

February 11, 2019
Volume 49, Issue 4

“POST TENEBRAS LUX”

A STUDENT PRESS SERVING
MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AND ITS NEIGHBORING AREAS EST. 1968
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The day the racists didn’t show up

When white pride group didn’t show, counter-protestors held anti-racism rally instead

By Drew Mumich
Senior Reporter

During the second week of January, signs were spotted on Princeton’s campus announcing a self-identified “white pride” group called the New Jersey European Heritage Association (NJEHA) planned to hold a rally in Palmer Square on January 12 at noon. They never showed, claiming on their website that the whole thing had been a hoax. However several hundred counter-protestors, including activist Cornel West, still showed up and held a peaceful anti-racism rally.

A variety of different organizations including Black Lives Matter, Democratic Socialists of New Jersey and the Women’s March were represented.

Daryle Lamont Jenkins, a founder and Executive Director of One People’s Project, an organization that monitors the behavior and actions of racist groups, said “It was community people that put this together. They were the ones that organized it. They were the ones that contacted us and let us know.”

Rally participants walked the length of Palmer Square, chanting a variety of slogans like “No ban! No wall! Tear it down and free them all!” and “Black lives matter!” They brought the kinds of colorful signs that have become a hallmark of rallies starting with the first Women’s March back in 2016. Signs said things like “Stand against racism!” and “We are one human family,” and “Your hate can’t kill our love.”

On the NJEHA website homepage, they define their intent by saying, “ATTENTION ALL AMERICAN PATRIOTS! Our European race is in a struggle for survival. Don’t sit idly by as we fight for existence.” This is accompanied by a picture of a milk carton with a very blond, blue-eyed child on the side, below which reads “MISSING: A FUTURE FOR WHITE CHILDREN.”

Kristin Beatty, a protest organizer, and a co-chair for the Hudson County branch of



PHOTO | KRISTEN MILLER

Activist and former Princeton Professor Cornel West greets Princeton locals at anti-racism rally in Palmer Square on Saturday, January 12. , 2019

“It’s okay to be white, but it is just not okay to be an asshole racist.”
--Protest participant, Ashley Lewallen

North New Jersey Democratic Socialists said, “The casual acceptance of racism, and white supremacy--whether it be the police department or anyone who is in elected positions--we need to call out hate, call it out for the racism and the hatred that it is. [Rhetoric from groups like NJEHA] is never just freedom of speech, it is always violent. They are inciting violence against groups of people.”

Reached by email for comment today the NJEHA responded with only an invitation to join their group. Other than that their only statement was a release saying there was never going to be a march. “There was NO application for a permit. There were NO social media postings announcing a rally. Next time do a little more research than the FAKE NEWS

MEDIA! Have fun and keep warm at your ‘anti-racist’ echo-chamber today.”

As Ashley Lewallen, a Hamilton resident attending the protest said, “It’s okay to be white, but it is just not okay to be an asshole racist.”

The protest ended at 1:30pm when Kristin Beatty stood up in front of the group telling them, “Thank you for coming out to this event, it is extremely important. Even though the nazis backed down, they backed down because of you.”

Harvard Professor Cornel West, and Lamont Jenkins, stood up and thanked the crowd as well. They ended with a “We believe that we will win!” chant before the crowds parted.

An earlier version of this article appeared online at mcccvoice.org/antiracism_rally/



PHOTO | KRISTEN MILLER

ABOVE: Protestors of many ages, races and faiths turned out to an anti-racism rally in Princeton on January 12, 2019. They brought signs and chanted slogans in support of diversity. RIGHT: Signs advertising a white pride rally were spotted around the Princeton campus in the week leading up to January 12.



Food insecurity a major problem for MCCC students

College says help is available, but information about food pantries is inconsistent and not widely known

By Chelsey Johnstone & Drew Mumich
Senior Reporters

According to a food access survey of 50 Mercer students, half reported that they had gone hungry because they didn't have money for food and 41 percent said they officially qualified for food stamps, also known as SNAP. College administrators say that there is help available for hungry students, but students say they are not aware of it and accounts of what is available, to whom, and where are inconsistent.

The problem of hunger on campus was raised by Mercer president Dr. Jianping Wang at the spring College Assembly when she told faculty and staff that she anticipated the college would set up a food bank on campus to help students whose food stamp benefits were impacted by the government shutdown.

In a later interview, Dr. Wang said, "The college has been operating informally and quietly the food bank for quite a bit of time...Even before the government shut down, there were students coming to the college on an empty stomach."

Dr. Wang said she believed there is a small office room located at both campuses dedicated to donations of food and clothing. She says she even brought in 5 boxes of Cup-of-Noodles for a donation.

"Three stayed here [at West Windsor] and two went to JKC," Wang said.

However, when look-



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

ing for the specific locations, The VOICE could not find them. Instead, several sources said that, in fact, there aren't any actual pantries yet. They said food help is coordinated in quieter, private interactions. If a student reaches out to a counselor for help, they will try to get them what they need.

According to Bryan O'Neal, Assistant to the Dean at the James Kerney campus, he was elected to the "food pantry board" in November. He says, "They asked if I would spearhead JKC and I said 'sure, I think it's a great idea.'"

O'Neal said, "Here on

[James Kerney] campus we have two rooms we are looking at...We have started some work. I started press[ing] for shelving." According to O'Neal, this food pantry is at creation stage. He says he hopes the JKC pantry will be ready by March.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, which oversees the food stamp program, beneficiaries got their February benefits early because of the government shutdown but now, even though the government has reopened, the aid processing for this month has been interrupted, so recipients have to make those February funds

stretch much farther. With the prospect of another shutdown looming, SNAP recipients are in danger.

According to research, hunger has a profound impact on student success.

A bill introduced in the NJ state Assembly on October 18, 2018 that expands student access to food stamps reads, "Food insecurity carries serious consequences for student success. In one study, the majority of students experiencing food insecurity reported missing classes and study sessions, and not buying required textbooks...Hunger also impairs cognitive development

into adolescence and adulthood, leading to poorer test scores and the inability to fully engage in classes."

It is not clear how much help is actually available for students on Mercer's campuses, but it is certain that many students need help and none are receiving any information.

Whether there is assistance or not, by not letting students know they can ask for help, the college may be increasing the sense of stigma that surrounds asking for support. According to the research, this may be quietly reducing students' ability to complete their education.

Residents have high hopes for new Trenton High School set to open in fall

By Tory Richardson
Reporter

Dyanna Montilla is a third-year Liberal Arts student at Mercer. She is part of the Intervarsity Christian club and is an activist for urban communities and overlooked populations. She is also a 2015 graduate of Trenton High School.

Asked to describe the conditions at her former school Montilla says "[It] was bad. Like when it rained there were leaks and literally, parts of the ceiling would fall in the stairwells...The bathrooms were in bad shape. The stall doors were broken where you couldn't close them, and the floorboards were lifting from the ground."

Asked if the physical problems with the school impacted her education, Montilla says, "Absolutely! It affected the education of the students. You want to know why? Because first of all, with no air conditioning during hot weather, we were not focused so much on learning but just staying cool and that can cause irritation."

Montilla says Trenton

High students felt a strong stigma.

"We knew as Trenton High students how surrounding communities felt about us. They felt that we were worthless. They felt that we were stupid, and for that building to be that way, you could presume that New Jersey didn't care about Trenton High students," Montilla says.

Despite the disrepair of the school, Montilla says, "I loved Trenton High...Some of my positive experiences were the diversity of the school, some of my teachers were caring and there for me and I really feel like I obtained rich knowledge from certain courses."

State Senator Shirley K. Turner visited Trenton High in 2012 to observe the conditions and said at the time, "As the condition of the school has been ignored, the problems have gotten worse. We've now reached a point where endless patchwork and band-aids will not suffice. It's time to pull the plug and take the high school off life support. We need to build a new Trenton Central High School."

Trenton High recon-

struction began with the destruction of the old building. A variety of historical artifacts were preserved and will now be seen inside the main entrance and cafeteria courtyard. Trenton Central High school will open this fall of 2019 for grades 10 to 12.

The new facility, which cost \$155 million to build, will be state of the art. According to The Trentonian, "The new school will boast a variety of amenities, including a swimming pool, dance studio, weight room, media center and full-stage auditorium with a balcony level, in addition to a plethora of educational labs dedicated to science, culinary arts and other areas complementing a holistic curriculum."

According to an editorial in the Times of Trenton "If progress to date is any indication, students will be returning to a state-of-the-art facility. Boasting a television studio, a 1000-seat auditorium and outdoor amphitheater."

