



Students victims of phishing scam

Students instructed to change passwords after email phishing hack

By **Tory Richardson**
Reporter

Student and faculty email accounts were targeted by an email scam that came through thousands of inboxes on February 4.

The next day Dr. Diane Campbell, Vice President of Student Affairs, sent out an email to students and staff directed from the IT department explaining that the phishing scam had taken place. Dr. Campbell advised students to immediately change their account usernames and passwords.

In the email, Dr. Campbell wrote, “If you have clicked on the ‘Blue Box’ in an email, your account may be compromised, and your password may have already been reset.”

Chuck Keller, Chief Information Officer (CIO) for IT, says that by the following Thursday, the situation was being taken care of.

“We [employees of IT] wrote rules into the email service, that we use [Microsoft] and we blocked those emails from actually being delivered out to people’s email,” Keller said.

Keller continued, “Through that procedure, we can look at the various ways the emails were coming in, and the various ways the messages within them were being written, so we can block them ahead of time.”

However, Keeler notes that if students happened to open the email before it was blocked, there was a chance they were victims of the phishing scam. Phishing is when emails are sent out designed to look like they are from legitimate sources, but which encourage the reader to give up

private information.

Shawn Slaughter, a current student and the Operations Manager of Mercer’s radio station, Viking 89, got one of the phishing emails and clicked the blue box. The warning email from Dr. Campbell arrived just three minutes later.

Slaughter says when he clicked on the blue box it asked him to input all of his personal email information, username and password. Then, after gaining access to the account, the hack sent the phony email to all of his email contacts.

Slaughter is not alone. In a survey of 50 students, 40 percent said they received the phishing email. After getting the dean’s warning, only 45 percent of the students took the time to change their passwords.

Assistant Dean of Student Services John Simone said, “I had no idea of the attack until I received the [warning] email. I could almost have been a victim myself.” Simone continued, “I receive tons of email a day, and when I received the email from the phish, I refused to open it because I was skeptical.”

This is not the first time Mercer has faced cybersecurity problems. In 2012, previous Director of Information Technology Services Susan Bowen was interviewed by The VOICE regarding a data hacking incident in August of that year, where 14,000 Mercer students’ private emails were accessed.

In the 2012 incident, the hacker had access to personal information including students’ social security numbers. Although no evidence of fraud was detected, an article was



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

“I changed [my password] but I don’t think it is going to do anything, because I feel like they aren’t taking the right security measures to make sure our secure emails don’t get hacked again.”

--Lori Ostermiller, Student

published by The Times of Trenton on October 6, 2012, that confirmed that students’ personal information “was inadvertently open to public access in the school’s computer network for as long as two years.”

Back in 2012, Susan Bowen, who was then Mercer’s Executive Director for Information and Technology Services said, “auditing the servers is something that Mercer does on a regular basis, including the day of the security breach.”

When asked about the current auditing of servers, Keller said, “I’m not entirely clear on what the auditing server is. I recall there being conversations that were had back in 2012 regarding an auditing server, but technology has changed radically at Mercer over the

last few years. We have no auditing server implemented, installed or working at Mercer currently.”

Lori Ostermiller, a Medical Lab Tech student, has been hacked twice on Mercer email server. She says, “I mean it was annoying, knowing that my email wasn’t private anymore. Knowing that someone can look into my email and see everything that I had in there. Granted it is a school email and there is nothing weird in there, however, there still was no privacy between me and the professors.”

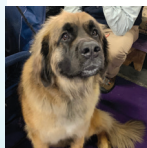
Slaughter, the radio manager, says, “[the] IT department is an outsourced department and if they were physically on campus, if they were physically here and administering the up

and coming information technology to students here, they could address situations like these to the students, and that is where the help comes from.”

Assistant Dean Simone remains hopeful stating, “I believe that IT has it under control and are looking into it.”

Students have been advised by email to change their passwords and not to click on the link, but not all are convinced that ensures safety.

“I changed [my password] but I don’t think it is going to do anything, because I feel like they aren’t taking the right security measures to make sure our secure emails don’t get hacked again,” Ostermiller said.



**WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW
SPARKS PUREBRED DEBATE
PG. 3**



**MEN’S HOOPS
Season finisher ends in double
overtime and surprise finish
PG. 3**

**Campus2
Sports3
Dining4
Local5**

**Special Feature.....6-7
Viewpoints11
Comics12**

Students brace for another tuition hike

By Drew Mumich
Senior Reporter

Tuition is going up by almost four percent starting this summer and next fall. The plan was presented to students and staff by Dr. Mark Harris, the College’s Vice President of Finance and Administration, at a meeting in CM 108 on Tuesday, February 19. The Board of Trustees approved the increase at their meeting on Thursday, February 21.

Mercer’s tuition has risen steadily over the last ten years, with typical increases being about 3-4 percent for a total increase of 30.4 percent since 2009.

In the last five years, students have gone from paying \$112.50 per credit in 2014 to \$137.25 per credit now. But these numbers don’t include the technology fee (\$19 per credit), the college fee (\$19 per credit), nor any fees associated with lab science, medical and aviation courses.

Once college and tech fees are included students are paying \$175.25 per credit today and will be paying \$182.50 after the tuition increase takes effect this summer. According to institutional data maintained by New Jersey’s Office of the Secretary of Education Mercer’s tuition is currently sixth highest of the state’s 19 community colleges.

Zeke Wagner, a Plant Science Major says, “To have to be affected by needing more money for classes or credits, I’m screwed... This semester, I almost took 16 credits. It would still be full time, still be four classes, just higher levels, and I wasn’t able to because I wasn’t able to save enough money... So if there was any increase, five dollars, ten dollars per credit, anything, it would add up pretty quickly. I can barely pay for it now, so I’m not going to be able to pay for it then.”

Dr. Harris told students the main reason for the tuition hike is to improve student experience, including renovating spaces that students occupy and providing gender-neutral bathrooms.

Typically tuition hikes are around 3-4 percent, but 2018 saw a jump of 7.8 percent.

Asked about the steep increase Dr. Harris said, “Last year we were focused mainly on computers. This year, one of the primary focus is looking at the number of student spaces, where students can, once you’re finished with class, where you can just hang out, study or just relax. Also really look at classrooms themselves, looking at the furniture to make sure we are up-to-dating the seating, or the lighting, or any other interactive tool that the student will get the full experience,”

Brian McCloskey, Ex-



TUITION UP 4%*

“Yeah, it’s for a good cause. Yeah, it’s for a good reason. Yeah, it will benefit the people that are coming and walking in my footsteps. But will it benefit me financially? I will struggle the future because of that.”

--Zeke Wagner, Plant Science Major

ecutive Director for Finance and Accounting at Mercer explains what the college fee funds saying, “Student support centers, the counseling center, the transfer services, the library, Tutoring Center, these are all services the fee helps support, as well as helping fund all the athletics, and the clubs.”

