



Trenton’s new mayor gets to work

After tough campaign, city elects Reed Gusciora, its first openly gay mayor



New Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora talking to constituents while on the campaign trail in May, 2018.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENDAN NEAL

By Drew Mumich
Senior Reporter

This past June, while many Mercer students were off campus and others were working and taking summer classes, Trenton elected a new mayor, Reed Gusciora. The battle for leadership resulted first in a split between six candidates, requiring in a runoff election between Gusciora and Paul Perez that Gusciora went on to win with 52 percent of the vote.

The run-off was unusually dramatic as the candidates, both running as Democrats, showcased contrasting styles and both stood to be record setters for the position, Perez the first Latino or Gusciora the first openly gay Trenton mayor.

Perez, a Puerto Rican American and Army veteran, was quick to take offense and to give offense often cursing to emphasize his points. He sparred not only with the Gusciora campaign but also with the local newspapers, bloggers,

See MAYOR page 9

“[I plan] to turn the image of the city around so that people want to invest and move in to the city, and make difference.”
-Mayor Reed Gusciora

Are you coming down with something?

CDC predicts bad flu season, but students struggle to get flu shots

By Jigna Milleliri
Reporter

Flu season is coming on fast, gearing up in October and November and predicted to peak between December and February according to the Centers for Disease Control. A flu shot is the most effective way to reduce chances of contracting the virus, but many obstacles stand in the way of Mercer students obtaining one.

In a survey of 30 Mercer students 53 percent said they are likely to get the flu shot this year, and 63 percent said they got it last year. Reasons students gave for not getting the flu shot last year, included: forgetting, trusting their immune system to overcome the flu, not think-

ing about it until after already coming down with the flu, not having time, not having health insurance, and not knowing where to go to get a shot.

Unlike six of our sister community colleges in New Jersey, Mercer does not have a health center that might be able to set up a regular flu shot clinic.

Asked if flu shots are ever available on campus, Dean of Students Dr. Diane Campbell said, “Yes, most certainly. We try to do that every year because when students get the flu, the attendance in classes go down.”

Dr. Campbell provided a flyer about last year’s flu shot clinic that was presented by RWJ Hamilton Occupational Health Department and the MCCC Nursing Education

Department. The shots were available on two days during a two-hour window and cost \$20.

Information about last year’s flu shots show was not widely known of by faculty or students. In fact, even nursing faculty said they had never heard about it. No information about shots for this year have been circulated, either.

For those without health insurance, the cheapest flu shots can be found at Costco and Sam’s Club for roughly \$15. Target and RiteAid typically charge the most; they charged \$38 and \$35 in 2015.

Last year’s flu season was the first ever to be classified by the CDC as “high severity across all age groups.” To add to that, research has shown that com-

munity college students, in particular those who are in the lowest socio-economic brackets and first-generation college attendees, are at higher risk of being absent due to health problems.

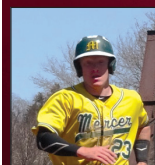
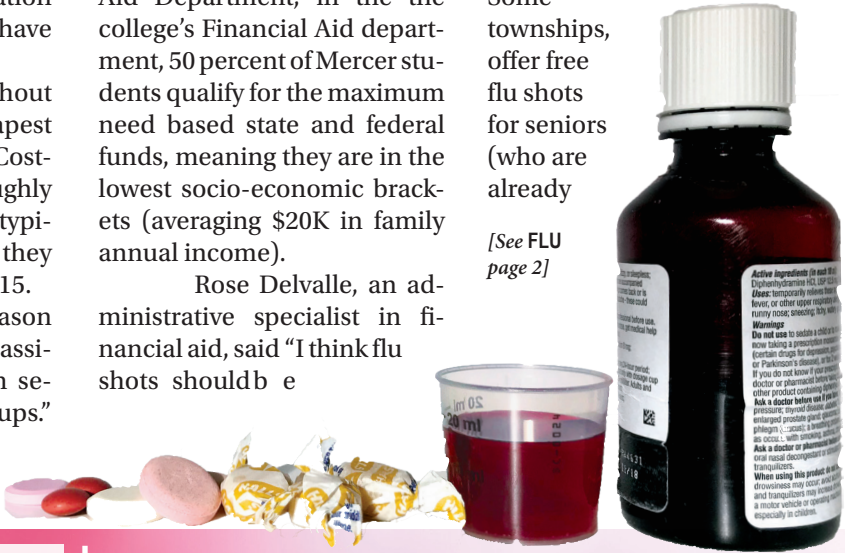
According to Maurice Thomas, director of Financial Aid Department, in the the college’s Financial Aid department, 50 percent of Mercer students qualify for the maximum need based state and federal funds, meaning they are in the lowest socio-economic brackets (averaging \$20K in family annual income).

Rose Delvalle, an administrative specialist in financial aid, said “I think flu shots should be

available for students. I know that some local pharmacies offer free flu shots, I haven’t seen schools doing that, but that would be a great benefit for students.” She added, “It would definitely be good practice for nursing students in their later years.”

Some townships, offer free flu shots for seniors (who are already

[See FLU page 2]



BASEBALL FOLLOW UP
After a successful season head coach retires. PG. 4



BELLY DANCING
Belly dancing gains local following. PG. 6-7

Campus2
In Focus3

Sports4-5
Viewpoints10-11

College semester length shortens

union representative and English professor who was in attendance, said, according to meeting minutes, “Given the nature of the changes proposed, the question of calendar approval should be taken up with the faculty union.”

But before the issue was taken up with the union, the then Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. David Edwards, who is now at Camden County College, sent out a notification email on behalf of the administration telling faculty that the President’s Leadership Team had “endorsed the option going forward...to adopt the 14-week Academic Calendar.”

A number of interactions between the union and the administration followed, with surveys of faculty being sent out on both sides before a formal agreement was reached last February accepting the change of calendar.

There were a variety of reasons for making the change, according to administrators.

College president Dr. Jianping Wang told The VOICE that increasing enrollment was a factor in the switch. Starting after Labor Day gives students more time to process their financial aid.

The change to a 14 week schedule puts Mercer’s calendar in line with other local colleges in the area such as Rider, Rutgers and Middlesex which also start after Labor Day. In the past if students’ financial aid was slow to process, they sometimes couldn’t start on time and so enrolled at schools with a later start date.

“Why should we give our stu-

“The change to a 14 week schedule puts Mercer’s calendar in line with other local colleges in the area such as Rider, Rutgers and Middlesex which also start after Labor Day. In the past if students’ financial aid was slow to process, they sometimes couldn’t start on time and so enrolled at schools with a later start date.”

dents to other community colleges? They’re our students!” Dr. Wang said.

Jim Gardner, Director of Public Relations said the change was also focused on the benefit of two groups of students, those who worked summer jobs

which didn’t end until Labor Day and those with children who were out of school until after Labor Day.

In reaction to the change, Liberal Arts student, Gloria Hammond told the VOICE “I was able to spend more time caring for my nephew and helping my family.”

Felipi Alves, a 22-year-old international student at Mercer, who said “Yeah, it actually helped me out a lot because I went back to my country to visit my family.”

