

Sex offender Mercer student arrested Safety concerns resurface as students ask why offender was on campus

By Svetlana Craft, Maria Ramos
& Jasmine Santalla
Reporters

WHAT HAPPENED: THE CRIME, THE SUSPECT, THE ARREST

Mercer student and repeated sex offender, Adam L. Woolf, was arrested following an incident at the campus gym on February 7. He has been charged with five counts of second-degree luring, three counts of fourth-degree lewdness, and five counts of third-degree endangering the welfare of a child.

A source with direct knowledge of the case, who asked to remain anonymous due to the sensitive subject matter, gave The VOICE the following account of what happened. On Tuesday, February 7 two girls, aged 10 and 11, arrived a few minutes early to their 5:20 PM swim practice at the Mercer pool. They were approached by a man they didn't recognize on the pool deck. He was medium height, balding, and had a British accent.

Acting as though he was a college employee, the man told the girls there were new rules because of chlorine in the pool, and that they had to go downstairs and shower in the women's locker room before they could come back up for practice.

Although they thought it sounded odd, the girls headed slowly down the stairs to the empty locker room. Hearing footsteps, they hid in the toilet stalls, standing on top of the seats. They heard the man, later identified as Woolf, enter and say: "I know you girls are in here!"

The girls waited until all was quiet before venturing out, then spotted feet below one plastic shower curtain and immediately ran out of the locker room and up to their practice.

The allegations presented by Assistant Prosecutor, Renee Robeson, suggest Woolf also approached three boys on the team, lured them into the shower and exposed himself to them. All the children were later called into the police to give statements taken by the Special Victims Unit.

According to Breanna Santini, a Mercer student who works as a lifeguard and receptionist at the gym, and who was there on the evening of February 7, the swim team's coach, Nancy Shapiro approached her and asked, "If I recognized this man in an overcoat who claimed to be campus security, but wasn't wearing an ID or uniform." Santini says she told Shapiro she did not recognize him.

Soon after that, Santini says, Shapiro contacted campus security to alert them that there was a problem. Shapiro was coaching a YMCA team that uses the facilities, and is not a college employee. The VOICE reached out to her for comment multiple times but was turned down.

According to the county prosecutor, campus security quickly handed the case off to the West Windsor police department who county prosecutor, Angelo Onofri, commended for their work on the case.



PHOTOS MUGSHOTS.COM

Adam L. Woolf a Mercer student who has been withdrawn by his family following his arrest on February 9, 2017, has a long history of sexual offenses and convictions dating back to 2006, when he was 13 years old.



PHOTO COURTESY COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

"It's crazy. Why wouldn't Mercer notify us? It's a big thing and it concerns my safety. What if something disturbing like this happens again? Is Mercer not going to let us know? We have a right to know if there's a sex offender wandering around campus, just so we can be cautious. It's disturbing because it's like a slap in the face from our campus saying they don't care about our safety."

-Communication Major, Stefany Changanauqui

Woolf who had slipped out of the gym at first was quickly apprehended and brought to the police station, leaving later that evening after his attorney, John Furlong, arrived. He was not formally booked and charged until February 9, during which time it appears he returned to his parents' home in Skillman, NJ. According to records online, Skillman is where his prior arrests took place.

On February 15, at Woolf's first court hearing before superior court Judge, Peter E. Warshaw, the judge did not allow him to return home, despite his father's requests. The judge asked Furlong if his client had sought a program for help or was considering attending one. Woolf's lawyer, responded saying that they would look into one and would have an answer for the judge by Woolf's next court date of March 1.

WHAT CAME NEXT: CAMPUS SAFETY AND THE NOTIFICATION

Woolf's record as a sex offender goes back to 2006, with other incidents following in 2007, and again in 2009 according to records online. All of the incidents seem to have been against girls under the age of 13. Woolf himself was only 13 when the first arrest took place, but under the sex crime laws in New Jersey, commonly known as Megan's Law, Woolf would have been tied as an adult in the courts and subject to adult penalties.

During the February 15 hearing, Judge Warshaw noted that in addition to the current events, there had been another allegation against Woolf in 2015 that was still

pending in 2016. He clarified that he was not assigned to hear that case, in which a female student at Mercer had reported Woolf for harassment.

Reporter David Foster at The Trentonian, obtained the incident report in which the female student indicated to security that even though she had initially been friends with Woolf, she felt he was now harassing her. Campus security investigated, the Title IX coordinator was notified, and the college decided the situation didn't rise to the level of harassment but told the student she could file a complaint with the police, which she did. The case, which has lingered in court for 15 months, still has not been resolved.

In an interview with The VOICE the day after the pool incident, Mercer Dean of Students, Dr. Diane Campbell said, "We are aware if there is a sex offender among our student body. Mercer is aware when a sex offender is registered in courses."

When asked what the college's policy is on allowing registered sex offenders to attend, Campus Public Relations spokesman, Jim Gardner, told The VOICE that that was beyond his purview, but said, "We are an open campus and we have students from all walks of life, many of whom are looking for second chances."

Woolf is registered as a "tier 3" or "high risk" sex offender. According to the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General's website: "If the risk level is high (Tier 3), in addition to law enforcement agencies, schools, licensed day care centers, summer camps, registered

CONT'D ON PAGE 2

INDEX:
National3
Campus4-5
Special feature.....6-7

Sports9
Arts & Entertainment ..10
Viewpoints11



ADVICE,
TOONS + GAMES
| PG. 12

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Sex offender arrested

Continued from page 1

community organizations, and members of the public are notified," when an offender is present.

Mercer shares its campus with the The Joseph F. Cappello School, which, according to the Mercer County Special Services School District, "serves students between the ages of three and seven." Mercer also runs "Camp College" a summer day camp for elementary and middle school aged children and has many minors on campus through programs such as Jump Start and Career Prep. Then there are off campus groups like the YMCA swim team that have permission to use specific campus resources, such as the pool, on a limited basis. It is not clear which, if any, of these programs were aware of Woolf's presence.

Keighley Webb, and Education major, told The VOICE: "I cannot believe I sat so close to this man for 15 weeks in my public speaking class last semester. Woolf asked a number of girls in the class, including myself, for our phone numbers. We all felt sorry for him because of his learning difficulties and we wanted to help him. Little did we know that we had just given our personal phone numbers to a registered sex offender."

Director of College Safety and Security Bryon Marshall, told The VOICE that his team is always worried about the safety of the students, and that there is a notification process if there is a sex offender on campus. He said, "Yes, yes, absolutely. We would send [notification] out through Dr. Campbell. She has all the students' emails and information. We also have the MAlert system. So we would provide information to the degree necessary. So then, in a sense, she would inform the general population."

However, during the time Woolf was released, before he was formally charged and detained, the college did not use its emergency alert system--MAlert--to notify students about the incident. The MAlert system was working, however, as students did receive snowstorm information.

Mercer Professor of Criminal Justice Elizabeth Bondurant, formerly chief of police in Plainsboro, was asked by The VOICE, from her knowledge of the law, if the college had any obligation to let the campus know if a sex offender might be at large after an incident on the campus. She responded: "I would say that it was a police matter that supersedes the college's responsibility. So I believe the police department, West Windsor, who investigated it, would be responsible and most likely would have released information in a press release."

Although the West Windsor Police Department handled the initial investigation of the case, their public information officer referred the matter to the county prosecutor's office which did not release an official statement until a week after Woolf was apprehended on campus. Articles in local papers came out the same day.