Dr. Harris adds, “Assisting you to complete, we have added more tutors. We have added significantly more hours, we have done E-Tutoring, and having embedded tutors in the classroom.”

Charles Haas, the coordinator for the Tutoring Center, says the highest paid tutors receive \$12 per hour.

“If you noticed the longer hours at the West Windsor Learning Center this semester (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday until 9 pm), that is because of the Community College Opportunity Grant funds professional tutors. [They are] all paid through CCOG. If given more funds, I would definitely give the current staff more hours.”

Gregory Jose Menthu, a fourth-semester business administration major, currently works two jobs totaling 35 hours per week and is taking five classes packed into two

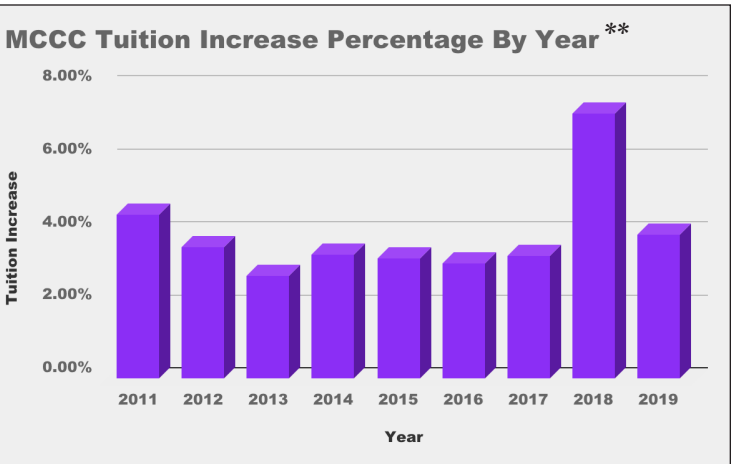
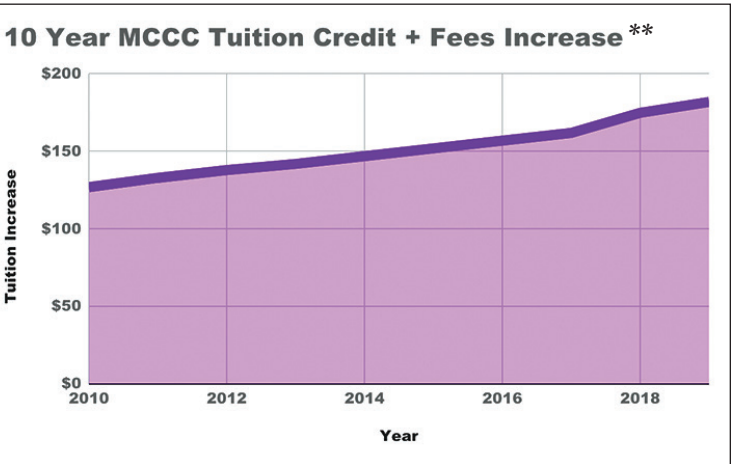
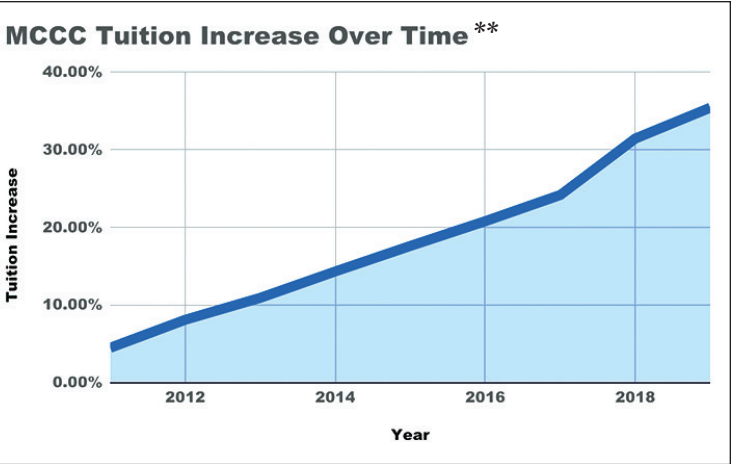
days per week splitting the costs of his tuition with his parents. Last semester he noticed a \$200 increase to his tuition in when taking 12 credits.

“Over the summer I tend to work my ass off for those 3 months and I save up most of it during that time,” Menthu says.

Menthu is not alone. The VOICE surveyed 33 students and found 51 percent of students work more than ten hours per week, with 30 percent of them paying for tuition by themselves. According to Mercer’s financial aid information, about 60 percent of students apply for financial aid and 40 percent receive it.

College President Dr. Jianping Wang says, “That’s the balance we are trying to strike, not to raise tuition too much so that one class of students bear all the burden, you know, so we are going to do a little bit of increasing every year so that everyone shares a little bit of burden.”

Zeke Wagner says, “Yeah, it’s for a good cause. Yeah, it’s for a good reason. Yeah, it will benefit the people that are coming and walking in my footsteps. But will it benefit me financially? I will struggle the future because of that.”



*Exact tuition increase for 2019 is 3.97%. The VOICE rounds up to the nearest tenth.
**All for charts from MCCC institutional records.

Men's hoops stunning season finish

By Patrick Mulligan
Reporter

The Mercer Men's basketball team held on in double overtime to defeat the County College of Morris 101-96 on Wednesday, February 13 during the last home game of the season.

The game was supposed to be played the day before but was postponed due to inclement weather. This did not diminish the size of the crowd on the rescheduled date.

The courtside stands were filled with other student athletes there to support the team.

Head coach Howard Levy said, "It was really a great atmosphere to play sort of the top team in the league with all the athletes from the school here. It was really a lot of fun." He continued by saying, "It was a great game, I'm sure, for both teams to play in. That's a real college basketball environment."

A previous encounter at Morris between the two teams on December, 18 ended with the Mercer Vikings losing 73-80.

This time, Mercer was able to outlast the Titans in a game that ending up going into two 5-minute overtime periods. Twelve lead changes occurred throughout the contest.

Mercer sophomore

Donovon Guess led the scoring with 32 points, 24 of which came from behind the 3-point arc.

"They are a good team but we consider our team to be just as good," Guess said.

The Vikings maintained a lead for the first 18 minutes of the 1st half, but Morris was able to work their way back in, overtaking Mercer at the cusp of half-time. Morris led 38 to 36 going into the break.

With Mercer leading 57 to 54 with 9:23 remaining in the second half, Morris again went on an offensive scoring spree. A flurry of Morris baskets over the course of five minutes resulted in the Vikings trailing 62 to 68 with only 4:41 left on the clock. 3-point shots by Letrell Randall and Jamir Jenkins helped the home team force their way back into the game. Regular time expired with the score being tied at 74.

Guess said, "We knew it was going to be a hard fought game; both teams made some big plays down the stretch."

