

the college VOICE

200,000 men women and children turned out in NYC for the second annual Women's March

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#MeToo movement finds its voice on campuses

By Maria Ramos & Griffin Jones
Senior Reporters

A Mercer student, who wished only to be called L, told The VOICE. "I had psychology class last spring and there was a guy in my class that never spoke to me or in the class, but he was always staring at me, and sometimes I would see him in the hall and he would just look at me without saying anything."

She continued, "He kept following me after class, and I thought it was maybe just my imagination, so I took a different way and I went around the Communications building and then to the cafeteria, and he did the same...When I was in the parking lot he was there too, he parked his car in front of mine and looked at me and said 'Do you wanna go out for dinner?' I told him I was married and not interested and to please leave me alone."

L's story is just one of many that have come to light in recent months as part of the spread of the #MeToo phenomenon.

The social media hashtag was created to bring awareness to the commonplace nature of sexual assault and sexual harassment faced by women today. Actress and activist Alyssa Milano popularized the tag following accusations of sexual assault against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

The concept behind the #metoo hashtag was that if every woman who had suffered some form of sexual assault shared the hashtag, then the scope of the problem could be realized.

With the focus on sexual assault, renewed interest has been shone on the high rates of sexual assault on college campuses.

A 2016 survey by the United States Department of Justice showed that roughly 21 percent of women in four-year colleges had experienced sexual assault since enrolling.

There has been evidence to show that community colleges are just as vulnerable to sexual assault and harassment as their four-year counterparts, although the nature of the incidents differ in the non-



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

[LEFT] Young women at the Women's March in New York spoke up about the problem of sexual harassment and assault faced by women on a daily basis. The #MeToo movement began as a response to revelation of high profile men in Hollywood and politics who were revealed to have allegedly committed wide scale sexual assault throughout their careers. [BELOW] Many of this year's marchers carried #MeToo signs to indicate that they had faced harassment or assault like so many others. Some silently held them up as they passed the Trump International Hotel and Tower as a form of response to the many allegations of sexual misconduct against the president.

residential setting.

In a VOICE survey of Mercer students including 30 men and 30 women the results showed 57 percent of female students would not feel comfortable alerting the college administration if they were assaulted or harassed.

Dorothy Gasparro, Mercer's licensed counselor told The VOICE, "I have no idea what is making [students] uncomfortable or with whom or why they are afraid to speak. That is certainly an area that deserves more attention and investigation. I, for one, would like to hear more about the reasons and the fears."

She continued, "I know too many women, myself included, who can say #MeToo."

Survey respondents were invited to share their perspectives.

One female student wrote: "I'm happy about the #metoo movement. [Sexual assault] is something that happens often but no one says anything, out of embarrassment."

L told The VOICE why she didn't notify the school, "I don't feel safe at Mercer, I don't think they would have done anything if I had told them this. I still feel very scared at night when I need to walk on my own to the parking lot."

L is not alone in her stalking experience, two thirds of female respondents said they had been stalked, and 27 per-

cent said they had been stalked by someone they had met at Mercer.

John Simone, the college's Director of Athletics and also the Title IX coordinator, who is responsible for filing student sexual assault and harassment complaints, said "We may have received six complaints [about stalking] in the last three years. All have been investigated and the situation has been mitigated or sanctions have been implemented."

The #MeToo movement, however, has offered hope to some students.

Patrick Ramsey, a Criminal Justice major, said, "I believe this movement shows a lot of courage and may inspire others who have been negatively affected."

The #MeToo movement connects back to earlier eras when women's allegations of sexual harassment were often not only ignored but those who spoke out were made to seem like they were in the wrong for saying anything. One prominent example of this is Anita Hill, now Senior Advisor to the Provost and Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's Studies at Brandeis University. She is most well known for her testimony against current Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas during his confirmation process. This was one of the first times that the public began an active conversation about sexu-



PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

al harassment in the workplace, but Thomas still received the confirmation.

Hill, who is a considered a hero to many in the #MeToo movement came to speak at Mercer in 2012. She described her the reasoning behind her coming forward with

her testimony against Clarence Thomas in 1991.

Maybe it is time for Hill to be invited to speak again. At present Mercer has no special events or activities planned that relate to these issues and how they impact students and education.



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Toro Y Moi plays Philly, moves away from familiar. PG. 7

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DJ Chaz Bear, aka Toro Y Moi, plays Coda in Philly



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO



PHOTO | TREVION ANGLIN

[LEFT] Chadwick Bundick, aka Chaz Bear. [ABOVE] Toro Y Moi, known for including psychedelic lights show playing Coda in Philadelphia on Saturday Jan. 27.

By Trevion Anglin
Reporter

Tucked back in the cluster of buildings that line Walnut Street in Philadelphia is a night club concert venue called Coda. Known for hosting DJ sets among other types of shows, electronic artist Toro Y Moi—also known as Chaz Bear, but whose real name is Chadwick Bundick—played on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Toro is a 31 year old singer-songwriter and record producer who is known for his role in promoting the chillwave

sound which features escapist lyrics and dreamy, hypnotic slow beats. Chillwave is a microgenre that sprang up in 2009 and is one of the first of its kind to have originally been established on the Internet.

Toro is biracial with a black mother and Filipino father. He grew up in South Carolina and got his start with indie rock bands including The Heist. He has six studio albums—one of which made it to 123 on the Billboard 200—and three compilation albums and is known for pushing boundaries and experimenting with new sounds.

Toro's opener was Gilligan Moss, an electronic duo. They took to the small stage which allows artists to be seen no matter the viewers location in the crowd. After about an hour and a half of mesmerizing rhythms and psychedelic visuals, Toro came and took the stage.

For a couple hours Toro played some beats, and little more. This was unusual as he is primarily known for his more structured indie rock/electronic music. Despite some fun flows here and there the overall performance was monotonous.

Gilligan Moss had set up mainly original beats and ended their set with a performance of some of their songs. This suggested Toro would do the same, but instead went down a more basic path.

While fans embraced this, they also wondered if the show would have been more successful with a more traditional style.

"Although his DJ set definitely incorporated a lot of his fast tempo type of beats from his songs very well, I'll always resonate more with a concert where the artist is perform-

ing his classics instead of beats," Dom Ferrero, a University of Arts student, told The VOICE after the show.

