



Mold detected in faculty office

Following mold clean up, questions about notification remain

By Maria Ramos & Griffin Jones
Senior Reporters

Starting in early October, professors and staff with offices on the first floor of the BS building encountered a strong musty smell permeating the area.

The smell, which Student Advocate Dee Smith-Jones described as “like someone mopped the floor and let it sit,” got so bad that faculty took their concerns to Professor James Maccariella, Coordinator of Engineering Science and Civil Engineering Technology, who is a New Jersey Licensed Professional Engineer (NJPE).

Prof. Maccariella immediately suggested the Facilities Office be contacted so they could test the air. Administrative Specialist Alexandra Popescu called in the complaint on October 18 to Bryon Marshall, the Director of Facilities and College Safety.

According to a notification sent to faculty a month later, Facilities contacted the company Whitman Environmental Services for consultation, and ordered air quality tests. The tests revealed penicillium mold at levels that “may present risk to health” within the BS 137 office, which is shared by Business Professor Eva Csige and Information Technology Professor Queen Okike.

In an email updating those directly affected, Supervising Team Leader Fred Carella explained the cause of the mold was “a leak in the HVAC system in the hall outside the double doors on the east side of the business building. To determine the cause of the leak we removed the insulation from the piping. We then repaired the piping to stop the leak from continuing.”

Professor Csige shared her concerns with Marshall after the environmental company applied a product called “Mold Zapper.” She said, “I saw the plastic over the desks and shelves but the first spraying was done without any cover. I have clothing in that room plus

“[We found] a leak in the HVAC system in the hall outside the double doors on the east side of the business building. To determine the cause of the leak we removed the insulation from the piping. We then repaired the piping to stop the leak from continuing.”

- Supervising Team Leader Fred Carella

all of my things that are there, I feel are now contaminated even with the plastic,” wrote Professor Csige.

Three days later, Marshall sent a response explaining how the treatment of “Mold Zapper” was done, that the first try didn’t work, so it took a second round of spray with the Clorox based product, and adding, “However, respectfully we need to correct your version of the facts. Please know that both treatments using ‘Mold Zapper’ were applied with covers over all of the equipment and personal effects.”

That same day Professor Csige wrote back to Marshall addressing her complaints about how her personal belongings were not removed from the office, “I am really not happy about this we should have been told to remove all of our things....All it needed is just a little planning and moving stuff which I would have been happy to do had I known how this will work.”

To address Professor Csige’s concerns, Marshall said the college would be willing to take fabric items to their dry-cleaning vendor and that “[the College] will absorb the cost/expense.”

The steps the college has followed to remediate the mold problem appear to have been appropriate according to an email to Marshall from Scarlett Gaudin, an Occupational Health Consultant at the New Jersey Department of Health. Gaudin wrote, “It sounds like you have taken the proper steps to eliminate the hazard through ventilation and repairs.”

However, Prof. Maccariella raised concerns over how the mold issue was com-

municated to the college community. Writing to the college President, Dr. Jianping Wang on November 10, Prof. Maccariella said, that as a licensed professional engineer he “must hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and that if a person or firm is putting the public’s safety at risk I must report this situation to the proper authority” adding, “The college should alert the students/faculty/staff and community of the findings and remediation results, in an effort to maintain the transparency of our public institution.”

Although those people directly affected in the BS building were notified of the problem in mid October, when the problem was found, it wasn’t until November 21, after Prof. Maccariella had sent several prodding emails, that a broadcast email was sent to faculty explaining what happened and how it had been addressed. Students were never informed.

Marshall told Prof. Maccariella via email, “I believe the student notification suggestion, via a College-wide broadcast or some other format, to be a bit more complex and therefore should continue to be handled on a case-by-case, fact sensitive basis.”

Maccariella responded saying “[to] not notify students, staff and faculty (other than those occupying the mold area) ... is not transparent or in the best interest of public safety. I do not feel notifying the college community is ‘complex’. In fact, not notifying the community greatly increases the college liability.”

Angelica Figueroa, a Music major who talked to The VOICE, said, “Mold in the



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | MARIA RAMOS

The VOICE staff took mold test samples from water stained ceiling tiles in several locations on campus, including the LA building. Choice of locations was made based on visual discoloration and use of a blacklight flashlight that can indicate certain types of mold. Special consideration was given to places where buckets have been observed collecting rain water in the halls during heavy storms.

Results from VOICE mold tests will be posted online on Monday after they are back from the lab. Find the at www.mcccvoice.org/mold2

school? Ew. This can bring bad reputation to Mercer, and maybe that’s why they didn’t tell us, but if it’s related to a health problems they should tell us what’s going on, just for safety.”

When The VOICE asked college president Dr. Jianping Wang why students weren’t notified about this situation, she said, “This is an office that faculty members share, so we informed the faculty members and we relocated them to seal the area. We don’t send

out an email to 12,000 students [saying] ‘Hey we have a mold in this office.’”

However, students meet with their faculty advisors who are located in the office and use the halls of the BS building to get to classes, and according to Bryon Marshall’s email to Gaudin at the Department of Health, the problem did extend to the hallway. He said, the testing “indicated elevated levels of penicillin, 2100 ccm3

See MOLD page 2



BEER ON MARS!
When the aliens show up sloppy drunk, don’t say we didn’t warn you! PG. 15



MUSIC REVIEW
John Mayer is front man for Dead & Company’s new tour. PG. 7

Campus.....2
Local.....3
Sports4-5
In Focus6

Entertainment7
Dining Special8-11
Viewpoints14-15
Just For Fun16

Mercer's president selected for Governor's transition team

By Griffin Jones
Reporter

Mercer's President, Dr. Jianping Wang has been chosen as co-chair of Governor-Elect Phil Murphy's transition team on Education, Access and Opportunity.

Transitions teams help the incoming administration decide the direction of the new government by recommending candidates for key posts and forming policy platforms. Their help is critical in making sure the new government can start their work right away.

Tasked with leading the rest of the transition team, the co-chairs are to "moderate the discussions and synthesize ideas," as Dr. Wang explained in an interview with The VOICE.

As for how Dr. Wang got the job, she said, "I have no idea. I got a call from Governor-Elect office and ask if I would serve. I'm always willing and ready to serve for the state of New Jersey, for the college, for the community. So I said yes."

She later added, "I credit this appointment to the work this college has done. This college has done some very innovative work and probably getting recognized for that."

Others had their own insight on the matter to offer. Professor Elizabeth Bondurant remarked, "I think she's certainly active in the community as far as Mercer goes. So I'm sure he [the Governor-Elect]



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Mercer's President, Dr. Jianping Wang has been chosen a co-chair of Governor-Elect Phil Murphy's transition team on Education, Access and Opportunity.

wants to tap into her connections. But all transition teams are political. I believe all transition teams are political."

Last month, The VOICE reported on the tabling of a vote of no confidence by the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) faculty union. The vote, spurred by increasing discontent with Dr. Wang's administration by the faculty, was tabled due to the promise of working with the board to fix the problems the union had.

"I feel somewhat betrayed," one faculty member, who asked to remain anonymous, told The VOICE, "because the union, in good faith,

agreed to postpone the vote of no confidence, and then we find out in two days the board most likely knew about this appointment and that's why they wanted us to hold off."

Another faculty member, who also asked to remain anonymous, said "We were wondering if the appointment had been made before going to the board and whether that was the reason behind the board being willing to talk to us. I guess overall I have some questions about the timing of it," they said. English Professor Dr. Edward Carmien told The VOICE, "I think it's unfortunate the governor-elect is not more in tune

with faculty concerns about college leadership before making this appointment."