In 2013, local community leaders and Trenton high school teachers were fighting along with the Board of Educa-



PHOTO | TORY RICHARDSON

The building site of the new Trenton High School as of February, 2019.

tion, for state funding to rebuild Trenton Central. Eventually, the Board of Education filed a lawsuit against the state.

Shirley K. Turner released a statement in response to the lawsuit saying,

"The State of New Jersey and the Schools Development Authority have shown indifference toward Trenton's children for more than a decade. They have ignored the deplorable conditions of our high school where our students must spend their school days.

It is gratifying to know that the Trenton Board of Education is finally taking this long-needed action."

Monica Morris who teaches culinary arts in the Trenton system says that she has been teaching at the Hanover campus for about five years now and that she will be happy to go back to the new campus.

"The building is going to be an exciting opportunity and everyone is looking forward to it," Morris says.

TASK serves up education as well as meals



Locals receive tutoring help from TASK volunteers.

COLLEGE VOICE FILE PHOTO | CJ HARKER

By Michael Bolden
Senior Reporter

Annette Tarver was once a student at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) on 72 Escher street, which serves up education along with daily meals. She received her GED high school equivalency degree then and decided to give back to the community by tutoring those who were in a similar position as her.

"I thought I couldn't do it, but Mrs. Kelly had faith and confidence in me when I had so very little. So I kept coming and kept trying. Mrs. Kelly asked me if I would like to come back and tutor when I passed the [GED] test. She didn't say 'if' I passed it, she said 'when' I pass it," Tarver says.

The Kelly she is referring to is Kelly Hansen, TASK's

Adult Education Coordinator who explains that in addition to formal GED education, TASK offers lots of other tutoring for everything from the driving learner permit test to typing lessons. Tutors have even taught cursive before. Hansen notes that they provide free donated books and even have educational trips that patrons can go on.

Although New Jersey is the fourth wealthiest state in America, it is home to a number of severely poverty stricken cities. According to the US Census Bureau, the median household income in Trenton is only \$31,592 while the state median is \$76,126. Within Trenton, the poverty rate is 27.8 percent and the city has a current unemployment of 7.2 percent.

The poverty rate in the capital city corresponds to high rates of homelessness and hun-

ger. According to the US Department of Agriculture and the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey, large portions of Trenton count as "food deserts" meaning an area with inadequate access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other whole foods due to lack of grocery stores.

To combat Trenton's lack of nutritious food and high levels of homelessness, the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen was founded in 1982. It is a non-profit organization that relies on donations of goods and services to operate.

Markoline Forkpa, Development and Community Relations Specialist for TASK says, "A lot of our patrons don't have stable housing so they don't have a place where they can shower every day, things that people would normally take for granted."



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

TASK volunteer, Ann, helps prep desserts. The soup kitchen prepares more than 350,000 meals each year.

TASK prepares more than 350,000 meals a year, which feed local children and patrons with the help of Mercer Street Friends, a human service agency. TASK also maintains a list of ways that the public can help with the fight against hunger and homelessness in Trenton through donation and community service.

The Manager of Development and Community Relations for TASK, J. Steinhauer, says, "Today you might see about 100 to 200 people come through the doors, but the meal isn't going to change the world for them. We try to give them

skills that improve the quality of life and self-sufficiency. Ideally, the organization and programs will help improve the quality of life for those involved."

Sherane Watson, a Volunteer for TASK said, "The [TASK patrons'] world is much different from ours. To come here to study and achieve and to do. I salute them for getting up every day and trying to come back from difficult experiences. They come in with hard baggage, and to sit through that and try to help them get to a comfortable place where they can stand on their own is rewarding."

Controversy reduced numbers at this year's Women's March

By Drew Mumich
Senior Reporter

For the past two years, since Trump was elected president, multiple Women's Marches have been held nationwide, but this year allegations that organization leader Tamika Mallory is anti-semitic lead people to set up alternate marches or cancel local marches. Mallory has been associated with Minister Louis Farrakhan who is the leader of Nation of Islam, which the Southern Poverty Law Center classifies as a hate group.

Sherrie Cohen, an attorney running for City Council in Philadelphia said, "I don't believe that the leaders of the women's march are anti-semitic. I am Jewish feminist, and am happy to give my voice as a Jewish woman to say that you know, even they were at one time were attending some event that Farrakhan was at, does that by virtue of that alone make them anti-semitic? I think that's pretty heavy standards that some have

tried to put on the organizers."

Several organizations like Black Lives Matter and The Democratic National Committee left the Women's March. Several chapters disbanded, including the Washington State Chapter, and there were cancellations in cities like Chicago and New Orleans.

In Philadelphia, the Women's March split in two: the official Women's March of Pennsylvania and The Philly Women's Rally.

Gwen Snyder, a Grassroots Movement Strategist and speaker at the march said, "There are two different marches. The organizers behind the problematic march from last year [are] at the other end of the parkway." Snyder also noted that the Philly Women's Rally aimed to be inclusive to trans and non-binary people, which she said "has been a problem in the Women's March."

Despite the various issues, thousands of people still came out from all across the tri-

state area, braving near freezing conditions to participate in the two separate marches that eventually converged at Love Park and at The Art Museum to listen to speakers on both sides creating a rally that spanned the entirety of the Ben Franklin Parkway.

As South Philadelphia resident Talya Milskauskis said, "I think as women we need to unite, so it is just always really powerful when women come together and all from different walks of life. We're all here pushing for different causes, but at the end of the day you know we all need to support each other and just have each other's backs."

Women affiliated with a variety of groups have been instrumental in the reshaping of the most recent Congress which includes 102 women elected to the House of Representative and 14 women elected to the Senate, 45 of those women of color.



PHOTO | KRISTEN MILLER

Icy temperatures didn't stop this mom and her daughter from attending this year's Women's March in Philadelphia on January 19, 2019.

Complex challenges face international student athletes



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

Mercer earned a decisive 4-0 victory against Monroe of Rochester on October 13, 2018, with international athletes Daiki Nagata of Japan scoring 3 goals and Oshana Boothe of Jamaica gaining the fourth.

By Caitlin Clarke
Senior Reporter

Starting out at a new school can be a daunting task. New students worry about making new friends, learning their way around campus and figuring out how to handle the workload that comes along with college life. For international students, things are even more complicated. There are the added challenges of operating in a second language, being far from home, and trying to figure out a new culture.

According to Mercer's Office of International Student Services, there are currently 150 international students enrolled at the college. The men's soccer team includes 22 of these students, or roughly 15 percent of the international population on campus.

The team is composed of players from eight different countries around the world: the United States, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Brazil, Italy, Japan and Jamaica.

Upon arrival in the United States, which, in most cases, happens for the first time after the student has enrolled at Mercer, international student athletes face a variety of obstacles including balancing schoolwork with sports schedules and the overall experience of being a foreigner.

Some issues seem to be universally challenging for international student athletes such as getting used to the winter weather, locating housing, and coping with unfamiliar food.

Other difficulties are more personal. Sophomore Sanad Khalileh of Amman, Jordan says that a particular challenge for him has been dealing with negative stereotypes some Americans have about people from the Middle East.

"I don't know what [people] think or what comes right away in their mind. The sad part is that they talked to me

"When people are coming from another country, they have to be sure that they understand everything that they are going to have to do here. Because if someone comes from another country and they get here they can be disappointed. It's not what they expect."

-Diego Leite, International Student Athlete

before and we were having fun, laughing, whatever, everything was normal. The moment I say I am from the Middle East I feel like everything changes." Khalileh says.

He adds that he hopes to use the skills he's learning in Mercer's TV and Film Production program in order to reduce the negative stigma attached to Middle Eastern culture.

Other players, such as Team Captain Diego Leite of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, have a very different experience upon telling people about their nationality.

"Actually, [people] like when we say that we are Brazilian. They think it's fun." Leite says.

According to Mercer Athletic Director John Simone, soccer players use the internet to promote themselves to potential college coaches, sending highlight videos in order to showcase their skills.

At the point of recruitment to Mercer's team, Simone states that the scholarships that players may receive vary in their coverage of tuition fees. He says that players may receive full or half-tuition scholarships, or, in some cases, scholarships that bring the tuition fees for international students down to in-county rates.

Additional living costs are largely up to the international student athletes themselves to cover.

According to the International Students webpage on Mercer's website, "International students and their families or sponsors must assume all responsibility for student expenses." Living expenses per

semester--not including tuition and course fees--are listed as approximately \$12,000.

These expenses include room and board, books and supplies, and transportation and personal expenses.

Khalileh says, "The guys came here, they didn't know where to live, they have only one apartment. It's really hard."