He added, "Regardless, [Toro] is equally talented in both fields and melds them both together excellently."

Philadelphia resident Bianca Distephano had a similar impression. She said, "I enjoyed his set but was somewhat disappointed by the lack of an actual performance." She added, "I was excited to finally hear him play his songs that I've listened to for so long. I think he would have been better at that."

Faculty hope admins will seek input before making changes

By Davis Lee
Reporter

As the spring semester starts things Professor of Mathematics Kyle Anderson is relieved that all his classes ended up in rooms that make sense for what he teaches and none were changed at the last minute.

"[Last fall I initially] had BS208A assigned as the room for my Honors Calculus II class. But then, sometime towards the end of pre-class week, which is just a few days before the semester starts, my room suddenly got changed to AD234A," he told The VOICE.

Professor Anderson explained that AD234A, which is typically used as a conference room because it is adjacent to the administrative offices, did have enough room for his Honors students, but that the whiteboard was too small to fit complex calculations higher level mathematics demands.

Professor Anderson says he requested that an additional whiteboard be installed in the classroom but his request was denied.

When asked for a comment, Jim Gardner, Mercer's Director of Communications told The VOICE, "While a few class-



Prof. Kyle Anderson teaching Honors Calculus II in AD234A during fall 2017 semester.

PHOTO | DAVIS LEE

es a week do meet in the room, that is not its primary purpose, the room is already equipped with a whiteboard, so the installation of a second board was deemed unnecessary and not a prudent use of college financial resources."

When The VOICE, asked College President Dr. Jianping Wang about the issue she said, "I don't know the specifics of it because I am not aware of those things. But if it is really true, then I think something should change. It should be corrected and there should be consultations."

She added that that's the purpose of her having open office hours.

"I am a firm believer in open communication because if I didn't want consultations and I want to make decisions [alone], I wouldn't hold open office hours," said Dr. Wang.

It's possible that more faculty members will start going to the president's open office hours more often, as many echoed Professor Anderson by describing a variety of problems cropping up that they primarily attributed to rapid changes in the college's top leadership po-

sitions leaving gaps in institutional memory.

In the last two years the college got a new President and two out of three college deans were new as were the Chief Financial Officer, most of the IT department, the Registrar, the person who assigns classrooms, and a number of other key administrators.

One faculty member who requested to remain anonymous explained that making even the smallest or relatively simple requests are such time-consuming process because each of the requests have to go

through so much paperwork and red tape that, even when someone is trying to help them, it takes them much longer than they should.

As a new Vice President, the sixth in five years, arrives in March, faculty say they are hoping that having the position filled will help bring more consistency and that the President and Vice President will be able to work together to smooth out these bumps.

One professor who also asked to remain anonymous said: "Maybe the new administrators can start to see the value to the students in slowing down, not rushing every new idea and policy, taking time to study what needs to be done, proactively seeking feedback from students and faculty before making changes. It could save everyone a lot of headaches like with the student email transition, and the change to the academic calendar. These were good things in many ways, but the plans were rushed out."

The same faculty member added: "A lot of problems could be avoided if everyone wasn't always acting like the house is on fire. Hopefully the new VP will bring a fire extinguisher."

PROFILE: Shaunice Palms's legacy of effort and teamwork

By Jasmine Santalla
Senior Reporter

Shaunice Palms wasn't born a pro basketball player. She hadn't even played before high school, when she decided to join Nottingham's girls' basketball team as a freshman, but that didn't affect her new interest in the sport she goes on to play four years later at college.

"I loved it immediately. I didn't even know how to play when I first walked on. I just knew that you throw it in the hoop and that's it," Palms told *The VOICE* in a recent interview.

Shaunice Palms, fourth semester student studying exercise science, is co-captain of the Vikings women's basketball team. She's approaching the end of her basketball career here at Mercer. Over time, Palms says she's grown to be a better leader.

"I think I've improved most in leadership. I was very shy [in high school] and as a guard you need to take leadership and communicate well on the court."

While Palms was used to being a forward in high school, she told *The VOICE* that she understood that it was necessary to step it up in order to fill the slot the team needed. She talked about the countless practices she'd show up early to so she could practice her

dribbling and shooting drills, skills specific to guards. Palms says it's all for the benefit of the team.

"My teammates motivate me the most. Right now, we are the underdogs and we all have a part to play and we need to constantly be thinking about the bigger picture. It's about [all of] us, not any singular person." Outside of basketball, Palms is motivated by a specific person, her twin sister Shaune who is a criminal justice major at Mercer also also the women's basketball team manager.

"We were brought up based on church and my mother made sure we were involved in a lot such as helping out the community, running nursery in the church...We do a lot. We like to be involved in things and be as active as possible," Shaune Palms said.

Shaune who has been beside her sister for every move describes the changes she has seen since Shaunice took up basketball.

"As a person she expresses herself a lot more now and I've seen her become more aware with the way she presents herself as [both] a player and as a person."

Teammate, Shanice Barnes, sees something similar. She has been playing with Palms since last season and says of her teammate: "On the court we both know how each other play and we know each other's strengths and prefer-

ences. Off the court I know that she's someone who I can talk to about anything...She'd give her honest opinion. Then we'd laugh about something silly that's happened."

Another teammate who says she can count on Palms is Haylee Kieffer. "On the court I know that she will work her butt off for everyone on the team and if something needs to get done, she's the person to be told because she makes sure that she does it exactly as needed. Off the court she pretty much the same way," Kieffer says.

While Palms says the motivation her team gives her pushes her beyond her limits, she attributes a great deal of her success as an athlete and a student, to coach Mike Tenaglia. She says coach Tenaglia approached her at her All-Star game her senior year of high school and recruited her. Palms says he has increased her "basketball I.Q."

"Oh my goodness. [Coach Mike] truly taught me everything about basketball from the fundamental aspect and beyond. He's helped me figure out how basketball is just as much a mental game as it is a physical one."

After Mercer, Palms's basketball career will be coming to a close. She's looking into the physical therapy program at Drexel University. When she was a junior in high school she experienced a severe ankle



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Number 25 Shaunice Palms is finishing her last season on Mercer's Viking's basketball team and hoping to transfer to Drexel.

sprain and was only brought back to the court after intense physical therapy. She was inspired from then on to support other athletes in the same way. Palms mentioned, "It just feels like it's time to rest my body. Playing a sport puts a lot of physical strain on your body, so I think it's time to hang it up af-

ter Mercer."

