

*The student press of Mercer County Community College since 1968*

# Trenton Fashion Show kicks off Black History Month



MC of Trenton Fashion Show, Soulful Tee, emphasized the connection between fashion and African American History. PHOTO | JULIANA SCHOTT



Colorful fabrics and traditional West African prints were highlighted at this years Trenton Fashion Show on February 1 where the theme was the African diaspora. PHOTO | JULIANA SCHOTT

By Juliana Schott  
Reporter

Mercer kicked off African American History Month with a fashion and runway show at Trenton Hall on the JKC campus on February 1.

Lucia Brown-Joseph, chairman of the Black History Month Committee said, "This year we decided to portray the African diaspora. So we have clothing from Africa, we have India, and we have the Caribbean."

Students and local models wore brightly colored and printed dresses made of Kente cloth and other traditional fabrics. There were vendors, speakers, caterers and a live band for the event that ran from 10 am to 4 pm.

Brown-Joseph explained that garments were loaned from local boutiques to "showcase the black entrepreneurs."

Professor Katina Lindsay, who runs the college's Fashion Design Program, said the event was an "opportunity for us to come together for one day to celebrate our heritage and culture together through music, food and fashion."

Beth Dubrow, Teaching Assistant of Mercer's fashion design program, had her hand-painted pieces inspired by Japanese and Korean culture, featured in the show.

Models, Kershie Astride and Anu have walked the runway before, but this was their first MCCC Black History Month show.

Anu wore a Sari for her first look which is a traditional dress worn in South Asia. Her second dress was a Dashiki that originated from West Africa.

Brown-Joseph said, "Realize that if we, as a people, don't come together and be a community we are not going to have a vision."



Modeling jewelry and traditional African fashion at the Trenton Fashion Show on February 1. PHOTO | JULIANA SCHOTT

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# Campus blood drive draws staff but few students

By **Serena Bolitho**  
Reporter

Mercer County Community College and Fulton Bank co-hosted the campus's annual blood drive on January 30 in the Student Center. The Red Cross was set up in room SC104 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and students, faculty and staff were invited to donate.

Nurse Melissa Rasnow, who was working the event, stated, "There is always a blood shortage, especially around holiday time."

The American Red Cross Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware Region issued a statement on January 6 on Twitter, calling for volunteers because there is a "critical need for blood and platelet donors after the holidays w/ less than a 3 day supply of type O."

Athletic Director John Simone, who donated and donates every year, said "[The Red Cross] made it very aware that there is a shortage in New Jersey and that they need people to donate, so if I can do a little part once a year to donate, I've felt like I've done my part."

According to Simone, the event generally has an average of 42 donors, but this year only 22 showed up, and of those, only 19 were able to donate.

Very few students attended the blood drive. Faculty and staff made up most of the donors.

Some students may



PHOTO | SERENA BOLITHO

Nurses at the MCCC blood drive on January 30 coordinated blood draws from 19 students and staff members, including Director of Athletics John Simone [right].



PHOTO | SERENA BOLITHO

have not donated based on myths about certain restrictions. Students may have heard things like tattoos can make them ineligible to donate and misunderstood the reality

Nurse Louis Rivera said, "[The regulations] all depend on certain states. If you got a tattoo in New Jersey, you can donate tomorrow."

That regulation is not the same in states like New York, which have longer waiting periods.

Piercings are another area that is taken into special consideration where blood donation is concerned.

With piercings, Rivera stated, "It has to be done with a sterile needle. It can't be [performed] with a piercing gun," in order to qualify a person for blood donation.

The wrong methods of piercing can make people more susceptible to blood born illnesses--even ones they

are not aware of--that can be passed on in the donation process.

According to justia.com New Jersey's State Sanitary Code 26:1A-7 handles "the preservation and improvement of public health" which includes regulating tattooing and piercings.

However, according to Rasnow, the most significant restriction for blood donation involves whether or not the donor has traveled to a part of the world with high rates of malaria infection.

Other major restrictions are having low hemoglobin levels, or simply being under the age of 17, which is an automatic disqualifier.

For those who qualify to donate but missed out, the American Red Cross has a Central Donation Center in Princeton, on Alexander Rd, less than 15 minutes from both the MCCC campuses.



PHOTO | SERENA BOLITHO  
Nineteen people donated at the blood drive on MCCC's West Windsor campus on January 30.



PHOTO | SERENA BOLITHO  
The American Red Cross van transported the blood donated on January 30.

## Hazardous material found during SC renovation

By **Ben Levitt**  
Senior Reporter

Asbestos, a heat resistant mineral that once used in fire-resistant products but which has been linked to multiple forms of cancer, was discovered in the tiles on the second floor of the SC building where renovations are taking place, on January 13.

According to Mercer's Facilities Director, Bryon Marshall, the college contracted an asbestos remediation company to remove the floor tiles containing the asbestos.

Facilities Supervisor, Fred Carella, explained the steps that were taken to get rid of the asbestos.

First, the area was carefully sealed to prevent any asbestos fibers, the element that is dangerous and potentially cancer-causing if inhaled, from leaving. Thick plastic sheets with large red warning signs were easily seen by anyone passing by.

Next, the floor tiles containing the asbestos were heated up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit to avoid any chance of breakage.

Finally, the tiles were put into sealed garbage bags and deposited into a special sealed dumpster.