Carol Golden, the chair of Mercer's Board of Trustees, when asked about the timing of when the Board learned about the appointment and whether it coincided with the tabling of the vote of no confidence, said "I would imagine, just because all these things are pretty new, it was around the same time, but I can't say before or after, to be honest."

Another perspective was shared by Business and Technology Professor Andrea Lynch, who said, "She's a leader in education in the state of New Jersey, and I think having

someone from a two-year on the committee is critical" and "I think she values students and works to make sure community college students have everything they need, at least from my perspective."

One faculty member, who asked to remain anonymous, told The VOICE, "I think this is an opportunity for the president to represent the college and do it with flair. Some of the things that have dogged her here, this could be a redeemable opportunity.... She could be able to use this to right the ship, because she's brought money to this school, she could bring attention. I think this could be beneficial on all fronts."

When asked about faculty concerns, Golden said, "I don't see what the concerns would be...I would think that if I was a faculty member, I would be glad."

She continued, "Overall, it's nice that Mercer County Community College is honored in this way, that the opinion of the president is going to be considered in how higher education is going to be treated by this administration."

When The VOICE asked Dr. Wang about the possibility of a political career, she said, "My devotion is to this college, and all my life I'm in education. As my mother will say, I never left the college once I went. I have never left the campus, you know, so I don't intend to leave campus at all."

Students' respiratory health raises notification concerns regarding mold

Continued from page 1

in the room/ 440 in the adjacent hallway outside of the room." In an email to The VOICE he said that "The hallway and other readings were concerning but did not reach the action stage."

Olivia Reiss, a Mercer student majoring in Nursing told The VOICE: "I know mold is a serious problem because I am taking microbiology class and we learn a lot about it. And I have asthma problems, I don't know why the college didn't let us know about it."

The VOICE conducted a survey of 50 Mercer students and found 25 percent of them suffered from asthma. According to the Centers for Disease Control Asthma rates correspond to air pollution levels. A recent report from the American Lung Association shows that while air quality in New Jersey has improved over the last year, it still ranks among the lowest in the nation, and Mercer County's air quality was given a grade of "F" based on levels of ground-level ozone or smog that resulted in 19 "orange alert" days because of bad air quality in the past year.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's publication, "Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial

Buildings Guide" people with weakened immune systems or who have respiratory problems may be particularly affected by mold presence.

The EPA writes, "Many types of molds exist. All molds have the potential to cause health effects. Molds can produce allergens that can trigger allergic reactions or even asthma attacks in people allergic to mold. Others are known to produce potent toxins and/or irritants. Potential health concerns are an important reason to prevent mold growth and to remediate/clean up any existing indoor mold growth."

As a concern for students, other faculty members expressed the same feelings as Prof. Maccariella. When The VOICE asked Professor Chris DePagnier if he felt that the college ought to notify students about mold being detected he said, "Yes, it needs to be clear disclosure and equal process with any issue on campus, but especially if it is related with health. Students should have been notified at the same time when faculty and staff were informed of this problem."

In the EPA guide they write: "Communication is essential for successful mold remediation. Some occupants

will naturally be concerned about mold growth in their building and the potential health impacts." They add, "Occupants' perceptions of the health risk may rise if they perceive that information is being withheld from them. The status of the building investigation and remediation should be openly communicated including information on any known or suspected health risks."

Other institutions have also had this kind of problem, such as in Monroe Township this October. All schools in the district were closed for a week to test the air quality after a mold contamination was found in one of the district's schools, forcing the temporary closure of that building and sending their students to other schools, according to an article from nj.com written by Matt Gray.

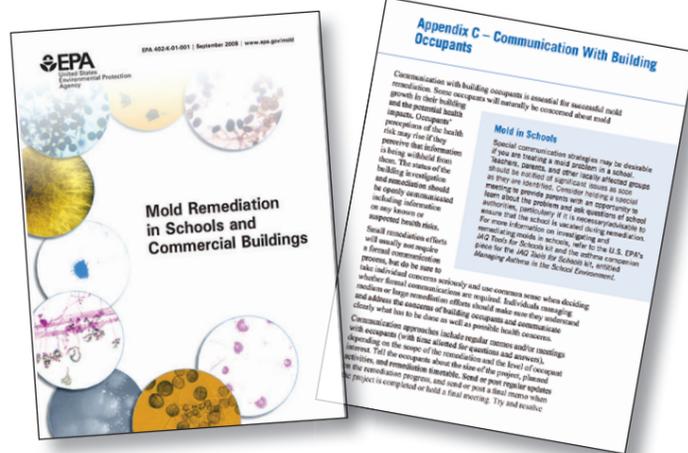
In order to maintain transparency, the Township school district created a webpage called The Monroe Township Air Quality Community Task Force where residents could get the latest updates, with the purpose of keeping the public informed with the result of the tests, information about the schools openings and relocations.

At Mercer, even faculty with of-

fices near the one affected had communication concerns. Accounting Professor Ken Horowitz, whose office is BS 123, told The VOICE "They claimed someone is working on it, but I haven't seen anybody working on it recently. They may be when I'm not here."

In addition to his concerns about communication, Prof. Maccariella also told Bryon Marshall he believed, "The college should implement immediate testing throughout the campus to verify that health risks do not exist elsewhere. The findings of the testing should be openly published." He added, "I feel strongly that time is of the essence with this matter, as the safety of our students may be at risk."

In an email to The VOICE, Marshall wrote that,



"Other buildings were not tested as we have no indication or reports of foreseeable problems or biologic contamination and/or related issues."

The results from the Whitman Environmental company show that the room was cleaned properly, and the right steps were taken in order to address the problem in BS 137. They also recommend the establishment of a preventative maintenance program, which Marshall has agreed to implement.

The VOICE took mold strip samples from the Engineering, Business and Liberal Arts buildings using a DIY mold kit that provides lab analysis. Results from those tests, will be posted online on Monday on The VOICE's website at www.mcccvoice.org.

Is New Jersey the Christmas Tree State? It should be!



By Drew Mumich & Laurie Gallagher
Reporters

New Jersey is known as the Garden State, famed for its tomatoes and corn, but in winter, when nothing else grows, it's Christmas trees that sustain the agriculture economy.

According to the New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers Association, our state is ranked seventh on the nation for number of Christmas tree farms. There were 700 Christmas tree farms in the state as of the last count taken.

The typical Christmas tree farm is called a "choose and cut" farm. It consists of a farm with rows and even miles of Christmas trees. Most often the proprietors have a tractor that will ride patrons to the specific species of tree they want, and then they get to choose and cut down a tree to bring home.

Local Christmas tree farm will have a variety of trees. This can range from Frasier Firs, to Colorado Blue Firs, to exotics like the Norwegian Fir. In a series of interviews, The VOICE found farmers agree there is no favorite type of Christmas tree. Preference is personal, they say; what someone grew up with is usually the Christmas tree they are looking for.

So, why would someone spend hours in the cold to get a Christmas tree? Tim Dunne, Vice President of the New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers Association, which helps local farmers plant and advertise, told The VOICE that visiting your local farm is more than just getting a tree. He described it as "agricultural tourism."

Dunne says families will make a whole day of it, having picnics, going on hayrides, drinking hot chocolate or cider that many farms provide, and enjoying the holiday spirit. He said, "I've never heard anyone say what a great time they had at Home Depot getting



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

At Simonson Farm in Cranbury, New Jersey, families can cut their own trees. Employees help with the final stem trim and transport preparations.



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

At Simonson Farm in Cranbury, NJ, employee Dylan Lee helps a customer load a tree into his truck.

their Christmas tree, but I've had multiple families tell me what a great time they've had on my farm."

If you don't want don't want to go out to the middle of a field, get down on your hands and knees with a saw and start cutting, all Christmas tree farms have a pre-cut section where you can make a choice. Most also offer wreaths, ornaments, and hot chocolate.