Mercer does have a partnership with Rider University for the provision of living residencies to students, but the fees are high. According to the Rider University website, each semester in a Rider dorm costs a Mercer student nearly \$8,000. The costs are often prohibitive for international students who also have to consider the cost of airfare to and from their home country, among other personal living expenses.

Despite the challenges, Mercer's student athletes have positive views about the choice they made to come here.

"In the USA you have more opportunities when you graduate to find jobs.... In Italy I know a lot of people that graduate with amazing grades, but they are still looking for a job." Davico said.

Davico transferred to Mercer from Barton Community College in Kansas this year. He is one of six Italian players on the team, some of whom attended the same high school and are from the same Northwestern Italian city of Genova.

Establishing bonds with players from the same country may help student athletes face another key challenge: homesickness.

In a study published in



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

Teammates at home game against Monroe of Rochester on October 13, 2018.



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

Freshman Matheus Martins fights for the ball during a home game against Monroe of Rochester on October 13, 2018.

The Sport Journal which provided a qualitative analysis of the transition of international students into their new lives in America, researchers found that 67 percent of students surveyed found homesickness to be the most difficult part of life in the US.

Beyond homesickness, the second biggest challenge is maintaining academic success. According to NJCAA rules, students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA to remain in good academic standing if they want to continue to play.

In terms of the academics and the general conditions on Mercer's campus, there is broad consensus among the soccer players that the resources are good.

"The environment, the people, the professors, the facilities, everything is really good." Khalileh says.

But an academic issue that many players stumble over is the need to take English as a Second Language (ESL) classes before they can take their regular English 101 and 102 sequence.

According to ESL Coordinator Michael Beihl, there are

four levels of ESL that a student may need to take. The number of semesters to be dedicated to these courses is determined by their scores on the ESL Accuplacer test.

From there, ESL students work with advisors in registration in order to organize their schedules.

Professor Beihl says, "Typically a student who comes in at the very lowest level could spend four semesters, which is the equivalent of two years, doing ESL... If they study in the summer, because our program is all year round, they can get done with the whole program by the following fall."

Diego Leite said, "When people are coming from another country, they have to be sure that they understand everything that they are going to have to do here. Because if someone comes from another country and they get here they can be disappointed. It's not what they expect."

While the players seem to have an overall positive experience at Mercer, many factors make the experience complex and challenging.

Men's hoops starts season shorthanded

By Cassie Webb
Reporter

Four players were benched at the start of the Mercer Men's basketball season as a result of academic struggles. According to NJCAA and Mercer guidelines, players must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA in order to be allowed to participate.

Because so many students were struggling, the team played the first games with just seven players, meaning most of them had to play the entire 40 minutes of each game.

Men's Basketball Head Coach Howard Levy says that this is the second time in his 11 years with the team that academic eligibility has been such a serious issue. As reported in a March 2014 issue of The VOICE, the team's roster was "down to six players at the beginning [of March]."

That same year, the Vikings still managed to make the playoffs as the #7 seed.

Levy further explained his thoughts about his players' academic struggles during the current season.

Levy said, "We have some players that it's their first semester in college and maybe didn't come from the strongest high schools."

According to Levy, a significant academic challenge results from the amount of games that are routinely scheduled throughout the month of December. Students sometimes find that they don't have a sufficient amount of study time to



Mercer men's basketball beat the Barons of Burlington County 61-60 on February 2 at Rowan.

PHOTO | CASSIE WEBB

perform well on their final exams at the end of the fall semester.

Levy said "When you go to a four-year college, almost every school takes 10 days off in December when it's time for exams, and here we are playing 2-3 games a week during that period."

Levy thinks a shift in the scheduling could be benefi-

cial.

"We don't have a lot of games in January to allow [players] to get their eligibility which maybe we should be reversing and playing less games in December," Levy says.

Even with the lack of players, Levy says, "We actually didn't lose any games."

Levy said, "When you

are practicing with 4 guys you have to be creative in order to get things done."

He adds, however, that having returning players who played last season helped.

"It didn't take us as long as it usually does to get pretty good," Levy says.

The season started back in December and three players who were on academic proba-

tion took winter classes and were able to get their eligibility back and return to the team.

With most of his players back other than current injuries Levy says, "It looks pretty good. We will be in the playoffs." He adds, "We have room and time to get better again before the playoffs start."

Despite all the problems the team has a record of 13-7 heading to the playoffs.

Mercer's first ever men's lacrosse team gears up for inaugural season

By Bianca Martinez
Reporter

Mercer men's lacrosse team will begin their first ever season on February 9 in an away scrimmage against Drew University.

The men's lacrosse Head Coach Rob Siris, who was appointed in August 2017, says, "I was a Drew alum, so this is exciting for me. I think it's good for our guys to see what Division III NCAA competition looks like...We're just looking to get out there and compete. You learn a lot of lessons about what your depth is like, offensively and defensively."

The scrimmage against Drew is not an official in-season game, but it does allow the team to get their bearings.

"We're not really looking at the scoreboard, but we just want to get us competing against other players, rather than just ourselves in practice," says Siris.

After holding practice sessions in spring 2018, the players and coach continued throughout the fall semester

while playing various scrimmages over the past few months.

The biggest difference over the past year is squad size. Mercer's Athletic Director, John Simone, said in a phone interview, "This year now has the group of freshmen who came here specifically to play lacrosse. So, it's almost double the squad number."

Siris adds, "We've just practiced so much. Last spring, we practiced 2-3 days a week. This fall was looking a bit more intense and then we're going about 5-6 days a week now... The skillset is just so much stronger than it was even in the fall...We're trying to make small steps, but it's been really dramatic the progress since last spring."

Brady Moore, a first-year student who plays offense, and who according to the Mercer website, Moore joined Mercer as a "two-time All-American at Hopewell Valley and the Trenton Times area lacrosse player of the year in 2015" says, "Our stick skills are definitely up there...I'd also say, just overall enjoyment for the game is helping us."

Siris blasts music every day during practice to



Mercer's men's lacrosse team starts its first season this spring under coach Rob Siris.

PHOTO | BIANCA MARTINEZ

keep the positive energy going. He says, "It's up tempo. We play fast, the guys really enjoy it. Whether today was 15 degrees, [but the] guys are loving being out there."

Moore says, "Mainly we want to definitely win our conference and hopefully to get players to the school they want to go to next year."

As the head of the athletic department, John Simone says, "I hope it

continues to bring us new students that normally wouldn't come to the college, but now that we have lacrosse, they will come here and study here."

Siris also shares the same sentiment. He states, "We want this to be a place where the top lacrosse players in New Jersey and beyond come here to play lacrosse and get a great education."

The introduction of

lacrosse to Mercer for the first time in its history presents a new era. With talent ranging from defense to offense, the players and coach will be hoping to get off on a good start.

The men's lacrosse team will play their first official home game on February 23rd against Finger Lakes Community College at 3:00 P.M.

Folks flock to fright theme restaurant



PHOTO | CHELSEY JOHNSTONE

Florida native Brittany Chaner celebrates her birthday with a trip to Beetle House NYC.

By Chelsey Johnstone
Senior Reporter

Down the dark alley of East 6th Street in New York, lives a hidden 4-star bar and dinner venue that holds and brings to life death; along with all things eerie, haunting and Halloween.

Beetle House, the Tim Burton themed restaurant has created an entertainment factor like no other, combining the spooky and twisted factors of Tim Burton films along with high-end dining and drinking. Whether you share a meal with Jack Skellington of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* movie or Beetlejuice from movie title, each guest is transported to a chilling, yet exciting, Halloween world of their own, no matter the time of year.

Zach Neil (39), the venue's owner and co-creator explains where the idea for Beetle House came from saying, "When I was old enough to start doing what I wanted to do, I started getting really into Halloween...I was kind of always really obsessed with it secretly."

Growing up in a deeply religious family, Neil says he was never able to celebrate the holiday. He had to sneak around.

"When I was a kid, I snuck in the movie theater to see *Beetlejuice* and that was a big no no. My family was super upset," Neil said, continuing, "That kind of started my whole journey."

In April 2016, after consulting with a business partner, Neil decided to create Beetle House; a place centered around what he loves, Halloween.

He says, "I wanted to open up a place where it was holiday year round."

In order to create the spooky and ominous atmosphere Neil had envisioned for Beetle House, he decided the building that hosted the restaurant should reflect its beautiful horror.

By simply checking craigslist ads, Neil was able to stumble upon just the right venue.

"There are a lot of rumors that this place had been a bar or a pub since the 1800s. There was a shootout in it, a couple of murders, and some suicides. The place was kind of small and kind of creepy," he stated.

Having such a niche theme, Neil was not sure how well the restaurant would do. However, within a month of its spring opening reservations were booked solid until Christmas.

