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MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
AND ITS NEIGHBORING AREAS

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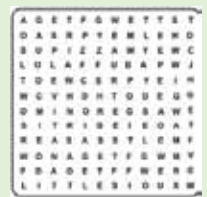
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# Mercer mourns perished students, school community tries to make sense of the loss

By Chris Villano  
and Victoria Pace  
Reporters



In a single tragic week Mercer lost two of it's own in separate stabbing incidents.

On April 19th, James Kerney Campus student Carla Diaz was found in a pool of blood beside her SUV on Cuyler Avenue in Trenton. According to Assistant Prosecutor James Scott, she had been stabbed more than 40 times. The father of her son, Donte Cofield, 23, has been charged with her murder.

Five days after Diaz's death, tragedy struck again. Two Mercer nursing students, Heather Markel and Shane Kinney, who had broken off a dating relationship, but remained friends, were making a routine carpooling stop at the Market-Fair mall when Kinney inexplicably pulled out a butterfly knife and began slashing at Markel's head, arms and chest.

Markel managed to escape into the busy Barnes & Nobel book store to get help, but Kinney then turned the knife

on himself. Both were taken to the surgical trauma unit at Capital Health System's Helene Fuld campus in Trenton, but Kinney did not survive. Markel was released in satisfactory condition three days later.

Said Mercer President, Dr. Patricia Donohue, "At Mercer we are a family. This was particularly tragic and it saddened all of us."

In addition to feeling sorrow, many Mercer students, faculty and staff members are wondering why this happened and what can be done to prevent similar tragedy from ever touching the life of another community member.

Following the second attack, Mercer used it's new student e-mail and M-Alert system to contact students to let them know what had occurred and that school counselors were available for them to talk to.

M-Alert and the new student e-mail accounts are two safety

See MOURNING page 7

National School Associated  
Violent Death Summary\*

School Year	Violent Deaths
2007-2008 (8/07-now)	16
2006-2007	32
2005-2006	27
2004-2005	39
2003-2004	49
2002-2003	16
2001-2002	17
2000-2001	31
1999-2000	33
TOTAL	260

Method	Total
Shooting	115
Suicide	45
Murder-Suicide	34
Fighting	15
Stabbing	36
Other	15

\*Source: National School Safety and Security Services

# New law will ease transfer between two and four year colleges in NJ

By Susana Sanchez  
The College Voice

Transfer from community colleges to four-year public institutions in New Jersey might soon become easier and more affordable.

A new law known as the Lampitt Bill was signed by Gov. Corzine last September. The bill states that starting in fall 2008, an A.A. or A.S. degrees earned at any of New Jersey's community colleges will fully transfer and be treated as the first two years of a B.A. or B.S. program at all New Jersey public four-year institutions. Students will still have to be accepted to those institutions, but as long as they are accepted they can be sure that their

associate's degree will represent two full years of college credit. They will enter the four-year school as a junior and not have to do the kind of elaborate guess work about what courses will transfer that has plagued Mercer students for decades.

When told about the new law, Mercer students' responses vary. Dave Hoyt, a Liberal Arts major, says, "It seems a good idea if you are going to a public college, but it doesn't really help you if you're going to a private school." In contrast, Pamela Brzezynski, Chemistry major and planning to attend Rutgers, says, "I think the law is good because colleges will have to take all your credits."

In order for the

Lampitt Bill's goals to work, the vice presidents of the public four-year schools have mandated that the 19 New Jersey community college's General Education courses become uniform. That way they know a student from Mercer has the same Gen Ed skills as a student from Ocean or Brookdale or any other county college. To make this happen, a committee with members from all of New Jersey's 19 community colleges was appointed to decide what courses should and shouldn't count as Gen Ed. Every community college is revising its Gen Ed course list. To become Gen Ed compliant, minor course requirement changes are necessary

# MAKING SENSE OF VIOLENCE

UCLA professor Douglas Kellner, in his latest book *Guys and Guns Amok: Domestic Terrorism and School Shootings from the Oklahoma City Bombing to the Virginia Tech Massacre* (Paradigm, 2008), concludes that there are three central sources that work together to promote the possibility of school shootings and youth violence in general. The sources include:

1. an out-of-control gun culture
2. male rage heightened by a glorification of hypermasculinity
3. violence in the media

Many leading sociologists and psychologists point to one or more of these sources as the root of the violence epidemic schools have been dealing with in recent years, though Kellner's specific combination is new.

How to address the crisis? Kellner provides evidence that suggests the following five core ideas may be the best hope of reducing youth violence. He says we need:

- stricter gun control laws
- improved campus and workplace security
- better guidance and mental health care on campuses and in communities
- additions of education programs advocating peace and social justice
- and projecting new and more constructive images of masculinity.

STUDENT  
LIFE



for most schools, including Mercer.

Nevertheless Mercer's two representatives to this committee, History Professor Linda Scherr and Dean McCormick, are enthusiastic about this law. Prof. Scherr says, "I'm very excited. This is a great opportunity for our students." Dean McCormick added, "This law is good, it gives credibility to community colleges courses and our students."

Although under the law all credits should transfer, Laurene Jones, the Director of Transfer and Career Services, encourages students to continue to "Use the NJ transfer web site to closely match their classes at Mercer with those at the college they plan to attend, learning how their credits will transfer." She also advises students to consult with a transfer counselor while attending Mercer.



# NOWHERE TO GO FOR BANDAGES, ASPIRIN, FLU SHOTS... A look at the costs and benefits of providing health care at two-year colleges

By Alexandra Hough  
and Susana Sanchez  
The College Voice

Katie Forlano fell, badly injuring her right knee while participating in the Spring Day festivities on campus on May 1st. With nowhere to take her for care on campus her friend, Zachary Zeichner, created a makeshift ice pack using his chef's apron to secure it around her knee. Zeichner was perplexed by the situation saying, "The first thing I did was run and get a security guard. They came right away, but they said there's nothing they can do. They told me they couldn't even call an ambulance because she's under 18. In the end I called the ambulance myself." The ambulance took Forlano to the hospital where her knee was X-rayed, diagnosed as a severe sprain and placed in a brace that she will wear for several weeks.

Forlano's case is not that unusual. Mercer does not have a nurse's office or health center on campus. The price of health care is skyrocketing and education funds are being cut but the need for health care among students is great. Can this burden be shouldered by community colleges?

Mercer's President, Dr. Patricia Donohue, says she is not averse to having a wellness center on campus, but cautions that money is an issue and adds, "The question is whether it should be a place for students to lie down, a program that offers speakers and information, or a coordinator or nurse on site," said Dr. Donohue.

Linda Martin, Dean of Science and Health Professions will be attending leadership training in June to investigate the possibilities for such a center. After that she will work on a proposal for a center, "The wellness center's main purpose would be education," Martin says. "For example, health professionals would conduct seminars about blood pressure, how it is kept at a low and what kind of food increases it. Also, seminars in nutrition, smoking cessation, and alcohol abuse could be held."

Student response to such a plan is mixed. While few students object to the idea of workshops, most indicate that a place to go for pain relievers, flu shots, physical exams and even STD testing would be more useful. "If all I need is a Band-Aid, a pamphlet on blood pressure isn't going to help," says graduating Mercer student, Laura Christiansen.

Dean Martin adds that once the wellness program is established the focus may one day shift toward adding a physical wellness center which



vide a nurse or health center on campus. But calls to those schools show they too are making tough choices to keep their programs running. According to Lori Wilkin an administrator at Middlesex County College, "because of costs and other considerations, the operation of our health and safety center has been limited. We have reduced hours and limited services are provided."

Schools such as Atlantic Cape, Morris, Bergen, Gloucester, Ocean and Brookdale county colleges do manage to provide students with basic prescriptions, athletic

physicals, vaccinations and first aid among other services. In some cases the schools charge and added health services fee on top of student tuition in order to finance the costs.

President Donohue notes that "The college is cutting positions because the school's budget allocation from the State of New Jersey has been significantly cut." She goes on to note that, "To have a nurse on campus is expensive and requires a full-time salary and benefits. Nursing salaries are high salaries. And nurses in a campus setting are not allowed to prescribe medications and can do very little," said Dr. Donohue. She also noted that as a commuter school many Mercer students have their own doctors nearby.