One place that has a variety of wreathes--some with names like the "Harry Potter"--is less than five minutes from Mercer's West Windsor campus, called Perennial Favorites. Carol Brooks Thomas, the owner says they offer trees of all sizes and will trim and drill them for you, creating an easy surface for inserting the tree into a typical stand.

But for those who like to get out the saw and

get sap on their hands, tree farmer Frank Dominiani says, "You can affirm your manhood with your family." You can go out, pick, cut and carry a tree.

When The VOICE arrived at Dominiani's 7-acre farm, there was a man that was carrying a full, 6-foot tree single handedly. The cost was about \$60, i.e. \$10 per foot.

"You don't get a tree like that at a chain store," Dominiani told The VOICE.

These farms usually sell trees for between \$30-100. This may seem like a lot compared to local Home Depot where many people get their trees and prices range from \$29-59.

Why do trees cost more at local farms? Samantha Jany, co-owner of Simonson Farm, not far from Mercer, told the VOICE that It take about



PHOTO | LAURIE GALLAGHER

At Perennial Favorites Garden Center they have a variety of Christmas offerings, including wreaths, sprays and swags.

7-10 years to fully grow a Christmas tree to a sellable size. Out of all the seedlings that the farmers plant, only about half will survive to be that old. Time and patience are costly, but the experience of going to a "choose and cut" is part of what you are paying for.

As for Home Depot, Dunne said they can afford to sell low because they buy trees in bulk. However, those trees, he says, are shipped in from far away states. He also said that those trees aren't freshly cut, and would be turning brown and losing needles by Christmas Day.

Jany told The VOICE "[Home Depot]



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

At Simonson Farm in Cranbury, NJ, Samantha Jany and her son work on creating festive, holiday wreaths.

doesn't actually purchase premium grade trees that we grow." and if you want the true Christmas tree experience."

Dunne says, patrons should go to a local farm "If you want a fresh tree that is locally grown, As one Mercer student, Bridget Riley said "It's tradition, It keeps Christmas alive."

Women's cross country goes to Nationals

By Marshall McGuire
Reporter

After claiming their second straight Region 19 title on Saturday, Oct. 28, Mercer's women's cross country team made a 'cross country' journey of their own, all the way to the midwest for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) meet in Fort Dodge Iowa on Saturday Nov. 11.

Their performance this year marked a substantial improvement over the team's performance in the 2016 NJCAA meet. Last year, head coach Mike DeAngelis's squad placed last out of all the teams who qualified, but in 2017 Mercer made the jump to thirty-first out of the 42 teams contending.

When asked what factors he thought led to his team's improvement at this year's meet, Coach DeAngelis told The VOICE: "This group of freshman and sophomores put a maximum effort into becoming better every day." He went on to say, "It involves dedication on and off the field. They are sound students and work hard in all aspects of life."

Of the 309 runners competing in the 5K



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA REISS

The athletes who attended the Nationals included: Claudia Baydar, Maria Ramos, Veronica Wise, Julia Moir, and Lesly Gonzalez, Olivia Reiss, Laura Gould, Hayley Baydar, and Breanna Santini.

race, every member of Mercer's group improved upon their times compared to last year, and their times at the Regional 19 meet.

Freshman runner Olivia Reiss said, "Patience is key to succeeding and moving forward." She added, "I have become a better runner compared to the beginning of the season due to trusting my coaches training and all the hard work I put in this season."

Reiss finished with a time of 21:17, averaging seven minutes per mile at Nationals. She placed 181st out of 308 athletes competing.

"I competed in a race full of very talented girls and it was an honor running with them and having that experience," Reiss said.

Coach DeAngelis, who has served in that position says: "Moving forward we want to raise the bar as

far as our expectations go. The goal is to progress every season and have a stronger finish at nationals each season."

MCCC's Athletic Director John Simone says of the team: "We are very proud of the development of this team and the hard work they put into training. We anticipate with three or four of the top runners being freshman that they will return and place higher next year."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA REISS

Cross Country athlete Veronica Wise at the Region XIX Championships. She went on to finish the 5k distance at Nationals in 23:57.

Men's Basketball: Vikings speed past Hawks to snap losing streak

By Jackson Thompson
Senior Reporter

On Saturday, November 11 a win over Valley Forge lifted the Mercer County Men's basketball team to a 3-1 record, put them over .500 for the first time since 2014 and surpassing their win total from last year's 2-24 campaign. In the three weeks following that victory they dropped five straight games falling to 3-6 to finish the month of November.

However, according to head coach Howard Levy, the three wins early on were not a part of the team's goals. He says he believes that they have made progress in their development even during the losing streak.

"Doing better than a two win season is not the goal around here. The goal is to win a championship," Levy said. He continued: "I don't feel like we were playing great and all of a sudden we're doing poorly now. I think that we were making progress and were learning our way of playing. I feel like we're making progress every game."

On Saturday, Dec. 2 the Vikings played the Delaware Technical Community College Hawks, which had won five of their past seven games. In that game, Levy and his team made significant progress toward their championship aspirations at the same time as putting their losing streak behind them. They took an 84-64 victory in what Levy described as one of the best efforts he's seen in recent memory.

"It's probably the first time in over two years where we played like I think our team is capable of playing," Levy said, adding: "We worked for 40 minutes. We controlled the game with our offense and our defense. It was a really great effort, the best effort I've seen in a long time around here."

Freshman guard Donovan Guess, a Camden native, lifted Mercer's offense with a game leading 33 points in his highest scoring performance of the year.

"We just gotta stick with the offense, it's a pretty hard offense so we tend to break it fast, but if



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Men's basketball coach Howard Levy talks with players when the Vikings played Del Tech on November 11, 2017.

we stick with it, we're gonna do good," Guess told The VOICE.

Mercer exchanged leads with their opponent five times, but outscored the Hawks 31-11 in the final 10 minutes, winning by their largest margin this season.

"It makes everybody a little bit less miserable, and I think the things that we did is all the things we've been tell-

"It makes everybody a little bit less miserable, and I think the things that we did is all the things we've been telling them for the whole season. I think they saw how successful it can be so hopefully it will help them believe in what we're doing."

-Men's Basketball Coach Howard Levy

ing them for the whole season. I think they saw how successful it can be so hopefully it will help them believe in what we're doing," Levy said.

Levy's team took a different approach to their preparation for this

game than they had in previous weeks. In an interview with the VOICE freshman point guard John Evans said that the players ran their own

drills on the Friday before the game.

"The coaches actually made us run our own practice. Basically he made us run our own practice to see if we can all come together and

play as a team, and that's what we did Saturday."

According to Evans, the players were given two hours to practice while the coaches watched from the bleachers. As opposed to the stretches and drills that typically make up a practice, they instead ran drills.

"We did stuff that made us compete more to get us ready for the actual game..." Evans said. He added, "We just had to know how to come together and play as a team when times get hard. If you're struggling you just gotta know how to build it up and play as one instead of playing as an individual because one person can't win a game for all of us."

Now the players leading practice has become a regular part of the team's routine. According to Evans, in the team's two practices following the victory the players have been put in charge of running the first thirty minutes of each session, with the goal to increase team cohesion heading into the rest of the season.

Women's hoops end losing streak with just 5 players

By Jackson Thompson
Senior Reporter

Women's basketball, coming off a five game losing streak played the Hawks of Delaware Technical Community College on Saturday, Dec. 2 for the final home game of the fall 2017 semester.

Illness, finals and other factors took a hard toll on the availability of Head Coach Mike Tenaglia's roster as he was down to only five active players.

Before the game Tenaglia said "We've had some issues with things I can't discuss at this point in time, so we'd have to play very well. We have to execute...I'll have to do a decent job with my timeouts and that sort of stuff and use them correctly and at the right time."