Her teammates say Palms will not be forgotten when she moves on.

Shanice Barnes said, "She taught me not to give up, give it your all in anything you do. Even though I'm still learning how to do it."

Men's Basketball: Vikings hit the road in February playoff push

By Jackson Thompson
Senior Reporter

With last season's two win campaign now a distant memory, head coach Howard Levy and his young men's basketball team head into the final month of the regular season on the cusp of a playoff berth. According to Athletic Director John Simone, all the Vikings need to do is finish .500 or better to clinch a spot in the NJCAA Region 19 tournament.

"There will be as many as five or six teams that will qualify meaning they have a .500 record, or a .500 regional record," Simone said, adding, "Anybody with a .500 record within the region or overall makes it in."

A successful January put Mercer in good standing to achieve their goal. After winning three straight games to start the month, a lopsided 66-111 home loss to Harcum on Thursday Jan. 25 ended their streak. Two days later freshmen shooting guard Donovan Guess led his team back into the win column over Valley Forge with a 34 point shooting performance.

Mercer got the sweep over Valley Forge after defeating them back in November, as they just edged out their opponent 70-68 in a back and forth



PHOTO | JACKSON THOMPSON

Mercer Viking John Evans, #5, and Tory Whiting, #20, defend the Harcum players at a home game Jan. 25.

shootout. With that win Mercer finishes January at 4-1 which puts them at 11-10 overall for the season.

According to freshman point guard John Evans, it was ultimately the how the Vikings finished defensively that yielded them the win.

"At first it was a little sloppy I can admit, but at the

end we decided to come together and play defense as a whole and not play selfish," Evans said. He added, "We can beat anyone if we all come together."

Mercer also had the luxury of playing their fourth straight home game in the win, something that seldom happens in the final month as they finish with five of their last six

games on the road.

"Whoever we're going to play against at their home, they always got the advantage because the crowd and everything is at their house, and they know how to play on their courts. They don't know how to shoot on our courts and everything, but I also got confidence in our team that we'll be fine,"

said Evans.

At 11-10 the team has very little room for error. They also have the challenge of opening this road trip against undefeated Brookdale who is 20-0 on the season.

After that they will still face a high degree of competition as they travel to Rowan, Manor and Raritan who have a combined record of 36-22. They play their final home game against Lackawanna who are 17 and 3 and who the Vikings already lost to earlier the season. Then they will travel all the way to Delaware to finish the season against Del Tech Stanton.

In their last twelve games Mercer is 8-4, but will be tested in what might be their toughest stretch of games all year, especially considering nearly all of them will be on the road. Forward Tory Whiting, who is one of only two sophomores on the roster, believes the team is well equipped to handle the challenge and can adjust when the time calls for it.

"Since the start of the semester we've been jelling real well. We switched up our defense and our offense a little bit and we made a couple little changes and it's actually helped us a lot. We look like we're getting a little bit more engaged," Whiting said.

MODERN LOVE: Romance in an app?

Listicles by
Laurie Gallagher
Senior Reporter



TOP SIX GIFTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

1. Flowers
2. Jewelry
3. Chocolates
4. Time with each other
5. Going out to a movie and dinner
6. Having a moonlit walks

By Maria Ramos
Senior Reporter

These days, young adults communicate not only by text but with multiple apps at the same time, such as Snapchat, Facebook Messenger, Instagram, What's App and many others on a daily basis. This has changed the game of dating. With one tap you can meet someone with whom you could spend the night or the rest of your life.

This is what happened to a nursing student at Mercer who asked to be identified only as J.

When The VOICE asked her what she thought about online dating services she started to laugh and look around, then said, "Well I met my fiancé on Tinder and then got in contact with him on Instagram."

Tinder has become one of the most famous apps for online dating. Users make a profile including interests and can add a location or another social media account in order to find singles nearby.

On Tinder you get a catalog of the other people who "match" your interests, and if you

like the person you swipe to the right and if not, to the left. Then boom, you can talk to that person that you swipe right with.

According to a survey of 30 Mercer students conducted by The VOICE, 60 percent said they have tried online dating apps. Tinder leads as the most popular, followed by OkCupid. In third place among Mercer students was Hot or Not.

J continued her fiancé story saying, "You know, I followed him on Instagram, started to like his photos and eventually he sent me a message on Instagram and later we exchanged phone numbers and started to going out for dates. He really never ask me how did I find him out on Instagram and we never talked about it until after a year of dating, I told

him I saw on his Tinder profile his instagram user and just add him. He thought I was crazy but didn't care."

According to datingsitesreviews.com there are 46 million users on the Tinder app from all around the world. Tinder offers the on-line service in more than 20 countries.

As things change in our world, the ways we see, experience and look for love have changed radically. This is modern love, where a text with an emoji can mean many things. A simple smiling emoji with eyes in the shape of hearts or blowing a kiss can make you feel something or wonder what the other person means by sending you that specific emoji.

Yet, despite the popularity of dating apps, people are still skeptical. In the Mercer student survey 52 percent of students said that people is more fake online.

Aliya Ahmad, a radiography major, told The VOICE: "I don't think all those apps are safe. People can have access to a lot of your information with one click and all those scary stories of girls who had been killed or kidnapped from someone they meet online. I am not taking that risk."

Safety is a real concern. According to an article from Forbes.com in the year 2016 there were approximately 15,000 reports of "romance scams." Still, that's a small percent of the 46 million users on Tinder alone.

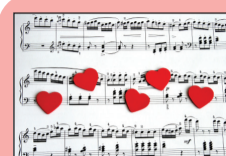
Modern love has opened a new door to the way people interact and love each other. While sending hand written love letters may be a thing of the past, that doesn't mean that love for young adults is gone. It just has different tools and social rules.

One rule? Quit when you're ahead.

J told The VOICE, "This past Christmas we [my fiancé and I] got engaged and I am very happy. I will never regret of what I did, but of course now my Tinder and Instagram accounts are gone."

