



Faculty vote no confidence in president Wang

Staff and faculty present litany of concerns about Wang to Board of Trustees



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

MCCC president Dr. Jianping Wang, prior to the open comment period, during the student recognition portion of the Board of Trustees meeting on the Trenton campus on April 18, 2019.



PHOTO | DREW MUMICH

Faculty members showed up to the MCCC Board of Trustees meeting on the Trenton campus April 18, 2019 to give their reasons why they had voted no confidence in the college president, Dr. Jianping Wang.

By Drew Mumich
Senior Reporter

The president of the Mercer's Faculty Association, Communication Professor Alwyn Haywood, was the first to take the podium during the public comment portion of the College's Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, April 18, at the JKC campus, to begin to explain to the Board the reasons for the faculty vote of no confidence that was made on April 11.

"Our president has turned herself into a permanent liability for the college—a liability that will hang like a millstone around the neck of the Board and the college until the day the president resigns or is fired," Professor Haywood said.

The Faculty Association passed the vote of no confidence in a meeting on Thursday, April 11. Eighty-five faculty members voted, three abstained and the remaining 82 voted no confidence.

As noted in a VOICE online article of April 12, a no-confidence vote has no direct consequence in the day-to-day operations of the college, but it does put pressure on the college's Board of Trustees to address issues related to the president's performance and her

contract.

Professor Haywood explained before the meeting: "[Our] request is, first of all, they listen to what it is we have been experiencing and take into careful consideration what [Dr. Wang] has to say, what we have to say. They will then have to very seriously do some investigating, and arrive at a conclusion that will be beneficial to the wellbeing and welfare of the college."

The April 11 vote by the faculty was only the second such vote in the 50+ year history of the college since its founding in 1967. The last Mercer faculty vote of no confidence was against then-president John P. Hanley in 1989. Hanley retired from the College in 1992.

Lauren Meyer, the former executive assistant to Dr. J. Brandon Shaw, Mercer's Vice President of Academic Affairs—who was hired in the fall of 2018, and whose contract was not renewed for fall of 2019—said in an interview with The VOICE, "If you look at what is happening at Mercer right now, it mimics what is happening on the national stage. The way the colleges are supposed to operate is you have a series of checks and

balances, and it's called shared governance, and the faculty works with the board who works with the president."

She went on to compare the situation to national politics saying, "What is happening is just like [President] Trump shutting down the Congress. President Wang is shutting down the faculty union, and the Board of Trustees, who are like the Supreme Court, are going to have to take a side."

When Board Chair Mark Matzen opened the public comment portion of the monthly Board meeting, attended by Dr. Wang in her official function as Board Secretary, 19 members of the Mercer faculty and the college community took the microphone one by one and presented their views regarding the president. Speakers were each given three minutes with the exception of the union presidents, Alwyn Haywood and Beth Knight, who got six.

The list of faculty grievances included: High turnover rate in leadership, including Vice Presidents and Academic Deans, leading to a loss of institutional memory and creating confusion regarding policies and procedures.

Another issue was the dismantling of the IT department. And "[Spending] more than \$2 million to hire an external company to handle IT functions under the pretense of better service and savings to the college." The company in question is Ellucian.

During his time at the podium during the Board meeting, Dr. Dylan Wolfe, a Communication professor, asked, "Why has Ellucian's contract been extended?"

Dr. Ed Carmien, a professor of English followed up on this during his remarks saying, "When you look at their [Ellucian's] promotional materials, [Dr. Wang] is in them, a lot, and she has made appearances in the past at Ellucian conferences, and has been a speaker at these conferences."

He continued, "It just gives an unsettling impression that our institutional decisions to spend a lot of our resources on Ellucian products...appear to benefit to some degree, Ellucian. We are not making the claim that there is a conflict of interest, we are just saying, gosh, it looks bad."

Interviewed in the days after the Board meeting, Dr.

Wang responded to the Ellucian issue saying, "I don't see why, if you are a customer, like if you have your fence repaired, and the contractor said, 'Did I do a good job, and if I did a good job would you be my reference?' So, as far as the college is concerned, we did move successfully to the cloud, so I talk about the impact of [Ellucian] on our students' learning."

However, the Code of Ethics for Mercer Employees states, "No officer or employee shall undertake any employment or engage in any business, transaction, service, or professional activity, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to impair his/her objectivity or independence of judgment in the exercise of her/his official duties."

Dr. Heather Jennings, Professor of Psychology, raised another issue of faculty concern, a limitation of contact between faculty and board members. She said, "The board is supposed to act in the public interest, including students, staff, faculty and administration. How are you even supposed to do this when we have gag order of sorts implemented in OMB100?"

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CONGRATULATIONS!
Graduation is coming.
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Esports are a national and local obsession.
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Online quarrel goes viral, leads to campus fight

By Chelsey Johnstone & Vanessa Woolfolk
Senior Reporters

On the afternoon of March 12, a fight broke out between two Mercer students, Carolann Reyes (21) and Samantha M. Scholander (29). The two Digital Film majors, according to campus security's daily log books, got into a fist fight at 12:25pm on the West Windsor Campus quad. Their identities were confirmed, both by their own social media posts and by multiple students who were present and had knowledge of the event.

A month prior to the altercation, on February 14, a video of Reyes, taken by a bystander on a Northeast Corridor NJ Transit commuter train, went viral after being linked to in an article by Larry Higgins of NJ Advance Media. The article was posted on the news site NJ.com.

The video showed that Reyes, who was in the "quiet car" of the train, put her Louis Vuitton purse in its own seat and would not move it to let other passengers sit while on the otherwise full train. The incident escalated, delaying the train until eventually, NJ Transit Police removed Reyes from the train according to a follow up article by Claude Brodesser-Akner, also of NJ Advance Media.

Brodesser-Akner reported, and the video shows, Reyes saying "I don't want anyone sitting next to me" and "Don't put your hand on my stuff!" when the conductor tapped the bag and indicated that she needed to move it.

After the video was posted, social media erupted with negative, and some racially charged comments spread across multiple media platforms including NJ.com, Reddit, and Youtube. The majority of comments referred to the in-

"I love the court of social media, the internet will really drag the life out of you when you deserve it the most. RIP to Jordyn woods and the girl on the NJtransit train."

--Samantha Scholander, Facebook post Feb. 20, 2019

cident and Reyes herself as "entitled," "infuriating," and "disrespectful."

However, some commenters took to Reyes' defence.

One comment by the username "Whoaitrae" on Reddit stated, "If I saw someone like this, I don't think I'd care enough to delay the train over it."

The controversial event quickly gained Mercer students attention.

According to an anonymous student familiar with both Reyes and Schonlander—who asked not to be named for fear for her physical safety—Scholander told a group of students in a Mercer class to share the news about Reyes' viral video. Then, the source says, Scholander herself shared the video to Facebook explaining that the woman in the video attended the same college she did. However, no direct reference to Reyes was made.

After Scholander's Facebook post, according to the same anonymous source, Reyes confronted Scholander about her spreading of the video.

"There was a build up... They were going back and forth arguing. It's just a bunch of petty stuff," the source said.

During a three week period tensions between the two students both online and in person seemed to intensify and a rumor circulated that Scholander posted a video to her Youtube channel expressing her unflattering feelings about Reyes. The video was ap-

"Yoooo I just WHOOPED this bitch asssssss on school campus"

--Carolann Reyes, Facebook post Mar. 12th, 1:20pm

parently removed, according to several sources with knowledge of the case, however, The VOICE could not access it to verify its content or its existence.

What was obtainable was a Facebook status update on Scholander's page posted on February 20th at 9:36PM, six days after the NJ Transit video went viral.

The post reads, "I love the court of social media, the internet will drag the life out of you when you deserve it the most. RIP to Jordyn Woods and the girl on the NJ transit train."

According to classmates, tensions continued to escalate between the two students and it seemed a calculated fight might be in the development. The day of the fight, an anonymous source says, Scholander planned to meet with a Communication professor at noon in his office after her class with Reyes.

"[Carolann and a friend] apparently had followed [Scholander] to [the professor's] office when she went to go talk to [him], and waited for her to come out," the anonymous said, continuing, "then I heard that the fight had started when Sam was walking back

"#SHARETHIS SHIT LMAO This bum bitch really tried it TALK SHIT, GET HIT u bum ass keyboard warrior"

--Carolann Reyes, Facebook post Mar. 12th, 3:23pm

across campus and Carolann got behind her and pushed her into the brick wall."

Video shows Reyes in the quad, near the ramps leading up to LA building on one side and the ET building on the other, hitting Scholander multiple times, grabbing her by the hair, throwing her to the ground and pushing her head first into a low brick retaining wall. Scholander can be seen attempting to fight back.

One hour after the campus security report of the altercation, Reyes took to Facebook herself, using her verified Facebook handle "Carola Rey," to proclaim her "victory." Her status read, "Yooo I just WHOOPED this bitch asssssss on school campus!!!!" followed by four laugh-face emoticons.

About two hours after the fight—which was recorded on video that The VOICE has obtained and verified-- Reyes made another post to her Facebook page that included a video recording of the fight. Her status read, "LMAO This bum bitch really tried it. TALK SHIT, GET HIT u bum ass keyboard warrior." It was accompanied by the hashtag "#sharethisshit."

A bystander told The

VOICE that following the altercation she saw security tending to Scholander with an ice pack while Reyes left to share the news of what occurred with students in the cafeteria. The VOICE reached out to security to corroborate this information, but they declined to respond.

After the altercation occurred and security filed a report, both women involved were contacted by the disciplinary committee which scheduled independent meetings with each student to address the situation.

According to the same anonymous source, Scholander has indicated that she was suspended and has been given a return date of June 30.

John Simone, Athletic Director and Assistant Dean for Student Development, who chairs the disciplinary committee did not give names, but said, "One case is resolved and one [is] still pending appeal."

During the appeal process, Simone says, a student may remain on campus under some circumstances. At this phase of the process, an appeal would go to the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA). Mercer does not currently have a VPAA.

