

Students and staff adapt to Student Center changes



A student confronts a closed second floor in SC. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | KRISTEN MILLER

By Bianca Martinez
Senior Reporter

Renovations for the Student Center are currently underway as the fall semester gets rolling at Mercer.

The second floor of the Student Center is completely inaccessible, resulting in students now having to go elsewhere for many student services.

Areas like Admissions, Enrollment Services, and Financial Aid have relocated to the Administration building. Career and Transfer Services are now in the Library, and Veteran's Services, Counseling, and Community Networks can be found on the first floor of the Student Center.

Mercer student, Donnell Walker, says, "During the first week of September, I was trying to get to the Financial Aid office. They told me it's all the way down there...the AD building. So, you know, it kinda im-

pacted my life a little bit."

As students adapt to the changes, staff are also having to adapt. Staffers say they have had concerns about the way communication from the administration about the relocations was handled.

A Mercer staff member, who wished to remain anonymous based on concern for job safety, stated that there was no choice but to adjust.

"They were forceful adjustments for both students and faculty," the employee said.

The staff member added that they felt there was little communication from administration and when there was, it was often not timely.

Move-in dates were changed with little warning according to staffers and departments were expected to move by the first week of August. They had only received a com-

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Broken elevators create on-going problems

By Caitlin Oliver
Reporter

On September 3 of this year, the elevator in the BS building on the West Windsor campus broke down...again. The elevator has been out of service multiple times over the past year which has caused difficulty for students and staff who rely on it.

One student, Alexander Gonzalez, who uses crutches that attach to his arms to walk, took the problem to the Board of Trustees at a meeting on July 18 which was before the latest breakdown. He went seeking assistance, he said, because he cannot climb the stairs by himself so his mother came to the college last semester and "had to carry [him]" up the stairs multiple times per week so he could attend a class on the third floor of the BS building.

Gonzalez, a third-year student at Mercer, told the Board that he has been encountering broken elevators "multiple times" and that breakdowns occur "maybe three to four" times a semester.

When asked in a recent interview Gonzalez said he felt that the board members "did try to listen" but that there has been "no change whatsoever."

In an interview with Rosa Gonzalez, Alexander's mother, who speaks Spanish so

he translated for her, she said that when she had to carry him up the stairs she "felt pain in the knees." This pain occurs every time Rosa has to do any kind of lifting which she has had to do many times because of the BS elevator breakdowns.

Bryon Marshall, the Director of Facilities and College Safety for 12 years at Mercer, said that the elevators are subjected to routine inspections, based on the code requirements. He also said that for the broken BS elevator, it is being completely renovated.

Dylan Wolfe, who is an Associate Professor and the Chair of Fine Arts and Communication, attended the same board meeting where Gonzalez spoke. He says that the BS elevator breaks down routinely, and that in the event an elevator does need repairs, and a student cannot get to a classroom without it, the school is supposed to move the classroom to a place where the student can attend.

This is correct according to the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, which requires that some sort of reasonable accommodation be made for handicapped individuals. For example, a class can be moved to the ground floor, if it cannot be accessed without the use of an elevator.

Marshall said that if

a student gets stuck inside an elevator, the campus has "stair chairs, a chair for removing people who are disabled." He did not address the question of what accommodations have been made during the current repairs.

Marshall did say that the elevators have an emergency number that people who get stuck inside can call. In fact, Professor Betty Peterson, who is currently in her sixteenth year teaching math at Mercer, got stuck in the LA elevator this past summer. Peterson said that it dropped two and a half feet. During the five minute ordeal, Peterson said that she was "claustrophobic" and had to think calming thoughts.

Dr. Jianping Wang, the President of the college, says that the BS elevator renovation will start "over winter break." She also says that the elevators are around the same age as the college, which is 50 years old.

According the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on July 18, when Gonzalez raised his concerns about the chronic elevator problems, the Chair of the board, Mark Matzen said "The college will make sure procedures are in place to make accommodations for students when this happens."



PHOTO | CAITLIN OLIVER

Rosa Gonzalez with her son Alexander Gonzalez who she has had to carry up the stairs to classes on the third floor of the BS building because of chronically broken elevators. Classes have not been moved to a lower floor to accommodate him during elevator renovations scheduled to occur "over winter break" according to MCCC President Dr. Jianping Wang.

Campus updates include two new gazebos in the quad

By **Tori Pender**
Senior Reporter

As students returned to campus after the summer break they were greeted by a new sight in the quad, directly in front of the Library on the West Windsor campus, two white gazebos.

When asked about the addition of gazebos Dr. Jianping Wang, the President of Mercer County Community College said: “this is our overall efforts trying to beautify the campus.”

Dr. Wang says the goal is to create a relaxing and de-stressing space for students.

Originally, a Landscape Design class was working on a project to update the quad. Halfway through the planning of the layout, however, Professor Amy Ricco, Coordinator of Ornamental Horticulture and Plant Science of 22 years says Mercer went ahead and ordered the gazebos.

Professor Ricco says, “We were, then we weren’t involved...Our opinion wasn’t taken into consideration.”

Professor Ricco says she and her students originally suggested pergolas instead of gazebos so there would have been multiple sitting areas for students. Pergolas have a more

open, square or rectangular form with a cross beam rather than covered roof.

According to Horizon Landscape, in their web post “Pergola or Gazebo: Best Fit for Your New Jersey Outdoor Living Space,” the design of pergolas “allows plants and vines to climb up the structure.” Gazebos have a domed roof “since the shape of the gazebo is round,” which is good for air circulation but may be more prone to drainage problems as rainwater will ring the roof.

Joshua Johnson, the leader for the gazebo project says the space around the center of the campus was previously “unusable” due to drainage issues and dropping limbs.

Apparently, two gazebos that were near the East parking lots were taken down in 2016 and 2017 due to the gazebos “structurally failing” according to Bryon Marshall the Director of Facilities, College Safety and Security.

Students are definitely congregating in the new gazebos and using them as a social space, however some students aren’t enthusiastic. Kierra Kerns, a Forensic Science major, “They stupid. I like the trees better.”



PHOTO | TORI PENDER

For the fall 2019 semester Mercer added two new gazebos to the quad area in front of the Library and Student Center buildings. The gazebos are covered structures that include some seating along their interior perimeter.

REVIEW: *The Sound of Music* at Kelsey

By **Donny Neuls**
Reporter

Many local theater companies use the Kelsey Theatre at Mercer to stage their shows. Most recently the space hosted *The Sound of Music* featuring Kristen VonWachenfeldt as Maria Rainer and Jeff Price as Captain Georg von Trapp from Pierrot Productions which is based in Pennington, New Jersey.

The production was directed by Kat Ross Kline, the Resident Director and Artistic Director for Pierrot Productions who is also on the Theater Advisory Board for the college.