Although room in the budget and the high cost of the center seems to be the most significant reason on why we do not have one, there are sources that might help Mercer finance one. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation specifically offers grants to institutions and organizations that provide health care to what they call "vulnerable populations," which include the low income populations that are served by community colleges like Mercer. In particular, they tend to give money within the state of New Jersey. Further, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation goes beyond many other non-profit organizations in that it offers continuing support rather than simply seed money for start-up costs. This type of financing would be crucial for such an endeavor.

Before any decisions are made as to whether Mercer will one day have a health or wellness center, Dean Martin will conduct a survey to assess the needs. She will report her findings in a proposal that can later be presented to the board. This may be the first step in providing health services to the community.



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

*Student Katie Forlano waits for an ambulance after injuring her knee at Spring Day, May 1, 2008.*

could include a walk-in clinic with handicap access, exam rooms, and registration. The center could serve as a clinical site for nursing students to gain experience under the supervision of a professor.

Dreaming beyond that, Martin would like to open up the center for the community to provide such services as childhood immunization.

The biggest uphill battle for a health or wellness center on campus is funding. Seven of the twenty area community colleges do pro-

## Fast Facts

- **48% OF MERCER STUDENTS** receive some form of federal or institutional financial aid. National statistics show that students who receive financial aid are less likely to have regular access to health care than students who do not receive aid.
- **7 OUT OF 20 NJ area community colleges** have health centers that offer: first aid treatment of minor injuries and illnesses, STD testing, physicals, flu shots, referrals, counselling, and health and wellness programs. The seven include: Atlantic Cape\*, Bergen, Brookdale, Gloucester\*, Middlesex, Morris\*, and Ocean\* county colleges. (\* = student enrollment at these schools is roughly equal to or less than the current enrollment at MCCC).
- **5.6% OF LOW INCOME** students at Mercer graduate with a degree or transfer in 2 years, as compared to 13.6% for non low income students. National studies suggest low income and poor health coverage leads to poor classroom attendance.



# SWIRLIN' IN THE WIND: public speaking students achieve lift-off



By Shaheed Morris  
and Ashley Hamon  
Reporters

Despite the fact that gusting wind toppled the tent that sheltered the speakers during Mercer's second annual Swirl Festival on April 21, the show went on. The students showcasing their public speaking skills waited only long enough for student emcee/host Akwasi Genfi to set the tent up again before continuing undeterred.

Communications professors selected the best student speakers from their classes to participate in this year's event. Students choose their own topics based on their life experiences.

The Swirl Festival was created a year ago to be used as a means of helping students overcome the anxiety that comes with speaking in public.

Tazwell Salter got a lot of laughs for his comical deliv-

ery of his speech on bad breath. He recalled, "I decided to speak about bad breath because my sixth grade teacher touched me, not only with her teaching, but with her breath."

Lavardo Pennerman, 18, used a thundering tone to give his speech on stereotyping. He recalled the comments he received from people because he, an African American, was being adopted by a Caucasian family when he was 15. One person, he recalled, once said to him, "You're the whitest-black person I've ever met."

During the Swirl Festival, guitarist Rob played a song, "Speak Out." Approximately 75 students, faculty, and staff attended. Faculty members Kathi Paluscio and Tracey McCarthy coordinated the event.

Hosts Andrea Pane and Genfi had little preparation for the event. "The event was better than last year," said Genfi. "I

hosted the event last year and had no idea of this year's event. The event organizer ran into me in the hall and said 'I need you to host the event, which is about to start in ten minutes from now.'" But Genfi was unperturbed.

At the end of the program, several school administrators were called upon to give off-the-cuff speeches on topics of general interest. The line up included John Simone, director of athletics and Assistant Dean of Student Services; Kitty Getlik, managing director of Kelsey Theatre; Barry Levy, coordinator of the television program and Judy Ehresman, Dean of Arts and Communications.

"The event was a success," Paluscio said. "I hope that students will feel more comfortable about speaking in class after observing the best of the best student speakers perform."



*Students from different sections of CMN 112 - Public Speaking present their thoughts to a crowd of peers, faculty and staff at this year's annual Swirl Fest on April 21. No one seemed phased by the errant canopy that managed to break free from its moorings and lead event organizers on a merry chase around the quad before it was once more secured.*

## Prison photography presentation at Mercer

By Ross Nanfeldt  
Reporter

On April 24, Eric Kunsman, a former Mercer faculty member who now teaches at Rochester Institute of Technology gave a Distinguished Lecture on his photography of the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. The lecture, which also covered Professor Kunsman's work during his college days and his work with his photography studio, BookSmartStudio, showcased a wide range of photographic styles and techniques.

The lecture, which lasted one hour, was held in CM110, one of the lecture hall style classrooms here at Mercer. At the starting time, the room was around half full, with the majority of those in attendance being Mercer students. Stragglers

and late comers increased the head count to about 2/3 capacity by the time the lecture got under way.

Professor Kunsman, a youthful 20-something with a casual sense of humor, is well regarded within the photography community for his work with an 8X10 camera, a technology that is scarcely used today. It was quickly apparent why his photography is well regarded, as it was some of the most captivating work this reporter had ever seen. Especially moving was Professor Kunsman's work in New Orleans pre-Katrina, where his on the street, in the community angle gave a vivid reminder of the fascinating culture that was damaged on that tragic August day.

What seemed from

it's odd title --"Thou Art... Will Give"-- as if it might be a dry subject was made totally enjoyable by Professor Kunsman's charismatic humor that was well placed throughout the lecture. However, the chilly temperature in the room may have played a factor in the rapid dispersal of attendees at the lectures completion.

Said one attendee who wished to remain anonymous, "I don't know anything about Professor Kunsman's work, but I have an interest in photography and read about this event on Mercer's web site."

Though the lecture was interesting and engaging, a little more background about the Distinguished Lecture series' origins and purpose might have been helpful to the students.



*Former Mercer faculty member, Eric Kunsman, returned to present photos from Eastern State Penitentiary.*



# Darkness lurks in the heart Mercer's *Macbeth* is a sinister delight

By Christine Yursha  
and Ricardo Oliveras  
Reporters

Mercer's spell-binding production of *Macbeth* made its debut on April 18 at the Kelsey Theatre. The student cast was directed and choreographed by Jody Person, the Department Coordinator of Theatre and Dance at the college. The students took a lot of risks to achieve Person's vision, but it paid off. The final result was a captivating success.

The play centers on the murder of the King of Scotland by his cousin Macbeth and the repercussions that follow him and lead to his own death.

The two main characters, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, begin as seemingly good people who are ultimately corrupted by the forces of evil. The idea that anyone can become corrupt and that all of us have the potential for evil is one that this production dwells on.

As a way of indicating the potential darkness in every soul, each actor takes a turn at playing the title role. To accomplish this, Macbeth is symbolized by his armor which is handed from student to student and each overlaps the lines he or she is speaking with the

other Macbeth during the hand off. It may sound confusing, but the shifts occurred seamlessly throughout the performance.

One particularly provocative handoff results in a stage kiss being shared by two male students. Younger members of the audience, perhaps too absorbed by the acting to care or maybe just used to such things from years of watching television shows like *Will & Grace* and *Six Feet Under* did not seem to care, but some older views appeared taken aback and one lady actually got up and left in disgust.