The anonymous source gave her opinion of the situation saying, "Carolann's not friendly, she doesn't really have any friends. Sam isn't really friendly, she doesn't have many friends. Depending on who's side someone is on, most people just don't like both of them."

Music Department scholarship fundraiser recital brings in \$1,400

By Chelsey Johnstone
Senior Reporter

After years of discussion about holding a faculty music recital to raise money for the college's first ever official music scholarship, Mercer's Music Department was able to put the plan into action.

On Friday night, April 12, the faculty in different musical disciplines, from percussion to violin, presented a range of performances in varying musical styles. The majority of the department's faculty, staff, and adjunct professors teamed up to perform multiple pieces as the Music Club members sold baked goods outside the door.

"It's been literally over two years of talking and then finally just going 'hey wait, we need to stop talking and do it,'" says Professor Scott Hornick, Music Club advisor and Head of the Music Department.

In order to create a more student involved community fundraiser, the music department had the Music Club host the event along with the help of the Student Government Association (SGA).

The scholarship itself is being offered to all MCCC Music majors and requires an essay to be written about individual need for the scholarship, their contributions to the department itself, their academics and community services, as well as their vision for their future career plans.

Professor Hornick says, "[SGA] created the parameters for the application...The executive board of the Music Club is collecting all of the essays. We're removing names from them and numbering them to make them anonymous [so they are judged on the merits]."

Initially, the depart-

ment set modest hopes of raising anywhere between \$500-\$600 from the event.

"My goal was there was no way we weren't going to hit \$500 if I had to cover it all myself..." said Professor Hornick. He continued, "but...we had some very generous people and we hit \$1,400 dollars."

Before the event Music Club president Matthew Gargulio, said, "The music department, especially in this school, is usually a small branch and its always overshadowed by STEM."

However, after the successful fundraiser, Gargulio's perspective had changed. He said, "I think this is a milestone into us being a real voice in the college."

Gargulio added, "Now, it feels like we're growing up. It feels like we're going somewhere, finally."



PHOTO | CHELSEY JOHNSTONE
Music Department chair Prof. Scott Hornick performing at scholarship fundraiser.

You need Security but it's not an emergency. Now what?

By Chelsey Johnstone &
Tory Richardson
Senior Reporters

Last week a professor (who asked her name not be used) arrived to teach a class and all her students were in the hall because the door was locked. She went to the red security phone in the hallway and picked it up. "I have not had a key or a swipe[card] to a room that I have been teaching in for 20 years....That [room] is supposed to be open and often is not. I had to explain to the security desk what I needed and the security guard hung up on me," she said.

She added, "I called back to ask why he had hung up on me and got scolded for playing with the button."

Eventually, she says, she was able to get the situation sorted out and a friendly officer came to unlock the door.

In a recent VOICE survey of 30 students, 87 percent reported they are unaware of what to do in a locked-classroom situation. Thirty-seven percent said they recall a time where they and professor were locked out of a classroom.

Mercer's website has a College Safety and Security section which can be accessed from the home page by going to the ABOUT tab and then scrolling down to MORE which opens a sublist that includes Security. The security page indicates that there are non emergency numbers to call for both campuses.

The West Windsor number is ext. 3503, and JKC is ext. 3175. In order to dial those numbers from a non campus phone, such as a cell phone, the full campus prefix must be dialed. That number would be 609-570-3503 for West Windsor.

The page explains "Red telephones are located at either end of hallways and vestibules throughout the campus. These telephones provide direct communication with the Security office and should be used for emergency reasons only."

According to Security Chief Michael Flaherty, issues reported through red phones or call boxes that are not presenting a real danger to individuals are like "using 9-1-1 to call for a pizza."

Flaherty says, "A lot of people get offended when we remind them that they are using an emergency line for a non-emergency."

But even using the non emergency extension has not been successful for some.

Another professor, who also asked not to have her name used said, "I arrived at my lab room in AD this morning and the door was locked. My swipe card didn't work, but I had programmed the non emergency number for security into my phone so I called it. First it rang a dozen times without an answer. I hung up and dialed again and I got a recorded message saying 'all lines are busy at this time.' So there was nothing left to do but use the red phone."



Security phones present problems when it's not an emergency.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | CHELSEY JOHNSTONE

She continued, "I didn't want to use it. I understood that it was not an emergency, but I was out of options. I had 30 students waiting and we were ten minutes into class time already." She says a security guard arrived five minutes later and opened the door, telling her she needed to have her swipe card access updated.

She says she asked, "Could someone please send out an email to all faculty to let them know that?" and that the guard told her "That's outside of my job."

Flaherty explains there

used to be stickers indicating the non-emergency number, that should be used for issues like door opening, listed underneath all the call boxes and red phones.

"The problem is that people keep taking them down. I'm not sure why someone would want to do something so foolish as that." Flaherty says.

Asked if security had any plans to replace the number stickers, Flaherty says, "That is a great suggestion and I think we should revisit it."



Investigating whether trash and recycling are being mixed

By Bianca Martinez &
Saad Ahmed
Reporters

On campus, there are separate bins for waste and recyclables, however, from looking at the black trash and blue recycle bins, it seems as if a lot of trash is being thrown in together.

Ricardo Morales, a student at Mercer who is a Communication major says, "I feel like people are lazy and they don't wanna really throw things away in the right, or the correct containers."

In many classrooms and along the walkways there is only one type bin, often a blue paper recycling bin, so without alternatives, students and staff seem to be discarding their waste and recyclables together.

In the county, the recycling percentage is 65 percent which just about meets the statewide goal, according to Daniel Napoleon, the Director of Environmental Programs at the Mercer County Improvement Authority.

Napoleon says, "In terms of education, I think the key for college campuses is to increase your signage...And also wherever there is a trash can, there should be a recycling

container."

Separating items and recycling, in general, has financial benefits.

In a case study conducted by the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network, it found that avoiding the cost of disposal is very cost-effective, "It will vary depending upon the fee charged for garbage disposal at the facility in your area, but in New Jersey with such disposal fees averaging over \$80 per ton, the avoided the cost of disposal can be significant."

On a statewide level, authorities are encourage recycling.

As reported by Recycling Today, "New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe announced Jan. 2 that local governments will share \$14.3 million in grants to enhance recycling efforts in the state. The funds will be allocated based on 2016 recycling performance in various communities."

One of these communities includes Hamilton Township, specifically receiving \$150,719. It's not clear what specific efforts Hamilton will undertake.

Valerine Cruz, a house-

keeper at Mercer employed by the company ABM, says she keeps both recyclables and trash separated as instructed but is not responsible for taking out the garbage, as that duty is handled to someone else at night.

Cruz says, "In the morning, we check only the bathrooms and some offices. But in the night, they clean the classes, all the floors...But this is in the night."

Marie Jermain, a chef at Mercer since 2017, says items at the kitchen are also separated in their own way.

She says, "Well, they have two dumpsters, like the regular garbage go in one thing, we have the cardboard go in the other one." Grease is also separated, according to Jermain.

At Mercer, garbage trucks do come early in the morning on the allocated days to collect the garbage around the campus.

However, it is still unclear whether Mercer combines all trash together at the end of the day. It is clear that the problem of not having trash bins located beside recycle bins is causing people on campus to mix their waste.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | SAAD AHMED

In many places on Mercer's recycle bins for paper are not positioned near regular trash bins, causing waste items to become mixed.

Board of Trustees hears reasons for faculty vote of no confidence

Continued from page 1

The faculty grievance, as presented by Jennings, was specifically that President Wang had created policies to prevent the Board of Trustees “from exercising due oversight. Specifically, the President implemented a Code of Ethics for Board of Trustees members blocking communication with any college employee other than herself.”

Dr. Wang responded in a later interview saying, “You read for yourself if there is or there isn’t a gag order. There isn’t. . . . and by the way, it’s a Board policy. It’s that I didn’t dictate it. It’s the policy of the board. It’s what you call Board bylaws.”

Matzen affirmed Wang’s position, saying in an interview, “It is a board-driven process, the president does not drive the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.”

The clause that Jennings seemed to be referring to is letter F in OMB100, “Trustees should strive to support the college staff and never criticize the College President, any staff or fellow Trustees in public. If a trustee is contacted by College Staff for any reason, the Trustee should listen respectfully. However the trustee should redirect the staff to the appropriate administrator or report that conversation to the Chair and/or College President.”

Another grievance that was read by faculty was, “[Dr. Wang] failed to retain key leaders such as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Director of Financial Aid. Since her appointment in 2015, MCCC has had four different Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs. Such turnover prohibits the achievement of long-term strategic goals and creates institutional confusion.”

As stated in a previous VOICE article, “In 2015, a series



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Mark Matzen, Chair of Mercer County Community College’s Board of Trustees, at the April 18, 2019 meeting on the college’s Trenton campus.

of rapid changes in Mercer’s upper administration took place starting with a new President, Dr. Jianping Wang, and a new Vice President, Dr. Chang. There were also new employees in two of the three dean positions. Since then the college has also seen the Director of Human Resources, the Chief Business and Financial Officer and the Registrar all either retire or move on to other jobs.”

Mercer will be on its sixth Vice President of Academic Affairs in fewer than six years as Dr. J Brandon Shaw’s contract was abruptly not renewed.

Meyer, Dr. Shaw’s executive assistant, explained why she believed Dr. Shaw’s contract was not renewed and that it had to do with a hiring decision for an open provost position on the college’s JKC Trenton campus. A search committee was convened and recommended one

candidate, and Dr. Shaw agreed with their recommendation, but Dr. Wang selected a different candidate.

Meyer said, “[Dr. Shaw] had twice recommended someone for the [position of] dean of JKC. Both times, it is my understanding—I wasn’t in the room, it’s just my understanding—Dr. Wang would say she would not accept his recommendation, and that she wanted him to recommend someone else.”

