



The mold is back and it has spread

After a humid fall, buildings on both campuses are facing mold problems

By Chelsey Johnstone
Senior Reporter

Last fall mold was detected in a faculty office in the BS building. Now, there is mold again, this time in the MS building, the SC building, and on the JKC Trenton Campus. Several professors say exposure to the mold is causing them to feel ill, and in a survey of 50 students, 30 percent reported feeling ill exclusively in the MS labs.

"We've had issues with mold on the floor, the ceiling, the lab cabinets," said Professor of Biology, Ellen Genovesi, who is allergic to mold and has faced a variety of symptoms including coughing, sore throat and headaches. For several weeks she wore a face mask while teaching, but has now been relocated to a different classroom.

Professor Genovesi is not the only professor reporting health issues due to mold. Physics and Chemistry Professor Michael Dorneman says he is getting headaches from working in his first floor office in the MS building.

Students are also experiencing problems, possibly due to the high percentage of students with asthma on Mercer's campus. In two surveys of 50 students conducted last fall and this spring, 25% said they were asthmatic, more than triple the national average of 8.3% according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Dasia Allen, a Biology major at Mercer, said, "I am a little concerned considering I do have asthma, and I've had a problem in the past where there was mold in my school."

She continued, "It caused my asthma to flare up really bad- really bad wheezing, really bad breathing, and it could affect my health long-term. The fact that I don't know about [the mold] means that I can't seek help... I would like to know simply so that I can avoid it."

Last year the mold problem seemed to be contained to one faculty office, BS 137.

"I am a little concerned considering I do have asthma, and I've had a problem in the past where there was mold in my school. It caused my asthma to flare up really bad... The fact that I don't know about [the mold here] means that I can't seek help... I would like to know simply so that I can avoid it."

-Dasia Allen, Biology Major

As reported in The VOICE in December 2017, Supervising Team Leader Fred Carella told the faculty members occupying the office that the mold was due to "a leak in the HVAC system in the hall outside the double doors on the east side of the business building. To determine the cause of the leak we removed the insulation from the piping. We then repaired the piping to stop the leak from continuing."

Director of Facilities and Safety Bryon Marshall also told those occupying BS 137 that two rounds of "Mold Zapper" were used and that the problem had been resolved, a fact that was confirmed by the company that tested for the mold- Whitman Environmental Consulting and Engineering. However, the problem recurred this year and is no longer limited to a single faculty office. Now it is classrooms like the biology labs in MS.

"We have problems with cleaning," Professor Dorneman says, adding, "They don't wash the floors. They don't sweep the floors the way they used to. If this building is dirty we're going to have mold, that's all there is to it."

A different reason for the mold was given by Director of Facilities and Safety Bryon Marshall in an email to faculty sent on October 9. He wrote, "This heightened and sus-

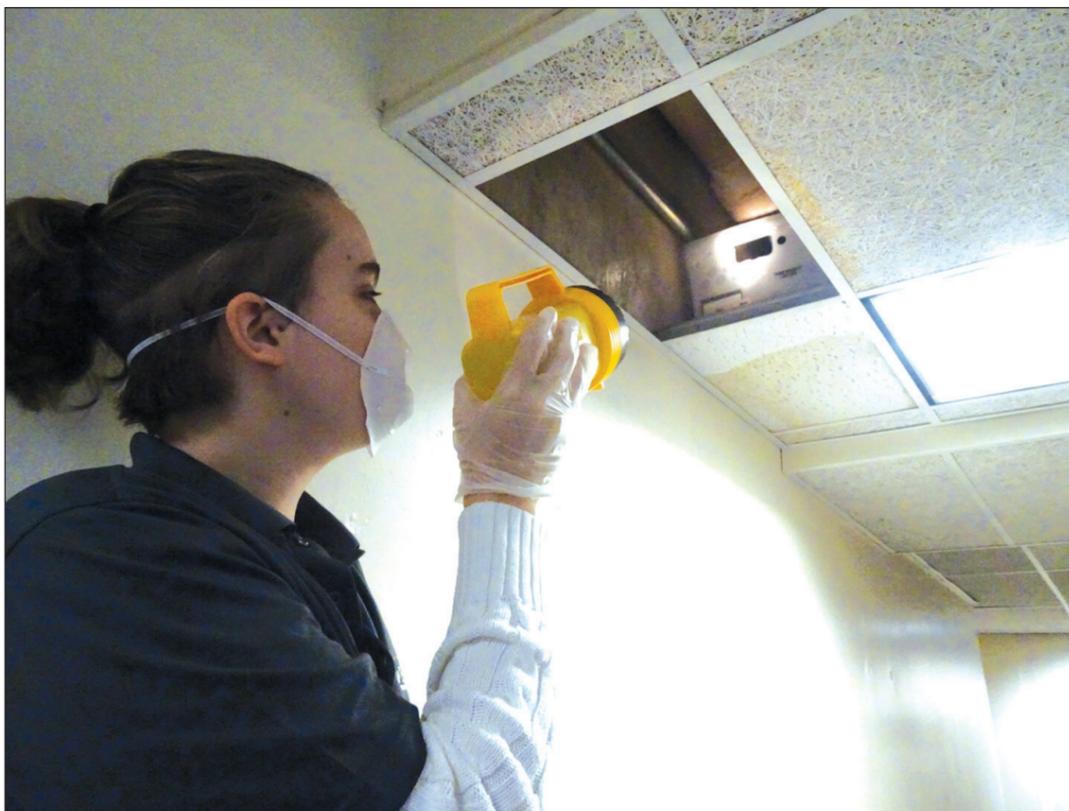


PHOTO | CHELSEY JOHNSTONE

A USPS mail container currently collecting water within the drop-tile ceiling of an LA building hallway.

LOCATIONS WHERE MOLD HAS BEEN DETECTED

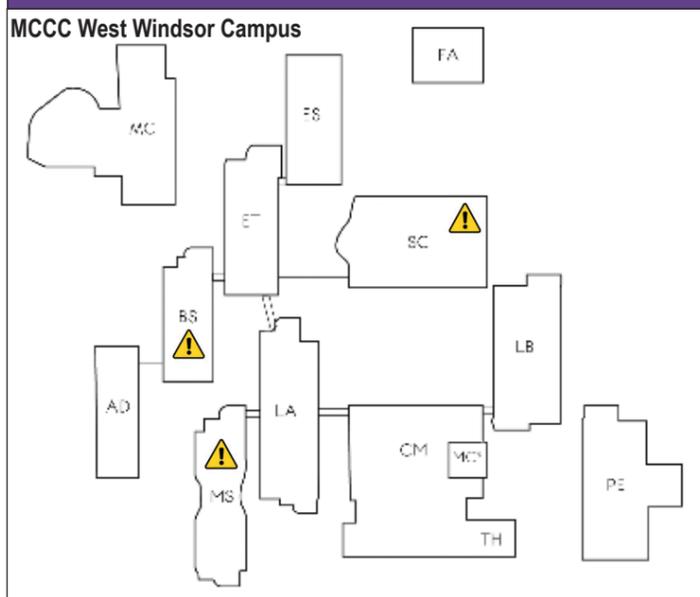


ILLUSTRATION | MELANIE PEREZ

tained humidity[sic] weather has caused a higher number of incidents of surface mold." In the email, titled "Environmental Challenges" he explains that several things are being done to address the situation including using bleach solutions, installing dehumidification units, evaluating the HVAC systems, and improving overall house-keeping.

