THE COLLEGE VOICE

Mercer County Community College's student-run newspaper Since 1969

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Tuition Hikes Realized For Fall Semester

By Emelyne Smith
News Editor

Mercer County Community College students will pay at least 7 percent more to take classes this fall, but a boost in county funding kept the price tag from rising even higher.

Mercer County residents will see their tuition and fee bills jump by $7 per credit hour, to $98. Other New Jersey residents will pay $10 more per credit hour, or $131.50, while out-of-state students will pay $13 more, or $201.50.

Finalized by trustees at an April 20 board meeting, the hike was spurred by New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine's proposed cuts in state aid to higher education. State lawmakers are trying to close a $4.5 billion budget deficit.

Corzine's proposal will slash the state's share of MCCC's budget from $9.5 million to about $8.5 million. That cut the state's portion to less than one-fifth of the school's $47.4 million operating budget for 2006-07. That's down from New Jersey's decades-old plan to cover about a third of its community college budgets.

Mercer County officials helped bridge the $1 million shortfall by boosting aid to the college by almost 10 percent. Without county funds, acting President Tom Wilfrid had projected an increase of between $9 and $12 per credit hour for county residents.

Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes announced on April 18 that $550,000 in county surplus funds would be added to the county's normal allotment to MCCC.

Wilfrid said in an email that the extra payment resulted from weeks of discussions with county officials.

"All involved were trying to find the right balance between addressing the state budget shortfall by burdening county taxpayers or burdening the students," he said. "The solution arrived at shares the load more or less equally between them."

The payment represents the highest one-year boost from the county in the school's 40-year history. Mercer County's contribution to the college budget now stands at 28 percent, up 3 percent from last year.

Wilfrid also delivered his budget presentation to about 60 students at a Student Government Association meeting on the West Windsor campus.

SGA President Johanna Garrison and SGA Vice President Whitney Potts described the meeting as informative but agreed the

Con't TUITION, P7

Graduates Voice Praise, Concern About MCCC

By Christine Busacca
The College Voice

As they prepare for commencement May 25, some pending Mercer County Community College graduates are expressing mixed feelings about their college experience.

"Mercer has prepared me for future education by enforcing time management and strong study habits," said Melanie Sanders, 29, an art and history major who will walk in the ceremony but graduate in August after summer courses.

Still, she had criticisms of both her peers and of faculty and staff.

"Too many students believe that Mercer is the 13th grade, and their attitude and behavior reflect that," Sanders said. "And Mercer needs to focus more on the students individually."

Sanders and Tori Foma, 20, a special education and English major, agreed better communication is needed between administrators, transfer office officials and academic advisors.

Sanders said, "At times I've noticed that when I was scheduled for my new semester, there would be a class in my schedule that I didn't need to graduate. It shouldn't take over three years to get a two-year degree."

Foma agreed, "The most challenging thing about Mercer for me was getting all my credits in order to graduate in two years and have my classes accredited at other schools."

Still, Foma said, many faculty and staff provided help: "Mercer offered me great assistance in both deciding where I should transfer and guiding me through the entire transferring process."

Nick Gaspari, 20, a sports management major, also benefited from the transfer program.

"The transfer office helped me pick courses that other colleges would accredit," he said. "That way I didn't waste too many credits that other schools wouldn't even take."

Other graduates, such as Bahadir Ekiz, 19, a history major, had a difficult time getting in touch with adjunct professors and recommended the college hire more full-time teachers.

"Adjuncts are not always available because they're on campus less," Ekiz said. "Full-time professors are easier to get in contact with, whether it's by e-mail or telephone."

Ekiz said he appreciated the college's low student-to-professor ratio.

"I was able to take classes that I would take at a four-year university in a smaller

Con't GRADS, P11

Smokers Put Butts Out As State Ban Becomes Law

By Paul Plumeri
A&E Editor

The cliché of the smoked-filled bar became a figment of memory and fiction in establishments across the state April 15, when New Jersey's smoking ban came into effect – at least in most bars.