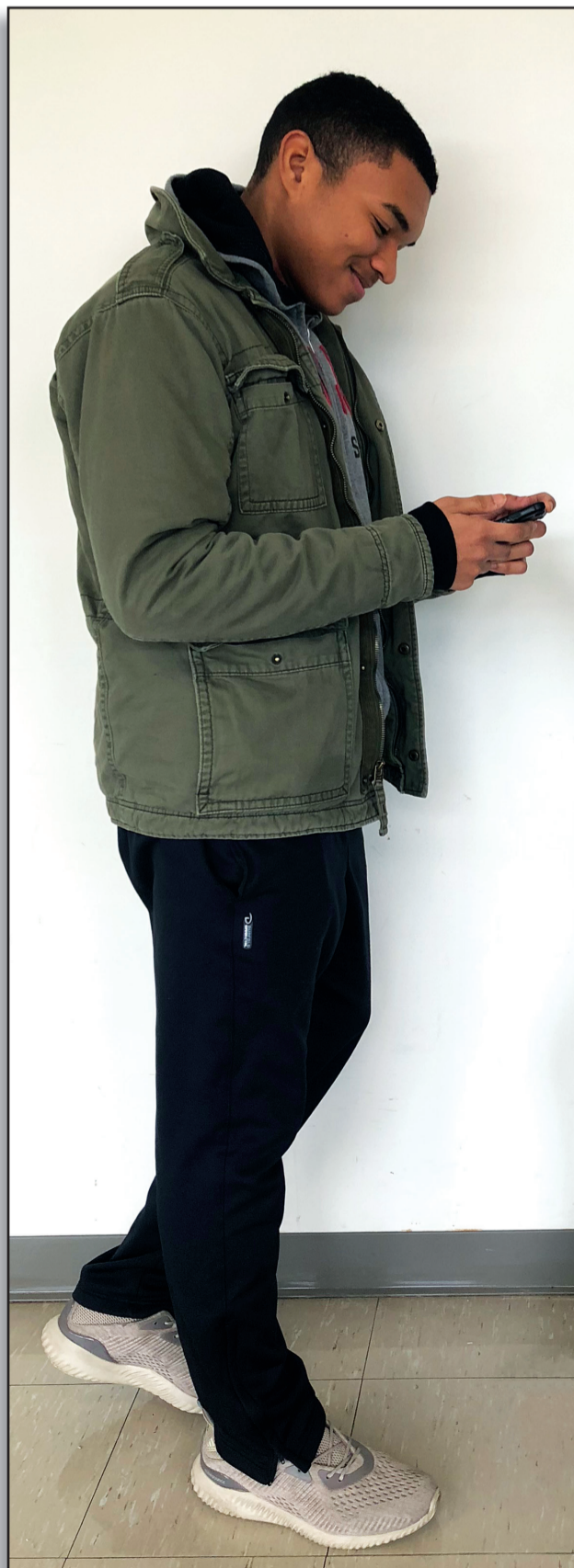
According to datingsitesreviews.com there are 46 million users on the Tinder app from all around the world. Tinder offers the online service in more than 20 countries.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | MARIA RAMOS



FOUR TOP LOVE SONGS

1. "I think I Love You" by The Partridge Family
2. "Love will Keep us Together" by Captain and Tennille
3. "Vision of Love" by Mariah Carey
4. "How Deep is Your Love" by Bee Gees



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200,000 at NYC Women's Ma

By Drew Mumich
Senior Reporter



Orland Gil (right), a Dreamer, responded to vocal anti-immigrant criticism from Trump supporters who attended the 2018 Women's March in New York City on January 20, 2018. PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES



At the rallying point in Columbus Circle, women took the lead, some came at New York's Women's March.



PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

At the 2018 Women's March in New York, Phillip Richman and his 97 year old mother came to voice their dissent...again...having protested before against George W. Bush 13 years ago.

Over 200,000 men, women and children flooded New York City on the day after the one year anniversary of Presidents Trump's inauguration, and New York wasn't alone in this. Millions marched in cities across the nation and around the globe.

Trump's election with combination of the hyper partisan politics that have occurred, it has inspired people to take to the streets in numbers the founders of the country wouldn't dream of in their wildest dreams when they wrote the First Amendment which guarantees the right to "peaceably assemble."

The New York March was smaller than ones in Los Angeles and other cities, but it

still included almost a quarter of a million participants who came from everywhere, from New Jersey to Spain to protest at the Big Apple.

Starting early in the morning people carrying signs and wearing the now iconic pink pussy hats began packing into any subway car that would let them in, though that was easier said than done. With every subway car being filled with signs, marchers, packed in like you vacation suitcase before your honeymoon heading to Columbus and 52nd street. Although Columbus Circle, which is right next to the Trump International Hotel, was the official starting point for the march route, many participants were

unable to get close.

Marchers were lined up for over two miles up Central Park West into the 90s. Police who were omnipresent, organized and generally upbeat had to cordon off Columbus Avenue as well to hold the overflow participants.

A surge of marchers filled the space every direction. Although this was the "Women's March," protesters were vocal about more than just women's rights. There were signs taking up every progressive cause: immigration, LGBTQ and minority equality, the #MeToo movement, and many more.

One protester who wished to remain anonymous

March join millions worldwide



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

l, starting chants and setting the tone for the day to

told The VOICE, “I am marching because I am a victim of sexual assault and rape, and this is a great way to show our faces, that we are bigger than anyone else can imagine.”

Another participant, Julina Tatlock, who was marching with her daughter, told The VOICE, “I’m marching with my daughter to defend women’s rights, human rights and make sure our voices are heard.”

As the crowd was passing by the Trump International Hotel and Tower participants became more vocal. Hundreds chanted in call and response: “Show me what democracy looks like!” followed by “This is what democracy looks like!” Drum corps and bands brought

a high energy pulse to the event that kept people moving forward--albeit slowly--on the unseasonably warm afternoon.

One key goal that separated this year’s march from last years was the upcoming election cycle. Many came out to encourage people to register people to vote and participate in this coming midterms elections, to hold the government accountable.

The march was not without its adversaries. Trump supporters stood at the fringes holding signs, wearing “Make America Great Again” hats and cheering (and heckling) in support of the President. Though there was screaming from both sides, the aggression remained

vocal and did not become physical.

Towards the end of the march the crowd was split up into two separate groups, one leading down to Time Square and the other leading up to Bryant Park where a rally was being held.

“In fact, when we got to the end, policemen with bull horns were saying ‘Okay, the march is over,’ and people were obviously ready to keep to going,” said Philip Richman, a resident from New York who was marching with his 97 year old mother.