Beginning as a choreographer in 2006, Kline has been working at Kelsey Theatre for over a decade. She also works full time as director and choreographer for the Sharpe Family Singers. *The Sound of Music* was her ninth show at Kelsey.

Her vision for the show was to have it to focus on the characters’ personalities, struggles, and relationships rather than the wow factors of the sets. Kline stated, “I wanted it to be about the truth of these characters...and because we have so many political issues going on today, we worked very hard to make sure that these characters were really developed.”

To get the perfect cast, Kline spent about three weeks on the audition process, narrowing down over 200 prospects to the final 37 cast members.

Kline said, “It’s like a



PHOTO | DONNY NEULS

Many children starred in Pierrot Productions staging of “*The Sound of Music*” at Kelsey Theatre in September, 2019.

jigsaw puzzle: this person is great standalone, but with this person do they match this person?...Who is going to fit together?”

One person Klien put faith in to hold all the pieces together was Kristen VonWachenfeldt who played Maria.

By day VonWachenfeldt works at Princeton Montessori School as their Events & Services Coordinator. She also holds a degree in Theater from Elon University and has starred in local productions of “Marry Poppins,” “Oklahoma,” and “The Secret Garden.”

VonWachenfeldt described her view of Maria saying, “She really does have a character arc. She starts as this childlike, impulsive girl who doesn’t really feel at home...trying to find her place...[Maria] grows to love these children

first, then the Captain, and becomes a wife and a mother.”

The frustrated Captain, played by Jeff Price of West Trenton, comes off as a disciplined leader in the beginning of the musical. However, as he falls for Maria, his heart re-opens, returning to the loving father figure his children longed for.

Price says, “People get introduced to [Captain Von Trapp’s] life that then start to change his feelings and direction...Eventually, he comes pretty much where he’s loved, he’s lost, and then he’s loved again.”

After the performance on Thursday, September 19, VonWachenfeldt and Price, along with the rest of the cast, received a well-deserved standing ovation. The show concluded its run on September 22.

MERCER MEN’S SOCCER TEAM MAINTAINS WINNING STREAK

By **Thomas Lillja**
Reporter

The Mercer men’s soccer team continued its winning streak with a 2-1 victory at home against Harcum College on Wednesday, September 18. The Vikings remain undefeated this season with a record of nine wins and zero losses.

The Harcum Bears slipped to 1-6 following this latest defeat.

Neither team was able to break the deadlock in the first half. However, Harcum jumped ahead seven minutes into the second half with a goal from Archie Sewell.

Mercer sophomore Matheus Martins scored twice midway through the second half to give the Vikings the lead. With ten minutes left in the match, freshman Dalton Sekelsky came off the bench to replace Mercer’s goalscorer after he sustained an injury.

When asked about the match results, Mercer sophomore Yuhei Matsushita claimed that it was not a great win. The midfielder went on to say that Mercer’s movement and playing weren’t good. Despite this, Matsushita remains confident that the team will improve.

Mercer Assistant Coach Milton Suah was more optimistic about the results.

“Any time you get a win, it’s a positive within itself,” Suah said, adding that he was happy that Mercer showed resilience after being down a goal and that coming back to win the game.

Cranbury resident Debbie Sekelsky, mother of Dalton Sekelsky, said that the game against Harcum was “pretty exciting, considering the score was 2-1.”

“I hope that [they] continue to do as well as they did [during] the first half of the season,” Sekelsky added.

When asked about previous games against Mercer, Harcum head coach Alex Graver claims that “each time we’ve played [them] it’s [been] they’ve won, we won, they’ve won, we won, so it’s going back and forth and it’s always a good game.”

Mercer’s most recent victory follows a string of road wins against community college teams from Maryland and New York.

The Vikings began September by soundly defeating Rockland (NY) 11-1. Next up, Mercer narrowly edged Montgomery Rockville (MD) 2-1 before handily defeating Hagerstown (MD) 11-0.

The Mercer Vikings will host ASA College (NY) on Wednesday, October 2, before traveling on Saturday, October 5 to face Monroe-New Rochelle (NY).

Axe throwing finds its time and place

By Kristen Miller
Senior Reporter

Competitive axe throwing has been gaining popularity in the tri-state area recently, with franchises like Bury The Hatchet mainly spread across Pennsylvania and New Jersey, with other locations in New York, Georgia and Kansas.

According to Bury The Hatchet's website, axe throwing is "like playing darts but with axes." It's also a good stress reliever according to many regulars.

The first Bury The Hatchet has been open for about 2 years, according to Tyler Durso-Finley, former Mercer student and a current "Axe Master" at the Princeton, New Jersey location. Many different kinds of groups can be found at the establishment at any given time.

Durso-Finley says, "We get all sorts of groups coming through: birthday parties, corporate team building events. I first came here with my family as part of spring break, doing family things together. Some people just want to throw axes. It's pretty cool."

Howard Klotzkin and his partner Tal Kalif are the owners of the local Bury The Hatchet. Heidi Neuflev, the Director of Operations, worked with Klotzkin before Bury the Hatchet even started. They own nine Escape Room game centers as well.

Neuflev states that Klotzkin first came across axe throwing in Canada and saw a business opportunity when he returned back home.

"When he came back to the United States, [Klotzkin] knew that it was something that wasn't really very well known [here] at all...that was three years ago and now we have almost 15 locations," Neuflev said.

When someone first thinks of axe throwing, they may think it is a dangerous sport. However, the employees of Bury the Hatchet are very conscientious of safety.



PHOTO | ALESSANDRO RIVERO

Mercer student Donny Neuls aims his axe before throwing it at Bury the Hatchet.

tious of safety.

Neuflev described a recent viral video at a different axe throwing establishment where a young woman threw a hatchet toward a target only for the weapon to ricochet off the floor and come flying back, almost striking her in the head.

By comparison, Bury the Hatchet has "specific boards that are bounce back boards... we have foam padding behind the plates so that our axes don't bounce back," Neuflev said.

No prior experience is necessary before coming to Bury The Hatchet and it takes about five to ten minutes to learn how to throw an axe. Anyone over the age of 14 is allowed to throw axes at the Princeton location, but minors must be supervised by a parent.

"It's fun for people over

14. It's fun for couples. It's fun for date night. It's fun for team building," Neuflev said.

In addition to axe throwing, Bury the Hatchet also has giant board games set up in the lobby at each of their locations. Jenga, Battleship, Connect Four, Charades and Giant Dice are among the options customers can choose from.

"Some of the other axe throwing places are fun but we try to make it a real experience because we really play with you the whole time that you're there," Neuflev said.

Axe throwing league member Dominic Diliberto said that although he came across Bury The Hatchet by chance, he was glad he stumbled upon it.

"I was actually driving by and I saw the sign. It was right before they opened up, so



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMI AKBY

Allison Akby of Cranbury hits the bulls eye with her hatchet.