In a VOICE survey of 30 students, 33 percent held a neutral opinion of the change. Students starting as freshmen may not have noticed the change at all.

The concept of changing to a 14-week schedule is something that has been raised for years according to multiple administrators. Now that it is complete, the community seems to have adapted.

Student Robert O’Keefe, a Nursing Major, says, “Even though it will be more work in those [14] weeks, I think in the end it will be very good.”

According to Professor Dunn, “Having one less week is a challenge. We definitely can do it, but it’s a challenge.”



By Eric Weiss
Reporter

This fall Mercer shifted the standard fall and spring semester length from 15 to 14 weeks, lengthening class periods by five minutes to make up the difference in instructional hours.

While a survey of 30 students found that 60 percent see the change as positive, it faced some controversy in coming about.

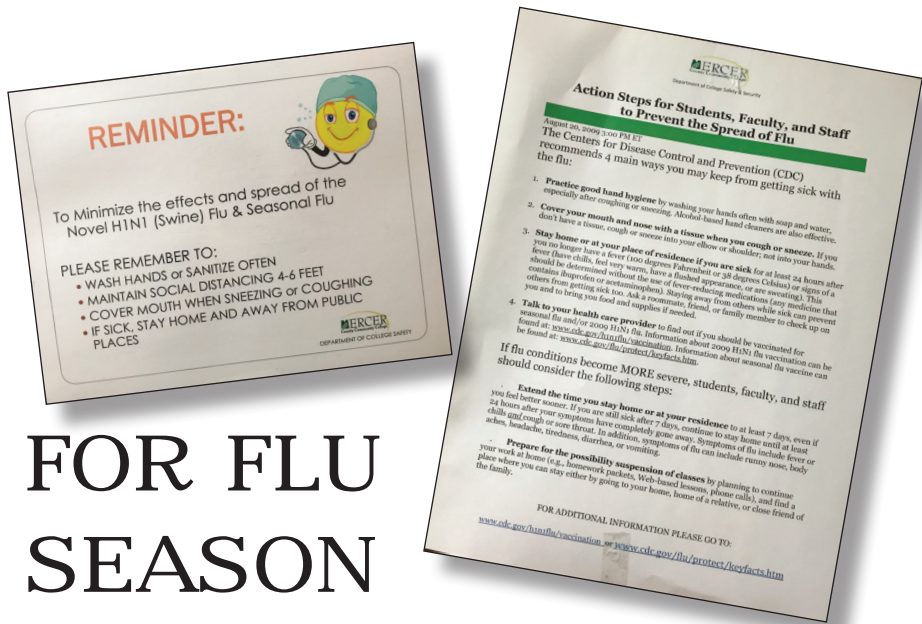
Some faculty members say they struggled to get their class content to fit in the new schedule.

Communications Professor

Alvyn Haywood, who teaches public speaking, told The VOICE he did not have any difficulty accommodating the change, whereas Nursing Professor Lisa Dunn says it was very challenging to create a curriculum that allows students to fully understand key concepts within nursing in a 14 week span.

Professor Dunn also raised concern about how the faculty were notified the shift was coming. She said, “Give me some respect....Give us the opportunity to feel like we were part of the decision!”

Faculty were notified of the potential change at a Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning (FCTL) meeting in October of 2016 by then Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs Sue Zambrio. Dr. Edward Carmien, a faculty



FOR FLU SEASON
MCCC recommends washing hands

Continued from page 1

covered by MedicAid). Others offer shots for youth and seniors. Nearby Hamilton offers free flu shots to residents age 9 years or older. Available flu shot times and dates for Hamilton residents can be found at www.hamiltonnj.com/flushots.

Dean Campbell told The

VOICE that flu outbreak “also affects the entire health of college so we have had not only flu shots, but we have had campaigns involving posters reminding people to wash their hands.”

In some Mercer bathrooms there are signs about proper hand washing to help reduce spread of colds and flu. Some of these date back as far as 2009 and the outbreak of “swine flu,” but according to CDC during the height



COLLEGE VOICE FILE PHOTO
ET bathroom sports handwashing reminders and CDC printout.

of flu season, hand washing alone is not enough to stop from germs from spreading.

According to CDC, sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

Liberal Arts major Isaiah Petit-Compere says he got the flu last semester. “During finals I got sick and it was hell trying to get through it. I wish Mercer had a free flu shot.”

For now, local big box stores and pharmacies such as Walgreens, RiteAid and CVS provide flu shots either by appointment or walk-in. Appointments are recommended, as wait times can be long.



PHOTO | SEAN O'CONNOR



Community forms at daily White House protest



PHOTO | SEAN O'CONNOR

ABOVE: Penny Vu, manicurist and Hillary Clinton voter who is now a Trump supporter.

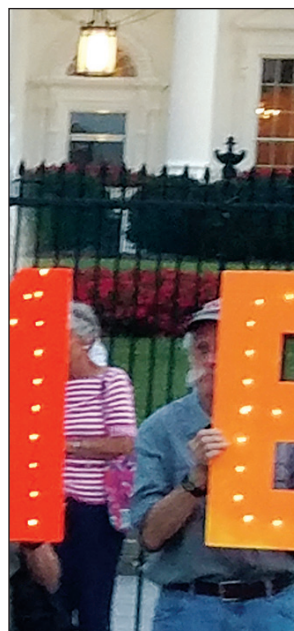


PHOTO | SEAN O'CONNOR

LEFT: Justin Johnson, leader of Kremlin Annex, protests at the White House with participant Irnya Verity.

By Sean O'Connor
Senior Reporter

“Hey! Hey! Ho! Ho! Treason! Trump has got to go!” some 50 people chanted in front of the White House. It was late Sunday night on August 26, just after 7:30 p.m. For many, that’s the time to wind down for bed and the oncoming week. That was not the case for these protestors, who were back for day 42 of an ongoing nightly protest calling for the removal of President Donald Trump from office.

The sky was getting darker and darker but the scene was illuminated by five individuals, each holding up red and orange letter lights, spelling out the word “shame,” as if it were a caption for the White House behind them.

The event was not only colored by letter lights, there was a trom-

bone player, accompanied by a drummer and a crowd of protestors dancing to the music. Justin Johnson (31), of Silver Spring Maryland, led the protestors and sympathetic, onlooking tourists in anti-Trump chants.

The on-going protest, nicknamed the “Kremlin Annex” has drawn some participants every night since day one, while others come when they can. Some are locals, others come from as far away as San Diego and Spain. Some say they just stumbled on the Kremlin Annex while in D.C. on a break from business, others are tourists who agree with the cause.

The cause, according to the Kremlin Annex website was inspired by President Trump’s controversial performance at the U.S.-Russia Summit in Helsinki, Finland last July.

“Since Trump’s

It was not only Trump’s alleged treason that motivated protestors. When protestor and D.C. resident Soloman Granor, 36, who was between jobs but had recently worked as a physicist, was asked by The VOICE what was motivating him, he responded, “what isn’t?”

return from his Treasonous summit and secretive meeting with Putin in Helsinki, we have made it our mission to protest the occupant of our White House every night, rain or shine. We are standing up for democracy and national security, while combating Trump’s attempts to normalize his influence peddling for America’s greatest enemy,” the Kremlin Annex Website says.