Mercer again fell behind in the five-minute overtime period, trailing 82 to 87 with 56.1 seconds left.

Guess made a 3-point shot off the backboard with clinical precision as time expired, tying the score and sending the game into a second overtime period.



PHOTO | PATRICK MULLIGAN

Jamir Jenkins (#20) of Mercer passes to Letrell Randall (#30) while Adnan Bajrami (#15) and Donovan Guess (#5) look on.

"That was our only hope and he happened to make it, so it was great. I wasn't going to cry if it didn't go in because I know we're hopefully going to get another shot at those guys in the playoffs," Levy said.

With less than a minute left in the 2nd overtime, Mercer opened up a 100-93 lead against Morris. The game ended with a final score of 101 to 96.

Coach Levy said, "I'm really proud of just the way they hung in there. There were times when it looked like we could have folded and they always

bounced back."

John Evans recorded ten rebounds, while Jamir Jenkins was precise from the free-throw line, sinking 10 out of his 11 shots.

Standout players for Morris included Abraham Kromah, who scored 28 points, and Joshua Morris who recorded 12 rebounds.

A brief ceremony was held before the game to honor the Sophomore players on the team: Adnan Bajrami, Brandon Rojas, Julian Thompson, Donovan Guess, Jamir Jenkins, and

John Evans.

Donovon Guess was singled out by Levy for recently having reached the 1,000 point milestone while at Mercer.

The win meant the Vikings finished the regular season with a 10-3 home record, and an overall record of 19-9. The next challenge for the team will be the NJCAA Region XIX playoffs.

"This was really a good team. This was probably the best team we've played and it was great that we were able to hang in there and end up on top," Levy said.

Westminster dog show and the debate over pure breeding

By Nina Pemberton
& Staff of The College VOICE

At Madison Square Garden in New York, hundreds of dogs lined the rows during the WKC Westminster Dog Show on February 12, but the only sounds to be heard were that of the thousands of people - not a single bark. The faint smell of wet dog was overpowered by the innumerable fragrant shampoos, conditioners, sprays and powders being used.

Carol Montgomery, a breeder of Samoyeds--pure white herding dogs with a thick double coat--sits beside her beloved pup Emily, wearing a matching white dress.

"You know, it's like children. You want your children to live up to their full potential, and it's the same with breeding dogs. You know, some dogs, they don't want to [be] show [dogs]. They're not meant to show. Other dogs love it. They love to show off," Montgomery says as she pets Emily.

The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is the nation's most prestigious dog sporting event. In its 143rd year, the event saw more than 3,000 dogs competing in New York City over two days to bring home the world famous title of "Best in Show." The event has been held at Madison Square Garden since 1877.

The competition consists of determining Best of

Breed, then Best of Group and finally the winners from that round progress to the Best in Show competition. This year the top prize was taken by a perky Fox Terrier named King.

Among the many requirements for getting into Westminster, dogs must have to enter, the basic rules include: winning a championship title at one of the many smaller shows, being able to breed (not spayed or neutered), and of course, being a purebred dog.

The issue of pure breeding is not without controversy, however.

Many animal rights activists argue that pure breeding poses risks not only to the dogs themselves by passing on certain health risks, but also to the millions of dogs in shelters across the country who need homes.

Steve Cohn, the Manager of Veterinary Communications at Nestle Purina Pro Plan, the sponsors of the Westminster dog show, says that "when you're breeding a particular breed, you can end up with problems that are associated with too much inbreeding, or you can breed in specific traits that you don't want."

He continues, "As an example, there are more breeds that are prone to something like hip dysplasia or cardiac disease, or a number of different things. And a good breeder, if they've had experiences with that, will



Carol Montgomery with her Samoyed, Emily, at the Westminster dog show on

PHOTO | NINA PEMBERTON

know how to breed those things out."

Paul Clas, a dog handler and member of the Professional Handlers Association believes that puppy mills are the true main proponents of the problems activists fight against.

According to the ASPCA, puppy mills are establishments that breed purebred dogs for pet sale and are known for over breeding, forcing female dogs to have multiple litters per year, not monitoring potential inbreeding defects, and keeping

dogs in unfit conditions.

The demand for purebred dogs keeps puppy mills in business and buyers often do not know a dog they see in the pet store may have come from a mill. Many states, including New Jersey, have tried to enact legislation to protect against these practices.

Because purebred dogs can cost from \$500 to more than \$1,000, the financial incentives can sometimes be worth the risks for the puppy mills.

But from the perspec-

tive of the owners, breeders and handlers at Westminster, showing dogs in itself is not a money maker.

Class says, "Most of the breeders that do this, they don't make money out of it... The breeders involved in this sport, most of them are doing it for passion and they spend more money than they actually make."

In fact, King, the winning Fox Terrier won't get any money either. There is no prize money, only a trophy, for the best of show winner.

Princeton Greek food comes with a side of dancing

By Bianca Martinez
Reporter

The appetizing scents of fresh herbs and home-made dough waft through the doors as you enter Local Greek at 44 Leigh Street in Princeton.

The light blue and white facade of the restaurant captures its authentic Greek roots. Its interior features communal tables, twinkling string lights, and Greek sayings along the walls.

Local Greek owner Tony Kanterakis says, “We had 3 weeks to design it...I wanted to go more of a rustic, Cretan feel because the island we’re from is Crete. It’s a very kind of rustic, wooden, you know, old school style. It kind of fits the style of Princeton, I think also.”

Occasionally, the restaurant has a Greek Night, which includes an upscale dinner and live music performed by Nikitas Tampakis and Manolis Skoullous.

Kanterakis says, “We’ve been doing Greek Nights on and off for months. It’s just something that’s nice for the community and for everybody.”

The Greek music performed comes from a range of categories in-

cluding traditional, wedding, dance, Greek film, and modern hits as well.

As the Greek tunes and harmonies fill up the room, many who are seated will stand to clap or sing along with the music.

Tampakis, who has been performing at the restaurant’s Greek nights for a while now, says, “It feels like you go in there and you’re able to, kind of, be in Greece, taking a little departure from New Jersey.”

Ruth Bardales, a Mercer County resident who was visiting Local Greek for the first time at the most recent Greek Night on February 17, said, “I feel quite happy due to the welcoming atmosphere and kind service from the waiters. The prices are reasonable and I really to hope to return as soon as possible.”

Everyday menu items are priced from the cheese kourou (a Greek style empanada) for \$7.95 to a large Greek Hori-tiki tomato and cucumber salad for \$13.95. A typical gyro with choice of meat, tomato, tzatziki (yogurt sauce), onions and fresh herbs is \$9.95. Prices are higher for the special menu on Greek Nights and reservations are needed.



PHOTO | BIANCA MARTINEZ

Enthusiastic patrons at Local Greek in Princeton stood to dance to live music at Greek Night on February 17.

