Chem lab doors repeatedly found open
Faculty say chronic problem with open labs poses danger

Starting in fall 2016 the college began using dorms at Rider University in Lawrenceville for off-site student housing.

In MCCC president Jianping Wang's vision, the new dorms would have rooms on second and third floors and eateries such as Panera and Chipotle would be located on the first floor.

By Caitlin Oliver
Reporter

Students, faculty question dorm prospect

By Saad Ahmed
Senior Reporter

Chemistry professors say they are concerned that labs are being consistently left unlocked after hours. They say the problem poses both safety and academic integrity problems.

According to Chemistry professor Michael Dorneman, when labs are left open, “Anybody can walk in and take anything they like. It’s a Chemistry lab, you have access to a wide variety of potentially very hazardous substances concentrated acids and bases and solvents highly flammable materials.”

Biology Professor Ellen Genovesi spoke about an incident that in the past she observed where she had set up the lab to conduct an in-class experiment during an evening class and left the experiment set for class the following day. She says she left the door locked,

Faculty members say they have found Chemistry labs in Mercer’s MS building open after hours and this makes potentially dangerous chemicals easily accessible.

In MCCC president Jianping Wang’s vision, the new dorms would have rooms on second and third floors and eateries such as Panera and Chipotle would be located on the first floor.

College president Dr. Jianping Wang has announced her plan to build dorms for MCCC, which has traditionally been a commuter only college, and says the goal is to provide housing to a variety of students including international students and athletes as well as students in specialized programs.

“We, the college, have some very unique programs like Funeral Service. Most community colleges in our region don’t offer them. They become very popular,” Dr. Wang says, adding that because students come far and wide to take these programs, they need housing.

According to Dr. Robert Schreyer, Mercer’s Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, who has been at Mercer since June 2016, the goal to build dorms has been a major part of the President’s initiative.

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President’s dorms plans raise questions

Continued from page 1

According to the United States Department of Education, there are 1,047 public community colleges and approximately 12%, or 128, offer some form of housing on campus, though no community colleges in New Jersey do.

Most community colleges with housing are in rural areas where commuting distances are long. Just one has a campus in a state capital, as Mercer does, and that is Community College of Laramie Wyoming in Cheyenne.

Tuition rates there are roughly 24% lower per credit than those at MCCCD for in-state residents. For those students who elect to live on campus for the full academic year, the lowest housing rate available adds $7,354 to the base tuition which is $3,546 for two 12 credit semesters. This brings the annual tuition total to $10,900 before factoring in books and student fees. The cost is considerably higher for international students.

For the first time, Mercer celebrated Women Entrepreneurship Week on October 23. The college hosted a panel comprising of female entrepreneurs including Brittany Johnson, the owner and founder of the cosmetic company Eyes Ink, Chaya Marcus, President and CEO of the IT company PamTen and Esther Tanz, Founder of ESTIR Inc. Insurance, and Denise Taylor, CEO and Founder of Diverse Style.

During the discussion, the entrepreneurs spoke to attendees about their struggles in the workforce and gave advice about starting and running businesses.

When asked as to why she spoke at the event, Pamela said that “I am really passionate about empowering women and girls, especially with my own story, where I really pushed myself to be where I am today, and I believe that if I can do it, everyone else can too...it's really important to provide those opportunities...for women and girls.”

One student attendee, Zhanabrie Spotlight, said, “One thing that stood out to me during the panel was the [entrepreneurs] promoting passion.” For example, she continued, “They said that if you don’t have passion and you’re just doing it for money, then it’s not gonna get you that far.”

Women Entrepreneurship Week is the creation of Shanon Waters, the Program Manager for the Feliciano Center at Montclair State University. Waters says she created the event in 2014 because “The Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation has a special mission to serve women entrepreneurs. As part of that mission, we decided to have an event focused on female founders.”

Waters also notes how when she did an online search for a week-long celebration for women entrepreneurs, she could not find any.