I looked it up on the Internet... Right before they opened up I came in and I joined the league," Diliberto said.

"I would definitely recommend it," Diliberto added. "It beats doing laundry."

For any student who interested in an experience like axe-throwing, Bury the Hatchet offers "College Night" which is \$15 for 1 hour every Wednesday night from 4pm-10pm.

Student Center renovation aim is comfortable space, president says

Continued from page 1

prehensive email of the move about one to two weeks before it occurred.

According to the employee, administrators just came in and announced that the staff were moving.

In addition, staff say they were told they would have some input about room designs for the temporary locations. That didn't happen. The rooms are cramped.

Dr. Jianping Wang, the President of Mercer County Community College, when asked about staff response, said, "It's not easy. The move is stressful. The staff members have to accommodate. You know, they used to have private offices all to themselves and

all of a sudden now they're in open space, sharing open space with other people."

While it is stressful, according to Dr. Wang, she states it is a prelude to the new space that the staff will move into once renovations are completed.

The new space aims to bring many student services to create the One-Stop Student Center.

In this plan, administration hopes that students will be able to attend to multiple issues like enrollment, financial aid, and registration in one space, rather than moving from one place to another.

Dr. Diane Campbell, Mercer's Vice President for Student Affairs, says the renovations were planned due to students have to run around so much.

"So, we're going to open up the whole center and create a Starbucks kind of experience for you. We're going to put a lot of couches and tables and high chairs, low chairs...and put a lot of power plugs on the ground."

-MCCC President Dr. Jianping Wang

She says, "The idea is to have a one-stop so that for the most part, students will be able to sit down with one person and get just about everything done."

It is just not the space that will be redone, but the jobs as well, in terms of the various types of services that staff members will be able to offer students. The plan is to make

the process easier for students.

Dr. Wang states, "What we're designing is a U-shape.

So you go in there, you can go to any of the windows and get serviced for everything and then you go to the next window to pay because we cannot

have the people who service take money. The money has to be separate. So, you will have to go to two windows. That's it."

The newly renovated space will also feature more chairs, couches, and desks available to students, as well as larger classrooms and meeting spaces.

Dr. Wang says, "So, we're going to open up the whole center and create a Star-

bucks kind of experience for you. We're going to put a lot of couches and tables and high chairs, low chairs...and put a lot of power plugs on the ground."

Dr. Wang hopes that this will create a technology based environment for students and keep them prepared for their classes.

The president says she wants students to be able to see staff members in their offices in the new Student Center so that they feel more welcomed, rather than walking up to closed office doors and covered windows.

She states, "It's all focused on students. That's why we're doing this."

Renovations are expected to last for one year, with completion to be ready by the 2020-2021 school year.

Global Climate Strike united millions around the globe

Sixteen year old Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg's actions inspired the protest



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN CLASS

In Battery Park in New York City during the Global Climate Strike demonstration held on September 20, 2019.



PHOTO | ANDERS HELBERG
OPEN USE WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

In August 2018, outside the Swedish parliament building, Greta Thunberg started a school strike for the climate. Her sign reads, "Skolstrejk för klimatet," meaning, "school strike for climate."

"How dare you. You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that, because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil and that I refuse to believe."

-Greta Thunberg to UN General Assembly, Sept. 23, 2019

By Michael Bolden
Alumnus Visiting Reporter

A year ago Greta Thunberg, then a 15-year-old, from Sweden, began a weekly strike from school to raise awareness of the climate crisis. She would sit on the steps outside the Swedish parliament by herself handing out fliers and holding a sign saying "School Strike for The Climate" in Swedish. Her action caught international attention when pictures and accounts of her efforts were posted on social media and went viral.

As attention to her efforts has grown, Thunberg has gone on to become a more and more prominent international climate activist and she was the catalyst behind the Global Climate Strike on September 20, just a few days before the UN Climate Action Summit--where she spoke--took place.

Young people across the world left classrooms and took up signs--as Thunberg had--to raise awareness of the world's current climate crisis.

According to Strike-WithUs.org there were 4,500 different climate actions held worldwide in over 120 countries on September 20.

Thousands packed the streets in New York and closer to home there were smaller

events. Students at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North held an event at their football field to spread awareness about the ongoing climate issues.

In Princeton at Hinds Plaza in front of the public library, a group gathered that included 50 Princeton High School students who helped lead the strike.

Nick Christie, a Student from New York's School of Visual Art who attended the New York event said, "Battery Park here [was] filled to the brim with around 250,000 people attending. It's extremely inspiring seeing all these people showing support about this issue."

The United States places second on the list of countries with the highest Carbon Emissions according to ucsusa.org, but Donald Trump withdrew the country from the Paris Climate Agreement of 2016 which was a global call to strengthen the response to climate change and get nations to work together to help combat it. He did not appear at the UN Climate Action Summit.

The September 20 strikes showed just how seriously young people today take global climate crisis and how much they want a cleaner and environmentally friendly world for us all to live in.

PUZZLE EXTRA

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 \$ dispenser
4 " — Miserables"
7 Trounce
12 Commonest English word
13 Matterhorn
14 Worn unevenly
15 2012 movie bear
16 Savage
18 Midafternoon, in a way
19 Long-legged shorebird
20 Pull an all-nighter
22 Freudian concept
23 Use a keyboard
27 Moreover
29 Rodeo outcries
31 Strong adhesive
34 Meal for Oliver Twist
35 Moral principles
37 Larry's pal
38 Runs from the fuzz
39 Shooter ammo
41 Sharpen
45 Tureen accessory
47 Inseparable
48 Marian, in "The Music Man"

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- 52 "Monty Python" opener
53 Wanted-poster datum
54 Hi-tech SFX
55 Prepared
56 Thick-soled shoes
57 Slight amount
58 Attempt
7 Vegan's no-no
8 Bobby of hockey
9 Luau side dish
10 "Born in the —"
11 Corral
17 Huff and puff
21 Long skirts
23 Pitched
24 Second person
25 "Ulalume" writer
26 Immigrant's study (Abbr.)
28 Big Apple letters
30 Past
31 Moray or conger
32 Sch. org.
33 Resistance measure
36 Practice pugilism
37 Sweet Spanish wine
40 Proclamation
42 Jack
43 Go in
44 Irritable
45 Glaswegian girl
46 Novelist
48 Varnish ingredient
49 Under the weather
50 Life story, for short
51 Tatter

Paint-a-Treasure presents:

www.paintareasure.com

MCCC Paint Night

October 3rd • 6:30 - 8:30pm

Location:

Mercer County Community College
1200 Old Trenton Rd.
West Windsor, NJ 08550
Back Half of Student Center Cafe

Tickets: \$15 per student w/
valid ID, \$20 faculty/staff/
alumni/outside guest
Includes: Guided Instruction
All Art Materials

Payments must be received by: October 1st

For payment and info contact Danielle at: garrubad@mccc.edu

Please return with payment

10/3 Paint Night

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of people: _____ x \$15 _____ \$20

Total payment included: _____

PROFILE: Communication Professor Mitchell Canter

25 years of professional experience from DJ, to educator, to radio personality

By Aaliyah Patel
Reporter

Mitchell Canter, a Mercer Communication Professor who teaches Radio and Audio Production, has worked in the media industry for over 25 years, holding many job titles during this time. He has directed video shoots, written scripts and produced television commercials.

