

ESTABLISHED 1969

A STUDENT PRESS SERVING

MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AND ITS NEIGHBORING AREAS

March  
31st, 2008  
Volume 39, Issue 3

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#### SPECIAL REPORT | THE CAMPAIGN

## On the campaign trail

Notes from inside Obama's Ohio effort

By Shaheed Morris  
Reporter

The 2008 Democratic primary season is notable not only for the strength of the candidates running for office, but also for the impressive organizational efforts each candidate has mounted in an attempt to secure voter support.

That Illinois senator Barack Obama lost the Ohio Democratic primary by eleven percentage points to New York senator Hillary Rodham Clinton on March 4, 2008 is old news, but what was that event like from the point of view of an average campaign worker? Mercer student and *College Voice* reporter, Shaheed Morris, went to Ohio to work on Obama's campaign and was asked to report back on what that experience entailed. Here he describes daily life on the campaign trail.

\* \* \*

**Friday, February 29, 2008** - Flying out of Philadelphia International airport, I arrive in Columbus, Ohio at 3pm. Once on the ground I find my hotel and join up with other campaign workers. Though polls show Obama consistently running behind Senator Clinton, the gap has narrowed in recent days and this encourages a good mood within my group.

**Saturday, March 1, 2008** Columbus is a college town. Ohio State University is in the center of the town and it has over 50,000 students. Four other universities are in the capital city. I am surrounded by young people who are trying to help get out the vote for Senator Obama. He has struck a



PHOTO MARK DUNCAN - AP

**Democratic presidential hopefuls Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., left, and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., shake hands after a debate Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008.**

chord with youth voters who respond to his message of peace and his inspiring words of hope for the future. Everyone wants to meet the senator in person, but the workers are still busy and enthusiastic despite the fact that they know he's not in Columbus.

I join a rally at

Shiloh Baptist Church at 9AM. About 400 people attend the event. We move from the church to the County Administration building (Board of Elections).

At this point I have a chance to join other members of the press to interview Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman.

"Hillary Clinton is a fine candidate," he says. He then goes on to say, "Over the last seven or eight years people have been beaten up by Washington; poverty is at its highest; our public school system lacks essential resources; people in America want

See Campaign page 6-7



## Illegal immigration and the fight for higher education

Lawmakers fight over funds for students with great potential but few prospects

By Susana Sanchez  
The College Voice

Karen's parents brought her to the US when she was 12 years old. She has gotten academic awards, taken honors trigonometry and English classes, played violin in her high school orchestra and was the captain of her school tennis team. But she is also an illegal alien. As a result she cannot obtain a driver's license, or apply for the NJ STARS program to get free tuition at a community college, or legally work in the United States.

Like Karen, every year approximately 65,000 students graduate from high school as

illegal aliens. They lack social security numbers so they cannot apply for federal aid, and their parents often have little money to send them to college. Most of these students were brought here by their parents when they were young and have done all or most of their schooling in this country. Yet legally they are not part of the US.

Federal law has a mixed position regarding education for illegal immigrants. It guarantees an education to all students, regardless of their immigration status, from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The idea being that these kids did not make the choice to come here illegally, they are simply the result of their parents' illegal actions, and they should not be punished for it. Also, it is better for the US to educate all youngsters rather than forcing them onto the streets.

But after high school, then what? The laws regarding whether or not these students should be allowed to continue their education differ from state to state. One key question lawmakers face is whether or not undocumented state and county residents, ones who are allowed to attend state and county schools, should be allowed to pay the lower in-state rates while some out of state students, who are full American citizens, have to pay higher rates.

To solve this situation in February of

See Immigration page 3

## The youth vote in '08

By Carmela Pecana  
Reporter

The Super Tuesday presidential primaries that took place on February 5, 2008 showed a dramatic increase in youth votes compared to recent years. According to U.S. News & World Report, "On Super Tuesday, more than 3 million voters nationwide under the age of 30 headed to the polls." Eighteen to 25 year-olds make up 14 percent of the population of eligible voters in the United States at the moment and stand to play a significant role in the upcoming presidential election.

Many young voters are leaning toward the Democratic party. An MTV news article states, "Nationwide, Obama netted 59 percent of voters under 30 years old, while New York Senator Hillary Clinton is supported by 38 percent." Although

See Youth Vote page 7



# Mercer's newer faculty have a baby boom

MERCER CLASS OF 200?  
MEET MERCER'S  
NEWEST ADDITIONS



**MORGAN**  
My mom is Psychology  
professor Heather Jennings.



**RORY & GERARD**  
Our mom is English professor  
and Foundations course  
coordinator Amy Vondrak.



**VALENTINE**  
My mom is English professor  
and College Voice faculty  
advisor Holly Mathews.



**KAILYN**  
My mom is Kerney Campus  
Assistant Provost  
Monica Weaver.



**ELIZABETH**  
My mom is Coordinator of the  
Digital Media Arts program at  
Mercer Sarah Sweeney.

By Christine Yursha  
Reporter

For seventeen years, even as the number of students at Mercer steadily increased, hardly any new full-time faculty members were hired. Instead, as has been the trend nationwide, the need for additional teachers was met primarily through increased hiring of adjunct faculty.

The 17 year hiring freeze ended in 2001 with the arrival of a new president, Dr. Robert Rose who, as more faculty began to retire, encouraged the hiring of young, well qualified tenure track professors to fill in the gaps. Then president Rose is quoted in a Business Network article by Dorothy Fischer as saying "We're not the school of second choice, but the school of first choice for the best and brightest." Although Dr. Rose left the college in 2006 and has since been replaced by Dr. Patricia Donohue, his legacy of hiring remains. One way it is particularly noticeable is in the number of faculty who have young children.

At least seven full-time faculty members have had new additions to their families in the last few years. Research studies suggest that while babies can be a distraction, young parents are often more loyal and committed to their jobs and bring extra energy and focus to their work. But this does require a balancing act.

Two such professors that are balancing these responsibilities are Sarah Sweeney and Heather Jennings. Professor Sweeney is Coordinator of the Digital Media Arts program at Mercer. She is a full time faculty member who has been at the college for a little over two years. She has a 4 year old daughter, Elizabeth. Professor Heather Jennings is a member of the Psychology department at the college. She teaches Introduction to Psychology as well as Child Psychology and Abnormal Psychology and she had a daughter, Morgan Av-

ery, this January. Both these professors feel that the increase in new parents will be

good for the school, but they are quick to acknowledge that the more experienced professors play an equally important role with mentoring the newer faculty and helping to provide a sense of goals and traditions that are at the core of the institution.

One thing that may attract young academics to teach at community college is the fact that teaching schedules, while demanding, are inherently flexible, and health benefits for families—in a time when health care is hard to come by—are good. Professor Jennings says of the benefits and flexibility that Mercer "surpasses any previous employer" she had had. Professor Jennings notes that there will be challenges in balancing work and family but commends the college for promoting an environment that supports working mothers by allowing them some flexibility in how they meet their teaching hour requirements.

One theme that recurred while interviewing new parents was the gratitude they feel to the more seasoned faculty with whom they work. One such professor that has been at the school for many years is professor Ted Otten who teaches English at the college. He says "wasting potential makes me sick and so much potential goes to waste with the students. People get by when they should shine." He also says that "learning is work, and people try to get out of work as much as they can. I'm here to try and stop them from getting out of work." He is passionate about his work and it shows when he speaks about his students and wanting then to do their best. This attitude is one that he clearly encourages in all of his colleagues, young and old.

So while the "new kids on the block" may look a little sleep deprived when they arrive to teach a class, the next generation of Mercer students can look forward to the influx of new en-

ergy, guided by the old pros, to keep standards high.



## Funeral Service The Dark and The Light

By Justin Cartwright  
Reporter

Yes there really is a morgue on the campus of Mercer County Community College. The whereabouts is hard to discern as the students in the Funeral Service program have kept a tight lip on it, but some people speculate as to where it could be hidden. Mercer has one of the top Funeral Service programs in the state, and is well known to those who want to have such a career.

There are two main parts of this program. The first is Funeral Service Preparation, which gets the student familiar with the business and social end of working in mortuary science. The second part is Embalming and Casketing, however, to get to this stage you must carry at least 62 college credits and pass the first part of the program to enter. The embalming school accepts 30 full-time applicants and around forty part-time applicants.

Approximately 150 students come to Mercer from all across New Jersey and Pennsylvania to study Funeral Science, a major that not many colleges offer. Mercer students have won awards in the field of Funeral Science and the program is well regarded.