Katriel Perez, a Computer Science major, told The VOICE: "I think it's something we should have been told about. To hear it from a Twitter account but not your own school makes no sense to me."

The first official notification from the college about the February 7 events came via a broadcast email on February 17. Mercer President, Dr. Jianping Wang, wrote: "Over the last two days, items have appeared in the news media about a recent incident in a MCCC facility involving a Mercer student and underage youth." Dr. Wang emphasized the legal obligations of the YMCA team saying, "The organization's use of the pool facilities is guided by the terms and conditions of a rental agreement, which requires that underage children be supervised by adult participants, coaches, or spectators."

Dr. Wang concluded her letter to the college community saying, "I strongly encourage you to work with us to enhance campus security. If you see something, say something."

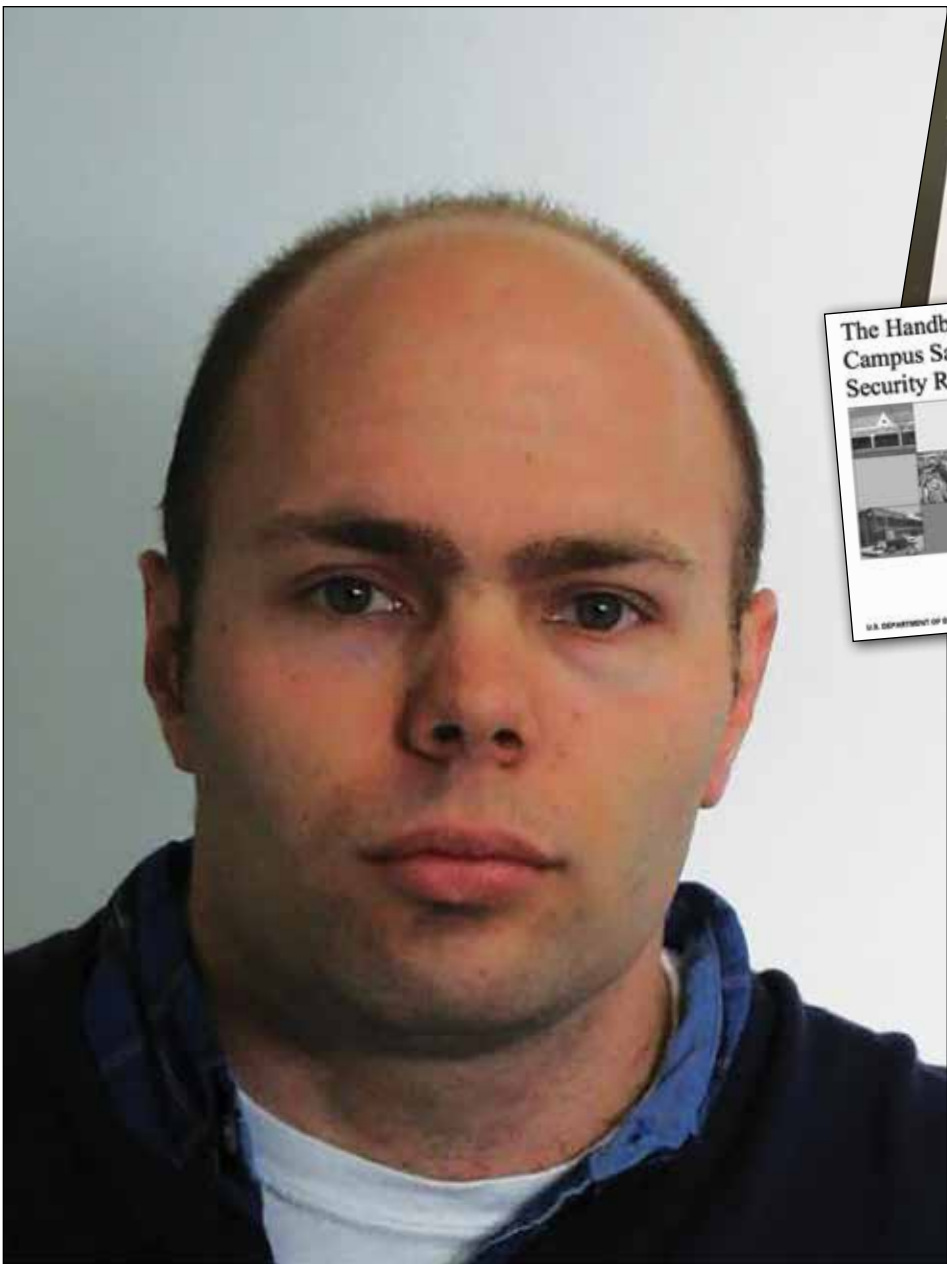


PHOTO SEXOFFENDERSNEWJERSEY.COM

Like all sex offenders, Adam L. Woolf is listed on a sex offender registry that can be found online. He is 5'-9" tall, weighs 175 lbs, has green eyes, and is 23 years old.

"We are an open campus and we have students from all walks of life, many of whom are looking for second chances."

-Manager of Public Relations, Jim Gardner

Official posters with that same phrase have now appeared in the P.E. building.

STUDENT AND STAFF REACTION

Mercer students' reactions to Woolf's arrest and the college's response to it, ranged from stunned to outraged.

Nicole Migliaccio, an Education major, told The VOICE: "I am kind of shocked that no one was alerted. After hearing about the situation, and realizing that I had seen [Woolf] around campus previously, not knowing what his intentions were, it's kind of unsettling now that even after the fact students weren't informed directly. I found out through Facebook."

Stefany Changanauqui, a Communication major, told The VOICE: "It's crazy. Why wouldn't Mercer notify us? It's a big thing and it concerns my safety. What if something disturbing like this happens again? Is Mercer not going to let us know? We have a right to know if there's a sex offender wandering around campus, just so we can be cautious. It's disturbing because it's like a slap in the face from our campus saying they don't care about our safety."

Lina Garcia an Exercise Science major, who had a class with Woolf, struggled to understand her own experience with Woolf. She told The VOICE, "I was shocked when I saw the news. Adam Woolf was a somewhat shy classmate, with a soft voice and some-

times [he] looked like a child. No one could ever imagine that he could be a sexual harasser."

The VOICE asked Dr. Robert Kleinschmidt, Dean of Liberal Arts and Communications, if he knew about Adam Woolf's background or the incident that lead to Woolf's arrest, he said he did not and declined to give an interview.

Likewise, Communications Professor, Mitch Canter, who was Woolf's academic advisor told The VOICE he, too, had never been made aware his advisee was a registered sex offender.

ONGOING SECURITY QUESTIONS

The VOICE obtained copies of the campus daily security logs from the day of Woolf's arrest, but found they do not contain any record of a call coming in to security from coach Shapiro regarding the pool incident, nor of the arrival of the West Windsor police.

Mike Hiestand, an attorney at the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), told The VOICE in a phone interview that the incident should have been reported into the campus daily logs.

Hiestand said: "Pretty much everything that occurs on campus, where a crime has actually taken place, should have been noted [in the logs] there...They need to provide enough information about the crime so that



ABOVE: Following Woolf's arrest, flyers encouraging students to report any issues of harassment were posted around the West Windsor campus. LEFT: Mercer has faced questions about campus safety and security records in the past.

you have a general understanding of what's going on."

The logbooks are records the college must maintain as part of the Clery Act. The law is named after a college student, Jeanne Clery, who was beaten, tortured, raped and murdered in her freshman dorm room at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania in 1986. No one had told her parents that 38 other violent crimes had been reported on the campus in the three years prior to their daughter's death. They advocated for a law that could keep other parents and students informed.