According to Irnya Verity, who told the VOICE in a Facebook

interview she is part of the organization behind the Kremlin Annex, the movement is informal. “We are as grass roots as it gets,” she said.

It was not only Trump’s alleged treason that motivated protestors. When protestor and D.C. resident Soloman Granor, 36, who was between jobs but had recently worked as a physicist, was asked by The VOICE what was motivating him, he responded, “what isn’t?”

Granor cited “Basically everything from this administra-

tion” including President Trump’s “frankly treasonist comments in Helsinki, the Muslim ban” and Trump’s controversial nominee for the Supreme Court, Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

There was at least one Trump supporter present that evening. His name is Penny Vu. He’s 46, lives in Virginia, and gives fingernail manicures for a living, he says. Vu was wearing a red “Make America Great Again” hat and holding an American flag. Gold colored Words: “In God We Trust” were written on it.

Vu, who says he actually voted for Hillary Clinton in the election, says his current efforts are “more than protest.” He told the VOICE that Trump “can do anything he wants even if it’s illegal” but that “everything goes to the Supreme Court.”

Asked why

he supports President Trump he said “He’s making red and red and red every day.”

Vu was the lone Trump supporter in the small crowd.

“I want this [crowd] to grow until [Trump’s] out,” Amy Savin, 56, of Livingston, New Jersey told The VOICE. Savin says this was her second time protesting at the Kremlin Annex. She was there with her husband.

Johnson, the chant leader and general emcee, recognized the Savins. He called them “the good couple from Jersey,” and pointed out they’d been at the Annex before. It was their way of celebrating their wedding anniversary, he said.

As Johnson acknowledged various people in the crowd it was clear there was a sense of community at the Annex.

The community aspect of the protest was especially evident when Irnya Verity, one of the speakers and regulars who says she has been there since day one, fought tears, reflecting on the loss of former Arizona Senator John McCain, who had passed away just the night before. She said his sensitivity to the turmoil in Ukraine was something she held dear.

“I want everybody to know how much he meant for a lot of Ukrainians” Verity said, then started to cry.

Johnson embraced her and said “That’s okay. That’s okay. We’ve got to encourage her, right?”

“Make some noise for her,” he said, and then started a chant for Verity: “she is my rock! She is my rock! She is my rock!”

New head coach for baseball after impressive 2018 Season

Former assistant coach, Fred Carella, moves up after departure of head coach Kevin Kerins

By Caitlin Clarke

Senior Reporter

Mercer’s baseball program has selected former assistant coach and Mercer native, Fred Carella, to serve as the team’s new head coach. This news followed the resignation of coach Kevin Kerins shortly after the culmination of the team’s impressive 2018 season.

For the third consecutive year, Mercer’s baseball team pulled off a championship win in the Region 19 tournament, sweeping rival Lackawanna in two games of tournament play. Stand-out offensive performances came from a host of players, including sophomore Jimmy Versage, who hit in both games to total 2 home runs and 7 RBIs, as well as freshman Dominic Boselli, who churned out impressive performances in both games with 1 home run and 2 RBIs.

Current Vikings head coach Fred Carella said “Our offense did a phenomenal

job during last year’s region tournament. From the first pitch of the first game we were committed to grinding out at-bats and making the opposing pitcher work for every out.”

The Vikings played these games against standing regional rival Lackawanna, who they had faced off with in intense games at multiple points during the regular season. “[Lackawanna] is a very talented team that brings a ton of energy when they play.

The games against them are always competitive and come down to one or two pitches deciding the game. This past year was no different. Fortunately for us, we were on the right side of the score at the end of the game,” Carella told The VOICE.

As the new head coach of Mercer baseball, Carella has a substantial amount of familiarity with the program. A native of Mercer County, Carella had served as an assistant coach to the team since 2003 prior to accepting his current position.

He has worked under

four different head coaches, accompanied the team through playoff runs (including four which culminated in NJCAA World Series appearances), and coached multiple Mercer athletes who now play in the MLB.

Mercer Athletic Director John Simone said that he was “delighted” that Carella accepted the position and stated that there was “no question” that he was the right choice.

With the entirety of last year’s assistant coaching staff and a substantial amount of second year players returning this upcoming season, Carella has high expectations for his first year as head coach.

“I want to continue the tradition that has been built here at Mercer. We have a great reputation in the region and I will work to have that continue. We will continue to play fast and aggressive and put pressure on our opponents whenever we get the chance,” Carella said.



Fred Carella, new baseball head coach.

COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Complete your bachelor’s degree from

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

right on the Mercer County Community College Campus!



Attend Our Fall Open House!

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 • 5:00-7:00 p.m.

MCCC Student Center Building, Room 104 • West Windsor Campus

Apply now for Spring 2019

The global reach of Mercer men’s soccer

International student athletes add diversity, maturity, and skill

By Caitlin Clarke
Senior Reporter

“Cala la Boca!”

Fans and friends call out to each other and Mercer men’s soccer player Diego Leite in his native Portuguese. Francesco Zanin and Eial Marzouk of Italy and Israel direct their team with confidence from their position in the goal.

Head coach Widmarc Dalce, who is originally from Haiti, often times provides direction in English and, at others, gives instruction in one of the many languages that his players speak.

The men of Mercer’s soccer program come from a total of seven different countries and three different continents, and work together to overcome the complexities that arise as a result of their linguistic differences.

According to the team roster provided by Mercer Athletics, of the twenty-four players on the men’s soccer team, twenty- one hail from countries outside of the United States. Of that 83% segment of the team, one player is from Jordan, another is

from Jamaica, eight are from Brazil, five are from Italy, two are from Israel, and three come from Japan.

During Coach Dalce’s 6-year tenure at Mercer, the men’s soccer team has represented Jordan, Brazil, Jamaica, Italy, Israel, Japan, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Canada, Scotland, Australia, Columbia, Venezuela, and Timor-Leste.

Athletic Director John Simone told The VOICE “I think that diversity is a very important thing. The international student athlete tends to be a year or two older, and that year or two means a lot in terms of maturity. It is a maturity both on the field and in the classroom.”

Dalce himself played under former Mercer Men’s soccer coach Charlie Inverso as an international student athlete following his time on the Haitian national team.

Coach Dalce told the VOICE about life as a young man in Haiti, where he played soccer with friends on the street using a ball made from socks and scrap paper. Today, he leads the next generation of high caliber international

student athletes at Mercer.

Dalce’s familiarity with life as an international student athlete on Mercer’s campus allows him to more effectively understand these athletes and their lives on and off the field.

Coach Dalce said “I am open to all of them at any time. Even if I am at home. Anytime they need me, I open my door to them.”

He continued, “Most of them are very smart, and they just put [a solution] together themselves and figure out a way to come out of [the situation] ...I am always there to give them advice. I use myself as an example to help them out.”