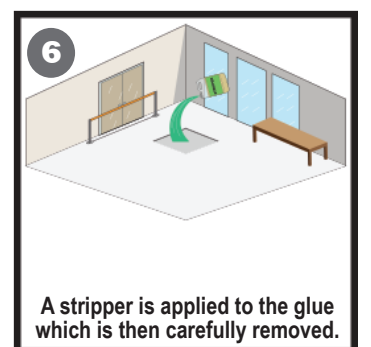
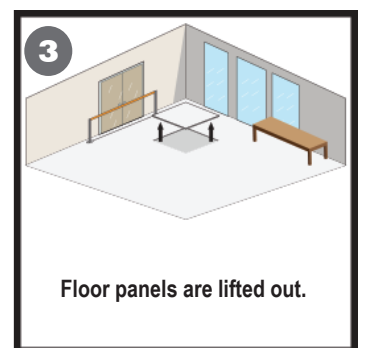
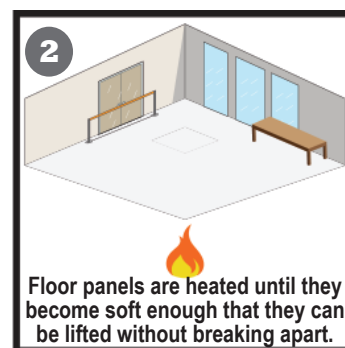
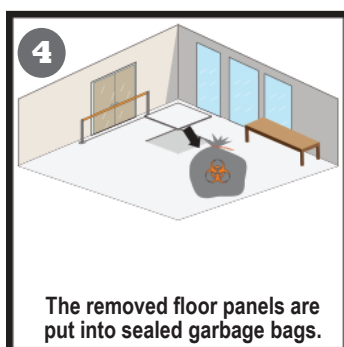
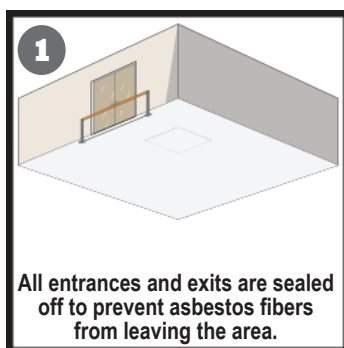
After the tiles were removed, a chemical stripper was used to remove the glue that held them down, which also contains asbestos.

Carella says that throughout the entire process, air quality samples were taken. Once it was deemed safe for occupancy, the area was unsealed and construction can continue.

The West Windsor campus was built in the late 1960s to early 1970s, at a time when the dangers of using asbestos were not widely known. At the time asbestos was used in all sorts of modern construction from bricks, wire insulators, ceiling, and floor tiles, to even some textiles.

According to the advocacy group Mesothelioma Help Cancer Organization, in 1989 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) passed the Clean Air Act, which required emission standards be set for harmful pollutants and chemicals. That same year the EPA rolled out the Asbestos Ban and Phase-Out Rule, which got

### ASBESTOS REMOVAL PROCEDURE: STEP BY STEP



overturned in 1991 by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Because of this, the EPA was only able to ban the use of asbestos in any products made after 1989, meaning colleges like MCCC that were built in the late 1960s still contained and do contain asbestos which

was used as a fire retardant. When discovered during construction projects like the one going on now, the careful steps have to be taken to remove it in order to prevent serious safety risks.

According to College President Dr. Jianping Wang,

INFOGRAPHIC | BEN LEVITT  
"We have standard procedure that we follow. It's pretty much prescribed by the EPA."

In June of 2019, the EPA enacted a new ruling that would prohibit all new and old uses of asbestos until the EPA had time to make sure that they were not a danger to the public.



# Locals join anti-hate rally at Indian consulate in NYC

By Aaliyah Patel  
Senior Reporter

An anti-hate in India rally occurred on Sunday, January 26, 2020, in at the Indian Consulate in New York City, one of 30 such rallies held around the nation that drew thousands of people to protest against India’s new citizenship law which many see to be anti-Muslim.

Mercer students and other locals attended the event, especially those concerned with the rights of Muslims who are facing severe discrimination in India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Protesters such as Sumaya Sultana, traveled to Manhattan to protest the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) designed by the Hindu nationalist government.

She says, “They are trying to revoke citizenship rights of all Muslims in India.”

As an American Muslim, Sultana says she recognizes the importance of coming together as a community to oppose lawmakers, even if they are from different parts of the world.

Attendees marched the streets of Manhattan, chanting phrases such as “No Justice, No peace!” and “Shame on Modi” reflecting their support for those who are being affected by the divisions being encouraged by the split in views over CAA and Muslim rights in India in



PHOTO | MARYAM MANSOOR  
An attendee at the January 26 anti-hate rally in NYC held a sign saying “Muslim Lives Matter.”

general.

In a Forbes news article, Salvatore Babones writes, “Modi stands accused of...endangering the nearly 40% of India’s population that belongs to religious, ethnic or regional minorities...”

The protests took place on India’s Republic Day and

were organized by the Coalition Against Genocide (CAG) as well as many American Muslim, Sikh, Christian, and Jewish organizations.

Speakers at the rally in New York also included Dr. Shaikh Ubaid, a founding member of CAG, who, according to PressTV, denounced the citi-



PHOTO | MARYAM MANSOOR  
Prime Minister Modi of India is widely seen as a nationalist who is fomenting hatred against Muslims with laws such as the CAA.

zenship law as “unconstitutional” and called for its immediate withdrawal. The news source said, “Ubaid emphasized that the protests were not only happening across India but around the world, representing a global consensus against the ‘draconian’ policies of Modi’s government.”

According to a Mercer employee who is Indian and asked to remain anonymous to avoid negative consequences based on immigration status, “The politicians rile up the public. They don’t have to face the consequences, the public does.”

India was not discriminatory about citizenship rights of Muslims in the past, howev-

er, India’s parliament introducing the Act in 2019 has resulted in this harsh xenophobic backlash.

“The India I grew up in, we learned about different religions. Today, they don’t.” the source said.

Maryam Mansoor, a Biology and Psychology major attending both The College of New Jersey and Mercer says that when The Citizenship Amendment Act became effective in January, it made her fear for India’s future.

“The bill opposes the Muslims...With the Modi government, called the BJP, they are in danger of being second class citizens,” Mansoor said.

# Students first in their family to go to college face unique challenges

By Aaliyah Patel  
Senior Reporter

Erika Segarra, a Psychology major graduating May of 2020, is the first person in her family to ever go to college.

As a full-time student, a typical Monday and Wednesday routine for Segarra consists of arriving at noon on campus and leaving after her last class at 10:30 pm.

Segarra spends her time in between classes studying and completing assignments. She says, “I am trying to bring up my GPA to a minimum that I can reach my goal, I think about a 3.5.”

This pressure to excel is a common one among students who are the first in their family to go to college, or “first generation,” as they are also known.

“The hardest part of being the first one to go to college is the pressure to do well. I am most likely the only one in my family that knows how to accurately fill in applications. I have to go to advisors and counselors on campus for help,” Segarra says.

In the book First-Generation College Students: Understanding and Improving the Experience from Recruitment

to Commencement, by Lee Ward, Michael J. Siegel and Zebulun Davenport the examine the differences between first and non-first generation students.