College President Dr. Jianping Wang says, "Within the old buildings, the problem is not going to go away with a little tweak of HVAC...Unless you tear down the whole system, you can't fix it."

However, Dr. Wang noted, cost is an obstacle.

"This college only receives anywhere between 2 to 3 million dollars a year to reno-

vate this big of a campus. You can't even touch a bathroom for less than \$100,000," she says.

She said, "Which building is falling apart will get the first makeover. The reason we want to add on to the old building is because the trick is when we add on to an old building we can also replace the old buildings HVAC system."

Another concern that has held over since last year is the question of when and how students are notified about mold on campus. Last year students were never informed by the college about the problem.

At the time, Bryon Marshall stated in an email, "The decision to not notify the student population was made, in part, due to the identification/location of the source, the nature and extent of the biological substance/containment and relocation efforts that were undertaken to minimize exposure."

This year students still haven't been informed.

Dr. Wang, believes it is unnecessary to panic over the

See MOLD page 2



PROFILE - NEW BIO PROF
Professor creates student centered classroom. PG. 2



MEN'S LACROSSE
New team has success in recruitment. PG. 3

Sports3
Dining & Reviews.....4

Viewpoints10
Just For Fun11

Faculty Profile: Professor of Biology Ami Rivera

By Jigna Milleliri
Reporter

Mercer has a new full-time Professor of Biology, Ami Rivera. Rivera, who was previously a Teaching Assistant in the department, completed her undergraduate degree at Rider University and got her M.S. from Drexel. She is also a mom, a CrossFit coach and athlete, and a small business owner.

One of Professor Rivera's former students, Joe Vilegas says, "The first day of class, my first impression was 'Wow! She means business!...She's not messing around.' She was the kind of teacher that instills hard work ethics in her students."

Another student, Tim Hughes, a 2018 Mercer Physical Therapy Assistant program graduate says, "[Professor Rivera] isn't one of those people that does her lecture and goes home. She takes a personal stake in wanting people to succeed if she can help them."

In an interview with Professor Rivera, she said, "On a personal level I hope I make an impact with students because I've been in similar shoes."

Rivera, who is of Puerto Rican and Italian descent, lost both her parents when she was young. She was on her own by age 16, working through school to make ends meet and juggling different roles at the same time. Rivera says she understands what it's like to be a struggling student.

Professor of Biology Ellen Genovesi says of her new colleague, "She finds a good balance between offering assistance but wants her students to figure things out on their own." She adds, "She works very well independently, and she is a real asset to JKC [our Trenton campus]. She is bilingual; she speaks Spanish. That is a big advantage with the students we have downtown."

Professor Rivera says



Professor Ami Rivera teaching about anatomy and heart chambers to students in her Biology lab.

PHOTO | JIGNA MILLELIRI

the connections she makes with students are what make her work particularly meaningful. She gave an example of one former student saying, "I had her in BIO 103 and at the end of the semester we talk about the nervous system, and she pulled me aside and said, my dad just got diagnosed with ALS and I don't know what that means,"

Professor Rivera stayed for two hours after class to explain the diagnosis of ALS, also known as Lou Gherig's Disease, what it means on a biological level and on a practical one. The student went on to graduate and complete the nursing program. She was able to then take care of her sick father until his passing a year later.

"I was so proud of her, and to this day she'll reach out to me every now and then and

she'll thank me. That's the ultimate compliment to know that she went through all of that and still made her dreams happen and she lives that out through [her dad], and for him," says Rivera.

Professor of Biology and Department Personnel Committee chair, Ron Smith told the VOICE, "Students are very engaged in [Professor Rivera's] class, I feel that the students have a lot of respect for her; she is interactive, she gives a lot of good examples that apply to everyday life, and I think that just allows students to connect to that information that could be difficult to understand."

Genovesi says, "When we interviewed her, we were very impressed because we asked her to do a demonstra-

tion on how to use a microscope and she seems to explain things in the correct technical terms but in a way that a student that never used a microscope would understand....that is what impressed us most."

Professor Rivera has a busy life outside the classroom as well.

"The other thing that has still been the love of my life is sports," she says.

Rivera is the former President of the Sons of Ben Major League Soccer boosters' organization in Philadelphia, and the co-creator of a new company called Before90 Productions, that covers that Women's National Soccer League. The company focuses on the lives of female athletes.

"The salaries [women

in the National Soccer League] get are abysmal in comparison to the men's. They don't train any differently. They don't train any less, play any less and yet the conditions are way worse for them," Rivera says. This issue inspired her and her business partner, Britanni Bartok, to give these women athletes more significant media attention.

Before90's social media describes what they offer as "Content that entertains, informs, inspires, & transforms the way you see players, teams, & the cities that host them before their next 90 minutes."

Entertaining, informing, inspiring and transforming are all words that describe Rivera herself, especially in the eyes of her students, friends and colleagues.

As mold problem spreads, students and faculty worry about health

Continued from page 1

type of mold present at Mercer.

She said, "Most of us, fortunately, are healthy enough to say 'Oh that mold, let me just wipe it off or clean it.'"

When asked why students have not been notified, Dr. Wang responded, "We all understand young generation people don't like to read a lot of text....When we have a very long email we don't know how many students will be interested in reading them."

She noted that Dean of Students Dr. Diane Campbell would be the one responsible for any mass email to students.

Dr. Campbell says, "Every day there is all kinds of stuff that goes on here, and I don't think that students have to be informed about everything.

But if there is something that comes up that could be harmful, and we found that it could be harmful, then I think that students should be informed."

She continued, "They put dehumidifiers over there. They are doing the clean up that needed to be done. As far as I was concerned they were taking the steps to fix the situation." Professor Dorneman asked the administration about increasing the airflow throughout the building to help combat the issue.

He states, "They said they were going to put in dehumidifiers as a stop gap, and that's okay, but you can't run them in class all the time because of the noise. Noise pollution is an issue. There are state

regulations about that."

As of now, all three floors of the MS building have dehumidifiers, five being on floor two.

Dr. Wang says, "It's the extreme weather that is causing this problem. It's not Mercer's problem. It's the whole country's problem...The ultimate goal is to combat climate change."

Dorneman says, "I want to believe them when they say they're going to fix it." He concluded, "I believe them when they said that in spaces they tested there were no pathogenic mold spores, I completely and entirely believe them when they said that this is a stop gap measure and we're going to fix it. Now I want to see their plan."