"One of the TV commercials that I created for my employer, Suburban Cablevision, was a finalist for a Cable ACE Award. I didn't win, but the commercial did make it to the finalist round of judging" Canter says.

During his early career Canter worked as a mobile DJ. In 2004 he established his own company called "Music Masters."

"When you're doing the mobile DJing, you have an audience that you can react off of, who you can kind of have fun with... I started off just being the engineer, so I did all of the DJing, the mixing, and someone else was the frontman. Slowly I worked up the courage to where I could be out there with everybody," Canter says.

Canter actually served as the DJ at the wedding of another Mercer Communication Professor, Kathi Paluscio.

She says, "He was absolutely more than the normal perception of a DJ. He can make an audience feel comfortable, included, and can take over to smooth out any snags that occur in the moment,"

Canter says he enjoyed customizing pieces for wedding receptions. He would alter the introductions to fit each member of a wedding party.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.BOHDANSTUDIO.COM

Professor Mitchell Canter working as a wedding DJ, one of his many other careers in addition to teaching.

"He was absolutely more than the normal perception of a [wedding] DJ. He can make an audience feel comfortable, included, and can take over to smooth out any snags that occur in the moment."

--Communication Professor Kathi Paluscio

Brian Passafaro, a Project Manager at DScape Interactive LLC is one of Canter's former DJ/mixers as well as technical assistants.

Passafaro says, "From 2013- 2015, I worked for Mitch Canter as his Assistant DJ and Lighting Specialist. Working for Mitch was challenging but very

rewarding as a learning experience but also on a sentimental level."

Passafaro says the mentorship he received from Professor Canter has stuck with him.

"Core aspects of what I've learned, like customer service, professionalism and time

management, directly applies to what I do now and I'll take that experience with me for the rest of my career," Passafaro says.

In addition to teaching, Canter does workforce training at Rutgers University's Office of Continuing Education. Now, as a full-time professor, he teaches courses here at Mercer including radio, audio production, and public speaking.

When asked if he would ever consider transitioning his profession back into any of the ones he had prior to teaching, Professor Canter said that he would not.

"No, I really love teaching. I really love, you know, working with the students.

That's the high point of it, that's the gratification. Things can happen around the institution as they happen, some good, some bad, but just being able to work with the students, that's the joy for me. That's one of the reasons why I retired from the mobile DJ business in 2016," Canter says.

He does, however, keep connected to his former work.

"I started to feel a little disconnected...I wanted to feel more of a connection to the business so I could continue to relay real-world experience to my students. That's why I now do weekends and fill-in work at [the radio station] 107.1 'The Boss' out on the Jersey Shore."

Mercer hosts variety of events to celebrate Hispanic American Heritage month

By Melissa Reyes
Reporter

Hispanic Heritage Month began its celebration on the West Windsor campus on Monday, September 16, 2019. The event to kick off the celebration was held in the Cafeteria that included free tastings of authentic Latin cuisine and a VIP guest speaker: Dr. Maria Montilla of the Latino Institute for Latino Studies and The Latino Leadership Alliance of NJ.

Students and staff gathered together at the opening ceremony to taste traditional food and listen to guest speaker Dr. Maria Montilla who began her speech by sharing some facts about the history of Hispanics in the United States.

According to Dr. Montilla, knowing the facts is necessary to understand that the history of Latinos in the United States began thousands of years ago, unlike the current attention

on US Latinos may show due to presidential and other elections.

Dr. Montilla said, "it just seemed that Latinos just suddenly appeared in the United States, that they 'just came yesterday,' que cruzamos la frontera ayer. When in reality the history of Latinos in the United States began more than thousands of years ago."

The evidence of that long history can be seen in our student population. Hispanics make up 20 percent of Mercer's student body according to the college's most recent institutional data from 2018 and Latinos are the third largest demographic in Mercer and all surrounding counties of Middlesex, Burlington and Somerset.

Vicente Erazu, a member of Mercer's Hispanic Heritage Committee, Manager of MercerOnline and former student says, "Events like this are really important, especially for minority students so they can

see that people are looking at them as far as them as students as far as introducing their culture, their experience to the whole body."

The theme throughout Hispanic Heritage Month chosen by the Hispanic Heritage Committee is, "Community without borders." All of the events are sponsored as a collaboration between the college's Student Life and Leadership, the Student Government Association and the Hispanic Heritage Committee.

"That was the whole theme for this year's event. Making sure that it wasn't just catered to Latinos or Hipanics but for everyone to be involved and attend" says, Erazu.

Professor Daniel D'Arpa, coordinator of World Languages at Mercer and a member of the Committee explains the purpose of having events like these for students saying that the college wants

to "bring something positive to [the Hispanic students], and for everybody else who needs to be educated in the value of Hispanic culture."

According to www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/, the celebration first started as a week-long event in 1968; and is now a month-long celebration to honor Hispanic Americans' heritage. The month celebration begins on the 15th of September because of the anniversary of four Central American countries' Independence Day. It runs through October 15.

The idea of this month's celebrations is to honor the history and celebrate the culture of ancestors originating from Spain, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

There will be Hispanic Heritage Month events happening at Mercer through October 15.

On October 2, Latin



themed books will be on display in the WWC bookstore. On October 3, there will be Paint Night at the West Windsor campus as well as a Paint & Sip at the James Kerney Campus with a "Day of the Dead" or Dia de Los Muertos theme.

The closing ceremony for the celebration will occur on October 15. It will be held at the James Kerney Campus beginning at 11:30am. The final guest speaker will be Ms. Adriana Abizadeh, from the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. The day ends at JKC with a concert held at Kerney Hall at 7pm.

Caribbean Vibes



Views from C

African Students Association



AMΓ Foreign Language



Hospitality



On September 19 the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted its annual festival on the main quad. It featured tables for most active clubs, as well as games, walls and other activities. With the sunny skies, many students, new and old, find out more about active

Skaters



Physical Therapy Assistant



Club Day 2019

Radiography Students



Criminal Justice

Student Government Association Fall Club Day event in the courtyard for many of the college's clubs as food trucks, climbing, and more. With mild weather and blue skies, students and faculty, while returning, took time to enjoy the activities going on at Mercer.

Food truck - for fun!