They say sometimes, “First-generation students arrive at college campuses at risk academically...they are less academically prepared than their traditional counterparts.”

Furthermore, being the first one(s) in their immediate family to attend college, most have had to take on things like the college application process entirely on their own.

Ruben Cambara, a second-year Business Administration major says, “Basically, I didn’t have any help, I didn’t know what to do. Also, it just feels like a lot of pressure to have to do it myself because I was the only one able to do it.”

First-generation students often face an additional obstacle which is external pressures from family members who feel going to college is pushing against family customs.

Second-year nursing major Jonathan Camey says, “It has taken months of persuasion. Every time a semester begins, dealing with mainly my dad, because he doesn’t prioritize education because he

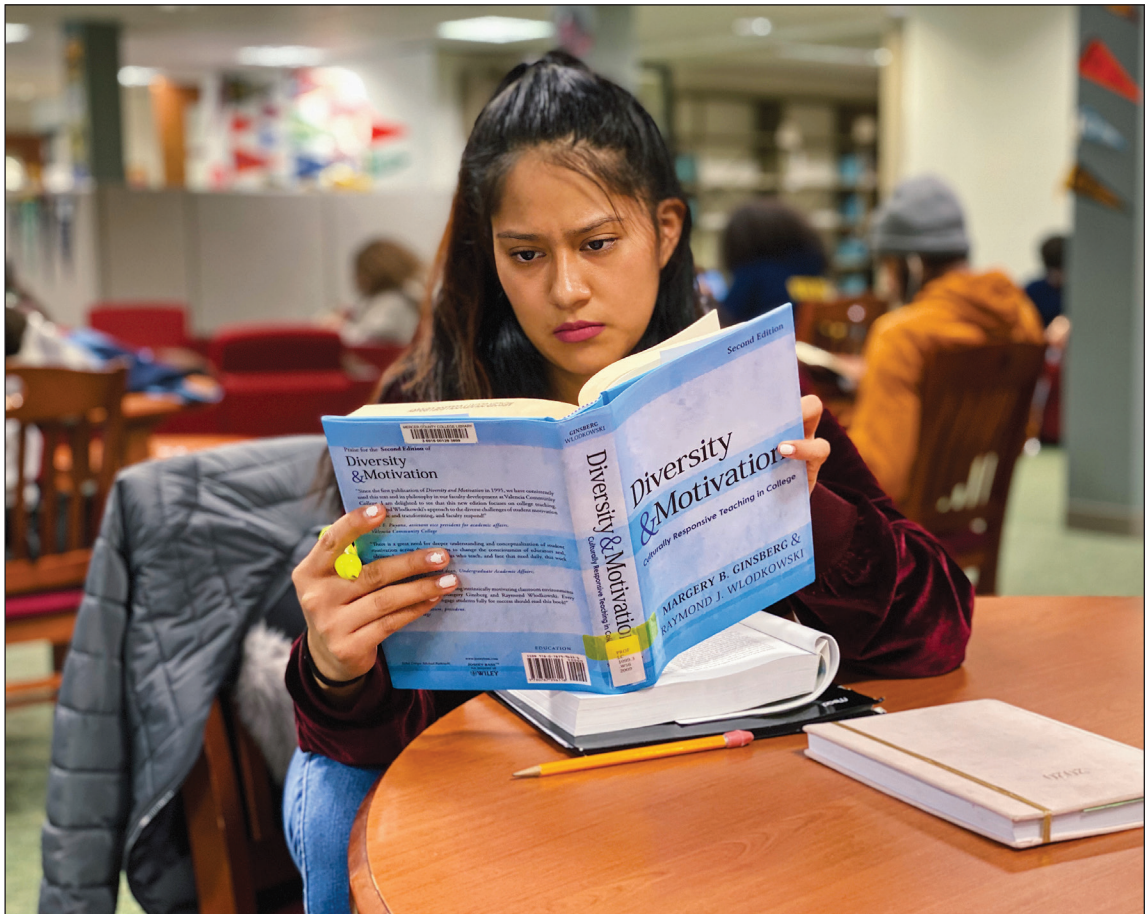


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | AALIYAH PATEL  
Many MCCC students are first in their family to go to college and struggle to figure everything out on their own.

didn’t grow up that way.”

Some families prioritize working over receiving an education.

Camey says, “My dad, he doesn’t agree with it. He wants me to work and not go to

college.”

However, regardless of the circumstances these students face, they all agree that earning a degree will impact the future generations of their families.

Segarra says, “Obtaining a degree means opening doors. It will impact my family in the sense of coming from poverty to being able to thrive because of the opportunities offered to me now.”





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REVIEW: Bagel Nook opens new Princeton location

By Morgan Powers  
Reporter

Who would have thought Oreos belong stuffed in a bagel, or cream cheese could taste like cannoli?

The Bagel Nook, which originated in Freehold, New Jersey, just opened its second location in Princeton, New Jersey. Managers Gaurav Rasdogi and Suk Patel, say they wanted to “expand the horizon” for the business in bagels, and they certainly seem to have done it.

Their work has attracted attention from across the nation. In 2016, BuzzFeed featured Bagel Nook in a video that now has over 20 million views. In addition to this, their famous Flamin’ Hot Cheetos bagel stuffed with ghost pepper cream cheese and Flamin’ Hot Cheetos was featured on the Food Network in 2017.

The atmosphere of the Bagel Nook is fresh, clean, and modern and the staff is friendly and efficient.

The overall idea seems to be creativity. How much you can push the boundaries of the common bagel? There are hot Cheeto dusted bagels, bagels with Nutella cream cheese, and then there are the crazy combinations and flavors like Fruity Pebble, Coco Pebble, Flamin’ Hot Cheeto, Oreo Overload, and Captain Crunch.

Patel says they have brought all the favorites from the Freehold location but are



PHOTO | MORGAN POWERS

The Bagel Nook’s newest location, in the Princeton Shopping Plaza, features specialty treats such as the Blueberry Crumb Overload.

also making “creations on their own.” For example, The Princeton location offers the maple bacon bagel and the tie-dye bagel.

How do these crazy bagels taste? Excellent.

Take, for example, the Blueberry Crumb Overload.