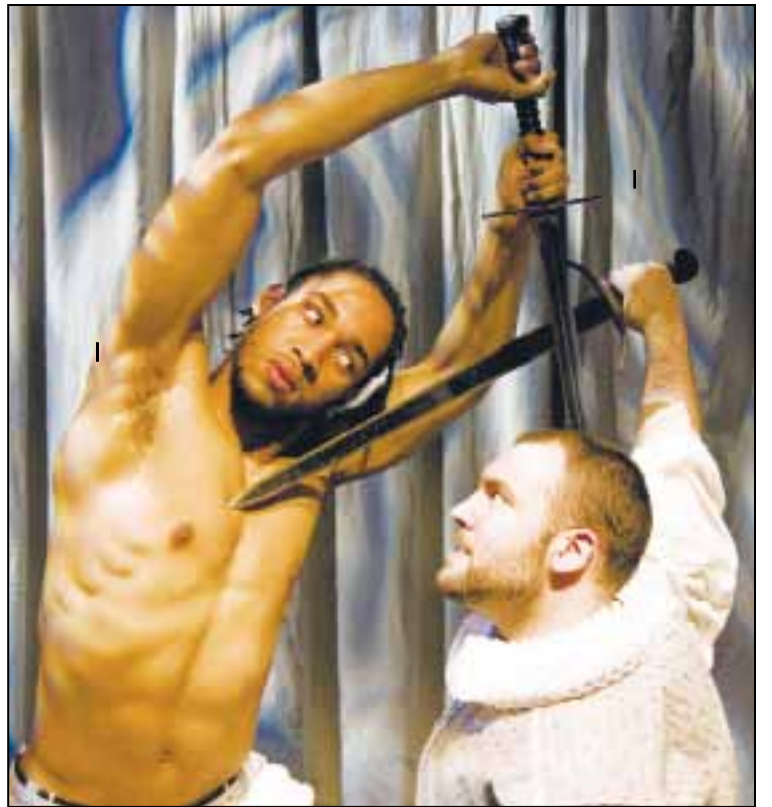
The production of *Macbeth* included a few modern twists to lighten the mood. In one scene Lady Macbeth uses her computer to check her incoming mail which received a huge laugh from the audience. Such modern twists made the heavy drama of the play take a lighter tone. However most of the comedic touches ended in the first act which developed the main characters and set up a thrilling second act. The scenes focused on building the tension before the climactic ending. Highlighted by Lady Macbeth's famous sleepwalking scene and the last battle where Macbeth meets his demise, the play had a captivating finale.

The three weird sisters with their famous "Double double, toil and trouble" chant were played by three dancers in torn spandex suits that gave the impression of having been clawed. Their appearances were indicated by clouds of smoke and the entire effect was impressive.

The performance of the actors was much better than what can be found in a lot of movies today. The eerie music really created a sense of unease. The lighting and special effects were handled by a group of students in the Entertainment Technology Program and were supervised by Professor Bob Terrano, who runs the program. "It was a very complex process. Production began in December and we worked long hours everyday," said Terrano. It was his efforts and the students that made all difference in the appearance and mood of the play. The costumes, hairstyles and make-up were nothing short of perfection, the costumes were hand made. All of these elements made *Macbeth* memorable. Creativity was evident throughout. In short, the production of *Macbeth* at the Kelsey Theatre can be described as unforgettable.



## THEATER REVIEW



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

From Mercer's student production of *Macbeth*, from left Keith Harper and David Hamm.

## 3Penny: a frustrating performance

By Abraham Silwany  
Reporter

Pierrot Productions presentation of *The Threepenny Opera* flowed well and it wasn't difficult to keep up with the plot but the execution and overall feel of the opera made it difficult to enjoy.

The play started off with a nice little number from Tom Chiola, who played three parts. Chiola's singing was enjoyable but the orchestra was anemic at best. The music lurked in the background, making it difficult to get any enjoyment from the opera when the actors opened their mouths to sing.

Additionally troublesome were the bits of dialogue and action between musical numbers.

There were a couple of characters, particularly one of the members of Macheath's gang, who would often overdo their English accents to the point where it was hard to understand what they were saying. It ended up feeling like they were giving a parody of their own material.

After a number of these interludes one began to feel detached from the performers until it was hard to care about what was going on in the plot.

The play by Bertolt Brecht and score by Kurt Weill

are notoriously dark and some audiences might find the moral implications of the material difficult to stomach, but it wasn't the content of the play that compromised the performance.

The real problem was that the tricky material wasn't made engaging on several levels. The acting was mixed. The sets were drab. The music was sulky even by Weill's standards.

Kelsey Theatre is small, so that could have been why the director chose to keep the items on set to a minimum, but the sets provided so little to look at that one couldn't help thinking up possible alternative set designs.

Even for someone who went in really wanting to enjoy the play the little things added up.

By the end of the first act the elements that had been enjoyable had become borderline annoying. By the end, as the audience waited to see whether the anti-hero gangster, Mack the Knife, would be hung or given a last minute stay of execution and be reunited with his girl, it had all come to seem irrelevant. People were checking their watches and looking for their coats and bags.

Overall 3Penny was a disappointment.



## PREVIEW: NKD, a student production

By Patrick Amaral  
Reporter

May 23rd through the 25th Mercer will be offering its first completely student run theatrical production. This show is called, *NKD: Sex, Lies, and Life*. It will be a one act festival with two parts to the play.

Viewer discretion is advised, however, as the play contains strongly suggestive themes, elements, and visuals.

NKD was first developed in a Playwriting I Fall Class by student Alex DeFazio along with theatre major Kyrus Westcott and a few other students. It was later read at a Late

Night Series event at the college. Westcott wanted a show that required the performers to "strip down emotionally and just be a bare soul in front of the audience." Westcott was responsible for hiring the production staff and the technical staff for the show. He also hired stage managers, lighting designers, and producers to help oversee the entire production.

Elixir Productions' web site describes the show saying, "The play explore the funny and dangerous territory of "sex, lies, and life" in two parts. One side of the parts is "Distortion," which is written and directed by James Jaketic. This is a comedy about two slacker band mates and lifelong friends who come to blows when one of them starts dating an ambitious young woman. The second part, "Post Coitus" which was written and directed by Noah Ballard tackles the dark side of the bedroom as three college students engage in an escalating valley of seduction, betrayal, and sexual revenge"

Westcott was "inspired to just show the true emotions of the world's young generation. People my age tend to hide their true feelings and judge people too much. But really, if we all strip ourselves of America's stereotypical ideology, we're all the same. Both shows in this production showcase that bare, true-to-life emotion that all of us go through, even if you aren't part of our generation."





## Local fundraising event promotes autism awareness

By Caroline Fling  
The College Voice

Before Ryan Sinkleris was in pre-school, he seemed to be brilliant. Ryan could quote his favorite television shows verbatim, he loved routines, he performed many tasks with ease. But when the time came for social interaction with other children in pre-school, something seemed off to both his parents and teachers.

Like one in 94 individuals in New Jersey, Ryan was diagnosed with autism.

As a non-verbal learning disorder, autism and its "cousin" Asperger's Syndrome, create a barrier between the real world and the autistic person's mind. Autism affects three key areas: communication, social skills and the ability to conduct creative thinking. Usually diagnosed in childhood the disorder persists into adulthood and while there are treatment strategies, there is no known cure.

Although there are different levels of social and communication ability

among those with autism, most children on what is known as the "autism spectrum" must be taught such seemingly simple things as what a smile means or how a conversation is supposed to stop and start. Despite these deficits, people with autism often have surprising focus and skills in other areas.

Ryan, who was diagnosed in October 2006, now has therapy sessions two times a week. He also participates in two social skills groups where he learns eye contact and how to make "small talk." More recently, Ryan has been a player for the Miracle League, a baseball program for children with special needs at the Sawmill YMCA.