Harry Watson Jr. is a third year student in the program and is hoping to graduate in December. He got into the field when his Grandmother died. Her death sparked his interest and he was able to talk to the funeral home director to find out about schools in the area where he could study mortuary science. This is how he learned about Mercer. Watson commutes from North Jersey to Mercer as do many other students.

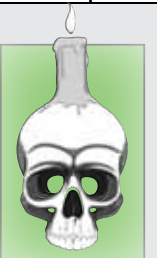
The name most people recognize when talking about death is the "undertaker" However Watson said "There is no difference between the term undertaker and Funeral Director, they are the same thing. In fact, it is better known as Practitioner of Mortuary Science." He went on to say "What the practitioner does is prepare the body for its final destination, whether it is cremation, burial at sea or in the ground." When asked what kind of hours a job like this requires, Watson replied "You're on call all the time."

For those morbidly curious about where the college gets the bodies it uses to train its students, it turns out they are donated from different medical schools and by the county morgue and the Essex County Medical Examiner's Office. However, people who were asked to give more details about this declined to give any information about who specifically handles receiving the deceased. The Director of Funeral Service Programs at Mercer was not available for comment.

What is clear is that without people like Harry Watson Jr. our departed friends and family would never be put to rest with honor and dignity.

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Final thoughts from famous folks as they prepared to leave this mortal world behind.



"I wonder why he shot me?"

-Huey Long, Louisiana governor (1935)

"I've had 18 straight whiskeys. I think that's a record."

-Dylan Thomas (1953)

"How were the circus receipts in Madison Square Gardens?"

-P.T. Barnum (1891)

"Waiting are they? Waiting are they? Well--let 'em wait."

-Ethan Allen (1789) (Responding to his priest who told him the angels were waiting for him)

"Why not? After all, it belongs to him."

-Charlie Chaplin (1977) (Responding to "may the lord have mercy on your soul.")

"Hold the cross high so I may see it through the flames!"

-Joan of Arc (1431)

"Kill me, or else you are a murderer!"

-Franz Kafka (1924)





## Gala at Hyatt raises funds for student scholarships

By Bartholomew J. Battista  
and Alexandra Hough  
The College Voice

This year's 19th annual scholarship gala held on March 8 was a success. The annual gala at the Hyatt Regency Princeton is a silent auction event to raise money to benefit student scholarships.

Nearly 400 people attended the gala, including West Windsor mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh and Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes.

Kerney campus Provost and Vice President for College Advancement Dr. Beverly Richardson said of the event, "The whole purpose of the fundraiser is to recognize that students need some assistance in order to further their education so we

have to make sure we do everything we can to assure that." She added, "It's also a grand time."

With increasing tuition rates, Dr. Richardson noted that scholarships "probably will be more necessary. We're going to have to work harder to find scholarship dollars." Given the current economic status in the county, County Executive Brian Hughes added that "there is always bad times and good times within a place. Mercer County Community College has seen through these times. No matter what the mission remains the same, people should have access to education at any point in their life."



PHOTO JAIME R. ESCARPETA

Addressing nearly 400 supporters at the Hyatt in Princeton on March 8. With chairman of the board of trustees Anthony "Skip" Cimino, Mercer County Community College president Dr. Patricia Donohue and Spirit of Education honoree Timothy J. Losch.

"The foundation has a done a great job on getting people to come to the gala and giving gifts for the silent auction," continued Hughes. Nina Melker of The Bank of Princeton served as the event com-

*"The foundation has a done a great job on getting people to come to the gala and giving gifts for the silent auction,"*

mittee chair. The atmosphere was lively and almost everyone was out of their chairs dancing.

Last year's gala raised \$170,000 that went directly to help cover the educational expenses of

more than 200 Mercer students. The final numbers for this year's gala are not yet in, but at least \$80,000 have been raised so far. There are still some payments outstanding.

The gala is sponsored by many prominent local businesses, in particular Merrill Lynch and Janssen L.P. Other sponsors include AAA Mid-Atlantic, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Dow Jones & Company, Jamil E. Faridy, AIA, PSE&G, Roma Bank, Verizon, and PNC Bank.

The evening focused on giving but also on honoring those who have already given a great deal in terms of time and effort on the part of the school.

The "Spirit of Education" awards ceremony honored members of the college's Foundation Board for their service. This year's honorees included Marjorie G. Blaxill, James A. Floyd, Timothy J. Losch, F. Thomas Kull, Jr., and E. Karen Kennedy. Losch has served as board chair for more than 14 years and Kull serves as treasurer. All have served for many years.

The evening included dancing, an open bar, and an elaborate dinner, but more importantly promoted an atmosphere of giving and helped generate much needed funds for student scholarships at Mercer.

## Illegal immigrants and higher education in NJ, no easy solutions to be found

By Susana Sanchez  
The College Voice

Cont. from page 1

last year Senator Lorreta L. Weinberg (D-NJ) and New Jersey Assemblyman Gordon Johnson (D) reintroduced a bill called the "In State Tuition Bill" that would allow students who could show that they had attended an in-state high school for all four years and also planned to apply for citizenship, the right to pay in-state rates for college. The bill was supported by many important groups including the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network, and yet it did not gain traction in the Senate

Education Committee.

Legislators are hesitant to pass such a bill because they argue that it is unfair to give in-state tuition to illegal aliens and still charge out of state rates to American citizens. Supporters, on the other side argue that it is dangerous to a society to have young people living in the shadows because, according to Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the College of New Jersey, Rachel Adler, it disengages them from their communities and makes them more prone to get involved in

*"Living in the shadows disengages people from their communities and makes them more prone to get involved in gang activity."*

gang activity, says

Even if illegal immigrant students are granted in-state tuition, they still have major problems to face. They are still subject to deportation and in most cases it is impossible to get legal status to work in their field of study until the fed-

eral government takes action to provide a path to citizenship for them.

Indeed, last summer senators spent months negotiating a bill that would have legalized millions of undocumented people living in the US. It required them to pay fines and back taxes and to pass English language and citizenship tests. Nonetheless, the legislators could not reconcile their differences on what was fair and effective to reform the immigration policy, and the bill stalled. Later, in October, Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) among other senators, sponsored

another bill that would grant a path to citizenship to students illegally living in the country. However, once again the bill did not reach the 60 votes needed to continue the debate in the Senate.

In the meantime thousands of students like Karen will continue to graduate from high school in the coming months. For these students attending their senior prom and getting their diploma is not as joyful an experience as it is for others. They now enter educational limbo or join the hidden class of citizens that surround every neighborhood of the country. ■





Victor Migliarese, a Sticky Wicket regular, may not look like Old Blue Eyes, but he sings exactly like Sinatra himself!

# The Sticky Wicket: good food & good times even on a budget

By Ashley Hamon and Victoria Pace  
Reporters

When approaching the parking lot you might not guess that inside was awesome deals, good food, and some fun times. The Sticky Wicket in Hamilton has all of that and more to offer.

The first thing we saw when we walked in is a large Elvis Presley statue. There are booths along the wall next to the bar. Each is equipped with its own flat screen television so you may watch the game of your choice. The bar is in the middle of the room and it seems to be the main attraction, because it is huge, and when we were there, there were four female bartenders walking up and down the sides taking orders.

The decor is a little dark and the crowd a little older than most Mercer students. but the place is a great hang out. The menu has some deals to offer.

There is something for everyone. With everything from wings to steaks and chops on the menu you are sure to find something good. We took advantage of Pannini night and chose from a list of six different sandwiches that came with French fries, coleslaw and a pickle, along with a big bowl of soup. All of this cost only \$4.99 - the price of some large coffees at Starbucks! When we ordered we were expecting a smaller cup of soup and a sandwich, when in reality the cup turned out to be a bowl. We left stuffed and satisfied.

We were entertained by five or six different vocalists that preformed karaoke which we have to say was easy on the ears. Victor Migliarese, a frequent “karaoke,” said that he goes there every Thursday night to sing. In our opinion he sounded just like Frank Sinatra and all of the other singers did a good job as well. Two thumbs up for The Sticky Wicket.



By Patrick Amaral  
Reporter

The finale of MCCC’s first ever “Searching for the Stars” took place on March 14 for a lively crowd in downtown Trenton at the James Kerney Campus. Contestants throughout the past weeks were narrowed down from a selection of 23 acts to a final group of nine.