The sandwich, which is big enough for two, consists of a blueberry bagel with blueberry cream cheese and a blueberry crumb cake stuffed in the middle. The crumb cake in between the sandwich is an excellent touch to the dish.

This place is worth and

drive, line, or price.

With holiday-specific bagels, like Valentine’s day heart-shaped bagels, and a plan to create vegan options, the Bagel Nook will soon have something for everyone.

Rasdogi stated, “We always want to keep some-

thing new, something different, something to keep the customers coming back.”

Bagel Nook is located at 301 North Harrison Street and is open Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sundays from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m..

REVIEW: Cabaret brings Kit Kat Klub to Kelsey Theatre

By Donny Neuls  
Senior Reporters

Kelsey Theater, on MCCC’s West Windsor campus, latest production was the musical, Cabaret, presented by the production company Theater to Go.

The musical takes place in 1930s Berlin, Germany as Nazi power is on the rise. An American writer named Clifford “Cliff” Bradshaw meets British cabaret dancer Sally Bowles at her place of work, the Kit Kat Klub.

In this production, Cliff was played by Matthew Swanson, who has been in shows at Kelsey before. Cabaret, was Jenna German’s debut performance at Kelsey, playing her dream role of Sally.

The musical was directed by Theater to Go’s owner and artistic director Ruth Markoe, who has directed multiple productions at Kelsey, her most recent being A Raisin in the Sun in 2018.

Markoe said, “People who know Cabaret know it from 50 years ago. People, myself included, once we left the theater of seeing it, sing the music and remember the edgy cabaret dancers, but really the story seems to kind of disappear. And I really wanted the story to stand out...and that people remember

what the story is about.”

The stage was decked out with a vintage marquee sign spelling “Cabaret” in red above it.

Prior to the start of the performance, both male and female cabaret dancers walked around the theater and interacted with the audience. Others conversed and laughed on the stage to set the scene of a nightclub preparing for its evening shows.

The stage floor was a dark map of Germany that displayed the capital of Berlin with vague borders. On the center of the stage, there was what seemed to be a large box-like structure with three doors on its front used throughout the performance as various doorways.

There were stairs on either side of the structure, used occasionally by the ensemble to dance on. The stairs also led up to where the orchestra sat and performed the jazzy and classical score.

The opening scene began with an introduction by the comedic relief character, the Master of Ceremonies (M.C., or Emcee). The Emcee was played by Steven Brandt who played the House Manager in the Off-Broadway production of Avenue Q from 2015 to 2016.

Following his intro came an energetic and enticing



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEATER TO GO

Matthew Swanson and Jenna German starred as the MC and Sally Bowles respectively in Theater To Go’s production of Cabaret at Kelsey Theatre.

musical number, getting the audience excited for the remainder of the show.

Markoe used the full theater space by having the ensemble leave the stage and move around the seating area during larger numbers.

She said, “I wanted it to be a little more in your face.”

Every ounce of emotion was believable. The blossoming romance between German boarding house owner

Fräulein Schneider (played by Linda Cunningham) and Jewish fruit stand operator Herr Shultz (played by Nathan Parker) showed that even in later life, love is still possible.

Occasionally the emotion seemed to overshadow the clarity of the words the actors were saying. It would be hard to comprehend what they were saying, though this was only rarely, and context clues usually resolved the problem.

The musical ends tragically in an argument between Cliff and Sally, Cliff wanting to leave together for the U.S. knowing the Nazis will soon rise to power and Sally refusing to go. The actors were able to give a sense of resolution even where there really isn’t one.

Attendee Madeline Daniels of Monroe Township said: “It was really good and entertaining, but sad, too.”



# What Are You Saying

## What is the hardest part about speaking



Harisul  
From:  
Bangladesh  
Language:  
Bangla



“সবচেয়ে কঠিন বিষয় হচ্ছে মানুষ [আমি] সাধা... কথা বলছি। এবং কঠিন না কি... শব্দ আমি এরপর ব্যবহার করছি এবং তাকে বোঝানো... এটা পজিটিভ হিসেবে গ্রহণ করা... আমি মনে করি এটা এমন কিছু হওয়া... এই কারণে ভয় লাগে... কারণ বচো-কনো বলান... কথা বলতে ভয় লাগে... আল্লাদা, অন্য ভাষার সাথে অন্য দশেরে সঙ্গ... কিছু ভাল উচ্চারণে সব সময় অন্য দশেরে উচ্চারণে কিছু ভাল শব্দ দিয়ে আলাদা করে... উচ্চারণে সবসময় বিভিন্ন বা একটা নতুনভাবে বা ইতিবাচক ত...লা... এটা উচ্চারণের উপর নির্ভর করে।”

TRANSLATION  
“The hardest thing is the people [I am talking with] and how [they’re] taking my words...because [they] didn’t know which word I am using then and if [they’re] taking it as a negative [or] positive, it’s going to be something [about my] accent.”



Kotaro Koga  
From:  
Japan  
Language:  
Japanese



他の国の友達がたくさんいるので、他の言語を知りたい。他の言語を学ぶことが趣味です。だから、私はブラジル人と一緒に住んでいます。だから、日本語と他の言語が違っていると思いますが、もし私が「こんにちは」とか、何か外国の人と話すことができるような言葉を知っていれば、私にとっては嬉しいです」

TRANSLATION  
“I have a lot of friends from other countries, so I want to know other languages, my hobby is learning other languages. So, I’m living with Brazilian guys...I’m trying to learn Portuguese, but it’s difficult for me because Japanese and other language[s] [are] so so different But if I know some language like ‘hello,’ or something, I can talk to other foreign people.”



Jing  
From:  
China  
Language:  
Chinese  
Mandarin



如果您以不同的方式說這個字，人們不會理解您的意思，那麼您說的話...的意思將有所不同。這不是說英語很簡單，我們必須四處移動。

TRANSLATION  
“[The hardest thing] is the way you pronounce the word like, it will be a different meaning if you say the word differently. People [are] not going to understand you. So it’s hard for [us] to like translate [from] my language to your language, because it’s totally different. It’s not like English is like simple, we have to move the words around.”



Ivauo C.  
From:  
Italy  
Language:  
Italian



“Capire ciò che la gente ti dice e rispondere immediatamente è la parte più difficile credo.”