PHOTO | CHELSEY JOHNSTONE

A visible water stain spreads across ceiling tiles in the MS building directly above hallway heating vents.

Winning streak takes men's soccer to playoffs

By Caitlin Clarke
Senior Reporter

The Mercer men's soccer team closed out a weekend of play on Sunday, October 7 with a decisive 7-0 victory over non-conference opponent Georgian Court University. The Vikings have seen continued success throughout the season, winning each of the 6 games that they have played since September 26 to maintain a 16-2 overall record.

Stand out offensive performances came from Freshmen Yuhei Matsushita and Matheus Martins, who scored two goals each, combining their efforts to put away over half of the team's seven goals during the October 7 shutout. Matsushita and Martins also supported the team with three combined assists.

Matsushita said, "I am very happy to help the team with goals, but this season hasn't finished, so I will do my best to contribute to the team [throughout]."

Freshman Goalkeeper Eial Marzouk, who had not given up a single goal in the three games prior to Mercer's match against Georgian Court, continued the streak with yet another shutout.

According to the Georgian Court athletics website, the team's loss to Mercer comes just after GCU was voted into the top 25 in the most recent United Coaches NCAA Division II National poll.

Because GCU is a university and Mercer is a junior



Freshman Matheus Martins fights a defender for the ball during Mercer's October 13 home game against Monroe of Rochester.

PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

college, the two teams generally play in entirely separate athletic conferences against different opponents. This particular match was for the purpose of development and for additional play, with both teams utilizing a wide variety of players from their respective rosters.

GCU Head Coach Dino Raso said, "We use our development squad to test out ALL of our players. We do not go into any game with victory as the main objective."

Raso continued, "Our development games are used as a vehicle to give ALL players a

"What we do better now, and something that we keep doing every day, every training, every game, is trying to move players into different positions on the field to see where they fit better to help the team...and it seems to be working very well."

chance to play which can mean that the start of our games can be a little disjointed, and I think that was the case against Mercer."

GCU Assistant Coach John Adair said, "As a group, it showed [us] that there is always progress to be made...Our guys understand that while they have made positive steps in their de-

velopment, there is always room to improve."

Team Captain Diego Leite said, "We have a lot of talent on our team, but I think that the main point that has been leading us to victory is that we play for each other, as a family. I feel like we want the victory more than everybody else."

Mercer's last two losses came against Essex and Monroe. Mercer lost 3-0 to in-conference opponent Essex County in a September 22 home game.

Mercer Head Coach Widmarc Dalce said, "What we do better now, and something

that we keep doing every day, every training, every game, is trying to move players into different positions on the field to help the team...and it seems to be working very well."

Diego Leite said, "We need to improve our communication on the field and play more compact, but we are working hard every day in order to achieve our goals."

Region 19 playoff play began on Saturday, October 20. The NJCAA Division I Men's Soccer National Championship game will be played Saturday, November 17 in Daytona, Florida. Seeding has yet to be determined.

New men's lacrosse team gets ready for first season

By Caitlin Clarke
Senior Reporter

When the first players on Mercer's inaugural men's lacrosse team began practicing last spring, there was a lot to be done to build towards becoming an established college program.

There was no proper field, essential equipment such as helmets, sticks, jerseys, and even balls had not arrived, and there was still the task of recruiting both players and coaching staff left up to newly hired head coach Rob Siris.

They didn't have a locker room until one was fashioned out of unused storage space in the PE building over the summer. The players adapted to the conditions and could be seen practicing behind the PE building throughout the spring semester and into the summer and now early fall.

Today, a substantial amount of progress has been made towards establishing a new team on Mercer's campus. Official practices began in early September, and several scrimmages were played throughout October.

"[Practices are] going

well. They're very up tempo. They look better than most community colleges I would say. For our first year it's looking good," said midfielder Brady Moore.

He continued, "Everyone is excited to come to practice every day, and that is a big thing."

Kieran Murphy, a fellow team member, said "I think that [practices] are pretty fun, to be honest. They're better than any high school practice that I have been a part of."

The team's Head Coach, Rob Siris, formerly led the nearby Hopewell Valley Central High School Men's lacrosse team and currently serves as the U.S. Lacrosse Central Jersey Chairman, according to his profile on the Mercer Athletics website.

Mercer Athletic Director John Simone said, "[Siris] has had great contacts in the county, so it was easy for him to get calls. I think we have every high school in the county represented on the team...He definitely has a good reach in the area."

Siris said, "Social media has been very helpful, and I think that once the word had gotten

out there, [people know] we have a great athletic program. It's a great option academically. It's very affordable....I think that Mercer has sold itself, and the numbers speak for that."

In fact, Siris said that his expectations for the first season's roster size have already been exceeded. The goal was to get 30 players for the first season and that number has been surpassed.

The team's coaching staff has also grown over the past months with the hiring of Nick Shriver as an Assistant Coach and the team's Offensive Coordinator, as well as Matt Serfass as another Assistant Coach and their Defensive Coordinator.

Siris said of Shriver and Serfass, "We tried to find guys who are local, had good experience, and connected well with the guys. They are a good fit."

While the official first season of intercollegiate play will begin for Mercer men's lacrosse in the Spring of 2019, the team is scheduled to face off with established teams such as Delaware Valley University, Felician University, Delaware Tech, and Wilmington University in scrimmages throughout the month of October.



New recruits for men's lacrosse conclude a successful practice.

PHOTO | JOE SZALECKI

Local couple succeed with Latin fusion food truck

By Chelsey Johnstone
& Jigna Milleliri
Reporters

Passion often takes a leap of faith and a lot of dedication to pursue. Local couple Joshua Pantoja and fiancée Andrea Sanchez finally realized their dream food truck, Arepa Express. The project, which was expected to take six months, ultimately took five years to complete.

"We've had a lot of people say 'You can't do it. That's hard. When will it be done? I don't think you guys will ever finish it,'" Sanchez says, adding, "We kind of had to put earmuffs on and keep walking... that's what you have to do sometimes."

To accomplish it they survived a variety of adventures including selling an old mechanical bull to get the money for a refrigerator the picked up from a Philadelphia college.

The food truck's offerings combine both Pantoja's Puerto Rican background with Sanchez's Venezuelan heritage. The soon-to-be husband and wife have married their ethnic cuisines to create a fusion unlike any other in the area.

Sanchez, who says her family has always had a passion for the art of cooking and baking, is the mastermind behind some of Arepa Express's most popular dishes.

"My mother is

more of the sweet baking [background], and my grandmother is more of the savory," she says.

One of their signature dishes, the Arepa, leans to the savory side and showcases the diversity, colorful, natural produce, and locally sourced ingredients in their refrigerator. Primarily grilled on the flat top then quickly flash fried, the Arepa is then sliced into a pocket-like pita and stuffed with a cool, creamy chicken salad.