The food is the restaurant’s centerpiece. Whether someone wants to order small platters through the meze menu or opt for a larger plate, a piece of Greece is served in each one.

The chicken souvlaki includes tender chicken kebabs served with rice, horta, and lemon potatoes. The golden perfection of the perfectly roasted lemon potatoes, complement the grilled taste of the kebab.

A sweet pastry, like the baklava, has the right amount of crunch and chew. The Fillo dough, which is filled with crushed almonds and

walnuts, is topped by syrupy greek honey.

Local Greek, however, does not just excel in serving great Greek cuisine, but combining the food experience with an authentic sense of Greek culture.

Tampakis says, “Through the food and through the culture, whether it be music or dancing, the people are really well connected. They have, overall, this spirit of hospitality and sharing, that you go into a place like the Local Greek and you feel really welcomed and that you’re part of a fun community.”

For those who



PHOTO | BIANCA MARTINEZ

Local Greek at 44 Leigh Street in Princeton plans to soon open a branch called Small Bites near Palmer Square.

may want to get a quicker bite of authentic Greek food on the run, Small Bites, an outpost of Local Greek, will be opening soon closer to downtown Princeton’s main street. The spot will offer Local Greek’s usual breakfast menu, kebabs, gyros, salads, and more.

Kanterakis explains, “It’s going to be an extension of what we have here, almost like a similar look. It’ll be a lit-

tle different, you want to have a twist to it, but the number one thing we’re going to be doing is the Greek doughnuts, which is going to like shock everyone. We’re going to be making those in the window with homemade Greek ice cream.”

Kanterakis plans for Small Bites to be open to the public by the end of March and no later than April 1 but the final date has not been set.

The Moth Coffeehouse is perfect hangout for vegetarians

By Nikitah Shah
Reporter

Located on the sleepy main street of Allentown, NJ, is The Moth Coffeehouse. The Moth has been serving up local favorite vegan and vegetarian drinks, treats and food since 2015. Only a fifteen-minute drive from Mercer’s West Windsor campus, this coffeehouse is the perfect place to get some homework done or catch up with friends.

The Moth is built in an old grist mill that was bought by one of the owners, Corky Danch, back in 1975. Danch renovated the rundown mill into shops and a restaurant. All of that changed in 2008

Kris Danch, the other owner, says, “the government took control over the old mill because the dam and bridge on our property desperately needed to be reconstructed. Ever since that, the building remained vacant for years.”

The Danch fam-

ily tried everything they could to get the building up and running again but due to financial constraints, it wasn’t until 2015 that they were able to revive their beloved mill and open The Moth Coffeehouse.

The aroma of fresh coffee and baked goods fills the air outside of the mill. The second you enter this rustic coffee house you hear chattering customers and the clinks of silverware.

The Moth is decorated with fairy lights and unique furniture pieces. Some of the tables have old newspapers laminated on the tops which adds to the rustic charm of the space. One unique table is a high-top made from the trunk of a tree.

Some food favorites at The Moth include the chickpea sliders (\$8.75), vegan sausage sandwich (\$9.50) and vegan egg salad (\$7.75). A couple of drink favorites include sweet flavored (mango, peach, redberry apple) iced teas (\$3.00), sweet cream latte (\$4.00)

and matcha latte (\$4.25).

If you are vegan and cannot add dairy cream to your coffee, The Moth offers housemade vegan sweet cream. The sweet cream is made out of cashews, almond milk, agave and vanilla extract.

Daughter of owners Corky and Krish Danch, Alia Danch, says “I have been vegetarian my whole life and vegetarianism is very important to my family so it just made sense that we brought those values into our coffee house.”

One of The Moth’s most popular items is their vegan mac and cheese (\$8). The al dente noodles are covered in a garlicky, creamy sauce made out of tahini, cashews and carrots and surprisingly tastes exactly like real cheddar.

Michael Delgado, a regular at The Moth says, “it is the perfect place to grab a cup of matcha and meet with friends. My favorite place to sit is in front of the windows, which overlook Mill Pond. Ever since I went vegan,

it has been hard to find something that tastes like real mac and cheese but since I started eating here, I have definitely found the perfect substitute.”

If you aren’t vegan or prefer real cheese that’s available, too. The Moth’s tasty grilled cheese (\$6.75) uses American cheese with tangy stone ground mustard spread on ciabatta bread.

Resident of Allentown Terry Johnson says, “ever since I went vegan, my favorite thing to eat at The Moth Coffeehouse is their fresh beet burger. I like how the burger is in between two pieces of naan bread instead of a regular burger bun. They have figured out how to make vegan tartar sauce taste exactly like the real thing.” The beet burger is \$9.50.

Every meal is served with a side salad composed of crisp romaine lettuce, juicy grape tomatoes, cool cucumbers and crunchy radishes all tossed in fresh balsamic vinaigrette or with a side of kettle cooked po-



PHOTO | NIKITAH SHAH

A house specialty at The Moth Coffeehouse is the vegan mac and cheese, penne noodles in creamy sauce of tahini, miso, carrots, potatoes, cashews and nutritional yeast.

tato chips.

The Moth Coffeehouse is healthy, tasty and affordable, definitely worth the visit.

Kris Danch says, “we chose The Moth after

the luna moth which represents new beginnings. Which is exactly what we got, a new beginning for our beloved mill and for us as a family.”

Many dogs are at risk of dying in the cold

By Taylor Palancia
& Staff of The College VOICE

Recently a 50-year-old woman named Michelle Bennett was arrested and charged with animal cruelty after she allegedly left her step-brother's dog outside in freezing cold weather earlier this January. The authorities found the dog, known as B.J. frozen solid inside of a plastic dog house, chained, with no food or water nearby.

Although this case happened in Connecticut, where winter temperatures are somewhat colder than New Jersey, according to local veterinarian Dr. Laura Collins, people leaving dogs out in the cold is an issue here, too.

Dr. Collins, who has testified in court about animal cruelty says, "Some cruelty is intentional, but a lot of cruelty is ignorance, and most of what cruelty investigators do is try to correct ignorance. My job as a veterinarian is to correct ignorance, too."

Veterinarians use something called the TACC (Tufts Animal Care Condition) scales --originally published by Tufts University adjunct professor Dr. Gary J. Patronek in 1997--to assess dogs' environmental safety in regards to weather. The scales show that certain factors

can worsen or improve a dog's chances of withstanding the cold.

Toy breed dogs like the Maltese and the Chihuahuas are in much more danger than large breed, long coated dogs like Malamutes and Samoyeds according to the TACC scales, but other factors have an impact too. For example, if a dog is a puppy under six months old or an older dog they are more vulnerable. If it is raining, that can make a cold dog's situation worse. On the other hand, if the dog has access to some shelter or bedding, that may improve their chances of survival somewhat during prolonged exposure to cold.