Many dispersed to other rallies and gatherings. Some said they expected to march again in a year’s time.



PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

At New York City’s 2018 Women’s March on January 20, 2018 participants carried signs and banners representing a broad range of progressive political causes.



PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

Drum corps and marching bands provided the rhythm of the Women’s March, the primary tone of which was defiance, outrage and determination to effect change.



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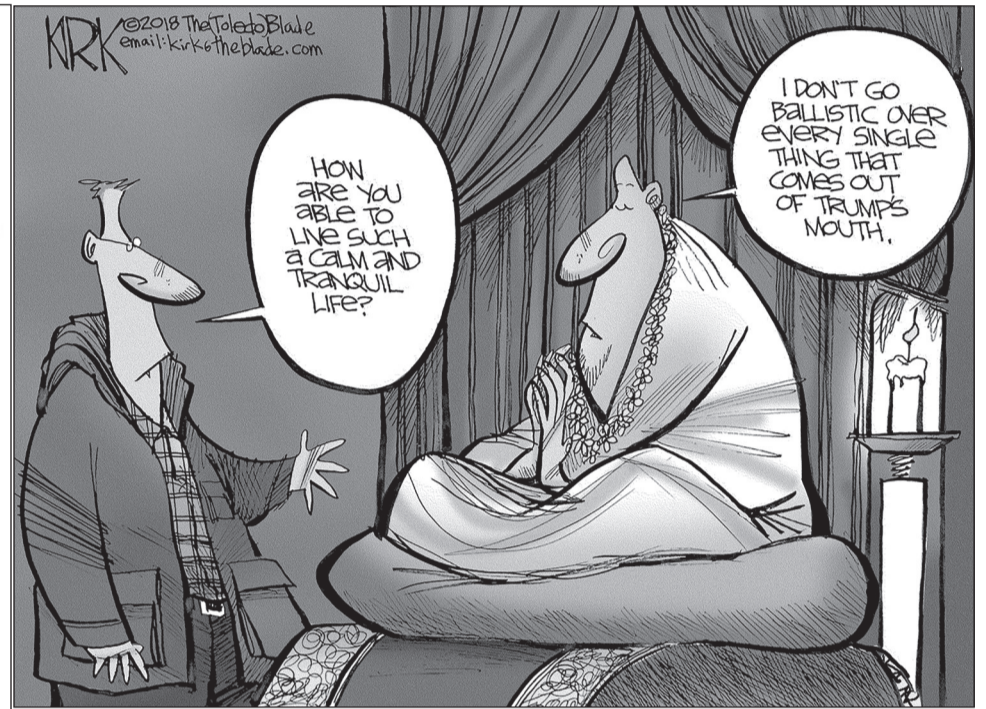
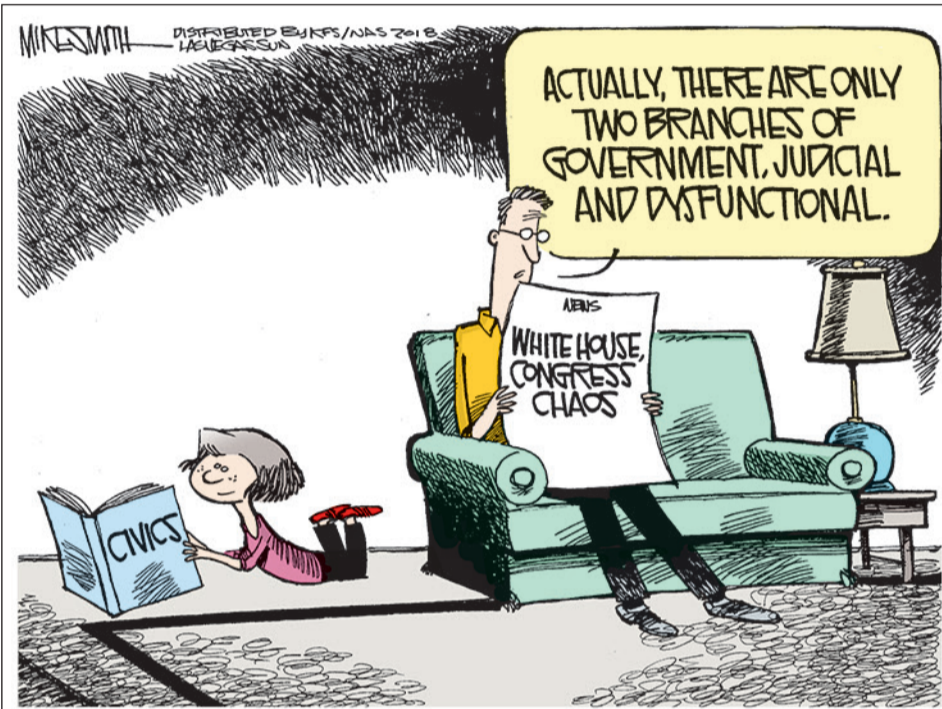
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* National Public Radio, September 2015

Because I'm a journalist, I can't go home

PERSPECTIVES



MARIA RAMOS

I thought I wanted to study law but then, while doing an internship for an online newspaper and radio station in my hometown of Chihuahua, Mexico, I fell in love with journalism.

As with most places, when you're an intern your job is to make copies, get coffee and do whatever people ask you to get done. I used to stay late and try to learn as much as I could, but there weren't many things I could do. I wasn't reporting, just proofreading notes, until one day my luck changed.

It was a regular day five years ago. There were no reporters in the newsroom. Everyone was out on the streets chasing stories.

Suddenly, a photographer came to the office screaming that there was a shooting in the suburbs of the city and that we needed to go cover it. My Editor-in-Chief looked around the room and said, "No one is here, what can we do?" I just raised my hand and said: "I can go."

I was only 18 years old and to this day I don't know what I was thinking. I will never forget that mix of adrenaline and anxiety as we drove towards the scene, my laptop

clutched between my legs to keep it from flying away as the speed swept me from one side of the car to the other.

But what had the most impact was when we arrived at the scene. It was a wasteland. Everything was sealed off, making it hard to get close and take photos.

As I was walking towards the crime scene, my heart was beating faster with each step. The closer I got, the louder the chaos of the sirens, reporters shouting, the *chk-chk* of the cameras and the chatter of the police radios became.