As each member of the audience walked in, the sound of Michael Buble invited each person to their seat. Lights all around highlighted the stage and the judge’s panels. Everyone then waited patiently for a show that would grant one person’s dream of performing on stage at the Apollo Theater in

Harlem, NY. This wouldn’t be all however, as the winner would also receive a dinner for two at the popular soul food hotspot and restaurant, Sylvia’s. In addition, the winner would arrive to his or her performance in style in a limousine.

In attendance were the families and friends of all the finalists, and a couple of familiar faces from Mercer County Community College including college president Dr. Patricia Donahue. The show began when everything was ready - the contestants, cameras, and all.

Post Midnight, the host and MC for the night, greeted everyone and got the crowd excited for the acts coming up. After each act performed, the

panel of judges gave their input and addressed each finalist. Judges for the finale included Kathy Paluscio, Monique Simon, Terrance Carter, Kitty Getlik, and Vanessa Rogers from the Apollo. Vanessa Rogers proved to be the most stern and honest judge, giving her feedback to the contestants and telling them whether they were ready or not for the Apollo Stage. Performances ranged from rapping, to singing and dancing. While some fell flat, others proved they might have what it takes to grace the stage at the Apollo. Randy Kelly, a Trenton resident and aspired rapper took the stage and performed his own song, “Victory.” He brought a lot of energy to his performance and never fumbled on his lyrics. However, the judges didn’t take it too well, he was said to have “sounded muffled” but he took the feedback pretty well. He stayed true to his vibe and showed why he was a contender in the competition.

A group known as Hell’s Kitchen took the stage and performed their song, “Juicy Fruit.” The song was catchy, but it was marred by slightly too provocative lyrics. Vanessa Rogers said it best, “The Apollo is a family show.”

Another stand out was Kelly Carvin, a singer and songwriter from Hamilton. She performed on stage with her own song; “Keep On” with her guitar at hand. She commanded the stage and provided a smooth set of soulful vocals. The judges all liked her but advised her to watch her articulation. At the end of the show, the judges deliberated in a nearby room and discussed the performances.



As the judges deliberated, they gave their personal top three. Each contestant was judged on several factors. Presentation, substance, originality, and how well they executed their performance. As each judge gave their explanation of who was in the top three, one name was on all three lists. At last the judges returned.

Post Midnight took the stage for one last time before announcing the winner. He reminded everyone that each contestant had a lot of courage and heart to perform. He then spoke out the name of the winner of MCCC’s first Searching for the Stars. It was Kelly Carvin. A sound of roars was heard from her family.

At the end of the event only one question lingered, was there going to be another Searching for the Stars? Professor Jody Person, the event organizer, responded to that question saying that due to the success of this competition, there will be another one in the not too distant future. So, if there was anyone who missed the chance to perform and show their true talents, a chance may still await. If you missed the finale and would like to see it, it was recorded and will be broadcasted for MCCC TV on Wednesday, April 30, at 8:30 P.M.

## Community Calendar

April 1-30, 2008

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 12-1:45 p.m. Transfer Workshop: “How to Transfer” (ET216)	2 3 p.m. Baseball vs. Burlington (home)	3 12-1:15 p.m. “Leading in Life” Workshop with Dr. Teena Cahill	4 8 p.m. George Carlin at Patriots Theatre	5 2 and 7 p.m. “Singin’ in the Rain” at Kelsey Theatre
6 2 p.m. “Singin’ in the Rain” at Kelsey Theatre 7 p.m. Brian Regan at Patriots Theatre	7 3:30 p.m. Men’s Tennis vs. Hartford (home) 3:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Camden (home)	8 12 p.m. “Drug Approval in the U.S.: Process and Potential Career Opportunities” presented by Ronald Harning, Ph.D. (CM109)	9 3:30 p.m. Men’s Tennis vs. Bergen (home) 6 p.m. “Explore Mercer!” Open House (SC)	10 College Night at KatManDu	11 3:30 p.m. Men’s Tennis vs. Gloucester (home) 3:30 p.m. Softball vs. Camden (home)	12 8 p.m. One Night of Queen featuring Gary Mullen and The Works at New Brunswick’s State Theatre
13 12 p.m. Baseball vs. Raritan (home) 1 p.m. Softball vs. CCBC-Catonsville (home)	14 5:30-6:30 p.m. Student Activities sponsored Yoga-free (PE225)	15 12 p.m. Mercer County Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center at MCCC presents the film “Sand and Sorrow”-free; open to public (CM109)	16 6 p.m. Aviation Career Night (SC)	17 School Dayz Thursday at KatManDu for College Students	18 3:30 p.m. Softball vs. Gloucester (home) 8 p.m. “Macbeth” at Kelsey Theatre	19 8 p.m. “Macbeth” at Kelsey Theatre 8 p.m. Rufus Wainwright at McCarter Theatre
20 	21 12-1:15 p.m. Spring Swirl Fest: public speaking students present the spoken word	22	23 1 p.m. Baseball vs. Globe NY (home)	24 12 p.m. “Thou Art...Will Give...” presented by photography instructor Eric Kunsman (CM110)	25 8 p.m. “Macbeth” at Kelsey Theatre	26 8 p.m. “Macbeth” at Kelsey Theatre
27 2 p.m. “Macbeth” at Kelsey Theatre	28 5:30-6:30 p.m. Student Activities sponsored Yoga-free (PE225)	29 12-1 p.m. “Depression—what are the signs” (LA204)	30			



## Mercer County Equestrian Center a local resource

By Susana Sanchez  
The College Voice

Cazmere Bathea, 11, is a small person, but he moves easily about the stables at the Mercer County Equestrian Center (MCEC) in his sneakers, camouflage pants and overcoat. He lugs a saddle and girth to his horse to prepare for his weekly ride. He seems thoroughly at home beside the horse that must outweigh him by more than a ton. When asked how he feels once on board he replies, "I feel like I am in charge." His classmates concur. These students are participants in the Horses and Youth (HAY) 4H after school program that works in conjunction with MCEC and the Trenton schools to offer riding to kids who might otherwise never be exposed to it.

The Equestrian Center, which houses the Trenton Police Horses and is part of the Mercer County Park Commission, is located on Federal City Road in Pennington and offers a wide variety of programs to meet the community's needs. There are physical therapy classes for children and adults with moderate to severe learning and physical disabilities as well as private, semiprivate and group riding lessons. MCEC also offers educational tours, summer camps and rents the facility for pony parties.

Under the manage-

ment of Christine Cardinal, MCEC has expanded its programs and offerings with the goal of making riding something that is not an elite sport but rather a community opportunity. Cardinal says, "The goal of the park is to make as many people as possible in the county experience horses."

The HAY 4H program that Cazmere participates in is one of Cardinal's initiatives. The students attend the center once a week for a six week session. During the session, they do more than just ride, they also learn about all aspects of horses and horse care. For instance, they learn about horses' colors, markings, digestive system, eating habits and grooming. The students are chaperoned by a 4H coordinator and Mercer graduate named Miss Harmon. She says that the children are chosen from after school programs based on their interest in riding and also on their ability to behave appropriately around the horses and stay focused and engaged.

Last year, HAY 4H received a grant from Princeton Area Community Foundation through The Dorothy E. Kate Hopewell Valley Reading and Recreation Fund, so parents did not have to pay for the summer camp



**TOP:** Cazmere Bathea of Trenton rides Zippo as part of the Horses and Youths or HAY 4-H after school program on March 18, 2008. **RIGHT UPPER:** Chaquila Perry and Ngeri Robinson of Luis Munoz Rivera Middle School and the Village Park Charter School respectively, read about the markings and colorations of horses under the guidance of MCEC manager and program founder Christine Cardinal. **RIGHT LOWER:** Chaquila Perry with instructor Kimberly Switzgable preparing to saddle Zippo.

option that the students are able to attend.

One of Cazmere's classmates, Ngeri Robinson said she was hoping to continue on in the summer. "I want to improve my skills," she said, adding, "Right now the horses do what the teachers tell them. I want the horses to understand me and to respond to what I tell them."

MCEC can accommodate all learners and meet them at their own level. Not surprisingly classes fill up quickly during each open enrollment period.



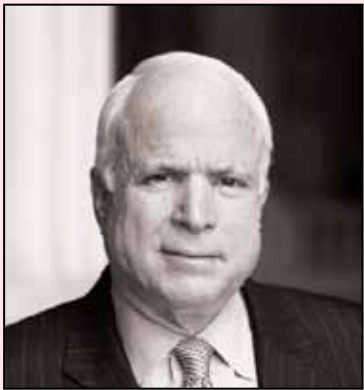
MCEC Employee, Linda Mahevitz, with Sweat Pea.