Colleges have two basic obligations under Clery. According to the Student Press Law Center's website, "Under the Clery Act, colleges that receive federal funding must report annual crime statistics, maintain a daily crime log, and produce an annual report detailing security policies."

However, Mercer officials had a different interpretation of the law. A week after Woolf's arrest, Bryon Marshall told The VOICE, "By definition [The] Clery [Law] has a discrete set of variables that you have to examine before you make an entry into a Clery report, and the conduct that occurred here does not reach those levels that we know of. As the investigation continues it may or may not. There is a particular definitional categories which are reported. Is it Clery reportable? By definition, no, based on what we know."

It is not clear if Marshall was conflating the daily logs--which had no record of the call on February 7 or the visit from the police to pick up a student--with the annual crime report, which, based on the charges now filed against Woolf, will certainly be required to include the incident. Nor is it clear how the annual reports can be filed accurately if there is no record of incidents in the daily logs.

Mercer has run into problems with inaccurate crime reporting in the past. In 2012 The VOICE reported that the college had filed annual reports indicating zero crime for three years, even though various incidents had been reported and occurred on campus. The report also revealed that incidents which were handed over to local law enforcement--similar to the handoff of the Woolf to the West Windsor PD--were omitted from the college's reports between 2009 and 2012.

When asked if colleges often have a series of ongoing problems with crime reporting, SPLC attorney Hiestand told The VOICE: "Typically, if you've been slapped on the wrist or in violation with Clery, we do not see repeats coming in. We would think that would be the wake up call to get your act together."

the college

VOICE

ONLINE

The College VOICE is online at mcccvoice.org Find articles on previous security and safety problems at MCCC, view data, records and read crime reports for yourself.

Fake news sows confusion

For millennials, figuring out what news to believe is getting harder



By Maria Ramos
Senior Reporter

"I was scrolling down my Facebook news when suddenly I saw that one of my friends shared an article about President Donald J. Trump cancelling visas for everyone from Bolivia to enter the US. I was very excited and shared it in my timeline, I also give a call to my mom," said Tamara Lobo, a 26 year old international student majoring in Physical Therapy at Mercer.

Lobo and her family are from Bolivia. After she shared the news with her parents, they were thinking of getting tickets to come and visit her, but later in the night when she went back to her Facebook feeds, she saw another article. This article was released from the official Bolivian Consulate and clarified that the first article was in fact a fake statement, and all Bolivians will still need a visa to visit the US.

"I felt so bad that I got my family all excited just because I didn't pay attention to what I was reading, but it looks so legit because the page looked just like another news website," Lobo told The VOICE.

There have been many stories like this one lately, stories that can accurately be called "fake news."

The VOICE took a survey of 30 Mercer students about where they read their news, 87 percent said Facebook, 3 people mentioned traditional media such as a newspaper and/or TV outlets, and 1 said he never reads or watches any news.

The trouble with Facebook is that it is just as easy to quickly share news from unreliable news sources as it is to share real news. So if that 86 percent of Mercer students who is encountering there news on social media isn't being careful and checking their facts, it's the perfect place for them to absorb fake news.

Steve Voorhees, Associate Professor, Television & Digital Film at Mercer told The VOICE, we are living in "A Post-truth Era, where people are believing what matches their beliefs, where people are just relaying in one source instead of cross referencing multiple sources."

The term of "post-truth



Donald J. Drumpf
@realDonaldTrump

Follow

The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!

RETWEETS
48,623

LIKES
153,250



8 STEPS TO TAKE TO IDENTIFY FAKE NEWS - Adapted rom FactCheck.org



1

CHECK YOUR BIASES. If the story seems to back up everything you already suspect, be suspicious.

2

CONSULT THE EXPERTS. FactCheck.org, Snopes.com, the Washington Post Fact Checker and PolitiFact.com are all highly useful for quickly determining if an article is bogus. FactCheck's Viral Spiral page provides a current quick list of the fake stories that are being spread most at the moment.

3

IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE? Satirical stories are ones that are written specifically to be humorous takes on the news, but they are usually clearly labeled. Two popular examples are TheOnion.com and The Borowitz Report in The New Yorker.

4

CONSIDER THE SOURCE: Consider the source. A good list of fake news sources can be found at Snopes.com Some fake news sources include: abcnews.com.co (not the actual URL for ABC News), Boston Tribune (whose "contact us" page lists only a gmail address), and WhatDoesItMean.com.

5

READ BEYOND THE HEADLINE: FactCheck.org investigated one headlined "Obama Signs Executive Order Banning The Pledge Of Allegiance," but if you read the whole article you'd find a quote from "Fappy the Anti-Masturbation Dolphin." Many readers who shared the story probably hadn't read more than the headline.

6

CHECK THE AUTHOR: Look up the author on Google and see if the credentials sound inflated. Thirteen Pulitzer Prizes? Probably baloney.

7

WHAT'S THE SUPPORT? Even if the sources cited sound official, if the story sounds off, see if they are real with a basic Google search.

8

CHECK THE DATE: FactCheck says: "Some false stories aren't completely fake, but rather distortions of real events. These mendacious claims can take a legitimate news story and twist what it says — or even claim that something that happened long ago is related to current events." So check that the date is recent.

era" became popular in 2016 but a version of it has been in use since late night comedian Stephen Colbert coined the term "truthiness" on his show in 2005. The idea behind both terms is that people believe things that feel true to them, regardless of whether or not they are factually true. This can have serious consequences such as influencing voter turnout and votes being swayed by misinformation.

According to the non-partisan U.S. Elections Project, eligible millennials voted in lower numbers in 2016 than they had in 2012. while the The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)—a youth research organization at Tufts University, notes that in several key states—

Michigan, New Hampshire and Nevada—they youth vote kept the presidential election very tight, however, "a majority of them ended up on the losing side of the presidential race," said CIRCLE director Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg.

Millennials are one of the largest potential voting blocks but also one of the most likely to encounter fake news.

The VOICE interviewed, Mark Mueller, an investigative reporter for NJ Advance Media, about the difference between traditional media and social media spreading fake news. Mueller said "In reality reporters and editors will research if something was fake before they put it in the newspaper or put it on TV. Now

it's the wild west in the social media. Anybody can write anything and it can go viral. Whether is true or not, someone is going to believe it."

The social media platforms are changing our lives in many ways but especially with the way we communicate and spread our news.

Jim Gardner, director of Public Relations at Mercer says, "Sites like Facebook are a business model and they get paid for what they show, clicks for money, so there is no chance they want to censor people or pages that share fake news. That's what it happens when you live in an open democracy."

However, according to Facebook founder Mark Zucker-

berg, in a post from November 19, 2016, "The bottom line is: we take misinformation seriously." He says the site is preparing to work with five fact-checking organizations--ABC News, AP, FactCheck.org, Politifact and Snopes-- and try to make it easier for users to flag fake news stories. If enough users report a story as fake, the social network would then send it to fact checkers to scrutinize so it can be removed.

Does Facebook's effort constitute a form a censorship? Mercer Professor Steve Voorhees says, "Social media platforms are struggling with [the censorship question]. Yes, they want to stop fake news from spreading, but at the same time, how do we do this and still maintain our dignity of giving people a voice, whether you have an algorithm doing it or a person?"