Now in its sixth year, Women Entrepreneurship Week was celebrated from the 21 to the 25 of October by 240 institutions in 32 countries. Waters intends on expanding the event to more schools and people around the world in years to come.

Waters says that Mercer is also the first community college in New Jersey and the third community college in the nation to participate.

Women Entrepreneurship Week was brought to Mercer by President Dr. Jianping Wang and Project Manager Jill Marcus. Marcus says that Mercer is hoping to celebrate Women Entrepreneurship Week next year and that workshops are organized along with discussion panels for future celebrations.

At Mercer’s event, the discussion was followed by light refreshments and a meet-and-greet in the Communication Building. A second event was held at the James Kerney campus on October 24. Student attendee Spotlight said, “Men can sell themselves to the highest extent but women sometimes downplay ourselves...we should always be confident in what we do no matter what.”

Women Entrepreneurship Week celebrated

By Thomas Lillja

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Women Entrepreneurship Week celebrated
The latest production at Kelsey Theater on MCCC’s West Windsor campus, was the musical comedy, Catch Me If You Can. It was presented by The Pennington Players.

Based on a true story, the play centers around a young man, Frank Abagnale, Jr., who uses his winning personality to scam his way into various identities which he uses to gain both prestige and money. He impersonates a pilot, a lawyer, and a doctor without ever stepping foot in the proper school for any of these practices.

The lively and entertaining production was directed by Laurie Gougher who has been a musical director for various productions at Kelsey Theatre and has performed in some.

She explains her vision for the show saying, “It should feel like a show within a show. Frank is telling his story to the audience and the performers when you’re seeing a show live. There’s a real connection between the audience and the performers when you’re seeing a show live. And there’s that excitement of never knowing what’s going to happen....”

“...No two performances are exactly the same.”

-Laurie Gougher, Director

The ensemble from Catch Me If You Can perform a high energy dance number with Scott Silagy playing the lead of Frank Abagnale Jr.

By Melissa Reyes
Reporter

“When you’re watching TV they don’t hear you, they can’t see you, they can’t feel your energy. There’s a real connection between the performers and the audience that what Gougher explains is the importance of live theater versus other forms of entertainment.

She says, “It’s important to experience something. First of all, there’s the connection. When you’re watching TV they don’t hear you, they can’t see you, they can’t feel your energy. There’s a real connection between the audience and the performers when you’re seeing a show live.”

And there’s that excitement of never knowing what’s going to happen. No two performances are exactly the same.”

-Laurie Gougher, Director

The spectacle of energetic dance numbers and songs, combined with a live band kept the pace moving, but the larger themes of how father figures and family, Frank’s relationship with his father is central and we can see how it leads him into some of his choices.

The production begins by grabbing the audience’s attention with a busy ensemble, bustling at a train station in which Frank is attempting to escape from FBI detectives. Once caught he pleads with the detectives to tell him tell his side of the story. He is essentially telling it to the audience.

The interaction between the performers and the audience is what Gougher explains is the importance of live theater versus other forms of entertainment.

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The ensemble from Catch Me If You Can perform a high energy dance number with Scott Silagy playing the lead of Frank Abagnale Jr.

Source of open chemistry lab doors remains unclear

Continued from page 1

but the next morning when she came in to teach her morning class the lab door was left open. She says, “We set up our lab practical exams and a lot of the labs connect together, so if a student was here in the evening and it was unlocked they could go in and see all the questions. They could take pictures of all the exam questions. And that’s definitely an academic integrity concern if it’s left unlocked.”

As far as how the doors get unlocked, Professor Genovesi says, “Perhaps, the cleaning staff when they come in and empty the garbage leave it unlocked. There needs to be someone at the end of the shift to ensure that the doors are all locked.”

Bryn Marshall the director of Facilities, College Safety, and Security says of the cleaning staff, “It’s an outside company. They pour in here anywhere from 10-11 o’clock at night and all through the night and they open everything, so putting it all back together is a bit of a puzzle.” He says, however, that security officers do keep track of the cleaning staff and ensure things are locked up.