"I think that a lot more people than I even thought kinda



PHOTO | CHELSEY JOHNSTONE

Mercer alumna Samantha Caputi gets a fright from Jack Skellington as he approaches for a conversation.



PHOTO | CHELSEY JOHNSTONE

Jack Skellington consults with diners as they explain to him what a cellphone is.

shared my same vision for just things that are a little bit more macabre or dark," Neil says.

Not only was there an active culture interested in visiting and experiencing the restaurant, there is also an active group of actors hoping to work at the venue, and Neil finds a way to employ them.

"I've always wanted Beetle House to be a place where the creators, actors, and musicians, the artist people of the world to go and to be a person who can provide employment for those people," Neil states.

In fact, many of the actors employed at Beetle House are recruited from the local the-

ater and performing arts schools nearby such as NYU.

"We try to get all of our people from the local acting community, the young and upcoming people that need money... this is a steady gig for them. They can work two to three days a week, they get paid well, and it helps them kind of pursue their bigger dreams," says Neil.

One actress, Charlotte Smart (23), who plays Victor, the main character from Tim Burton's *The Corpse Bride*, as well as Mrs. Lovett from *Sweeney Todd*, says, "I am a long time Tim Burton Fan. I'm talking when I was a baby; [I loved] *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Nightmare Before Christ-*

mas, *Corpse Bride*, and *Sweeney Todd*."

Smart says her job is to, "Give them a show, try to visit as many tables as possible." However, she says, "The fourth wall is gone, there is no fourth wall."

Indeed, patrons are warned ahead of time that the actors will get in their personal space.

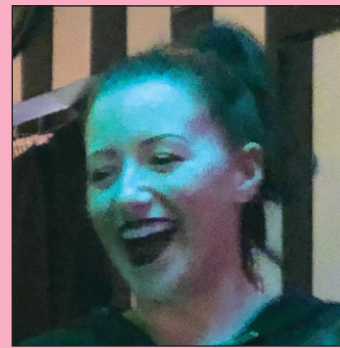
"If you are going into the restaurant you are consenting to an interactive environment," Smart said, adding, "For the most part, we get a lot of positive feedback because there are people going in accepting and expecting this very in your face, interactive [environment]."

Since its opening in April of 2016, Beetle House has been highly successful and has since expanded to include a Los Angeles branch that includes a larger space and even more dinner-theater action.

According to Neil and business partner Gia Farrell, the franchise is planning on expanding on the global scale in the near future, however, Neil says he doesn't want to expand beyond his means.

"I'm never going to franchise at the level that most franchisers do because I always want Beetle House to be special," Neil says.

Find more online at
www.beetlehousenyc.com



GIA FARRELL

BEETLE HOUSE PARTNER HAS A HOST OF OTHER TALENTS

Gia Farrell is Zach Neil's business partner at Beetle House. In addition to running the business, Farrell works on cocktail design--including colorful drinks that froth with liquid nitrogen--but she is perhaps best known for her contributions to a completely different aspect of the entertainment industry.



A Gia Farrell cocktail

Singing since she was a toddler, Farrell was signed to Atlantic Records label at age 16. In January of 2007, Farrell's first album came out, *Hit Me Up*, named for the title song that many will recognize from the Academy Award winning motion picture *Happy Feet*.

Although this was a giant break in Farrell's career, she says it created emotional challenges.

"There were certain things about it that just weren't me... I kind of got in there and then they tried to turn me into something that I really wasn't," she stated.

At that point she moved on to another entrepreneurial venture that preceded her work on Beetle House. Ferrell began her own cosmetics line.

"Everyone who knows me knows that the two things I am super into are music and makeup," Farrell says. She got her start working for other cosmetics companies as a make-up artist and then went out on her own.

"For the first collection of makeup from my line I wanted to do 4 different lipstick colors that were inspired by different characters," Farrell explains.

She named her line *Dirty Mind Cosmetics*, because, she says, "I can pretty much take anything and I turn it into an innuendo. That's just me."

Farrell works in the lab herself to create products.

She says, "People really love it so far, so I'm really happy about that. The reaction I've been getting is 'Oh my god these are so creamy and pigmented.'"

Farrell, who is only 29 says she intends to continue her various ventures and adventures, "People change. People grow into new things and better things."

Rutgers band has huge Spotify hit

By Marielena Peters & Vanessa Woolfolk
Reporters

The band Cook Thugless formed in 2013 and after six years of long practices, emailing tracks back and forth, and playing basement shows in and around Rutgers in New Brunswick, the band is now gaining international recognition with their single “Lockjaw,” off of their album LUXE, which was released in on January 4, 2019. At the time of printing the tune has surpassed 700,000 listens on Spotify.

The VOICE sat down with three out of the seven members to learn more about their local origins and current success. The trio met at the lounge chairs of the MS building, fresh-faced, and still energetic coming off their previous night’s performance in New Brunswick at the Chocolate Shoppe. The trio consisted of Jahmar Beaubrun (drummer, vocals, and rap), Riley Byrne (bass), and Keith Lalley (producer, trombone, and vocals).

The following is a lightly edited version of our Q&A.

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME COOK THUGLESS?

Riley Byrne: It was really a joke. [The other] guys thought about it at the apartment [at Rutgers] but the funny thing about it is it’s a pun on Rutgers campus Cook Douglass. We met in the dorms freshman year. The cool thing is that now that we’re graduated, people who go to Rutgers hear about us and want to come see us live.

WHAT’S YOUR SONGWRITING PROCESS?

Jahmar Beaubrun: I think it’s a very



USED WITH PERMISSION | ANTHONY VITO PHOTOGRAPHY

Local band Cook Thugless playing *The Crossroads* in Garwood, NJ.

organized chaos. You get seven people, you get seven different opinions. But it works out in the end. Everyone has the same goal to make the track the best.

Keith Lalley: Because we’re so spread apart now-a-days, it’s very much a collaborative thing and without the internet it wouldn’t be possible. Me or Jim will make a beat or a skeleton for an instrumental and shop it around and send it out. Certain tracks I’ll know that Jahmar is the guy for it. Or I know I need a bass line so I’ll send it to Riley. Then the rappers will take it for like a week or two and write to it. Then they’ll come up to Jim or my place to record it. We’ll do more editing on our side and maybe add other instrumen-

tal stuff like horns or add whatever whacky sounds we feel like. It’s like bouncing around all over the place and it’s going through everyone’s ears.

WHAT VENUES DO YOU ENJOY MOST?

Riley Byrne: The crowd response is what makes the show special, not so much the capacity of the venue you’re playing. I’ve played bigger rooms that have felt empty. A smaller room where everyone’s really enjoying it and feels a part of it, I can’t say anything is better than that.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS A BAND?

Keith Lalley: I think a big issue is just living in 2019 and making a name for yourself in an age

where money gets you a lot of promotion. When you’re trying to organically come up and build a brand for yourself like on Instagram or Spotify, those are the places now-a-days where a lot of artists you hear about break out, and that’s how they’re doing it. They’re getting like this backing or something and all of a sudden you’re hearing about them. Even if you’re the best, you’re competing with a lot of “the bests.” I hate to make it all about money but you’re looking at an industry that’s really driven by how much money you can put into it.

Riley Byrne: Having seven people in a band and trying to schedule anything. Sometimes we get good opportunities and it’s like “Uh

two guys can’t make it. Can we still do this?”

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE?

Jahmar Beaubrun: I’d love to play for bigger festivals. Maybe open for like KOTA the Friend or some cool coming up people. But so far so good. We’re just blessed to even be where we are at this point because it’s very difficult and we put a lot of work into what we do. We’re all do-it-yourself, unrepresented, but it works. We do a lot of shit by ourselves. We don’t even have to be famous. I would just like to be a notable band that people listen to and really vibe.

Riley Byrne: I think that so far as a band we’ve been doing three things: writing, recording, and performing, and I want to add touring. That’s kinda my goal for the future for sure. Playing in different cities we have different connections like Miami, Los Angeles, Philadelphia. I think it’ll happen before the end of this year.

Keith Lalley: I wanna keep making cool music. It sounds really simple but I really like the process. My love for the process has kind of kept me going. I like sitting in my room alone and it’s like 3 in the morning and I’m like banging instrumentals together. I like looking in my email and seeing the reply of someone who recorded some shit to what I put together because that’s something that couldn’t have happened without all these stars aligning. And then to work on it for months, or sometimes years, and then hear where it is, and to send it out in the world and people vibe with it. This process is just really fucking special.

Musician Doug Mikula follows rehab with inspirational new album

By Justin Willever
Reporter

Doug Mikula a popular local musician from the Jersey shore, celebrated the release of his first major album since 2005 on February 2 at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park.