To break their losing streak all of the starting five players had to play the full 40 minutes. According to Coach Tenaglia they employed a low speed game plan, reducing the tempo of the game to minimize fatigue.

The Vikings faced Hawks's line up which included point guard Aliyah Selby, an all state first team selection in the state of Delaware, and center

Breanna Grant an all state second team selection.

Hawks Head Coach Jim Kane said of Tenaglia, "He's a very good coach he adjusts well, he always plays the appropriate defense against the appropriate offense."

According to Coach Kane the Hawks were able to rotate three centers and four guards throughout the game; this created a distinct disadvantage for the Mercer Vikings.

Del Tech scored the first nine points of the game putting Mercer in an early hole, but toward the end of the first quarter Viking freshman forward Tynisha Livingston stepped up, scoring 7 of Mercer's first 11 points and helping to tie the game at 11. Livingston went on to finish with a game leading 24 points.

The Vikings finished the half with a 22 to 9 run to take a four point lead. Forward Haylee Kieffer, one of Mercer's leading scorers, was not a factor in the first half as she did not score. Kieffer got it going in the second however scoring the first five points of the half including the first three pointer of the game.

Kieffer told The VOICE,



Women's basketball coach Mike Tenaglia talks with three of his five players when the Vikings played Del Tech on December 2, 2017.

COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

"In the first half I was trying to score so much and that I was trying too hard to score that I wasn't able to, so once I took all that stress off and I was like 'I'm good just play' then that's when I started scoring."

Kieffer's second half adjustments helped push the Mercer lead to 11, but then they hit another setback. Sophomore point guard Shanice Palms was forced to come out of the game after twisting her ankle, leaving only four Vikings on the floor.

Palms said, "I was going up for the layup and I usually do a two step move but I couldn't get my foot around so it kind of twisted."

Del Tech failed to take advantage of Palms injury, only cutting the lead by a single point before Palms came back in. Palms finished the game with a double double scoring 16 points and racking up 10 rebounds.

From there the Mercer lead only expanded as an

uneventful fourth quarter ultimately yielded a 60-42 Mercer victory, the team's first since Nov. 11.

"I think they had a great effort, I also think the tempo of the game suited us we talked about it at half time. [Del Tech] never increased their tempo which allowed us to do what we do best, slow the game down." Tenaglia said.

Del Tech meanwhile fell to 3-8 to lose their sixth game in a row.

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- 5 Sch. org.
- 8 Branch
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- 13 Rowing need
- 14 Heap
- 15 Great Lake
- 16 Boxer's ploy
- 18 Cheap
- 20 Glove material
- 21 Halves of
- 38-Across
- 22 Coffee, slangily
- 23 Mixed metal
- 26 Barber's task
- 30 Fish eggs
- 31 Intent
- 32 Bobby of hockey fame
- 33 Pirate's sword
- 36 Nuts
- 38 Type squares
- 39 Started
- 40 Sports venue
- 43 Relief print of a sort
- 47 Curtail
- 49 Troubles
- 50 Chills and fever
- 51 Collection
- 52 Albacore, e.g.
- 53 Egyptian fertility goddess
- 54 With 55-Across, 365 days

DOWN

- 1 Detail, briefly
- 2 Lima's land
- 3 Settled down
- 4 Not mono
- 5 Sulks
- 6 Recording
- 7 Dadaist artist
- 8 More agile
- 9 Twitches
- 10 Hebrew month
- 11 Apportion (out)
- 17 "The Time
- Machine" tribe
- 19 Whatever number
- 22 Bread spread
- 23 Curved line
- 24 Brock or Gehrig
- 25 Allow
- 26 That man's
- 27 Bill's partner
- 28 Grecian vessel
- 29 Have a go at
- 31 Fool
- 34 Contacts, e.g.
- 35 Asian nursemaid
- 36 Zodiac sign
- 37 Fodder for Ripley's column
- 39 Singer Lenya
- 40 Antioxidant berry
- 41 Gehrig
- 42 Needle case
- 43 Small songbird
- 44 Hint
- 45 Arm bone
- 46 Despot
- 48 Bear, in Barcelona

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Distinguished Lecture: Former Governor Jim McGreevey

By Sean O'Connor
Senior Reporter

Former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey, who served in that position from 2002 to 2004 before stepping down over a scandal involving his hiring of a man with whom he had been having an affair, spoke at Mercer's "Distinguished Lecture Series" on November 21. In the thirteen years since the abrupt end of his work as state Governor, McGreevey went back to school to train to become a priest, and then began working with former prison inmates who are released following the completion of their sentences.

McGreevey currently serves as executive director of Jersey City Employment and Training Program and is chairman of the New Jersey Reentry Corporation. He spoke to an audience made up primarily of criminal justice majors about his work with those programs.

When The VOICE asked Professor Cooley, what he hoped students would gain from McGreevey's lecture he said "Offender reentry [into prison] has always been a problem, and continues to be a problem. It's a concern we just want to convey, not just to our students, but the public at large."

Key points McGreevey made while speaking included the importance of giving released prisoners second chances, helping them get jobs, and being mindful of the racial and socioeconomic factors, especially in terms of the plight of those struggling with mental health and addiction challenges and who live in the inner cities.

The belief in second chances was brought up on

"We've got to change attitudes. People make mistakes. Hello! I'm the first person to know. I make mistakes every single day of my life. But I don't want to be defined by those mistakes. The point is, is we gotta understand that people can grow, people can mature. For me it's spiritual development."

- Former NJ Governor Jim McGreevey

multiple occasions, both in McGreevey's lecture, and amongst those who reflected on it.

McGreevey told the audience "we've got to change attitudes," adding "People make mistakes. Hello! I'm the first person to know. I make mistakes every single day of my life. But I don't want to be defined by those mistakes. The point is, is we gotta understand that people can grow, people can mature. For me it's spiritual development."

During the presentation McGreevey briefly turned the presentation over to his friend Tracey Syphax, a former prisoner who explained that since completing his sentence in the 1990s he has worked his way up to become head of two multimillion dollar companies. According to The African American Chamber of Commerce New Jersey website Syphax's companies include Capitol City Contracting, Inc., a construction company, and The Phax Group, LLC., a real estate development company.

Syphax told the audience that he received vocational training while in prison and that this enabled him to work his way up from laborer to supervisor and eventually leave to start his own businesses."

Criminal Justice Professor Cavit Cooley, who organized the event, told The VOICE:

"Everybody makes mistakes." He also said of those coming home from prison, "they need to have opportunities."

Creating opportunities for those confronted with the stigma of being a felon is a major part of what McGreevey does, and what he spoke about.

One way McGreevey helps former inmates find employment is by enrolling them in "a skill based job program that's gonna give you something called an 'industry recognized credential,'" he said at the lecture.

As an example, he mentioned perhaps being "a licensed HVAC...so that you know how to do air conditioning, you know how to do heating systems...that's gonna give you an industry recognized credential. That's gonna help you get that job."

Syphax told the VOICE he wishes McGreevey would have also discussed entrepreneurship training. "There's so many other brothers and sisters that are coming home each year that have what it takes to be in business that are just not gonna get [conventional] employment," he said.

Another major issue that was raised at the event was race and socioeconomic status. One Mercer community in particular, Robbinsville, was mentioned to illustrate McGreevey's



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

On November 21, former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey addressed Criminal Justice students at Mercer County Community College as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series.

thoughts on the subject.

During the lecture, McGreevey said, "When a young African, when a young kid, young person from the hood comes out, doesn't have any money and commits a drug crime, traditionally he or she couldn't access treatment while a middle class kid from Robbinsville or wherever could access treatment and there would be a very different result."

