Barack Obama elected 44th US president

By Caroline Fling
The College Voice

Barack Hussein Obama, the Democratic senator from Illinois, was elected 44th president of the United States on November 4, 2008 after voters went to the polls in record numbers. The win marked a cultural milestone as the country gained its first ever African-American president.

One constituency that helped propel Obama to the White House was the youth vote. New voters made up an astounding 14 percent of the voting population, and Obama carried that demographic two-to-one. He also received 95 percent of the black vote, and 66 percent of the Hispanic vote. The financial upheaval and Wall Street bailout were major events that affected not only the voters but also the presidential campaigns. The voting results and earlier polling indicate that voters to have felt Obama had a clearer sense of how to right the country’s financial woes than his opponent, John McCain (R-AZ).

Following television announcements that indicated Obama had locked up the necessary 270 electoral votes to win, McCain gave a graceful and solemn concession speech to his constituents. In his acceptance speech, delivered to a massive crowd at Grant Park in Chicago, Obama praised all those who voted saying, “This is your victory.” Political analysts note, however, that the victory owed in large part to Obama’s strategic use of the Internet for fundraising and his massive state-by-state ground operations. He also proved his oratorical capabilities in numerous speeches and in three televised debates.

At press time, 56 seats in the Senate belonged to the Democrats (Republicans had 40, with four seats still undecided); this gives the Democrats a clear majority, but not a filibuster proof Senate. Also, CNN reported 252 Democrat seats in the House of Representatives to 172 seats for the Republicans. Eleven seats remain undetermined.

Closer to home, Frank Laurenburg (D-NJ) was elected to a fifth term in the United States Senate with 56 percent of the vote. Congressman Rush Holt of New Jersey’s 12th district, which includes West Windsor, easily defeated his opponent, Alan Bateman. Obama will be sworn into office on January 20, 2009 at which point he will have to begin governing a country that faces massive difficulties at home and abroad. He will try to make good on his campaign promise of bringing change we can believe in.

INSIDE OUT
Incarceration + education = liberation

By David Hoyt
The College Voice

The atmosphere in the gymnasium of the Garden State Correctional Facility on the morning of October 16 was one of joy and hope for its fortieth graduation ceremony. There were 42 new High School graduates, 98 GED graduates, and 11 graduates of Mercer’s own Project Inside. As the prison band warmed up with some guitar riffs, family, friends, teachers, administrators and guards paced around one side of the cavernous room, waiting for the graduates to arrive. The father of Limuel Billups, one of the GED graduates, said the program was “new to me” and “I think it’s a good thing.” He said that he was “very proud” of his son, with a chuckle and a smile, and that he was “very proud” of his son, with a look at his wife, he added maybe his son could “get a trade and take care of us.”

Project Inside is a nine year old program that allows inmates at facilities like Garden State to earn college credits toward an associate degree while serving time. The classes of Project Inside are taught by Mercer’s professors such as Professor Renee Walker, Professor Alywn Haywood and many more. By providing education and trade skills for inmates, Project Inside aims to ease the rough transition back into society.

At last the graduates arrived. The procession was orderly, with some students strutting a bit, and all holding their heads high. Those completing high school wore gowns of blue and gold, while those in vocational programs and Project Inside wore their standard issue tan uniforms. Excitement, pride and energy seemed to radiate out of each of the students as the multitude of speakers passed their wisdom onto these young men.

Francisco Villafane graduated highest in his GED class at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility.
You don’t know jack about condoms: Survey shows Mercer students come up short where condoms are concerned

By Hanny Badran
Reporter

“My condom broke last night,” said a Mercer County College student that asked to remain anonymous.

A survey of 30 Mercer students showed that what they know about safe sex. Turns out, many students feel that safe sex is a must, but most mistakenly assume that condoms provide complete protection against everything from pregnancy to sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The majority of Mercer students surveyed believed that condoms were 100 percent effective for preventing all sexually transmitted diseases, which is not the case. Several STIs, including herpes and HPV, can be transmitted through skin contact even with a condom.

A recent national study found that one in four girls aged 14-19 in the United States has had an STI. Many experts suggest that lack of information and thorough sex education may be contributing to the epidemic.

Caitlyn Schoneder, a freshman at Mercer said, “I was taught that condoms prevented pretty much all STDs and STIs.” Students received some sex education in high school, and the survey showed those who had some sex ed were predictably better informed than those who did not, but there were still misconceptions. For example, that herpes can be spread even when not visible and even if a condom is used every time.

Several students surveyed correctly noted that condoms were usually reliable, but that people were not. Freshman Elliot Maglio said, “Condoms are very effective, but the user still assumes responsibility to use them properly.”

Many men do not know that they have to pinch the reservoir end of the condom while rolling it on in order to ensure there will be no spillage.

In addition to the fact that many men do not know how to put on a condom correctly, most also purchase the wrong size.

Of course no man wants to purchase a condom that is too short of an Ultra Super Maximum Large condom, purchasing a condom that is too big increases the likelihood of slippage and accidents that can lead to pregnancy and disease.

Mercreighmore Nick Jaromi summed up his thoughts saying, “A three dollar box of condoms is better than a lifetime of child support.”

Political condoms? You betcha! A prophylactic profit from politics

By Hanny Badran
Reporter

Eric Rodriguez’s job requires him to stand in New York’s Times Square shouting “Consider the election in your next erection!”

Usual T-shirts, pins and bumper stickers are election year advertising staples, but 2008 took political marketing to a whole new level. PracticeSafePolicy.com came out with a line of condoms that featured the two main political candidates’ likenesses and some catchy slogans on the wrappers.

Obama’s condom pleads, “Use with good judgment,” while McCain’s condom brags that he is, “Old but not expired.” Lead Sales Director for Practice Safe Policy, Eric Rodriguez, 22, says “We were looking to put a commercial side to such a serious subject like politics, while still having the underlying intention of practicing safe sex nation-wide.”

The Obama and McCain condoms have caught the media’s attention. They have been featured not only in AM New York, and Hot Products magazine but also in the Atlanta Journal for the company’s special edition Sarah Palin condom (her slogan reads “When abortion is not an option!”). Practice Safe Policy has also been featured on My 9 News.

The political condom phenomenon started in New York but has now crossed the nation. Though the excitement may die down now that the election is over, Mercer students were asked to vote on which of the two condoms they preferred based on the visuals alone. Obama got the campus’ condom vote.