The couple says it is important that their food represents them, their passions, and the true nature of their cultures.

"People who are not able to go to those countries can enjoy it here..." Sanchez says.

The couple takes the truck to all kinds of events and has found Arepa's most popular dish is their chicken and beef empanadas. The can sell as many as 500 per festival.

Between the half moon of flakey and buttery crust the team has found an excellent balance of textures and has successfully paired flavors of intense garlic, sweet bell peppers, and sautéed white onions to compliment the bold flavors of the chicken.

As for the beef empanada, it is mildly spicy, moist, not greasy, balanced, not overpowering.

Although Puerto Rican and Venezuelan food are the main cuisines of Arepa Express, Pantoja and

Sanchez include the flavors of other cultures as well. "We have Mexican, South American, Asian, we even have middle eastern [flavors] with some of the dishes," Pantoja said.

At first glance, the sounds of a peanut butter chicken lo mein may not sound appealing, but the combination of the warm, silky peanut butter with salty soy sauce fuses together with the nuttiness of mushrooms and tender chicken to evoke the traditional foods of Thailand.

Of course, no Latin food truck is complete without the addition of legitimate street tacos as well. With a quick sear of the corn tortillas and a fine chop of the cubed steak, two delicately prepared boats support the ripe avocado, raw onion, and vibrant green cilantro.

These are served with Sanchez's homemade salsa picante infused with a generous amount of fresh ingredients, blended garlic, onion, tomato, cilantro, and habanero added at customer request.

It seems as though Arepa Express not only has been able to keep a substantial following, they have recently announced their plans to open a new restaurant just 10 minutes away from Mercer's West Windsor campus.

Pantoja says, "We are trying to create a spot where kids can come after school. [They] don't have that anymore."



PHOTO | CHELSEY JOHNSTONE

Andrea Sanchez, owner and cook, serves up her fresh chicken peanut butter lomein along with an order of steak tacos and a smile.

Mercer alumnus serves up an unexpected taco success

By Caitlin Clarke
Senior Reporter

Some of the best tacos in town are made by a Chinese immigrant and Mercer alumnus named Sam Zheng, owner and manager of TacoRito in Robbinsville. He says his interest in Mexican cuisine started with a visit to Chipotle.

"Their food is very Americanized," said Zheng. "I wanted TacoRito to have its own concept where food is made to order, and customers can have their own toppings, but at the same time offer many authentic dishes and keep the salsa and flavoring as close to Mexican as possible."

These dishes include the Crazy Empanadas, Nachos, and Quesadillas.

"We try to keep our menu exciting by offering new dishes every year and removing dishes that don't sell," said Zheng.

He continued, "Every once in a while, I'll work with the cooks to come up with new dishes and we will do a testing to see how the customers like

it."

For not much money you can get a veritable mountain of food. If you are starting to feel the beginnings of the fall chill, you'll be happy to know that by the end of a typical meal, you'll feel satisfied and warm. You may also be jazzed to know that you will probably leave with several Styrofoam boxes filled to their limit. A college student can never have too many leftovers!

The atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and modern with light, refreshing colors and an entire wall covered in southwestern cactus plants. Customers are greeted by a shelf lined with a wide variety of hot sauces, a fridge packed with sugary, flavorful Mexican sodas, and a display of emerald veggies, ruby salsas, and a rainbow of other sauces.

Every dish leaves you feeling warm and comfortable as if grandma is back in the kitchen whipping up steak burritos, quesadillas, enchiladas, and traditional desserts. The only difference is that you might not feel as guilty not finishing everything in one sitting.



PHOTO | CAITLIN CLARKE

A Beef TacoRito-Rito and a Crazy Quesadilla, as served at TacoRito in Robbinsville.

ishing everything in one sitting.

The Taco-Rito Rito is as big as a baby's arm, and is packed with crispy cabbage, a hint of lime juice, jalapenos spicy enough to scare those with weak taste buds, a slight dash of cilantro, some chipotle mayo, bright yellow rice, and enough steak to feed a village. The Crazy Quesadillas are, indeed, crazy huge.

The tortillas bulge with a wide variety of ingredients, including corn, cabbage, chicken, and chipotle mayo. It creates an overwhelming experience, but in the best way.

To top things off, the distinctly American Fried Oreos offered at TacoRito are the ultimate treat. They'll remind you of treats at local food festivals, and the powdered sugar is pure comfort food.

Tom Smith, 61, a Robbinsville resident and fellow diner said, "I think I've been here about eight times, and I do like it... I like the Mexican style chicken."

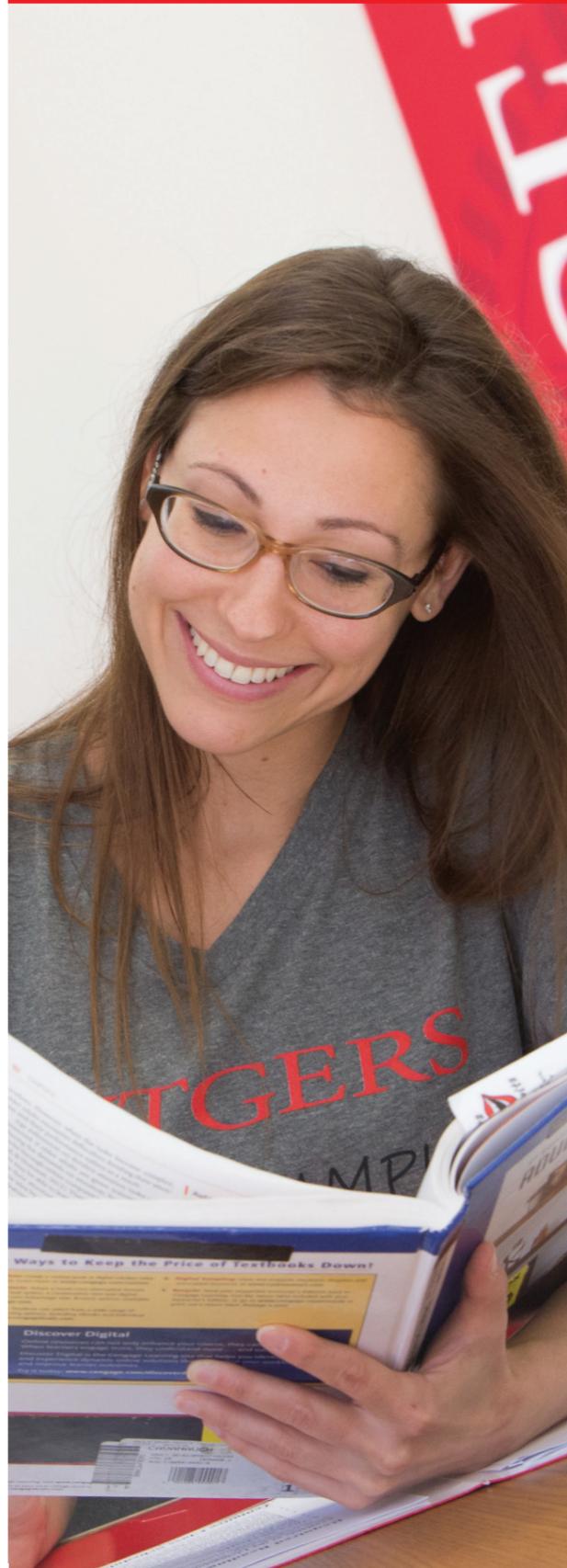
TacoRito is a good place to go if you have a big appetite, an ambitious mindset, a willingness to try something unique, or a desire to feel the comfort of a more traditional dish.