Reactions to the ban have ranged from satisfaction to outrage and defiance.

"I see this move as an oppression of my personal freedom," said Nick Polizzi, as he grudgingly put out his cigarette one recent day at Triumph Brewing Company in Princeton.

"I don't pay taxes so some bureaucrats can tell me where I can smoke," Polozzi said. "This is what we get for voting liberal."

Sitting nearby was Alexis Watson, looking sublimely content.

"This was absolutely a positive thing for everyone," she said. "Non-smokers like me don't have to deal with second-hand smoke, smokers are given the initiative to quit and bar owners don't have to deal with all the nasty butts."

Following last year's action by state lawmakers, cigarettes, cigars and pipe smoking are considered illegal in bars, restaurants and all other public buildings in New Jersey. Smokers are also barred from smoking within 25 feet of public buildings.

First-time fines for failure to comply range from $250 to $1,000 for both the offender and the business that allows the violation.

Despite the possible penalties, patrons at Champions Sports Bar in Trenton chose to stand defiant. On the day the ban came into effect, smoking not only failed to cease, it seemed to increase throughout the morning.

"I plan on chain smoking until the bar kicks me out," said a resolute Rondo Peterson. "This will be my last stand, and I don't give a flip" – using a stronger word unprintable in a family newspaper.

> *"This is what we get for voting liberal."*
> *-Nick Polizzi*

Joe's Millhill Saloon in Trenton had a completely alien scent a day after the ban – the scent of clean air.

"I haven't gotten any problems from anyone so far," said bartender Dave Miller. "I just quit smoking four days ago in preparation, so I'm not in nicotine shock right now."

Casinos were the only businesses spared, as industry insiders convinced lawmakers that a smoking ban would drive down profits and in turn lessen the share that goes to the state.

New Jersey is the 11th state to ban indoor smoking. California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington have implemented similar laws.

Recent bans in the United States are certainly not the first. In 1590, Pope Urban VII threatened excommunication from the Catholic church for anyone who "took tobacco in the porch way of or inside a church, whether it be by chewing it, smoking it with a pipe or sniffing it in powdered form through the nose."

Many business owners have rallied together to file a lawsuit against the state for discrimination, claiming the casino exception is unfair.

U.S. District Court Judge Stanley R. Chesler refused to lift the ban on April 14, but legal actions remain pending in state and federal courts.

College News

News from the Mercer County Community College Campus

Student News Student News Student News Stude

SGA President Meets with Governor Corzine

By Emelyne Smith
News Editor

Johanna Garrison, Mercer County Community College student president, patiently waited at the governor's mansion March 30 for Gov. Jon Corzine's fashionably late arrival.

Garrison was among 30 student leaders chosen to meet the governor at Drumthwacket, the sprawling mansion on Princton's outskirts, for an informal 2-hour discussion of the tuition hikes hitting New Jersey colleges come fall.

A week earlier Corzine had delivered his state budget address, proposing an unprecedented $169 million cut in college aid. The remaining $1.9 billion is insufficient to keep New Jersey's two- and four-year colleges, including MCCC, from raising tuition.

Corzine opened the meeting with a general overview of state finances but didn't mention exact numbers regarding higher ed cuts. He said he would be meeting with college presidents but wanted to hear from students, too.

"He wanted us to voice our concerns about how the budget would impact individual schools," Garrison said. "People did ask a lot of questions and made suggestions about getting students involved in these discussions."