Suddenly I had to stop, as I had reached the yellow and black police tape. Then I realized what I was looking at. On the ground in front of me were the dead bodies with bullet casing scattered around them.

I wanted to throw up and cry, but then I realized I needed to report on what had happened. That's why I was there. My job was to get the facts and interview people. The public needed to know what was going on in their community.

I did my job and went back to the newsroom with my first article in hand. That day I experienced real news action and my conversations with the observers who needed me to tell their stories showed me how important journalism really is. It made me think deeper about what I wanted to do for a living.

I told my mom about what happened, and that I wanted to be a journalist. She looked at me and said, "Jour-

I told my mom about what happened, and that I wanted to be a journalist. She looked at me and said, "Journalism? Oh no, tu estas loca. You are not taking that path. You don't see how risky it is to be a journalist here in Mexico."

nalism? Oh no, *tu estas loca*. You are not taking that path. You don't see how risky it is to be a journalist here in Mexico."

Of course I didn't listen to my mom. I kept going to my internship, though now I was reporting as well as fetching coffee. I started covering all kinds of stories, though I began to focus more on crime news.

Chihuahua's reputation as an unsafe state for journalism has only grown since 2013. Of course it's fine for sports and entertainment writers, but not for hard news and especially investigative reporters. This is not only because of the constant wars going on between the drug cartels, but also because of governmental corruption.

Nevertheless, I was convinced that investigative journalism was the right choice for me. But then I began hearing a couple of stories from my colleagues about death threats. Did I really want to work as a journalist in Chihuahua?

Between 2000 and 2017, 22 journalists have been killed in Chihuahua and more than 100 in Mexico overall. Ten were murdered in 2017 alone. Last April The New York Times reported on the problem in depth. They said: "On the list of the world's deadliest places to be a reporter, Mexico falls

between the war-torn nation of Afghanistan and the failed state of Somalia."

Things have not improved.

One of my former colleagues, Valentin Hierro, a crime correspondent for several print and online newspapers in Mexico who has worked in the field for more than twenty years, told me, "The death threats mostly come from the government. Of course they don't come directly from a public figure but from the police or other people in charge. They tell you you can't cover this news because there is nothing to cover even though in front of you there is a body with multiple bullet wounds."

But Hierro acknowledges the government is less of a problem than the cartels. He says, "When the drug dealers want to send a message they do it. They don't just play around with you as the government does. They don't just threaten you."

While the First Amendment to the US Constitution has a corollary in the 7th Article of the Mexican Constitution, the US has historically seen freedom of speech and press as core national values. They are less respected in Mexico where journalists have frequently faced governmental censorship.

When I reached out to David Varela, a reporter who has worked for 9 years at El Heraldo de Chihuahua, the region's oldest paper, he told me, "I feel like the censorship that comes from the government is the worst, since from the narco

cartels you expected them to do these kind of things, but from the government it's an offense to our Constitution and to our rights but more important to the freedom of speech."

When I came to the US to study and practice journalism I felt safe, free to write about what I wanted and about what interested me, to do investigative journalism, to inform the people the truth and to not be afraid of digging until I find answers.

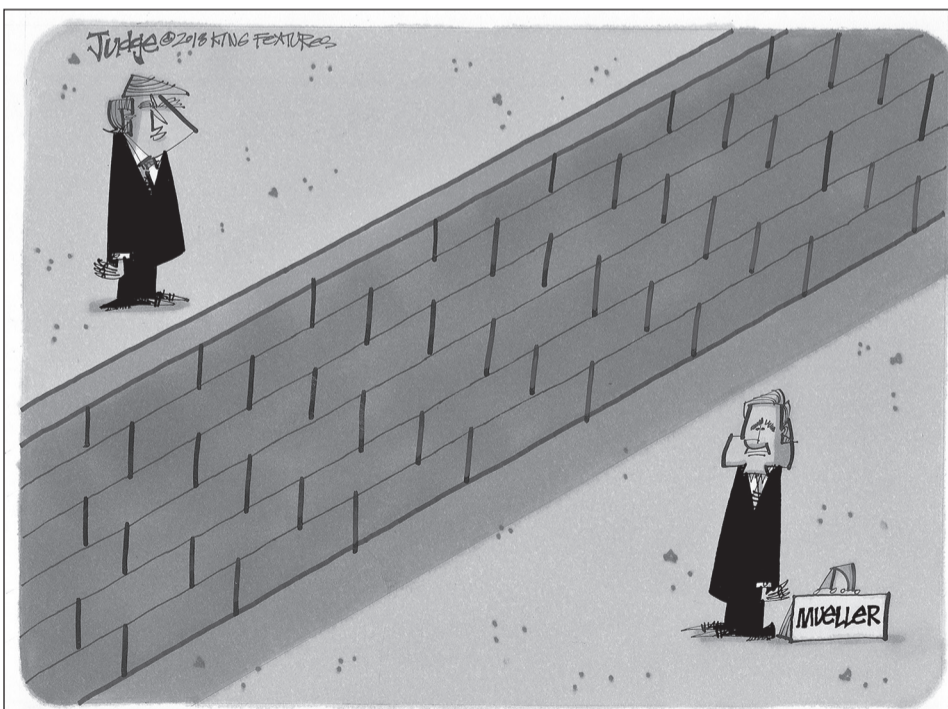
Sometimes people ask me, "Are you going back to Mexico to be a journalist there?"

When they say that, I think about the very famous journalist from Chihuahua who was killed on March 23, last year, Miroslava Breach Velducea. She was known for being a tough journalist who was always digging to find the clear answers. Her last investigation led her to her mysterious murder that was linked with investigations into abuse of power, human trafficking and money laundering.

My friend Varela said to me, "Knowing that a very strong and important woman like Breach was killed because of her investigations, sent us a message to all the journalists in Chihuahua and the country that one, the reality of how fragile journalism is and how much it matters..."

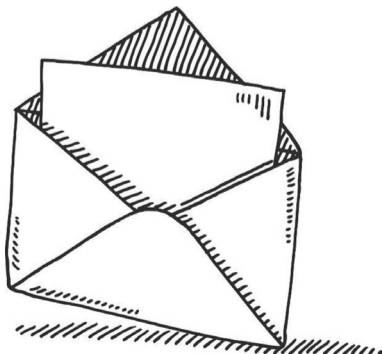
I feel a combination of anxiety, sadness, frustration and fear. I would love to work in my country, to report in my language, to my people, to help my economy, to contribute in a meaningful way to my home community. But then the fear hits and I think twice.