When asked about how long he thinks dogs can be left out in the cold Jordan Miller, a dog trainer at Petsmart, says, "I don't think there's a set 'maximum' for how long a dog should be outside. Every dog is different...Rather than, a numerical time limit, I think a dog should be outside as long as they can tolerate it."

Miller's view holds up to what the TACC scales indicate, which is that dogs who have been conditioned and given time to acclimate to the cold will do better than those which have not.

Like Dr. Collins, Miller says, "[Some people] are igno-

rant. They're careless and don't realize that just because dogs have fur doesn't mean they can't tolerate cold temperatures more than us."

Diane Cardona, a first year student at Mercer, commented on the situation saying "I think the top reason [people leave dogs in the cold] would be because they don't want to go out in the cold with them or those people think dogs don't belong in the house".

Another first year student at Mercer, Shania Mercado, thinks more on the positive side of owners leaving dogs outside with saying, "I think people leave their dogs outside in the cold because they think they need time to run around or maybe sometimes they just want to give their dog time to potty outside".

Most dog deaths from the cold are never reported, owners may bury or dispose of the dog and no one will know. But the issue of freezing dogs is real.

When asked what you should do if you observe a dog left in the cold, Police Officer Matt Russo of Franklin Township says, "If there is a dog left outside and it's below freezing or you're concerned for the safety of the dog then you can dial the non-emergency number for your local P.D."



PHOTO | TAYLOR PALANCIA

Spencer, a mutt, was rescued years ago from a shelter after being left in the cold.

"Saturated Geometry" makes a splash at MCCC gallery

By Saad Ahmed
Reporter

The current exhibit at Mercer's art gallery on the West Windsor Campus is "Saturated Geometry," curated by fine arts Professor Lucas Kelly. It is running through March 7.

The art showcased in the exhibit is by five well-known professional artists from New York: Robert Erickson, Ryan Sarah Murphy, Alex Paik, Richard Tinkler, and Andrew Zimmerman. All the art pieces on display carry all the artists' individual takes on formal geometric abstraction and with some form of color saturation.

Thirty pieces are currently on display in total, of which 17 are from Richard Tinkler. According to Alice Thompson, the current art director at the Gallery, Tinkler's oil paintings in the exhibit use only two types of paint brushes throughout.

Four of the pieces are from Ryan Sarah Murphy. Murphy uses unpainted cardboard, cut book covers and a foam core to construct the pieces. The pieces are architectural and imitate buildings and locations with geometric proportions. Murphy's pieces, while few, are fascinating and stand apart from all the other artist's work.

Andrew Zimmerman has five pieces on display. He uses cut pieces of wood in geo-

metric shapes with each piece bound together. He also uses acrylic and automotive paints to color his pieces, which makes them stand out under the gallery lighting.

Alex Paik had just one piece which he titled 'Partial Equilateral Triangle (Diamond)'. The piece uses gouache, colored pencil, paper and nails.

Paik came to campus to install his artwork in the gallery. It creates a slight illusion; the color is revealed in the white inlay as you walked by it.

Brandon Velasquez a Graphic Design major at Mercer, who also works at the Gallery part-time says, "Alex Paik's work is probably my favorite one just cause it has a lot of colors and is focusing more on lighting and shadows and the light bouncing off each of the colors and just the geometricness of it."

Robert Erickson's pieces take a different approach. His three pieces use a technique of ink being on polyester. He painted a color on a canvas and layered with polyester to give the color a faded effect.

Most of the art pieces in the "Saturated Geometry" exhibit at the Gallery are up for sale starting from \$850 and going up to \$7000 per piece. Gallery director Alice Thompson says, "The Gallery is chiefly run by students. We rely on student volunteers very heavily in



PHOTO | CHELSEY JOHNSTONE

Mercer student Cassie Webb gazes at 'Partial Equilateral Triangle (Diamond)' a piece by Alex Paik featured in the MCCC Gallery's latest exhibit "Saturated Geometry."

terms of their support for hanging a show and be able to keep the doors open. If it were not for student volunteers the gallery doors would be closed."

But Thompson also notes that students are some-

times reluctant to visit saying, "The prevailing comment from students is that they have never been in a gallery...They are not sure if they are allowed to come in. There's sort of discomfort

initially, but we try to be very open and very welcoming."

*Up next at the Gallery: March 25 - April 25 (reception March 27)
MCCC Visual Arts Student Exhibition*



PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS



PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS

At the Trump and O'Rourke rallies in El Paso:

NOTE: An earlier version of this article ran online at mcccvoice.org/merica

By Maria Ramos
Guest Reporter

EL, PASO, TX – On February 11 I walked out of my house in El Paso and faced blaring music coming from the open garage of the guy across the street. “Fuck Donald Trump! Fuck Donald Trump! Fuck the Wall!” the lyrics boomed. The president himself was just blocks away at The Coliseum holding a MAGA rally in support of his beloved border wall. Across from The Coliseum, former senatorial candidate Beto O’Rourke was leading a counter rally.

It was into this divided world that I set out to get the story, not sure what that story was.

Two years ago I wrote a column for my college newspaper about the experience of being Mexican living in the US in the age of Trump. I wrote it just months after he’d given his famous speech describing Mexicans as “rapists.”

At the time I was living in New Jersey, working as a nanny and putting myself through community college on a cross country scholarship. In the article I described my experience coming to the US from my native Chihuahua, crossing the bridge over the Rio Grande at El Paso with all the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents staring at me and approaching with barking dogs. I described the knot in my stomach that grew from the sense that I had done something wrong, that I had something to hide despite the fact that I had all my expensive paperwork and visa in hand.

Now, two years later, I have completed community college with an A.S. degree in journalism and find myself back in El Paso, continuing my studies at the University of Texas.

Since writing that article in 2017 the anti-Mexican rhetoric in the US has only gotten worse. Now the president says that the fictional Mexican rapists are going to wrap American women in duct tape (why duct tape?). He has even

gone so far as to shut down the government to get billions of dollars for the wall despite the fact that at least half a dozen mayors of towns along the border have said the immigration crisis is manufactured, that various barriers already exist, and that building the so-called wall would be a disaster for their economy.

The mayor of El Paso, Dee Margo, is among those who have spoken out, disagreeing vehemently with the president’s assessment that he gave in the State of the Union address a week ago that El Paso—a city of roughly 2.5 million people—has become the “safest” city in Texas as a result of the wall that has been built here.

The mayor said, “We were, going back to 2005, one of the safest cities in the nation. The barrier went up and the fence went up and it’s only about ten miles long.” He noted that for more than 400 years El Paso and the Mexican state of Juarez have had a productive history of cooperation. I know that from my own experiences as a kid when we used to come up to the US to go shopping.

It was cold and windy as I walked toward The Coliseum. People of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens were streaming through the streets, most wearing the red MAGA hats.