Meyer continued, “It is also my understanding that Dr. Shaw said, that ‘as the president of the college, I will support you, but you can’t ask me to say that this is my recommendation, because it wasn’t my recommendation.’”

During the public comments, Dr. Wolfe had raised the same issue asking, “Regarding search committees, why do we have them if the president has

the authority to override the search recommendations? We are in essence discrediting the process...”

When asked about Meyer’s comment, Dr. Wang responded, “I really, once again, want to say I don’t want to comment [on] personnel things in public. I don’t think it’s accurate. It’s something really unfair because one side can talk and the other side cannot and it creates an appearance as if you have something to hide.”

Meyer said, “This is my opinion. It wasn’t as though Dr. Shaw was saying, ‘No, I’m not gonna do that. I am going to completely disregard your directive,’ but what he was saying was, ‘Let’s be truthful here, this is not my decision but I will support you.’ He wanted her to own up that this was her decision, not his.”

Ultimately Meyer resigned her position, citing ethi-

cal conflicts.

Dr. Wang stated, “In truth, I want to be professional about it, I really shouldn’t be talking about professional matters in public. I only want to say the facts laid there are not accurate.”

Dr. Shaw was unavailable for comment on these issues as of press deadline.

During Dr. Wang’s tenure, graduation rates have gone up. Mercer is distributing more scholarship money than ever, having over \$600,000 available to students, and the endowment has grown from \$8 million to \$11 million. Board Chair Matzen noted these accomplishments at the April 18 meeting, after the public comment period ended.

Asked about the events of the Board meeting, Dr. Wang said, “I believe we have a very passionate, opinionated faculty, with strong opinions about a lot of things, and I respect their opinions, but as all of you know, I have a very open door policy, and every week I hold one hour open office hours, and many of you have taken advantage of it. I want to invite faculty to come in, as I said before.”

Matzen told The VOICE directly after the meeting, “We have as a board, confidence in the president. She has done some amazing things, moved us in a strong direction, financially and academically, both on the budget side and on the Foundation side. Having said that, anytime you hear of things that are issues, and especially when you hear from this many...it might make you look at different things...it brings some things to the board that we will definitely discuss.”

NOTE: Jim Franklin, Professor Emeritus of English and Journalism, served as guest media adviser for this article. VOICE media advisers, Professor Matthew Kochis and Professor Holly Johnson, recused from advising on this article because of their conflict of interest as members of the MCCC faculty union.

PROFILE: Prof. Leinz Valdes makes time for everything from Mercer to CNN

By Tori Pender
Reporter

Leinz Valdes is an adjunct Professor of Communication here and also works as a Digital Producer at CNN. To accommodate both jobs he is constantly on the move between New York City and Mercer’s West Windsor campus.

A typical day, before his son was born, consisted of teaching Public Speaking and Human Communication at Mercer in the morning, hitting the gym, then doing errands. After that Valdes’s job at CNN begins at 4:30pm and ends around midnight or 1am when he drives an hour drive back home. Since his son was born of course the schedule has gotten even more complex in order to have time for parenting, but Valdes manages to keep up.

Gabby Utlak, a second year Exercise Science major who is one of Valdes’s students says, “[he] has a good sense of humor that keeps class light-hearted and makes the fear of speaking publicly easier to manage.” She continues, “He makes sure to incorporate real life into what we are learning in class.”

Valdes graduated with an undergraduate degree in Journalism from Rutgers and first worked for an education non-profit to help at-risk students. Though he liked the job, he longed to go back to journalism, so he went back to school and got a Masters degree in Journalism from Columbia University. From there he was able to move on and get a job at CNN.

Valdes says he had his eye on CNN from early on.

“It’s great to know what you want to do [in life], and know where you want to work,” Valdes says, explaining that having a specific goal in mind made it easier to identify the steps needed to get there.

Valdes started freelancing at local news stations including News12 and NY1 by working as a photojournalist and editor. Tired of the inconsistent workflow, a job opened up in CNN’s media operations. The job focused on quality control and color correcting all of the video content that comes into CNN. It was a tech job that helped Valdes get his foot in the door.

Valdes worked in the production and editorial side at CNN before transitioning to digital media in 2012. He says being a digital producer has led to a wide range of oppor-

tunities. For example, after the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010, he was able to go there and document the recovery efforts. Footage he shot was used on Anderson Cooper 360. Other shows he has worked on at CNN include Lou Dobbs Tonight, Heros, & Erin Burnett OutFront.

Valdes has been teaching on and off at Mercer since 2008. The overlap between being a journalist, Communications Professor, and media producer, is the constant learning of information and “learning the audience,” Valdes says.

Aaron Burt, a second year Business Administration major who has Valdes for class says “Valdes is a great professor. He goes above and beyond to connect with all of his students in class. He has a modern teaching style.”



PHOTO | TORI PENDER

Professor Leinz Valdes teaches Public Speaking and Human Communication at Mercer. He has been teaching here on and off since 2008. He also works for CNN in New York.

They released the report, now what?

With Mueller report released, activists say there are many more questions



Local activists at Trenton City Hall on April 4 holding a "Release the Report" rally.

PHOTO | KRISTEN MILLER



PHOTO | KRISTEN MILLER

On April 4, locals rallied at the capital and called on Attorney General Barr to release the Mueller report. It was released two weeks later.

By Michael Bolden & Drew Mumich
Senior Reporters

On Friday, March 22, special counsel Robert Mueller's report on possible collusion between President Trump's administration and Russia to influence the 2016 elections was provided to Attorney General William Barr.

Activists nationwide had been pushing for its release and continued to do so after Barr released a four page summary of the report on March 24, drawing his own conclusions about the content.

At that point, accord-

ing to reporting in the New York Times, people who worked on the investigation had indicated that Barr's description of the report's conclusions was misleading and underplayed the seriousness of the findings.

In response, citizens in more than 300 towns and cities held a day of action and rallies, on April 4, demanding that Barr "release the report," meaning the full report.

The protest was organized by the MoveOn organization. MoveOn is an online organization that says it fights for equality, social justice and political progress.

Tom Gardner a protester who attended the local protest held on the steps of City Hall in Trenton, said at the event, "If you are one person shouting nobody hears you, but if there are a number of people taking up the same shout, then it energizes everybody and amplifies your voice. You never know when something will meet critical mass."

Lisa Flythe, who helped organize the rally, advocated for the release of the full report noting that "\$34 million in taxpayers' money was spent. It lasted 24 months. There were 37 indictments. Our representa-

tive decided that it needed to be investigated. There was smoke and we needed to see if there was a fire."

So what are the activists feeling now that the full report (with redactions) was released on April, 18?

Georgette Chalker, who was at the protest, says now, "My concern still remains and we need to convince people that this is not a Democrat issue or a GOP issue, this is an American issue."

Olivia's Rainbow Gallery exhibits celebrate nature and a child's life

By Taylor Palancia & Staff of The College VOICE

On August 31, 1997, a 5-year-old local girl named Olivia Kuenne died in a freak accident when a stone bench fell on her. In a 2011 article in NJ.com, her father Christopher Kuenne described how the "ultimate nightmare for any parent" left him feeling a loss of control. Seeking an outlet in his work, he went on to co-found the popular language software company Rosetta Stone, becoming its chairman and CEO.

The same energy and sense of grief propelled Chris and his wife Leslie to found "Olivia's Rainbow Gallery" at the D&R Greenway Land Trust building in Princeton. The gallery space is little more than a hallway, but it features changing collections of artwork related to Olivia's favorite topics, animals and nature.

This January's exhibit, titled "From a Child's Perspective" was of macro photographs of nature by Tasha O'Neil.



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Ducks enjoying the sights in water beside the D&R Greenway.

O'Neil's photographs, combined with vivid descriptions, were informed by her own love of nature and connection to it based on her experiences spending summers near Acadia National Park in Maine, according to an article by Carolyn Edelmann, the gallery's curator, in Patch.com. The photos were close-ups of things like white mushrooms growing through

deep green moss. In March the gallery featured art work from the K-3rd grade girls at Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in a collection called "Animal Expo." The students created the exhibit as part of a interdisciplinary project to build skills in researching animals, writing about them in detailed descriptions and creating artwork that

lives up to both the interests of Olivia Kuenne and the mission of the D&R Greenway which states as its goal to "inspire greater public commitment to safeguarding New Jersey land."

Even though the display space is limited, the children's artwork in the "Animal Expo" exhibit, with its lively crayon drawings of animals and their descriptions had a larger than life feel.

Carolyn Edelmann, a poet and naturalist who lives in Princeton, is the curator of "Olivia's Rainbow Gallery." She serves as its communication director as well, often writing about the current exhibits on the local news service Patch.com.

In a recent article, Edelmann described the "Animal Expo" exhibit saying it offered, "Lively and compelling interpretations of animals fill the Olivia Rainbow Gallery, creatures native to New Jersey in general and central Jersey in particular. These young artists also crafted essays on habitat, food, interactions of their spe-

cies with Lenapes of long ago, and with 21st-Century humans. All addressed habitat requirements and environmental effects upon their chosen species."

In a recent interview, Edelmann said the message is to "keep people aware of the nature around them."

Deborah Kilmer, manager at the gallery, says, "We love the kids. It's inspiring. It's a great way to introduce the kids to nature. It's really an inspiring thing we do here."

Fabricio Manrique, a recent gallery visitor, said, "I think this artwork is so inspiring with knowing the background behind it. It's really cool to see the artwork displayed."

Edelmann says that she is passionate about the work of the gallery, especially because it helps to carry on Olivia's legacy.

Leah Bercy, a recent visitor, said, "personally, I think it's touching. For those who knew [Olivia] and knew how much she loved nature, it's touching. It's carrying out a type of legacy for her."

Vikings take Monroe College Mustangs 12-6

By Patrick Mulligan
Reporter

Mercer's baseball team defeated non-conference opponent Monroe College of New York 12-6 at home on Tuesday, April 16 to bring their overall season record to 24-11. The Vikings were dominant throughout the game, at one point leading by nine runs.