Horsin' Around: Ngeri Robinson gets ready to ride Zippo.



## MEET THE CANDIDATES



JOHN MCCAIN

AGE: 71  
JOB: Senator from Arizona  
PARTY: Republican  
EDUCATION: U.S. Naval Academy

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT HIM

- Considered to be both a maverick and a conservative
- Was a party animal in college and graduated near the bottom of his class
- Served as a naval aviator in Vietnam
- Was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for 5 years and suffered torture before being released
- Has 7 children
- Cheated on his first wife and they got divorced. Has been with his second wife, Cindy Hensley McCain for 27 years
- Was affiliated with a savings and loan scandal known as “The Keating Five” during the 1980’s
- For his military service he received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, The Legion of Merit, and the Distinguished Flying Cross

WHERE HE STANDS ON THE ISSUES  
IRAQ: Supports current Administration plan.

HOMELAND SECURITY: Supports Patriot Act and wants intelligence officials to have all tools they need. Opposes detaining enemy combatants without legal rights.

IMMIGRATION: Supports path to citizenship for illegals already in the country, while tightening current border patrol.

ECONOMY: Supports lowering taxes to help small businesses.

EDUCATION: Supports sending federal dollars directly to local schools, cutting back on red tape.

ENERGY: Supports alternative energies, and wants to look at nuclear possibilities.

HEALTH: Supports importing prescription drugs to lower costs.

STEM CELL RESEARCH: Supports embryonic stem-cell research

SAME SEX MARRIAGE: Opposes same-sex marriage (believes it’s a state issue)

ABORTION: Anti-abortion (believes it’s a state, not federal issue)

GUN CONTROL: Supports background checks for gun buyers.



HILLARY CLINTON

AGE: 60  
JOB: Senator from New York  
PARTY: Democratic  
EDUCATION: Wellesley College and Yale Law School

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT HER

- Was born in Illinois to a conservative family and volunteered for the Republican party as a teen
- Was first lady of the United States when her husband Bill Clinton served two terms as president and is the first First Lady to hold political office after leaving the White House.
- Was voted “most likely to succeed in life” in high school.

WHERE SHE STANDS ON THE ISSUES  
IRAQ: Opposes troop increases and says US should be out of Iraq by 2009, but doesn’t support cutting funds. She originally voted in favor of the war.

HOMELAND SECURITY: Wants Homeland Security money more heavily focused on areas that are considered high-risk targets, like New York City.

IMMIGRATION: Supports a path to citizenship for most illegals already in the country. Supports tougher border patrol laws and wants to discourage businesses from hiring illegals.

ECONOMY: Supports incentives for businesses to create jobs in struggling communities. Supports middle-class tax breaks.

EDUCATION: Believes No Child Left Behind needs to be changed.

ENERGY: Supports putting oil company profits towards research on alternative energy.

CLIMATE CHANGE: Believes US must cut emissions to curb the effects of global warming.

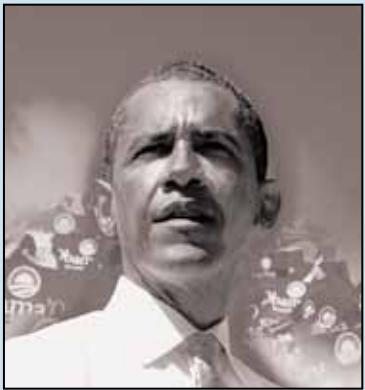
HEALTH: Supports lower prescription drug costs, and universal health care.

STEM CELL RESEARCH: Supports embryonic stem-cell research

SAME SEX MARRIAGE: Supports civil unions, but in the past has not supported same-sex marriage.

ABORTION: Pro-choice

GUN CONTROL: Supports ban on assault weapons and licenses for all handgun owners.



BARACK OBAMA

AGE: 46  
JOB: Senator from Illinois  
PARTY: Democratic  
EDUCATION: Columbia University and Harvard Law School

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT HIM

- Was raised in Hawaii by a single white mother from Kansas
- His father was a black man from Kenya who died at age 54 after fathering 8 children with 4 different women
- First attended Occidental College before transferring to Columbia University
- Chews Nicorette to help keep off of cigarettes
- Is a good poker player
- Has admitted to using drugs when he was in high school

WHERE HE STANDS ON THE ISSUES  
IRAQ: Supports capping troop levels, and wants full US withdrawal by March 2008.

HOMELAND SECURITY: Wants money targeted more towards high-risk areas. Supports better protection for chemical plants. Wants more tracking of spent nuclear fuel so it doesn’t end up in terrorist hands.

IMMIGRATION: Supports a fence along Mexican border. Supports tougher laws to keep illegals from finding jobs. Supports granting citizenship to illegals already here as long as they pay fines and back taxes.

ECONOMY: Supports tax incentives to companies that keep jobs in the US.

EDUCATION: Supports rewarding good teachers with better pay, and expanding summer learning programs. Wants to increase federal grants for college education.

ENERGY: Supports more renewable energies, and wants to look into clean coal uses to get the US away from foreign oil dependency.

CLIMATE CHANGE: Supports capping emissions with incentives to corporations that cut greenhouse gases.

HEALTH: Supports universal health care, and believes government should buy prescription drugs in bulk to reduce costs. Wants hospitals to be graded on performance.

SAME SEX MARRIAGE: Supports civil unions, but not same-sex marriage.



## Notes from inside Obama

By Shaheed Morris  
Reporter  
*Cont. from page 1*

change. Barack provides the best opportunity to change the ways of Washington,” Coleman said, explaining his endorsement of the senator.

**Sunday, March 2, 2008**  
I am working along side Obama supporters from all walks of life, college students, youth groups, seniors. I came as part of a church group and this day is the most important in my itinerary. Along with other volunteers and staff members I spend the day attending church services throughout the city. At each

church I speak to parishioners about Senator Obama’s Christianity and working hard to dispel rumors that Senator Obama is a Muslim. I don’t know that in a few days the campaign will be addressing even more challenging questions about comments made by Obama’s former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

One local who I have a chance to catch up with is Lucky Thomas, 66, a retired worker in the American Postal workers union. He is not happy with the administration in Washington. He expresses sentiments that I hear frequently on this trip saying, “I am fed up with Washington being a place dominated by the rich and wealthy. Ordinary

### National Voter Turnout in Presidential Election Years\*

YEAR	VOTING-AGE POPULATION	VOTER REGISTRATION	VOTER TURNOUT	TURNOUT PERCENT
2004	221,256,931	174,800,000	122,294,978	55.3%
2000	205,815,000	156,421,311	105,586,274	51.3%
1996	196,511,000	146,211,960	96,456,345	49.1%
1992	189,529,000	133,821,178	104,405,155	55.1%
1988	182,778,000	126,379,628	91,594,693	50.1%
1984	174,466,000	124,150,614	92,652,680	53.1%
1980	164,597,000	113,043,734	86,515,221	52.6%
1976	152,309,190	105,037,986	81,555,789	53.6%
1972	140,776,000	97,328,541	77,718,554	55.2%
1968	120,328,186	81,658,180	73,211,875	60.8%
1964	114,090,000	73,715,818	70,644,592	61.9%
1960	109,159,000	64,833,096	68,838,204	63.1%

\* Source: Federal Election Commission. Data drawn from Congressional Research Service reports, Election Data Services Inc., and State Election Offices.

#### What does this all add up to?

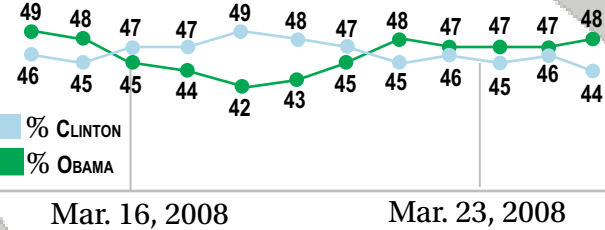
1. An enormous number of people don’t vote even though it is the cornerstone of American democracy for which many Americans have given their lives.
2. More people took their civic duty seriously and participated in voting in the 1960’s than in more recent decades.
3. 2008 may see greater voter turn out than years past. It’s not too late to register to vote in the presidential election!