FASHION TRENDS: baggy be gone
Some Mercer men shift to skinny jeans

By David Patrylow
Reporter

Those following fashion trends at Mercer will note that skinny jeans for men are back. Back in the 1950’s, Elvis made girls scream when they saw his gyrating hips and tight fitting pants. 1970’s punk acts like The Ramones and The Sex Pistols donned what they referred to as “drainpipe pants,” skintight denim that they wore during their performances. In the late 80’s, bands such as Guns N’ Roses and KISS ditched the spandex worn by the glam rockers and instead went with a more form fitting jean.

Tight jeans have always been associated with the “bad boy” look, as seen with iconic rebels such as James Dean. More recently they have been increasingly prevalent among indie-rock and emo bands, such as Fall Out Boy and British band The Libertines which has done a lot to promote this growing trend. Seeing the girls go gaga for the band members many guys to want to emulate the look they see on stage.

“I really like the look a lot of bands have these days, but the jeans have to go with the look. They can look really good or really bad.” - Ilissa Skinner

Some women aren’t so enamored with the shift to skinny for men either.

“I don’t want to date anyone who I could share jeans with” says Amanda Fine, an 18 year old Liberal Arts student. “That just creeps me out.”

Certainly plenty of females around campus sport the skinny look too. Model Kate Moss has been recently credited with bringing skinny jeans back to the public eye. Moss’s ex-boyfriend, Libertines front man Pete Doherty, has likewise popularized the jeans for men.

Stores like American Apparel, H&M, and Urban Outfitters are becoming increasingly popular among college students and skinny jeans are among their core looks. “My favorite store is H&M. It’s just kind of the look they have going,” says Joel Cartagena, an 18 year old Liberal Arts major.

The New York Times fashion photographer Bill Cunningham commented on the skinny look in a piece on September 20, 2008 saying, “Now along comes a younger generation in their early 20s and they’re neat, precisely dressed, sleek, nothing exaggerated…It’s almost like here we have this financial crisis in this country, and it’s a sobering period; I think all of these young men have captured that in the way they are dressing… I call the look the ‘skin man,’ but it’s a serious way of dressing and I think if the economic situation continues this is the perfect match for it.”
In the fall of 2007, Mercer instated a new Smoking Policy based on the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act. The stated goal of the policy was to maintain “a healthy and safe smoke-free environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors.” One key feature of the effort was the addition of smoking huts positioned at a distance from buildings. Requiring that smokers limit their activities to these areas has had unusual and perhaps unintended consequences. For many students, the huts have become one of the few places on campus where they can easily meet and make new friends.

“T’ ve met more people outside smoking than I have in the classroom,” said Nicole Vulk, a chemistry major, and sophomore at Mercer. “Smoking is like a support group for drug use. Believe me, if I had the option of a bad thing, your whole society rejects smoking, so you’re all empathizing with each other.”

“I’m a great equalizer of social status,” says Joanne Scafchi, Hamilton resident and ex-smoker. “I don’t like school. Museums and libraries learning as much and libraries learning as much as they can, Sacks’s opening remarks made him seem easy to relate to and sympathize with, which, in turn, made the lecture more engaging and enjoyable. He went on to tell the crowd that even though the lecture was supposed to be about creativity and the brain, he would only go on to talk about creativity by itself.

His first discussion point was about an autistic boy named Stephen Wiltshire who has Savant Syndrome, which is when a person with a disability has an exceptional talent of skill in a particular area. In Wiltshire’s case his skill is his ability to draw.

“At the age of six he began to draw amazingly detailed pictures; elaborate buildings being his favorite. In the beginning Wiltshire just copied identical off a picture or a building he would see, and did not show much creativity. But after going to Russia and seeing the ‘mushroom domed buildings’, as Sacks put it, he began to improve, adding this type of structure to modern buildings. Even someone like Stephen Wiltshire needed something to inspire him to be creative. Sacks said, ‘All creative people look back and think of people who have affected them.’ He said young artists go to museums to see the old artists, and start off their careers being influenced by the people who went before them.

But in order to find themselves they need to go beyond this influence. There also needs to be something to be creative about, something about the status quo that you are not content with. Another need is parents and teachers that allow imagination and individuality. The lecture was powerful, articulate and well received. It was a bad thing, your whole society rejects smoking, so you’re all empathizing with each other.”

On October 29, Oliver Sacks came to Rutgers University to speak as part of the Writers at Rutgers series. He spoke on the topic of creativity and the brain as part of his book tour for the newly revised and expanded paperback version of his Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain.

Sacks may be familiar to many from the Oscar-nominated movie adaptation of his book Awakenings starring Robin Williams and Robert De Niro.

The book was about the time Sacks spent in 1966 at the Beth Abraham Hospital in the Bronx. He was working as a consulting neurologist when he met an unusual group of patients that he recognized as “people who have affected his life.”

One of the first things Sacks said to the two packed rooms full of college students was, “I did not like school. Museums and libraries were my teachers.”

Although few college students hang out in museums and libraries learning as much as they can, Sacks’s opening remarks marked him seem easy to relate to and sympathize with, which, in turn, made the lecture more engaging and enjoyable.

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For more on the Writers at Rutgers Series visit www.mcccvvoice.org.
Many people used to feel like Mercer freshman Leva BINDYER, who says, “It’s not a good thing to go to community college, I think it’s a waste because they messed up in high school or didn’t get enough score on the SAT.” But times and expectations of community colleges are changing. As the number of community college students once stereotyped as being thirteenth-grade students. Some act as if the lower cost suggested low-quality education, but those views are rapidly disappearing.

A recent survey of 30 Mercer students suggests that most Mercer students are proud to attend and feel they are getting as good an education as they would anywhere else.

Emily Lukasewycz, for example, said, “Mercer [has] exceeded my expectations. I thought it would be like high school but it’s really not.”

Kelsey McManimon, a second-year student and an employee at Mercer’s bookstore noted that, “A lot of people come in and buy Mercer shirts, even people who just buy the whole outfit.” Freshman Kelsey Liedtka was found browsing the bookstore and explained that she was excited to be purchasing clothes with a college logo for the first time.

“Mercer [has] exceeded my expectations. I thought it would be like high school but it’s really not.” —EMILY LUKASEWYCZ

A few students have school spirit, but how does that compare to the school pride of students who attend a four-year university? A survey of Mercer students found that almost 85 percent of those surveyed said they were Mercer students.

One of many students socializing in the school’s café was senior Priscilla Ramos who said, “I love TCNJ because I’m 100 percent of those surveyed there.”