Starting pitcher Dave Stec gave a strong performance on the mound, striking out six batters in five innings and giving up three runs, two of them earned. Sam Irvin relieved Stec in the top of the sixth inning. He pitched for two innings, striking out four and allowing one run.

Offensively, the Vikings left fielder Domenic Boselli went 3 for 5 at the plate, scoring 2 runs and batting in 4. Designated hitter Collin Sheehan had two hits and drove in two runs.

For the visiting team, shortstop Joseph Encarnacion led Monroe with three hits, two of which were solo home runs.

Stec (3-1) said that compared to previous starts, he had difficulty locating his two-seam fastball and change-up.

"What really saved me was being able to locate my off-speed, my curveball, my slider," Stec said, continuing, "But because of that location with my offspeed, I was able to kind of mix it up a lot more and save myself without having two of my more important pitches."

Stec reflected on the mental side of the game and trying to stay in control of his pitches.

"Sometimes you get a



Domenic Boselli (#3) waits for a pitch during Mercer's April 16 game against Monroe. The left fielder was 3 for 5 at the plate, knocking in four runs and scoring twice.

PHOTO | PATRICK MULLIGAN

batter or two where you're getting behind in the count. I really just got to focus on the fact I'm out here for a reason," Stec said. "I've done this before and just kind of clear my mind and throw some strikes."

The Vikings carried a 12-3 lead into the seventh inning. Monroe scored one run in the seventh off of Irvin and two runs in the eighth off of Justin Rouse.

Mercer head coach Fred Carella said he was pleased overall with his team's performance against the Mustangs.

"I thought we played well. We hit the ball pretty well, we took our walks when we needed to," Carella said. "We threw the ball very well, aside from towards the end of the

game when the bullpen struggled a little bit."

One area of improvement Carella thought his team could work on was their inconsistency on offense.

"We have days like against Monroe where we go out and score 12 runs and other days where we have to really fight just to get a couple across," Carella said.

Monroe College (18-20) coach Manny Roman said he felt they could have done better, allowing Mercer to capitalize on the four errors they committed.

Roman said he wasn't disappointed because his team lost, but rather that they didn't compete to their ability.

"We had no fight at

the plate and our pitchers were constantly pitching behind in the count," Roman said. "Hats off to Mercer for capitalizing on our mistakes."

The Vikings and the Mustangs met three times earlier in the season, including a doubleheader at home on March 30, and an away game the week before on April 10. Mercer won the first game at home and lost the second. They fell 1-2 to Monroe when they traveled to New Rochelle, NY.

"We knew Mercer was going to be a tough opponent like they are every year, so we needed to be at the top of our game," Roman said. "We can't take any team lightly just because we had beat them already."

There was a moment of controversy in the top of the fourth inning when Monroe shortstop Joseph Encarnacion hit a long fly ball down the third base line and over the left field fence. The umpire judged that the ball stayed in fair territory and indicated it was a home run.

Vikings head coach Fred Carella saw it differently.

"What I saw was that the ball cleared the fence by plenty, but it was foul. It stayed right on the line and stayed foul the entire time," Carella said.

The Vikings head coach briefly left the dugout to argue his point with the umpire.

"[His] response was that it hooked foul after it had already cleared the pole," Carella said. "Our catcher and our third baseman both agreed with me and the guys in the dugout did as well. I mean it was close, but from our vantage point it was clearly foul."

This run brought the score to 2-2.

The Vikings were not deterred by the umpire's decision. Mercer went on to score five runs in both the bottom of the fourth and fifth innings.

With the regular season coming to an end at the beginning of May, the Vikings will next head to the regional playoffs.

"The region tournament starts May 10, so really the key for us is to keep focusing on playing well, doing the little things right, playing as a team, playing all together," Stec said. He added, "[We're] getting hot before the playoffs and hopefully, that will just kind of roll right into it."

Esports are booming nationwide and locally

By Marielena Peters
Reporter

There has been a long debate as to whether competitive gaming can be considered a sport; with the main argument being: there's no physical aspect to it. But according to The Oxford English Dictionary definition of a sport, it is, "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment." Under this assumption, video games or Esports are most definitely sports.

Though games like League of Legends and Overwatch are not being broadcasted on ESPN like poker, respective game publishers have invested into quality productions through video game streaming services that could rival their quality. This investment is proving to be profitable.

Newzoo, the leading provider of market intelligence, forecasts that the Esport economy will generate \$1.1 billion in 2019.

One might be wondering how an industry making so much money can still be so niche. However, through waves of local tournaments with a large fan base, the idea of Esports is not as niche as one might think.

Nintendo is a well known Japanese electronic and video game company. Their gaming consoles include the Nintendo64, Gamecube, Wii, and most recently the Switch. They also developed handheld gaming devices such as the Gameboy Color, Gameboy Advance, and the DS and 3DS. High profile game titles like the Mario series, Pokémon, Metroid Prime, Animal Crossing, and the infamous Super Smash Brothers. Super Smash Brothers Melee was the first title in the Nintendo series to create a competitive scene.

Fast forward years later, where vast majority of gaming companies and softwares are being promoted as an Esport event, a new venue located at Quaker Bridge Mall in Lawrence has brought the competition closer to the Mercer area.

"I think Super Smash Brothers is a great game for a community event like this because everyone here is friendly and the game is welcoming to that friendly, yet competitive environment. I think this is overall a great experience."

--Matthew Vox, Gaming Tournament Organizer

Hyper Space Gaming, is a virtual reality arcade with mounted colorful and powerful gaming rigs connected to multiple large screens that line the walls. Families with varying ages enjoy playing games with VR (Virtual Reality) headsets. In the back of the venue, Nintendo Switches are loaded up with Super Smash Bros and hopeful winners and spectators gather for a day of heated matches.

Monday, February 18, the venue hosted their third tournament with 22 entrants competing for a cash prize. After many rounds of colorful combos, one competitor, Chris Reubel comes out on top of the competition.

After the tournament was over, the winner, Reubel, runner-up Jay Santiago, and

competitor Russell Malko huddled together to share tips and tricks for their next tournament.

All three were in agreement that Hyper Space was a great tournament for players looking to dip their toes into the competitive world. Santiago noted that getting constructive criticism for match improvement is not something that would typically be possible at a larger event.

Matthew Fox, the venue's Tournament Organizer said, "I think Super Smash Brothers is a great game for a community event like this because everyone here is friendly and the game is welcoming to that friendly, yet competitive environment. I think this is overall a great experience."

TOP 5 EGAMES

- 1

COUNTERSTRIKE GLOBAL OFFENSIVE
- 2

DOTA 2
- 3

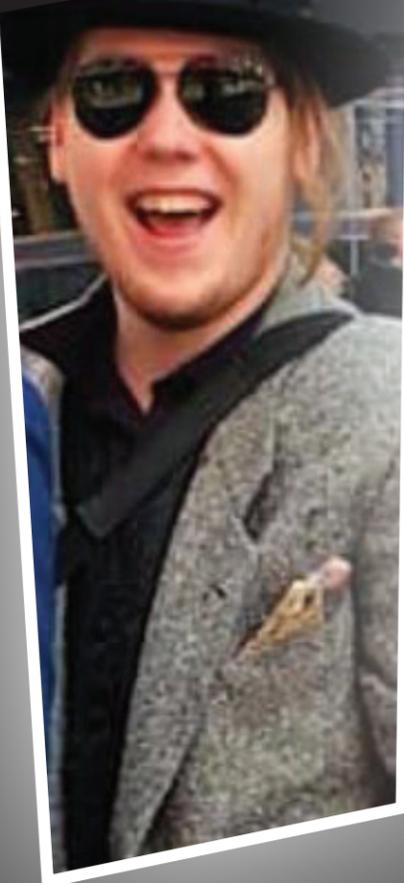
FORTNITE
- 4

RAINBOW SIX SIEGE
- 5

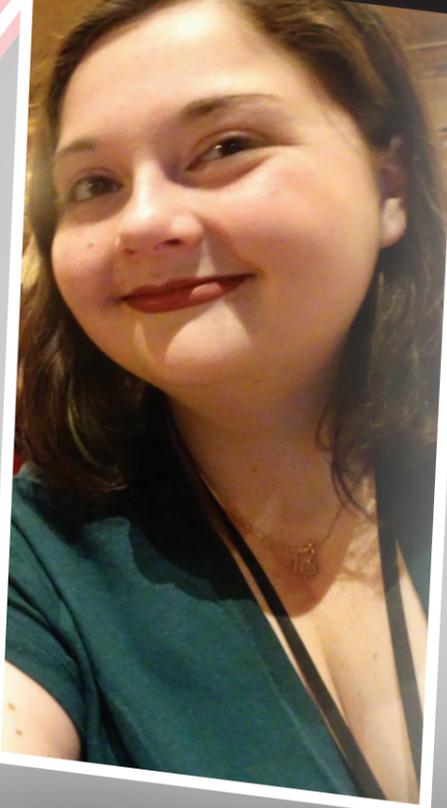
PLAYERUNKNOWN'S BATTLEGROUNDS

CONGRATS GRADUATING VOICE STAFFERS

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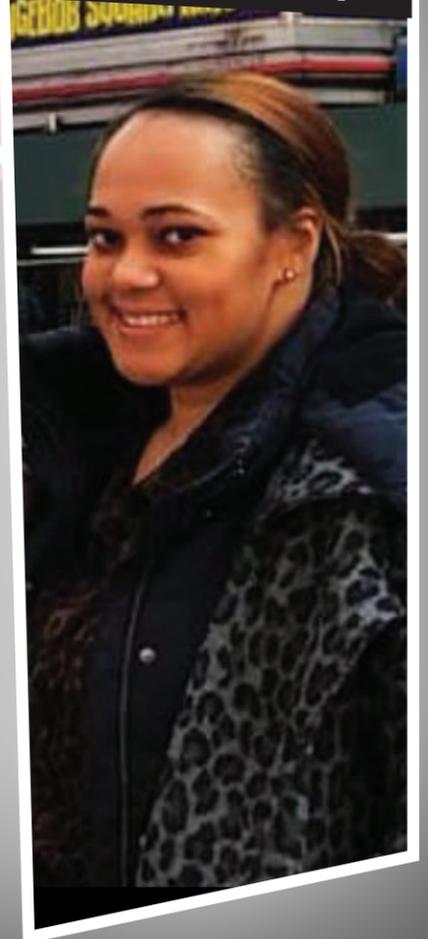
CHELSEY JOHNSTONE



MARIELENA PETERS



VANESSA WOOLFOLK



SUPERHERO NAME:
CAPTAIN COFFEE
JOB AT THE VOICE:
MANAGING EDITOR
SUPERPOWER:
CONSUMPTION OF COFFEE
WHAT'S NEXT:
OFF TO MONTCLAIR
DREAM JOB?
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT
FAVORITE MOMENT WORKING FOR THE VOICE?
FIRST 24 HOUR TURN AROUND
PARTING ADVICE
FIND WHAT YOU LOVE AND NEVER STOP TALKING ABOUT IT.