In an interview with the VOICE after the lecture, McGreevey added, when explaining why he decided to speak at Mercer, "Well I think Mercer Community College has a strong program in Criminal Justice. It's a progressive community and I think there's a willing-

ness to tackle difficult issues so, it's a student population that's engaged, that's inquisitive, and that wants to wrestle with some of these difficult policy questions."

According to Professor Cooley his criminal justice students who attended the lecture gave it mixed reviews. Some found McGreevey's style abrupt, but it was also seen to be informative overall.

While reflecting on the event overall, Professor Cooley noted "If there are some programs available that could diminish their chances of going back that's a savings to taxpayers and it appears that [McGreevey's] program is a little bit better than many."

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Dead & Company: new people on the truck, but still truckin’



PHOTO | MIKE LAFISCA

John Mayer is serving as front man for Dead & Company, filling in for the late Jerry Garcia. The band is currently on tour in the US through the end of 2017.

By Mike LaFisca
Reporter

Dead & Company, the newest configuration of the Grateful Dead, announced a 16 show fall tour starting in New York City at Madison Garden on November 12. After a two night stand the band rolled into Philadelphia to play the Wells Fargo Center.

Dead & Company consists of original founding Grateful Dead members Bob Weir on guitar and lead vocals along with Mickey Hart, and Bill Kreutzmann playing the drums, and alternate percussion. Jerry Garcia’s spot is being played by seven time Grammy winner, and Pop star, John Mayer. Allman Brothers bassist, Oteil Burbridge, lays the bass in Phil Lesh’s spot, and long time Bob Weir keyboardist Jeff Chimenti fills the notes in between. Dead & Company picks up where The Grateful Dead left off.

Bob Weir talked with Jesse Jarnow of Rolling Stone on May 5, 2017 saying, “My model for how to work this material is

for everybody to be fluent with the most recent iteration of the tune that we did until 1995 [when Jerry Garcia died]. I think people should go back and listen to earlier versions, but we like people to hear where it was when we left it when we were playing with Jerry.”

When the gates opened at 3 o’clock on November 14, the parking lot began to transform into what fans (aka “Deadheads”) call “Shakedown Street.” Named after the 1978 record and song, Shakedown Street is a pop-up flea market style street fest filled with merchants selling pins, Grateful Dead memorabilia, alcohol, and trinkets.

At any Dead show you can find Shakedown Street, just follow the aroma of BBQ ribs cooking and they hazy cloud of weed being smoked. Buses painted psychedelic, filled with couches lined up next to minivans, cars and motorhomes all tailgating with the Grateful Dead music faintly in the background. A group of middle aged men were playing cards while drinking beer reminiscing

about 40 years ago they were in the same spot, doing the same thing.

A tie dye ocean of hippies below strolled around the aisles as the band nonchalantly strolled on stage the lights dimmed and the crowd roared. After plugging in and getting the levels adjusted, the drums kicked into the song, “Dancing in the Streets,” a familiar Martha and the Vandellas song from 1964 that has also been covered by David Bowie and Mick Jagger.

The band plucked into 1970 hit, “Friend of the Devil,” people began to dance. Also known as “spinners” among Dead fans, the dancers moved to the notes flowing from the guitar, gracefully changing rhythms as they danced with one another in a circle. The crowd in unison with Mayer and Weir sang, “ I set out running, but I take my time. A friend of the devil is a friend of mine I get home before daylight, I just might get some sleep tonight.”

Trenton resident and lifelong Deadhead, Jim Kelly said, “It was like 20,000 Dead-



PHOTO | MIKE LAFISCA

Dead & Company performing at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia on November 14, 2017.

heads around you like a warm blanket. After a 20 year hiatus this band is back and just as strong of a music machine as before. Jerry maybe gone, but John is filling in smoothly. The music never stopped.”

The Grateful Dead were known for having fans following them around the country, going to every show they played. The connection the band has with the fans is extraordinary on personal and spiritual levels.

During John Mayer’s solo tour, on August 23rd in Wantagh, New York he pointed out Richard Smith, also from New York saying, “I’d actually like to thank this gentleman right here in the headband. This gentleman has been at every Dead & Company show, every show. I’ve looked to you at times when I wasn’t sure that I really knew what would come

next....I just want to thank you. I want you to follow me around in life.”

The VOICE had the chance to catch up with Mr. Smith during the set break of the show, “Dead & Company means the world to me. They take me back to 1989 when The Grateful Dead were at one of their better years. I’ve seen almost every show [only missing one show] because I know it won’t last forever and I want to ride this wave as often as possible. John Mayer counts me to be there every night front and center as well, which means a lot.”

Jerry Garcia maybe dead but his music and The Grateful Dead’s legacy will live forever, Dead & Company keeps the pulse beating. “I will get by. I will get by, I will get by, I will survive.”



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Mercer students present gourmet

By Drew Mumich & Jackson Thompson
Senior Reporters

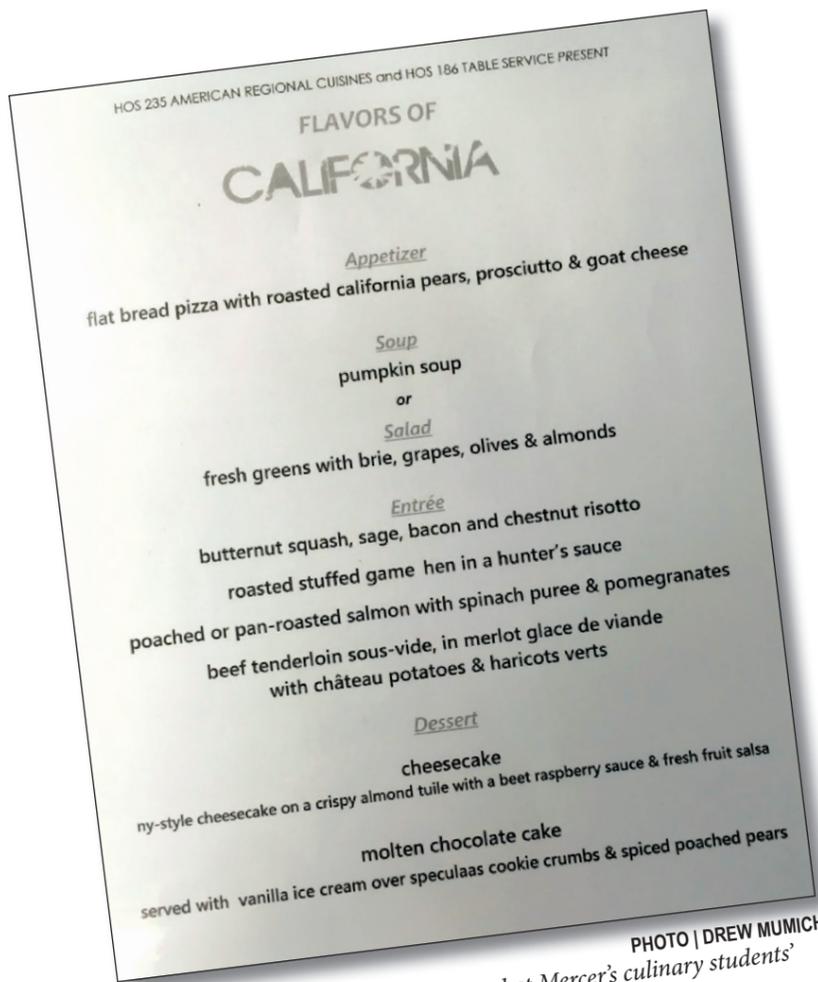


PHOTO | DREW MUMICH
Menu of California style cuisine served at Mercer's culinary students' restaurant on December 6.