According Dr. Dylan Wolfe Assistant Professor Communication at Mercer, there is a larger issue: "We are spending more time talking about who is or isn't using true facts than we are discussing what does 'facts' mean."

Professor Wolfe's statement reflects a new concern. President Trump tweeted on February 17, "The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!"

Although organizations devoted to investigative reporting, like the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR) and ProPublica, provide the most indepth and best researched coverage of news stories, the sources the president has consistently named "fake news," such as The New York Times, are among the better fact checked and most reliable. As of press time, the president has 154,000 likes on that tweet, meaning many of his followers are apt to be even more confused about what is fake news and what is fake fake news.

Mark Mueller of NJ Advance Media places the obligation to determine what news is real on the people, saying: "News consumers, people who read the news, need to be more responsible and not share everything they see in social media and consider the sources where they are reading their news."

“I can’t go home, I’m already here!” On diverse campus, anxiety over immigration bans and deportations



PHOTO | TIM O'BOYLE

Mercer student Nagiyd Ewell says she feels mostly comfortable as a Muslim on campus, and notes Mercer is more diverse than other schools she attended.

By Tim O'Boyle
Reporter

Exactly one week after his inauguration, President Donald Trump signed an executive order temporarily banning travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the U.S. The ban, which the White House later revealed had not been run by officials at the Justice Department, set off a chain of chaotic events.

The ban affected green card and visa holders, some were in the air on flights to the U.S. at the time the ban was enacted. Others were set to enter the country shortly. Impromptu protests broke out at major international airports across the country and lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union filed motions seeking that courts stay the order.

Judge Ann M. Donnelly of the US District Court in Brooklyn, NY was the first to rule to stay the order, indicating that sending travellers home “could cause irreparable harm.” Minutes later a judge in Virginia ruled similarly. However, the Department of Homeland Security issued a statement the following days saying they would continue to enforce the ban.

The acting U.S. Attorney General, Sally Yates, typically the post responsible for enforcing the president’s orders, instructed the Justice Depart-

ment not to do so because the ban was not constitutional. At that point President Trump fired Yates.

The ban has faced a strong negative response worldwide and within the Mercer community from those who support immigrant rights. A recent VOICE survey of Mercer students, faculty and staff found that 96 percent of those surveyed knew of the ban and 88 percent said they opposed it.

Nineteen percent of survey respondents said they knew at least one fellow student on a student visa, and the college’s President Dr. Jianping Wang told The VOICE, “We do have students from those regions [affected], definitely.”

In September 2016 The New York Times reported that hate crimes against Muslim Americans were already at the highest levels seen since 9/11. The FBI annual crime statistics showed that in one year reported anti-Muslim hate crimes had increased by 67 percent.

In an interview with The VOICE, Nagiyd Ewell, a Muslim student in her second year studying Graphic Design, said, that while she generally feels comfortable at Mercer things are different beyond the campus.

“There are attacks [on Muslims] going on all the time. It has been going on since 9/11 and has just gotten worse.” Ewell said.

Ewell, whose father is

“That was a big thing.
[The kids would say] ‘Go
back to your country!’
which is really hilarious
because I’m already
here...”

-Mercer Student, Nagiyd Ewell

African American and mother Puerto Rican, was born in the United States. Her parents converted to Islam before she was born. She chooses to wear the hijab for modesty, but says some of her siblings do not.

Although she says she has not experienced any animosity at Mercer, she has dealt with verbal attacks since she was a kid, especially in middle school. “That was a big thing. [The kids would say] ‘Go back to your country!’ which is really hilarious because I’m already here...It’s kind of, I don’t know, normal?” Ewell says, adding: “it sucks, but it’s not surprising.”

Dr. Wang told The VOICE, “We have an increased number of instances on campus where [there are] certain verbal attacks to students who are different from us, and there are other members of this community who will say things like ‘why don’t you go back to your coun-

try.”

However, Dr. Wang says the reason the incidents are not reported to security is “fear, fear of retaliation, fear of retribution, fear of becoming the target of hate crimes. These people are very fearful.”

Director of College Safety, Bryon Marshall, when asked whether unofficial reports of verbal attacks have increased said, “Yes, I do agree with that, absolutely.” He added, “Are there tensions? Absolutely.”

Mercer’s Muslim Student Association, previously known as the Islamic Student Group, was created in the late 90’s and says its goal is to spread awareness of the religion of Islam and also provide information for those that are interested.

Adviser M. Nichole Pollard-Alford, who works in the Financial Aid office, told The VOICE that of the 15-20 students in the group one is from Iran, a country on the banned list.

Asked to comment on Muslim student difficulties since the ban, Pollard-Alford said, “Generally it’s just a lot of uncertainty. It has already been tense. I think this brings a lot of feelings to the surface, the feelings of concern. Some individuals are choosing not to wear religious covering so they can assimilate and not stand out like a sore thumb.”

Despite the majority of students surveyed being against

the ban, there are individuals at Mercer who say they support it.

“Trump had the right to institute a ban,” says Richard Berke, a close to retirement student who takes classes to keep his mind sharp. Berke’s father had emigrated from Russia to Egypt, and then to the United States. “We have laws on immigration that need to be followed, that haven’t been followed in the past.”

Berke referred to President Clinton’s State of the Union address in 1995 which had expressed similar tightening of immigration, but had been received with a standing ovation in Congress. Referring to the people who saw the ban as anti-muslim, Berke said “[they are] making it a religious thing because of political correctness.”

According to Dr. Wang, Mercer has faced similar situations and she has made her stance on the subject clear. “I think this order represents a spirit of exclusion” she said, “and that’s not what we value in this country.” Dr. Wang, along with 600 college and university presidents, signed a statement calling for the U.S. to continue upholding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which allows undocumented immigrants in the United States, who entered as minors, to receive a two-year period where they are unable to be deported and can also receive a work permit.

Mercer’s administration has also responded to the ban by increasing their hands-on involvement, with Bryon Marshall bringing awareness to two safe rooms, also known as a “freedom room”. Within these rooms, students are free to express their religious and personal beliefs without fear of having their voices suppressed.

It is not clear whether these rooms are intended for prayer, but Nagiyd Ewell told The VOICE that she has sometimes resorted to praying in empty classrooms because she was not aware of any designated space for Muslim students to pray.

Just once, Ewell said, she encountered what felt like profiling by a professor. “It was a Photography class and I was explaining [to the professor] how I was shy about taking pictures of people...and he made a comment that was basically ‘Yeah, looking like how you do.’” The instructor assumed wearing her hijab was something that would make other people nervous, or make her feel shy.

Ewell says she brushed it off like all the negative comment’s she has received. She is currently working, studying optometry, and looking for ways to raise the visibility of Muslim Americans.

Handicap access at Mercer sees few changes in five years

By Tim O'Boyle
Reporter

The Administrative Assistant for the Dean of Liberal Arts, Debra Stotland, gets to Mercer every morning at 7. She always pushes the handicap buttons for the doors she enters to make sure they work. If a button is broken she calls Security to let them know. She does on behalf of handicap students who might find themselves in her same situation later in the day.

Stotland was confined to a power wheelchair until 6 years ago when she underwent bariatric surgery. During her time of relying on Mercer's handicap accessibility, she found that many handicapped students have to go to great lengths to get around campus.

"In good weather it's fine, but during inclement weather it's very inconvenient for students," Stotland said.