NOTE: All interviews translated from Spanish to English by the author.



MAIL CALL

What do you think? Do you agree with the opinions you see here? Do you like our coverage of College and local issues? Is there a topic you really want us to cover? DROP US A LINE AND LET US KNOW!



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extra materials to go
with all the articles
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Do you see a
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and help us fix it!
Mon + Thur
12-1:15 in LA 128

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Pornography is killing us

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The Bottom Line



Jasmine Santalla

Pornography. A topic usually brought up amongst close friends, when alone in your bedroom or between you and your hand in the dark depths of the night.

I'm sorry to be the one to tell you that pornography is not the outlet to explore your sexuality, it does not give women one more step toward a feminist future, and it is sure as hell not healthy.

Before I explain, you should know I am not some raging religious and conservative freak with an agenda to stop exploration through casual sex.

When I think of pornography, I think of dramatic boobjobs, emotionless sex, and categories alluding to violence against women and literally illegal things like "Underage teen gangbang."

We all know that the average female isn't a triple D, with a huge ass and shaved genitals just like the average male isn't ripped with a 12 inch penis.

So, why do we enjoy watching a depiction of what is supposed to be real life sex? For entertainment and easy pleasure, sure. But what does that do to our minds when those ex-

pectations are never met?

In a survey of 40 students conducted by The VOICE, the average age of pornographic exposure was between ages 10 and 13 which reflects a national average statistic of age 10 presented to The New York Times in 2015 by the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. With hardcore pornography at the disposal of anybody, children may be shaping the way they interact in their future relationships.

Pornography perceives sex to be this big production every time with no mistakes, no body hair, no love and a lot of aggression. Your laptop doesn't say no. What happens when your partner does? You get angry, you want a refund, you want to smash it like they're some toy. You disregard any sort of compassion for your partner and either take it and live dissatisfied, belittle them for not satisfying you, cheat on them or leave them.

Pornography also increases desensitization and decreases our respect for women but this affects both men and women which makes the viewing of pornography a safety issue in relationships, according to Dr. Jill Manning, a licensed marriage and family therapist. In an interview with Truth About Porn, an organization educating viewers on the harm of pornography, Dr. Manning says a survey showed 70 percent of women who came to learn how pornography had been affecting them and leading them to objectify themselves met the criteria of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Don't even get me started about all of that crap

about pornography helping you "explore your sexuality." It's bullshit. Exploration requires real human experience. Just because you see something on the screen that someone appears to enjoy does not mean that you will enjoy it too.

As one anonymous source told The VOICE, "I don't watch much porn anymore but I remember watching some pretty intense/weird things that are not actual things I would like to explore in my sex life."

Companies like Target and Walmart track their online analytics to see how the sales of one product succeeded over another, the same goes for porn. Every time you click on Jessica being deepthroated until she vomits, you victimize another girl by creating a higher demand for an industry that preys on women to cater to your interests. One way this demand is met is through sex-trafficking.

Wheelock College Sociology professor Dr. Gail Dines spoke to the Huffington Post in January of 2015 about this higher demand, and the relationship between pornography and sex-trafficking, saying "we know that trafficking is increasing — which means demand is increasing. This means that men are increasingly willing to have sex with women who are being controlled and abused by pimps and traffickers."

Victims of human trafficking are usually between the ages of 12 and 14, and are female four out of five times according to an infographic by the University of New England's social work department.

Pornography rewards you with the same positive highs we experience when exercising, talking to a loved one

or, perhaps, shooting heroin. It sends doses of dopamine and oxytocin into your brain making you feel like you're doing something good for your body, but it's only a temporary reward.

The more you do it, the more your body and mind feel that they need it. In your brain's reward center you have the like and want systems. You continue to want to view pornography more and more, but you end up liking it less and less each time.

Your tolerance increases at an incredible rate that eventually could leave men with erectile dysfunction and make it more difficult for both partners to reach an orgasm because your mind wants something it knows it has seen before, therefore feels it is possible but in fact, you never seem to get it.