Growing in Grace International, a stand-up comedian and political commentator, and Larry Charles, director of Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan, made the film in order to examine why people believe Maher and Charlie focus on Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

The fact that the title of the movie is a combination of the words religion and ridicul- ous, may already give an insight into the producers’ views. To many, the documentary’s criticism of religion may be offensive, but the questions it raises are legitimate. The viewer is forced to think about, reevaluate and clarify his or her own religious stance. Throughout Religulous, Maher confronts everyday people and also talks to experts such as Dr. Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda, founder and leader of Growing in Grace International Ministry, Dr. Andrew Newberg, author of Why We Believe, We Believe, and Senator Mark Pryor of Arkansas.

“Why doesn’t God obliterate the devil and therefore get rid of evil in the world?”

“Religulous is an extremely humorous film that truly gets you thinking.”

In the end, Maher shows that there is nothing wrong with questioning your faith. In addition, staying away from things that may challenge your beliefs will never help give you a full grasp of where you stand. Instead, the film shows that by avoiding these challenges, we might as well raise a white flag to surrender our own religious credibility.
The streets of Trenton, NJ are overrun by street gangs, leading to numerous crimes of robbery, assault, and homicide. Bloods, Crips, Latin Kings, and MS-13 are just some of the names of the street gangs that plague the city. What exactly is life like living day by day amongst the violence and drug distribution? What is life like for a gang member?

The following VOICE interview was conducted with a member of the Bloods street gang in Trenton who asked not to have his name used.

BLOOD: First I want to thank you for allowing us to interview you on this topic. So to start off, why would anyone join a gang?

BLOOD: I mean there are different reasons why somebody would want to get down with a gang. Some do it for protection, some do it for fun, some do it to make money. It depends on the person and who you ask. Me personally, I got into something that involved my friends and some of my family, so a decision had to be made by me to join or suffer the consequences.

BLOOD: Despite the negative side, are there any benefits to joining a gang?

BLOOD: Well like I said there is protection from people that try to harm you or your family. Getting money is a big factor. That’s basically the main reason people join, because they don’t want to try to get a job or they feel its too hard to get a job so they make money in other ways.

BLOOD: It sometimes turns out that the people that mostly want to harm you are the people you thought were protecting you. Plus the negative perceptions that are put on gangs, mine in general.

BLOOD: People think we just go around selling drugs, killing and beating people up, and tearing down the neighborhoods. Not all of us are like that. Most are though, and that’s where the problems set in.

BLOOD: Our gang was made to build up our community and overcome oppression from the police, but somewhere along the line, everything got all messed up, so we couldn’t be what we were supposed to be. We became something else, the bad people that the newspapers and TV make us out to be. But like I said before, all of us are not like that.

BLOOD: How do you explain the recent activities of gangs over the past five years?

BLOOD: I don’t know, I don’t know how to explain it. A lot of people don’t realize that it’s survival of the fittest out here, and when certain people’s backs are against the wall, they act out of anger or revenge.

BLOOD: People have to eat, too. Money has to be made somehow, somehow. The way money is made on the streets is no different than the way money has been made in this country for hundreds of years, its just that they make our way illegal for some reason. The killing, and violence that happens is not right. Don’t get it twisted. I don’t condone it, but at the same time, people act out when they can’t get what they want or need.

BLOOD: What do you think can be done to change the perception of gangs?

BLOOD: I don’t know if that can ever be changed. You can always try, but it’s a long shot. It would take something serious to really get people to stop and think about what they are doing, and the lives that they are taking. This upcoming election seems to be the start of it, though. Barack Obama seems to be the way to go. If he gets elected, then there are no more excuses. I think he would be able to give the urban community more chances as far as making money is concerned, and honestly, that’s all this world cares about is money.

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PASSING THE RING AT THE BIG APPLE CIRCUS

Next year the show gets a new ringmaster

By Daisuke Katsumata

Guillaume Dufresnoy, Big Apple Circus’s vice president and general manager will be taking over as artistic director and ringmaster succeeding the retiring Paul Binder next year.

Dufresnoy has what he describes as a very solid collaboration with Binder. What made [it] successful was that roles were clearly defined, Dufresnoy says, but the two also exchanged views, impressions, and creative direction.

“I see my charge as being very respectful to what the Big Apple Circus was and stands to be, but at the same time to bring something fresh,” says Dufresnoy.

Dufresnoy during his younger years, Dufresnoy had once considered engineering as a possible career. But as chance would have it, his high school sweetheart was interested in the circus. She took classes to become a performer, and one of her teachers suggested the two of them try an act together. One thing lead to another.

It was completely unexpected, but it turned out to become a defining moment, “You never know where life will take you,” says Dufresnoy.

When asked about the dynamics of circus life, Dufresnoy said that some things were not so out-of-the-ordinary as one would think. He likened the life and schedules of the performers (he himself was a performer before he became part of the executive staff of the circus) as very similar to actors and other workers in show business.

“When I talked to other professionals and executives, the causes of stress are very similar,” says Dufresnoy, “the living quarters are also nicer than some of the small apartments in New York I’ve been in.”

Unlike other careers, however, Dufresnoy notes that conflicts and tensions are often resolved much faster at the circus due to the integration of professional and personal life, something not possible in an office job.

In the circus, hard work and honesty are important, you can’t fake it,” says Dufresnoy, “Whether an acrobat somersaults, or a tent boss puts tents up, if it works, it works, if it doesn’t, it’s obvious.”

Nothing tops the big top

By Daisuke Katsumata

All around there is the exalted chatter of over 1,700 people of all ages settling into their seats under the striped canvas of the big top; the entire place is a beehive of anticipation. Many are wearing bright red clown-style nose puffs and tugging excitedly at each other’s sleeves, waiting for the show to begin. At last, complete with the uniquely intimate interaction between performer and audience that only a one-ring circus like Big Apple Circus can provide, it begins.

The Big Apple Circus presents the new show, “Play On!” now through January 18, 2009 in Damrosch Park at Lincoln Center in New York City. As always in its 30 year history, the acts are organized around a theme, and in “Play On!” it is music. The synchronized choreography, matching sets, and costumes all tie in to the musical theme.

The clown and the clown themselves in a “Singin’ in the Rain” number. The klutz, but lovable Grandma played by Barry Lubin, and Grandma’s foil played by Mark Gindick, engaged in a wet and hilarious give and take. A certain audience member even got wet from the “rain” of the performance; it’s hard to beat that in terms of engaging your audience.