Dalce says he does his best to emphasize what he felt were the strengths of the program when he played for national championship-winning coach Charlie Inverso: team unity and the prioritization of education.

“The classroom is very important to me. This is the first thing I need them to take care of. Without education, I don’t think we can really define who we are,” said Dalce.

For example, goal-

keeper Francesco Zanin said “Here in America you have the opportunity to play soccer and study as well ... In Italy you don’t have this. You either play soccer or study.”

According to most of the players who spoke to The VOICE, they discovered Mercer through their agents, a concept foreign to many Americans familiar with college sports.

Other players received advice from friends or teammates from their home countries.

Matheus Martins of Sao Paulo, Brazil, for example, said “My friend played here last year, so he gave me some advice- that it was a better place to come in America for soccer and for studying.”

Athletic Director John Simone says, “Every day I will get an e-mail from a student athlete somewhere in the world, and they will have their highlight video.”

The players on the team seem undaunted by the differences that exist between them.

Martins said “I think that soccer connects us, so we don’t look for the differences.

When we play soccer we have fun and we work as a family.”

However, life in a new country does not come without difficulties. Several players spoke about the stark contrasts between their lives in their respective home countries and in America from weather to language to general culture.

Goalkeeper Francesco Zanin told The VOICE “It’s totally different [in America]. The way people live, the way people do things, the culture,”

Kotaro Okada said, in the simplest of terms, “It’s hard.” Okada hails from Matsuyama, Japan, which is a 14 hour flight away from New Jersey, according to travel-math.com.

Bar Hengel of Tel Aviv, Israel said “I came after 3 years in the Army, so it’s a little bit hard, but... you need to adjust,”

Despite these challenges, most every player seems satisfied with their choice to attend Mercer.

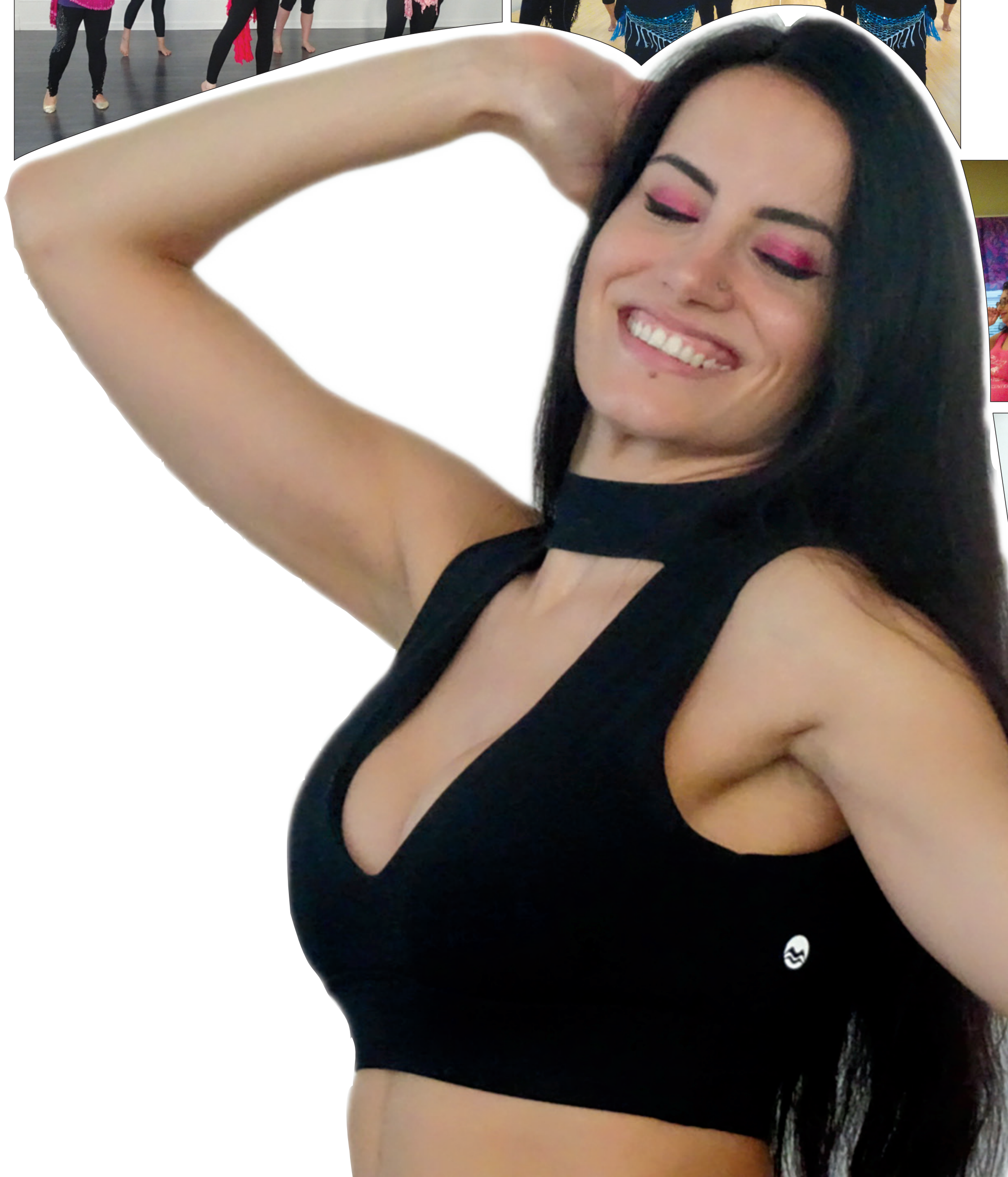
Forward Oshana Boothe said, with a smile on his face, “I think Mercer for me is like destiny... Mercer became a family for me.”



Matheus Martins of Brazil waits at midfield to be subbed in during MCCC’s September 18 game against Lackawanna.

PHOTO | CAITLIN CLARKE

Local belly dancers explore



More new interest in old art

By Chelsey Johnstone
Senior Reporter

Sometimes, the most powerfully moving moments of a lifetime come from the most unexpected events. That's exactly what happened to local belly dancing student, Rebecca Begonias after a nerve filled night dancing a solo for a packed crowd at "Roxy & Dukes Roadhouse" in Dunellen, NJ.

"I met my 'dance grandma,'" she told The VOICE in a recent interview. "She hugged me and she said 'Oh darling, I can't wait to see the dancer you will become in four years,'" Begonias stated, "It was of the most hope-inspiring and anticipatory feelings I've ever had....I can't wait for four years."

The art of belly dancing is enjoying a modern rebirth in the US and winning over skeptics here in New Jersey.

Looking for a dance that would bring technique, discipline, and guidance, Begonias says she began her belly dance journey a little over two years ago. As a beginner to dance in general, Begonias says she was initially fearful, but at the Sharqi Dance Studio at Shore Star Dance Academy she found plenty of other beginners starting the same new journey.

"I fell in love instantly," she says. Belly dancing has origins in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Palestine but because there are no standardized moves, it has often been overlooked as an art and form of cultural expression.