Student Government



The VOICE - Student Newspaper

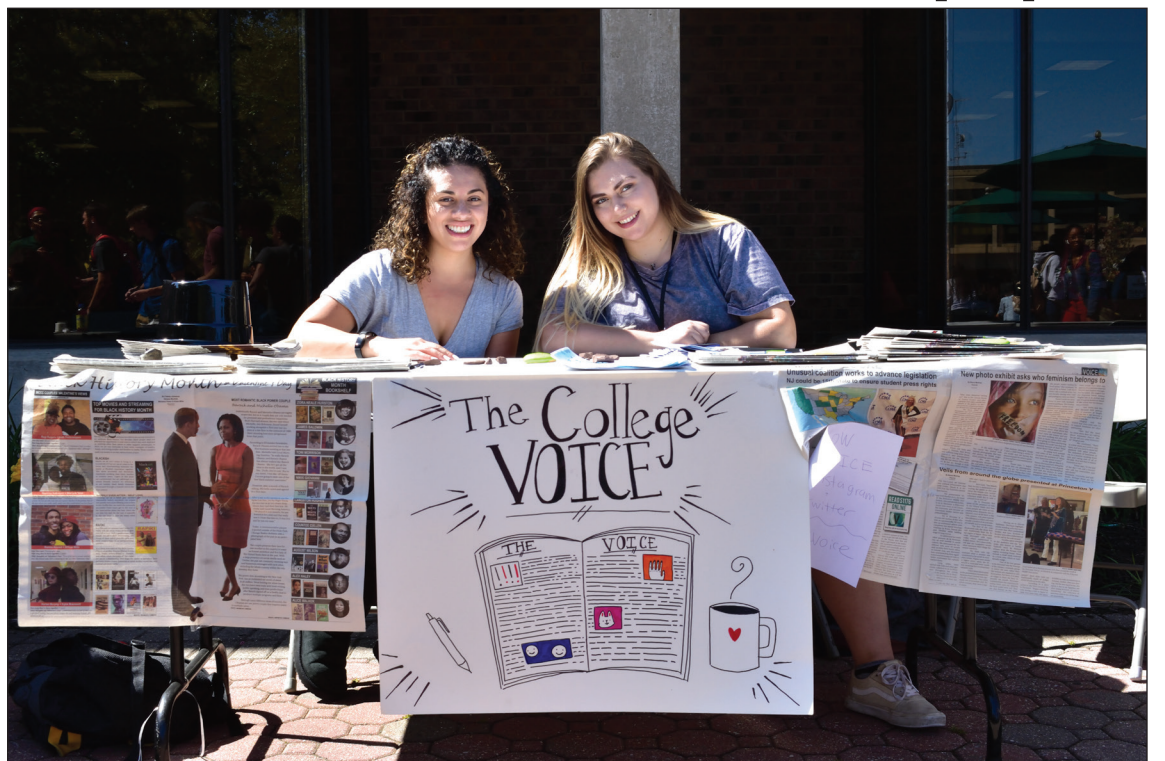


PHOTO FEATURE BY ALESSANDRO RIVERO

REASONS To Attend William Paterson University at Mercer

Outstanding



**& Affordable
Education**

NJ residents pay just
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The only way to stop being lonely is to force yourself out of your shell

MY VIEW



Gauri Patel

Because Mercer is a commuter college, it can be hard to find friends and be social. Many students come, go to class, then leave. Others just don't know how to start.

Nayline Martinez, a Mercer student who is majoring in Education, states "I don't talk in class at all because I am not comfortable being around people I don't know and it makes me feel like going back to the old school where I had a lot of friends. I have tried to make friends but it is hard to introduce myself to others for me. I need friends because if I can't understand something, then I can ask my friends, but if I don't have any friends then who am I am going to talk to?"

According to a VOICE survey of 25 students, 20 said that making friends is hard at Mercer and they don't have any friends here. However, five students said that it is easy to make friends because they are not shy. The people who don't have friends they said they go to the library or cafeteria when they have free time between their classes.

Ama Baidoo, a Mercer student who is majoring in Biology, states that "It's hard to make friends or to try to join the club. I feel like efforts to build friendships [are needed] because if you put the effort into anything, you get something out of it. The effort is worth something."

Another Mercer student, Stephanie Townsend, who is majoring in Psychology, has more hesitance. She says "I don't know whom to trust nowadays because they might not be the people you thought they were going to be. Students are shy and they don't want to approach others, they want others to approach them."

Not only are students hesitant to trust, some have

had bad experiences that worsen the problem. Franklin Hytegha, a student majoring in Nursing, says, "It's hard to make real friends who care for you. Sometimes students make friends that cheat them and it affects their life."

One way to get started is to go talk to a Success Coach. They are here to support students and they give useful advice and see to it that students are keeping up with all their responsibilities.

One of the success coaches Nicole Killian says: "In class ask questions to students who are sitting around you." She is right, if students don't talk to each other then how are they going to get to know each other?

Even though it is hard, students have to be more confident and try new things like joining clubs and getting involved in activities that are happening on campus, otherwise they have no chance to make friends. They must try to get out of their comfort zones. Staying in a shell will make you lonely and make it impossible to connect to the people you are surrounded by.

SOME EXPERT TIPS ON HOW TO FIGHT FEELING LONELY

These tips are from student Emery Bergmann who went away to college in New York and was so lonely she made a video for class about it. The video went viral and even won a film award. Here is her advice.

1 YOU CAN'T CLONE YOUR HS FRIENDS

Bergmann writes, "At first I searched for people who reminded me of my friends from home, who would play a similar role in my life that they do. But I began to realize that no one can stand in for or replace them — which was oddly comforting, and a relief to acknowledge."

2 SOCIAL MEDIA IS NOT REALITY

Bergmann writes, "Social media reinforces the notion that you should always be enjoying yourself, that it's strange to not be happy...I taught myself that everyone's college experience is different."

3 GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO ADJUST

Bergmann writes, "Transitions are always hard — regardless of your age...Understand that your loneliness is not failure, and that you are far from being alone in this feeling...You're going to find your people."

Time management tips from Laurie

LEARN FROM ME



Laurie Gallagher

At The College VOICE I am known as the student who never misses a deadline. In fact, I have been promoted to Newsroom Manager and one of my tasks it to make sure other reporters get their work done on time. Here are some of my own personal tips and tricks for staying on track.

1.) WEAR SWEATSHIRTS AND SWEATPANTS A LOT

Everyone likes to look nice, but one thing that can take up a lot of time is fussing over your appearance. If your grades are sinking, it's time for sweats.

2.) GO TO THE LIBRARY BETWEEN CLASSES

It can be tempting to use time between classes just to

hang out, but if you want to save time later, use that time between classes to get some of your work done. You may also meet nice people in the library. Having friends is good for staying motivated in college.

3.) STAY HYDRATED

It may sound strange to think about food and drink when you want to think about time, but your brain will function better and faster if you get plenty of fluids and eat at regular times.

