Trenton Fashion Show kicks off Black History Month

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.”
Hazardous material found during SC renovation

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 5C building where renovations are taking place, on January 13.

According to Mercer’s Facilities Director, Byron 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.

Asbestos was not widely used before 1989, meaning college buildings containing asbestos which were built in the late 1960s still contained 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 health risks.

According to College President Dr. Jianping Wang, "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.
An anti-hate in India rally occurred on Sunday, January 26, 2020, in 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.

MCC students are first in their family to go to college and struggle against family customs. "It has taken months of persistent working over receiving an education," Segarra says, "My dad, he doesn’t agree with it. He wants me to work and not go to college."

Many MCCC students are first in their family to go to college and struggle to figure everything out on their own.

The protests took place on India's Republic Day and were organized by the Coalition Against Genocide (CAG) as well as many American Muslims, Sikhs, 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 citizenship 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 employer who is Indian and asked to remain anonymous to protect his family, calling the BiP "They don’t have to face the consequences, the public does." India was not discriminatory about citizenship rights of Muslims in the past, however.

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.

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 Bahones writes, "Modi stands accused of...demonizing the near, 40% of India’s population that belongs to religious, ethnic or regional minorities.

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THE DEGREE YOU STARTED

Delaware Valley University makes transferring EASY!
By Morgan Powers

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

Who would have thought there's enough stuff 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 overall idea seems to be creativity. How much can you push the boundaries of the common bagel? There are hot Cheetos 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 also making "creations on their own." For example, The Princeton location offers the maple bacon bagel and the tie-dye bagel.

How does the size of 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 something 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.

By Donny Neub

Kelsey Theatre, 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, were left the theater 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 marque 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 night club 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 introduction, the energetic and enticing 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 ended 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."
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, going to be something about my one of the fastest growing groups on community college campuses, and 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. I've been asked not to have their last names used because of concern over any problems with visa or immigration status. A MCCC student from Italy, says the hardest thing is the way you pronounce the word like... and other foreign people. "I have a lot of friends from other countries, so I want to know more about your country, or your language, or your habits, or something like that. And you know that's cool." The hardest thing is the way you pronounce the word like... and other language[s] are so so different. People are not like English is like simple, we have to move the words around."

According to a research paper written by the Community College Research Center, "Demographic and 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, undergraduates and Asia of whom speak a at home, make up up student body at MCCC are students from total, 38% or more operating in a different language, make up almost 28% of the student body at MCCC and another 4% are students from other countries. In the United States, Hispanic and Asian students, many of whom speak a different language... do not understand you. So it's hard for us to like translate it[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."

The hardest thing is the way you pronounce the word like.../understand what the people say to you and answer immediately. "That's 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."

"Can you say translate [from my language to your language, cause 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 your language to your language, cause it's totally different. It's not like English is like simple, we have to move the words around."

"I'm trying to learn Portuguese, but it's difficult for me to learn Japanese and other language[s] are so so different. But if I know one language, I can talk to like other foreign people."
What Are You Saying To Me?

When more than one language as a student at Mercer?

Ignacio Aconcche
From: Spain
Language: Spanish

"Aprendo el idioma es lo más difícil, pero con eso conocemos que podemos comunicarnos con otras personas."

TRANSLATION
"The hardest thing is [that] you learn the language, but after that, we can communicate with other people.

Patricia From: Sierra Leona
Language: Krio

"The hardest thing for me is that the American children do their pronunciation and it's kind of difficult because you know it's my own country where I came from. We do speak English but we have our local language which is common among us and sometimes in English... It's hard because sometimes you think the way I'm speaking it is correct but people who learned English know they say "ah, ah, ah"... so sometimes you kind of [say] like let me lay back... because I don't want to speak my English and then someone says this isn't the correct way you are speaking. You have your own English, so it's a hard thing to speak different people's language."

Harsh From: India
Language: Hindi

"It is not that the Americans, they do their own pronunciation and it's kind of difficult because you know it's your own country where you say even your accent the other language."

TRANSLATION
"It's not that the Americans, they do their own pronunciation and it's kind of difficult because you know it's your own country where you say even your accent the other language.