Sharqi Dance belly dance instructor and performer who goes by the name Yame says, "Belly dancing doesn't have an official definition...Every country where belly dance was exported evolved in a bit of a different way."

Kim Leary, another belly dance instructor, who teaches at a different studio, Drum & Dance Learning Center of Hamilton says, "In all of these cultures there are things that are similar about the movements and the dance, but then there are things specific to each region. I think of it like the food of the region; salad is salad but everybody prepares it a little differently."

These different "preparations" of belly dancing have slowly merged together in The United States, creating a whole new invention here. However, "There are definitely a lot more misconceptions about belly dancing here in the US in particular," Yame says.

She goes on to say that in other cultures the idea of femininity presents itself through dance more regularly, but here in The United States, "we haven't really embraced the female body."

She adds, "There is a lot of shame surrounding the female body and there's a lot of shame around sexuality" in the US. Born and raised in Brazil, Yame states, "In Brazil, you don't see that kind of taboo around belly dance... People [in the US] think it's weird or funny...they don't realize it's an actual dance you have to train for and get good at."

Because The United States as a whole is a melting pot of culture, somewhere along the lines, the meaning of foreign arts, such as belly dance, often become misconstrued.

Jen Lichtmann, dance student with eight years of belly dance experience says, "My little sweet mom for example, when she explains what her daughters do says, 'ones a pianist, one plays guitar, and I'm the belly dancer, but not the naked kind.' That's her misconception."

Begonias agrees that there is a stigma. When talking to new acquaintances she says she often leaves out the fact she belly dances to avoid the misconception that it is stripping.

"I really hate that name (belly dance)," Yame says. "It's not 'belly dance.' You're dancing with your whole body." In fact, the United States is one of the only to refer to this style of dance as belly dance. In other countries, the dance has a different title: Raqs Sharqi.

The term "belly dance," besides being misleading, seems to inspire negative reaction. Yame says, "'Belly' is a silly word. People associate it with very funny things or with things they're ashamed of about themselves."

She says that because the The United States has a media culture that gives the message to women that if you do not have a flat stomach, you are not valuable, women take one look at belly dancing and turn their heads. However, true belly dancing does not discriminate.

Teacher Leary says, "The beautiful thing about

cultural dances is that it really is for everybody." Participation in belly dance in local studios is not dependent on age, body type or nationality. However, some are skeptical of this all-encompassing view of the dance.

Randa Jarrar, an Arab-American author, wrote an opinion article for Salon.com entitled, "Why I Can't Stand White Belly Dancers" back in 2014. In her article she addressed her belief that those who are not native to the belly dance culture should not participate in it as they are engaging in cultural appropriation. She wrote, "Arab women are not vessels for white women to pour themselves and lose themselves in.... This dance is ours."

Jarrar received much criticism after the article was published. Other writers accused her of being racist herself for advocating against the mixing of cultures. In response to the comments Jarrar compiled another article still supporting her beliefs. The controversy and debate rages on.

This type of negativity is one Lichtmann says is left at the door when she comes to dance lessons. "We all have stuff, no one can escape that, but we come in here and it's like this is your time; focus on you, focus on your steps, and just let it go," she says.

Other local students agree that leaving behind the negativity, nerves, and worries, the cultural art of belly dance improves more than just the dance itself. "My heart is like a little hummingbird..." Begonias states in reference to the nerves she felt when first beginning her belly dance journey. However, because of this dance she says, many life skills of hers improved; including having more caring conversations with strangers and asserting herself more at work.

For Begonias, "the music totally changes, all the instruments pick up, and all the tiny little worries just don't matter at all because it is so joyful and we are sharing all the skills our teachers taught us with this really supportive community."





WE SEE MORE THAN A STUDENT WE SEE A FUTURE LEADER

At Quinnipiac, everything we do is laser-focused on the future. It's why we combine market-driven knowledge with practical applications. It's why we integrate world-sized learning opportunities with classrooms and facilities that are custom fit for today's work environments. And, with an accessible and engaged faculty, our graduates are prepared for 21st-century careers because they are always a step ahead.

READY FOR MORE? ATTEND A 2018 OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Sept. 22

Sunday, Oct. 21

Saturday, Nov. 10

Sunday, Dec. 2

Register or schedule a visit: qu.edu/visit

Apply: qu.edu/transfer

Email: transfer@qu.edu



Connect. Develop. Succeed.

NJIT
New Jersey Institute
of Technology

info.njit.edu/transfer

WINTER SESSION AT TCNJ

January 7–25, 2019

Travel, blended and online courses may start sooner.



Accelerated
7-week courses help
you finish faster



4x

more transfer students
choose WilmU over
regional competitors*



Locations **close to home**
and online options
maximize flexibility



**WilmU
works for
Mercer County
Community
College
graduates.**

Find out why!



#1

most affordable private,
nonprofit institution* in the
region saves you money

150+

accredited,
career-focused programs
meet your unique goals



Credit for prior learning
fast-tracks your degree



**Classes start
every 8 weeks.**

Fall Block II classes start **October 29**



**WILMINGTON
UNIVERSITY™**

wilmu.edu/Transfer

*Based on published 2016–17 tuition and enrollment rates
WilmU is a registered trademark of Wilmington University. All rights reserved. © Wilmington University 2018



On Campus

Traditional in-class learning experience

Blended Learning

Combination of online and in-class structure

Online

Travel



TCNJ THE COLLEGE OF
NEW JERSEY

Visit: winter.tcnj.edu

Check for summer courses, too

Trenton’s new mayor aims for urban revitalization

Continued from page 1

and even the Democratic party.

In a May interview with The Trentonian he said, “Does the Democratic party not like me? Fuck yeah they don’t like me, because I’m demonstrating to them that the people are tired of them.” He was particularly defensive about claims from multiple sources suggesting he exaggerated and embellished his qualifications for office.

The Trentonian specifically called out the fact that Perez said he had graduated from Harvard, whereas he had only completed a three week program at Harvard. Only after the Trentonian reporter showed him a video in which he called himself a Harvard graduate did Perez conceded that he may have used the wrong term. However, in his concession speech on June 12 he said, “We kicked ass and, guess what, fuck The Trentonian!”

Gusciora’s campaigning style was more measured.

Garrett Racz, a TCNJ student and leader of the the Campus Democrats, who served as a field organizer on Mayor Gusciora’s campaign told The VOICE, “We didn’t have a lot of people, so it needed to be perfectly run. We needed to have all our resources put to the right areas, areas where

if we maximized our turn our we’d win. So, for example, the West Ward. That’s where Reed lives, and if you win the West Ward, you win Trenton,” Racz said.

Trenton’s political history played a role in the election.

The city has been marked by a history of political corruption, most notoriously with the arrest of former mayor Tony Mack in 2014 after which he was sentenced to 58 months in federal prison for pedaling influence and accepting \$119,000 in bribes. (In an odd coincidence, Mack was released from the Memphis federal prison just three weeks before the run-off election.)

Racz said, “When former Mayor Eric Jackson ended up endorsing Paul Perez it turned out to really hurt his campaign, because people wanted to be out with the old, in the new, and when anyone was associated with anything from the past, it ended up really hurting them.”