Marshall says the problem may lie elsewhere.

“A lot of folks have their own key, which is problematic because we’ll find out that a TA will open a room and we’ll get told ‘a room is open’ and then we find it was one of the teaching assistants who was in there.”

Professor Dorneman says that the possibility that a door is being left open by a student or faculty member is highly unlikely.

“We spend a significant amount of time in the first lab period laying down the rules and fully restating them and following up every lab period. The students know that they don’t go in the lab unless there’s an instructor in the lab, and they don’t.”

As far as teaching assistants, Professor Dorneman adds, “All the faculty and the student assistants are trained thoroughly and told explicitly make sure the doors are locked when you leave.”

Two cleaning employees were asked about the issue. They declined to be named but said they did their job correctly. Their company ABM did not respond to multiple requests for comment.
Alexander "Chick" De Lorenzo was born in 1922, as one of twelve children to Pasquale and Maria De Lorenzo who immigrated from Southern Italy in the early 1900s.

In 1947 Chick decided it was time for a place of his own and he established 'DeLorenzo's Tomato Pies' at 530 Hudson Street, also known as "DeLo's" for short. Chick is a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II and with his late wife Sophie, he owned and operated the DeLorenzo's on Hudson Street in Trenton for 50 years before he retired and gave the restaurant to his daughter and son in law, Eileen and Gary Amico.

Sam Amico is the grandson of the original owner Chick De Lorenzo. He opened the Robbinsville location in late 2007. This new location opened soon after Chick passed away in September of the same year. It operated simultaneously with the Hudson Street location until early 2012 when his parents, Gary and Eileen, decided to retire and close the doors for good. Amico says a need for a second restaurant was the reason for the Robbinsville establishment opening. "We were in a position where we knew we had the room and resources to expand so we figured why not," says Amico.

He continues, "We just felt like we were popular and could be making a bigger killing. We expanded to Robbinsville because it was in proximity, and it has paid off. I became the owner here and my parents continued running the Hudson Street location until it closed in 2007."

When you enter the restaurant, you notice the repetition of the name. 'DeLorenzo's Tomato Pies' is printed on every single pizza box as well as the walls and doors. There are booths and tables that face the kitchen, normally filled with large families. The kitchen and pizza counter overlook the dining room, giving the guest the ability to watch their pizza or salad as it's made.

Wanting to make his grandfather proud, Amico and the rest of the DeLorenzo's team are big on keeping that Italian tradition remnant in their restaurant. Amico made it a point that the way the staff dresses is very important as well.

He says, "The staff and management always dress in a button-down shirt with a black tie and dress pants. This is how the pizza makers at the original store on Hudson Street made it. At the Robbinsville location, bussers wear a white button-down and black tie, waiters wear the same thing with a black vest on top, and pizza makers just wear a plain white shirt. We always want to look clean, never sloppy."

Pizza-maker and buss-er, Luke Young, who has worked at DeLorenzo's for two years explained the tradition of cutting the pizza into squares and rectangular pieces of pizza. Some pieces have no crust and are only part of the pie, as they are cut from the middle. Some have crusts on one or two sides. This is something that no other local pizza place around does and will never change at DeLorenzo's because it is a tradition that has been there since the beginning.

"The oddest part about the tradition is that we really don't have an explanation for it," Amico says, adding, "When the first DeLorenzo's opened, and my grandfather needed to start cutting pizzas all he had was a knife. It worked in the beginning, so we just continued with it."

Jack Bell, 75, a resident of Robbinsville, says he tries to make it into DeLo's at least once a week. He likes the old-fashioned ambiance he says. "I've been going to the same restaurant ever since I was a little kid...I remember going to the first DeLo's, on Hudson Street when I was a kid in the 1960s. This place takes me right back there, puts me right at the table with my parents and brother."
House of Cupcakes serves up seasonal sensations

By Aaliyah Patel

House of Cupcakes, located on Witherspoon Street in Princeton is owned by Ruth and Ron Bzdewka. They are known for having won the prestigious Food Network competition show "Cupcake Wars" in 2011, and receiving the $10,000 grand prize after producing a 1,000 cupcake display in the finale. Since then, the business has expanded and Princeton is now one of four locations with business ventures expanding as far as Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Ruth Bzdewka says that "Variety, locations, and good products" are some of the reasons why House of Cupcakes is different from other traditional bakeries.