SUPERHERO NAME:
THE STRUCTURE
JOB AT THE VOICE:
EDITOR IN CHIEF
SUPERPOWER:
TAKING A GIANT JUMBLE OF ARTICLES AND MAKING A PAPER OUT OF THEM
MAJOR:
EVERYTHING
WHAT'S NEXT?
SEMESTER OF MUSIC LESSONS THEN MONTCLAIR
PARTING ADVICE
LEARN YOUR TEAM. EVERYONE WORKS DIFFERENTLY.

SUPERHERO NAME:
HIDDEN TALENT
JOB AT THE VOICE:
REPORTER
SUPERPOWER:
IT'S A SECRET
WHAT'S NEXT?
KEEP ON HEADING FOR THAT DEGREE
BEST PART WORKING FOR THE VOICE?
WORKING WITH TALENTED AND HELPFUL PEOPLE
PARTING ADVICE
LIFE IS NOT A RACE. YOUR TIMELINE IS YOUR OWN.

SUPERHERO NAME:
VANESSA THE FINESSA
JOB AT THE VOICE:
REPORTER
SUPERPOWER:
NOT SWEATING, NO MATTER WHAT THE PRESSURE
WHAT'S NEXT:
MORE COLLEGE
BEST PART WORKING FOR THE VOICE?
NETWORKING AT COLLEGE
PARTING ADVICE
IF YOU NEED HELP, ASK!



Spring fashion face off.

Can you figure out which students go to Princeton and which to Mercer (answer in comments)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KRISTEN MILLER

1



2



5



6



7

9



10



Mercer vs. Princeton

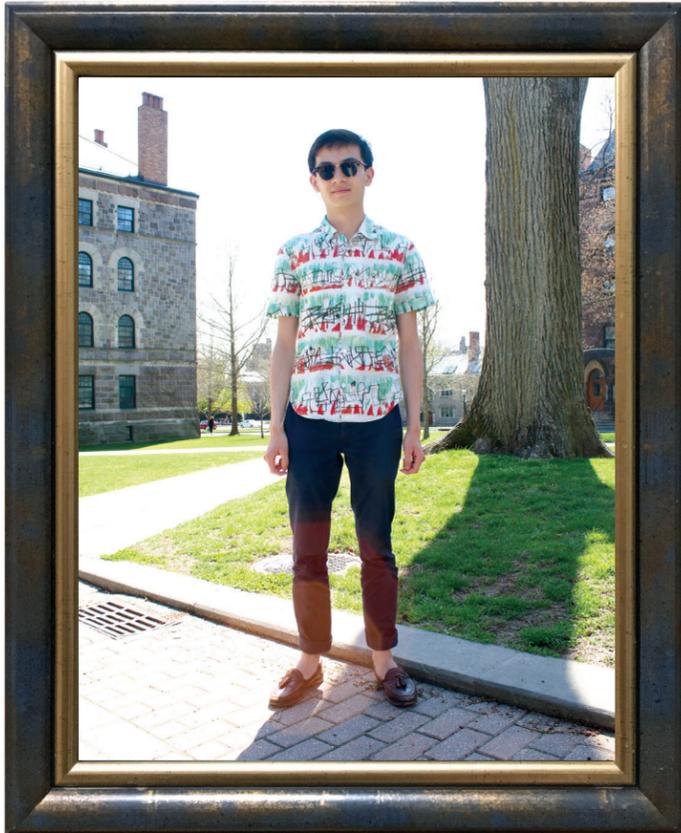


er key is at the bottom), but more importantly, who is best dressed for spring?

3



4



8



11



12



ANSWER KEY: 1. Princeton (Mile Hudgins). 2. Princeton (Eliana Kozol). 3. Mercer (Julia Santin). 4. Princeton (Zak Benayad). 5. Mercer (Ramie Ahmed). 6. Princeton (Isabella Markey and Annie Yao). 7. Mercer (Quan Tran). 8. Mercer (Nicholas Rivero). 9. Princeton (Maggie Erwin). 10. Princeton (Sonia Gu). 11. Mercer (Alessandro Rivero). 12. Princeton (Denise Kwong). As for who is better dressed? In the end, we pretty much look the same.

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Let them eat cereal, all day long!

REVIEW: Spooky Sweets in Hamilton is serving up nothing but breakfast

By Nina Pemberton
Reporter

One of the latest foodie trends has come to the suburbs. Spooky Sweets, which opened April 13, 2019, is a cereal cafe in Hamilton. Yes, cereal.

When one first enters the “restaurant,” a clean and modern store located near Halo Pub off of Rt 33, you’re hit with the sweet smell of sugary cereal. There’s a makeshift living room in the corner, with couches and a TV playing Saturday morning cartoons evoking that nostalgic breakfast feeling. You’re greeted by the smiling faces of the owners, Ryane Knipe and Medina Cekic, who are eager to welcome you and offer suggestions.

Though it may seem like there’s only so many cereal options, the Spooky Sweets menu boasts over 40,000 cereal combinations; 31 cereals, 18 toppings, 4 drizzles and 5 milks are available to the customer to combine in their own creation. A regular bowl sells for \$5.49 while a large is \$6.99.

However, if you’re overwhelmed or want a combination from the cereal experts, there’s signature combinations created by Knipe and Cekic themselves. For example, the Snickerdoodle (Cookie Crisp®, Rice Krispies Treats®, Brown sugar, Caramel Drizzle) and the Better than Fruitcake (Honey Bunches of Oats®, Cheerios®, Almonds, Raspberry Drizzle).

I ordered the Campfire (French Toast Crunch®, Oreo O’s®, Marshmallows, Vanilla Drizzle) with 2% milk. Personally, it was a little too sweet for me, but with their extensive options, I’m positive there are 100s of combinations that I would enjoy more.

Alongside the cereals, the menu also includes the Spooky Banana “Sushi” Roll - bananas and various toppings wrapped in a whole wheat tortilla. The Sweets Roll, for example, includes banana, Nutella, cinnamon frosted flakes, and raspberry drizzle. Additionally, there are various “cereal milks” available as beverages.



Inside Hamilton's Spooky Sweets PHOTO | NINA PEMBERTON

“It started 14 years ago,” says Knipe, as he explains how Spooky Sweets came to be. Though the timing and finances were wrong, about a year ago the couple finally decided to finally start the business. “We’re kind of done working for other people. Let’s go build a dream. And a year later here we are.”

Knipe, who lives in Cumberland County, and Cekic, who lives in Brooklyn, are “basically, but not officially” married. The two decided to start their business directly in the middle of their two homes, in Hamilton.

Customer service is one of the most important things to the owners. “We want to change the

way people see restaurants,” said Knipe. “It’s laid back. You want to watch something on TV? I got you. If you want to hear different music I got you. It’s all good.” Cekic chimes saying “[this] is our island. And we want everyone to come visit our island and enjoy themselves while they’re here, honestly.”

It’s worth it.

REVIEW: The Gingered Peach bakery is mouth-wateringly good

By Marielena Peters
Reporter

The smell of sweet confections fills your nose as you enter the door of the old barn style building with its homey country style furnishings. People line up against the counter while employees ring up products at a quick pace. The line soon wraps around to the room demonstrating just how popular The Gingered Peach, a Lawrenceville bakery and coffee house, has become.

The Gingered Peach owners say they pride themselves on homestyle baking. Everything is made from scratch with fresh ingredients. The baked good selection includes cupcakes (\$2), cookies (\$1.85), scones(\$2.65), cinnamon buns (\$2.95).

America’s favorite cookie to dip in milk is a star in the bakery’s Oreo fla-

vored cupcakes. Fans of the cookie will love the surprise on the first bite as the cookie is baked into the center. If you’re not a huge chocolate or Oreo fan, this cupcake may feel a bit too heavy and overpowering.

Instead, the cinnamon buns are equal part gooey and flakey. The sweet glazing on the baked pastry makes for a delicious sweet treat.

During a recent visit, Lynn Johnson, a customer since their days as Let Them Eat Cake, sat in the dining area enjoying a peanut butter cookie with a cafe au lait. She said, “the peanut butter cookies are perfect. They’re not too sweet so I can enjoy eating more than one.”

If you’re looking for something to satisfy your sweet tooth, visit The Gingered Peach is a top bet. It’s located at 2 Gordon Avenue in Lawrenceville.



Oreo cookie cupcakes, with a full Oreo baked into the heart of each confection are a customer favorite at The Gingered Peach in Lawrenceville, NJ. PHOTO | MARIELENA PETERS

Bullying, and how to stop it



LEARN FROM ME



Laurie Gallagher

Bullying is so common that even President Trump is bullying people with his Tweets and in his speeches. He has mocked almost everyone, including people with disabilities. As a person growing up with Down Syndrome I have suffered severe bullying, especially in school, where bullying usually starts. Things were so bad at one point my mom had to put me in a different school.