Other particularly memorable performances included many of the traditional circus acts, but each had a new vibrancy and flare.

The tightrope artist Sarah Schwarz demonstrated her feline sense of balance to the tune of a fiery jazz number.

Chinese vase balancers Guiming Meng and rotating his body progressively larger vases on top of his head. He even added additional elements such as spinning and rotating his body underneath. Each exploit was accompanied by dramatic instrumentals, which added robust punctuations to the cool but don’t-try-this-at-home act.

The Nanjing Duo, An Nan and Zhu Zheng- zhen, also from China, performed pair acrobatics with the graceful woman balancing atop her partner’s shoulders and head on her toes like a ballerina. The pair trained for 14 years together to perform the feat, and the results were spectacular as the crowd gasped in awe.

The magic, mar vel, and energy of a live performance are all the hallmarks of the Big Apple Circus, and a perfect escapist seasonal treat for the audience.

The pleasure of a circus experience can best be summed up by five-year old Shulamith who said with a twinkle in her eye, “The circus was really fun!”
Kelsey Theatre offers nostalgia in Dames at Sea

By Zarina Dzhumabaeva

The musical Dames at Sea was “written at the time of the Great Depression, when people sought entertainment that provided a world of fantasy that was an escape from their otherwise discouraging lives,” says Pete LaBriola who directed the production at the Kelsey Theatre. As our own economy founders, perhaps 2008 is the perfect time to go back in time and enjoy this sort of escapist fun.

Dames focuses on Ruby, played with gusto by Melissa Rittmann. Ruby comes to New York City, all the way from Utah, with only her dreams and a suitcase with her tap dancing shoes in it. Through a series of serendipitous turns she ends up falling in love and landing a starring role in a Broadway show all in 24 hours!

The scenery and lighting were solid, but the real power of the production came from the strong performance by Melissa Rittmann as Ruby. Her dance-tapping and incredibly strong voice made her the center of the audience’s attention. Rittmann and the rest of the cast also kept the audience laughing with well-timed humor.

“Comedy is serious business. Doing comedy is always more difficult,” says LaBriola, the director from Pierson Productions. “He goes on to note that ‘the show itself is a spoof, you must listen closely to keep up. There were a few times when I found myself a bit lost at the result of not paying enough close attention. For those that enjoy love stories, want to laugh out loud, and don’t have a short attention span, Talley’s Folly is perfect."

The fluctuation of Sally and Matt during the time period of 1944. The illogic behind the story, the movie was a winner. The only downside was the level of concentration it required in order to keep up with what was going on. Since it stars only two characters and does not change setting throughout the play, the audience must listen closely to keep up. There were a few times when I found myself a bit lost at the result of not paying enough close attention. For those that enjoy love stories, want to laugh out loud, and don’t have a short attention span, Talley’s Folly is perfect.

out the play.

Love takes the stage at McCarter

By Daniela Weinaible

When it comes to love stories, many follow the same underlying theme: two unsuspecting lovers must delay their love from blossoming due to conflicts with their lives, families or both. The play Talley’s Folly follows this same tone, yet still manages to be fresh and entertaining, in its own original way.

The production of Talley’s Folly at Princeton’s McCarter Theatre tells the story of Matt Friedman, an Eastern European Jewish immigrant played by actor Richard Schiff, and Sally Talley, a young woman who lives in the small town of Lebanon, Missouri, played by actress Margot White. The show was directed by Marchell M. Mason, and played at McCarter from October 12 to November 2.

Matt and Sally are the only characters that appear throughout the 97 minute play, held with intermission. The show begins with a comedic monologue from the character of Matt as played by Schiff breaks the fourth wall by speaking directly to the audience. The monologue is extremely funny and the laughter did not stop when the monologue ended, but continued throughout the show. Jokes ranged from slapstick, such as when Matt tries to walk with ice skates on, to the more mature.

Along with frequent comedic relief, Talley’s Folly had serious elements as well, many of which revolve around the hardships each character faced during the time period of 1944. The fluctuation of Salley and Matt’s conversation takes the audience on a rollercoaster of emotions ranging from laughter to sadness.

Schiff and White were highly effective at capturing the audience by making them feel what the characters are feeling through strong acting. White made Sally easy to sympathize with and Schiff did a remarkable job playing Matt in a way that made me root for him throughout the play.

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Prison graduates strive to overcome despite mistakes

By David Hoyt
The College Voice
Cont. from pg. 1

Speakers included: Rev. Charles E. Atkins, Wil-
lius Morton, Patty Friend, and Cecily R. Quinnet who said that “out of tragedy, something good can hap-
pen,” and that each of the students should reach be-
yonad adversity and make something of themselves. The only blunder was the unexplained absence of the keynote speaker Rob-
ert H. Vaney Sr.

However, each of these faculty members was eclipsed when the student speaker, Francisco Villafane, stepped to the podium. Villafane was the valedictorian of his graduating class boasting the class’s highest score, well over 3000 out of 4000 points.

His speech built upon the fact that each of his classmates had been given a second chance in life, and that each and every one of us should make the most of that opportunity.

Villafane said that “we are not from the streets, we are not from the slums, we are not from the ghettos. We are from the prisons.”

According to Project Inside coordinator Dr. Renee Walker, the plan is for the age requirement of Project Inside to be shifted to 35 starting next September so that more inmates can benefit.

Project Inside aims at a 60 percent recidivism rate, which is an inmate’s return to prison within five years. The statistics show that 31.3 percent recidivism rate compared to the State’s rate of 78 percent, proving that Project Inside has been successful.

Project Inside graduate, William Davis, shared similar sentiments as Villafane. He said that “if you can achieve in a college course, you feel that you can achieve anything.”

Once released he plans to go to Mercer, complete an Associate in business education and go on to a university. Davis was one of the members who had aged out of project outside after taking all the classes offered. The Garden State Correctional Facility is only for men who were juveniles at the time of their arrest, but due to the differing length of each inmate’s sentences, many are not released until they are in their thirties.

For professors who teach in prison

Views of Mercer profs who have taught

By Melissa Drift
The College Voice

The Garden State band provides an upbeat atmosphere for the graduation with their tight covers of favorites by Stevie Wonder and others.

Once upon a time teaching college classes in prisons actually resembled the kind of images and stereotypes of prisons that we see on TV.

Dean of Liberal Arts, Robin Schore was originally hired by Mercer in 1972 to teach English composition at four prisons, including the maximum sec-
turity Trenton State as part of the now defunct, Prison Education Network Pro-
gram. Back then, Mercer had its own prison teaching department.