TRANSLATION  
“[The hardest thing] is to understand what the people say to you and answer immediately. [Thai] is the most difficult part I think. [But] the most beautiful thing is that you can speak with other people and other people can know more about your country, or your language, or your habits, or something like that. And you know that’s cool.”

## Students learning in a second language

By Melissa Reyes  
Senior Reporter

This semester there are 35 English as a Second Language (ESL) and multiple sections of standard English composition courses specifically for international students. Hundreds of students are working in multiple languages every day. International students are one of the fastest growing groups on Mercer’s president Dr. Jianping Wang has indicated a goal to build dorms to help provide accommodations for students including those who may be coming from other countries. So what is the experience of operating in a second language and trying to make sense of MCCC like for these students?

Ivano C. (many students asked not to have their last names used out of concern over any problems with visa or immigration status) a MCCC student from Italy, says the hardest thing is, “Capire ciò che la gente ti dice e rispondere immediatamente è la parte più difficile credo.” Translated, that’s “[to] understand what the people say to you and answer immediately is the most difficult part I think.”

Jing, from China, says the biggest challenge for her isn’t so much having to respond quickly, but figuring out where the words go exactly. She says, “如果您以不同的方式說這個字，人們不會理解您的意思，那麼您說的話...的意思將有所不同。這不是說英語很簡單，我們必須四處移動。” Translated, that is, “The way you pronounce the word like... it will be a different meaning if you say the word differently

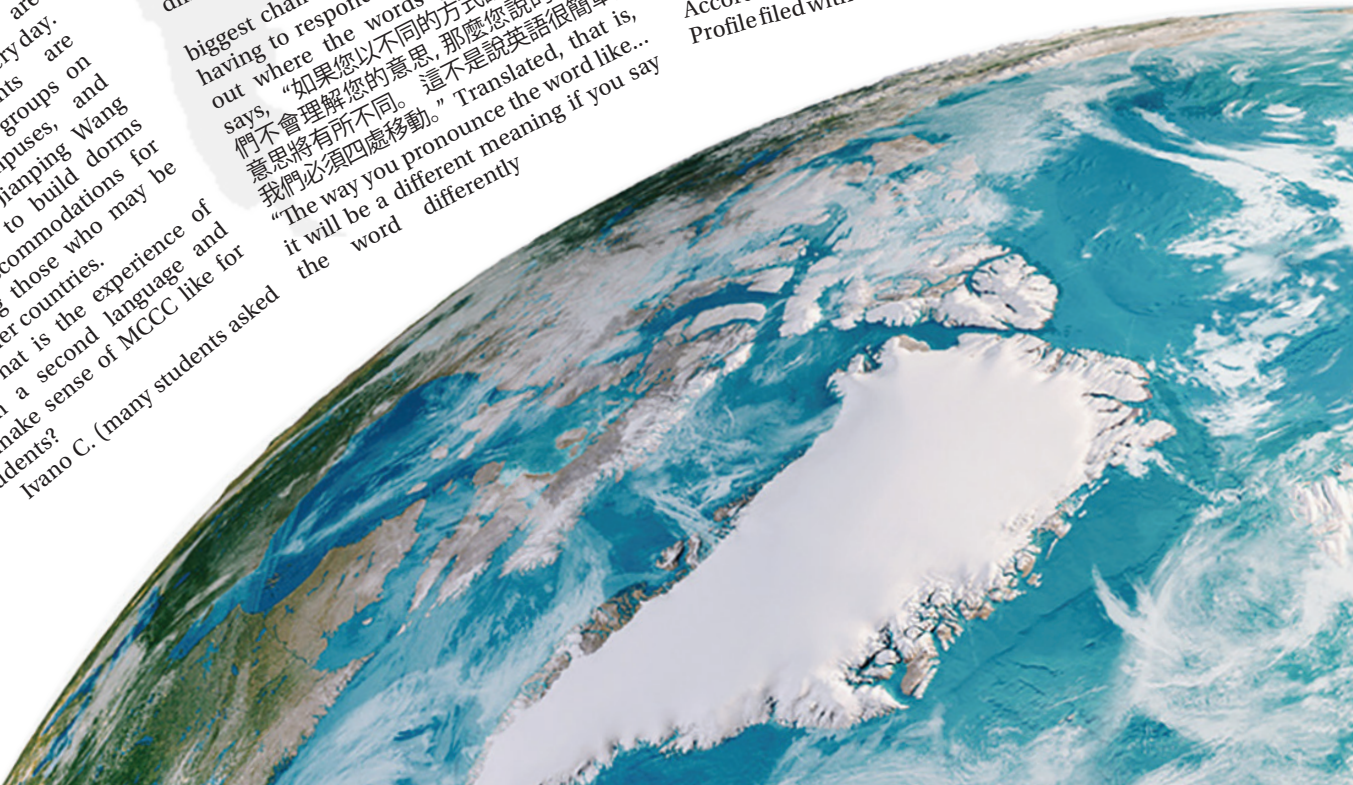
people [are] not gonna understand you so it’s hard for [us] to like translate to my language to your language, cause it’s totally different. It’s not like English is like simple, we have to move the word around.”

According to a research paper written by the Community College Research Center, “Demographic and postsecondary enrollment data suggest that the proportion of community college students who need support to access curricula in English is large and will continue to grow in the coming years.”

This growing number is seen in the demographics of MCCC as well. According to the 2019 Institutional Profile filed with the NJ Higher Education

Commission, under Hispanic and Asian of whom speak a at home, make up student body at MCCC are students from total, 30% or more of operating in a different or most of the time w campus.

Can Nguyen student from Vietnam nói một ngôn ngữ khác từ quốc gia của bạn và mà bạn biết [nhưng] khi ... thì thật khó để những meaning, “When y language and your a country and





# ...To Me?

## ...more than one language as a student at Mercer?



Ignacio  
Alconchelt  
From:  
Spain  
Language:  
Spanish



"Aprender el idioma es lo más difícil, pero con eso conlleva que podamos comunicarnos con otra persona."

### TRANSLATION

"The hardest thing is [to] learn the language, but after that, we can communicate with other people from different countries. I hope from them they can learn the language and we can all communicate together."