Can Nguyen From: Vietnam
Language: Viatnamese

"Khi nói tiếng Anh bạn khác... thì thật khó để những người khác hiểu bạn"
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Alexandra J., Class of 2018

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMOUNT (PER YEAR)</th>
<th>MINIMUM CUMULATIVE GPA</th>
<th>VALUE OVER 3 YEARS</th>
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King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Venous
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
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 Looker
36 Losse fraction
37 Drive away
40 “Wozzeck” composer
41 Summertime treats
42 -- Thatcher
43 Commandment starter
47 Birthright bearer
48 Historic period
49 Huge amount of 50-Across
50 See
51 Tarzan’s creator’s monogram
52 Down
53 Recipient of an "Abner"
54 In the thick of
55 Threaten
56 Learning tool
57 Variety of
58 Variety of
59 A - and proper
60 Volcanic split
61 -- and proper
62 -- and proper
63 -- and proper
64 -- and proper
65 -- and proper
66 -- and proper
67 -- and proper
68 -- and proper

DOWN
11 $ dispenser
12 Vast expense
13 Storyteller in court
14 Detox center
15 Terrible guy?
16 The thick of
17 Threaten
18 Learning tool
19 Variety of
20 Variety of
21 -- and proper
22 Cleopatra’s boat
23 Gaelic
24 Mass up
25 Vegan’s
26 Distinguished ancestry
27 In the thick of
28 Sisters
29 Test tube
30 Variety of
31 Macaque
32 Gumbo base
33 Music transition
34 Memory
35 Ceremony
36 Penciling tool
37 -- and proper
38 -- and proper
39 -- and proper
40 Author Stokor
41 -- and proper
42 -- and proper
43 "-- was saying..."
44 Mass up
45 Bill
46 Distinguished ancestry

MCCC’S SOCIETY OF UNUSUAL LITERATURE

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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 road-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, they explain 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 about 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, milipost), 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 Science Major explains how in 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 project- ing 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 normal.” 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 Report A Warnings In The Mail’ by journalist Tom Davis, he explains how #77 hotline has reduced motor vehicle fatalities.”

“Fatalities on New Jersey 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 offi- cials, while all 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.

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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.

JOURNAL LINGO

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

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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. 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. Jian-ping 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 alum 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.
ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS

Dear VOICE,
How many pot holes do you think are in the Mercer parking lot?
-Parker

Dear Parker,
Plenty. Why do you ask?
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
If reality is a simulation like The Matrix, do I still have to do my Physics report?
-Wannabe Neo

Dear Wannabe Neo,
You are not alone. You are not alone.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
Do you think there are any in the Mercer library?
-Need to Know

Dear Need to Know,
Busier in March and you'll need to work in some me time in order to avoid burnout. Remember, every semester is a marathon, not a sprint.
-Julie Neufeld

HOROSCOPES

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
You keep everyone laughing, even though you may be crying into your tea in your free time. You're right, it's seasonal depression. Or maybe it's week depression. Either way you've got to get out more.
-Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Nine times out of ten you have the good advice your friends need, but this month your intuition won't be as strong. Encourage them to follow their own instincts.
-Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Creative energy flows through you this month but you don't always have time to put it to good use because of the daily grind of work, school, family. Make a few notes or sketches. You'll have time to come back to it.
-Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
All you want is to ditch the crap and head out on vacation. They can help you get out. They can help you get out.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
It's birthday time. Aquarius. Friends should be celebrating YOU this month, and if they forget you, don't play it cool. Let them know you expect a little effort.
-Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20
You haven't had a really good laugh in a while. Find a friend who is a Cancer sign and hang out. They can help you get your joy on.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
It's Valentine's day. Try something impractical and impressive. That's how you keep your hook.
-Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Everyone seems to want a piece of you and they are asking so much that you're having trouble staying on track. Time to block out the noise and stay focused on your own life for a while.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
You wanted to push yourself outside your comfort zone a bit and right now it may feel pretty uncomfortable, but stick with it. It's going to pay off soon.
-Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You keep everyone laughing, even though you may be crying into your tea in your free time. You're right, it's seasonal depression. Or maybe it's week depression. Either way you've got to get out more.

Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19
You keep everyone laughing, even though you may be crying into your tea in your free time. You're right, it's seasonal depression. Or maybe it's week depression. Either way you've got to get out more.

Taurus
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