The range of cupcakes exceeds over 35 flavors, with signature cupcakes priced at $2.95 each. For a ½ dozen, it costs $14.95. For quantities of 100 or more, it includes a peanut butter buttercream topped with broken pieces of peanut butter cups.

Alongside cupcakes, there are other items such as cookie favors starting at $2.50 each. A House of Cupcakes employee says that they change up the menu to add seasonal cupcake flavors. "Pumpkin spice is currently already out and I'm pretty sure that we do something different for December," she said.

Other seasonal cupcakes include caramel apple and maple walnut. As December approaches, there will be additional festive flavors appearing on the menu. She adds that "Everything is made daily." However due to the lengthy process, "The only thing that is not made daily is the sugar cookies because those need to be dried out."

Entering the shop patrons will see a menu displayed on a television monitor screen above the colorful cupcake display, listing all of the items.

Variety pack from House of Cupcakes in Princeton.

Italian Villa offers comfort food and warm service

By Andrea Barratt

Italian Villa restaurant in Cream Ridge, NJ is owned by mom and pop team Biagio and Raffaela Scotto, or "Benny" and "Mama Scotto" as customers refer to them.

Operating a successful restaurant is nothing new to these energetic owners. Their previous restaurant, Romeos, was located in Fort Dix, N.J. Eventually, they sold it because they wanted a less hectic schedule and more family time.

However, after a few years of retirement, Benny says they were missing the hustle and bustle of running a restaurant. They purchased the Italian Villa restaurant and customers from the old establishment followed them.

The familiar and comforting aromas of garlic, basil and thyme fill the air with the warmth from the pizza oven embracing you as you enter the restaurant.

Dominic Tesar, a customer before he joined the staff as a server says, "I love the food and everyone is so nice here. Raffaela and Benny are really understanding and they work with you."

The smell of pizza hot out of the oven on a cool afternoon is irresistible. The thin crust slice, when folded in half, retains its shape and integrity. The cheese and sauce do not pool in a messy clam on the plate.

One of their best sellers at the restaurant is fresh, homemade pasta. Benny cranks out six different types for their weekly specials. There is a wide variety to choose from, with the most popular choice being the Vodka Rigatoni.

Benny explains they have added whole wheat pasta and some gluten-free options to the menu, too, like a cauliflower pizza crust.

He says, "We want to make our customers happy, so we try to accommodate their special needs." Lucia Scotto, the owners' daughter who also works as a server says, "That's the advantage of cooking everything from scratch; you can customize it. Nothing is frozen, we use fresh, quality ingredients for our dishes."

Vidwatee Sewdass, a customer from Princeton, NJ, says she makes the 45-minute drive to the restaurant regularly. Sewdass says it's worth it for, "Really good Italian food and better than homemade desserts."

The owners and staff work to create an atmosphere that lives up to the motto emblazoned on their T-shirt, "Come as friends, leave as family." They greet folks with a friendly hello and a welcoming wave on the way in.

The restaurant area can seat up to 40 patrons in the dining room, with an additional five seats at the counter tops. Weather permitting, guests can sit on the patio and enjoy takeout.

Located on 445 Route 539, Cream Ridge, New Jersey, Italian Villa is minutes away from the Jackson Outlets and Six Flags Great Adventure theme park. They are open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m.
HUNGER

Mercer addresses student hunger with food pantry

In a recent food access survey of 50 Mercer students, half reported that they had gone hungry because they didn’t have money for food and 41% said they had qualified for state or federal food assistance programs.