Patricia  
From:  
Sierra Leon  
Language:  
Krio



"[The] hardest thing for me is [that] the Americans, they do their own pronunciation and it's kind of difficult because you know in my own country where I came from we do speak English but we have our local language which is common amongst us and sometimes sometimes you [think] the way I'm speaking it is correct but people who mastered English you know they say 'ah na, '...so sometimes you kind of [say] like let me lay back...because I don't wanna speak my English and then someone say 'ah that's not the correct way you are speaking you're own English, 'so it's a hard thing to speak different people's language."



Harsh  
From:  
India  
Language:  
Hindi



भारत में, हाई स्कूल में, मैंने सीखा कि अंग्रेजी एक ब्रिटिश अंग्रेजी की तरह थी और ब्रिटिश अंग्रेजी और अमेरिकन अंग्रेजी बहुत अलग-अलग शब्दों की तरह है, जो अमेरिकी अंग्रेजी में कुछ नए शब्द और उच्चारण प्राप्त करने के लिए इतना कठिन नहीं है।

### TRANSLATION

"In India, in high school, I learned the English that was like British English and British English and American English [are] very different. There's some different words which American English do not have, so it's hard to get some new words and [the] accent."



Can Niguyein  
From:  
Vietnam  
Language:  
Vietnamese



"Cái khó nhất là khi bạn nói một ngôn ngữ khác là ngôn ngữ đầu tiên là từ vựng. Bạn phải học từ khác nhau hoặc cách khác nhau để nói về [cùng] điều tương tự. Và cái thứ hai là... thứ tư trong câu như thế nào. Ví dụ như khi bạn nói một câu thì nó khác với ngôn ngữ khác và tiếng Anh, nên thứ tư khác nhau. Cái thứ ba là dấu. Khi ... bạn nói một ngôn ngữ khác và giọng của bạn đến từ quốc gia của bạn và khi bạn nói ngay cả từ mà bạn biết [nhưng] khi giọng của bạn khác ... thì thật khó để những người khác hiểu bạn"

### TRANSLATION

"The hardest one is when you speak another language is the first one is, vocabulary. You have to learn different word or different way to say about [the] same thing. And the second one is...how the order in the sentence, for example when you say a sentence it's different from the other language and English, so the order is different. The third one is accents. When... you speak another language and your accent is from your country and when you say even the word that you know [but] when your accent is different...it's hard for different people to understand you."

## ...face unique challenges

graduate enrollment in students, many different language almost 28% of the CC and another 4% other countries. In f students are likely rent language some when they are not on

n, a third year ESL m says, "Khi ... bạn và giọng của bạn đến khi bạn nói ngay cả từ ài giọng của bạn khác người khác hiểu bạn," you speak another accent is from your

when you say even the word you know [but] when your accent is different...it's hard for people to understand you."

Overcoming the fears of being misunderstood or judged by others is essential to the success of english learners or "ELs" as the Community College Research Center refers to them. They state, "Shifting the institutional factors that perpetuate negative representations, stereotypes, and ideologies about ELs may be as essential to their academic success as changes to assessment and placement and the delivery of effective English language learning support. Cultural and contextual factors play a large role in how ELs see themselves as college students and in determining how they

perform and persist in college."

Professor Carol Friend, who teaches ESL at MCCC, says that "[The] hardest for me is grading a person trying to learn a language. We all develop language acquisition in a variety of ways. Adult language learners have a lot more difficulty than kids."

Andres Felipe Gutierrez, a 29-year-old first-year English as a Second Language (ESL) student says he came here from Colombia, "Por mejores oportunidades de vida ya que en Colombia se ve mucha desigualdad y acá hay más trabajo y progreso," which translates to, "For better life opportunities since in Colombia there is a lot of inequality and here there is more work and progress."

However, Gutierrez adds,

"I still do not feel good like to communicate with people that speak English fluent." This seemed to be the common answer when our ESL students asked what the hardest part of speaking another language is. Students from multiple backgrounds answered with that common theme: Understanding and being understood is the most challenging aspect of learning another language. When asked what she thinks has helped American culture and society and better connect with others, Professor Friend says, "I think they help each other the most."



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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Venomous viper

4 Incense

8 Pop

12 Ball-bearing item

13 Beelzebub's doings

14 From square one

15 Supreme Court Justice Thurgood —

17 Calm before the storm

18 Comedian Rivers

19 Refuge

20 Downright

22 Road's shoulder

24 Hard to find

25 Almond confection

29 "— Got a Secret"

30 Left-hand page

31 Ostrich's cousin

32 Union

34 Valhalla VIP

35 Loathe

36 Loses traction

37 Drive away

40 "Wozzeck" composer

41 Summertime treats

42 — Thatcher

46 Command-

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19

20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28

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32 33 34

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41 42 43 44 45

46 47 48

49 50 51

DOWN

1 \$ dispenser

2 Vast expense

3 Storyteller in court

4 Detox center

5 Terrible guy?

6 "— Abner"

7 Right angle

8 Sandwich

9 Burden

10 Place to buy 8-Down

11 Piercing tools

16 Slightly

19 Ricelike pasta

20 — and proper

21 Volcanic spillage

22 Cleopatra's boat

23 Gaelic

25 Vegan's no-no

26 Distinguished ancestry

27 In the thick of

28 Sisters

30 Test tube

33 Variety of macaque

34 Gumbo base

36 Music transition

37 Ceremony

38 Canyon phenomenon

39 Lowly worker

40 Author Stoker

42 Encountered

43 "— was saying ..."

44 Mess up

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# Do not tolerate aggressive driving, report it to #77

## My Perspective



Aaliyah Patel

New Jersey drivers do not have to be victimized in aggressive driving incidents. The New Jersey State Police are currently operators of the #77 Dangerous Driver system, a roadside system developed to ensure public safety and life-threatening risks.

Instead of engaging in road rage by swearing, throwing objects, or having physical altercations, this is an alternate solution that state officials are encouraging both affected motorists and observers to utilize.

According to the New Jersey State Police website, in

a statement addressed by superintendent Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, he explains what incidents are appropriate to report.

"The #77 Dangerous Driver System should be used to report aggressive or erratic driving that poses a risk to other motorists on the roadway. While these calls are important, 9-1-1 calls are prioritized over #77 calls as required by law," Fuentes said.