“It was very exciting because we never knew if you were going to get into the prisons, because it might be locked down. There were riots, attacks, and assaults. They once found a gun in the library,” Schore says.

Professor Carlo Alfai taught Physical Sci-
cence Concepts 111, the ba-
sic science elective, prisons for a semester in the late 70’s. For a lab, they used a converted bus, in which the seats had been replaced by lab benches. Alfai says of the attitude of the students in the program, “You’d think you have a captive audience, even in prison they’d be absent. If they weren’t, they got a good deal.”

The inmates were required to ei-
ther work or go to school. All of this was fund-
d by the state of NJ. But by the 80’s, prison rehabilita-
tion began to fall out of fa-
vor. As Robin Schore says, “it became politically unpopu-
lar for the state to educate prisoners.”

The state is re-
qued to educate prisoners through the high school
A new way to fight crime
To restore justice victims must forgive, offenders must repeat

By Susana Sanchez
The College Voice

In Mercer County, alone, police arrested 3,878 juveniles in 2005 according to the last FBI available statistics.

A great percentage of young offenders arrested in New Jersey come from neighborhoods with high rates of violence, poverty and unemployment, and once the offenders are released from centers they return to the troubled communities. Under such circumstances, many of them enter a cycle of being in and out of detention facilities, according to Legal Services of New Jersey, (LSNJ).

Familiar with Mercer County Juvenile Center, a group of committed Mercer County residents felt the need to create a program to help juvenile offenders to admit and deal/compensated to their communities. Therefore, they created Mercer County Coalition for Restorative Justice, (MCCJ).

According to miss. MCCJ intends to "Restore broken relationships and heal individuals and communities.

The program is oriented to help first time youth offenders who have committed non violent crimes to have restorative justice, says EdwardMartone. Martone is the Public Education and Policy Director of New Jersey Association of Correction and as well as MCCJ co-founder and treasurer.

MCCJ requires the cooperation of the township police to open.

In 2005 the Attorney General Peter C. Harvey ordered all county departments in New Jersey to use "Station House Adjustment" to resolve issues dealing with juveniles.

The United States incarcerates more people than any other nation. 2.2 million Americans are currently in prison, and seven million Americans are either behind bars, on probation, or on parole. Excluding children, 1 percent of Americans are behind bars.

New Jersey has the highest rate of infants serving drug sentences at roughly 36 percent. New Jersey has the 27th highest incarceration rate by state.

piles to detention centers. However, restorative programs face criticism. In New Jersey, minority groups, “are more likely to be arrested, referred to court, adjudicated delinquent, placed in county detention facilities,” says a report from LSNJ. Thus, critics alleged that the restorative programs would tend to serve mostly white and more than people of color. Martone, acknowledging this issue, says “The racial profiling by the police is a legitimate concern, a real possibility.”

Nevertheless, MCCJ is not a brand new program in the US. Pennsylvania, for example, has a form of restorative justice, Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program (VOR). Similar restorative programs across the country have dealt with violent crimes such as rape. States like California, Texas, and Vermont have similar restorative programs.

MCCJ has been in conversations with Princeton Township, the Hightstown Mayor and school board members to introduce them to the idea of restorative programs. Martone adds that they [the coordinators] are a couple of months away from beginning the program.

The goal of MCCJ to have the program in one to two towns in Mercer and extend it to other counties and to wider kinds of offenses.

The real challenge for the program is to find the program across New Jersey, but the challenge for the community is to trust that this type of program does in fact prevent youths from committing future crimes, and that everyone is benefited from it. Once the program is established, crime statistics will help determine whether or not the program works preventing crime recidivism.

 Ken Kesey 1935-2001 Kesey wrote one of the classic books in the "cuckoo's nest."

He was arrested for marijuana possession and spent five months in jail in Oregon.

Martin Luther King Jr. 1929-1968

He was famous for "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." In 1963 after being arrested a cycle of being in and out of detention facilities, according to Legal Services of New Jersey, (LSNJ). In Mercer County Juvenile Center, a group of committed Mercer County residents felt the need to create a program to help juvenile offenders to admit and deal/compensated to their communities. Therefore, they created Mercer County Coalition for Restorative Justice, (MCCJ).

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In 2005 the Attorney General Peter C. Harvey ordered all county departments in New Jersey to use "Station House Adjustment" to resolve issues dealing with juveniles.
Driving around town you may have seen green and black bumper stickers that read “RUSH HOLT” and in smaller writing “My congressman IS a rocket scientist,” but an unscientific survey suggests Mercer students know little about the man who represents their interests in congress.

Holt is a Democratic congressman who has been the representative of New Jersey’s twelfth district (of which MCCC is a part) for the last ten years. He comes from a family of politicians, his father having been the youngest person ever elected to the senate and his mother the first woman to serve as director of the establishment vote. He’s [Obama] going to win not because of the non-standard, non-establishment vote. He’s [Obama] going to win because of all of these other people previously disenfranchised, disenchant- ed, dis-encouraged voters…as somebody who is interested in the civic and political participa- tion of Americans I’d say that’s great….all these people who had previously written off politics and state affairs…they’re getting engaged. That’s great.

VOICE: What are your thoughts on the 2008 Presidential election?
HOLT: This is the most inter- esting year politically I’ve ever seen in a lot of respects…[One] thing that is real interesting about this year’s campaign is the…spontaneous part of it… the non-standard, non-establishment vote. He’s [Obama] going to win not because of the non-standard, non-establishment vote. He’s [Obama] going to win because of all of these other people previously disenfranchised, disenchant- ed, dis-encouraged voters…as somebody who is interested in the civic and political participa- tion of Americans I’d say that’s great….all these people who had previously written off politics and state affairs…they’re getting engaged. That’s great.

VOICE: What advice do you have for students today?
HOLT: There is no shortcut for time on task. If you’re actually going to learn subject mat- ter you will have to spend time studying it. One of the problems in schools these days is that there are too many distractions; both official and unofficial from time on task in the subjects the students are supposed to learn.

VOICE: What is your view of education, science, and poli- tics. The following interview ex- erpts provide a glimpse into his views on the issues of most concern to students today.