Stotland told the VOICE, on bad weather days when a student doesn't want to walk outside, in order to get from the MS building to the AD building, the student must enter the LA building first, go through the ET building, then go into the BS building before finally arriving at the AD building. A trip that requires an inconvenient amount of time when the MS and AD buildings are less than 50 yards away from each other.

Many offices at Mercer keep their doors open if they do not have an automatic door opening

button, but Stotland said that this gets Mercer in trouble with the Fire Marshal's because of it being a fire safety hazard. Stotland has continued to make handicap accessibility a focus for Mercer's administration by being an advisor for a student club whose aim was to bring handicapped awareness to those who are non-handicapped, and she has also gone as far as to offer administration to use her in wheelchair to see what it is like to be handicapped on campus.

"It's gotten much better" said Stotland, "They meet the minimum requirements."

When Stotland would use the Faculty/Staff dining area while she was handicapped, she would have someone accompany her, or wait for a student to open the door for her since the area does not have an automatic door opening button. She was amazed at how willing students are to help, "Our non-handicapped students are very helpful."

In 2012, The VOICE assessed handicap access on campus. Reporters found that Mercer had no automatic door button at the entrances for the Financial Aid office, Bookstore, or the Enrollment Services office. This is a problem that has continued to be unresolved, despite the offices are some of the most frequented places on campus.

Since the 2012 article, handicap access has not changed much on campus. Mercer has maintained minimum compliance with the ADA, but issues raised in the

2012 VOICE article have not been fully addressed.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passed into law in 1990 and strove to enforce civil rights laws protecting people with disabilities against discrimination in employment, public services, and public accommodations. Mercer complies with ADA regulations because they are considered a part of the "Places of Education" category under public accommodations. The Act was edited in 2010 and contained small rule changes like requiring light switches be installed 48 inches off the ground, compared to the previous 54 inches.

A person with a disability is defined by the ADA as "a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment."

When asked how Mercer goes above ADA standards Arlene Stinson, Director of The Center for Inclusion, Transition and Accessibility, said "The standard is the minimum, and obviously there is a desire to maintain compliance for all students with disabilities."

Out of the many automatic opening doors on campus, that are in front of certain buildings and within, less than 10 work.

"The college is ADA compliant, and generally as a campus it is fairly accessible," said Stinson,



"We have a series of elevators and two floor situation that allows access to almost all classrooms by elevators."

Mercer still has no elevator in the CM building, making the art gallery on the second floor harder to get to, one of the issues brought to light by the 2012 article.

According to Stinson, "the total number of students we serve each semester is approximately 700." That number includes students with learning disabilities and not solely those who are physically handicapped.

"Arlene [Stinson] determines the needs and we make adjustments based on her recommendations," said Director of College Safety Bryon Marshall, "we figure out creative ways to get them to

class."

If a classroom needs to be moved because of lack of access for a student, according to Marshall, it is done, "in a way that is very quiet, confidential"

Both Marshall and Stinson cited a problem they encountered this semester with a student. "We had to move a classroom because it wasn't accessible to someone who uses a wheelchair," said Stinson.

Marshall says "Simply the room's no longer functioning, so we move the class. That way we don't single out the person."

Stinson says, "The ultimate goal is for the accommodation floor to not be necessary anymore because the campus is designed so it is accessible to all."

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MERCER'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1969



Taking to t

As local residents organize, s

By Jasmine Santalla
& Nikki Pellew
Reporters

Googling organizations online...I thought the ACLU, Planned Parenthood may be into this. Then I found a group called New Jersey Citizen Action." With the support of these groups, the event started to come together.

Meyer says she felt there was a particular need for a local event because "there's totally other women out there who are in the same position [and can't get to D.C.], whether it's because of family obligations, or health reasons, older women that have concerns and can't travel, women who work who can't make the time to do it."

The Trenton march was attended by an estimated 7,500 people according to NorthJersey.com, and six other smaller marches were held in other parts of the state including Asbury Park, Mount Laurel and Pompton Plains.

Groups from a number of New Jersey colleges and universities sent delegations to the Women's March on Washington and the sister march in Trenton, but Mercer was not one of them which is perhaps not surprising as a VOICE survey of 30 students found that while 60 percent were either pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of our country following the election, even more--63 percent--said they were unlikely or very unlikely to participate in any political action going forward.

One exception to this is Essence Otero, a seventh semester Liberal Arts major who did attend the Women's March on Washington. She said her rights as a Hispanic woman were the driving force in her participation.

The day after Donald Trump's inauguration saw what experts believe is the largest political demonstration in U.S. history. According to Erica Chenoweth and Jeremy Pressman, two experts on political protests from the Universities of Denver and Connecticut respectively, as cited on Vox.com, the Women's March on Washington was joined by sister marches in more than 600 U.S. cities and attended by 4.2 million people in total.

Stay-at-home mom Elizabeth Meyer of Somerset County. Formerly a teacher Meyer told The VOICE: "I got married, I had two little girls, life became so busy. I didn't really have the time to pay attention....I [was] more worried about getting my girls off to school in the morning or how we're going to pay the mortgage."

But Meyer, a trained teacher, says that feeling changed after the election of Donald Trump; there was so much at stake that she felt compelled to do something. However, the trip to Washington seemed financially and logistically challenging with young kids. Still, she was determined to persist: "Just because I can't make it to Washington D.C. [didn't] mean that I don't have a voice," Meyer says.

Meyer decided to organize a sister march in Trenton. She reached out to the Women's March organizers through Facebook and couple of days later she was given the green light to host the Women's March on New Jersey.

As part of the planning phase she says: "I just started making calls,

"Before the had no idea w rep[resentatives So, I'm coming where I've gone It's like having whatsoever to be the midst of all been a real learning

-Elizabeth Meyer, Org March on Ne



PHOTO | ESSENCE OTERO



the streets

students slower to activism

Otero says: “Since the election, our president has made a lot of people angry, including myself, with the choices he has made and the words, or tweets, he has said. I truly believe the only way to get our president’s attention and actually start seeing change, is to peacefully protest and fight for our rights and for equality for all, no matter what race or gender you are.”

election, I who my state [s] even were... from a place from 0 to 60. no knowledge being thrown in of this...It has lly sharp curve.”

anizer of Women’s
ew Jersey

still worth it. More than half of the Mercer survey participants said they believe political activism is effective in influencing governmental policies.

When asked what their main post election concerns are, the majority of the students surveyed said women’s rights, immigration, and jobs in the economy. They gave three primary reasons for why they weren’t likely to become politically active: either they do not know how to get involved in political activism, are unaware of how to contact activist groups in the area, or they do not have the time to participate.

Professor Dylan Wolfe, Assistant Professor of Communication attended the Women’s March on Washington. He told The VOICE: “I’ve always been a strong believer in the power of young voices in political change. I myself was a political activists as a young man, I was involved in local and national organizations.” He adds: “There is a lot of clear evidence that student activism in particular has a strong energy.”

Asked about his participation in the Women’s March as a man, Professor Wolfe said: “Primarily, [I participated for] women’s issues, immigration and

minority issues, and environmental issues...I believe strongly in America’s foundation in free speech and dissent, and the power of both of those in American Society.”

Another professor who attended the D.C. March is English Professor and current interim Dean of American Honors, Dr. Bettina Calouri. She told The VOICE her main reason for attending as identified on the sign she created for the protest: “My sign read, ‘R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Key for our DEMOCRACY.’ Our democracy goes nowhere if we can’t show respect.”

Dr. Calouri says: “When people demonstrate something on their feet, they show they’re passionate about it. It’s one thing to post something to Facebook. That doesn’t take a lot of time and personal commitment...[but putting] your body out there in some sense shows a commitment.”