Motorists should provide information such as license plates, car models, and the location when assisting law enforcement because they do not operate like the emergency 9-1-1 hotline.

"That's why it is important for all wireless users to remember to provide call-takers with the exact location of the incident (roadway, direction, milepost), type of emergency, description of those involved (vehicle registration, make, color), and a callback phone number," Fuentes said.

Carley Angelina Machnik, a second-year Health Sci-

ences major at Mercer says that she has experienced aggressive driving in the form of tailgating or better described as driving too close behind a driver.

"This girl was tailgating me for about 6 minutes straight. It was making me really annoyed and nervous but then eventually she got around and cut me right off right before a red light," Machnik said.

When Machnik learned how she could report these incidents to state officials, she wishes she would have known it sooner.

In an article called "The Fast and the Furious" published by the American Psychological Association, psychologists agree that the anger outbursts on the road are because of internal struggles people fail to acknowledge.

"Certain psychological factors, including displaced anger and high life stress, are also linked to road rage. In addition, studies have found that people who experience road rage are more likely to misuse alcohol

and drugs," the American Psychological Association stated.

Seeking appropriate treatments to manage anger disables drivers from projecting personal issues onto other people.

Austin Lee, a Pre-Medicine Major explains how in order for New Jersey drivers to effectively use the #77 hotline, they will have to learn how to control their anger.

"Some people might not take it into consideration and stick to old habits. I think if it became more spread and as more people use it, then hopefully it will become normalized," Lee said.

Lee also adds that erratic drivers can contribute to car accidents, making them forget that there are people behind the wheel.

In the article, "Bad NJ Drivers Should Expect A Warning In The Mail" by journalist Tom Davis, he explains how #77 hotline has reduced motor vehicle fatalities.

"Fatalities on New Jer-

sey roadways have decreased 7.4 percent, year-to-date, from 229 in 2016 to 212 in 2017, according to New Jersey State Police statistics last updated on June 6," Davis stated.

State officials have expanded the operating system by allowing motorists and observers to report all types of dangerous driving, creating safer roadways to travel on.

All aggressive and distracted drivers should be held accountable. With the implementation of the #77 Dangerous Driver system, motorists have access to report all types of driving incidents to state officials, all while reducing motor vehicle fatalities.

"We all need to be careful because I think a lot of people forget that behind the wheel, there are people just like you and me. People make mistakes, I make mistakes, but ultimately we should really keep in mind that accidents are very prone to happen on the road," Lee said.

# I want to ride around on a skateboard Mario Kart

## They let you do it in New York City, in NJ the laws are less clear

## The View



Donny Neuls

This past Halloween, I was in New York City with my friend Cat Sopko, who attends Ramapo College, to see the musical Beetlejuice. We had just met Alex Brightman the lead actor of Beetlejuice when we were standing outside the Winter Garden Theater along with doz-

ens of other attendees in costume.

Suddenly, a loud horn sounded and seemed to be approaching the theater. Everyone turned to look for what could be a passing truck, perhaps trying to prevent an accident.

Instead, we looked down to see three people in Mario, Luigi, and Yoshi costumes--like human versions of the video game characters--riding down the bike lane in two electric toy cars and one in a lawn chair. Both of the cars and the lawn chair were set on top of electric skateboards, allowing them to ride at top speed down the street.

It seemed like fun, totally exhilarating and something I would love to do.

Sopko agreed: "It would be good entertainment

and fun."

However, what struck me the most is the simple question, "Is this legal?" Better yet, is this legal in New Jersey? Surprisingly enough, it just might be.

For the guys who were going all out this Halloween, they were still safe by using the bike lanes, even though they were riding electric powered skateboards. According to the New York City Inline Skating Guide (skatecity.com), a New York state law enacted on Jan. 1, 1996 essentially "gives skaters similar rights and responsibilities as those held by bicyclists."

Evidently, what the Mario Kart impersonators did was legal, since skateboarders can use the designated bike lanes. However, the same liberties are not granted in New Jer-

sey, or at least not clearly.

During New Jersey's 217th Legislature, they clarified the definition of a skateboard, which now includes both the electric skateboard and the infamous hoverboard. It is unclear, though, if skateboarders are allowed to use bike lanes.

Unlike New York, skateboarders in New Jersey are allowed to use the sidewalk. Theoretically, being able to race around in the same manner as the impersonators would be possible as long as it is on the sidewalk.

In turn, racing around the city is something not only New Yorkers can partake in. As crazy as it sounds, you are able to rent go-karts in Tokyo and ride around the city. One popular company, StreetKart, is considered one of the best ac-

tivities in Japan in 2018, according to TripAdvisor.

According to Tokyo Cheapo (tokyocheapo.com), it is less of a fee for anyone to partake as there are guided tours throughout the day. There are multiple courses to select from and follow, varying in both lengths in time and price, to show off different areas of the city.

Though I am not pushing for the legalization of go-karts in the state of New Jersey, the rentable go-kart feat is something spectacular that people are clearly interested in.

As first-year Radiology major Lauren Lichon said, "I think it would be good for kids our age to be able to have fun and race cars."

## FAST JLAW FACT

The First Amendment isn't the only part of the Constitution journalists rely on all the time. The Fifth Amendment ensures due process rights which are also key.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

Journalists say an article was "spiked" if the editor decided it wasn't fit to run. In the old days editors literally had spikes on their desks to slam the pages down on.

## JOURNO LINGO

The double page in the middle of the paper where graphics can go all the way across is known as the "truck" or "doubletruck."

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

One of the people who most famously was successful at suing a tabloid newspaper was Tom Cruise who sued when he was depicted as an alcoholic.

## JOURNO LINGO

If the width of a column of text on a page of a newspaper is inconsistent with the rest of the columns on the page, it's called a "bastard leg."

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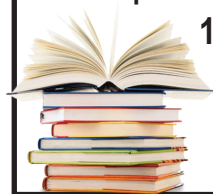
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# EDITORIAL

## No more excuses, no more outages

### We rely on MyMercer and BlackBoard and they need to work *all* the time

Mercer Online, Blackboard and the MyMercer portal need to be functional at all times and they haven't been.

On January 22, the second day of the new semester, the MyMercer portal was down for two hours. What this meant was that there was no access to Blackboard or Mercer Online. These are the places where students and faculty find out their classroom numbers, see what the work is for online classes, get email and so on.