The cost of student hunger is greater than just discomfort. A bill introduced in the NJ state Assembly on October 18, 2018 that expands student access to food stamps reads, “Food insecurity carries serious consequences for student success. In one study, the majority of students experiencing food insecurity reported missing classes and study sessions, and not buying required textbooks.

Hunger also impairs cognitive development into adolescence and adulthood, leading to poorer test scores and the inability to fully engage in classes.”

A year ago The VOICE learned that the college aimed to help hungry students by establishing food pantries on both campuses, but information about where the pantries were located or if they even existed was conflicting.

Now, however, there are signs on bulletin boards reading “Help fight hunger on campus!” and announcing the opening of a Pantry on the Kerney campus in Trenton in Room KC403.

According to Bryan O’Neal who is Assistant to the Dean at the James Kerney Campus, the food pantry “should be up and running in two weeks...we will be opening up right before Thanksgiving”.

The food pantry well on its way. It already contains items like Cup O’ Noodles and cans of beans and is almost ready to be open.

As to how the food pantry will be stocked, it is currently up to the generosity of people who can afford to help.

Dr. Diane Campbell, Vice President of Student Affairs, says the way to get food for the pantry will be through donations and says “we will have a holiday party and as a part of coming to the holiday party, we will ask people to bring food donations.”

In a flyer that was created by the school, they mention what types of food and supplies are needed. Nonperishable items are key. They mention needing oatmeal, fruit cups, peanut butter, and toiletries among other things.

Dr. Wang and Dr. Campbell say the only requirement for a student to receive help from the food pantry is that they be hungry. However, a form has also been created that asks for information such as a student identification number, address, and whether the student receives government benefits such as SNAP (food stamps).

Jennifer Famularo who asked for food support in the past and was given some direct help, says “when times were rough, the college was able to provide some food so I could continue to study.”

—*

INFOGRAPH

Statistical information is drawn from two surveys conducted by The VOICE in 2019. The first analyzed self reported data from 50 current students on the West Windsor campus. The second had 30 student respondents from each of the two campuses.

By Justin Willever
Senior Reporter
Students at Mercer’s Trenton campus are facing higher levels of food insecurity.*

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Food Pantry Information Documents Available
Find pdf versions of these documents at The VOICE website mcccvoice.org/hunger

Comparing Campuses

Students on Mercer’s Trenton campus are facing higher levels of food insecurity. Percent of students surveyed from each campus who report that they receive state or federal food assistance.

Trenton: 80%
West Windsor: 60%

Percent of students surveyed from each campus who say they worry that they might run out of food before they get more money.

Trenton: 65%
West Windsor: 45%

Percent of students surveyed from each campus who say they need to cut their meals or the size of their meals in order to save for other expenses.

Trenton: 24%
West Windsor: 33%

Food Pantry Information
Documents Available
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The college has prepared information sheets about what the Food Pantry contains, a sign up for students requesting food, and a flyer describing how people can donate.

Mercer’s new food pantry is located in KC403.

41% of Mercer students have qualified for food stamps.*
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Men’s Lacrosse looks to build on first year success

By Tori Pender
Senior Reporter

The Mercer County Community College Men’s Lacrosse team is preparing to pick up where it left off last season. In its first year the Vikings were Region IX champions. They had a season record of 10-6, good enough to earn entrance to the NJCAA Lacrosse Tournament where they finally fell 32-3.

Head coach, Rob Siris, a chairman of the U.S. Lacrosse Central New Jersey stated, “The success is attainable again. The previous season had a lot of success so, we’re handling teams who want to beat us and rising to that level.”

With 20 returning sophomore players and 20 freshmen, Siris says, “We have acclimated players, which helps [this season].” In preparation for their second season, the team has already played five exhibition games and scrimmages.

Profile: Team captain Jaimie Ervin motivates new players

By Chiara Tramo
& Staff of The College VOICE

Jamie Ervin has made it her goal to keep soccer a part of her life as long as she can. In her childhood, Ervin played on multiple travel and recreational teams, allowing her to expand her talent on the field. Ervin’s previous teams include the Ewing Hurricanes and MFC, along with Fisher Middle School and Ewing High School’s team.