I felt scared and confused. I kept looking at the people and thinking: Oh, man, that guy looks like a student who could be in my classes, or that other person looks like someone I would hang out with, but they hate me and think I’m here to steal the jobs. In their minds, I’m one of the crazy rapists with my roll of duct tape, or maybe I’m here to get pregnant and have an “anchor baby.”

People were shouting things like, “Build the wall! Make America great again! Keep out the Mexicans!”

And then it got worse. I saw a woman up ahead yelling, “We need the wall! We need the wall now! Mexicans for Trump! Mexicans for Trump!”

I was in total shock. Mexicans for Trump? I thought, Oh gosh this lady is crazy. But then I saw people holding the Mexican flag and chanting “Trump 2020! Trump 2020!” I couldn’t believe it.

I pushed through the fear, remembering that even though I couldn’t possibly be objective in this situation, my job as a reporter is to set my concerns aside and get the story.

I approached the lady who was holding the Mexican flag and wearing a MAGA hat.

“Why do you support Trump?” I asked.

She looked at me. “It’s not your business, but let me tell you something. He is right and he doesn’t hate Mexicans, he just hates bad people,” she said.

Before I could ask her something else she was gone.

I stayed outside the Trump rally for about an hour and a half taking photos, videos and talking to Trump supporters. I wasn’t able to get inside The Coliseum, so eventually, I let myself cross the street to the March For Truth organized by the Democrats from El Paso and Beto O’Rourke.

The scene could not have been more different. The cold air was the same, everyone all bundled up, but the people were there to march against Trump and the construction of the wall. They were wearing Mexican sombreros or arapes, and holding signs that said things like, “Mexico it’s our friend!” and “El Paso is safe. Trump is not.”

A young lady who was attending The March For Truth asked who asked to be anonymous since she was attending this event without the approval of her parents, she traveled all the way here from Dallas, TX.

“I decide to come tonight, even that my parents don’t approve this, I believe this is the right thing to do for our country and show

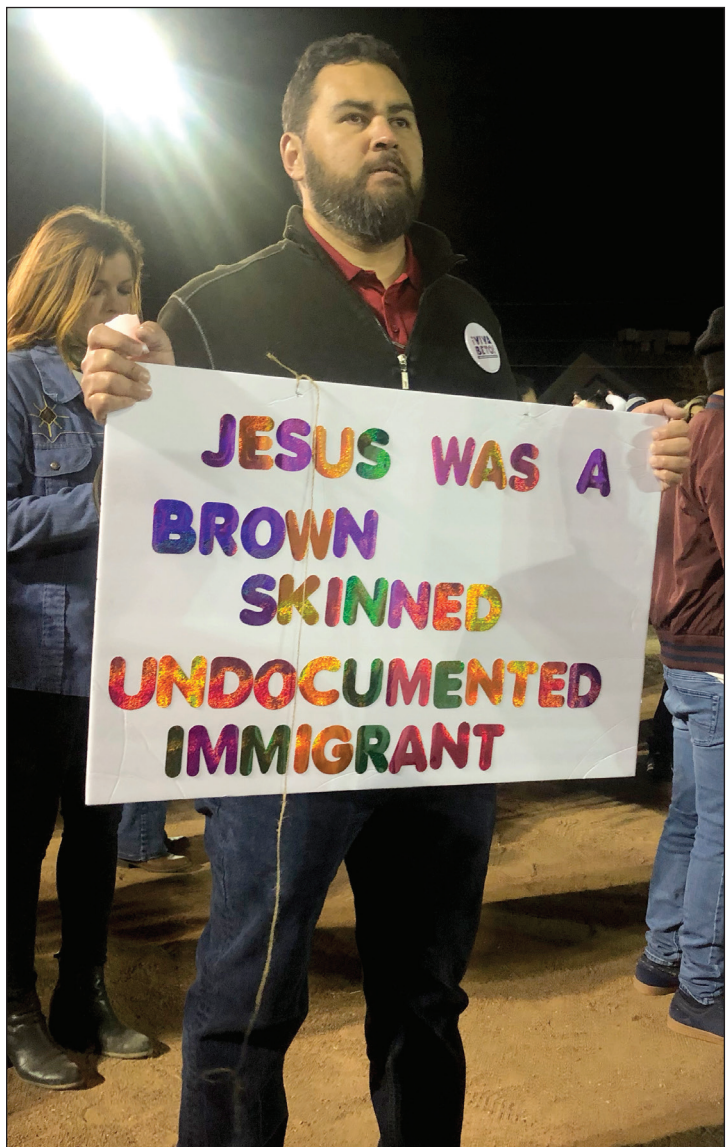


PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS



PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS

PHOTOS Left: At the Beto O’Rourke counter-rally in El Paso, TX on February 11, a man holds a sign connecting Christianity to tolerance for immigrants. Above: A woman holds a flag printed with the logos designed by Shepard Fairey for the first Women’s March bearing the slogan “WE THE PEOPLE.”



At the Mar
O’Rourke
participan
English cal



PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS

PHOTOS Top far left: At the President's rally in El Paso, TX on February 11, two self identified "women ranchers for Trump" held up signs and offered comments to local press. Top second from left: Trump supporters came in all shapes and sizes including young and old men carrying signs supporting Trump for 2020. Second from right: A river of Trump supporters flowed into The Coliseum from both directions. Top right: As visitors in MAGA hats streamed into the President's rally vendors set up to offer Trump-themed merchandize.

A Mexican trapped between love and hate

Trump that we are done with his lies."

As soon as the mariachi band finished their last song, Veronica Escobar, Texas representative for the 16th congressional district was sharing the stage with a couple of the organizers of Women's March from El Paso. Escobar stepped up to the microphone and introduced O'Rourke.

"Our hometown hero, our tireless advocate, please help me give a loud El Paso welcome to our own Beto O'Rourke!" Escobar called out.

Attendants started to chant, "Beto! Beto! Beto!" The crowd roared, clapping, smiling, and holding their signs high as he arrived on the scene.

O'Rourke started by talking about how immigrants are very valuable in the US and why diversity is important for the country. He remarked that this was a special night to show not only Trump but the whole country and the world that El Paso is a safe community, that people here don't need and don't support hate and the wall.

Of course, it was comforting to listen to O'Rourke, but my mind drifted back to the people speaking Spanish, wearing MAGA hats and holding the Mexican flag. It stung in a way that was hard to describe. I wanted to stay wrapped in the warm words of O'Rourke and the people at his rally, but the hate on the other side of the street wouldn't leave me.

As the evening wore on I could not stop thinking: Why do any Mexicans support Trump? Did they already forget their culture? Why do they want a wall? After all, they are here because past generations of Mexicans came here seeking the "American Dream."

Journalists have devoted endless ink to examining why Americans from various groups—from poor white men to affluent white women—supported Donald Trump in 2016. One theory that I've read seems like it may help to explain what I saw.