The outage caused people to wander the halls trying to figure out where their classes were. Even the registrar could not access the system to print out student schedules.

Faculty were stuck, too. It was one of the last days for online winter session classes and students couldn't submit their work, and faculty couldn't grade it.

President Dr. Jianping Wang said, "I know at the beginning of the semester there was a brief

Internet outage and it was back on very quickly, but I don't know more than that."

When the system doesn't work, it's not just a minor inconvenience. We've been asked (forced, honestly) to rely on it and now we do, so when it doesn't work it's a major headache for everyone. If it's down for a half an hour, multiply that by the number of students and staff who need it at that time and you begin to see the scale of the problem.

"This is the second time it has been down in the last 12 months" stated President Wang.

That's two times too many, and frankly, we've all had problems with BlackBoard more often than that. Again, minimizing the significance by acting like it was only for a little while ignores just how necessary the services are to our day to day success.

We pay fees to ensure the technology functions properly and it is part of ensuring we get

the education we came for.

Students pay a \$24.50 per credit technology fee according to Dr. Robert Schreyer, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

This adds up to \$73.50 per three-credit course. Mercer has about 7,000 students. If each student were to take at least one three-credit course, that's \$514,500 total in technology fees alone.

That is enough money to upgrade Mercer's server size so this does not happen again.

When we tried to get to the bottom of the problem we were given the run around. Ellucian, the company that provides Mercer Online, told the VOICE to "contact IT."

Rowan University also uses Blackboard. When asked if they had experienced issues with Blackboard recently, Bianca Martinez, a Mercer alumna and current Rowan student, stated, "With Blackboard specifically, no." She noted that the Internet was sometimes

spotty, but that's a different matter.

According to Ellucian's website, they serve more than 650 schools, and MCCC is even given a special page in its list of success stories. In the results section of that page it reads:

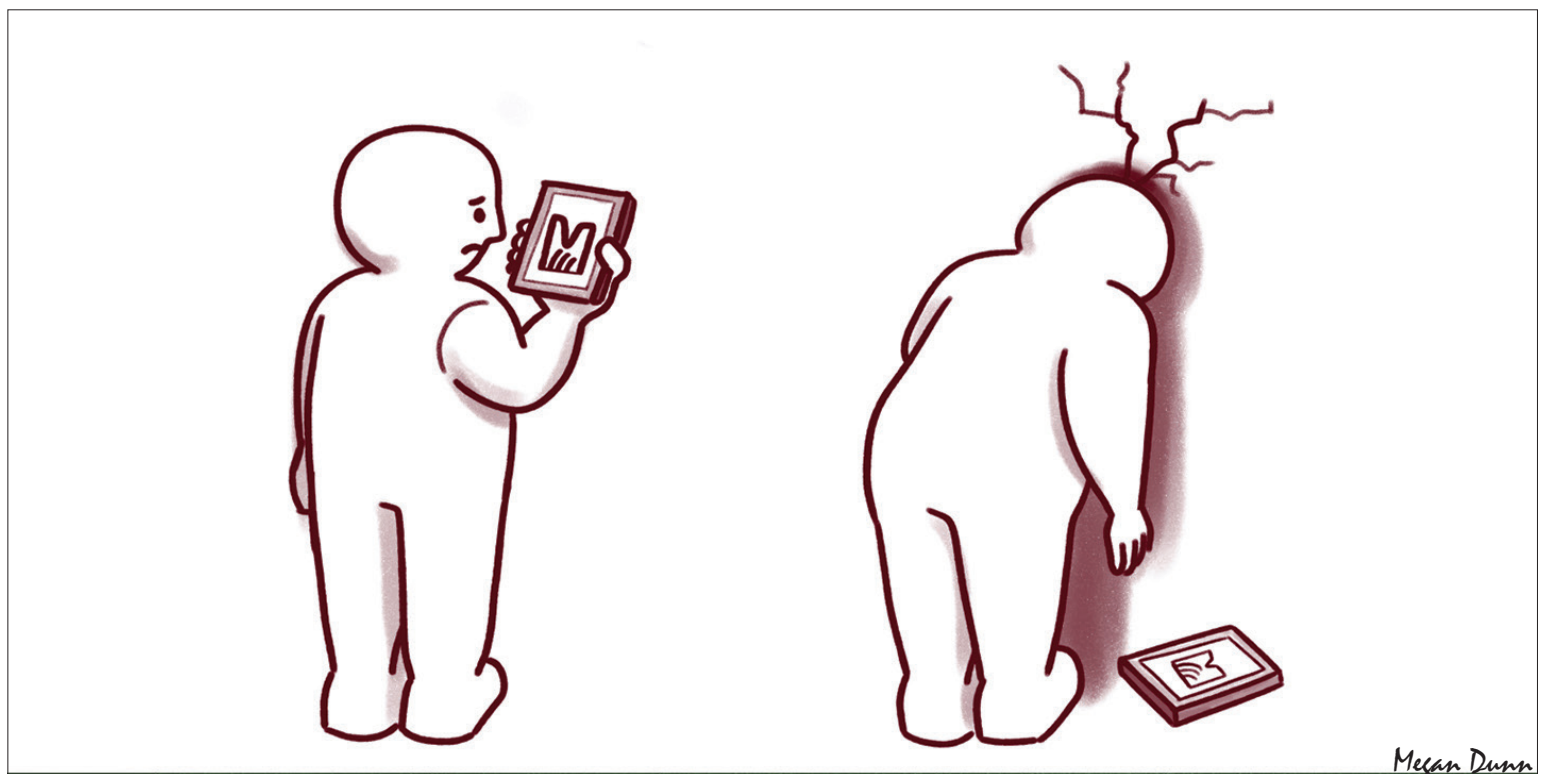
### "RESULTS"

- Students get a real-time, complete picture of their progress toward a degree
- Registration is faster and easier than ever
- Advisors have more time to make deeper connections with students"

You don't get a real-time picture of anything if the system is down. We could quibble about the other points, too, but those are issues for another day.

In the end, we shouldn't be paying for something that does not work when we need it the most. Either change the service provider, don't charge us the fees, or get it fixed once and for all, preferably the latter.

### editorial cartoon



### Editorial Policy:

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

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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, tone or clarity.

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