Mayor Gusciora has lived in Trenton since 2011 and was formerly Assemblyman for the fifteenth district representing parts of Hunterdon, Mercer, and Trenton for 20 years. He completed his undergraduate work at Catholic University of



Trenton’s new Mayor, Reed Gusciora with insanely cute dog.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENDAN NEAL

America with a B.A in Politics and International Relations and went on to get his law degree from Seton Hall. He worked as a Municipal Prosecutor in the Princeton, Lawrenceville and Hopewell Boroughs and has taught as a Political Science adjunct professor at The College of New Jersey.

One current Mercer student Chiagoziem Sibeudu, an Engineering major who lives in Trenton voted for Gusciora.

He says of the new mayor, “I like how he is focused in the administrative issues within our capital.”

Perez and Gusciora faced off in a debate held on MCCC’s Trenton campus back on June 3. Core issues were addressed such as former Governor Chris Christie’s \$250 million effort to move three State buildings away outside the downtown redevelopment zone. Gusciora reiterated his

opposition to the plan. Perez was initially opposed to it but later changed sides.

Other central campaign issues were improving: water quality, public safety, education, and economic development for the city of Trenton.

Mayor Gusciora told The VOICE in a brief phone interview that he hopes to “turn the image of the city around so that people want to invest and move in to the city, and make difference.”

STUDENT NEWSPAPER
NOW RECRUITING!



FIND YOUR VOICE!

MON + THURS 12-1:15 in ET 127

No experience necessary!

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Restroom, for short

4 Back talk

8 Blunders

12 Yale student

13 Friends, old style

14 Manner of walking

15 Gut level

17 Sans siblings

18 Feline

19 Snake or lizard

21 Untamed horse

24 Apiece

25 Second person

26 Wheel center

28 Basic assumption

32 Piquancy

34 Afternoon beverage

36 Water conduit

37 Come in

39 Sprite

41 Stitch

42 Tin Man's need

44 Alt-rock band, Barenaked —

46 Cheesy paper

50 Make marginalia

51 Vivacity, musically

52 Hun opponent

DOWN

1 Third O.T. bk.

2 Boxer Muhammad

3 Baron's superior

4 Draw

5 Melody

6 Celebrity

7 Drag (Var.)

8 Braggart's journey?

9 Hindu princess

10 Streamlet

11 Eyelid woe

16 Has the skill set

20 Coatrack part

21 Memory measure

22 Reddish horse

23 No longer stylish

27 Spelldown

29 Guests

30 Duel tool

31 Nightly telecast

33 Earth science

35 Every last crumb

38 Carnival city

40 Tex-Mex treat

43 18-Across' ennead

45 Follow relentlessly

46 Slope transport

47 Jason's ship

48 Life stories, briefly

49 Exemplar of thinness

53 Round Table title

54 Upper surface

55 "Yoo-hoo!"

A	P	S		V	A	S	E	R	S		A	S	O	R
E	O	R		I	T	I	M	E			G	O	G	V
H	O	T	G	O	I	S	I	A		O	I	B	R	
	T	O		J	O	I	D	I	O	L	B	A	V	
S	E	I	D	L		L		I	O					
W	E	S		F	L	E		F	E	T		N	E	
	P	I	P	E	A		G	I	B		G	N	V	I
N	E	A		V	E		T	E	A		H		O	A
			H	E	R		P	O	C	O	N	O	B	
E	L	I	T		P		R		C	A	V			
A	T	N	O		T	V	E		C	S	I		A	
T	I		G	A		H		T	I	K		I	T	E
S	R	S		E	S	S	A	S		S	A		L	A

Constant campus conflict is bad for students

Editorial

A key agenda item at Mercer's first faculty union meeting of the year was to discuss the possibility of holding a vote of no confidence in Mercer's president Dr. Jianping Wang. This means our faculty members may take an official vote to register that they no longer support the ability of our president to run the college.

Several other local colleges have gone through this in recent years, most notably Essex County College, Bergen County College and William Paterson. In all of those cases the president was gone within three years.

Talk of a vote of no confidence is not new at Mercer. The faculty came right up to the brink last

November, ultimately opting, as we reported in The VOICE, to hold off and work with the Board of Trustees to try to address the difficulties they say they were having with the president.

Professor of Sociology, Dr. Edward Avery-Natale, who attended the meeting told the VOICE, "I know people have a lot of anger towards the President." When asked about the root of that anger Avery-Natale cited desire for a contract and also said "I think a lot of people have mistrust of the president." He added that there is a perception "that she does not always present accurate statements."

The president says she only learned about the current

talk of a vote of no confidence when asked about it by the VOICE. She said "I didn't hear this anywhere else."

She added, "I really appreciate the faculty" and said that she has a "great relationship" with them but acknowledges that "there's always something we need to work on."

Dr. Wang said: "They don't feel as financially supported as they expect to be, which I agree." She went on to explain that budgetary concerns were a roadblock.

Due to the complexity and of the ongoing contract negotiation, The VOICE is not in a position to side with the President or the faculty union. However it is clear that there

are long standing tensions between the two sides, and while we would like to think this tension has not become a source of distraction for professors or the President, we can't be sure.

Probably most of our peers don't know anything about it and don't care, but we are all affected

The fact that within approximately a year there have been two serious discussions of a vote of no confidence in the president--and that there has been talk of it since 2017 which the VOICE reported in April of that year--combined with the fact that there has been high turnover within administrative positions, gives the appearance to students and the public that

fundamental conflicts are lingering, unaddressed for years.

Dr. Wang told the VOICE "we want to have a harmonious community" but all parties involved should keep in mind this kind of tension between her and the faculty is not harmonious.

Mercer students look to faculty, staff, and the administration for guidance as we are preparing to start our careers. For this battle to persist so long without redress sets a poor example of conflict resolution.

We, the Editorial Board of The VOICE, ask the college leadership to find a way to resolve the problems in a timely and equitable manner.

Ernie and Bert are as queer as hell. There. You're welcome.

Editorial

In recent weeks, a great debate about the sexuality of beloved muppets Bert and Ernie, has erupted online. First, it was reported that Mark Saltzman, Sesame Street writer, had finally confirmed what we had all already known, that the two characters were indeed a couple.

"I always felt that, without a huge agenda, when I was writing Bert and Ernie, they were [gay]. I didn't have any other way to contextualize them," Saltzman told Nora Reed at The Washington Post.

But no sooner had Saltzman waded into those murky queer waters than, Frank Oz, an original creator of the pair, along with his collaborator the late Jim Henson, took to

Twitter to set the record straight (haha) saying:

"It seems Mr. Mark Saltzman was asked if Bert and Ernie are gay. It's fine that he feels that they are. They are not, of course. But why that question? Does it really matter?..."

The Sesame Street Twitter account backed Oz up by posting that "Bert and Ernie were only created to be friends."

Since then there have been a flurry of headlines. Seems like every furry and his friend has an opinion on this.

NBC says "Bert and Ernie are indeed a gay couple, 'Sesame Street' writer claims"

CBS writes, "Bert and Ernie: gay or just friends?..."