The album titled “Just Beneath the Surface” chronicles Mikula’s personal struggles in life particularly with drug addiction.

Mikula says he didn’t get introduced on drugs by being in the music scene as happens to some people. Instead, he says he started to use drugs because “I didn’t think I would be as good as people said I am.” He adds, “It was manufactured in my head, but that’s just sometimes how I felt, and how I still feel.” The addiction started with painkillers and eventually progressed to heroin.

In his self titled album “Doug Mikula,” which he released in 2005, there are no vocals. However, as Mikula began to mature, his style started to change along with it.

In Mikula’s new album, he explained that the reason he decided to include vocals is that “it was therapeutic for me and I thought it could help some oth-

er people.”

In the track “The Relapse Song” the lyrics include “...please pay no attention to the man behind the curtain...” a reference to “The Wizard of Oz” when “The Great And Powerful Wizard of Oz” was exposed as being a fraud. Mikula says this is similar to how he felt when people said how good he was as a guitarist.

When Mikula was young, he was introduced to music early. His mom was a singer in a band that was formed by people from their local church. He would listen to albums like “Phantom of the Opera” with his mother and by 7 he was able to pick out the songs by ear on the piano at his grandmother’s house. According to Julie Mikula, Doug’s mother, in highschool, when a friend left his guitar at their house, Doug picked it up and started to play it.

After high school, Mikula decided that he would play guitar as his main instrument. He describes his style at that time as “shreddy guitar madness,” and says he wanted to write music that was “flashy, fast and impressive.”

His style has shifted, but response to his work re-

mains positive. More than 500 people showed up to the album release party where he was joined on stage by special guests Secret Sound and No Phizz.

Fan Sandy Semenas says that one of his songs “The Relapse Song” really hits home for her.

“I can relate to relapsing and the struggles you go through,” Semenas says. She adds that it has an emotional impact and that she loves it.

Mikula’s next door neighbor, Hope Cahill, who was at the release party on February 2 says she has listened to Doug’s music since she was young.

“I’d get invited to different rehearsals of his, or you would be able to hear [the music] if the windows were open,” Cahill says. She adds, “This album is a comforting thing because I know that anything I go through, I can also get through like he has.”

Mikula says he has new music on the way. “It will not focus on my drug addiction and recovery...My life is happy now, so my music is gonna reflect that,” Mikula says.



PHOTO | JUSTIN WILLEVER

Doug Mikula held a concert to celebrate the release of his new album “Just Beneath the Surface” at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park, NJ on February 2, 2019.

Black History Month

MCCC COUPLES' VALENTINE'S VIEWS

PHOTOS | KRISTEN MILLER



Rogi Ruguru + Isiah Petitcompere

How they met: Mercer track meet

How long they've been together: 2 years

Their thoughts on Valentine's Day: "I think [Valentine's Day] is a nice day to really show that you care about your significant other, although I feel every day should be that."



Beatrice Robinson + Marquis Tabb

How they met: First day of Mercer, getting on a bus

Their thoughts on Valentine's Day: "[Valentine's Day] is an anniversary of love. It's not just the only day you express the love to the person, but it's the day where you really really make sure they understand you love them."



Ramos Ahmed + Willow Mills

How they met: Photography class

How long they've been together: 2 years

Their thoughts on Valentine's Day: "Even if it's not a sexual relationship, like friend wise, love is amazing to me, so I like Valentine's Day."

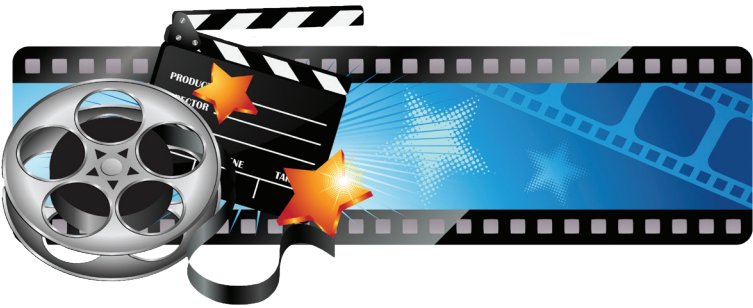


Harlee Murphy + Icyss Bracewell

How long they've been together: 3 years

Their thoughts on Valentine's Day: "[Valentine's Day is] full of shit...It's a glorified holiday that everybody forgets the real meaning behind...It's whatever for us."

TOP MOVIES AND STREAMING FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The day we designate to celebrate love falls in the month in which we celebrate Black History. For decades, black people were not afforded the opportunity to play roles in which they were depicted as anything other than slaves or other negative stereotypes in film and television. In 2019, we are fortunate to have many examples of healthy, happy, and loving couples and families in media. These examples push our society to see the various forms of love. Here are some positive examples of representation in pop culture.

BLACKISH

Maybe we all can't relate to living in a household of 9 but we can all relate to the funny and heartwarming moments the family of Blackish experience together. This show accurately and beautifully represents working class black families in modern times. Topics in this show are controversial but are addressed in a viewer friendly manner. It's refreshing to see healthy black family dynamics showcased through a comedic lens in the 21st century.



NAPPILY EVER AFTER - SELF LOVE

Growing up as a black girl, society's impossible beauty standards can impact one greatly and cause lifelong insecurities. In this Netflix film, we watch the outwardly successful Violet Jones get to the root of her insecurities about her hair. Once she can love her hair for the way it naturally is, she can learn to love the many other aspects of herself.

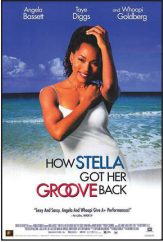
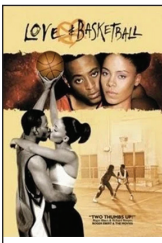


RAFIKI

In a film not yet released here in the US, Rafiki tells the story of two Kenyan girls who fall in love. With a government that would not allow their relationship, the threat of their safety puts the girls and their relationship in a compromising position.



At a press interview at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival film director Wanuri Kahiu said, "Rafiki means friend in Swahili, and often when Kenyans of the same sex are in a relationship, they forgo the ability to introduce their partners, lovers, mates, husbands or wives as they would like, and instead call them 'rafiki.'"



IMAGES | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Birth & Valentine's Day

MOST ROMANTIC BLACK POWER COUPLE *Barack and Michelle Obama*

Individually Barack and Michelle Obama are highly respected, but as a couple they are role models for personal and professional happiness. Both Harvard alumni, the two met when Michelle, nee Robinson, found herself working alongside a first year law student at a law firm in the summer of 1989. Their amazing love story progressed from that point.

According to ES Insider Newsletter, Barack Obama arrived late to the first business meeting at that law firm. Michelle told Good Morning America, "In walks Barack Obama; and Barack Obama has always walked like Barack Obama - like he's got all the time in the world, and I was like, 'Dude, you're cute.' But in my mind, I was like 'off-limits.' I'm not going to date one of the few black summer associates."

However, after a month of Barack asking, Michelle caved and agreed to a first date.

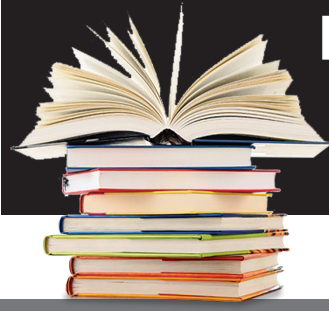
After a trip to the movies to see the Spike Lee film, Do the Right Thing, the two met at an ice cream shop, where they had their first kiss. Michelle told Good Morning America, "He played it real smooth. He just leaned in for a kiss and that really was it. From that kiss on, it was love and he was my man."

Today, a commemorative plaque is posted outside of the Hyde Park, Chicago Baskin-Robbins with a photograph of the pair in an anticipated kiss.

The couple presents their love for one another to the country in ways no former president and first lady of The United States have in the past. With a large presence on social media such as Twitter, the pair are constantly tweeting love and humorous messages with each other, including the whole country within the relationship they have.

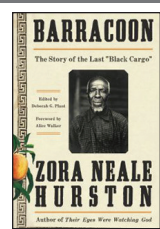
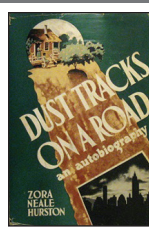
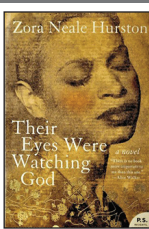
The power duo, according to the New York Post, has an estimated net worth of about \$135 million. Since leaving the white house, the two have been busy with book writing, public speaking, and even productions after Barack signed off on a Netflix deal to produce multiple programs and films.