REALCLEARPOLITICS - DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION				
Poll	Date	Obama	Clinton	Spread
Average	03/13 to 03/24	46.3%	43.6%	Obama +2.7%
Gallup Tracking	03/21 - 03/24	47%	45%	Obama +2.0%
Rasmussen Tracking	03/21 - 03/24	43%	46%	Clinton +3.0%
FOX News	03/18 - 03/19	38%	40%	Clinton +2.0%
CBS News	03/15 - 03/18	46%	43%	Obama +3.0%
CNN	03/14 - 03/16	52%	45%	Obama +7.0%
USA Today/Gallup	03/14 - 03/16	49%	42%	Obama +7.0%
Reuters/Zogby	03/13 - 03/14	47%	44%	Obama +3.0%

**DATES TO REMEMBER**  
**PENNSYLVANIA PRIMARY - APR. 20**  
**DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION - AUG. 25**  
**REPUBLICAN CONVENTION - SEPT. 1**  
**ELECTION DAY 2008 - NOV. 4**

Gallup Poll Daily Election Polling Results for the Democratic Presidential Nomination: Recent Trend



**VOTING 9-1-1**  
To vote on election day, Tues. Nov. 4, 2008:  
• you must be 18 or older on election day,  
• you must be a U.S. citizen,  
• and **YOU MUST BE REGISTERED!**  
Registration is easy: friendly College Voice staffers will help you with the paper work if you come to the SC cafeteria on April 2 at noon. Every newly registered voter gets a free slice of pizza!

## Obama's Ohio campaign

people like myself get left behind. Just like Senator Obama chased out the slum landlords in Chicago, I believe that he can chase out the lobbyists, special interests, and change Washington for the betterment of this country."

### Monday, March 3, 2008

Last 24-hours before Primary Election Day, I assisted with knocking on doors all day.

### Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Election day in Ohio. Waiting for the vote to come in, I head over to the Buckeye Hall of Fame restaurant where over 300 Obama supporters have gathered for the post-election event.

Actor Blair Underwood who has been on LA Law, Sex & in the City, and The Cosby Show is at the post-election event. Underwood rallies those gathered saying, "The drive, the vision, and audacity is why Obama will become the next president of the United States."

I note the diversity of the crowd and I talk to Bill Vanderdose, 83, who says "I have worked on several campaigns in my lifetime and Obama is the first politician to excite me." Although the defeat is disappointing it isn't unexpected and the excitement seems to remain in all those around me as I prepare to return home the next day.

### New Jersey 2008 - Primary Election Results by County\*

CLINTON

OBAMA

DEMOCRAT RESULTS		
CANDIDATE	VOTE	%
CLINTON	602,576	53.8
OBAMA	492,186	44

MERCER COUNTY RESULTS		
CANDIDATE	VOTE	%
OBAMA	30,979	55
CLINTON	24,783	44

\* John McCain won all counties in the Republican primary, gaining 310,427 votes or 55.4% of the electorate and picking up 52 delegates.

## Youth voters' role in '08

By Carmela Pecana  
Reporter

Cont. from page 1

Obama has drawn many youth voters with his message of "change we can believe in," in New Jersey it was Clinton who proved victorious in the Super Tuesday primary.

At Mercer County College, students who did vote on Super Tuesday were asked what issues concerned them the most and might influence how they vote. The war in Iraq frequently came up. It was another war, the Vietnam War, that actually caused the voting age to be reduced from 21 to 18. At that time, 18 year old males were drafted to battle; however, they did not have the right to vote. At that time public outcry caused President Richard M. Nixon to pass the 26th amendment to the U.S. Constitution to lower the voting age.

Twenty-two year-old Mercer County student, Miguel Fernandez noted that the death toll in Iraq has risen up to 4,000. He said "that desperately calls for a president who can stop the war." This sentiment was echoed throughout the survey

and Obama, who is against the war, appears to be the favorite among Mercer students.

According to *The Boston Globe*, "After a steady decline in youth voting since the close of the Vietnam War, young voter participation increased from 36 percent in 2000 to 47 percent in 2004." So far the 2008 primaries seem poised to shatter those old numbers. According to MTV's online news website, the youth turnout in both parties tripled in Georgia and quadrupled in Tennessee. In New Jersey, "more than 187,000 voters under 30 participated in New Jersey's primary." Nevertheless, many students do not appear to have registered and have questions about where they go to vote and what they need to do to participate in the presidential election on Tuesday, November 4.

There are several options to register to vote. Registration forms can be requested over the phone and be mailed to you by calling 1-800-462-VOTE or can be downloaded from [www.eac.gov/voterwebsite](http://www.eac.gov/voterwebsite). The College Voice will also sponsor a registration drive on April 2.

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# The Virtual College thrives

Self motivated and well organized students excel, but those expecting online classes to be easy may be overwhelmed by the extra demands

By Leah Altman  
and Chris Villano  
Reporters

Mercer County Community College offers a wide variety of courses. But many students don't have time for scheduled classes on campus, which is why in 1998 Mercer began to offer online courses along with telecourses through what is now known as Mercer's Virtual College.

Looking at the history of distance learning, Virtual College coordinator Professor Debbie Kell offered some perspective in how the online program got started saying, "Distance learning has been around for a very long time. The earlier distance learning courses tended to be the 'mail order' workbook variety." She notes that as technology improved changes were made. "About 10 years ago, we offered our first online class. Since then, we've seen dramatic rates of growth, especially related to online classes. During the last academic year ('06-'07), more than 4,500 student 'seats' were occupied by distance learners at MCCC. That represents a nearly 23 percent increase in enrollment over the prior year. Our heaviest enrollment is into our fully online courses."

Talking to students who have taken online courses



es revealed that they generally find them convenient but that there are surprising extra burdens and the courses can often be harder than their in-person counterparts. Although students can schedule their time to fit the class in around their work or other commitments, they may struggle to find enough time and it can be hard to keep track of deadlines without a professor to get in your face and give you frequent reminders.

The Virtual College is in the midst of changing the software it uses to conduct online courses. WebCT was the old program that was used by the college, until it was taken over by another online course program called Blackboard. With that having occurred,

there was reason to look for a new program for the students. ANGEL Learning is what is taking its place. This semester is the transitional semester. Currently about half of the spring online classes are running in the new product, ANGEL, while half are still running in the former product, WebCT. The goal is for all online classes to be hosted in ANGEL during the summer session and into the fall.

Despite the success of the program, Professor Kell still encourages an on campus education. "I don't think that one course modality is any more successful than any other, in and of itself. I think that we have to consider student needs, self-discipline, preferences and learning styles. For example, some students may not have easy access to the Internet. For them, the telecourse is a better distance learning option. For students who do have reliable access to technology and the Internet from their homes, they may prefer the online courses, which take advantage of web-based resources and tools, and are often more interactive, with discussion boards, for example." For those interested in getting ahead on their studies during the summer, registration for all classes has already begun.

## NJ Stars brings talented students to Mercer

By Anthony Galasso  
and Ricardo Oliveras  
Reporters



NJ STARS is a scholarship program, which formed in 2004, designed for high school seniors in the top 20 percent of their class to encourage them to attend local schools. As long as the student is able to maintain a 3.0 GPA for two straight years as a full time student, NJ STARS students will be able to attend any one of New Jersey's 19 community colleges for free.

Students and parents must be permanent New Jersey residents and U.S. citizens for a minimum of 12 months prior to high school graduation in order to be eligible. Qualified students also must apply for any sort of financial aid in order to be eligible. If a student does receive financial aid, NJ STARS will cover the remaining cost of tuition and fees. If a student is not eligible for financial aid, NJ STARS will cover the entire cost. NJ STARS students who earn

*"This program isn't very forgiving. If your GPA drops to 2.99 you're out."*

their associate's degree and have followed all the requirements needed to participate in the program are then eligible for NJ STARS II at any New Jersey public four-year college. The state provides \$4,000 per year towards tuition while the participating school covers the remainder of the costs. NJ STARS II does not cover books or room and board, however. Under NJ STARS II, the credits that a student receives at their previous community college are fully transferable.

First year Liberal Arts major at Mercer County Community College, Jessica Zoiowski said, "The NJ STARS program is a really wonderful opportunity and I feel that I am finally being rewarded for working hard in school."

The only drawbacks to the NJ STARS programs are how strict the requirements are. Mercer Head of Financial Aid, Reginald Page said, "This program isn't very forgiving. If your GPA drops to a 2.99, you're out." Once a student is out of the program, they can't be readmitted into it.