But student Otero says she views social media as a key starting point for young activists. She told The VOICE: “Twitter and Facebook have definitely helped people become more aware and are getting involved in protests and actually fighting for what they believe in, not just hiding behind their phone watching everything happen. During the Women’s March I saw babies, children, teenagers, young adults, older adults, literally every age of men and women were there fighting together and protesting.”

While students may be slow to engage in social action, those who are hesitant because they feel like they don’t know where to start are certainly not alone.

Elizabeth Meyer, the Trenton March organizer, says: “Before the election, I had no idea who my state rep[resentatives] even were...So, I’m coming from a place where I’ve gone from 0 to 60. It’s like having no knowledge whatsoever to being thrown in the midst of all of this...It has been a really sharp learning curve.”



3 EASY WAYS TO BECOME AN ACTIVIST

- 1 JOIN YOUR LOCAL INDIVISIBLE GROUP.**
Indivisible is a movement that has formed since the Women’s Marches and every branch has meetings and ways for new people to easily get involved see indivisible.org.
- 2 GET THE COUNTABLE APP ON YOUR PHONE AND USE IT TO KEEP UP WITH THE ISSUES**
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Vikings baseball looking for back to back World Series appearances

By Jackson Thompson
Reporter

Sophomore starting pitcher, Denny Brady, made his Mercer debut on Sunday, February 19 when the Vikings won in the season opener against the Dukes of Cumberland, 9-6. Brady, a transfer from South Carolina, made it through four solid innings giving up one earned run and five strikeouts.

Brady's only earned run of the day came in the first inning on an RBI double by Cumberland third baseman, Mitch Walker. But the the Viking offense took over the game, putting up 9 runs off 16 hits giving their transfer pitcher solid run support in his first outing.

When asked for comment about the winning game, Brady said, "As soon as the run scored I said to myself that's the last one they're gonna score. I feel like that's really the mentality you have to have especially when you get to college baseball, because if you worry about that run then they're gonna take advantage of it."

"I wouldn't say I had my best stuff... but the guys behind me are great guys and they're always pushing me, and it's hard to throw bad when you got a team of guys on your back," Brady said.

Cumberland would come back to tie the game 4-4 in the bottom of the seventh, but a solo home run by freshman infielder, Osvaldo "Ozzie" Millet, put the Vikings back on top heading into the seventh inning stretch.

"I was looking for a good pitch middle-in that I could do some damage with," Millet said. "I worked myself into a two strike count, so I was just trying to put the ball into



The winning hit as the Vikings took Cumberland 9-6 in the season opener.

PHOTO | JACKSON THOMPSON

play. The pitcher left his fastball high, I put a good swing to it and the ball left the yard."

Millet's home run would spearhead a rally that put the Vikings ahead late for an assuring 9-6 opening day win.

Looking ahead, sixth year head coach, Kevin Kerins will be leading a team with some lofty expectations in 2017 as they try to get back in the NJCAA World Series for the second straight year. According to a poll on NJCAA.org, The Vikings are the third ranked team in Division II.

"We are counting on our sophomores and top end pitching to

lead us, the expectations have never been higher and with those expectations comes pressure, how we respond to positives and negatives that come our way throughout the season will determine our success." Coach Kerins told The VOICE.

Kerins says he believes the key to his team's success lies in the maturity and experience of his players. With much of the team's roster having already played deep into the tournament a season ago, the pressure of a big spot is a distant memory.

Sophomore outfielder, Anthony Boselli, agrees with this, saying: "The strength of our lineup I would

say is that we just have a lot of experience, and a lot of [offensive] power."

Roster turnover has been kind to the Vikings this offseason with most of last years starting lineup returning. The team will however have a hole at catcher with Rob Boselli transferring to St. John's this past fall.

"I think our biggest loss from last year would be Austin Constantini and Rob Boselli, both were captains and tremendous performers under pressure and in post season. Austin is now playing at LaSalle and Rob is playing at St. John's." Coach Kerins says.

Defensively the pitching staff will be led by top starters, Brady and sophomore, Andrew DiPiazza.

According to NJCAA.org, DiPiazza pitched to a tune of a 12-1 record as a starter last year with 109 strikeouts and an ERA of only 1.50. As it stands DiPiazza would be the Vikings opening day starter.

Brady, a transfer from Coastal Carolina, is already committed to playing at Old Dominion in 2018, but will lend his arm to the Vikings in their 2017 campaign.

Coach Kerins say, "We are counting on Andrew DiPiazza, Denny Brady, Anthony Peroni, Erik Bowren, Vinny Vaccone and Jordan Gonzales to be emotional and on-field leaders for us."

According to NJCAA.org, the team is coming off of a school record 51 win season in 2016, and fell a game away from reaching the championship bracket.

"We all just want to win," Boselli says. "Last year we finished third in the country, this year we're all just trying to get back to the World Series and win it."

But the team still has the rest of the regular season ahead of them before they get that opportunity. They will be tested by a demanding 54 game schedule that features a high degree of competition.

"As a coaching staff we make an effort to play the best teams around the country and also travel and challenge our team. We put an emphasis on our regional/conference games as they get us the opportunity to play in the postseason. Our non region schedule is loaded against talented teams and many of which played in College World Series or Regionals last year," Kerins says.

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* National Public Radio, September 2015

A new addition to a long music legacy

The Bunker a new fixture in the New Brunswick basement music scene

By Trevion Anglin
Reporter

New Brunswick's music hot spot, The Bunker, is easy to miss. It looks like your standard off campus college house. Nevertheless, locals know to go around back and down into the basement. It might as well be a portal to another world.

On Friday February 3, the room was rocking with a line up of Dangerous Vice, Pioneer the Eel, Motor Heart Man, Johnny Cola and Barzan the Barbarian, each providing a contrast of sounds from psychedelic rock, post-punk, and hip-hop.

New Brunswick, which houses the main Rutgers University campus, has spawned numerous bands since the 1970's. Clubs like the Court Tavern, The Melody and The Roxy helped bands like The Smithereens, The Bouncing Souls and Bon Jovi get their start.

According to the book New Brunswick, New Jersey, Goodbye: Bands, Dirty Basements, and the Search for Self, by Ronen Kaufman, it was in the 1980's that off-campus houses started using their basements to host questionably legal shows in part to give students under drinking age and thus unable to get into the other clubs, access to the burgeoning punk scene. The secrecy was always part of the fun.

The basement scene continues to this day and has more recently propelled bands like Screaming Females into



PHOTO | TREVION ANGLIN

Locals at The Bunker on February 3, 2017 know how to navigate New Brunswick's basement music scene.

mainstream popularity. Venues in the scene typically allow around 100 people and often shift from place to place.

Charly Santagado set up The Bunker. In an interview with The VOICE she said: "I hosted on campus open mic type shows last year and wanted to take it off campus because I could have my own rules, not have to deal with bureaucracy, etc."

Santagado describes how she found the space saying, "I was looking at houses to live in for the 2016-2017 school year and when I saw the one I

moved into, I was totally sold by the basement and its potential as a show house. So I brainstormed a name and planned a show and that was the birth of The Bunker."

Though she lives with housemates, Santagado is the only person actually involved with the making and management of The Bunker.

With an entry fee of only \$5 per person, The Bunker became packed within the hour on the night of February 3. There were a total of five acts playing at the show.