4.) SLEEP IN BUT GET TO CLASSES ON TIME

You can't do this without an alarm clock. Trick yourself by setting your alarm clock for a half an hour before normal. That way when you hit "snooze" you'll end up getting some "extra" sleep and still get up on time.

5.) SAY NO TO THINGS WHEN YOU ARE BUSY

Sometimes you try to do too much because you are being nice and saying yes to everything. This can cause you to fall behind later. If you say no, everyone will understand. I promise.



Written with support from the staff of The College VOICE

A time management key is in your pocket

MY ANGLE



Saad Ahmed

Managing time effectively is one problem all students deal with, but not all students do something productive. Being punctual is a key skill for everyone’s professional career. So, starting as a college student, all students should adopt a good time management technique.

There are simple ways to better manage your time.

According to an article by Anna Heinrich titled “7 Effective Time Management Tips for College Students” on Rasmussen.edu she writes, “Save yourself the late-night scramble and write everything down as you hear it.”

Dan Hulit, a Communication major at Mercer, says, “It’s not the easiest thing in the world to manage your time...I’m definitely not the best at time management.” He is not alone.

We all might have been in a situation where we trust ourselves to remember an important upcoming test or assignment, and as soon as we leave the class so does the mental note from our minds of that upcoming test.

Then, one fine evening, while binge-watching Netflix, we suddenly remember that test the next day and if we don’t start studying right away we will eliminate the possibility of even passing the class.

Bryan Apacaja, a third semester Mercer student, says he meets deadlines, “by struggling through them, drinking enough coffee, doing late nights and not stopping ‘til the assignment’s done”.

One of the most fool-proof ways to remember something like a test is to write it down according to the upcoming date. That way you can have it on you as a reminder and plan ahead by giving yourself enough time to prepare for it. **WRITE THINGS DOWN!**

As students, we can end up putting off important tasks and procrastinating to the last minute. Some of us just find it easier not having to worry about something early on but for the most part that is just being lazy.

Even while working on important projects or assignments, we might get swayed

to check our email or notifications on our phones or go down the YouTube rabbit hole while searching something on the web for a class.

A good solution to tackle that situation is to limit yourself to the amount of time you use for unimportant tasks.

In the article by Anna Heinrich she says “Use your phone for good... Your phone can serve as an on-the-go calendar and scheduler. Setting reminders can help you keep due dates and other important commitments in mind as you go through your day.”

Nichol Killian a Success Coach at Mercer for the Health Professions division says, “One of the strategies I have students use, is set timers...be all about Facebook and Instagram but set a timer so you’re only doing it for 15 minutes.”

Our phones are not only good for watching cat videos and taking pictures of our tacos for Instagram. A lot of smartphones can be personal assistants right in your pockets.

With voice activated AI (artificial intelligence) like ‘Siri’ for iOS and ‘Ok Google’ for Android it has become as simple as ‘said and done’ when it comes to having to note something down or to set a reminder all that without even having to unlock your phone.

Jehan Mohamed, the Success Coach for the Business and STEM division at Mercer, says, “if you utilize [your cell-phone] the right way and make effective use of it then you are good to go.”

Another way to get ahead of things is to set a goal and plan to achieve it. In the beginning of each semester we are given a syllabus for each of our courses. Most often our instructors provide a break down of what will be covered each week through the entirety of the semester.

So, a great way to get things done is to put dates in your phone calendar and get a planner to note down all upcoming assignments, projects and tests according to the dates they are due. Put your planner up in your room and start crossing out the days and assignments as the weeks go by.

This can also help you keep track of where and what you need to catch up on for your course work, and how well you are doing overall. A digital and/or paper planner system can also help prioritize your time and can make it easier to balance you work life with your school life and give you a sense of accomplishment when you’re completing all the assigned work on time.

BONUS TIME MANAGEMENT TIPS

FROM THE MANY LISTS OF EXPERT TIPS ONLINE, THESE ONES ARE GIVEN AGAIN AND AGAIN.

1 GOOD OLD PEN

Some students work better with hand written calendars and some research suggests we are less likely to forget an item we wrote down rather than one we voice dictated into a phone. Writing things and sticking notes where you can see them may be a good choice for some students.

2 SAY NO

You can’t do everything and people often pile extra work on those they think are well organized. Sometimes you will have to say no. Don’t be scared to do so.

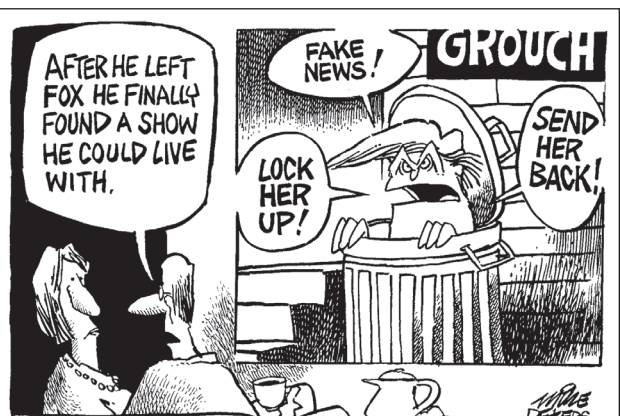
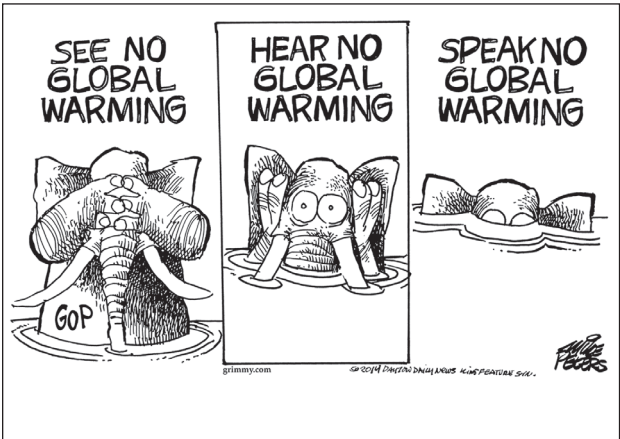
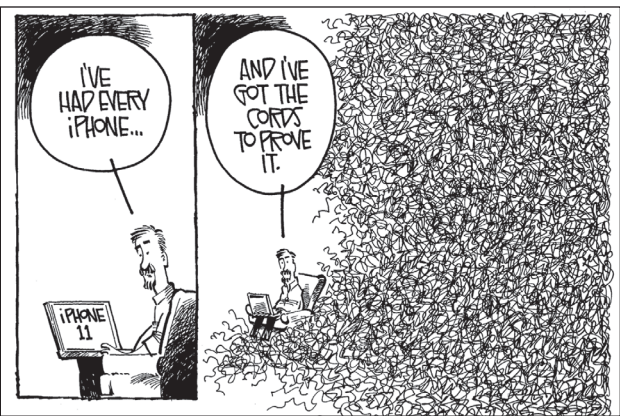
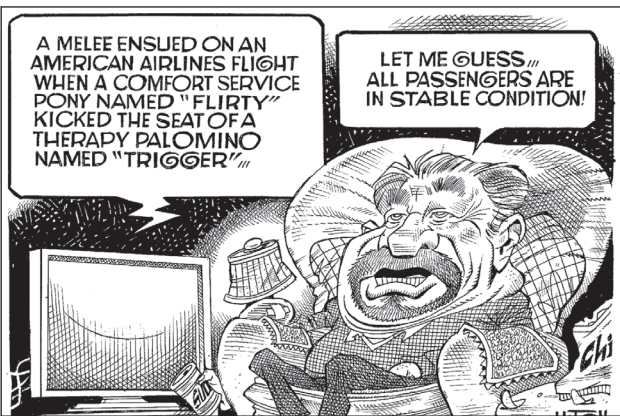
3 PRIORITIZE