Garrison herself didn't speak since she felt Mercer

Con't MEETING, P11

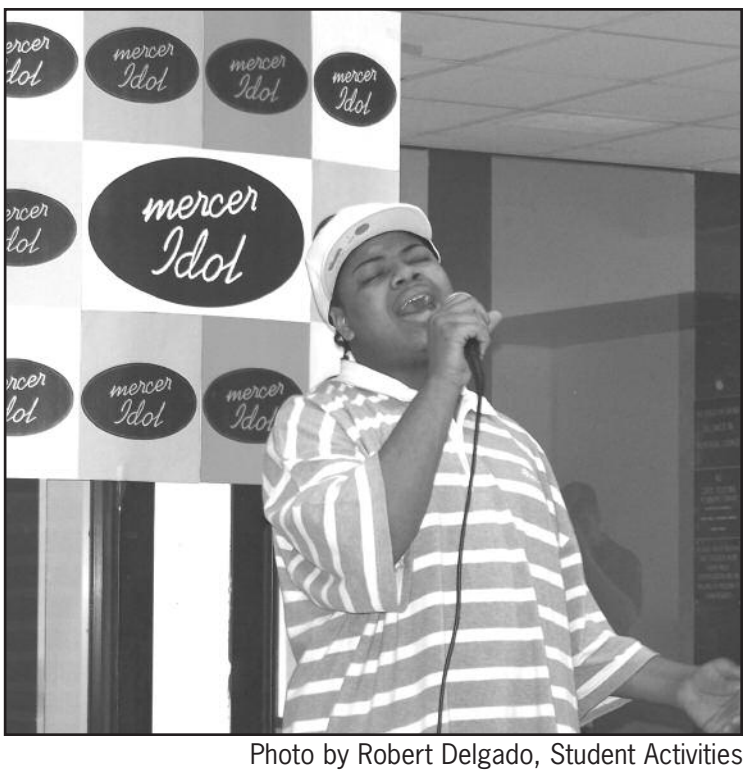

Photo by Robert Delgado, Student Activities

Runner-up Patrick Lee at the "Mercer Idol" show.

Simon Cowell, Watch Out: Here Comes "Mercer Idol" Show

By Scott Schendlinger
The College Voice

The decision was unanimous on April 11 as the audience cheered Roxanna Paul into the top spot of the first "Mercer Idol" contest.

Mercer County Community College contestants took the stage at the West Windsor Student Center to perform songs from Aretha Franklin to Gorillaz to Tool in a talent contest spun from the massive Fox TV hit "American Idol."

"There were several outstanding performances and a good variety of musical genres selected," said Jessica Harris, program assistant of Student Activities, which organized the show. About 200 students and staff streamed through the cafeteria during lunchtime hours to watch.

Some 15 people performed in the official contest, and another 25 sang afterward.

Con't IDOL, P11

Dodgeball Tournament Generates Enthusiasm

By Maria Koehler
The College Voice

Six colored balls – yellow, orange, blue, purple, green and red – lie on the gymnasium floor when moderator Casey Oakes shouts "One, two, three, dodge ball!"

To music from Sean Paul, Gwen Stefani and Madonna, men and women run for the balls. Two five-player teams have three minutes to whack their opponents with the balls before their players are struck. Two referees make sure players follow the rules.

The Latin Cycle ended up out-dodging 19 other teams to win a $200 cash prize at the New Jersey Phi Beta Lambda charity dodge ball tournament at the Mercer County Community College gym April 7.

Among the clubs going down to defeat: Meat Tantrum, The Competitors, TCNJ and Cobra Kai.

In a dramatic final round, as Queen's "We Will Rock You" thumped through the loudspeakers, Caleb Andrews, the lone remaining Latin Cyclist, fired his ball off the foot of his final foe on The Chargers.

An "excited" Andrews said his team's strategy was to keep moving.

Andrews' teammate and cousin, Francisco Olmeda III, a Mercer criminal justice major, hadn't played dodge ball since enduring two hours of fun in last year's tournament. He joked that he knew how to spend his $40 share of the prize money: "I'm going to Disney World."

The Chargers had just three minutes to relax from their semifinal win over the Student Activity Board before competing for the championship.