The first to play was

Dangerous Vice. As the band set up, the crowd casually talked to each other while sipping on some drinks or going outside for a cigarette. When they began to play, the tone changed, and the talking stopped. Everyone moved forward and gave their full attention to the band.

A Bunker regular and Rutgers student, Joanne Zapata said, "People are pretty friendly and don't really care whether it's your fiftieth show or your first show. Everyone's just there to support each other and build on friendships while listening to

music."

Applause and cheers filled the room for each artist. Occasional impromptu mosh pits formed during more intense sets, creating a violent sea of people that pushed and pulled each other in chaotic rhythm. The energy of the show connected the performers and the audience through thumps and riffs. Barzan the Barbarian specifically seemingly made the entire basement vibrate with his violent, and ferocious beats.

Another Bunker attendee and Rutgers student, Connor Bracken, told The VOICE, "I go for the social aspects, and also just for the few hours I can escape while the music's here. I like to just stand up front and dance for a bit, letting out all the shit at the end of the week."

Meeting new people, discovering new music, and escaping the responsibilities of day-to-day life seems to be the heart of what makes shows so popular.

Rutgers student Leanne Reid said, "It's something to do and way better than frat parties!"

The attendees have formed a sense of community and Do It Yourself (DIY) counterculture that shows how artists don't need to be in an expensive venue to gain recognition and a dedicated audience.

Bracken summed up the basement scene saying: "It expands your horizons and broadens your perspective on music, all while being a much more intimate experience. And it's just fun."

Find rustic vegan food and coffee at The Moth in Allentown

By Fabiola Garcia
Reporter

The Moth Coffeehouse is a small, family owned vegan/vegetarian restaurant located in Allentown, NJ overlooking the Conines Millpond. The vegan fare at The Moth sets it apart from other local establishments. They serve everything meat and dairy free, including vegan egg salads (\$7.75), chickpea sliders (\$8), and regular coffee (\$1.85/\$2.85) to Reese's Cup cappuccinos (\$5) and lattes (\$3.75/\$4.75). The wooden chairs and tables add to the warm, rustic vibe inside.

Corky and Kris Danch opened The Moth in October 2015. Their daughters Zoë and Alia now help their parents run the place.

"My whole family and I are vegetarian. So it just made sense for us to kind of use our own values and ethics into our business," Zoë said. "My dad has been a vegetarian for 50 years and my sister and I have never eaten meat." Her mom adds, "I was born and raised in a farm

and got to see how meat came on your plate."

Vegetarians do not eat meat but may consume eggs, dairy products or fish. Vegans abstain from animal consumption entirely, choosing not to use animal products whatsoever..

Something intangible about The Moth makes it enticing. It might be sounds of the coffee machine steaming milk for a latte, the rich aromas of fresh ground coffee beans, the laughing and chattering of customers, the friendly thank you's and goodbye's. It could be the familiarity, the welcoming warmth you can only get from a family owned and operated establishment.

Kris Danch said "Our client base seem to be very open minded. We have a lot of high school students who stop on the way home who are not vegetarian, nor vegan but they are open minded and are trying the food, liking it and coming back."

Melinda Brown, 65, of Allentown, NJ said, "I am not a

vegan but everything is delicious. I love the atmosphere, casualness, the menu is unique, and the staff is beyond friendly. I love that it is a family owned business, and I think it is a wonderful asset to the town. My favorite menu item is the quiche."

The coffeehouse is very active in the local community, allowing its spaces to be used for support groups and meetings of any sort. The Moth even hosted the HGTV show Tiny House Hunters, which filmed a meet up in the restaurant in 2016.

"I love that it's artsy and it's short walk from school," said Sierra Cottrell, 16, from Cream Ridge told The VOICE.

The restaurant serves their most popular menu item, the beet burger (\$9), composed of beets, lentils, spices and other vegetables. Their vegan options include the vegan mac n' cheese (\$6.75), and vegan sausage sandwich (\$9). The milks range from whole milk to rice milk to add into your preferred cappuccino or fresh iced coffee.

Their meals, such as the



PHOTO | FABIOLA GARCIA

The Moth provides fresh ingredients, as well as organic ingredients, including eggs. The owners, The Danch family, say they hope to one day partner up with a local farm for more farm to table offerings.

beet burger and the vegan mac n' cheese are served with a fresh side salad, adorned with a drizzle of creamy balsamic vinaigrette. The beet burger is a rich purple color, crispy on the outside and served on a flatbread, topped by homemade vegan spread and pickles.

When you bite into it the flavors from the spices and

the vegan spread combine together perfectly. The vegan mac n' cheese is covered in their flavorful sauce all made from vegetables with a texture like that of regular cheese.

The Moth Coffeehouse is located in 42 So. Main St. Allentown, NJ.

the college
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We need a real food court

A Subway or Wawa on campus would be a cash cow

AS WE SEE IT**Oscar Trigueros & Trevion Anglin**

We've had enough. We're hungry. We can't eat any more Mercer cheeseburgers that have patties as thin as the Olsen twins. Even the salad bar has lettuce that is stale and old. When Lessings took over the college cafeteria a couple of years ago, the prices went up and food quality--which had never been that great to begin with--went down.

Here's what we want: a decent franchise eatery: a Wawa, a Dunkin Donuts, a Subway or even a Starbucks. Brookdale Community College has a Starbucks. Brookdale! Rider got a Subway that is open until 2am, 7 days a week.

The VOICE polled 32 students and all but one said they would like a food franchise open on the West

Windsor campus. The other guy didn't look like he understood the question. We didn't poll the faculty, but asking around, we gather the faculty are just as hungry for a hoagie as we are.

At this point, most Mercer students either bring a bag lunch or drop by the Wawa that's a five minute drive from campus. The prices are much fairer there, and there are more and better food options than we have on campus. But this isn't a reasonable solution. Driving around is wasteful of gas.

Bottom line: Mercer needs a proper food court.

For the college, any food franchise would generate multiple revenue streams. First there is the rent for the space, and sec-

ond there are likely to be more students willing to stay on campus later who can help fill up those night classes, because they don't have to worry about starving to death. Same thing with early morning students, many of whom are coming off of night shifts. They just need a decent coffee. Provide better food and enrollment may go up, or at least more classes might run fuller.

The second advantage is to the health of the students. Although Dunkin may not be that healthy, Wawa, Subway and even Starbucks have healthy, fresh options. If our health improves, we are less likely to miss class. That's no joke. We have no health center on campus, and our student body includes a lot of low income kids who are at high risk for health problems like diabetes. Sick students miss class and drop out of school. Students who have a nice turkey and ham hoagie in the afternoon are nourishing their bodies and their brains.

In terms of the financial details, the Subway website says: "The total investment can range from

\$114,800 to \$258,300 for traditional locations and \$84,300 to \$200,100 for non-traditional locations. This includes your franchise fee, construction and equipment costs as well as operating capital."

Though this may seem like a hefty price, we know for a fact that Mercer spent \$160,000 on those gaudy neon signs at the two entrances to the campus. The VOICE reported on it in 2012. Any student will tell you they'd rather have a normal school sign and a Subway sandwich shop than a blinky sign and those chicken McNasties.

Besides, the college is planning to bring a whole bunch more international students to Mercer, so let's give them a real taste of America. After all, it's what they came for.

Bringing in a decent food franchise will definitely pay off in the long run when students are forming mile-long lines in the caf to get at that tasty goodness. Admins take note, those long lines may snake as far as the registration offices. You want to keep us near those, right?