Through many different areas of success, the Obamas are one power couple that inspires many in multiple areas.
PHOTO | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



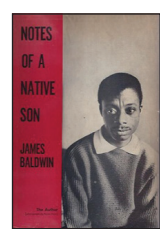
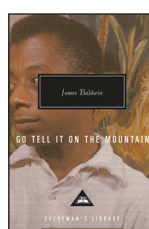
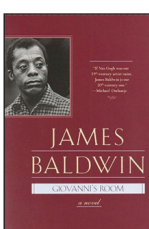
BLACK HISTORY MONTH BOOKSHELF


ZORA NEALE HURSTON



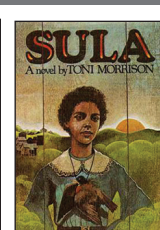
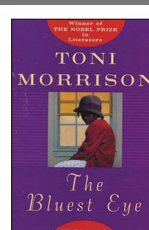
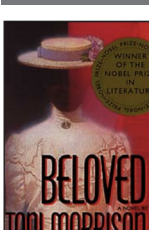



JAMES BALDWIN




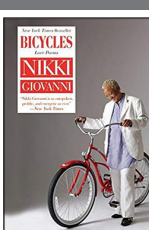
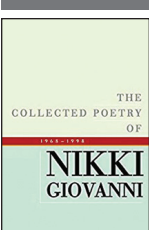



TONI MORRISON



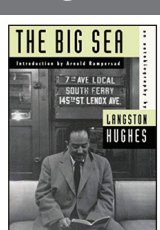
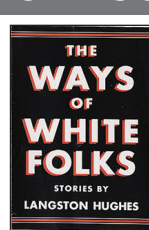
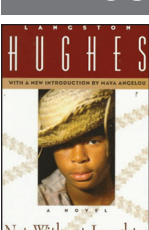



NIKKI GIOVANNI









LANGSTON HUGHES



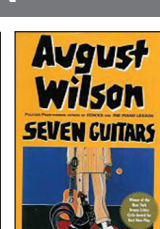
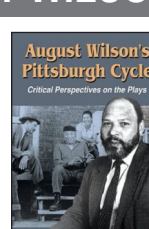




COUNTEE CULLEN



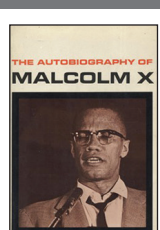
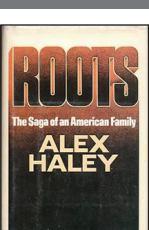




AUGUST WILSON



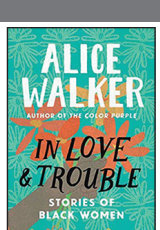
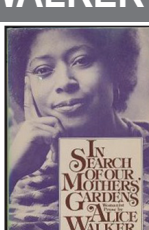
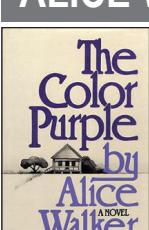



ALEX HALEY





ALICE WALKER





After fatal car accident, Landmark pub sets new rules

By Patrick Mulligan
Reporter

It was 10:15 on a Friday evening and Landmark Americana Tap & Grill in Ewing was not filled with people. This was surprising considering The College of New Jersey spring semester had started only a few days earlier. By 10:45PM, bartenders were closing off the caps to liquor bottles and announcing last call. Anyone looking for a late night out will be disappointed with the new hours at Landmark. Last call is now 10:45 p.m. on weekends and the establishment must close at midnight.

New policies have been introduced after a fatal accident occurred in the early morning hours of December 2, 2018, when a drunk driver got behind the wheel of a car after leaving Landmark and minutes later collided with another vehicle.

According to NJ.com, Michael Sot, a 20-year-old TCNJ student, was the designated driver ferrying 5 passengers home when a car heading in the opposite direction veered across the yellow line and crashed into the college sophomore's car head-on. Sot later succumbed to his injuries.

Now staff are tasked with keeping close tabs on how many drinks people have had.

There are other signs of the efforts Landmark has made to address the accident. Now the servers wear pins on their shirts that read, "Having a drink? Need a ride?" Two Brita water pitchers are now located at one end of the bar, with a stack of triangular paper cups

"Clearly drinking and driving is not going to stop, so you might as well put as many restrictions on it as you can."

-Kiley Remer

sitting next to them. Hanging on the wall are signs advertising parking passes for anyone who wants to leave their car overnight and take a Lyft home.

Last month, New Jersey Attorney General S. Grewal and the state Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control made an announcement that Landmark would stop selling large mixed drinks called "fish bowls" and would only serve one alcoholic beverage at a time, according to a press release.

"We don't do those anymore," a bartender, said.

Some students say they are fine with the recent changes in policy.

"Clearly drinking and driving is not going to stop, so you might as well put as many restrictions on it as you can," said Ewing resident Kiley Remer, a first year Occupational Therapy Assistant student at Mercer.

Samuel Serrato, a senior African-American Studies and Spanish major at TCNJ, agreed.

"The new policies are safer, which is good, but also a slight bummer," Sarrato said.

Since the closing of the Rathskeller pub in the Brower Student Center in May 2015, TCNJ students have been looking for an establishment close to campus that could be con-



PHOTO | PATRICK MULLIGAN

The empty bar at Landmark Americana Tap & Grill in Ewing on a Friday night.

sidered a replacement to the bar/club they affectionately called "The Rat." The October 24, 2018 opening of Landmark in TCNJ's Campus Town development seemed like a good fit for students.

But not all are happy with the establishment.

"I think that the restrictions don't serve much of a purpose," said TCNJ student David DeJesus, a senior Psychology major. "I think it's better at Rho [Ristorante Discoteca]. They stop doing drink discounts at midnight." He added, "Some people don't get to the bar until that time."

Landmark in Ewing is cavernous, with high ceilings and a rectangular bar that takes up much of the space in the main room. Booths form an L-shape along adjacent walls. There is a semi-separate dining area located in the front of the building. The interior is immaculate, but devoid of any

real character or atmosphere and service can be hit or miss. A couple at a nearby high-top sat for 10 minutes before a server came over to take their order.

Landmark is by definition a sports bar, and as such there are a dizzying number of TVs throughout the restaurant broadcasting several games at any given time. There are a few other events for people who might not like sports, like a weekly trivia night and an evening with live music. A DJ booth is awkwardly located in one corner of the restaurant with no clear area for people to dance.

Upon entering the establishment, one cannot escape the feeling of entering a chain restaurant. The newest Ewing location is the fifth in the Landmark family. There are also Landmarks near Rowan, Drexel, West Chester, and St. Joseph's University.

Tuesday night is "Taco Tuesday," where each taco on the menu is \$2.50. The carnitas and Asian short rib tacos are each served on a flour tortilla; they are already stiffening when they arrive. The tacos are lukewarm, but flavorful and there is a nice crunch to the Asian short rib.

"Their food isn't anything to write home about," Remer said.

It remains to be seen if the accident in December will have a lasting effect on business at Landmark. With mediocre food, limited hours, and spotty service, the main draws are the screens for sports fans and the location for TCNJ students. Will this be enough to guarantee a steady stream of customers?

"I'll probably only go if other people ask me to go," said DeJesus, "or if I'm pressured by friends."

Highland Park's pop up flea market delivers the goods

By Trevion Anglin
Senior Reporter

Antique lovers enjoyed an eclectic showcase at the Central Jersey Pop Up Flea Market in Highland Park on January 26-27.

The venture was started a year ago and happens once every month. A wide variety of items are up for sale, with everything from furniture to vintage action figures. Each time there are different vendors.

Tom Langston, promoter and vendor of the pop-up says, "We try to make it interesting enough to where there's something for everybody." He adds, "That gives us a better shot at standing out in today's market."

Jason Scheller, a first-time seller at the shop said, "Business is a little slow, not as much traffic as I'd like there to be. Other than that though I've had no problems so far."

One patron, Velvet Thorne said, "I like to explore, and maybe find something that fits with my decor which is vintage and antique. Plus you get to meet different people who are on the same wave as you which I



PHOTO | TREVION ANGLIN

think is really interesting."

"Seeing the item in person really helps me decide if I want it a lot more I think," shopper Ashley Kuligowski stated when asked how she feels about pop up shops in comparison to online shopping. "Also I like being able to barter down prices!" Her husband Jonathan Kuligowski chimed in.

The pop up shop will be back on February 23 and 24. Find it at 431 Raritan Ave, Highland Park, NJ.



PHOTO | TREVION ANGLIN

Tom Langston at his vending stand at Central Jersey Pop Up Flea Market in Highland Park on January 26, 2019.

