a cell phone; everyone is always on their cell phone from the second they wake up to the last. The idea seems to be a lot less student interaction. As I roam the campus I see people on their laptops, doing homework, playing games, IMing each other. When I went to my first club meeting I was shocked. In this world no one stands. Everyone has a cell phone; everyone is always on their cell phone from the second they wake up to the last. The idea seems to be a lot less student interaction. As I roam the campus I see people on their laptops, doing homework, playing games, IMing each other.

Somewhere over the last ten years the college bonding experience seems to have gotten lost. What a difference ten years makes! Is it for the better? I don’t know, but now I fully understand the importance of the old saying, “You can never go back.”

CORRECTIONS

CORRECTION: In the September 22, 2008 issue article entitled Mercer’s 3rd annual Indo-American festival loses attends to Bollywood extravaganza, no byline credit was given. The author of the article was Anam Mehmood.

NOTE: The following disclaimer was omitted from the Advice section on page 12 of the September 22, 2008 issue. This feature is for entertainment purposes only. Any resemblance to actual cases is purely coincidental.
Dear Voice,

After the first test in one of my classes over half the students dropped out. Now I can't escape the professor. She calls on me constantly because there's no one else left. What can I do to avoid her scrutiny?

Dear Tired,

Dear Voice,

I'm really jealous of the built guys who hang out in the gym. How can I get jack'd and tone-up?

Dear PeeWee,

PeeWee-

My boyfriend and I are about to break up. We live together and both of our names are on the lease. What should I do?

Dear Lease Girl,

Dear Voice,

I can't hear her. Would you rather be homeless?

Dear Buddy,

Buddy-

I am enjoying the attention you get while it lasts.

Dear Virgo,

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You have to go outside the comfort of your fashion sense. Be bold, try new things and stop worrying about what might happen if things go wrong.

Dear Capricorn,

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Some bureaucratic nonsense may be really eating you these days. Write that furious email, but give it a day or two before you hit send. There's key info you don't yet know.

Dear Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Everyone predicted you wouldn't be able to handle all the things you have on your plate right now. Guess what? You are proving them wrong every day. Keep going - you're brilliant!

Dear Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

You may experience a cash flow crunch in the next few months. So you might want to seriously consider that moonlighting job so you have extra cash on hand by the holidays.

Dear Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

You are a good, kind person who always takes time to care of others, but now is the time to let others take care of you. If someone offers to treat you, say yes this time and enjoy.

Dear Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

You may be trying with some charitable deed, even if it's just writing a nice note to your grandma. Quit procrastinating, and remember, what goes around comes around.

Dear Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Autumn brings fresh thoughts and happiness. Enjoy every minute of it. Collect leaves, carve a pumpkin, drink cider, watch football. This season is good for you.

Dear Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

By the time winter comes you'll be bundled in sweaters, but right now your new fashion sense is really in. Strut your stuff and enjoy the attention you get while it lasts.

Dear Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

It may be a lost pet or a lost soul, either way you're taking in strays and ready to defend against anyone who tries to take them away.

Dear Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

The hypochondriac in you may come out to play this month. Try to avoid watching commercials for Zytec, Celebes, Ambien and Cialis. We promise, you don't need them!

Dear Cancer

Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

Time to stay inside, make a batch of cookies and watch your favorite movies. Let the tempest rage outside your door. Keep yourself safe, warm and out of harm's way.

Dear Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

You may be trying with some charitable deed, even if it's just writing a nice note to your grandma. Quit procrastinating, and remember, what goes around comes around.

Dear Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

You may experience a cash flow crunch in the next few months. So you might want to seriously consider that moonlighting job so you have extra cash on hand by the holidays.

Dear Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

You are a good, kind person who always takes time to care of others, but now is the time to let others take care of you. If someone offers to treat you, say yes this time and enjoy.

Dear Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

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Dear Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

You have to go outside the comfort of your fashion sense. Be bold, try new things and stop worrying about what might happen if things go wrong.

Dear Capricorn,

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Some bureaucratic nonsense may be really eating you these days. Write that furious email, but give it a day or two before you hit send. There's key info you don't yet know.

Dear Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Everyone predicted you wouldn't be able to handle all the things you have on your plate right now. Guess what? You are proving them wrong every day. Keep going - you're brilliant!

Dear Pisces

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