Friends gather to enjoy a feast at Mercer's culinary students' restaurant on December 6. The menu, plating, and service are carried out by students in the Culinary Arts program.



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

A roasted stuffed game hen in hunter's sauce with green beans was one of the entrees at Mercer's culinary students' restaurant on December 6.

Hidden away in the corridors of Mercer's Engineering Science building exists a quaint yet classy operation dedicated to serving high end cuisine, open to the public. It is also a joint class session for three of the most advanced courses in Mercer's hospitality program.

Students working toward their A.A.S. degree in Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management meet in ES 111 Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12-1pm to simulate an authentic gourmet dining room, serving a variety of dishes to real patrons.

With an admission price of only \$12, four courses already arrive to your table. As Chef Frank Benowitz, who has arranged this operation for the past 17 years, told The VOICE "With no labour cost...we are able to offer that price tag...using local products, using product from reputable sources"

Two VOICE reporters visited the on campus restaurant on December 6, when they served California style Ameri-

can regional cuisine, which according to Chef Benowitz is the most popular menu.

As we walked in we were greeted by a hostess and seated quickly in the compact yet well decorated dining room.

To our right was a large glass wall which gave us a full view of the kitchen and the student chefs at work.

The appetizer course started with a flatbread pizza with roasted California pears, prosciutto and goat cheese, followed by a pumpkin soup, and a garden salad. The fresh tasting greens were accompanied by the perfect amount of dressing, tangy olives and a slice of fried brie which gave the whole salad a decadent edge.

The pumpkin soup had the perfect amount of sweetness to it and was an excellent choice for a cold day as warmth radiated from the bowl.

Sophomore Head Cook Lin Simpson told The VOICE "I go out to restaurants a lot... Food-wise this student run

"Everything has been fabricated, poultry fish fabrication the guests to enjoy by students in our Regional

- Chef Frank

met dining at outstanding value



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

December 6. The restaurant is open to the public and all aspects of the menu, preparation.

...s been fabricated
...nts in our meat
...ultry fabrication,
...n class, for our
...enjoy, prepared
...our American
...al class."

nk Benowitz

restaurant is excellent."

Simpson also noted that the culinary professors are serious about food preparation and cleanliness.

"We know sanitation is great, our teacher makes sure that we cook the food out and the food is great."

Sophomore Kathalyn Silverman worked as a server for the day. She is taking a mandatory course for culinary arts students called "Table Service," which insures they gain experience both in and out of the kitchen. She conducted her service professionally and with a friendly disposition.

When the entrees were beautiful pieces of culinary artwork. It almost made you feel guilty for eating them, that is until you tasted them. The roasted stuffed hen in a hunter's sauce was cooked to perfection. The stuffing was exquisite and the meat itself was tender and served in a rich sauce. The side of asparaginase was equally delightful.

The other entree op-

tion was a poached salmon complimented by a pesto sauce and a subtle addition of pomegranate. The dish satisfied a substantial hunger with a fresh taste. There was also a family style side of baked potatoes with a miso cream sauce.

Chef Benowitz said, "Everything has been fabricated by our students in our meat fabrication, poultry fabrication, fish fabrication class, for our the guests to enjoy, prepared by students in our American Regional class."

The dessert course was prepared by Professor Doug Fee's Hospitality 247 class. The dessert options included a cheesecake with fruit and a molten chocolate cake with a side of vanilla ice cream. The confections provided a filling conclusion to a satisfying and well presented meal.

The VOICE highly recommends this service to students and anyone in the community looking for quality food, friendly service at a price that cannot be beat.



PHOTO | JACKSON THOMPSON

Careful plating and attention to detail were a feature of the dishes presented at Mercer's culinary students' restaurant on December 6.



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

A New York style cheesecake on crispy almond tuile with beet raspberry sauce was one of two desserts offered at Mercer's culinary students' restaurant on December 6.

REVIEW: Mafalda's in Hamilton serves up great Italian

By Maria Mora &
Staff of The College VOICE

Mafalda's on Nottingham Way in Hamilton is a small, cozy, friendly Italian spot with a mellow ambience. The soft lights and cool background provide a perfect background so you can chat while having your meal.

The VOICE visited Mafalda's on a Sunday night. Things were quiet. Waiter Juan Rodriguez, said: "The reason it is pretty empty at the moment is because we had multiple parties earlier in the day."

With all the options on the menu the winner was White Butterfish, with green beans and roasted potatoes.

The service was fast and the fish arrived steaming, covered in a white creamy sauce with pieces of artichoke surrounding it. The texture was good, and the artichokes added a extra flavor to the creamy

sauce.

The potatoes were hot and crisp, nice and golden brown. The green beans were sauteed with aromatic chopped garlic cloves.

Rodriguez said of the dish, "The White Butterfish special is one of the most ordered by customers here. Even those that are not sure about it they end up liking it very much."

Mafalda's has reached out 4 of 5 stars on Yelp with 43 reviews where customers not only have said how satisfied they were with their dishes but also about the staff and specially the owners.

Cheron C. from Trenton, NJ wrote in her review in Yelp: "Incredible food, my favorites are the fresh raw oysters on Friday's and the Caesar Salad with homemade dressing and pesto! Calamari here is always great! The best Tiramisu I've had in a long time. The owner An-

thony is a great host who goes above and beyond to make you feel comfortable and satisfied during your meal."

Mafalda's is run by Mike Lettara and his cousin Anthony Maimone, a former Mercer Student. Mike comes from a long line of local restaurateurs. He is the grandson of Mike and Matty Lettara who started the Yardville Hotel in the early 1980's, opened a deli and the Keg Restaurant in Chambersburg and have two pizzerias in Bordentown and New Hope, PA.

According to their website, the restaurant is named after their grandma, and some of the family recipes that have been handed down and are featured at Mafalda's include Sunday gravy, chicken Caccatori on the bone, home-made Crepe manicottis, home-made spinach bread, gourmet pizzas and chicken Rabetella.

Another strong



PHOTO | MARIA MORA

Server Juan Rodriguez in the kitchen at Mafalda's restaurant on Nottingham Way in Hamilton, NJ.

point is the good portion size and reasonable prices for the style and quality of food. Mafalda's is BYOB and allows both reservations and walk-ins and has plenty of lot parking.

It is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 4pm to 9pm and offers catering and other packages.

Mafalda's is a great local find.

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LOCAL DINER DASH

By Monique Pettit
Reporter

Diners are comforting. They reliably give you what you want and there for you when you need them. You can stay up all night eating a plate of fries, or have pancakes for dinner. Because diners can be a good place to study for hours and offer an ample supply of food to stress eat.

With that in mind, The VOICE set out to find the best diners for students in need during finals week.

Our first stop was Golden Dawn located on 2090 Whitehorse Mercerville Road, about 8 minutes from campus.

While a Google search of this diner says that it is 24 hours, turns out you can't actually be at Golden Dawn at dawn, because it closes at 11pm. We visited at 7pm, were greeted by the hostess and seated within 20 minutes.

The decor is an 80's style with an old-fashioned soundtrack playing in the background. Apparently keeping with the retro theme. We were unable to access the Wi-Fi even though the waitress said they had it. If you are coming here to study, you're going to be relying on good old-fashioned notebooks and pens.

When asked if students could hang out as long as they wanted, Adrienne Munich, a Golden Dawn waitress said, "You can sit here as long as you want, but it all depends on your server."

The check came out to \$30 dollars for a Caesar salad, mozzarella



sticks, a cup of tea, and a cup of coffee. The salad was 12 dollars by itself. High price point, lack of Wi-Fi, and no assurance that you can stay here to study mean this diner isn't the most appealing place for college students to go for a study session.

The next diner on the list was the Broad Street Diner, on 2654 S Broad Street in Trenton. They're a 24-Hour diner that actually does stay open 24 hours a day. Plus, they do have Wi-Fi, though it can be spotty depending on how many people are using it.