Family comes first. Then you have to decide between work and school. If money is what is most crucial, put your job first and cut down on how many classes you are taking.

4 SLEEP

If you are chronically sleep deprived you will not be able to stick to any schedule or plan. You have to take time to rest.

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



MAIL CALL

What do you think? Do you agree with the opinions you see here? Do you like our coverage of College and local issues? Is there a topic you really want us to cover? **DROP US A LINE AND LET US KNOW!**



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It's time to cancel "cancel culture"

AS I SEE IT



Tori Pender

The internet phenomenon known as "call-out" or "cancel culture" is when a large group of people reacts to some piece of information--accurate or not--about a person, often a person with some influence or stature, with moral indignation. Then a kind of mass hysteria ensues in which people convert their outrage into action both online and out in the real world.

An example of cancel culture includes when the athletic apparel company Nike used Colin Kaepernick for an ad.

Kaepernick, an activist and American football quarter-

back, became known for kneeling during the National Anthem at football games to protest police brutality in the US. He was widely criticized by the president, and many others, as being unpatriotic.

When Nike featured Kaepernick in a commercial with the tag line "believe in something, even if it costs you everything" the Internet reacted. The cancel began. Individuals set their Nike products on fire and posted pictures of the acts on social media. People blasted Nike and Kaepernick with incendiary tweets and messages and urged a boycott of the company.

The cancel initially caused Nike's stock price to drop 3.2 percent, but then it bounced back and is currently up more than 13 percent compared to the previous year according to Edison Trends a commerce report website. The commercial from 2018 went on to win an Emmy.

Nike's gamble of using such a controversial person to advertise its products paid off, but most cancels are not pro-

ductive.

Cancel culture goes too far. It can start when people react to misinformation or only partial information about something. By the time it's in motion, even if someone being canceled apologizes, they won't be let off the hook. The public will not allow forgiveness.

One local example of cancel culture's impact happened to Cafe 72 in Ewing, New Jersey. It started when an employee wanted to take a day off to attend the funeral of Michael Sot, a TCNJ student, who was killed in a suspected DWI crash on December 2, 2018. The employee posted texts between herself and one of the owners onto a closed Ewing community Facebook group. The emails showed the owner telling the employee she would be fired if she went to the funeral instead of showing up to work.

And then the canceling began.

With only partial information, people felt the employee was being treated unfairly. They shared and reshared the texts. Then they headed

to Google and Yelp and began posting hate-filled negative reviews for Cafe 72.

Certainly the texts suggested the owner was not polite to the employee, but he was following the restaurant's policy. Under the Bereavement Leave Policy according to the Society of Human Resource Management, an employee can only take off for the immediate death of a family member which includes attending the funeral.

Should the owner have cut the employee some slack? Maybe. But did his response warrant hundreds of negative reviews of the restaurant's food and service? Definitely not.

Conor Garnel wrote an article on cancel culture for Vice in which he describes how cancel culture "whittles away at the human condition of inevitably making mistakes."

Growing up, we are always told that nobody is perfect. Cancel culture is a constant loop of pinpointing humans' mistakes and turning them into a giant mess.

This is why cancel culture should be canceled.

Club Day means more than a food truck in the quad

My Perspective



Alessandro Rivero

In high school, we all heard the same advice. Join a sports team, join a club, do extracurriculars so you'll look good for the colleges you'll be applying to. Well, now you're in college and you'll most likely be staying here for the next two to four years. Does this mean clubs are useless? Absolutely not.

College students are constantly studying and fighting for something in their future like a good job, income, a career, and depending on your career path,

extracurriculars can almost certainly aid you.

According to an article in *Higher Education Today* called "Reducing Barriers to Transfer for Community College Students," by Jonathan Turk, studies show "Participation in extracurricular activities while enrolled at community college more than doubled the odds that a student would go on to transfer to a four-year institution."

Steven Voorhes, a Communication Professor at Mercer says that "having experience with work related to your field will make you more marketable or employable."

The Criminal Justice Club, for example, visits different places--such as prisons--and has guest speakers come talk about important developments in that field. For example, as reported in The VOICE, former New Jersey governor Jim McGreevey came to discuss prisoner reentry programs.

The Hospitality Club gives students a chance to prac-

"Having experience with work related to your field will make you more marketable or employable."

- Professor Steve Voorhees

tice their skills and is highly visible serving up food at campus events.

The College VOICE newspaper takes a group of 6-8 of the best student reporters to New York City for three days each March to attend the College Media Association conference where they get to attend workshops and connect with more than 1,200 college journalism students and industry professionals.

Then there's the Viking Radio club, the Physical Therapy Assistants' club, the Alpha Mu Gamma foreign language honor society...the list goes on.

However, workplace advancement isn't the only rea-

son to join a club as the students at this year's Club Day on September 19 demonstrated.

There are lots of cultural clubs as well, such as Caribbean Vibes, which has the goal of "bringing people together, teaching people about our culture," or the African Students Association which "create[s] a community for those who are from Africa and Africa diaspora."

Zeke Wagner, from Mercer's Student Government Association (SGA), said "[students in clubs] get to meet people, make connections...I've met so many people that I'll know for the next 30 years of my life. It's actually one of the best choices I've made at Mercer, joining [SGA]."

The college currently has 36 active clubs. Inactive clubs can be rebooted and some students find an advisor to work with them and help create a new club. For information on club opportunities, visit our Student Government at the West Windsor campus in SC 111.

HIGH GPA? JOIN PTK!

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VOICE ONLINE



Find us online at mcccvoice.org

CORRECTIONS

The VOICE didn't actually receive any requests for factual corrections for our last issue in May 2019. But we take facts very seriously, so if you see a factual error let us know so we can fix it promptly.

FAST JLAW FACT

Tabloid newspapers do get sued for some of their stories which is why they often focus on specific celebrities who won't bother suing

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Netflix original show "Stranger Things" star Finn Wolfhard has a weird name and plays in a rock band called "Calpurnia."