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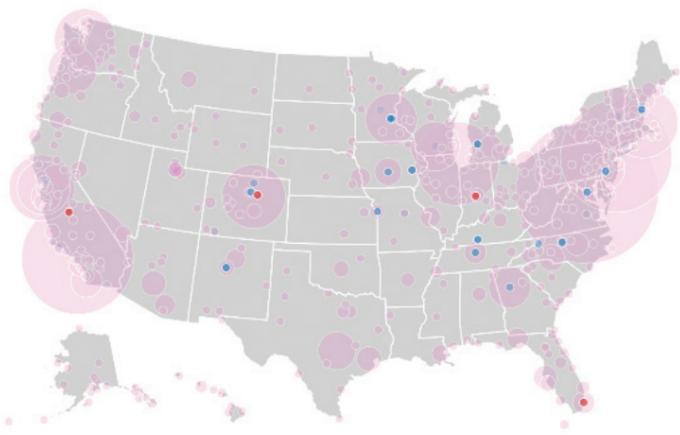
TODAY

TWO YEARS OF PROTESTS

By Derw Mumich
Senior Reporter

PROTESTS 2017

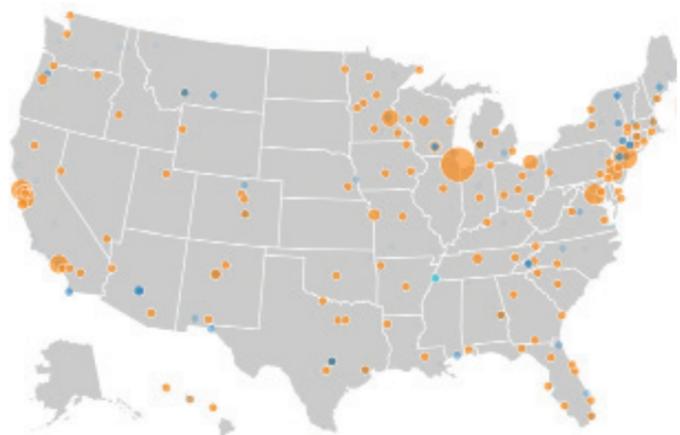
Largest nationwide protests of 2017 from Countlove.org



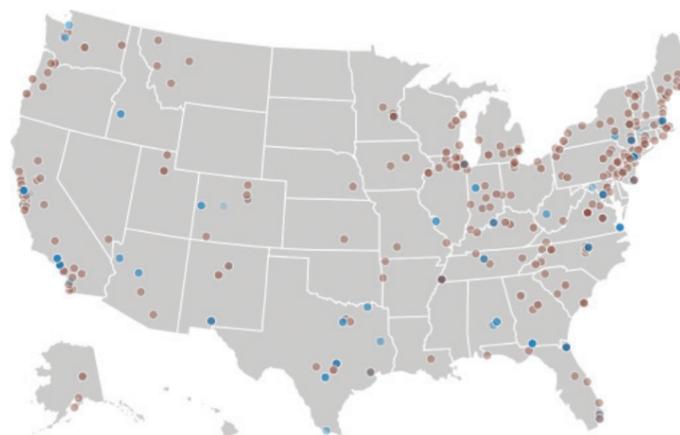
Women's March 2017



Travel Ban, 2017



March For Science, 2017



Protesting Charlottesville, 2017



Women's March 2018, New York City joining 3 million men, women and children nationwide.



New York City Police monitoring barricades for protests.



Women's March, 2018



Women's March, 2017

From the Boston Tea Party, to the Whiskey Rebellion to the wars in Vietnam and Iraq, vocalizing disagreement of American history. But in the Trump era we are at a frequency previously unseen. The question now is voter turnout? And, secondarily, to what extent is it?

Throughout 2017 there were an estimated 11,149 protests, according to Crowd Sourcing Consortium.

Reporter LA Kauffman said in an opinion piece through a Golden Age of Protest, "this is certainly protested before in the US. Even when you adjust percentage that took to the streets during the height and 1970."

Maggie Carroll, a Liberal Arts major at Mercer for gun laws and marches for Black Lives Matter, and me to become involved myself. Seeing so many marches, it was a really good feeling."

Kauffman explains that "6,000 local resistance groups, the advocacy protest group founded by all, of these groups, are consistently active."

He continues, "This alone represents a breaking precedent in American history. Many of these groups in their areas, hoping that this wave of street action will influence the November 2018 midterm elections."

A Pew Research Center article titled "Activism in these activities varies by age: Americans ages 18 up to have recently changed their profile picture (13 percent), looked for information on social media (13 percent), or used hashtags related to a political issue (13 percent)."

The Pew study does not break down or separate behavior. The vast majority of the organizing in the March for Our Lives, after the Parkland school shooting, teenagers took to the streets.

However, as Sociology Professor Dana R. Fisher says, "The March for Our Lives crowd was not primarily made up of participants were under 18. The average age of the participants was 27. Fisher continues to say, "Participants were also mostly first-time protesters. About 27 percent of participants had protested before."

With hashtags like #MeToo, #Blacklivesmatter, and #Mars2020, it has become easier to spread awareness through social media. This begs the question: does protesting affect political participation?

"Yes," Tommy Leung, a co-founder of CountLove.org, says. "I think that, certainly, historically, there's a need to see if protests make a difference...it's very important. He went on to say "In order to make a difference, you need to change who sets the policy. And that means voting."

A VOICE survey of 50 Mercer students showed that 58 percent of students said that they were more likely to vote compared to the 58 percent who said that they were not. Compare this to the national average of 48 percent. Considering 2018 is a midterm and not a primary election, so Mercer would seem to mirror the national trend.

As Professor DeRosa, a political science professor at Mercer, says, "People don't consider [voting] as important as they used to register and vote."