Seating and service were speedy. From entrance to the arrival of the food only took 20 minutes, plenty faster than Golden Dawn.

When asked about how business was for students, Nicole Watton, a hostess, stated "We've had plenty of students come in and study and it isn't a problem. We usually try not to bother them too much."

The prices

were reasonable, and not just in comparison to Golden Dawn, just in general. Think \$15 for a satisfying study session pig out.

A final note on Broad Street Diner is that it would be particularly useful in the later hours of the night, when business is slower and the place is quieter.

Following Broad Street we set out for Route 1 Diner, located at 2009 Rt. 1 in Lawrenceville.

Things started out well at Route 1 with speedier seating than either of the other two locations, but service progressively got worse as the night went on. The only things we got on time were our coffee and tea. On the other hand, it was the cheapest diner we went to, and the laid back attitude made it most amenable to students.

If you have to pull an all nighter Route 1 Diner is probably be your best option. There is Wi-Fi accessible, the food is decent and was the cheapest of



the diners we visited, plus as hosted Sophia Langone explained, "You can stay however long you want."

Next stop: Denny's, one of two chain restaurants on our list, and though not a traditional diner, it is open 24 hours and students could, conceivably study there. Still, it has its reputation. It has been said that you don't choose to go to Denny's, you just end up there the same way you don't choose to talk to your ex. It just happens.

Denny's is understaffed, with excruciatingly slow service, think 20 minutes to get seated and another half an hour for them to make a grilled

cheese and soup.

The cost came to about \$11, which is cheap. However, if you believe time is money, the length of time it took

to actually get the food is reason enough to cross Denny's off the list. Here are some more reasons, if that's not enough: The server also checked back very infrequently, and didn't choose to answer any



questions.

The VOICE not only doesn't recommend Denny's for studying, but for eating at all.

The final stop of The VOICE's diner dash is IHOP, another chain diner. When we arrived around 8:20 the restaurant was totally dead.

Waitress Brielle Allen told us this was because "Saturday mornings are packed... Nights are usually dead because it is more of a breakfast place than is a restaurant."

We can sum up IHOP for you: just no. The hours aren't good, they do not have Wi-Fi, and most staffers aren't nuts about students taking up tables.

Allen says if you order a coffee regularly you should be fine, still those can quickly add up for cash-strapped college students. So just cross it off the list.

Final run down: Broad Street or Route 1 are our best picks, but after so much diner food we are just going to stay in for a while!





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To what extent can we restrict speech on Twitter?

PUBLIC COMMENT



Sean O'Connor

Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman wrote a letter to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey last October--which she made available on her website--threatening the social media platform with "increased regulations" if it did not do more to stop people from using it for "propagating hate."

Although regulating speech on social media that "propagates hate" in general would violate the First Amendment, regulating speech in particular "that could possibly incite riots"--as Coleman put it in a phone interview with The VOICE--is a move that the Supreme Court could ultimately uphold as constitutional, under the "fighting words" doctrine.

"Fighting words"--which the Supreme Court deemed unprotected by the First Amendment in *Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire* (1942) - have been defined as "those which, by their very utterance, inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace."

Over the decades the

reach of the fighting words doctrine has been more strictly defined but never overturned.

So in order for Congresswoman Coleman's plan to work, she and other members of congress would need to write explicit legislation that meets the criteria mentioned above.

In her letter to Twitter she writes of her concern that some of the platform's users have come to "feel comfortable sharing racist ideologies, ultimately contributing to the type of violence that we witnessed in August 2017 at the 'Unite the Right' rally in Charlottesville, V.A."

As was widely reported, White Nationalists who were rallying became physically violent against counter protesters and the event ended with a 32 year old woman killed, and 19 others injured.

The incendiary language of the White Nationalists at the Charlottesville rally was a continuation of the toxic and hateful comments tweeted by bigots around the world using racial slurs and calling for violence.

A German artist and activist named Shahak Shapira has actually painted the words from some of the worst tweets he's come across, onto the sidewalks next to Twitter's office in Hamburg, Germany, using art to voice his opposition to the same permissive behavior on the part of the company that has upset Congresswoman Coleman.

Tweets he painted include ones like: "LETS GAS

SOME JEWS TOGETHER," and "kill all the gays and faggots."

Though Twitter did not remove the incendiary tweets that have caused activists and lawmakers to call for change, leaders at the social media titan have indicated they are not entirely opposed to voluntarily prohibiting hate speech.

Erin Griffith, in an article for *Wired*, reported this October that Twitter's Trust and Safety Council is enacting "new rules around unwanted sexual advances, nonconsensual nudity, hate symbols, violent groups, and tweets that glorify violence."

Will these changes address Congresswoman Coleman's call to action? She told the VOICE she had no specific regulations in mind, only that this "is something that would definitely have to be explored. We're not looking to jump into something and present something that isn't thought provoking, and doesn't have input from stakeholders, the industry, as well as you all, who use social media."

Until stakeholders have a chance to be convened and to hash out specific goals and requirements, the general call for censoring certain users' speech clashes with the First Amendment.

As UCLA Professor of Free Speech Law Eugene Volokh wrote in a *Washington Post* column, responding to Congresswoman Coleman's letter to Twitter, "The First Amendment bars government officials from passing laws to censor al-

legedly, as [Congresswoman] Coleman and [Congressman Emanuel] Cleaver put it, 'racially divisive communications.'"

Professor Volokh adds, "the First Amendment bars government officials from using the threat of retaliation to pressure media platforms to suppress speech."

When asked about Professor Volokh's criticism Congresswoman Coleman said, "It's disappointing to me that he would approach it from that negative perspective because we're not trying to interfere with free speech, but free speech has its limitations as well. And government has a responsibility to pass regulations, pass laws that will make sure that the citizens of this country are safe and secure."

When asked about the problem Congresswoman Coleman raises, Mike Hiestand, Legal Consultant for the Student Press Law Center, told the VOICE in a phone interview, "we are in new territory."

When asked if he could elaborate Hiestand said, "Do we treat emails, do we treat tweets and Facebook posts, and things like that, do we treat them the same as we've treated speech traditionally? Or is there something different about those things because of their immediacy, because of their ability to reach big numbers of people, which before that wasn't always the problem?"

Frank D. LoMonte, Professor and Director of The Brechner Center for Freedom

of Information at University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications told the VOICE in an email: "If you just post the words 'kill Jews' to Twitter, that's a horrible thing to say, but I doubt that it crosses the line into an act of unlawful incitement, because nobody realistically expects Twitter readers to say, 'I wasn't planning to do any violence to anyone, but now that I've read these two words, I guess I will.'"

To that extent Hiestand agrees, telling The VOICE, "If it's just 'kill the Jews' sort of language we haven't allowed that sort of message to be punished up to this point, at least."

For now, as Hiestand put it, "If there were very specific tweets calling for very specific action and which would reasonably lead to that action occurring, yeah, it's certainly possible that social media tweets or posts, things like that could fall into that [fighting words] category and could be subject to some sort of control."

Congresswoman Coleman, when asked about the exact limits the First Amendment allows government to impose responded by saying, "that is something really out of my wheelhouse and I wouldn't want to venture into it and offer you an uneducated response."

The legal precedents established by the Supreme Court and various state courts of appeals provide the best guidelines for governing cyber speech, particularly on social media.



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THE WAY IT IS**Mike LaFisca**

In a year filled with tweets, sex and violence there didn't seem to be much hope left for humanity, not, that is, until Budweiser pulled through in the clutch.

Just as we were all laying in supplies for Thanksgiving, Anheuser-Busch announced their plan to send barley seeds--the main ingredient in Budweiser beer--into space. Why? Mars beer, of course. They want to produce beer on Mars. No, I'm not kidding.