Andy Sinkleris is an English teacher at Steinert High School in Hamiton, NJ. His twelfth grade GT English class is holding a 5K Run/Walk to raise money for Autism Speaks, an organization dedicated to raising awareness of the effects of autism on individuals, families, and society. The

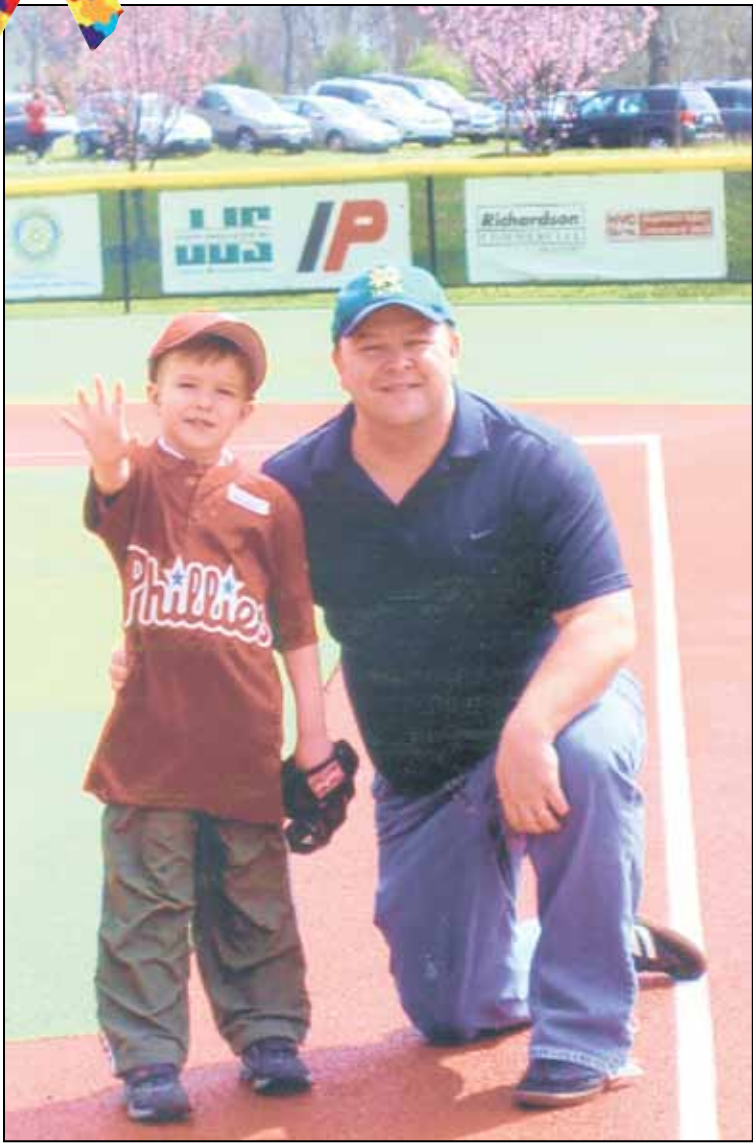
event will be held June 7th at Veteran's Park in Hamilton.

Sinkleris says, "The 12th grade students at Steinert are very motivated to this cause due to the fact that they've met my son, Ryan, and they see the challenges that he faces. I have also shared with them the difficult journey parents face in finding out exactly what is wrong with their child."

Student event coordinator, Nicole Engler, for the Autism 5K says, "It's amazing how many people you find out are dealing with [autism]."

Sinkleris encourages any parent who is struggling and thinks their child may have autism to seek help. "As soon as you say its autism," Sinkleris says, "all of these doors open for you. There's so much help out there."

Sinkleris adds, "Autism Speaks provides services for families in this situation and that is why my students chose to support it."



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Ryan (5 and a half) and Andy Sinkleris preparing to play ball.

## Pictures of the Week

Phi Theta Kappa honor society's "Pie the Professor" Spring Day fund raiser was a smashing success. Funds went to the PTK scholarship fund and to local Habitat for Humanity. Pictured below from left, Liberal Arts professors who accepted a pie in the face for a good cause: Betty Peterson, Carol Bork, Craig Coenen, Karen Bearce and Padhraig Higgins (also bottom right).



### DON'T LET SPRING ALLERGIES KEEP YOU INDOORS

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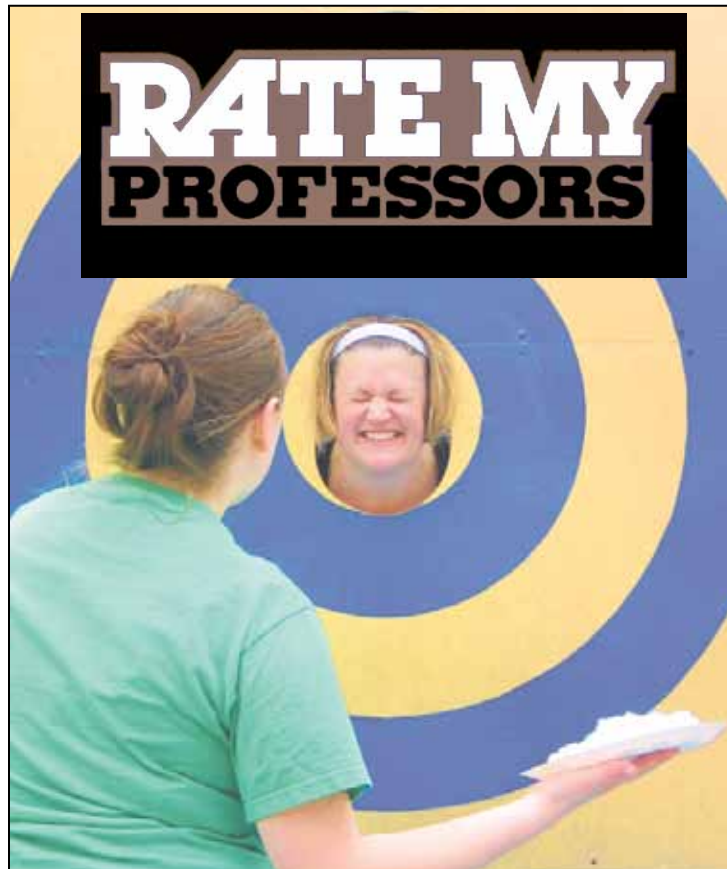
## Professors get graded on popular web site, but is it fair?

By Chris Turissi  
and Abraham Silwany  
Reporters

"Do not take this professor unless you are prepared to kill yourself due to boredom" writes one disgruntled student. "I don't think this professor graduated High School" writes another. Although all of the critiques are not as mean spirited, these are the kind of criticisms that even the top paid professors at the nation's Ivy League universities receive on the popular ratings web site called [ratemyprofessors.com](http://ratemyprofessors.com).

[Ratemyprofessors.com](http://Ratemyprofessors.com) allows college students to find out what others have had to say about their professors before they take a class with them. Professors are ranked on a 1 to 5 scale by their previous students in categories such as easiness, helpfulness, clarity, overall quality, rater interest, and even hotness. Students can also give user comments based on the positive or negative experience they had with that professor.

A survey of 30 Mercer students both male and female of all ages showed that roughly half had heard of and used the [ratemyprofessors.com](http://ratemyprofessors.com) web site. Of the 30 students surveyed, 38 percent had used the web site specifically to choose a professor while 25 percent had dropped



Psychology Professor Karen Bearce prepares to take a pie in the kisser for PTK fund-raiser.

a class due to a professor's rating. All of the students surveyed who said they used the web site also said that they would recommend it to others. Said one male Mercer student who asked to remain anonymous, "I know of a lot of students who end up dropping a class after a couple of days just because they didn't like something about their professor. I feel like the web site can prevent that from happening."

So what do faculty members think of the site? Though none would give their names on the record, many Mercer faculty members admitted to checking their own ratings and even the ratings of colleagues. One professor who spoke on condition of anonymity said "Of course we check. But the hotness rating is pretty silly, and you have take the whole thing with a grain of salt. Only students who love you or hate you ever seem to post."

Professor Donna Munde, the Communications Program Coordinator said, "If it's true that anyone can post a comment on a professor then I feel it works as a 'democratic' site. However, not every student in every class taught by a professor posts on the web site. So if a particular student has a positive or negative experience and posts many times, that can skew the overall evaluation of the professor. Ratings of professors and courses are personal and sometimes can be emotional."

Recently, [ratemyprofessors.com](http://ratemyprofessors.com) has given professors the chance to respond to student criticisms by posting video taped rebuttals to some of the more unpleasant comments left by past students. Perhaps not surprisingly some of these responses were not so pleasant either.

## Academic fashions FOR DUMMIES

**HOOD TRIM**  
Dean McCormick's hood trim is purple indicating his law degree from NYU.

**TASSEL**  
Tassels come in many colors, often reflecting the school's colors, but pure gold tassels are given only to those with

**FACIAL HAIR**  
No academic significance.

**FLOPPY HAT**  
The soft and multi-pointed hat indicates the

### ANATOMY OF A HOOD

"Mirror mirror on the wall, who's the smartest of them all?" Academic hoods may not tell you who is smartest, but they can tell you what school a professor went to and what his or her degree is in.