JOURNO LINGO

When journalists look up previous articles and research before starting a new article, they call it "going to the morgue."

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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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West Windsor, NJ 08690

ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



Help is here!

Dear Voice,
A huge mutant junky squirrel hopped out of a MCCC trash can and attacked me on the way to class yesterday. How do I defend myself?
-Once Bitten

Dear Bitten,
We have found that Mercer cafeteria food can repel any creature with at least two of the five senses. Try hurling chicken nuggets.
-The Voice

Dear Voice,
I left my flash drive behind in one class last week. I lost some homework and stuff, but what I think is worse is that there were some naked photos of my little brother on there. What should I do?
-Eek

Dear Inappropriate,
WTF? If your brother is under 18 that's a felony! What is wrong with you?
-The Voice

Dear Voice,
I chewed on some brown meat in the cafe buffet for five minutes before it broke down. Was it safe?
-No Longer Hungry

Dear Hungry,
I lost my brown leather

belt in the cafeteria (don't ask how). Are you still alive?
-The Voice.

Dear Voice,
Why do you guys think you know everything? I see you at your exclusive Monday meetings with your sub par pizza. Not cool, guys.

Dear Unsigned,
We are a newspaper. We know everything. Come join.
-The VOICE

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

HOROSCOPES



Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Getting back into the swing of school can be tough, but your mind is ready to learn. Try not to overload your system, or you may overwork yourself.



Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

This month you're receiving more romantic attention than usual. Don't let it get to your head or you could see some drama come into view.



Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You try to multitask, but you can only mindfully do one thing at a time. So attempt to focus your energy on one person or goal this month since your concentration is extra sharp.



Gemini

May 21 - Jun. 20

This month you'll feel the pressure of what feels like everyone reaching out for help. Help them, but don't make their problems your problems. The people in your life have it under control.



Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

This is your month for bonding. Open up to your closest friend, they'll be there for you. You'll be coupling up with another, but do your research before getting invested.



Cancer

Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

This month, you're longing for community, so join a club to make new friends. They'll be glad to get to know you.



Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

You're paying full attention to details this month. Don't stress yourself by micromanaging your life. There is room to relax.



Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

Longer hours and faster deadlines are what you can expect from this month. It may feel like you need to rush, but try to complete some each day at an attainable pace. You'll thank yourself later.



Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Your month will be filled with courage and charisma. So, your powers of persuasion will be prodigious. Don't misuse this though, or someone will see right through your charms.



Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

This month, you'll be extra sensitive and empathetic. Other's emotions will feel like your own. So try to find the light in what your loved ones are going through.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Your social life is booming this month. Try to network at social events to connect with like-minded people. Everyone will love you.

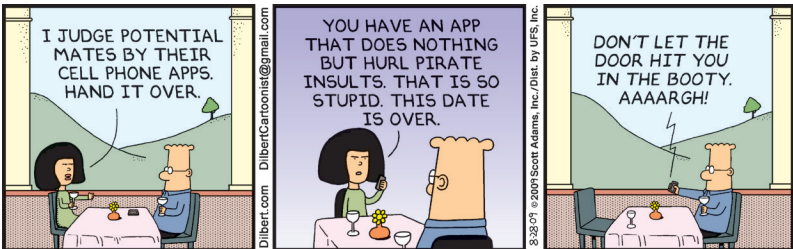


Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Your month is loaded with tough assignments, from school to your social group. Don't procrastinate and remember to set goals. You will reach them with patience.

2X DILBERT



SUDOKU

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

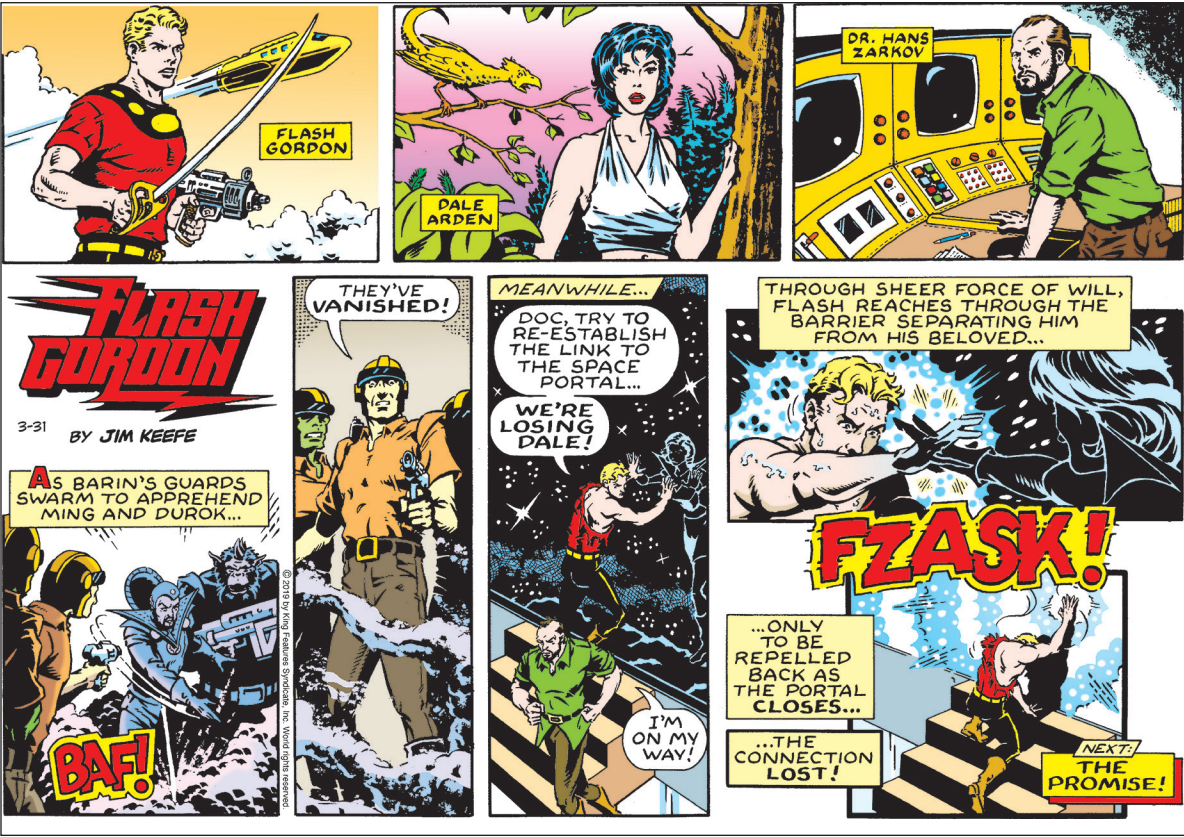
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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3	9	4	6	2	7	1	5	8
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Answer

FLASH GORDON



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