The New York Post

doesn't even question it: "Bert and Ernie are gay lovers!"

CNN says, "Sesame Says Bert and Ernie's Relationship Status is not Complicated."

Well, it must be complicated if everyone is debating it.

We aren't even going to try to figure out why The Economic Times is running a video about Bert and Ernie's sexuality. The Internet has lost its fucking mind.

Oh, it's easy enough to dismiss it all as he said he said, but we can clear up all the confusion. They're gay.

The Sesame Street Workshop is trying to convince you otherwise by tweeting "Even though they are identified as male characters and

possess many human traits and characteristics (as most Sesame Street characters do) they remain puppets, and do not have a sexual orientation."

Oh, jeez. Don't let the Furies hear that. You think a puppet can't have sex? Puh-leez. Just look at the Furry blogs on tumblr, they'll show you different.

Besides, even if puppets can't have sex (of course they can!) you don't have to have sex to be gay or straight. Only you know what you feel, what you desire, and what you are, which is why it is so damaging that everyone keeps trying to talk for Ernie and Bert instead of letting them speak for themselves.

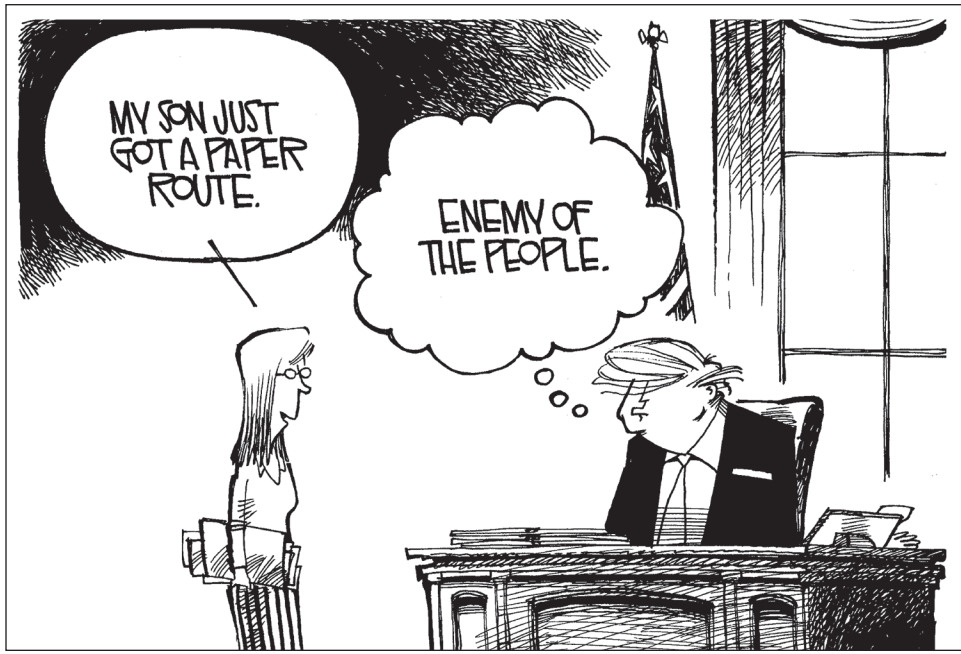
As the two old sock



puppet queens head into their golden years, having bickered their way through bathtime and pigeon ownership, fretted over the meaning of friendship, and suffered through the misery of snoring in side-by-side beds for almost fifty years now, do we really have to question them? They have already told us who they are!

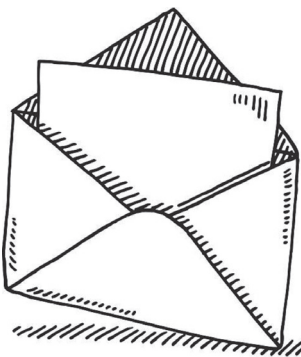
It's been 5 years since the courts ruled. Let them come out of their bedroom in peace!

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



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!



the college VOICE

The VOICE is online
at mcccvoice.org
Read documents and
extra materials to go
with all the articles
you see here.

Do you see a
typo?

Good. Join the staff
and help us fix it!

Mon + Thur
12-1:15 in ET 127

REGISTER TO
VOTE

Editorial Board

Drew Mumich, *Editor in Chief*
Chelsey Johnstone, *Managing Editor*
Caitlin Clarke, *Sports Editor*
Sean O'Connor, *Viewpoints Editor*

Staff

Laurie Gallagher, *Senior Reporter*
Tahjia Brantley, *Reporter*
Jereece Brown, *Reporter*
Kyree Cooper, *Reporter*
Gia Dziesiuta, *Reporter*
Jigna Milleliri, *Reporter*
Jezreal Nazario, *Reporter*
Cam Potts, *Reporter*
Amanda Puca, *Reporter*
Roosevelt Stone, *Reporter*
Joe Szalecki, *Reporter*
Hugo Vivar, *Reporter*

Faculty Advisers

Professor Matt Kochis, *Co-adviser*
Professor Holly Johnson, *Co-adviser*

I was there when the shots rang out

How surviving a mass shooting in Trenton changed me

AS I SEE IT



Chelsey Johnstone

It was almost 3 A.M. and I was walking around the old Roebling Wire Works factory in Trenton, discussing paintings with my friend at the local Art All Night festival.

"The bright sunset landscape was neat," I told her. That's when I heard the unmistakable sound of gunfire. Immediately screams started. My first instinct was to run away. Hundreds of people were pushing, frantically running across a busy street.

We have all heard of mass shootings. We watch the news and talk about how horrible it must be. We conjure up reasons why it happens and get angry at society. But when the shooting starts, you don't think. You just run.

There was no looking both ways crossing the street. Ahead I saw my friend, as frantic as I was. I blindly followed. I wanted her safe. I wanted myself safe. I wanted us all safe.

A young man

around my age called out to us as my friend and I headed for our car. Being from the area, he indicated he felt the need to keep us safe. All we had was trust. We let him walk with us.

Once the sound of shots stopped, the three of us, my friend, this complete stranger and I, continued on to find our car parked at the arena. Before we could even say a word, the stranger quickly mentioned he was carrying a gun. Not planning to harm us, he explained his friends were the ones getting shot at. It was pretty clear at that point he was part of a gang.

The term "gang member" is never brought up in daily conversation as a positive. When you hear "gang member" you think guns, drugs, thugs, and punks. The fact that I was standing next to a gang member in real life gave me a slight shock, if the loud shots did not already.

However, this tall, thin African American man, little more than a boy, really, with long dreads walking along side of me in bright red Jordans and a nice cap, had the same stunned face that my friend and I had. He was just like us. He was scared too. But he was protecting us. I asked him if his friends were okay. Unfortunately, he had no idea.

My heart sunk with him.

Art All Night was supposed to be a coming together. This event was supposed to shed light on the capital of New Jersey and prove it's not the horrible place everyone warns about. However, that dark morning, it was.