- 1 - VELVET TRIM  
Tells the field of study for highest degree earned.
- 2 - LINING  
One of the school colors of the university
- 3 - CHEVRON  
One of the school colors of the university
- 4 - SHELL  
Shells are black and their length tells if the wearer has a Master's or Ph.D.

**INSIGNIA**  
Insignia tell exactly what school the wearer attended. (Dr. Richardson got her Ph.D. at Boston

**HOOD TRIM**  
Hood trim color tells you the wearer's field of study. (Dr. Campbell's Ed.D. is in Education thus light blue.)

**VELVET ARM BANDS**  
Velvet bands on the arms means Ph.D.





# RETIRING: Looking back on 27 years of service to Mercer's community

By Susana Sanchez  
The College Voice

## Marianne Reynolds



PHOTO | STEVEN MURPHY

After 27 years, the founder of Mercer's Education Program and Chair of the Social Science Department, Professor Marianne Reynolds is retiring.

Before 2001, Mercer did not offer a degree in education. Dr. Reynolds not only developed the current education programs but under her guidance the number of education major students has grown from 96 in 2001 to 451 in 2007.

Assistant Professor Elizabeth DeGiorgio says, "Dr. Reynolds is leaving behind: a rigorous education program, which is better or at the same level as an education program at four-year institutions, a partnership between Mercer and elementary and secondary public schools and four-year colleges, and other ongoing projects."

Dr. Reynolds's teaching has encouraged her students. Jorunn Evju, Education major, says, "Dr. Reynolds has high expectations of her students, which made me work hard not only in her class but in all my other classes as well. She gave me a good foundation to build on in my future education." Dina R. Ochoa, Education major says, "Prof. Reynolds is very knowledgeable and has a personality that inspires her students to keep pursuing their dreams."

Forming excellent teachers has been Professor Reynolds's priority. She says that her most memorable experience as a professor of education has been "To visit the classrooms of my former students and see what wonderful teachers they have become."

Faculty members also hold Dr. Reynolds in high esteem. Professor of History Linda Scherr says, "She is an excellent teacher, has ad-

vocated for students nationwide, is a fantastic colleague and a great inspiration for me as a teacher. We'll miss her." Dr. Robin Shore, Dean of Liberal Arts Department, affirms that sentiment saying, "Dr. Reynolds is exceptional, competent, has great academic leadership and organizational skills, and is a wonderful person to work with. We'll miss her."

Besides teaching, Professor Reynolds has distinguished herself in other areas. She has given workshops and presentations in several states on topics from developmental reading instruction to teaching strategies. She has written several articles for professional education journals and published five college textbooks for developmental readers.

After retiring, Professor Reynolds will take a year off and then consider an international teaching position.

## Farewell to graduating Voice staffers

By Ashley Hamon  
and Shaheed Morris  
Reporters

Two of the College Voice editors will graduate this spring. Alex Hough, 17, and Jason Stives, 20, will be going on to four-year universities next fall to study journalism. Hough will be transferring to Suffolk University while Stives will transfer to Rutgers University.

Hough, currently a senior at Steinert High School and part of the Jump Start program at Mercer, has not only worked as Editor-in-Chief at the Voice but has also interned at the Community News Service and her articles have been seen in all the county newspapers. Hough has also been accepted for an internship at The New York Times.

Of her year at the Voice Hough says, "I've learned responsibility and deadlines. The paper has prepared me to go out into the real world and work at a daily newspaper. There is so much more to reporting than what you learn in a classroom. You need to go out and do the reporting and editing to get the right experience."

Stives who has written a series of music reviews and popular editorials has served as Viewpoints Editor for the Voice this past year. He says he found his passion for writing at a young age when he also discovered a passion for music. "My dream job would be to write for Rolling Stone magazine," Stives said. His favorite musicians include the Beatles, John Mayer, and the Birds.

Of his time at the Voice Jason says he is most proud of his editorial column and that he will miss his fellow editors because they had a great time working together.

College Voice faculty adviser Holly-Katharine Mathews had high praise for this year's editing team, noting that the paper had been dormant for several years and that the student editors managed to bring it to life despite numerous challenges.

About Hough, Mathews said, "I have asked her to do everything from spending hours cleaning out a derelict newspaper office to conducting last-minute interviews with the college president in order to get a story done on deadline, and never once has she responded with anything other than a cheerful 'Yes! No problem; consider it done!'"

Mathews notes that Stives was consistently the most eager editor to receive criticism of his work. "I will really miss Jason's bright and good attitude around the newsroom. He always raised the level of discussion and debate on every topic and had a way of keeping everyone on track while also being highly respectful of everyone's different talents."

Of their pair's departure Mathews said, "I know it's time for them to head out into the world beyond Mercer. They're ready to fly."



**Name:** Alexandra Hough  
**Position:** Editor-in-Chief  
**Age:** 17  
**Hometown:** Hamilton, NJ  
**Heroes:** Her parents  
**Worst Subject:** Anything science  
**Favorite authors:** Truman Capote and Jodi Picoult  
**Greatest Accomplishment:** Getting into college  
**Career goal:** Journalist  
**Favorite WaWa food:** Cheese and crackers  
**Motto:** "You can sleep when you die."



**Name:** Jason Stives  
**Position:** Viewpoints Editor  
**Age:** 20  
**Hometown:** Hamilton, NJ  
**Heroes:** Hunter Thompson and Paul McCartney  
**Worst Subject:** Math  
**Favorite author:** Chuck Palahniuk  
**Favorite Parents:** Tim and Karen  
**Favorite Cartoon:** Family Guy  
**Greatest Accomplishment:** Becoming a freelance writer  
**Current Tunes:** She and Him's Volume 1  
**Motto:** "Don't be afraid to do the impossible"

## Mourning students lost to violence

By Chris Villano  
and Victoria Pace  
Reporters

*Cont. from page 1*

precautions that Mercer has added this year. The school is following a national trend toward better communication on campuses that clearly has been prompted by the recent school shootings at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University.

M-Alert allows students, faculty and staff to enter multiple contact numbers into a database using the same web portal that is used for course registration. Then, when administrators need to get a message out to the campus quickly, they can send a massive text message to every number in the system.

The same message is also sent out using the new student e-mail accounts, the idea being that no matter what method of communication you use most, you will be sure to get the message.

The system is intended to be used not only for emergencies on the scale of a school shooting, but also for things like snow days and emergency closings.

The company that provides M-Alert is called Connected-ED and is the same one used at Rider, Princeton and The College of New Jersey, all of which report that they are happy with how the investment has worked out.

The system is not entirely flawless, however. It depends on students keeping their contact in-

formation up-to-date. It is also so finely tuned that in some cases it may react to background noise at the other end of the call, thinking it is talking to a computer rather than a human being. The result is a light stuttering or pause sound that some students may hear on the line as they listen to the message.

Nevertheless, M-Alert is state-of-the-art technology. It continues to function properly when students buy a new phone (so long as they keep their same number), and it can be activated and deactivated with the press of a button.

Students and staff are still in the process of adjusting to the new technology. In interviews students commented that receiving a message about a stabbing that took place either on or off campus was important information that they would indeed want to know, but they wondered about how to respond. Said one student, "I wouldn't know what to do if something like that happened to me. It makes me feel unsafe."

Dean of Students, Dr. Diane Campbell noted the sad similarity in the two recent cases was that they both had to do with relationship issues. She said "We have talked about having workshops where students could talk about these issues."

Although students may be feeling uneasy, they do not yet appear to be ready to talk about it. According to school counselor Linda Eringu, only one faculty

member has come in to talk to her about the stabbings. No students have stopped by her office so far.

There are a number of possible reasons for this. First, students who knew the students who died may be in the early stages of grief. They may distance themselves from the pain they are feeling though denial.

Other students, particularly ones who live in high-crime areas, may be somewhat numb to hearing about deaths.