So what can we learn about bullying and how to stop it before the bully grows up and maybe even becomes president?

The Centers for Disease Control and the US Department of Education came up with a definition of bullying in 2014. The basic definition includes unwanted aggressive behavior, power

imbalance, and repetition of behaviors that may be physical, like stealing someone's things or hitting them, (direct) or things like spreading mean rumors (indirect).

According to Medicinenet.com the signs that may indicate a child is being bullied include: missing belongings, unexplained injuries and a limited number of friends. Symptoms experienced by victims of bullying may be physical, emotional and behavioral like headaches, stomachaches, changes in appetite, bed wetting, dizziness and general aches and pains. Psychological symptoms often include irritability, anxiety, sadness, trouble sleeping, tiredness in the mornings, loneliness, helplessness and feeling isolated.

But we can help stop bullying. A large scale study of different anti-bully programs was published in the journal *School Psychology Review*. What they found out is that the best anti-bullying programs are ones that teach bystanders to intervene, especially if schools start teaching these skills early. A lot of times bullies do their behavior out in the open, but bystanders can feel pressured not to do any-

thing for fear getting bullied themselves. Notifying teachers, and encouraging the victim to ask for help is a good start. It also helps if a group of people who have witnessed the bully in action all tell them to stop. Bullies don't act out as much when a whole group objects to their behavior.

Some studies of how adults can handle bullies show that when a bully is yelling at someone in public, you can go sit next to the person being bullied and talk to them about anything at all so the two of you can ignore the bully's behavior and take the wind out of his sails. When people know they are not alone, that they are supported, they will feel better, and when a bully doesn't get the reaction he wants, he may give up.

According to Medicinenet.com, bullies lack empathy or the ability to understand other people's feelings, and often feel weak themselves and want to control others. The people around the bullies can start becoming bullies themselves by peer pressure. So maybe the people around President Trump need to read this and need to stand up together and say making fun of people isn't right.



Written with support from the staff of The College VOICE

Having a campus nurse would improve student success

By Marielena Peters & Staff of The College VOICE

Institutions of education in the United States usually have a wide array of resources to benefit their students. One of these resources is a Health Center or at least an active nurse on staff, which you would think Mercer might have, since we have a well known nursing program. But as we've reported in The VOICE several times, we don't and that has a negative impact on student learning. Students with minor medical problems--like migraines, a bad nosebleed or a sprained ankle--end up having to leave campus to deal with the issues, instead of getting quick treatment and heading back to class.

Starting from kindergarten, students in public schools in the U.S. have some type of medical staff on their

school's campus. The government understands that having a certified professional on hand can assist with small issues and know when something is an emergency and an ambulance should be called. This aids students so they can keep the focusing on studying.

Of New Jersey's 18 community colleges, seven have health centers of some sort, Mercer is among those that do not.

Skye Waters, a Digital Film major, has experienced firsthand the shortcomings of not having a nurse on campus. After falling ill on campus, her only options were to either go home or call 911 to be transported to a hospital for treatment.

Neighboring community colleges such as Middlesex County College describe on their website the available medical services such as "nursing as-

essment of health problems and referrals as needed. First aid/urgent care that may help reduce serious complications. Immunization offered 'at cost' for current students."

Bergen Community College has similar services available. But we don't have them at Mercer, and we are not in a county that is as socio-economically challenged as some others where lack of services is likely to occur.

From MCCC's own website, student health services are described as "limited." For medical emergencies, certified security personnel can administer first aid, but they are generally instructed to call an ambulance.

A VOICE article published November of 2017 noted that: "Mercer's Health Professions Coordinator, Cynthia Matyas has been working at Mercer

for 18 years and says she would love to have a nurse's office on campus, but that she is aware that funding presents a problem."

However, back in 2008, another VOICE article tackled the issue and noted a way that funding might be made available. According to reporter Alexandra Hough, "Although room in the budget and the high cost of the center seems to be the most significant reason on why we do not have [a health center], there are sources that might help Mercer finance one. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation specifically offers grants to institutions and organizations that provide health care to what they call 'vulnerable populations,' which include the low income populations that are served by community colleges like Mercer. In particular, they tend to give money within the state of

New Jersey. Further, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation goes beyond many other non-profit organizations in that it offers continuing support rather than simply seed money for start-up costs. This type of financing would be crucial for such an endeavor."

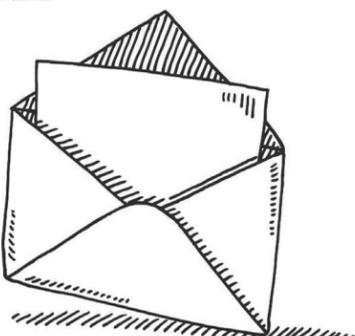
And guess what? This Robert Wood Johnson grant program is still around. There are creative solutions out there, but there doesn't seem to be anyone in administration able to push to get this needed resource.

The anxiety of not having proper care weighs on the minds of many students, and health problems often cause students to miss school which can lead to falling grades, dropping out of classes, and inability to graduate. Having a health center on campus could allow students to focus on classes so they could get the education they are striving for.



MAIL CALL

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the college VOICE

The VOICE is online at mcccvoice.org

Read documents and extra materials to go with all the articles you see here.

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The bees need us, and we need them

Pornhub is setting a good example when it comes to saving bees

IN MY VIEW



Michael Bolden

"Without pollinators, the human race and all of Earth's terrestrial ecosystems would not survive. Of the 1,400 crop plants grown around the world, i.e., those that produce all of our food and plant-based industrial products, almost 80% require pollination by animals.

--The United States Forrest Service

Honey, flowers, movies and romance: all these things could relate to bees, well maybe not so much for romance, that is until Pornhub came along.

Pornhub, a Canadian pornographic video sharing site owned by MindGeek, recently launched a new category called BeeSexual to help spread awareness of the diminishing bee population and its effect on nature while also donating to bee-saving charities.

At first, you might think this is a kink-filled category fuelled by melisophilia, sexual attraction to bees (yup, that's a thing). But bees drastically declining in numbers is an ongoing

epidemic and Pornhub merely brings some levity to this situation.

According to sos-bees.org honeybee colonies have been declining since the 1990s. The reasons: bee-killing pesticides, loss of biodiversity due to monoculture (the cultivation of a single crop over a large area), parasites and climate change.

However, it is not only the bees that are on the decline. Pollinators as a whole have been dwindling in size. According to xerces.org, which describes itself as a "science-based nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation" western monarch butterflies have declined by 99.4 percent since the 1980s.

Pollinators play a vital role in agriculture by fertilizing flowers and crops. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, bees alone fertilize more than 90 percent of our major food crops.

A world without pollinators means a world without humans as well. A study on pollinators by United States Forest Services says that "without pollinators, the human race and all of Earth's terrestrial ecosystems would not survive."

Zeke Wagner a plant science major from Mercer says "I believe that as some of the most complex and sentient beings on this planet it is morally unsound for us, as a population, not to take

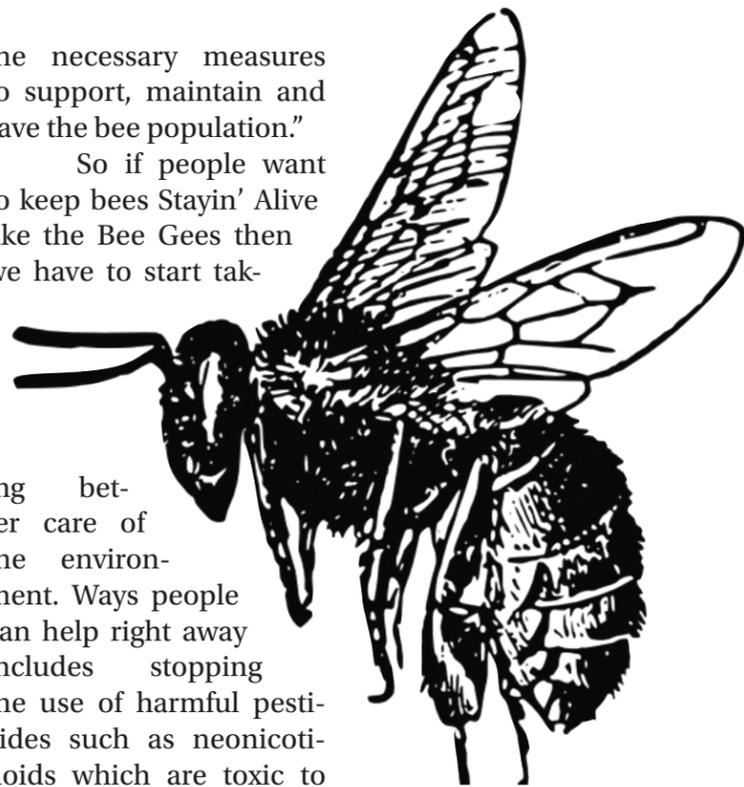
the necessary measures to support, maintain and save the bee population."

So if people want to keep bees Stayin' Alive like the Bee Gees then we have to start taking

better care of the environment. Ways people can help right away includes stopping the use of harmful pesticides such as neonicotinoids which are toxic to bees since they can be absorbed by flowers according to panna.org. The other thing you can do is spread awareness.

Abella Danger a porn star says on Pornhub's BeeSexual premier video "So remember, without bees, there is no plan-B. Take the matter into your own hands."

Time to step up and be more like the wise folks at Pornhub. No, seriously. The bees need us.