Researchers Christine Kray, Tamar Carroll and Hinda Mandell who wrote the book *Nasty Women and Bad Hombres: Gender*

and Race in the 2016 Us Presidential Election suggest conservative women voted for and continue to support Trump not in spite of his degrading comments about women but because to them his behavior signals support for traditional gender roles. These women often base their sense of identity on the role of being homemakers and caregivers who promote the success of their husbands and male children. The allure of this archetypal role causes many women to reject calls for women's equality and in fact, find them threatening.

Mexico is well known for its culture of machismo, where stereotypical manliness and a historical acceptance of men's place atop the social hierarchy is deeply ingrained. So maybe it's not totally surprising that many of the people I saw holding the "Mexicans for Trump" signs were women. Maybe it also helps account for why Ted Cruz, who vigorously supports these "traditional" values of male superiority, was able to gain enough votes from Mexican American citizens in Texas to narrowly

beat out O'Rourke for the Senate seat three months ago.

In the 1940s the US and Mexico created the "Bracero program" which encouraged Mexicans to come and work legally in the States, mostly on farms. These workers existed in the culture of machismo and brought it with them along with their wives and children. Three or four generations later, some of their descendants may still be holding on to those roles in a way that I cannot understand, which feels like hatred to me, but which somehow feels reassuring to them.

Only by trying to step away and rely on rational, analytic thinking can I find some way to reconcile what I saw in those two rallies. Beyond that, there is no good way to process the experience of being caught between the currents of love and hate.



Guest reporter Maria Ramos is a former Editor in Chief of The College VOICE. She lives and goes to university in El Paso, Texas and writes for a variety of publications including Newsweek where she has contributed work in Spanish for the Mexico edition.



PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS

Participants at the March for The Truth lead by Beto O'Rourke in El Paso, TX on February 11, held up signs in Spanish as well as English calling for justice and equality for all.



PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS

Participants brought signs opposing the President's wall and supporting Mexicans at the March for The Truth lead by Beto O'Rourke in El Paso, TX on February 11.



PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS

Participants at the March for Truth rally in El Paso on February 11 supported all forms of inclusivity and diversity,

PROVEN VALUE

TRANSFERRED HERE. PROVEN EVERYWHERE.

- **USciences is ranked #1 in PA, NJ, & DE** for salary after graduation (U.S. Dept. of Education College Scorecard, 2018).
- Before even getting their degree, many students have accepted employment and are **earning more than 100k**.
- We've also **lowered and simplified the tuition and general fee**.

*This pricing does not include room and board, health insurance, or any professional, clinical or transportation fees.

**Speak with your advisor or contact us
at transfer@usciences.edu or 888-996-8747.**

JOIN US!

**EXPERIENCE USCIENCES: A Class Shadowing Event
March 18–22, 2019**

USciences.edu/TransferExperience



REASONS TO ATTEND WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY AT MERCER

- Transfer scholarships are available up to \$5,000 a year (almost 50% of tuition) and renewable for up to two years or four consecutive semesters for a full time student.
- Affordable tuition: \$5,507 per semester as a full-time student or \$353 per credit for part-time study.
- Small class size with personalized attention from faculty and staff.
- Earn your bachelor of arts degree in early childhood education, psychology or liberal studies (english, history, political science, psychology, or sociology).

Please visit or call us:
William Paterson University at Mercer, Room #LA 135
mercerc@wpunj.edu • 609.570.3358

Your Future Career Awaits!

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

FINISH THE DEGREE YOU STARTED

Delaware Valley University makes transferring easy

TRANSFER TUESDAY

APRIL 16

delval.edu/finish

- 98% of incoming students receive financial aid, and our Transfer Merit Scholarships* make affording DelVal a reality.

* A minimum of 15 transfer credits is needed to be considered a transfer student. DelVal will accept up to 78 credits from a regionally accredited institution

- More than 25 academic degrees

- Articulation agreement offers guaranteed admission and core-to-core
- 100% of our students receive relevant experience before graduation

Accepting applications
for fall 2019

LOCATION

DOYLESTOWN, PA

91% CAREER
OUTCOMES RATE
delval.edu/careeroutcomes

MORE THAN
25
BACHELOR'S
DEGREES



DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY

700 East Butler Ave. Doylestown, PA 18901
delval.edu

GET A FREE RIDER COURSE IN YOUR MAJOR!

Maximize your transferrable credits with
Rider's Guaranteed Transfer Agreement

Get ahead with a free Rider course while
completing your associate degree

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS For Full-Time Students

Renewable Annual Amount	Minimum Cumulative GPA
\$24,000	3.75 or higher
\$23,000	3.50 – 3.74
\$20,000	3.25 – 3.49
\$19,000	3.00 – 3.24
\$16,000	2.75 – 2.99
\$14,000	2.50 – 2.74

Rider also offers **NJ STARS II Awards** of \$2,500 annually.
PTK members receive an additional annual \$1,000 scholarship.

OUR TOP TRANSFER AWARDS ARE WORTH MORE THAN 50% OF TUITION!

Schedule Your Personal Appointment Today

Email Jen Cook at

jcook@rider.edu

or call

609-896-5000, x 7159



RIDER
UNIVERSITY

RIDER.EDU/TRANSFER



Editorial Board

Chelsey Johnstone, *Editor in Chief*
Drew Mumich, *Managing Editor*
Kristen Miller, *Social Media Editor*

Staff

Trevion Anglin, *Senior Reporter*
Caitlin Clarke, *Senior Reporter*
Laurie Gallagher, *Senior Reporter*
Michael Bolden, *Reporter*
Bianca Martinez, *Reporter*
Marielena Peters, *Reporter*
Nick Slover, *Reporter*
Joe Szalecki, *Photographer*
Cassandra Webb, *Reporter*
Justin Willever, *Reporter*
Vanessa Woolfolk, *Reporter*

Faculty Advisers

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

We all need more diversity on TV

“So no one told you life was gonna be this way”

The Bottom Line



Vanessa Woolfolk

The NBC sitcom *Friends* has a catchy, Grammy-winning, theme song written by The Rembrandts which opens with the line, “so no one told you life was ‘gonna’ be this way.”

If you’ve seen any of the 236 episodes, you would see only a handful of black actors with recurring and speaking roles are present over 10 episodes. You would also only see non-white; Asians, Latinos and black people as background characters in about 20 episodes.

Altogether that’s around 30 episodes their IMDB Casting site lists, which shows faces that

aren’t white. This leaves many non-represented viewers, like me, who’ve noticed the lack of diversity across all 10 seasons wondering, so life is “gonna” to be what way? This straight? This skinny? This white? This full of first world problems? This devoid of any diversity?

Even though more than a decade has passed since the show has been on air, Netflix, Hulu and Xfinity caused a revival in the show’s popularity, leaving it one of the most viewed sitcoms ever. Although that may be so, many producers and directors have found minimally showing or completely excluding a whole group of people means losing viewership and therefore money.