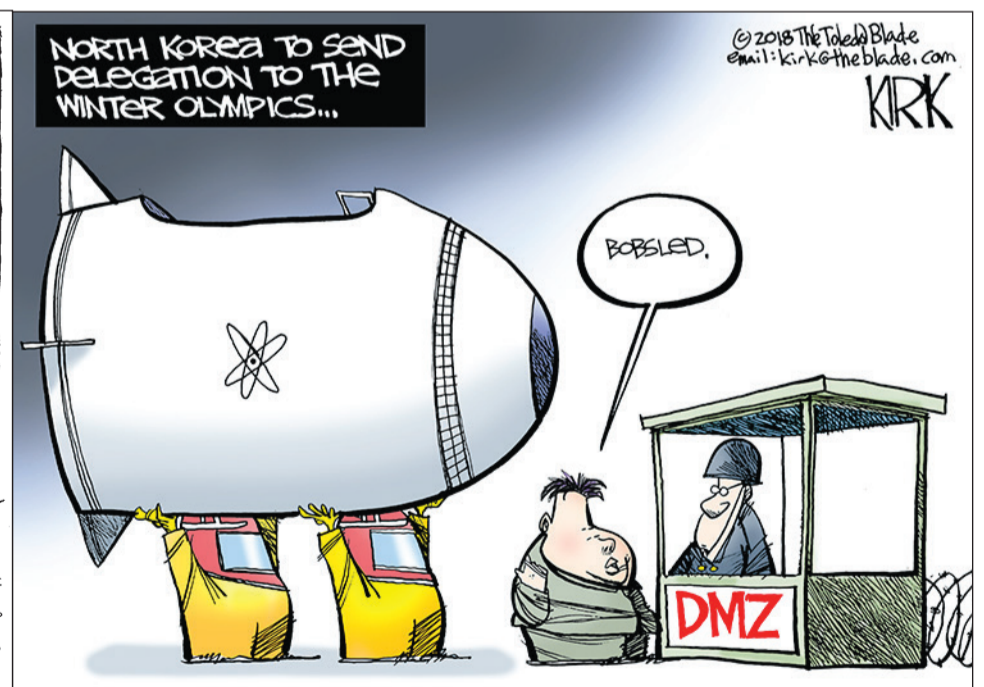
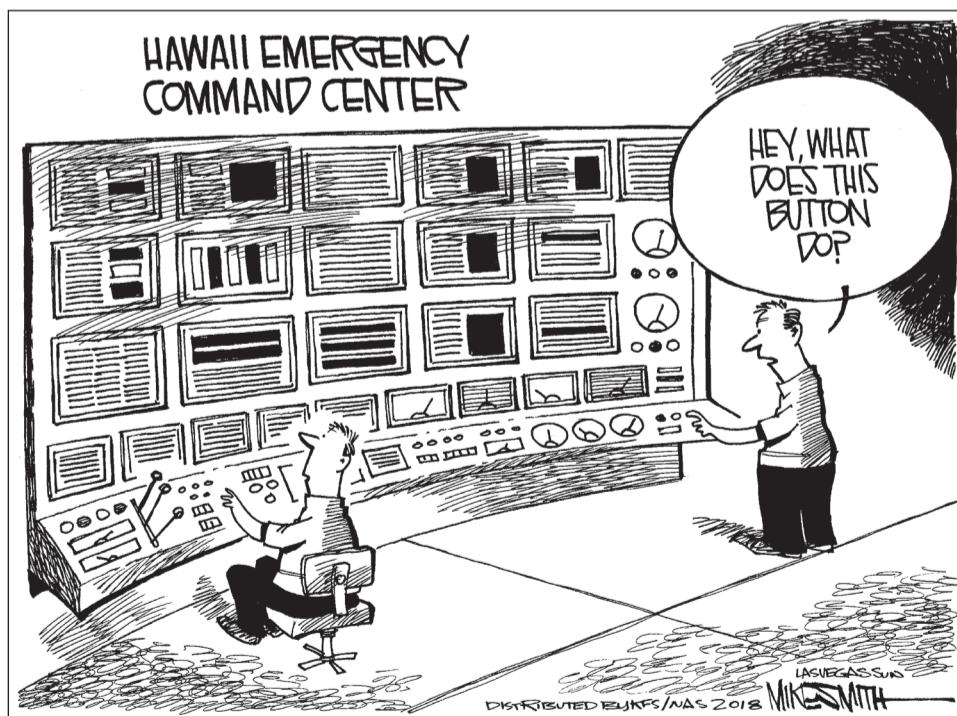
I've received an endless amount of responses from college students who say it helps them explore their sexuality and it's a good, natural stress reliever but it's simply not true. It is masturbation, not porn, that allows you to explore your sexuality and relieve stress.

Masturbation has become attached to the act of watching porn. You do not need porn to get off and if you do that's the way porn has rewired your brain. Yes, if you can't get off without porn then you are a victim of pornography's negative and addictive effects. You're not alone. I'm in there with you. It's awful.

Touch yourself, but without the porn. Make yourself feel good. Make your partner feel good. Do it for each other. Understand every nook and cranny of the person you're choosing to love. And I mean, if it's just casual sex, power to you! Just be respectful and be safe.



EDITORIAL CARTOONS



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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.

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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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JUST 4 FUN

ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



Dear Voice,
I'm worried not everyone gets what the #MeToo movement is all about. Yesterday my grandma came to dinner wearing a shirt with the #metoo hashtag on it and when I asked her what it mean she said "It means I'm tired of taking antidepressants." What should I do?
-PittyPat LaRue

Dear PittyPat,
What should you do? Nothing. Grandma gets

the #metoo movement. She's just saying it in her own way. Dealing with this crap for eight or nine decades will cause you to need antidepressants. Give the lady a hug.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice,
I'm interested in joining the parkour group at Mercer, but I'm afraid to do flips off of buildings that are falling down. Suggestions?
-Hot for Parkour

Dear Hot for Parkour,
The AD building area is looking nice. Try over there where the fancy people work.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice,
I hear from now on when we get enough credits to

complete an associates they will automatically graduate us and just send us a diploma like one of those mailers from Verizon. Is this normal?
-Really...I mean really?

Dear Really,
Yup. That's the plan. You don't have to do anything for yourself, even remember to check your degree progress because why would anyone think you need those kinds of skills in the workplace? Meantime keep studying and keep an eye on your mail.
-The VOICE

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

HOROSCOPES



Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
The busy semester won't stop you from making new friends. Going out and meeting new people may leave you pleasantly surprised.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
All that studying has not gone unnoticed. You have things in order, you just have to stop overthinking things. If you can, take some time to plan a nice birthday party and relax a bit.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
Spend some time focusing on yourself this month. Grab a good book, some cocoa, and go somewhere secluded to get a little you-time.



Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19
Keep an eye out for any Virgo's you meet this month. Not all impressions are what they seem.



Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20
You knew something was looming at the turn of the new year, and you weren't wrong. For better or worse, at least you are ready for what's coming next.



Gemini
May 21 - Jun. 20
Headaches manage to ease up as a tense situation manages to unwind. Friends come to your aide, though sometimes that help may be in disguise.



Cancer
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22
All kinds of people have wandered into your life lately, and you can't seem to shake them. Sometimes being honest is the only way to avoid listening stories about someone's cat.



Leo
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22
The Winter Goddess is feeling whimsical. With the moon currently in the house of Cancer, you should seek out someone with that sign and begin a new friendship.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Be hesitant to trust an Aries this month, as they are distrustful of your intentions and may present a problem.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
We are beginning the Chinese year of the Dog, which brings you strong stars. During the waning moon, you will experience a great tide of luck and good fortune.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
With Mars leaving the 12th house, your troubles will fade to distant shades on the horizon. It's time to seize your future. Stay thirsty.



Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
This month you find your strength and willpower over bad habits that once plagued you. Your mind is clear and focussed, or it will be soon. Look forward to a productive period.

Classic Peanuts



ACROSS

1	Resorts
5	Sch. org.
8	Branch
12	Hide
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
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	Carpets
42	Needle case
43	Small songbird
44	Hint
45	Arm bone
46	Despot
48	Bear, in Barcelona

H	V	E	X	E	N	O	S	I	S	I
V	N	N	I	L	E	S	E	N	S	I
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2X DILBERT AND GET FUZZY