Not all students know about the NJ STARS program. In a survey conducted at Mercer, out of 30 students, only 10 had heard about the program. However, since the program began in 2004, the program has grown. In its first year, Mercer only had about 40 NJ STARS students. Today there are about 200 NJ STARS students at Mercer. Having them in classes raises the bar for everyone.

## ENG 101 Textbooks - What are we all reading?

By Mohamad Cheble  
Reporter

At Mercer 33 professors teach 1,250 American and international students for English 101. Students and professors alike were asked to evaluate the merits of these books. Students repeatedly tended to evaluate the expense of the books, whereas faculty members who teach the course tended to evaluate the level of the readings and how the topics suit the students.

English Professor Laura Knight teaches from the book *And Your Point?* which she co-authored with now retired colleague Professor James Franklin. She says "the book is designed to challenge community college freshman composition students to read, analyze, discuss and write at a level commensurate with freshman rhetoric sequences at the four-year colleges and universities to which they will transfer."

For the international sections of English 101, Professor Fran Davidson, who is the coordinator of the International sections invited Professor Michael Beihl to use *75-Thematic Readings*. She said "The tests for the international section of ENG101 are selected to incorporate the goals and objective for the course and to assist students in developing skills required for effective written communication."

Professor Noreen Duncan, who is the current chair of the English department, chooses the textbook *Making Sense: Essays on Art, Science, and Culture*. She says "Making Sense is an anthology

of essays to enter into the many conversations already in progress in colleges and universities."

One explanation for how readings are selected from the books as well as what books are preferred by professors comes from Honors Program coordinator, Professor Carol Bork. She says "When I teach literature classes I ask students to learn the very specific conventions and methods of literary studies. When I teach composition classes like ENG 101, I aim for a more broad-based approach that students can take with them to many different majors and career paths."

So how do the students feel about the choices? They give the texts mixed reviews. One student gave *Thematic Readings* a 4-out-of-10 rating and said she recommends her professor to never use the book again "because we don't read all the stories, (we read) only a couple stories, and the book really cost a lot of money." Communications student Susan Smith, meanwhile, gave *Thematic Readings* a perfect 10 rating, saying she'd definitely recommend professors to use it in the next semesters. Most students rated their English 101 texts with a score of 7-out-of-10 or higher.

Book prices for English 101 texts range from \$42 for *And Your Point* up to \$85.75 for *A World of Ideas*. Students who prefer to save money may buy used books or look for better bargains at discount textbook sellers online.

## Register for Summer & Fall classes now!

Summer Session Dates:

6 Week A..... May 27 - July 2  
8 Week A..... May 27 - July 15  
6 Week B..... July 3 - August 18  
8 Week B..... June 18 - August 18

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Prof. Carol Bork at  
borkc@mccc.edu or  
609-586-4800 ext. 3890  
Or drop by LA 172 for more info.

\*Last day to apply for August graduation June 1



To register for classes online visit:  
<https://emercerprod.mccc.edu/FCCSC/registration/coursesearch.jsp>







PHOTO ALEXANDRA HOUGH

Freshman, David Angebrand, number 19, whips the ball to third to prevent a stolen base.

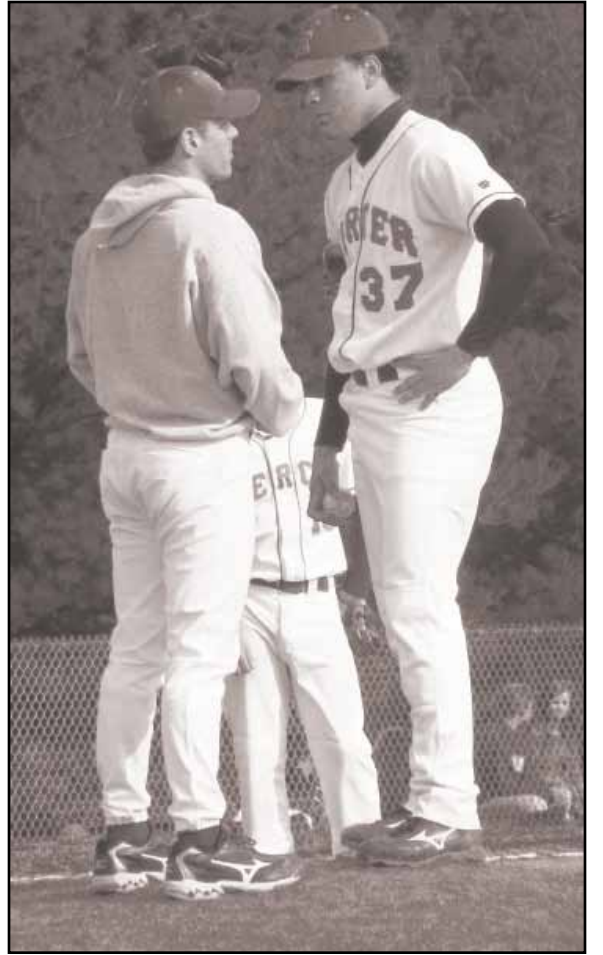


PHOTO ALEXANDRA HOUGH

Pitching coach, Kevin Kerins and sophomore Elio Briones, number 37, conference on the mound.

## BASEBALL: New line up shows promise and a funny side

By Ross Nanfeldt  
and Jason Brown  
Reporters

It's spring and that only means one thing for the men in green and gold; a new baseball season! This year's team has nine returning players, and the Vikings will count on that experience to carry the team throughout the season.

Last year's squad finished with a record of 18-14, but this team is optimistic that they'll end

the season with a better record.

There are many things going right for the Vikings at this point and one of them is pitching. Will Blackman is off to a fast start on the mound. He's appeared in five games so far and has a 3-1 record with an ERA of just 2.49. Blackman pitched in 21.2 innings and has struck out 27 opposing players. Greg Hough leads the team in saves with three, and has struck out 11 in just 12 in-

nings pitched.

The Vikings are no slouches when they're at

*"They're a bunch  
of clowns...  
In a good way."*

the plate either. Six players have a batting average over .300. Frank Mercurio leads the team with 25 hits and a batting average of .455. Mercurio also leads the team in steals with six.

Tyler Smith leads the team in RBI's with 15. Smith has a batting average of .309 with 17 hits including four doubles and two home runs

When asked about team camaraderie coach Matt Wolski said "They're a bunch of clowns...in a good way." Having team unity is imperative for any squad to be successful. Frank Mercurio, the sophomore third baseman, had this to say when asked about the Vikings

unity: "In the beginning of the year we didn't know each other as well, but as the season goes on we're starting to gel and become a more cohesive unit."

The Vikings are currently 10-6 and have 18 games left in the regular season. Their goal is to continue their success on the mound as well as at the plate, and to try to catch fire in the month of April. If they do, they may turn a lot of heads in the college baseball scene.

## Classified

Get rid of that old iPod!

Sell used textbooks!

Submit up to 25 words for free for classifieds and 15 words for book swap with valid MCCC ID!

Submit form in SC 218.

All content must be approved by editors! No naughty language please.

### Do you see a typo?

We spotted 6 in our last issue. This time we hope to cut that at least by half.

If you see an error in our spelling, punctuation or grammar let us know!

E-mail us at  
MercerVoice@gmail.com

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*If you are 12 years of age or older and have Spring allergies (Trees & Grasses) you may consider participating in a Spring allergy study.*