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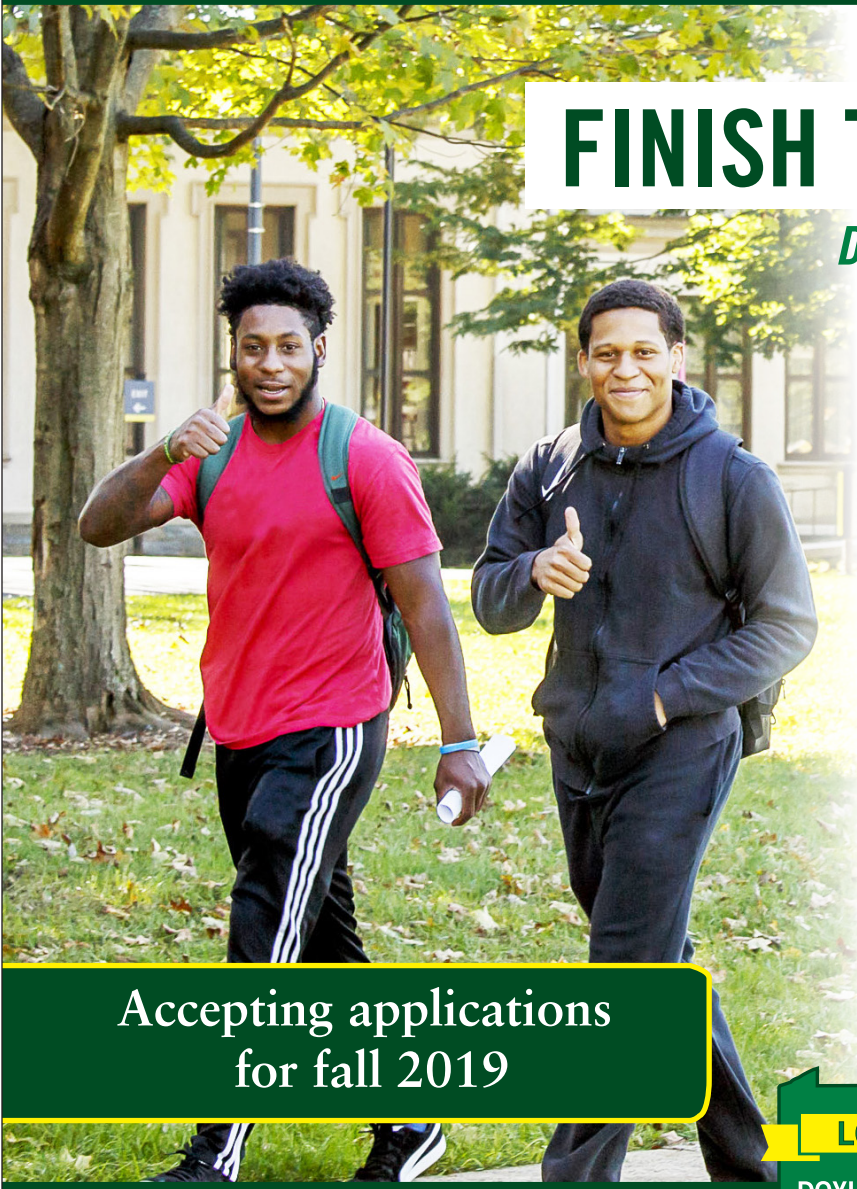
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READY FOR MORE?

2019 Open House
Sunday, March 3

Transfer Information Sessions

Thursday, March 14 | Wednesday, March 20

Register or schedule a visit: qu.edu/visit

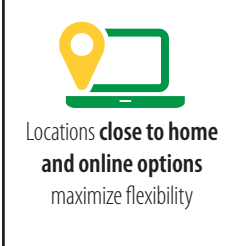
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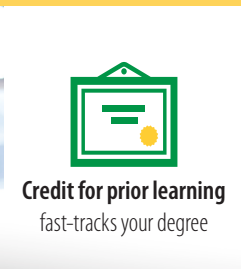
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more transfer students
choose WilmU over
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SUMMER SESSIONS AT TCNJ



"ENHANCING
TOMORROW'S
FUTURE TODAY"

Michael Ellard
graduate office

Session 1: May 28–June 14
Session 2: June 17–July 18
Session 3: July 22–August 22

Dates for blended, online, and travel courses may vary.



summer@tcnj.edu
summer.tcnj.edu



**Classes start
every 8 weeks.**
Spring Block II classes start
March 11



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Laurie's Holiday Corner

THE HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

According to History.com, there are a lot of surprising things to know about Valentine's Day. First, there are multiple Catholic saints named Valentine, and a Pope, too. The saint most likely to be the originator of this celebration lived in the third century in Rome and when Emperor Claudius XI decided that single men made better warriors than married ones and decreed that young men couldn't marry. When the priest Valentine performed marriages anyway, the Emperor heard about it and had him killed.

Others believe Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day to try to cover up the pagan holiday of fertility called Lupercalia, which was held on the ides of February because it was supposedly the start of birds' mating season in Britain and France.

One thing that is for sure is that exchanging Valentine's greetings goes back to the Middle Ages and written Valentine's date to around 1400. The practice may have been popularized by the English poet and author Geoffrey Chaucer who celebrated romantic love in his 1375 poem "Parliament of Fowles."

Another fun fact: In addition to being patron saint of lovers, St. Valentine is also the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, as well as travelling, plague and fainting. Who knew?



IMAGE | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Bernger von Horheim in the Codex Manesse (early 14th century).

ROMANCE

According to Educatingo, romance is "the expressive and pleasurable feeling from an emotional attraction towards another person. This feeling is associated with but does not necessitate sexual attraction."



LAURIE GALLAGER

Mama Mia
A Star is Born
Romeo & Juliet
Crazy Rich Asians
Love Actually
How Stella Got her Groove Back
Top Gun

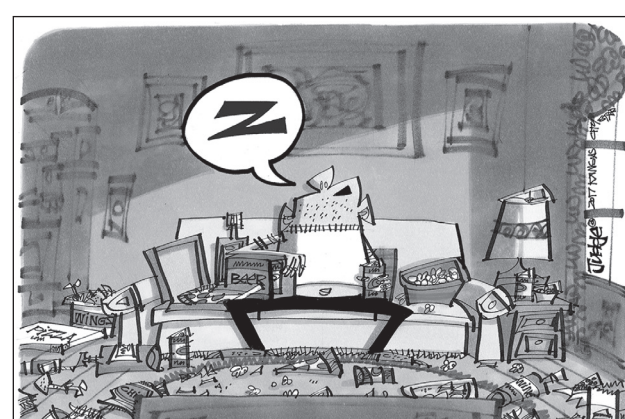
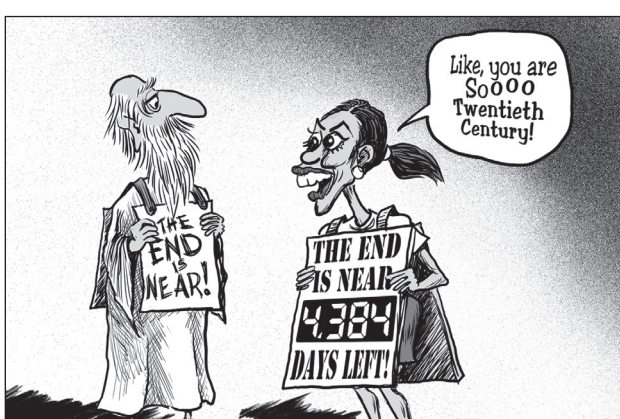
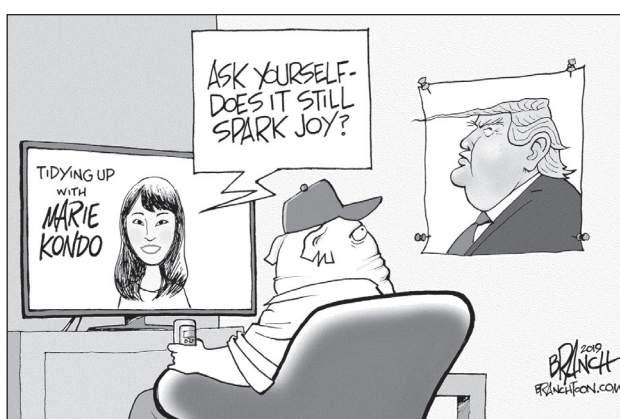
FAVORITE ROMANTIC MOVIES

"Called to Say I Love You" - Stevie Wonder
"Love Song" - Sara Bareilles
"Power of Love" - Huey Lewis
"Love Story" - Taylor Swift
"Baby Love" - The Supremes
"Greatest Love of All" - Whitney Houston
"Power of Love" - Celine Dion
"She Loves You" - The Beatles

TOP HOT 100 LOVE SONGS

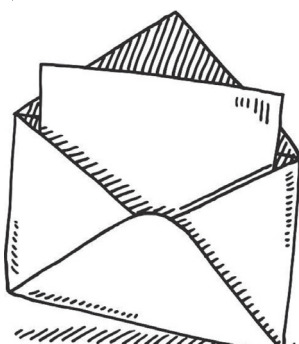
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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



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!