Underrepresented people getting a platform to talk about common experiences, traditions, and customs has proved to be a financial success through views. Three shows; *Grownish*, *Blackish*, and *Fresh Off the Boat*

have been a success, with ABC reporting over 23 million people turning in on their tvs to each of the pilot episodes. It’s also important to note; in the last 20 years cable television has seen an immovable decline in viewership as digital recording devices, social media, the internet, and streaming services rise in popularity.

During the 90’s when almost everyone had a tv to watch shows like the *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Boy Meets World*, *Ellen*, *Frasier* and the *Nanny*, *Friends*, only received 20 million views as stated by ABC during its first episode. And while 20 million views is outstanding when put into 2019’s context of attention, engagement economy, and technology; by 1994’s viewership standards- it wasn’t. This proves that being diverse is profitable.

Blackish, *Grownish*, *Blackish* and *Fresh Off the Boat*

have a diverse cast despite focusing on the lives and experiences of a black family and a Chinese-American family. All of the main characters have friend groups full of multiracial, differently abled, and multi-ethnic individuals who have varying sexualities, backgrounds, and opinions. Although differences often arise throughout like Eddie’s friends not understanding his strict parents and traditional Chinese lunches, and Zoe’s friends not understanding the pressure she feels to achieve perfection, they all manage to reach an understanding that it’s okay to be different.

The resolutions and conflicts in these shows mimic the real world and remind viewers to be act with compassion and mindfulness of experiences they aren’t used to. You would probably feel alot better I told you life was “gonna” be this way instead.

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

VOICE ONLINE



Find us online at mcccvoice.org

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Editorial Policy:

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

Write to The College VOICE!

Do you have something to say? The College VOICE accepts letters to the editor. Submissions should be no more than 300 words; longer submissions may be shortened. Submit materials in electronic format, and include your name and status at Mercer (major and year, faculty or staff position or alumnus). All materials submitted become the property of The College VOICE, which reserves the right to reject or edit material based on length, taste or clarity.

How to contact us

email: robertm@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

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

NOTICE

MCCC LIBRARY

now open **SATURDAYS**
10am-4pm!

ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



Help is here!

infections alllll the time. Any suggestions what to do?

- Sick of this

Dear Sick of this, You are preaching to the choir. When you find out, let me know, sis. -The VOICE

Dear Voice, I am slightly jealous of the pampering that all these pooches seem to be getting lately. Shampoos, blowouts, pedicures, the whole nine yards! No one treats me that well. How do I get a girl to treat me as well as a show dog? -Jealous Boyfriend

Dear Jealous Boyfriend, Why are you triggered over a dog being cleaned? The irony of the saying "men are dogs," and here you

want to be one. Go play some fetch. -The VOICE

Dear Voice, I saw a rat in the parking lot last night. What should I do? -Not cool with rats

Dear Not cool, Apparently Mercer's feral cats are struggling to find food this winter. See if you can find one and direct it toward the parking lots. -The VOICE

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

Dear Voice, The food here sucks! Would bleach and Tide pods be an appropriate substitute? -Student X

Dear X, Don't eat Tide pods. The rest of us don't need you making community college students look like idiots. Just bring your PB&J like everyone else. -The VOICE

Dear Voice, I get UTI's and yeast

HOROSCOPES



Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

The best cure for loneliness is cuddles from someone soft. Pups and kittens are the best choice. Even if you don't have one of your own, borrow a friend and get some loving.



Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

Your bullish nature has often helped you push through pain and difficult times, but this month you need to give yourself a little extra room and not push quite so hard.



Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Time to put some seeds in the ground and know they will come up later. Planning for the future will be a must this month. The payoff will benefit you greatly.



Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

With your birthday just behind you, you may be feeling like this is a good time to reset and set new goals. The stars are in alignment and will give you extra support with new ventures.



Gemini

May 21 - Jun. 20

You are soon going to have to face a major decision. It may sound too simple to say "follow your heart" but in this case it is the best thing to do, even if your heart says to do something challenging.



Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

People keep taking without asking. You are generous by nature, but sometimes you have to set limits. If gentle reminders to respect your space aren't working, it's okay to get mad sometimes.



Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

A rare opportunity finds you around the middle of the month. You may have to shift your schedule around to make it work, but it's going to be worth the effort.



Cancer

Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

Surround yourself with music this month to help you get through the winter blahs. Dance around your room, sing in the car, go out to hear live music. This is all good medicine right now.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You are awesome and you shine this month. Big things are coming soon that will keep you busy but bring great joy. Don't worry about adjusting to challenges. You've got this.



Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

People around you seem to be losing their minds while you are trying to keep your cool. Even though you love them, now's a good time to hide out and get away from the storm.



Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

You have taken on a lot but you can handle it all if you keep your head. Usually cutting back is a good idea, but now is the time to go for broke. A burst of energy mid-month will help you.

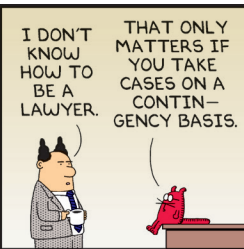
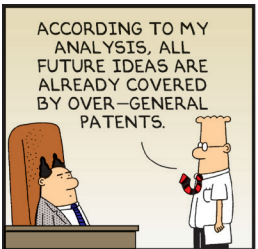


Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Good advice may come from an unexpected source this month. Don't be afraid to take it. Someone is looking out for you and has your best interests at heart.

2X DILBERT



SUDOKU

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

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.

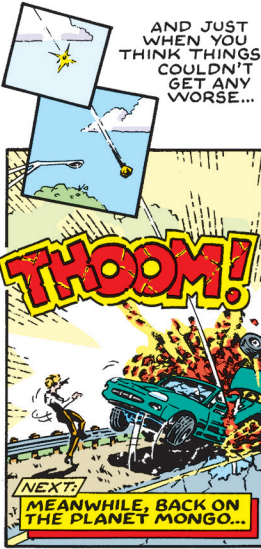
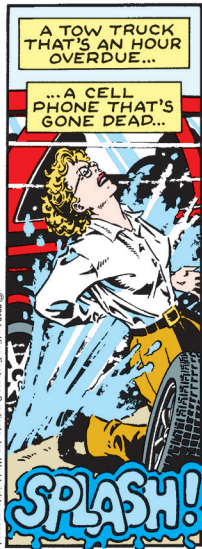
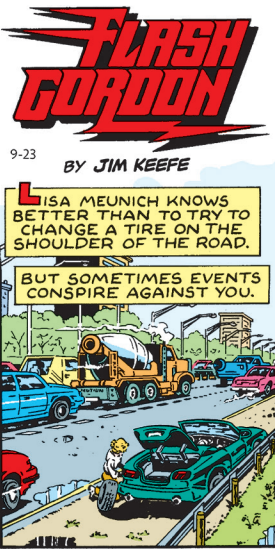
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

FLASH GORDON



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