Trenton's violent crime rate is three times the national average. The homicide rate has risen every year to a staggering 25 homicides in 2007, up from 20 the year before. There have been six so far this year.

But Diaz and Kinney are more than simple statistics.

Diaz was a mother and a churchgoer whose family gathered at Church of the Sacred Hart in Trenton to say their good-byes.

Kinney loved music, skate-boarding, drawing, writing poetry and riding his motorcycle. He earned a bachelor's degree in Communications from Northeastern University. After 9/11 he decided he wanted to go into nursing and help people. He worked in the emergency room at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia.

Both deaths are untimely and inexplicable.

Mercer mourns the loss of these bright minds.



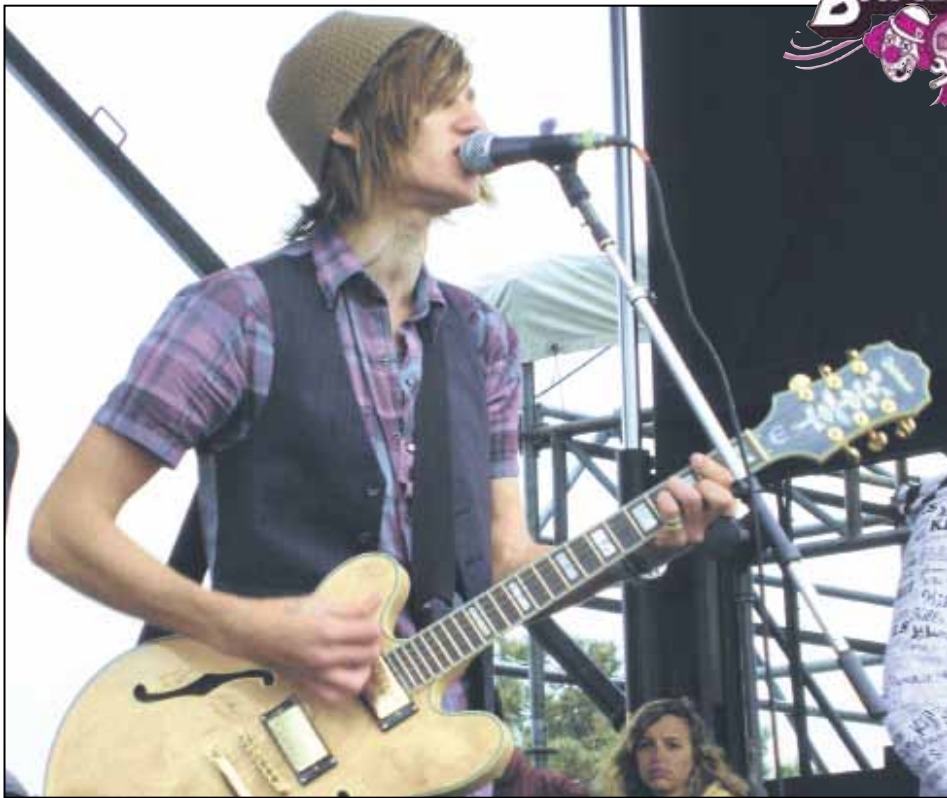


PHOTO | JASON STIVES

Nick Santino from A Rocket to the Moon who are from Massachusetts

## Bamboozling a Jersey Crowd

### Panic, Paramore, Coheed Succeed

By Jason Stives  
The College Voice

For people who love going to the Van's Warped Tour, the wait for the summer to roll around is unbearable. Thankfully as summer gets nearer there is a substitute in the form of the annual Bamboozle Music Festival held in the concrete jungle that is the Giants Stadium parking lot.

Like every year, the promoters made sure to stack the two-day event with every popular band under the sun to ensure the MTV audience's attendance. Mixed together with numerous punk, hard-core, and emo bands were the big guns in the forms of Panic at the Disco, Jimmy Eat World, Paramore, and Coheed and Cambria who gave the East Rutherford crowd there as headliners to end each ten-hour day. Other noted bands of the day included pop punk darlings Motion City Soundtrack, Boston's hard-core sons the Devil Wears Prada, and even rap icon Snoop Dogg, who closed out the first day of the festival which is dampened down a bit by cold temperatures and rain. While I've only named a few over the two-day stint, over a hundred bands played on ten different stages.

However, not all the fun was for the kids as long Island rockers the Sleeping were able to coax former Skid Row front man into performing three songs with the band to the delight of anyone over thirty and to the confusion of anyone born after 1980. Couple this with the special guest set of Poison front man Bret Michaels, who tore through some of his classic hits, and you can say that The Bamboozle's purpose was to appeal to the masses both young and older.

While all the bands on the two day bill seemed to give it there all to the 30,000 plus concert-goers, certain bands stood out as real animals that got the crowds they performed to all railed up. Hit the Lights, a pop punk quartet from Ohio, sent the Jersey crowd into a frenzy that included crowded surfers, moshers, and an air mattress riding the crowd which the group's lead singer dove onto at the end of their set. Unbeknownst to me, I had been talking to that stage diving lead singer just thirty minutes prior to the set waiting in line for the bathroom. Just goes to show that even at a music festival, everyone hangs with everyone.

While music was the main fo-

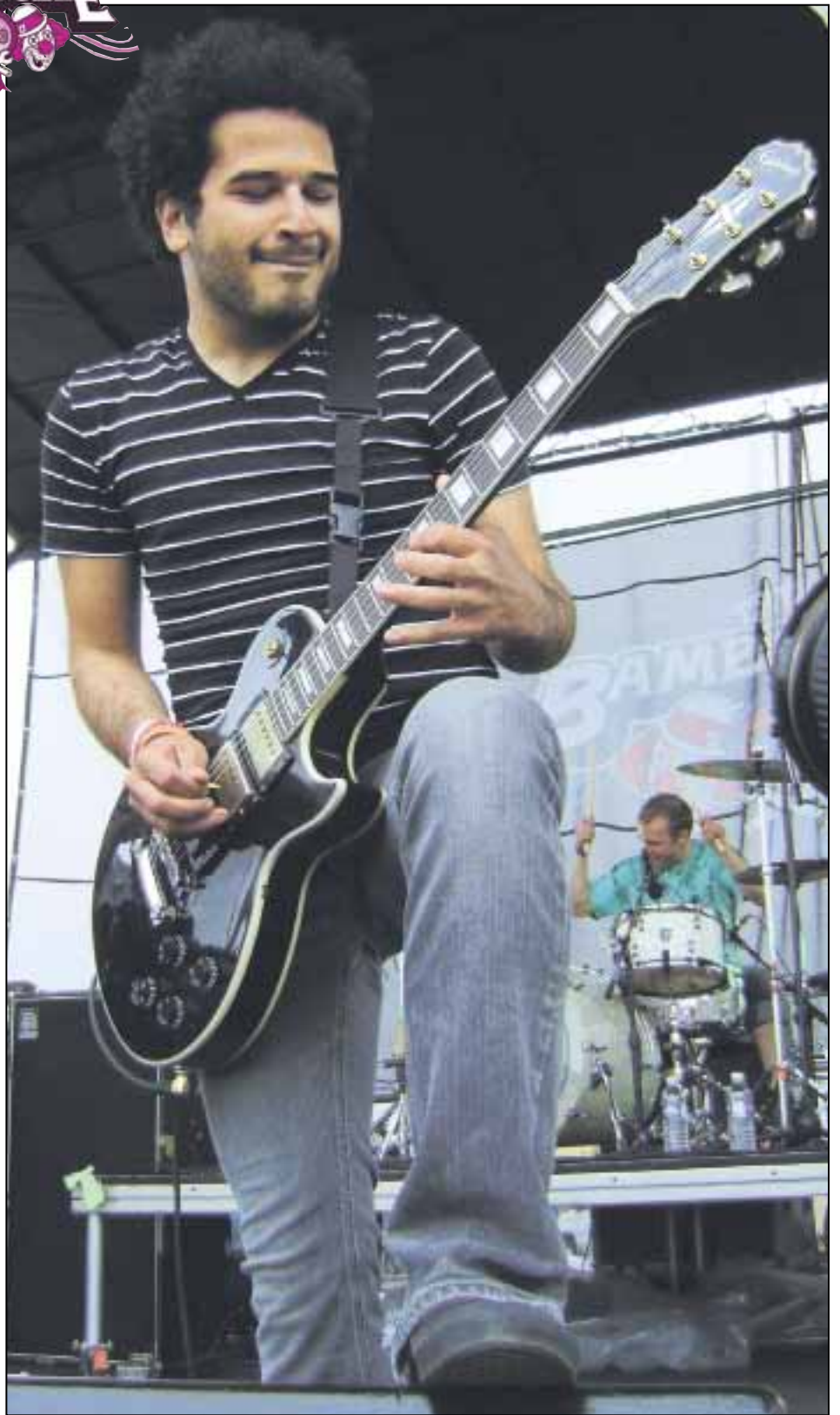


PHOTO | JASON STIVES

Omar Zehery of Ohio band, Hit the Lights at The Bamboozle.