HOLT: Americans traditionally…have had a scientific way of thinking. It really is something that has helped the United States thinking. It really is something…have had a scientific way of thinking. It really is something that has helped the United States thinking. It really is something...have had a scientific way of thinking. It really is something that has helped the United States thinking. It really is something...have had a scientific way of thinking. It really is something that has helped the United States thinking. It really is something...have had a scientific way of thinking. It really is something that has helped the United States thinking. It really is something...have had a scientific way of thinking. It really is something that has helped the United States thinking. It really is something...have had a scientific way of thinking. It really is something...have had a scientific way of thinking. It really is something...have had a scientific way of thinking. 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PRINCETON

Receiving stolen property
Patrolman Campbell Knox was driving on Route 1 south at Em- mons Drive on November 1 at 11:13 pm when he noticed a distri- buted or stolen from inside the vehicle. A screwdriver was found inside the vehicle and a fingerprint was lifted off the door lock and will be analyzed. The victim, age 30, a resident of Highland Park, canceled all credit cards before they could be illegally used. The reporting officer took the call was Patrolman Frank Ball.

PRINCETON JUNCTION

Burglary to auto, theft and criminal mischief
On October 31, between 8 am and 10:30 am an unknown person attempted to steal a 2006 Jeep by pry- ing the driver’s side door lock, gaining entry to the vehicle, then starting the vehicle. A Magellan 4000 GPS device that will not allow the vehicle to be started if the igni- tion is damaged. Nothing was disturbed or stolen from inside the vehicle. The victim, age 43, a resident of Rob- binsville, had parked his vehicle during that nine hour time peri- od. Patrolman Brian Mahon re- ported that an unknown person damaged the driver’s side door lock, entered the vehicle and damaged the ignition in an at- tempt to steal the Jeep. The driver was equipped with an anti-theft device that will not allow the vehicle to be started if the igni- tion is damaged. Nothing was disturbed or stolen from inside the vehicle. The victim, age 50, a resident of Prin- ceton, had parked their vehicle at 6:30 am on October 31, and reported it missing on Novem- ber 1 at 12:10 am. Between the listed dates and times someone stole the victim’s 2006 Jeep valued at $28,000. There are no witnesses and nothing eviden- tial was found at the scene.

PRINCETON JUNCTION

Theft of auto
Patrolman Brian Mahon was called to Princeton Junction Train Station’s Vaughn Drive permit lot, on November 1 due to the theft of a auto. The vic- tim, age 50, a resident of Prin- ceton, had parked their vehicle at 6:30 am on October 31, and reported it missing on Novem- ber 1 at 12:10 am. Between the listed dates and times someone stole the victim’s 2006 Jeep valued at $28,000. There are no witnesses and nothing eviden- tial was found at the scene.
**REVIEW**

**Restaurant Review: Applebee’s fine when you are out of options**

By Brittany Ahn

As a busy college student, many find it hard to find good food and dining without breaking the bank. We went in search of a restaurant that might fit the student budget but provide a better dining experience than ordering off the dollar menu at McDonald’s. Off we went to Applebee’s.

Though Applebee’s has packed their menu chock full of variety and option, the rest of the establishment fell short. Service was spotty, food was not up to par and the atmosphere came off as annoying rather than friendly.

Upon entrance, my party stood at the threshold of the restaurant awkwardly for about a minute as we waited for the two young ladies hosting to finish their inappropriate personal conversation before attending to us. Their attitudes were poor and their greetings (or lack thereof) were far from genuine.

The waitstaff were cordial and attentive but the service was slow for a mild Thursday night dinner. Our waiter was like a shining star among a black hole of teen angst and lack of work ethic; the rest of the staff and look of the restaurant was less than impressive. Tables sat dirty for more than 15 minutes before a busboy cleared them and even the manager was awkward and unprofessional as he made his rounds checking tables.

The atmosphere, though a good attempt at seeming family friendly, was overwhelming and the decor was enough to give you acid flashbacks to the 80’s. Although the idea of decorating with local high school sports memorabilia sounds fun, the walls looked cluttered and tacky, giving more of a sports bar vibe than a family restaurant.

The food was blatantly processed and prepared in mass quantities; failing to attend to detail and presentation. Though the portions were rather small for the price and could use a little more thought. I ordered an Ultimate Trio Combo, as to cover an array of different tastes that a college student craves. My spinach-artichoke dip was cold and unflavorful and served in a skimpy little bowl with too many tortilla chips as filler. The mozzarella sticks were decent until they cooled down and I could taste evidence that they were indeed frozen. Boneless buffalo wings were the best thing on the plate but they were drenched in sauce instead of being sauced properly. I ordered a bowl of Onion Soup and the pieces of bread were topped with too many tortilla chips as filler. The mozzarella sticks were decent until they cooled down and I could taste evidence that they were indeed frozen. Boneless buffalo wings were the best thing on the plate but they were drenched in sauce instead of being sauced properly. I ordered a bowl of Onion Soup and the pieces of bread were drenched in sauce instead of being sauced properly.

So as far as variety and price go, Applebee’s works, but don’t go expecting to have a delicious meal or receive exceptional service, because you will surely be disappointed. In order to keep their prices minimal, it seems that “the biggest casual dining establishment” had to cut corners in their quality of food and settle for employees with little work ethic or tact. If you want to eat a fast-food quality meal without being pished off by ignorant staff or air-headed hostesses, stick to Wendy’s.

**At Fedora’s Café guitar and harmonica form a perfect union**

By Caroline Fling

Larry Tritel and Mer- cer’s own Sociology Professor Guy DeRosa soft rocked the Fedora Café in Lawrenceville on October 22.

With Tritel on guitar and DeRosa on harmonica, they covered songs from well-known American artists, such as Gordon Lightfoot, Hank Williams, Bruce Springsteen, The Mamas and the Papas, and Willie Nelson. Their original single, “I Want to Be Bob Dylan,” was mentioned, and ever since Larry asked me to sit in on a CD, DeRosa explained, and even since they’ve been haunting coffeehouses, bars, wineries and “really, anywhere they’ll have us,” says Tritel.

“We don’t take ourselves too seriously,” says Tritel, who is from Philadelphia but resides in Lambertville. When asked if they have any aspiration to be signed with a label, Tritel responded, “Oh, we’d probably have to have more singles to do that.” Nevertheless, Tritel has a four-inch-thick binder of laminated pages of songs he’ll play.

DeRosa describes himself as versatile because he uses pedal boards for sound effects along with his more than twenty Hofner harmonicas (“one for every key”).

Tritel and DeRosa sucked coffee-drinkers in with their down home sound.
By Josh Onorati

On November 1, Mercer’s women’s soccer team beat Morris Community College one to zero for the victory in the Regional XIX tournament.