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Write to The College VOICE!

Do you have something to say? The College VOICE accepts letters to the editor. Submissions should be no more than 300 words; longer submissions may be shortened. Submit materials in electronic format, and include your name and status at Mercer (major and year, faculty or staff position or alumnus). All materials submitted become the property of The College VOICE, which reserves the right to reject or edit material based on length, taste or clarity.

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1200 Edinburg Rd.
West Windsor, NJ 08690

ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



Help is here!

around campus that I felt like I was a Pebble Beach golf club. What gives?
-Not a Caddie

Dear Not a Caddie,
Wait, I've been playing 18 holes here for years. This isn't a golf club?
-The VOICE.

Dear Voice,
Why does the student radio station have to play music with the doors open. Is it a radio station or a night club?
-Ears a Tingle

Dear Voice,
My cousin tattooed my ankle last week. It won't stop bleeding. Am I dying?
-Hemorrhaging

Dear Tingly Ears,
Do what we do here at the VOICE: swim up to the bar and get yourself a drink.
-The VOICE

Dear Hemorrhaging,
We appreciate you taking the time to write while dying. Our best advice: cauterize with a hot spoon, then get tested for Hep C.
-The VOICE.

Dear Voice,
Last week there were so many golf carts buzzing

Dear VOICE,
Who do I go to for a straight answer around here?
-In search of info

Dear Info,
As we've found out here at The VOICE, you can call the security desk who will then direct you to the VP's office who will set up a meeting with you in 4-6 weeks. Or you can try to find that kid who hacked the computer system. Just sayin'.
-The VOICE

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

Classic Peanuts



HOROSCOPES



Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

There is something secret that you've barely allowed yourself to wish for, but desperately want. It may be material or in the form of a relationship. Prospects are brightening for this development.



Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

You are always a good time and it is the time of year you try to get yourself invited to as many parties as possible: football nights, turkey fests. This year why not throw one of your own?



Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

As the weather cools and the evenings darken, so does your outlook on a particular friendship or association. Forgive yourself for needing your space. You are right, it is time to move on.



Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Honor, nobility these are things you have always aspired to; you've always tried to do right, but you probably never knew it would be so thankless. Still, you are a hero to a few who really matter.



Gemini

May 21 - Jun. 20

The good news is you don't need to go see a doctor about that minor medical issue you've been worrying about. The bad news is the problem is stress, not the other thing. Time for a spa day.



Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

What's love got to do with it? Well, pretty much everything. Without the love and support of those around you, you have had to work doubly hard to find the will to work so hard. Finally the love will be returned ten fold.



Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

Once a year you consider doing something radically different with you diet and exercise regimen, but usually this bright idea hits you around January 1st. This year, try starting earlier.



Cancer

Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

The universe is in general chaos around you. Fortunately you're not losing your cool...yet, however, you are losing time and money. Think about getting a second job for the holidays.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You may have been down on yourself lately (try always) but someone near you sees you for the amazing person you are. They may be too shy to tell you, but they admire you more than you can imagine.



Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

You're sick of those "Keep calm and..." signs because keeping calm isn't your strong suit. Fortunately you've arrived at a moment when being calm would be the worst decision possible. Lose it!



Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

Mechanical failures seem to abound. Although you've put it off and put it off, you will finally need to replace something you rely on. Take advantage of end of year financing options.

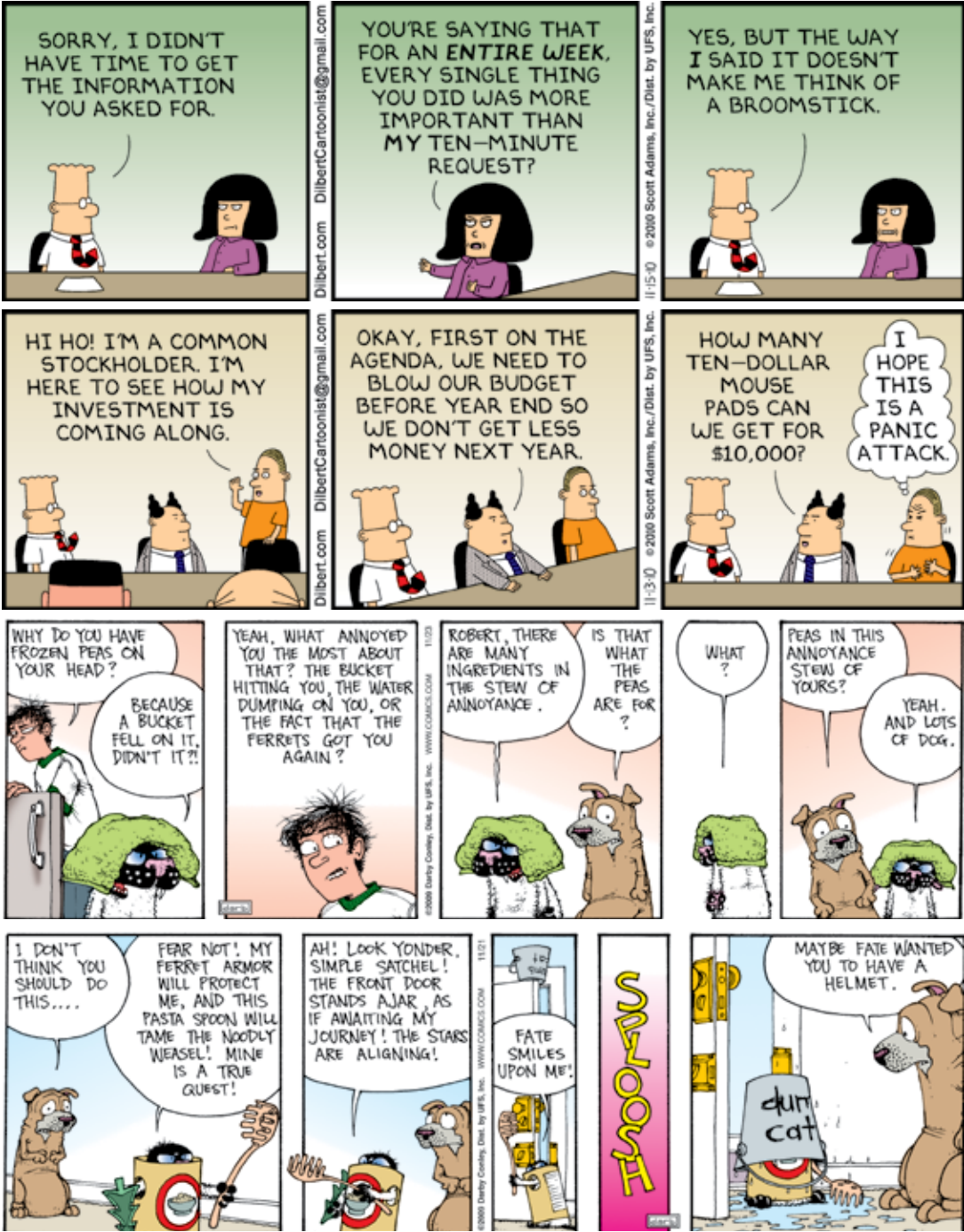


Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Ever thoughtful and conscientious you've reached the point where you really need to let yourself relax. It is okay to play hooky every once in a while. Preserve your sanity: take a day off.

2X DILBERT AND GET FUZZY



SUDOKU

Difficulty: 3 (of 5)

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

11-30-10

(c) JFS/KF -- Dist. by UFS, Inc.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.