cus of the weekend, the concert promoters were able to keep the kids from being cranky all weekend by providing them with food stands consisting of gyros, cheese steaks, pizza, and Carvel ice cream. Thankfully no attendees were reported to have a stomachache. Along with food, the concert catered to amusement park-goers with rides like a Ferris wheel, the gravitron, and even a batting

cage, which offered Boston Red Sox fans memorabilia to a crowd consisting of New York and New Jersey residents. I bet the Yankees are sore they didn't get any publicity.

Experiences varied from person to person but one thing was certain, rain or shine, hot or cold, the people who attended bamboozle left with a smile and visions of what next year may bring.

## Hidden Treasure: Mercer's art gallery is thriving

By Carmela Pecana  
and Anthony Galasso  
The College Voice

To visit an art gallery may not be an expensive or long-distance trip after all. At Mercer art shows are mostly free and the gallery is open to visitors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during day and evening hours. The gallery is located on the second floor of the Communications building.

The current exhibit is called "Garden State Remix" and it features the work of Mercer students in a variety of media. Tricia Fagan, director and curator of the art gallery explains the concept of the exhibit saying, "The Garden State Project has been an annual collaboration between some of the visual arts professors and some of their students for the past four years. Everyone volun-

teers their time for this project. Each year they have a different theme. This year the theme was 'REMIX.'"

Mercer student and recent gallery visitor, Zainab Khomusi described the exhibit saying, "I'm amazed at all the artwork because of all the variety and the artists' technique is pretty cool."

According to Fagan the show that has recently received the most response took place last September. It was called "Dangerous Women Two." Seventy artists from the tristate area contributed work that was inspired by women of the early 20th century who embodied artistic risk taking or visionary activism. The result was a startling body of work that touched on themes of strength, power, creativity and femininity.

There are a total of six art shows presented in

the gallery each year from Mercer County artists and MCCC Visual Art Students. Funding comes from the NJ State Council on the Arts and sponsorship, in part, is by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission. The first four shows which take place in March or April display artwork from professional artists and are judged for awards. Awards categories include Best in Show, Juror's Choice and up to six honorable mentions. In addition, the West Windsor Arts Council Award is also given. The Mercer County Artists shows is the only show that is judged by one juror which can be a Curator, Gallery Owner, Art Critic or an Art writer.

For student exhibitions their is a two part process for work to be admitted. First the student's art teacher evaluates which pieces may be suitable



Mixed-media piece by Arlene Milgram inspired by work of painter Lee Krasner from Dangerous Women

and then Fagan determines if the piece will appear.

One of the upcoming shows in the fall will be a

black and white mixed media exhibition. Another show in consideration will also be Asian inspired art and the exploration of space.





## BASEBALL: Team heads to post season, prepares to lose starters in fall

By Jason Brown  
and Mohamad Cheble  
Reporters

Another regular season is in the books for the men in green and gold. The Mercer Vikings exceeded coach Matt Wolski's regular season goal by finishing the season with a record of 33-11.

Early in the season Wolski said he expected to finish at .600 or .700, which would have been a minimum of 27 wins. But the team rallied in the second half of the season to finish with a .750 winning percentage. The team is looking onward to more action in the post season.

In baseball, a team usually only goes as far as their pitching staff will take them. The Vikings' pitching staff had a combined ERA of just 2.617. Leading the pack was Will Blackman; he went 7-3 with an ERA of 3.436. Blackman pitched 55 innings in 14 games and struck out 66 opposing players.

Followed by Greg Hough, the team's closer and captain with an ERA of 2.019, 8 saves, and 33 strike outs in 24 games and 35 innings. Both Hough and Blackman will be leaving the team to continue to four year schools.

Chris Dolan, MVP at the Region XIX tournament has pitched a 6-1 season with an ERA of 4.255.



Of course, pitching wasn't the only bright spot for this year's squad — at the plate the Vikings had a team combined batting average of .352. Third basemen Frank Mercurio led the team in RBIs with 43, and a posted a batting average of .406. Mercurio recorded 66 hits during the regular season that included four home runs and 12 doubles.

Nine players from this year's team will not be returning for another season at Mercer. Four of them are starters and four are pitchers. When coach Wolski was asked what qualities he was

looking to add to next year's team he said, "Depth and speed."

But for now, Wolski's main concern is leading this season's team to a national championship. The slugging ability of Mercurio will be an asset for the Vikings going forward, but Mercer's coach said offensive firepower isn't necessarily a path to victory. The team will continue to the Division II, Region XV tournament after recently winning the Region XIX tournament.

"If you have good pitching," Wolski said, "you can always win."

*The baseball team following their Region XIX win; nine players will not be returning next season.*

PHOTO | HOLLY SPECIAN

## New Pontiac G8: delicious on wheels

By Justin Cartwright  
Reporter

General Motors' self-proclaimed "Excitement" division has brought a new player into the performance sedan market. Pontiac has opened up the market to the new G8, replacing the Bonneville, and the elderly Grand Prix, and will also fill the spot in the line-up that the low selling GTO occupied. The G8 is yet another car that GM has brought over from Australia and re-badged as a Pontiac.

Packing a potent punch of power and style, the G8 is available in blue, red, orange, black, grey, and white, and in three trim levels: base, GT and GXP. The GXP performance version is scheduled to be available in the fall. There is also a talk

about a G8 sports-truck version. Can you say El Camino?

The base G8 gets a smooth 3.6 liter (VVT) or Variable Valve Timing V6, with 260 horsepower and 248 pound-feet of torque. While the GT version gets a large 6.0 liter L76 V8, with Active Fuel Management. It produces a hefty 361 horsepower and 385 pound-feet of torque on regular gas! The GXP version of this car is powered by the Corvette's rumble-icious 6.2-liter LS3 V-8 rated at a tire-smoking 402 horsepower and 402 pound-feet of torque all while getting about 24 mpg. It will come mated to a six-speed automatic with tap shift or a Tremec six-speed manual transmission.

Pontiac says the 4000-pound G8 GT will

dash to 60 mph in 5.3 seconds and run through the quarter-mile in 13.8 seconds. However, the GXP version is expected to deliver a 0-to-60 mph in just 4.6 seconds, and have a quarter-mile run of just under 13.0 seconds. That puts it well into the BMW M3 neighborhood. In fact the G8 has more interior space and more cargo room than the M3 for a fraction of the price. The base G8 starts at \$27,595, but if you choose to upgrade to the GT, look to be paying around \$29,995. The Pricing on the GXP has not yet been set, but expect it to be in the \$35,000 price range.

Though the G8 isn't exactly a hybrid when it comes to gas mileage, it's got every other feature going for it.

## TENNIS: Winners head to Texas

By John Bunting  
Reporter

The Mercer County Community College Men's Tennis squad is returning to the national stage for the second consecutive year.

Following a win at the Regional XIX Tournament, the men's team will be heading to Plato, Texas to compete in the NJCAA Championship Tournament on May 10th through May 16th. The team won the regional to send them to nationals by capturing 5 of the final 8 matches of the day.