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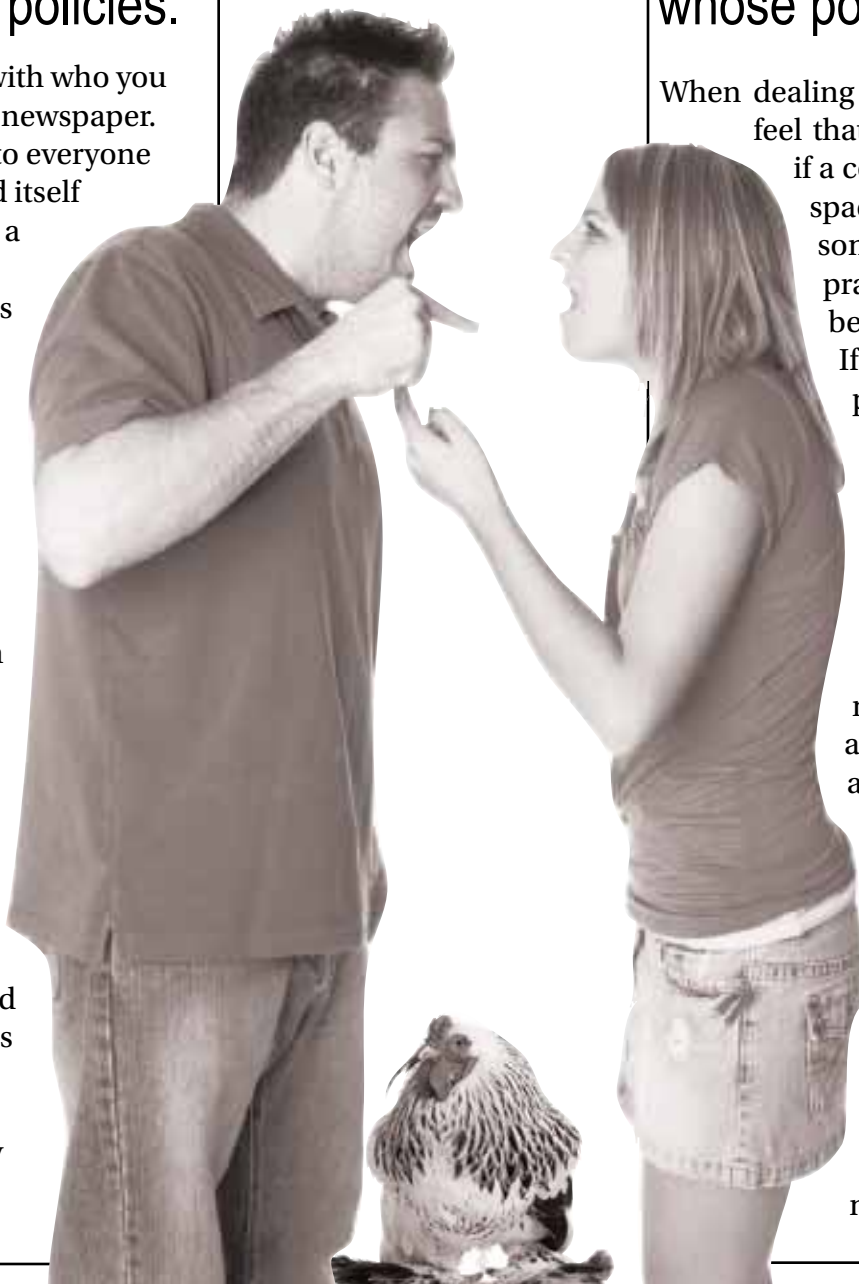
## CROSSEIRE

## DEBATE: Should papers run ads for companies that discriminate?

As long as a company's products are legal, we should run their ad, regardless of their other policies.

You can't play pickies and choosies with who you will and won't allow to advertise in a newspaper. If you have an ad policy that applies to everyone that says certain content within an ad itself is inappropriate, fine. But if you have a problem with the policies of a company or other institution, but the ad is perfectly harmless, you can't refuse to publish their ad. Running the ad fulfills the newspaper's part of the deal and after all, money is money. The money can be put to all sorts of good uses by the newspaper.

One point that might be raise is that those who read a paper may boycott the paper for running certain ads. The fear of losing readers makes some sense, but as the newspaper is free to students on campus and is not a source of revenue in and of itself, a few lost readers is nothing compared to losing the respect of advertisers and having companies refuse to do business with you. The situation is very much a win/lose kind of deal but ultimately we should do as we were asked and run all adds with regard for the content of the ad only and not for the policies of a company that we have no power to change.



Certain ads don't belong here! We should not run ads for companies whose policies are discriminatory.

When dealing with a situation like this, some may feel that everyone's money is green and that if a company or institution is paying for ad space, then we should gladly oblige. While some ads may not clearly offend, the practices of certain businesses may not be ones the newspaper should promote. If a company promotes a hazardous product, such as cigarettes or fire arms, or is noted for discriminatory hiring practices or a rabid political agenda --either hyper liberal or wildly conservative-- the ad is essentially tainted. We would never feel compelled to run an ad for something obviously illegal, such as a prostitution establishment or a drug dealer, but what about an establishment that actively discourages homosexuals or Muslims or ANYBODY, for that matter, from working there or using their services?

Sometimes in the midst of deciding to run an ad, there is an ethical issue. If an ad has any potential to cause outrage or to cause injury to a person or group of people, then the ad should not be run. Running an ad should be based on whom it affects directly and not how much money it generates.



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## THE WAY IT IS



Jason Stives

## What it means to be a patriotic American

Real patriotism is not showy, it's the daily hard work of average citizens

Late last year I was taken to task for my perceived lack of patriotism. I was questioned as to whether or not I truly loved this country.

It seems that lately, a new notion of what constitutes patriotism has begun to develop. The vision is one of someone who must continually and visibly assert his loyalty. The new patriot is one who longs to put his life on the line for his country, who shows his devotion through pledges of allegiance, who keeps a yellow "support our troops" bumper sticker on his car. Those who show their faith less through statements and bumper stickers and more through trying to pull themselves up by their bootstraps by working hard are cast as suspect, their words easily twisted to form meanings with no relation to their original intent.

The new brand of patriot may love our country, but the boy who signs up for the Army as soon as he is old enough is

not the only kind of patriot.

I admire those who join the military because they do what many won't do and that is fight in defense of our freedom. However, I believe there are different ways to show your true colors beyond military service and certainly beyond anti-terrorism bumper stickers. Moreover, I'm appalled by some of my fellow citizens who use patriotism as a thinly veiled form of bigotry, such as country music stars that sing out about how they wish to put a boot in another country's ass. Hatred of others cannot and should not stand in for loyalty to one's own.

According to Webster's dictionary a "patriot" is defined as *a person who loves, supports and defends his or her country and its interests with devotion*. Nowhere in that definition does it state a specific way of being a patriot outside of that devotion.

The real heart of this great nation lies in people who

wake up every morning and fight the good fight by working their butts off for their families and their communities, striving to live up to the freedoms for which so many have given their lives. Patriotism can be expressed through the desire for opportunities and the meeting of personal and social challenges.

In his induction speech into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, rocker John Mellencamp said that he is the guy that rolls the ball up the hill everyday and wakes up the next morning to find it back down at the bottom again, but he continues to roll that ball because someone has to do it. Everyone who rolls a ball up the hill in some form or another is a patriot.

Patriotism isn't a competition. Everyone has their own way of showing their colors. Some show it through the music they write, others through their work. Some show it when they have a barbecue in the summer,

and others when they stand at attention for the pledge of allegiance in a school classroom. Some don't show it outwardly at all. It is just a deep and abiding inner sentiment that prompts them to act kindly.

In this day and age we are taught to live in fear of other countries. From the standpoint of this writer, the best way to show you are a true patriot is by going about your everyday life like you would any other day and not living in fear of what you don't know. Being patriotic need not be arduous. It can be as easy as basic civility, as easy as holding a door for someone and respecting them as a fellow citizen. Making a big display of one's patriotism through speech and deed is unnecessary, and if the actions are just for show then they are not patriotic anyway.

There is no true way of being a patriot because patriotism is not an art form, it's a natural act of pride.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On Sunday, March 2, my sister and I took our 81-year-old mother to Playful Theatre Productions' performance of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at the Kelsey Theatre. I considered bringing my 6-year-old son, who is adopted from Vietnam, and now I am incredibly relieved that I did not. How would I ever explain why we had paid money to see actors in yellowface caricaturing Asians?

Even now I cringe as I think of the ludicrously made-up actors on stage. How can this be happening in 2008? Would they dare to allow a white actor to put on blackface and portray an African American or African? My niece said that maybe they couldn't find Asian actors, but I pointed out that this is New Jersey, where many Asian Americans live, some of whom are aspiring actors who might have been happy to perform in any role, given the dearth of acting opportunities for Asians.

The entire premise of the play is problematic, of course, depending as it does on a plot device which identifies Asia as the evil destination for our innocent American girls. While I understand that the play attempts to make Bun Foo and Ching Ho sympathetic characters, this attempt fails, and for the most part, they appear quite foolish. Perhaps this play worked on Broadway with Asians in the roles, but in Mercer County on Sunday afternoon, the play showed us that the racist caricatures of the last century are alive and well.

An academic institution should not be associated with the continuation of the practice of yellowface, steeped as it is in the ignominious racism of the past.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Fielding  
Assistant Professor of English and Women's Studies  
Penn State Brandywine (formerly Delaware County)

## Picture of the Week



Elio Briones, number 37, on the mound.