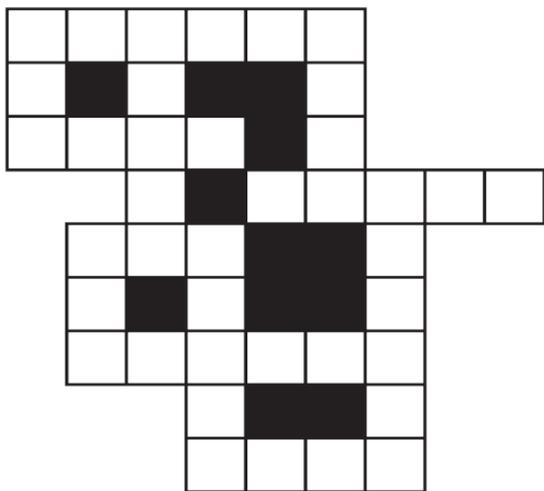


PUZZLES EXTRA



By: rj johnson

- HNT
- ♥ SARHEW
 - SLEHW
 - ♥ RADW
 - ♥ DELDEM
 - ♥ EWN
 - ♥ ARDE
 - ♥ NESRA
 - ♥ DWE
 - ♥ DATHLE
 - TAMDI
 - MOEH



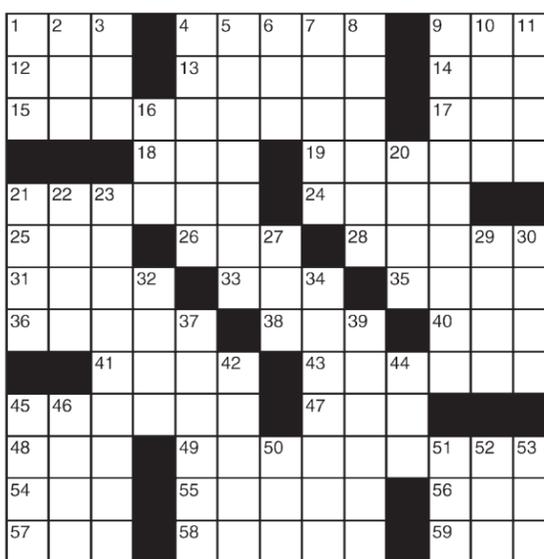
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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mouth part
- 4 Uses an old phone
- 9 Taxi
- 12 Lemony drink
- 13 "Snowy" bird
- 14 11-Down cousin
- 15 Woodworker
- 17 Fish eggs
- 18 Parisian pal
- 19 McCormick's invention
- 21 Tennis need
- 24 Palm starch
- 25 - Khan
- 26 Morning moisture
- 28 Phobos and Deimos, to Mars
- 31 " - Your Enthusiasm"
- 33 British rule of India
- 35 Merriment
- 36 Military caps
- 38 Wrigley product
- 40 Listener
- 41 Heidi's range
- 43 Piece of pasta
- 45 Half a dime
- 47 Ailing
- 48 Jimmy Kimmel's network
- 49 "Seize the day" in Latin
- 54 Half of XIV



- 8 Rill
- "Hud"
- 9 Used the HOV lane
- 30 Withered
- 32 Defraud
- 10 Lotion additive
- 34 Gin flavoring
- 37 Motes
- 39 Harass
- 42 Point of view
- 44 Antiquated
- 45 Church section
- 20 Quite enthusiastic
- 46 Footnote abbr.
- 21 Poolroom item
- 50 Actor Stephen
- 22 Chills and fever
- 51 Hockey surface
- 23 Thin-sliced raw meat
- 52 A billion years
- 27 Witty one
- 53 Chic, in the '60s
- 29 Patricia of

Letter to the Editor

NOTE: This content was submitted to The VOICE for publication by outside contributors. It was not written by VOICE staff and does not necessarily represent the opinions of the staff or editors. We encourage all voices from our community to contribute following the submission guidelines found in our Policy Manual at: www.mcccvoice.org/tools/policy-manual/

In late March, Mercer faculty reached out by email to a number of upper level Mercer employees who served under the college's current president Dr. Jianping Wang and are no longer working at the college. The goal was to gain a clearer understanding of the relationship Dr. Wang has with her administrative team, particularly in light of the potential for a faculty vote of no confidence in her leadership which has since occurred. (NOTE: All contact and responses were made prior to the removal of the most recent Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. J. Brandon Shaw).

The contact email explained that "It is not a good idea to form opinions about people without speaking directly to those that know them," and that the goal was to "gather opinions of our president directly from former MCCC leaders."

Participants were invited to take an online survey, which some did. Others opted to be interviewed directly by phone.

These were the questions given:

1. Please give your opinion of MCCC's current president? (likes/dislikes/concerns)
2. Do you have specific examples that illustrate your opinion of MCCC's president?
3. Several administrators have left MCCC in recent years. Would you attribute their leaving in any way to MCCC's president? If so, would you please elaborate?
4. Please provide any other comments/thoughts you have regarding MCCC's president.

The respondents understood that their names and former titles would be kept confidential, so they could feel free to speak candidly.

The respondents' comments fell into three basic categories. Their responses are paraphrased below. Key terms that respondents emphasized are included throughout.

Leadership

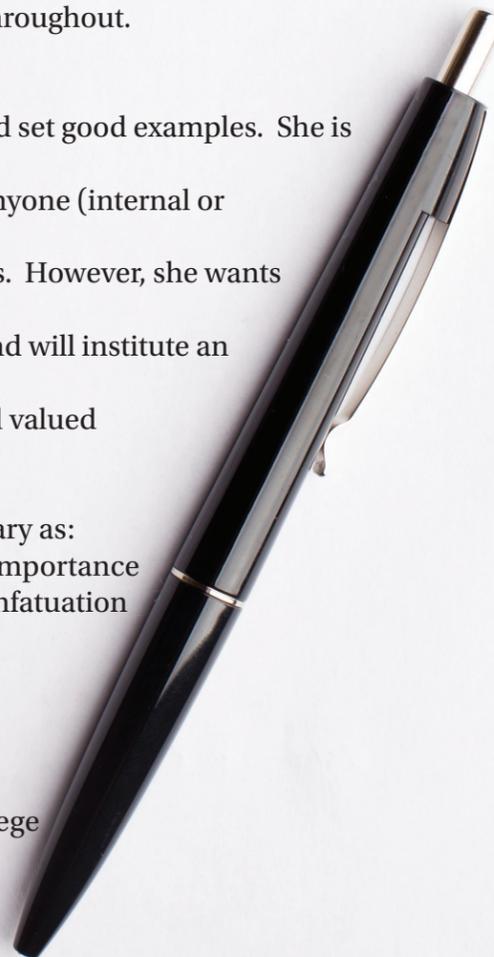
- Good leaders are transparent, collaborative, supportive, and set good examples. She is none of these.
- She did not demonstrate that she cared about input from anyone (internal or external to the College) on anything.
- [She is] a visionary leader who cares about diversity of ideas. However, she wants to surround herself with an echo-chamber.
- She micro-manages, is not receptive to input or criticism and will institute an agenda meant for you to fail if you disagree with her
- She does not make the administrators who work for her feel valued

Personality

- She is narcissistic (Defined by Webster's Collegiate Dictionary as: "extremely self-centered with an exaggerated sense of self-importance : marked by or characteristic of excessive admiration of or infatuation with oneself" Definition added for clarification.)
- [In] several instances she directly misrepresented the truth

Teamwork

- [I] felt part of an abusive professional relationship
- She enjoys very little respect among the NJ community college community
- Several current MCCC administrators will likely leave soon
- Given her actions, one wonders whether the board is actually paying attention



the college **VOICE**

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When the hurricane came, their voices were gone

My Perspective



Marielena Peters

The island of Puerto Rico has experienced many tropical storms and hurricanes. In the time of my immediate family has been living there, they had experienced short power outages lasting for maybe a night or two as a result of the weather. But when we got news that the Level 4 Hurricane Maria was heading for the island we knew this was a totally different kind of storm.

My mother and I call my dad, brother, and grandmother in Puerto Rico on an almost daily basis. The conversation topics usually aren't anything too important: "What'd you have for dinner?" "What are you doing today?" "Your cousins *mandan saludos* and ask when you're coming down to visit."

In the days leading up to Maria, we still had our regular conversations but now including questions like "Do you have enough food and water?"

The phone call on the night before the storm hit ended with my dad telling my mother not to worry. That was

the first time he ever ended a call that way.

When we put the phone down, we didn't realize that that would be the last time we would hear his voice, or my brother or grandmother's, for a month.

On the morning of September 20, 2017, the island of Puerto Rico was ravaged. Three million people lost water and electricity. Communication was severed.

News from the island was sparse. We relied on news coverage from mainland American reporters who had flown to the island to assess the damages themselves. But they were all around the capital of San Juan.

Puerto Rico is about the size of Connecticut, and my family lives on the opposite end from the capital, in a city called Yauco. Because they are so far away from the capital reporters couldn't get there to tell anyone anything. We had no idea about my family's situation.

I took to Twitter to see if people who also had relatives in that area had more information than I did. The 'Puerto Rico' search tag was full of others worrying about their loved ones on the island.

And then, in the same search, it was impossible to miss the insensitive tweets from the President. "They want everything done for them!" he said. He insulted the mayor of San Juan. The same media platform I was using to find solidarity with others in my situation was the one he used to degrade and mock my people in the middle of a tragedy.

I tried to block out political messages. I focussed on my family. I sat with my phone facing up in every class. I obsessively opened the home screen hoping for a text or call. I couldn't concentrate on anything.

Shortly after arriving home from school on October 11, my phone rang and the caller ID read "Papi." My hands shook as I tried to answer. I let out a wavering "Hello?" before hearing the voice of my younger brother distantly calling back, "Hello? Mari, can you hear me?"

The connection was terrible, the glimmer of hope of finally being able to talk to them started to fade. I shouted back that I could hear as if me getting louder would somehow help. Knowing they were on the other line and they couldn't hear me was torture. My brother said that they'd try again to see if they could get a better signal and hung up. The time between the calls felt like an eternity compared to the half a minute it actually was.

The second phone call was successful. My eyes were full of tears as the phone was passed along from my brother to my grandmother, and then to my father. They updated me on their conditions: they had water but they were still waiting for electricity. All my daily worries seemed so small when they were lacking the most basic needs. I felt guilty.