Marc Nichols, first singles player for Mercer, set the pace for the Vikings with a 6-1, 6-1 victory, followed by Ozcan Dalgic's 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 triumph and Jon Bielski's 6-1, 6-4 win. in doubles play Nichols teamed with Drew Holsman to bring home a 6-3, 6-2 victory and Bielski played with Luis Gutierrez to win 6-2, 6-2.

Now the team has had some time to rest and time to think about their upcoming trip to Texas.

When i asked Coach Vecchiolla how he and his team feel in general and in regards to the NJCAA Tournament he responded without hesitation "Excited, confident, and relaxed." He went on to say "The guys have put in a lot of work during the season and they played great in the

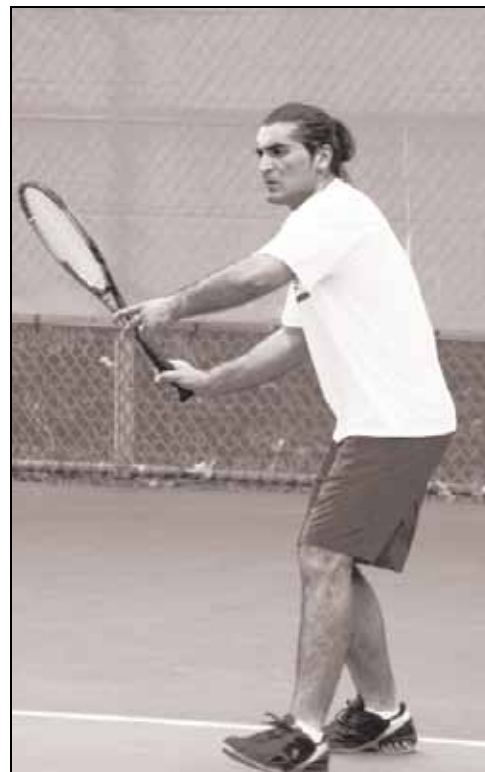


PHOTO | STEVEN MURPHY

*Sophomore powerhouse Ozcan Dalgic.*

regional tourney. Now we have had a few weeks to rest and get ready for the National Tournament."

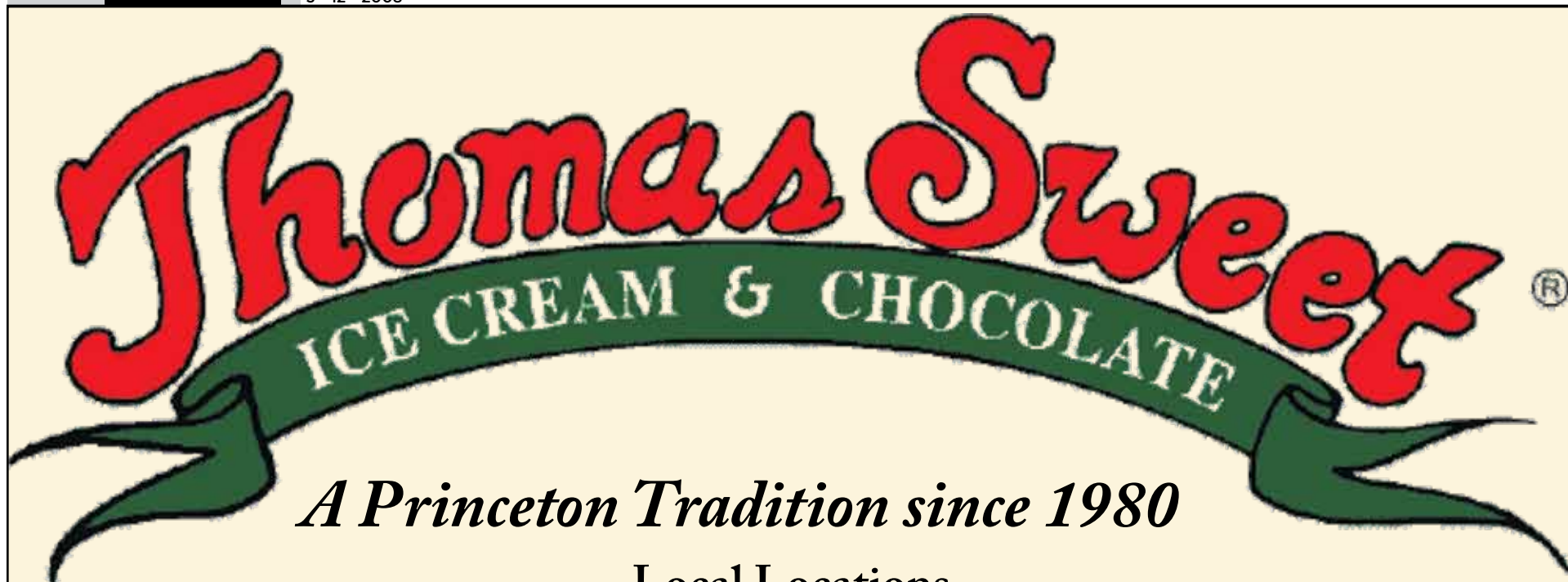
But is the team now too confident and too relaxed given they had all this time off? Coach Vecchiolla thinks not.

"The team knows they'll be going up against the best competition in the country, but we're prepared for the challenge."

Come May 10th, we'll see if they are.







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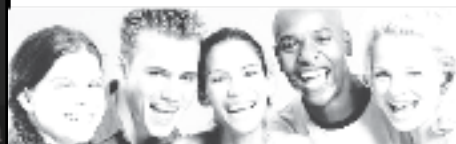
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## THE WAY IT IS



## Jason Stives

Since I started this column at the beginning of the semester, I have been able to get a lot off my chest as far as what gets in my craw, to mix a metaphor or two. Many of you readers have come up

## The last straw: when it's okay to speak your mind

to me in the hallways and told me you agree, or disagree. Many of you have thanked me or e-mailed the Voice office to add your thoughts.

Today I want to turn my attention to freedom of speech and the importance of being tactful and having courage to stand up for what is right.

In our day-to-day lives we all sometimes say things that offend someone or go against that person's beliefs; they in return may say that you can't just say whatever you want. If you're like me, your knee-jerk reaction may be that you can say what you want because this is America, baby, and we have freedom of speech! But freedom of speech isn't a good enough reason to speak your mind without thinking.

In a recent class of mine, the issue of tact versus honest and

free speech was brought up. We grappled with the question of when is it right to speak your mind and when is it wrong.

It's not hard to see that certain times and places call for different levels of personal restriction where free speech is concerned. In a casual conversation with a friend things like displeasure with the government, a friend, a colleague, or even a family member can be discussed without repercussion. But the same attitude in your boss' office may result in your being escorted off the premises with a box of papers and a protractor.

Likewise, hate speech or derogatory remarks of any kind are taboo for good cause.

But what of other, subtler issues, like the misinterpreted comment or the unintentionally offensive comment? The key to avoiding both is knowing your audience. People often don't seem to know

who they are talking to and may tend to make false assumptions about that person's views or situation in life. This lack of information can get you into a lot of trouble in the real world, so it is important to choose wisely what you speak. Better yet, it's important to take time to ask others about themselves and get to know them better.

With all that said, the fact remains that letting your voice be heard is one of the most noble and brave things someone can do. While some people blunder along making shameless remarks, many more people hesitate to speak at all for fear the possible reaction and I hope, if my column has done anything, it has encouraged quiet kids in the back of the classroom to think about speaking up.

In the 1960's, civil rights activists took to the streets and preached what they believed to be true

and in certain instances they accomplished what they wanted. With fears of global warming, budget cuts hitting education, debt rising, the housing market collapsing, people becoming increasingly disenchanted with the war it's hard not to be stunned by the deafening silence of so many able bodies.

Being polite doesn't mean surrendering your principals. One MUST be willing to a ruffle a few feathers from time to time. You have to tell it like it is.

Journalists like Hunter Thompson and Lester Bangs told it like it is and it did get them in trouble but people did listen eventually, and that's what we must remember.

As I leave Mercer to venture into new territories I plan to continue taking the initiative in life and I hope that future editorial writers will pick up where I have left off. The Voice needs a voice.

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## 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 08550