The effect the past two years of street protests on the coming midterm election is yet to be seen, but on

POLITICAL PROTEST



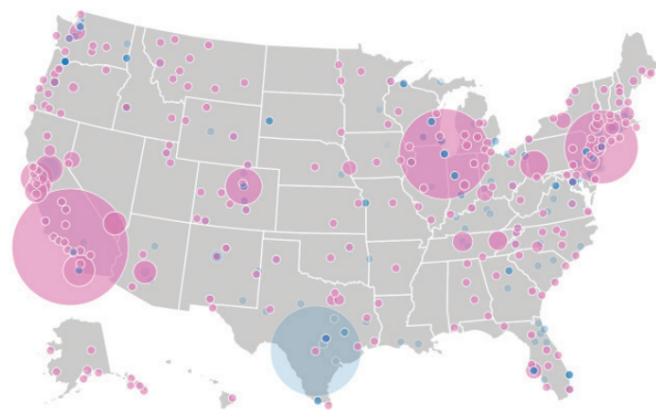
crowd control during the March for Our Lives.



Student walkouts held outside of Hightstown High School, NJ after the Parkland Shootings.

PROTESTS 2018

Largest nationwide protests of 2018 from Countlove.org



Women's March 2018

...million, to the struggle for civil rights, and opposition ... agreement with the government has been a theme ... are seeing something new, protests on a scale and ... now is: will the rallies have an impact on policy or ... is youth participation propelling the movement? ... ed 8,700 protests, and an estimated 5.9-9 million ... rtium. The website Countlove.org puts the number

...n article for The Guardian entitled "We are Living ... nly more people in absolute terms than have ever ... ust for population growth, it's probably a higher ... eight of the Vietnam anti-war movement in 1969

...rcer, told the VOICE, "I remember seeing marches ... and when people my age go to them, it motivates ... ny people from the younger generations at the

...stance groups have united with affiliations with ... by two former congressional staffers. Most, if not

...readth and depth of organizing with little, if any, ... groups are digging into grassroots electoral work ... ions will translate into a decisive blue wave in the

...vism in the Social Media Age" states, "Engagement ... s 18 to 49 are more likely than those ages 50 and ... re to show support for a cause (23 percent vs. 13 ... a about rallies or protests in their area (24 percent ... litical or social issue (20 percent vs. 8 percent)."

...eparate the millennials and the Gen Xers in terms ... in the past two years has been lead by adults, but ... ook a much more visible role specifically leading

...Fishe wrote for The Washington Post, "The D.C. ... ade up of teenagers. Only about 10 percent of the ... e adults in the crowd was just under 49 years old." ... so more likely than those at recent marches to ... articipants at the March for Our Lives had never

...atter, and #Neveragain being used more than 30 ... spread activist messages across the nation. Social ... ss about major issues.

...olitics? ...untlove.org tells the VOICE. "The protests help to ... y, there is some evidence to suggest that we don't ... ry obvious they are not enough alone."

...nce you have to change policy, and you have to ... ing."

...ows 42 percent were registered and intend to vote, ... ere not registered and did not intend to do so. ... ent of millennials who voted in the 2016 election. ... ry election year, these numbers are expected to go ... onal averages.

...rofessor at Mercer explains, "I just think younger ... ey should...They would be the key to this election,

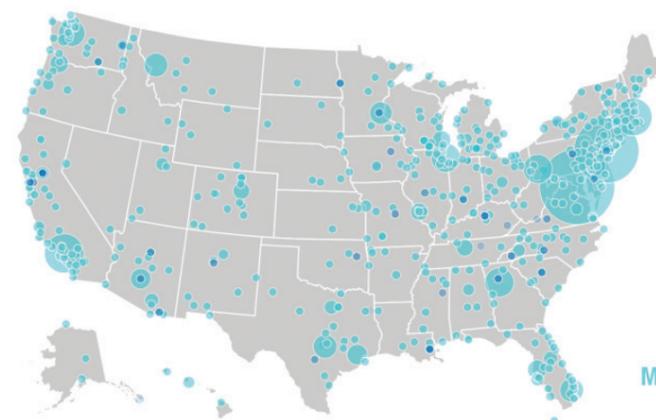
...ests will have on voting choices and turn out this ... on Election Day, November 6, we will find out.



Lambertville and New Hope, NJ Indivisible Rally against the separation of families, July of 2018



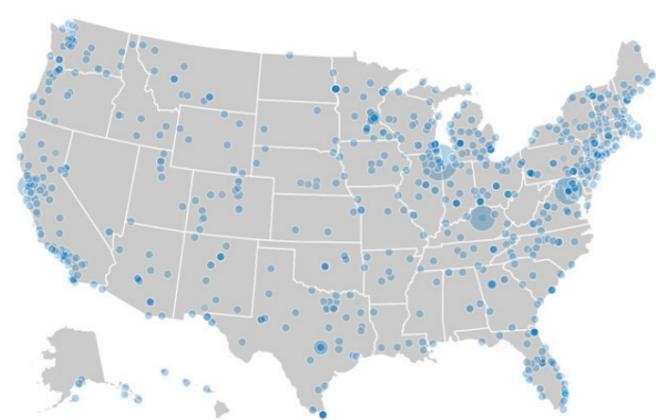
National School Walkout Day, Feb. 2018



March for our Lives, 2018



March for Our Lives



Rallies to reunite families, 2018



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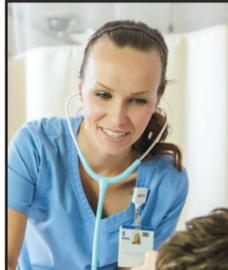


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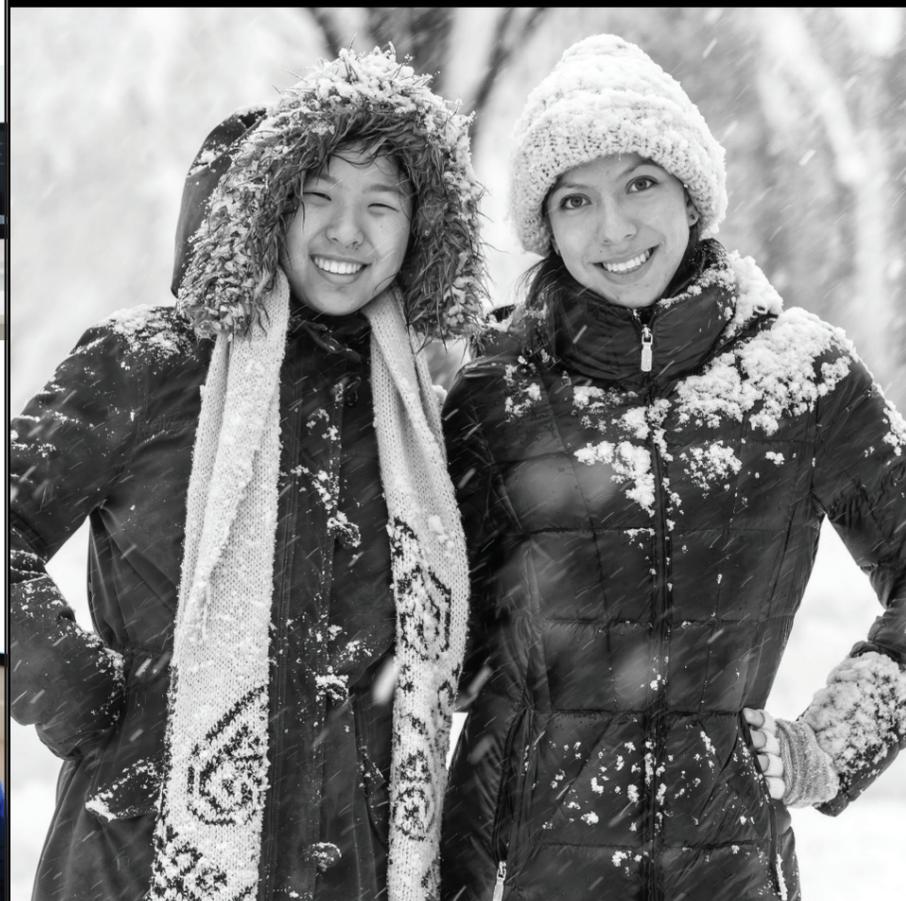
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Monique Beasley
Reporter