“This is the tenth shutout we’ve had this season,” said Heidi Summers, the Mercer goal keeper.

Mercer’s defense, including Summers and Kristin Vincent, Angelica Modica, Kelsey Capuano, and Britanny Usarewicz kept the team together as they blocked and swept every attempt made by Morris to get past them.

Meanwhile, on offense, Kasey Kenny, Tina DeAnglis, Carolyn Walters, Sami Raymond, Marlene Chotkowski, Erika Juricic, Jesse Remy, and Justina Slachta kept up the pressure with numerous attempts on Morris County Colleges goal keeper, Celia Ward. Ward, blocked over a dozen attempts on goal, but was scored on by Mercer County’s number 23, Kasey Kenny, on a penalty kick.

“We’ve played them this past season and won three-zip, and I remember playing them last year and winning as well; we worked together and had a mindset to win,” said Mercer’s goalie, Summers, who made a total of four saves during the game.

Due to Mercer’s strategic defense, teamwork, and communication, the women now advance to District which takes place Sunday, November 9.

Mercer women take it to the limit one more time.

PhIELD OF DREAMS FOR THE FIGHTIN’ PHILLIES

By Jason Brown

The Philadelphia Phillies are the 2008 World Series champions. The city of brotherly love waited 28 years for one of their own to be on top of the sports world, but it was worth the wait.

Winning back to back titles is something that not many teams have done in professional sports. The Phillies will definitely look to defend their crown and repeat as champions next year but it won’t be easy.

Defense wins championships, and in baseball teams only go as far as their pitching staff will take them. The Phillies have a strong pitching rotation, and in 2008 they proved it throughout the season, into the playoffs, and through the World Series.

Cole Hamels is an absolute ace and next year he will only be 26 years old. Aside from Hamels the Phillies put Brett Myers, Joe Blanton, and Jamie Moyer on the mound. Although the staff is solid Moyer is 46 years old.

The Phillies should make a push for another starting pitcher. A.J. Burnett and C.C. Sabathia are two big name free agent pitchers and either would be a solid pick up for the Phills. If Philly could pick up a pitcher of their caliber the team would have the best pitching staff in all of baseball.

At the plate the Phills have a fierce lineup. Ryan Howard is a home run threat any time he steps into the batters box. Jimmy Rollins, Chase Utley, and Shane Victorino bring their A game any time they step on the field.

However those four players may not be enough to carry the Phils to another championship. The Phills should look to pick up another big bat for the bottom of their lineup.

Jason Giambi is a free agent and even though he won’t start over Ryan Howard he would be a valuable addition and a strong bat coming off the bench.

If the Phillies can add depth to their rotation and add another slugger to their bench, they could be around next October to defend their crown.
Mercer offers pre-med, pre-vet and pre-dental program

Mercer has pre-medical, pre-veterinarian, and pre-dentistry options for Biology students.

Diane Hilker, one of the major directors of the pre-med track, clarifies that the Pre-Med track has in fact been offered for 35 years. However, it had not been promoted enough. She says, "Putting the word out is important." She adds that previously students may have felt discouraged to attend Mercer because they did not find the pre-med major at the college's catalog. Thus, the new major is a different approach to advertise the already existing Biology major.

Maryam Iqbal, a 19 year old student at Rutgers University, was informed of the pre-med option given at Mercer, but she says "I mean it [Mercer] is good if you want to save money, but at the end I, as a student, would want to be getting into the top med school, and I doubt Mercer being on my resume would make me more eligible."

In contrast, MaryJane Harris, says " Mercer prepared me very well for Med School. " Harris, Mercer graduate 2007, took her pre-medical courses at Mercer. She is currently attending the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Hilker believes that "The image of a community college has changed. " She notes that Mercer uses the same textbooks as other four year schools, has laboratories with enhanced technology, and students are exposed to a wide variety of medical techniques, all at a fraction of the cost of other colleges.

Research opportunities are also available to Mercer students. There is a special honors sequence that allows students participate in research with the collaboration of Rider University, Princeton University and other affiliates.

The pre-med track offers a wide variety of options to suit every need. The only thing the program does offer is a course focused specifically on preparing students for the MCATs, the standardized exam taken by all students applying to medical school of any sort.

FOR MORE ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS AND BENEFITS OF MERCER'S PRE MED PROGRAM VISIT MCCCVEoice.org
Testing Center lines have reached crisis level

Katrina Brophy

Last week I waited 45 minutes to take a psychology exam at the testing center. The test itself took about half that time.

I stood in line with approximately 30 busy people and listened as the woman in front of me called her boss to say she was going to be running late during her lunch break. Lunch breaks, personal days, time that could be spent doing homework are all being sucked away waiting in line.

Tests are not optional, and typical Mercer students who have jobs and families don’t have time to stand in line for an hour to take a test.

Part of the problem is that testing center hours have been reduced. It also appears that there are fewer staffers, and the ones who are there are being stretched thin managing all of the students who need to take tests. No one blames them for the problem. It’s clear they are doing their best under stressful conditions.

Maybe the shortened hours are an attempt on the part of administrators to save money, but if so it’s not working. For one thing, people have caught on and are annoyed. Moreover, money is being lost as people miss work, money that could be spent on other classes or on textbooks.

There are many things that could be done to ease the testing center crunch. If the testing center opened just two hours earlier each day, the long lines would diminish. If more professors used class time for short quizzes and saved the testing center for actual tests, that would help too. Adding staff might cost money but would pay off in terms of efficiency.

Mercer is undermining its mission of providing affordable education and possibly losing money at the same time by not addressing this crisis.

Consideration of the purpose of the campus ID policy

By David Hoyt with Daisuke Katsumata
The College Voice

How many of you actually wear your student IDs like you’re supposed to? Heck, how many of you have worn them even once? I know I haven’t. When wandering the West Windsor Campus the only individuals wearing these cards are the faculty members and after asking around, many wear them simply to avoid getting in trouble. So with the news that campus security is supposedly going to start cracking down on students not wearing their IDs in an effort to have them wear it, my response is simply: why?

Let’s take a look at what our student IDs do for us currently. First, they allow us to take books out of the marvelously stocked library [housed in a temporary trailer] with an enormous selection of works to help us in our studies. Second, they are admission tickets to the computer lab so you can participate in one of the many cage matches for the right to print a paper out minutes before they are due for professors with unsympathetic deadlines. Finally, they allow us access to the testing center which might possibly be the most relevant use for the laminated piece of paper. As one might see, this is an impressive list of three uses providing the student with endless utility.