As a freshman, Ervin scored 25 of Mercer’s 30 goals and was selected for the All-Region first team.

Ervin has a total of 18 goals out of the nine games played in the 2019 season so far and she is striving for more as she is also the captain of the team.

Mercer women’s soccer team assistant coach Karissa Estelle says Ervin is a “versatile player who can play with anybody and is a player that just lifts you up on and off the field.” Estelle says she is lucky to have played with Ervin on the field last year before becoming a coach because she knows how Jamie played with her and how she plays with others.

Ervin stated “we are a whole new team. We’ve been in it since day one and since the first game we’ve been ready to play.”

Ervin not only wants the best for herself but also the best for the women who play with her. Player Gianna Gollinge says about her team “we all come from different areas, we have international players so I feel like the chemistry is so much more important before we even get on that field.”

The bond this team has built is evident when they take the field.

“We communicate well, we are always together and practicing so when we are in a game we make good passes,” says teammate Isabella Morales. As Estelle watches her team form, she gives props to Ervin for stepping up as captain and encouraging the other players in a way that helped make the team like a family.
STUDENT NEWSPAPER
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Notice
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now open SATURDAYS
10am-4pm!
First, I had to save my own life
After a marriage at 18 and divorce at 21, college seemed impossible

By Melissa Reyes
Reporter

At 18 I married my first true love that I had been with since I was 15. Being raised Pentecostal Christian had ingrained in me that having sex outside of marriage was wrong, and since I was already having sex, getting married was what seemed like the logical thing to do.

The moment I graduated high school, I knew that I wanted to go to college. I made sure it was known to my husband at the time that yes, I was going to be a wife, but I was still going to be a college student. I had so much excitement and drive during my first semester at MCCC and was an "A" student. However, as the responsibilities of a household piled on once my ex-husband lost his job, I no longer thought of school as something to focus on or be grateful for. Instead, it felt as though college was just getting in the way of my "real" life. I began to withdraw from classes and even failed classes. My GPA tanked. I lost my financial aid.

At 22, when most students are getting ready for their college graduation, I was barely holding on to the dream of completing even one class at community college.

After many attempts to pass English 102, I figured it was time to take a break and let go of my college dream.

During the time after my divorce, I quickly lost myself in another relationship. This relationship became abusive and started a cycle I struggled to get out of for several years.

One night, while crying myself to sleep, because I felt scared to leave his house, I realized I had to make a drastic choice. I went to a therapist. Although I had previously been in therapy, this time was different. I realized the biggest issue I was facing was that I did not love and value myself. So, I made a choice to start loving myself and life again. I wasn't sure exactly what that meant, but I started making small changes to create a new environment that I could be proud of.

I chose to be open to meeting new people and doing different things. I stepped outside of my comfort zone and went to a concert with people I didn't really know, which led me to sign up at a gym with a personal trainer. I began waking up earlier. I learned about meditation.

All of these small changes started to fill my mind with more positivity. I added daily meditations.

Even when I did not truly feel it or believe it, I learned to tell myself, "I love you and you are perfect because you are alive in this moment."

Throughout all this, that high school dream of earning a degree still lingered. I realized that I had to return to school in order to fulfill that dream and grow that self-love.

So I set that intention in my heart as a new year's resolution in 2019. Coming back to school at the age of 25, post-divorce and post an abusive relationship, while dealing with anxiety, was one of the scariest choices I have ever made. I had to face my fears and past failures head-on.

Now, I was not part of the "traditionally" aged population of college students. I was too insecure because of all the years that had gone by after graduating high school, combined with the truth of my GPA and withdrawals and fails on my transcript. The voice in my head filled me with self-doubt. I had no idea how I would pay for school, or what I would even study for. I thought I had too many bills to have a crazy dream, that I needed to be realistic, maybe go to a trade school or earn some type of certification to help me grow in my job as an administrative assistant.

There was no real plan. I had learned before that my plans didn't always turn out as I hoped.