Raising a child and attending college was not my first choice when I decided to pursue a communications degree here at Mercer County Community College. I had been living on my own as a young twenty-something for as long as I could remember, so when I decided I would buckle down and finish school, I figured it would be something I could breeze through in a reasonable amount of time. Then I got pregnant at the end of my first year and knew that my timeline was about to change.

It was inevitable that I would have to re-adjust, but along the way I have had crucial support in the form of childcare that allowed me to make the decision to continue on with my education. This isn't the case with many student parents. I believe with the option for free to low cost childcare on MCCC's campuses many more parents would be able to realize their dreams of earning their degree.

My first search for information regarding support for student parents at Mercer led me to the Office of Student Affairs at the West Windsor campus, where I couldn't get a clear answer about what Mercer could provide in this situation. It took scheduling a meeting

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with Dr. Diane Campbell, Vice-President of Student Affairs, who was open to my questions and extremely knowledgeable on the school's past, present and possible future relationship with childcare for its students.

According to Dr. Campbell, Mercer has tried a childcare co-op, collaboration with daycares in the community, and currently connects parents, specifically low-income parents, with Child Care Connection, which is a state agency, to help them obtain vouchers for childcare locations in their neighborhoods. She says there was once a child care facility on campus, but it didn't last.

"At one time we had a full-blown child care center with teachers, and assistants and everything that the state law required...and it was run by Lakeview," Dr. Campbell said.

The obvious issue was the cost.

"The problem was that it was too expensive for our students, and we had planned

that people in the community would use the center and we would use that money to pay for the center. We just weren't able to make the financial aspect of that work, because our students couldn't pay what the other people were paying, so that effort closed." Dr. Campbell said.

Funding may be an issue, but the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program (CCAMPIS) may be a viable option for funding a new childcare center on campus. This program, according to the US Department of Education website, is a grant that supports low-income parents and schools willing to provide campus-based child care services. Although it looked as if the funding might be cut under the Trump administration, the White House proposal for the 2019 fiscal budget requested 15.1 million for the program.

A report published by the Institute for Women's Policy Research says close to one-fourth of all college students

are parents and according to Community College Daily, 45 percent of the student parents in post-secondary education are enrolled in community college classes. With education impacting earnings, providing childcare would be a big incentive to get parents, especially single parents from low-income areas, back to school. This impact can also predict their own children's decision to pursue higher education according to data from a study titled Passing the Torch, and it improves parenting choices and behaviors. These are all significant reasons to re-assess the childcare availability on campus.

Choosing to go back to school before I had my daughter and attending school while pregnant and after her birth have proven to be two different worlds. Without support in the form of quality childcare, my path towards getting my degree with a child would be much different.

Having childcare has played a huge part in my work and school choices as I am able to build my schedule around when I have a caregiver for my daughter. My partner and I have options, but for the parents who don't and who have to figure out what to do when they desire to lift themselves up, providing a place for our children to be cared for while we care for ourselves would benefit the community as a whole.

Do you see a
typo?

Join the staff and
help us fix it!

Meetings Mon + Thur
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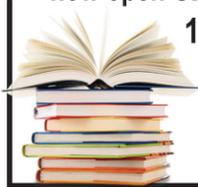
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The Education for All Handicapped Children Act gave me a future

MY VIEW



Laurie Gallagher

The Education for All Handicapped Children Act was enacted and signed by President Gerald Ford in 1975. As the government's informational site about the act states, "Since 1975, we have progressed from excluding nearly 1.8 million children with disabilities from public schools to providing more than 6.9 million children with disabilities special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs."

Fortunately, I was born the year before that so I am one of the 6.9 million who, without this legislation, may have never gotten an education. Students like me, with Down Syndrome, were often taken out of school. People didn't think we could succeed.

Fortunately, I was born the year before that so I am one of the 6.9 million who, without this legislation, may have never gotten an education. Students like me, with Down Syndrome, were often taken out of school. People didn't think we could succeed.

Although academics are hard for us, we do have potential and the law made it possible for us to prove it.

I had early intervention attending a special education-focused preschool. When my family moved to Massachusetts, I initially was assigned to a regular middle school, but with the help of some of my teachers, my parents went to court to fight

so I could go to a school with a special education program.

We ended up leaving Massachusetts for New Jersey where I continued my education, attending West Windsor-Plainsboro Middle School, and then West Windsor-Plainsboro High School.

There, I had a lot of help from my parents, teachers and some really good peer groups to help me achieve my goals and reach my potential. My parents and three siblings taught me to never give up.

Here at Mercer, the DREAM program--part of Mercer's Center for Inclusion, Transition, and Accessibility, Directed by Arlene Stinson--helps

people with disabilities to get as far as they can in higher education. It started in 2005 with a grant from the parents of a college student with Down Syndrome. Since then the program has grown and includes about 40 mentors and tutors to help students with their classes.

I never thought that I would go to college, but look at me now! Not only do I take classes at Mercer, but I am also a reporter/writer for The College VOICE, which I love so much. Everyone has a voice here.

One day I hope to have a family of my own and to become a writer of books and music. I love dance and theater, too. These things seem more within reach because I have had access to education.

To all who read this article: please keep trying your best in everything that you do in your life. Be kind to yourself and others, and never give up--with or without disabilities!

Written with support from VOICE staff.

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

ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



Help is here!