**CORRECTION:** In the March 3, 2008 issue, Mercer Chief of Security John Raimondi was incorrectly identified as a Marine. He served as a Military Police (MP) in the Army, not the Marines.

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N E W J E R S E Y

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Liberal Arts Division  
Mercer County Community College  
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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.

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horoscopes



**Capricorn**  
DEC. 22 - JAN. 19

Yes, some people are dolts, but if everyone thought the way you did you wouldn't have anyone to argue with.




**Aquarius**  
JAN. 20 - FEB. 18

The word you have to remember is DELEGATE. It's time to give someone else part of the work to do.




**Pisces**  
FEB. 19 - MAR. 20

Pack your bags. You are going away from home soon. It may seem scary, but it will be fun. We promise!




**Aries**  
MAR. 21 - APR. 19

That black cloud hanging over you is a sign that it's time to hedge your bets. Play it safe for a while!




**Taurus**  
APR. 20 - MAY 20

You're right, lately all you do is work. To keep your spirits up, spend more time singing in the shower.




**Gemini**  
MAY 21 - JUN. 20

Mama always said to look both ways before crossing. You're at a crossroads now. Look both ways, then cross.




**Cancer**  
JUN. 21 - JUL. 22

Finally Neptune has left Uranus and you are feeling better. Put that energy to good use by working hard.




**Leo**  
JUL. 23 - AUG. 22

A long time ago you made a promise to yourself and now you have to make a tough choice to keep it.




**Virgo**  
AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22

You need fresh air and sunshine. Get outside and go for a walk. Your work will still be there when you get back.




**Libra**  
SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22

Time to bake some cookies. Give a few to someone who doesn't expect it and you will have a friend for life.



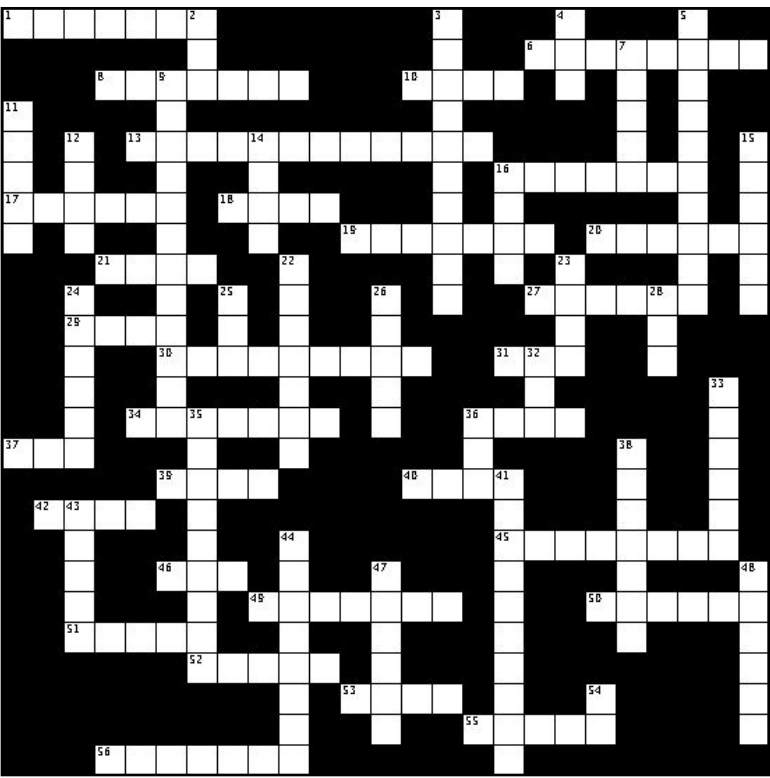
**Scorpio**  
OCT. 23 - NOV. 21

That thing you like to do as a hobby could start bringing in real money soon. Take advantage of it!



**Sagittarius**  
NOV. 22 - DEC. 21

You have been forgetful lately as a result of being over extended. Look for places to cut back.



ACROSS

1. "Good Morning \_\_\_\_\_"
6. First African American judge for the Supreme Court, Thurgood \_\_\_\_\_
8. He played Nixon and Lecter
10. Current senate majority leader
13. There are only two in the senate now
16. Seventh US president
17. Primary alternative
18. Costner movie \_\_\_\_\_ *Durham*
19. I. Lewis Libby's nickname
20. Third in line of presidential succession (abr.)
21. Cruise vehicle, *Born on the Fourth of \_\_\_\_\_*
27. Obama's father's nationality
29. Barack's half sister
30. Third state to ratify the US constitution
31. Mitt Romney's church (abr.)
34. Primary constitution author
36. Number of Asians in the House
37. Numero \_\_\_\_\_
39. Red scare committee
40. VP who later shot Alexander Hamilton
42. *Battlestar Galactica* curse word
45. He succeeded Spitzer as NY gov.
46. He said "Ask not what your country can do for you..." (abr.)
49. "Change we can \_\_\_\_\_ in"
50. FBI director or vacuum
51. *Law & \_\_\_\_\_*
52. Priscilla's husband
53. Capital of Norway
55. Billy Crystal role opposite Meg Ryan
56. Orson Welles epic \_\_\_\_\_ *Kane*

DOWN

2. He said he had been to the mountain top (abr.)
3. Woodward and Bernstein source
4. Oscar winner Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ Lewis
5. *Mr. Smith Goes to \_\_\_\_\_*
7. Former first cat
9. Next primary state
11. Potter nemesis Malfoy
12. Number of Supreme Court justices appointed by both Bushes
14. Left leaning Republican candidate
15. Oldest judge to serve on the Supreme Court, Oliver Wendell \_\_\_\_\_
16. Piano man
22. Bill Clinton's inaugural poet
23. Huey Lewis and The \_\_\_\_\_
24. English Patient count Almas
25. The long arm of the \_\_\_\_\_
26. He played President Bartlet
28. Conservative pundit Coulter
32. Place to go for plates
33. West Wing writer
35. Robin Williams drag role, *Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_*
36. He said "we have

TEST YOUR ELECTION I.Q.



Think you know a lot about how we choose our elected leaders in the good old U.S. of A? Test your wits with this election quiz!

1. How many people are there in the Electoral College?  
a. 50  
b. 500  
c. 538  
d. 835
2. What amendment gave women the right to vote?  
a. 12th  
b. 11th  
c. 16th  
d. 19th
3. Who was the only president who did not live in The White House?  
a. Gerald Ford  
b. Thomas Jefferson  
c. John Quincy Adams  
d. George Washington
4. Who was the oldest elected president?  
a. George H.W. Bush  
b. Grover Cleveland  
c. Ronald Reagan  
d. Andrew Jackson
5. How many senators are there in the United States?  
a. 100  
b. 50  
c. 65  
d. 3
6. How many African-Americans were elected to the senate in the nineteenth century?  
a. 2  
b. 0  
c. 3  
d. 12
7. How many delegates does a current Democrat need to get in order to get the party's nomination to run for president?  
a. 50  
b. 2,024  
c. 2,000,000  
d. 5000
8. Who has currently won more states in 2008 primary voting?  
a. Barack Obama  
b. Hillary Clinton  
c. John Edwards
9. How many delegates does a current Republican need to get in order to get the party's nomination to run for president?  
a. 1,191  
b. 2,024  
c. 1000  
d. 5000
10. Which presidential election year saw the highest voter turn out?  
a. 1960  
b. 1972  
c. 1984  
d. 2004
11. Which of the following candidates did not attend law school?  
a. Hillary Clinton  
b. Barack Obama  
c. John Edwards  
d. John McCain
12. Where will the 2008 Republican National Convention be held?  
a. Anaheim  
b. Denver  
c. St. Louis  
d. Minneapolis
13. Who is the first Mormon to make a serious run for president?  
a. Mike Huckabee  
b. Joseph Smith  
c. Ron Paul  
d. Mitt Romney
14. Which of the follow people is NOT a super delegate?  
a. Al Gore  
b. Rush Holt  
c. Rush Limbaugh  
d. Nancy Pelosi
15. What is Barack Obama's wife's name?  
a. Barbara Walters  
b. Oprah  
c. Michelle  
d. Ruth

Answer Key:

nothing to fear but fear itself" (abr.)  
38. Depp pirate  
41. Party Hillary was originally raised in  
43. Only Beatle not named after a saint  
44. Spacey film \_\_\_\_\_ *Beauty*  
47. Current Speaker of the House  
48. First name of only president to serve non consecutive terms  
54. Chromosome pair for all 43 presidents



Solution to previous puzzle.