Do you see a
typo?

Good. Join the staff
and help us fix it!

Mon + Thur
12-1:15 in ET 127

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MCCC LIBRARY

now open SATURDAYS
10am-4pm!



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Growing up on the campaign trail

Politics made me grow up fast, but the challenges have been worth it

PERSPECTIVES



Meagan Warner

I was in kindergarten when my mom, who was running for our local Board of Education in Lambertville, took me with her door to door to drum up votes. I held her hand while she talked about budgets and policies, again and again, every weeknight and weekend from August through to election day in November. I remember talking to all those strangers made me nervous but it quickly became my normal.

So maybe it's not surprising that I decided to run my own campaign for elected office the same year I graduated from South Hunterdon Regional High School in 2016. I didn't really know what I was doing, just had the tools mom drilled into me, and yet, I won.

I chose to run not just because it felt right. I wasn't just following my mom's path, as a student I had recently seen first hand the policy and educational gaps in our district. I felt like I had the perspective I needed and I thought I had the power to do something.

While I was campaigning I spent every moment not at Mercer pounding the pavement, having meet and greets, and attending community events to get my

I have people from all walks of my life tell me how mature I am, what a good head I have on my shoulders –but the truth is I still stay up until 3am looking at memes on Instagram, knowing full well I have World Literature with Professor Hamilton the next day. I think maybe if they knew how much of a kid I still am, they'd see me exactly how I see myself: completely unprepared for the task at hand.

message out to people and ask for their votes. The exhaustion is hard to describe because at the same time as I was taking classes, I was not only running my campaign, but I was still coordinating my mother's city council run, and then I got invited to help campaign for then Democratic-candidate for Governor, Phil Murphy.

When I was out working on the campaigns, everyone treated me like I was older than my 18 years. Because I had an unusual level of experience, well established politicians looked to me for advice. Plenty of people had no idea I was a community college student. After Governor Murphy was elected, I got a spot working on Reed Gusciora's Trenton mayoral campaign which went on to a run off. He won, but our rag-tag team of misfits had to work flat out to get people to vote for Trenton's first openly gay mayor.

Then I got another big offer. I was on a special trip with a group of students to Israel when I got a phone call at two in the morning asking me if I wanted to work for the congressional campaign of Tom Mainowski. I took the interview in the bathroom of a Tel Aviv nightclub, pretending for most of the conversation I could understand what the

Field Director was saying to me over the sound of the pulsating music. I poured all my passion for organizing into the conversation and somehow it was convincing enough for me to get the job.

I burned out right after election night. Malinowski won, but I was totally fried from overextending myself. I was so busy soaking in the glow of winning political campaigns that I failed a class at Mercer. There was no way that any of my actions on the campaign trail positively affected my GPA, or my mental health, but opportunities kept popping up all the time, and it's my nature to jump in and say "yes!" Learning how to set limits is my biggest challenge.

I have people from all walks of my life tell me how mature I am, what a good head I have on my shoulders –but the truth is I still stay up until 3am looking at memes on Instagram, knowing full well I have World Literature with Professor Hamilton the next day. I think maybe if they knew how much of a kid I still am, they'd see me exactly how I see myself: completely unprepared for the task at hand.

But I'm working to change how I see myself, and learning to set the priorities without giving up the work

that I love and that I know is my future. I have hit my highest highs and my lowest lows on campaigns, working on the Board of Education, running the College Democrats of New Jersey – but my the battle scars bind me to fellow campaign workers who know all about the long hours, the thankless tasks, and then the genuine reward of knowing you've put the best possible policy-maker into office. There are a lot of us young people who are taking politics seriously. I can call my friend in Wisconsin who worked for their Democratic State Committee, and between her and I, we can share our war stories about these experiences that will stick with us for a lifetime.

While doing campaign work as a college student has been humbling, and I'm still finding my way, spending time fighting for Democracy should be on the top five check list of important things for every college student. The decisions our government--at every level--makes affects us and our futures in ways we can't even imagine, and that's why it's worth the fight.

Want to learn more about College Democrats of New Jersey? Find us on Face book at www.facebook.com/njcollegedemocrats/



HIGH GPA? JOIN PTK!

If you have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have completed 12 credits or more of classes at the 100+ level you may be qualified for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Members have access to lots of benefits including potential scholarships! Find out more by stopping by the PTK Student Club office in SC.
Or contact Professor Huang at huangj@mccc.edu

top ten

HIGHEST TAXES ON Beer

1. Tennessee
2. Alaska
3. Alabama
4. Georgia
5. Hawaii
6. Kentucky
7. South Carolina
8. North Carolina
9. Maryland
10. Florida

Source: Brewers Association

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



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


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!

Hey Voice,
As a white person, I feel uncomfortable when people talk about race. I had nothing to do with slavery, so why should I care? I have friends from all different types of backgrounds and we all get along fine.
- Not Racist

Dear Not Racist,
Talking about race makes you feel uncomfortable? You know what makes your minority friends uncomfortable? Knowing they have an exponentially higher chance of getting killed in gun violence, sent to jail on false pretenses, and discriminated against in the workforce than you. Keep working on your empathy.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice,
It's cold and then it's hot and then it's cold again, and then it's hot. I can't keep up with the temperature changing and it's stressing me out. What can I do?
-Cold and Sweaty

Dear Cold and Sweaty,
Climate change is a bitch, and Mercer's classrooms, which also run hot and cold, aren't any help. Our best suggestion? Wear layers. And stay hydrated. It's flu season.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice,
I've been getting these random emails asking me for my social security number as a requirement to pass my classes. Should I send it?
-Clueless with Computers

Dear Clueless,
You really are clueless, aren't you? Unless you want your identity stolen and your bank accounts emptied, do not give any personal information to anyone.
-The VOICE

2X DILBERT

ALICE, I'D LIKE YOU TO WORK WITH TED ON THIS PROJECT.

TED'S A DRAMA QUEEN. WORKING WITH HIM WILL JUST SLOW ME DOWN.

HELLO? HUMAN RESOURCES? ALICE IS BEING A BULLY.

AND SO IT BEGINS.

WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME SUPPOSED TO BE?

I'M GOING FOR A VILLAGE IDIOT VIBE, WITH A DASH OF QUASIMODO.

WHY DOES IT SEEM SO FAMILIAR?

I'M SOMEONE'S MANAGE-MENT STYLE.

SUDOKU

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

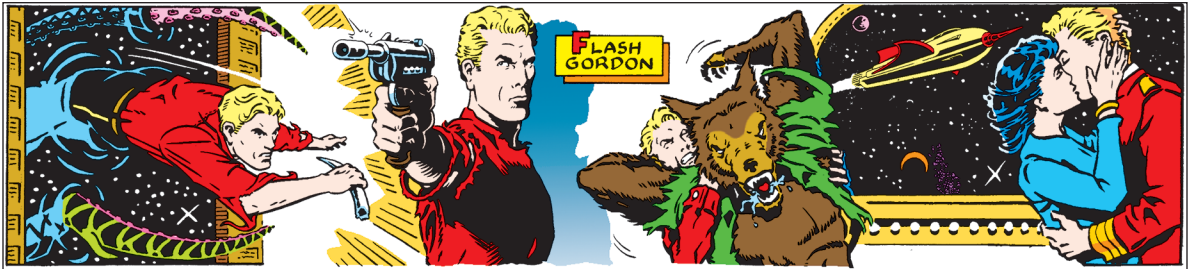
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate

♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

FLASH GORDON



FLASH GORDON

1-13

BY JIM KEEFE

OPERATION ARMAGEDDON:

THE UNITED STATES' FULL-SCALE MILITARY RESPONSE TO AN ALIEN INVASION.

A JUGGERNAUT AIMED DIRECTLY AT FLASH!

...NOW TO KEEP UP THE CHARADE UNTIL MING'S FORCES GET HERE.

HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES! THEY'RE PASSING RIGHT THROUGH MY DECOYS!

THERE'S NOTHING FOR THEM TO ZERO IN ON... BUT ME!

SHOOM!

BRA-KOW!

NEXT: THE HOAX REVEALED!

SO FAR, SO GOOD. THEY THINK THE HOLOGRAMS I CREATED ARE REAL...

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

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

Answer