Dear Voice,
Last week I was walking to class and a giant squirrel stopped in the path in front of me and demanded I hand over my Dunkin coffee. I gave it to him, but what the heck? What do I do next time? Will there be a next time?
-Accosted by Squirrel

Dear Voice,
I hear the school is crawling with mold. I'm starting to feel sick and there's no health center. What can I do?
--- Sneezzy

Dear Sneezzy,
Look on the bright side, penicillin mold is one of the origins of modern antibiotics. We are not saying it can treat your sinuses, but breathing in Mercer air shouldn't kill you. -The VOICE

Dear Accosted by Squirrel,
Oh, there will definitely be a next time. This is a common occurrence on the West Windsor campus. We have found they aren't as fond of WaWa coffee, so you can make the switch. Alternatively, take classes on the Trenton JKC campus where they are less prevalent. Whatever you do, don't

confront those suckers. They are violent. -The VOICE

Dear Voice,
I think one of my professors is a vampire. He is pale as a ghost and never has his office light on when I come by. What should I do?
-Wooden Stake

Dear Wooden Stake,
All the professors look that way this time of year, but if you are worried about your grade, definitely don't eat a garlicky meal before class. - The VOICE

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

HOROSCOPES



Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Live so you wouldn't mind if your parrot was stolen by the town gossip. That came from a fortune cookie. What you should really do is not have a parrot.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Guess whose best laid plans are going to get completely derailed this month? Yup. You. You are going to have to bend in the wind or your nerves will snap.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

The last time you caught a lucky break was...um...never? Good news. Finally something decent is going to happen to you. Expect it soon.



Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

The holidays are coming up and you are not 100% confident that is a good thing. It's okay to not always look forward to family gatherings.



Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20

It's fall and you are suddenly feeling cooped up. Time to get out to a free fall festival or spend time in nature. It will help you concentrate and feel more free.



Gemini
May 21 - Jun. 20

You are going through something challenging. You will need to call in as much support as you can. Do not be afraid to reach out. That is *not* a sign of weakness!



Cancer
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

Sometimes it makes sense to spend more time with animals than people. This is a good time to snuggle a pet or visit a zoo or outdoor animal sanctuary.



Leo
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

Maybe 2018 wasn't the most productive, but there is good news. The next few months will bring you stamina and will power to get things done.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Now is the time to shut out negative voices and give yourself some positive self talk. If you can't think of anything good to say, try posting a few inspirational quotes in place where you can see them.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Movie time. You need to get your work done, but you need to veg out, too. If the cineplex is too pricey, there is always Netflix or Hulu or Amazon. Preserve your sanity by zoning out.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Your stomach may be bothering you. The low grade issue probably won't stop you from working, but it can be a bother. A lot of it is stress related. Deep breathing may help.



Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Between work, family, and Mercer you are stretched thin this month. Things may not look like they will ever ease up, but the good news is, you are making so much progress toward your goals!

2X DILBERT



SUDOKU

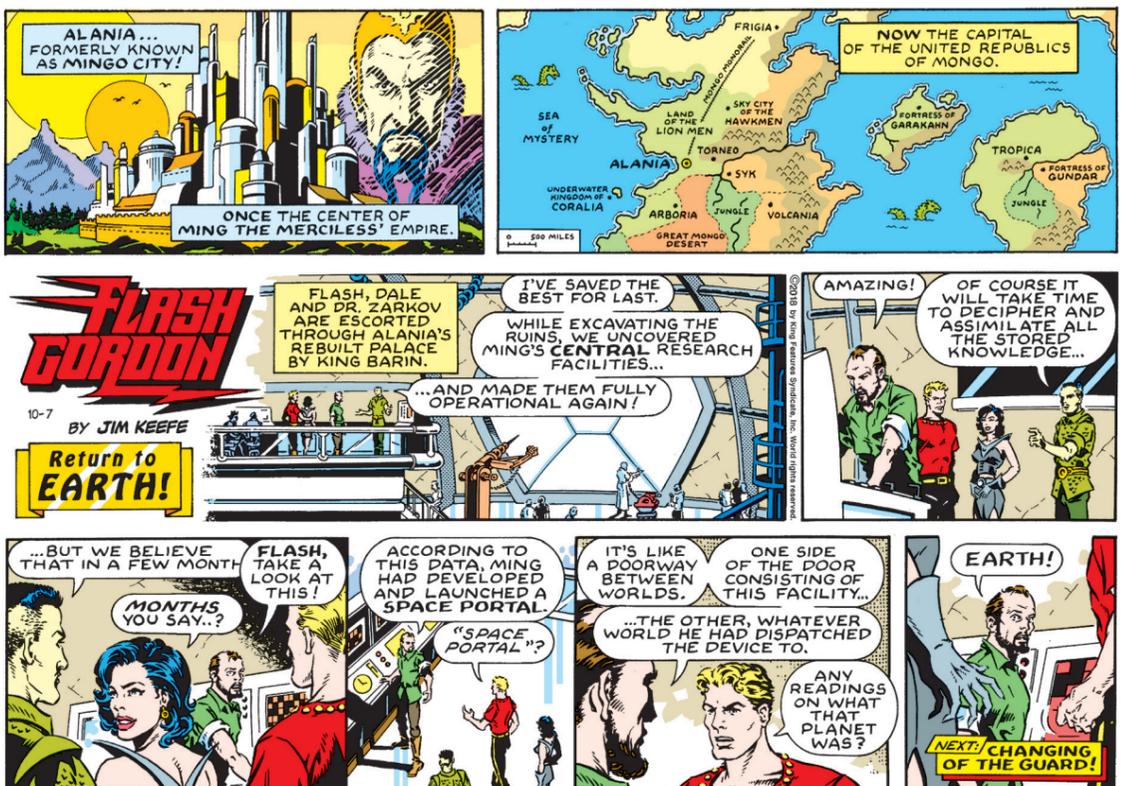
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

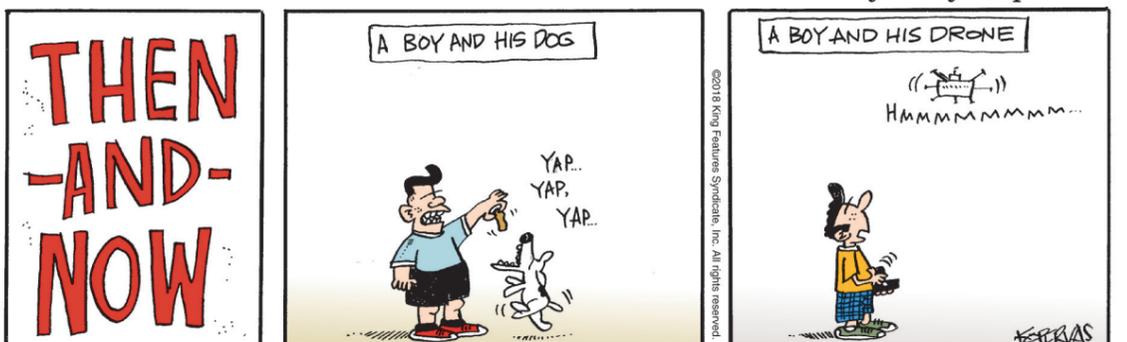
- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

FLASH GORDON



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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

Did you know **Midterms** are more important than Presidential elections?

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