But as I kept up my fitness, meditation, and personal development, I slowly began to develop confidence again and decided to sign up for a class that had defeated me so many times, English 102.

Walking across campus this past August, I felt as though I was seeing MCCC for the first time since my divorce.

At 22, when most students are getting ready for their college graduation, I was barely holding on to the dream of completing even just one class at community college.

again that I got there early and sat right in front of the class, which was the total opposite of what I would have done at 18 or 19 years old.

Another student, Laura Hernandez, who was 27 when she came back to Mercer to study Education, told me "I was scared...I was just scared of having to be committed."

This was the same fear I felt when I registered for my class. However, in the midst of my anxiety and self-doubt, I had a whole new focus and drive and knew I had to do things differently this time.

Melissa Reyes, a former Mercer student, who came back to college at 30, is now in graduate school at Temple University and explains that being an older student, "You take it more seriously, you focus more, it's not something that you feel you HAVE to do. It comes as a priority and it goes to the top of your to-do list...I was more focused when I was at 19, but I was just not."

Talking to other students who have gone through it has helped a lot. I recognize myself in their own descriptions of anxiety and of determination.

I realize I am who I am now, and I know what I know now, because I am older and have learned to view things in a different way through the lessons I gained after high school.

College for me now isn't just something I feel is the next step, it is my redemption and hope, for which I am so grateful.

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 school 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, tone or clarity.
ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS

Dear VOICE,

So, I'm not doing well in my classes and the withdrawal deadline is coming fast. What should I do? Withdraw now or try harder to get passing grades.

-Hoping for a C

Dear Hoping for a C,
The answer lies in your financial aid status. Try harder.

-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,

My dog keeps eating my homework. Should I drop out?

-Milk Bone Essays

Dear Milk Bone Essays,

Have you considered changing majors? The hospitality program allows you to eat your homework. That could keep Fido happy.

-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,

I'm a professor and I'm broke. I'm thinking of starting a math lab on campus. Location suggestions?

-Walter White

Dear Professor White,

Honestly, I think we already have one. Check for open classroom doors.

-The VOICE

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

2X DILBERT

Just once it would be nice if someone acknowledged all you do. Well, guess what? Finally someone will. It may be subtle, but that affirmation you need is coming for you.

-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,

What kind of bear is best.

-Fozzy Lover

Dear Fozzy Lover,

Obviously Smokey. He gets lit.

-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,

When was the last time you took some time for yourself? This month you need to get a little peace and quiet even if it means turning down a social invitation.

-The VOICE

HOROSCOPES

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
It's starting to feel like nobody cares. They care about you but may be less interested in the things going on in your life. Try not to take it personally.

-Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19
Someone is leaving you hanging and stress is making you crazy. You can't make the world turn faster, so you have to slow your mind down. Sometimes a mindless phone game works.

Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20
You have everything under control some new crisis hits. Your desire to control the universe will only undermine you this month. You have to let go.

Gemini
May 21 - Jun. 20
Someone unusual drops by mid month and offers to help you with something. As independent as you always are, you may be tempted to say no. Fight the urge!

Cancer
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22
A long time ago a wise woman said “free your mind and the rest will follow.” This is true for you right now. Time to change your mindset so you can be free.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
It's starting to feel like nobody cares. They care about you but may be less interested in the things going on in your life. Try not to take it personally.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Just when you think you have everything under control some new crisis hits. Your desire to control the universe will only undermine you this month. You have to let go.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You are preparing for a major life change and you're not always crazy about changes. Trust the people around you to be there for you and support you through this.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Procrastinate much? Although you've been known to manage your time, lately things have been starting to slide. It's more exhaustion than laziness. Take a day off.

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SUDOKU

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, each column, and each small 3x3 box contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

Moderate

Challenging

HOO BOY!

by Gary Kopervas

SUMOBY

FLASH GORDON

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

GERARD'S PARENTS TOLD HIM WHEN TAKING A TEST HE SHOULD ALWAYS GO WITH HIS INITIAL THOUGHTS.