According to NJ.com, 105 shootings have occurred thus far this year in Trenton, more than 20 of which occurred at this event. For some reason, the city cannot shake the label "dangerous". Governor Phil Murphy referred to this shooting as, "another reminder of the senselessness of gun violence." according to USA Today. Can we call this "just another Trenton shooting"? We were incapable of thought, just searched for safety.

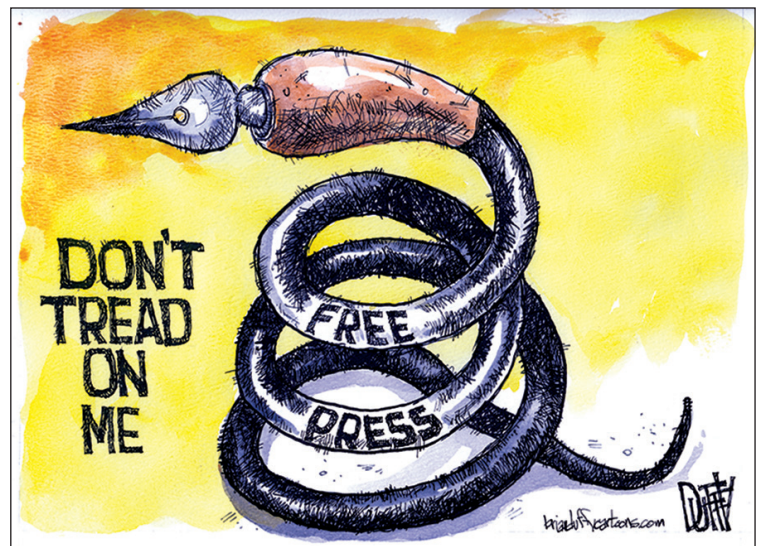
We finally spotted our car in the parking lot. Before splitting ways, the man thanked us for letting him walk with us. At first, I had no idea why. He explained that by walking with us, he was not a lone black man walking alone after a shooting. This man feared he would be stopped and questioned or even accused of participating in the crime we were both terrified of.

After sitting in my friend's car and watching the young man walk away, I felt my perspective on all of it: the guns, the gangs,

the "good" guys and "bad" guys, the complicated interplay of race and gender. Fear, sadness and actual anger set in. Not only was I fearing who could be lurking the streets, I feared the man who just escorted us to our car would get hurt on his long walk home. I did not just feel sadness for those who were shot, but for those who spend every day living in a state of worry that their friends, family, or selves could die just for which section of town they are from. I was saddened at the fact walking with two white girls--myself and my friend--could dictate the probability of an African American man being stopped and questioned by the police. And of course, in the end, I was furious that 22 people were injured, one was dead, a mass shooting ruined what should have been a lovely event and had only given more support to the stereotypes about Trenton.

I don't know where the man who died that night is buried. I don't know where the 22 wounded people are now, or if they are alright. But sometimes when it all feels like too much to bear, I look back and remember that in the midst of all that chaos and awfulness, when we were at our most vulnerable, the gang member and I decided to trust.

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.

How to contact us:

e-mail: kochism@mccc.edu
phone: (609) 586-4800 ext. 3594
write to: **The College VOICE**
c/o Prof. Matt Kochis
Mercer County College
1200 Edinburg Rd.
West Windsor, NJ 08690

JUST 4 FUN

ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



Dear Voice,
I have this strange urge to gyrate my hips. It's getting in the way of my day to day life. Hula hooping isn't cutting it. What'a girl to do?
--- Wannabe Shakira

Dear Wannabe Shakira,
As long as your hips are very honest, you can take up belly dancing. It should help your condition.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice,
As you know, flu season is coming up. Do you have any recommendations on how to avoid getting the flu?
-Don't want the Flu

Dear Don't want the Flu,
I would say go to the school health center, but oops, we don't have one. So what you can do is stay away from sick people.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice,
I'm worried about passing physics with only 14 weeks to work with what should I do - Sweaty and panicked

Dear Sweaty,
Just try to get some

positive momentum going and ride it through to the end of the year. - The VOICE

Dear Voice,
The other day in math my prof started talking about the faculty contract fight. He was so mad he was throwing pencils and chalk. Any advice on avoiding incoming projectiles?
-Scared of Math

Dear Scared of Math,
Get a helmet. This could take a while.
- The VOICE

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

HOROSCOPES



Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You're feeling rigid and uninspired. Too much work and not enough play. Take yourself on a date.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

As a generally solitary person, you don't mind being alone. But you don't have to be. People need people. Reach out to a friend.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

You want to please everyone but you're quickly becoming a punching bag. Stick up for yourself. Punch back.



Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

Any fear that may be shackling push through and channel your leader. You're a natural leader and full of confidence. So just follow your instincts.



Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20

As a Bull you are a stable reliable person, It is time for you to loosen up and go outside your comfort zone. Try something new do something unexpected.



Gemini
May 21 - Jun. 20

It is time to meld your two personalities into one. You may have contrasting feelings but you need focus your energies into one and take the leap of faith.



Cancer
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

Your motherly instincts will serve your you well you may have a friend in need who needs your guidance. But don't neglect your own needs.



Leo
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

You always start trouble. You know it. But mostly it is in good fun. Sometimes you cross the line, however, so have an apology ready.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You know what you like and what works for you. You have a routine but it's becoming obsessive. Do something spontaneous. Don't worry about the consequences.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You're getting too caught up in the clouds. Just because something looks good doesn't mean it's meant to be. Do something alone.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You are a dependable and loyal partner you're intensity and patience is much appreciated by the one who is closest to you. Be on the lookout for something unexpected from them.



Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You want to be everywhere and with everyone at once. Don't bite off more than you can chew. Take your time.

2X DILBERT



SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

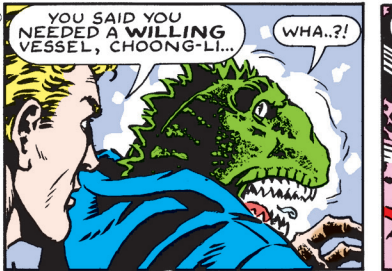
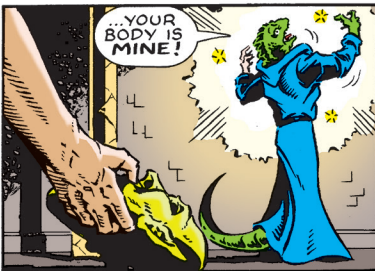
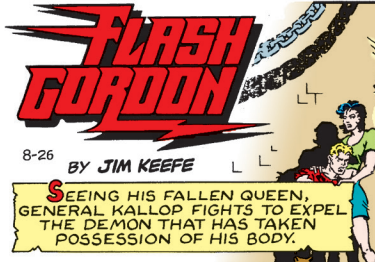
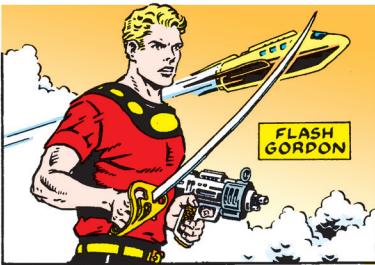
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

FLASH GORDON



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