Most public schools on the island were closed due to power and water outage. My brother David, who was a ju-

nior in high school then, said his school was running on half day schedules, making use of the sunlight to illuminate the classrooms. But turning water service was spotty, so when the water stopped, the children were sent home.

I recently asked my brother, "After the hurricane, was the experience at school different?" He said, "Even though my school was able to open earlier than most, many students were missing because they either had no way of knowing that classes had started, or they were unable to make their way to the school due to the conditions. The teachers were unable to give their usual formal lessons due to the amount of students missing and because of their own situation."

A few weeks ago, out of the blue, Trump started tweeting about Puerto Rico again, calling our government "grossly incompetent" and saying "Their government can't do anything right, the place is a mess--nothing works."

He's wrong. I try to block him out as usual. Things do work. I can hear my family's voices now.

While Trump screams at the world one way through the internet, my mother and I call my dad, brother, and grandmother every day and the topics remain the same: "What'd you have for dinner?" "What are you doing today?" But now when we hang up the phone, we feel intense gratitude that we can speak at all. We will never take communication for granted.

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



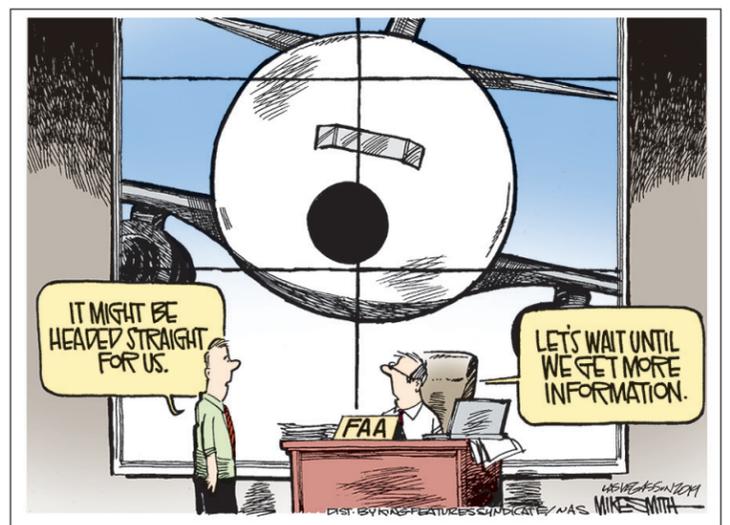
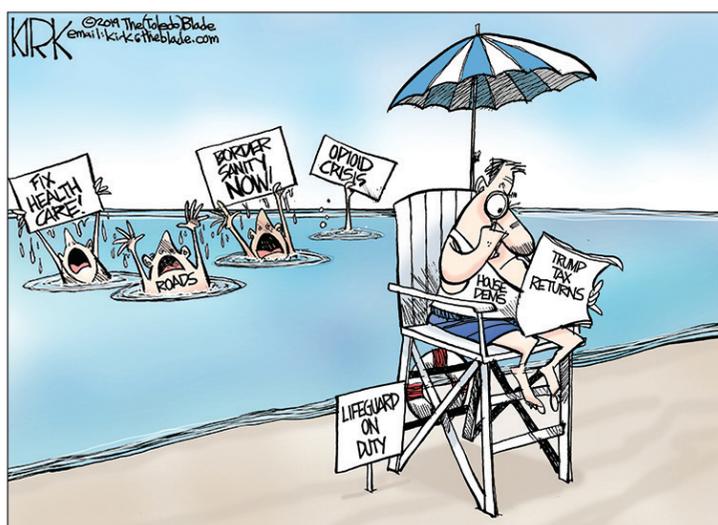
Find us online at mcccvoice.org

Do you see a typo?

Good. Join the staff and help us fix it!

Mon + Thur
12-1:15 in ET 127

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



CORRECTIONS

NOTE: The April 2 article "New photo exhibit from Tamara Torres at gallery in Trenton asks who feminism belongs to" was written by Tory Richardson, not Bianca Martinez as was indicated.

FAST JLAW FACT

Transparency laws allow regular people to read and access information about public agencies. NJ's law is called OPRA.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Vikings had fantastic hygiene. Archaeologists have found tweezers, razors, combs, and even ear cleaners at excavations sites.

JOURNO LINGO

The list of names of all the people who work on a newspaper is called the "masthead" The VOICE masthead is on this page.

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.

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ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



Help is here!

and I've failed all my other tests in the class. What should I do?
- GPA 1.0

Dear GPA 1.0, College is not for everyone. No, seriously. There are other things for people to do.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice, *Mother's Day is coming up and I don't know what to get her. Any gift ideas?*
- Not Gifted

Dear Not Gifted, You can't go wrong with lingerie and chocolates. No, wait. That's Valentine's Day I'm thinking of. Try cash and a card. How could she complain about that?
-The VOICE

Dear Voice, *There's two weeks left until my biology final*

Dear Voice, *I'm graduating. My parents can't make it to graduation, but I'd like to bring my cat. I hear there are already 60 feral cats on campus, so bringing Mr. FluffyPants shouldn't be a problem, right?*
-Feline Great to Grad

Dear Feline Great, As long as all cats and family members are on leashes, they should be okay.

Dear Voice, *How can I convince my professors to let me pass with three weeks left to go in the semester?*
-Failing Everything

Dear Failing, Tell them you're dying of a rare disease and you don't want to let your family down. Not saying it'll work, but you know, it's worth a try. Maybe check in with GPA 1.0 who asked an earlier question. You guys have a lot in common.
-The VOICE

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

2X DILBERT



HOROSCOPES



Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

The full moon sets your heart aglow and passions are inflamed. You may have to work to keep your cool. Maybe you don't need to.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Do you remember the last time you got a really restful night's sleep? Probably not. Things have been going at top speed for long you have forgotten what rest feels like. Try a nap.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

Someone from your past comes back, for good or bad. Don't let old conflicts overwhelm you. There is a lot of good to come from this encounter.



Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

Things get easier with money at a time when your pockets are feeling tight. Don't over indulge, but give yourself at least some little pleasures.



Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20

When loyalty is on the line, you always come through. You can be a fierce ally and you can expect the same from the people around you this month.



Gemini
May 21 - Jun. 20

The two sides of your nature may be in conflict as you try to decide how to handle a tricky situation. Listen to your better angels to stay on the right path.



Cancer
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

No one is cutting you any slack right now. Sometimes it is good to be held accountable, but sometimes people ask for the impossible. The key will be knowing the difference.



Leo
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

You sweet lion. People may be seeing your fierce side but you are feeling tender and need loving care. When someone offers a warm shoulder don't be afraid to let your guard down.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

The birds are singing, the flowers are blooming and you are trying to keep from losing your cool with stress that is overwhelming. Now is the time to get out in nature. It will sooth you.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

A surprise opportunity comes around the middle of the month. You are on the fence but this is the time to take the plunge. The chance won't come along again.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You could sense a big change was coming, for better and maybe not so better and you were right. The good news is you had time to prepare. You've got this.



Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Someone unexpected asks for a favor and you are feeling generous. Your random act of kindness will come back to you ten fold.

SUDOKU

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

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

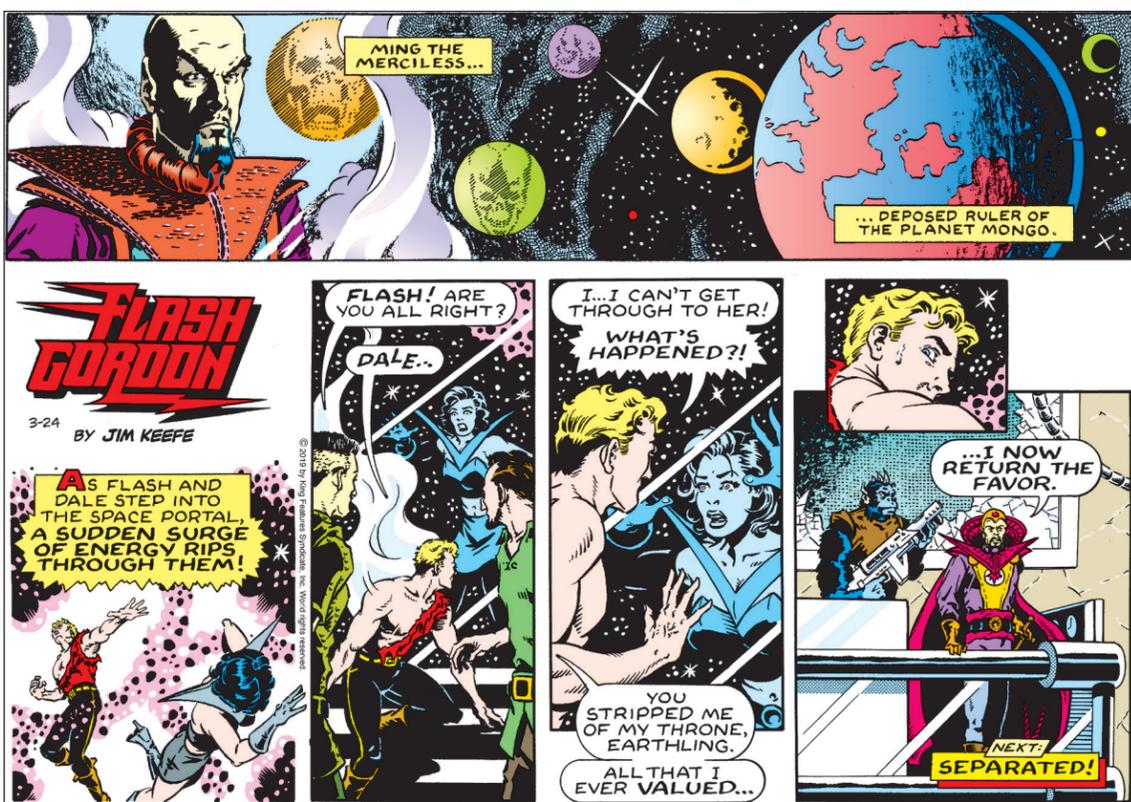
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

FLASH GORDON



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