It's baby steps, of course. First they are doing experiments on the exposure and germination of the seeds in space. With the help of the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space, they rocketed those baby buds up to the International Space Station early last week. Now, we wait.

Ricardo Marques, Vice President of Budweiser said in his public statement about Mars beer, "Budweiser is always pushing the boundaries of innovation and we



are inspired by the collective American Dream to get to Mars. We are excited to begin our research to brew beer for the red planet."

I'm all for a cold brew after a long day of terraforming, but somehow it feels like A-B may not have thought this plan through all the way.

According to the Traffic Safety Facts issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "In 2016, 9 percent of drivers involved in a fatal crash during the day were drunk compared to 30 percent at night."

Now imagine the person blowing the .08 on the breathalyzer is flying the Millennium Falcon, and you start to see the problem. Sure there's a lot of space out there, and you'd figure a Mars Bud aficionado would have the good sense to swerve out of the way of an oncoming pan-

galactic freighter, but can you be sure?

And what about the asteroid belts? It's one thing to avoid another vessel that doesn't want to get hit in the first place, but space debris doesn't care who you are. It's not going to budge unless your gravitational pull is at least greater than 3.711 m/s² (that's Mars's pull, btw).

The death toll could easily double or triple with drunk flying. Due to impairment, space ships could easily lose control leading to crashing into planets making the numbers grow in deadly rates.

We have to take aliens into account, too. How do we know other life forms can handle their alcohol? After five Mars Beers could ET wobble his way to his bike and phone home?

What about the drunken fights and disputes.

Imagine, George Jetson coming home from a night at The Mars Bar to pick a fight with the family in his drunken stupor.

But not all is bad with this idea, we can hold an galaxy beer pong tournament to finally determine if Captain Kirk or Captain Picard is better.

This also could help settle the ongoing feud between Alien and Predator. Sit them down with a cold pitcher of Mars Beer and talk it out the good old fashion way.

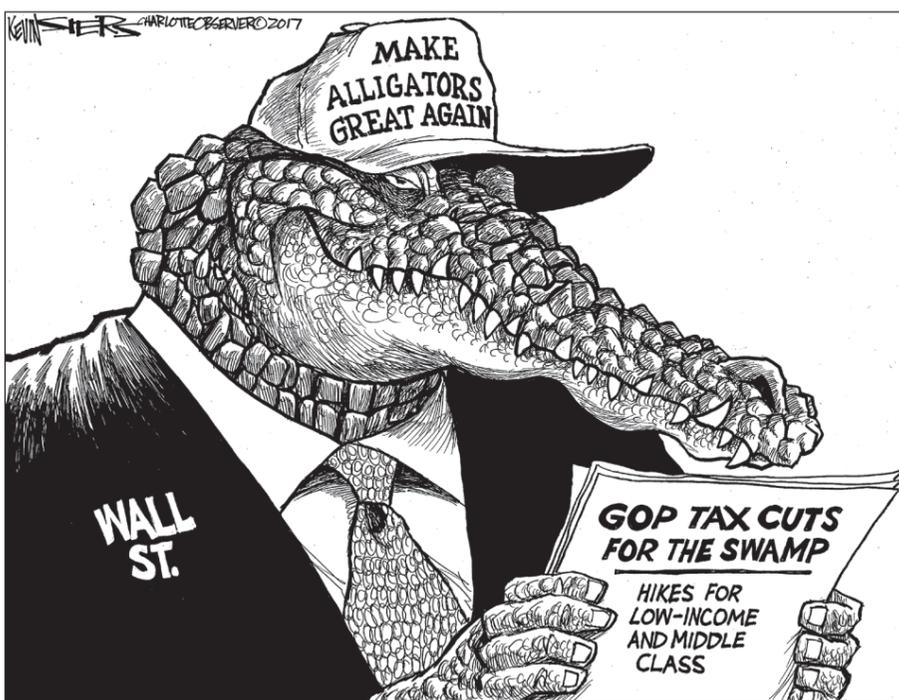
The entire galaxy can now raise a glass and "dilly dilly" to A-B for bringing them Mars Beer. Even though we don't have any human life on Mars or any idea of how to get the human race to Mars, we can rest assure that when we do finally get there, Mars Beer will be waiting.

top ten

Most Diverse States

1. California
2. Texas
3. Hawaii
4. New Jersey
5. New York
6. New Mexico
7. Maryland
8. Nevada
9. Florida
10. Arizona

Source: WalletHub

EDITORIAL CARTOONS**Editorial Policy:**

The College VOICE is written and edited by students of Mercer County Community College and published every 3-4 weeks under the guidance of faculty advisers. The material printed in The College VOICE, be it articles, advertisements or opinion pieces, does not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the faculty, staff, administration or the board of trustees of Mercer County Community College.

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 Mercer (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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ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



Help is here!

Dear Voice,
This week at least ten drivers nearly killed me in the parking lots. I'm starting to feel like skydiving onto campus would be safer. Is this par for the course?
-Frightened

Dear Entomophobia Girl,
We can only cover one gross thing at a time. It's finals week.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
Any chance we can get the faculty to do Professional Development days like we got in high school?
-Need a Break

Dear Need a Break,
Good idea. And they could use it! We'll bring it up at the next Trustees meeting.
-The VOICE

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

Dear Voice,
2018 is coming up. Do we all still agree that the world is ending? If not, what am I supposed to do with all my Zombie Apocalypse gear?
-Sparky

Dear Frightened,
We suggest online courses.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice,
I hear the college has a mold problem, but is anyone looking into the cockroach problem? I saw one the size of a small dog carrying an entire cheesecake down the hall and out the doors of the LA building last week.
-Entomophobia Girl

Dear Sparky,
Good news, yes, it's ending, and in the meantime, Mercer is the perfect place to train for the Zombie Apocalypse!
-The VOICE



HOROSCOPES



Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

The end of the semester is here. Your instinct may be to climb under a blanket and sip some cocoa but now is the time to get out and walk or jog. The cool air is healing.



Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

You have a lot to say these days. Find a creative outlet (maybe even The VOICE?) where you can share your thoughts. People want to listen.



Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Someone looks up to you and wants to impress you. Their strategy may be a bit unusual, or even ridiculous, but their heart is in the right place. Be a mentor and help them not take things too seriously.



Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Last month we warned you about the dangers of sleep deprivation. We suspect you either didn't, or couldn't listen. That's okay, just try to use some December down time to rest.



Gemini

May 21 - Jun. 20

As a new year approaches you may be ready to put the past behind you. Don't feel bad for needing a fresh start. Take the space you need to feel confident this year.



Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You will receive a gift in disguise. It might take a while to see it for what it really is, but when you do, it will be transformative. Trust your instincts on this one.



Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

This is the season of lights and of good food. Time to get cooking! You are about to spend time in the kitchen and love every minute of it. Eat. Laugh. Love.



Cancer

Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

Unexpected friends show up for you this month. Possibly a loved one from out of town, or someone new who turns out to be a good person to hang out with. Enjoy the company.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Around the holidays you feel obliged to take care of everyone. Definitely indulge your desires, but let others care for you, too. The world won't fall apart if you sit down and sip some mulled cider and watch Netflix.



Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

News in your life and in the world may have been tough to bear lately, but you are starting to see ways you can make a big difference in little ways. Keep it up!



Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

Someone in your life needs you and you don't want to get sucked into their drama. There is a way to be a shoulder to lean on without being drained by neediness. You can do it.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Games are part of your life this month, which you didn't see coming. You may feel uncomfortable letting loose and having fun, but games are supposed to be fun. Don't be too closed off to have fun.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 2 (of 5)

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

11-22-10

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