Sarcasm aside, are IDs actually utilized in a legitimately useful capacity? Can we use them as a print card? No. Can we purchase lunch or access buildings with them? No. Can we store credit on the card? No. Can we use them as an entertainment passes or savings cards? No. Can we create credit with the bank? No.

The purpose of these cards, then, is solely to be worn. They are the property of the college and become the property of the college if not returned within a year, faculty or staff position or alumnus. All materials submitted become the property of the College Voice, which reserves the right to reject or edit material based on length, taste or clarity.

Do you have something to say? Write to The College Voice! Do you have something to say? The College Voice accepts letters to the editor. Submissions should be no more than 300 words; longer submissions may be shortened. Submit materials in electronic format, and include your name and status at MCCC (major and year, faculty or staff position or alumnus). All materials submitted become the property of The College Voice, which reserves the right to reject or edit material based on length, taste or clarity.

How to contact us:
E-mail: MercerVoice@gmail.com
Phone: (609) 586-4800 ext. 3405
Write to: The College Voice
Mercer County College
PO Box B
Trenton, NJ 08650

**Note:** The College Voice does not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the faculty, staff, administration or the board of trustees of Mercer County Community College.
Dear Shaker,

What gives?

brought to my yard.

saw no boys had been
out my window and
popular belief I looked
day, and contrary to
milkshake the other
problem. I made a
I think I have a
Dear Voice,

AsK tHe VoiCe:

The Voice

compensation.

but I'd have to demand
the proverbial recipe,
I could convey to you
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Theme Crossword:

TheMe crossWord:

1. The holiday season is
2. The weather may be
3. The day will soon be warming
4. What will you be doing?
5. You've been banging
6. What do you think?
7. Good news: even people you
8. Nine times out of ten you
9. Inexpensive hangouts that
10. They're coming and that often puts
11. The Capitol building is
12. Where can I get
13. The city looks
14. Your birthday is
15. If you owe someone an
16. Where do I file my
17. Glass eggnog, have a second
18. Two days are
19. You never know, it could
20. The look without the

Answer the Phone!

1-800-888-8888 ext. 3890
Contact Prof. Carol

Dear Mind,

How do I get into an
Honors class?

Dear Voice,

you can stand!

the navy blue and beige
salvation army for all
option. Try any good
rental isn't your only
Good news: costume

Dear Envy,

Where's Aladdin's lamp

Do you have a problem?

PURELY COINCIDENTAL.
ACTUAL PROBLEMS IS
RESEMBLANCE TO
PURPOSE ONLY. ANY
FOR ENTERTAINMENT

MercerVoice@gmail.com
Do you have a problem?

PURELY COINCIDENTAL.
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Question

You want to give of yourself

You want to give of yourself

While dreaming about your
You may have

Make Thanksgiving dinner

Do you want to give of yourself

0. Down on
1. Drink contents
2. Last words
3. Shun
4. One that is unlikely
5. Underwear
6. Rib and the
7. Wedding, it's
8. On an F115 kid
9. Do a spin
10. Sight of success
11. Pelicans' pitcher
12. Behind the counter
13. Theory may be
14. Letters vended
15. From 1897
16. Feeling fine:
17. Overhangs
18. Use of a
19. Followor: sorts
20. Painless:
21. Head of the
22. Washer's
23. Impeccable
24. Imitate a
25. Comic, comic, comic
26. Affirmatives
27. Eleventh cat
28. Down
29. Opened the
30. Countered offer
31. Tired
32. Data
33. Bouncing
34. Belonging to whom
35. Bath
36. Member
37. Hummel salt cat
38. Pioneer model
39. Tea
40. Vow
41. Numb
42. Trouble
43. A surplus of
44. A bump in the road
45. Two-
46. Tied
47. Too many:
48. He was out of
49. Total of all:
50. Peel
51. Language learning
52. Tinsel
53. Play
54. Minor
55. Laugh.
56. Mint
57. P. O. A.
58. A battle:
59. Pint
60. A cookie:
61. You see me:
62. Tense:
63. A 5th of:
64. A match
65. A signal:
66. A large:
67. A view
68. A sport:
69. A group:
70. A tax:
71. A tail:
72. A key:
73. A walk:
74. A game:
75. A job:
76. A recent:
77. A restaurant:
78. A suit:
79. A movement:
80. A cure:
81. A chair:
82. A place:
83. A piece:
84. A unit:
85. A name:
86. A unit:
87. A unit:
88. A unit:
89. A unit:
90. A unit:
91. A unit:
92. A unit:
93. A unit:
94. A unit:
95. A unit:
96. A unit:
97. A unit:
98. A unit:
99. A unit:
100. A unit:

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Instead of risking the
ugly beans and diced
corn bread again this year,
it's time to take matters
into your own hands and
make Thanksgiving dinner
yourself. I'm sure your
friends will appreciate
your double-dipping,
and I am sure you can
improve. Try to avoid
direct conflicts and keep
your head down until the
stars turn.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Bad news: everyone you
like are driving you nuts
right now. Until Saturn
moves into Mars around
November 15, things won't
improve. Try to avoid
direct conflicts and keep
your head down until the
stars turn.

Pisces

Mar. 19 - Apr. 20

The weather may be
getting colder, but
someone you see every
day will soon be warming
up to you in a big way. If
you're in the mood for
romance, buy candles and
chocolates and get ready to
together.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

Fingers crossed that
you're right this month.
It's time for you to
yourself. Invite friends.

Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

When life hands you
egging, have a second
glass. No reason to be shy
when you need it. If you
see a smidgen, or confess
that you were off base, if you're
tenacious, or causing some
embarrassing situations.

Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

You've been banging
the in a china shop
lately. Taurus. Your
clumsy behavior may be
getting you into some
embarrassing situations.

Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

The holiday season is
coming and that often puts
you in a pensive mood.
You want to give of yourself
rather than just give people
ties and iTunes gift cards. If
you want to get back in the
spirit, this is a good time to

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

As much as you hate
the partisans bickering,
you may find you're now
as a little bit of election
withdrawal. What will you do
during the time you used
to spend watching polling
numbers? We recommend
a gym membership.

Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

Who ever said you can't
have your cake and eat it
too was wrong. You're
trying to decide between
two things you really want
and for once in your life
you really can have both.
Get creative and expect
the best!

Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

Your Envy

Nov. 22 - Dec. 22

To relax your standards just
to do with the time you used
to spend watching polling
numbers? We recommend
a gym membership.