When the final was over the teams shook hands and received medals. The disc jockey played "We Are the Champions" while The Latin

Con't DODGEBALL, P11

Prom-goers Dance At Mercer For Equal Rights

By Scott Schendlinger
The College Voice

About 60 supporters of equal rights came together April 22 in the Mercer County Community College Conference Center to celebrate the Gay-Straight Alliance's Pride Prom.

Live music, catered food, dancing and two guest speakers entertained attendees from The College of New Jersey, Rider College, Gettysburg (Pa.) College and Raritan Valley Community College.

The night was "a success" and "a great start," said Liz Boyle, a Gay-Straight Alliance member and event organizer. "There's room for improvement, but we accomplished what we came out for: the fight for equality."

Part of the event's purpose was to allow lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender (LBGT) organizations of central New Jersey to get to know each other and have fun. People whose sexual preferences barred them from social events like proms wanted a chance to redo those events and have a great night, Boyle said.

It also raised money for the teen council of HiTOPS, a Princeton-based non-profit organization that educates high school students about safe sex, HIV/AIDS, rape, depression and other topics.

Guest speakers were David Nixon, president of Capital Rainbow Fest, and Noel Ramirez, president of TCNJ's LBGT organization, PRISM. The Morrison Brothers ended the night with music and dancing.

"The decorations, food and entertainment were classy and surprisingly sophisticated for a student-run event," said Jessica Harris, Student Activities program assistant, who singled out Boyle for praise.

"We couldn't have done a finer job ourselves."

Photo by Scott Schendlinger

MCCC's Gay-Straight Alliance hosted a 'Pride Prom' at the Conference Center on April 22. The event brought out 60 people, some dressed in drag, to support equal rights and Princeton-based HiTOPS.

Administration News Administration News Admini

State Budget Stalls Contract Negotiations

By Scott Schendlinger
The College Voice

With negotiations at a standstill until the state budget passes, completing a new Mercer County Community College faculty contract before July looks unlikely.

Professor Arthur Schwartz, chief MCCC Faculty Association negotiator for every contract since 1978, said no talks are taking place to replace the current contract, set to expire June 30.

He said that the faculty's proposal has been on the table for more than a month, but the board of trustees has refused to counteroffer.

Acting President Thomas Wilfrid said in an email that trustees are awaiting state budget approval before continuing negotiations.

To close New Jersey's $4.5 billion budget gap, Gov. John Corzine has announced plans to cut $169 million in higher education funds, including about a 10 percent cut for MCCC. But the final state education budget won't likely be official before June 30.

Facing possible state cuts of almost $1 million, MCCC administrators are scrambling to patch the budget hole. That complicates negotiations with five employee labor groups, including the faculty, which have contracts expiring in June.

"The situation may be more hopeful after the state legislature and governor finalize the state's budget on or about June 30," Wilfrid said. "This has been explained to the faculty association's negotiators."

Schwartz said he is considering suggesting to the faculty that the union file an unfair labor practice charge against the board for its negotiating stance.

If labor contracts expire, workers will continue under the expired contracts' terms.

Professor Robert Pugh, association president, said negotiations are not going well because no one is meeting to discuss them. He said the delay worries him.

Last month, Pugh and Schwartz expressed concern that trustees for the first time have hired an outside negotiator, labor consultant James Reilly, to lead talks with Mercer workers.

Pugh said the longer negotiations take, the higher the chances that faculty members will take job actions, such as refusing to serve on voluntary school committees.

Schwartz and Pugh also expressed concern that another union might settle before the faculty. Schwartz said the faculty typically settles first, and other unions follow.

Schwartz said no New Jersey community college has received less than a 4 percent pay increase in recent contract negotiations. He also said the faculty has no intention of giving up health benefits.

Empty Campus Security Log Prompts Questions

By Najia Rizvi
The College Voice

Mercer County Community College's faculty and staff are questioning whether campus security officers are complying with a federal law that requires them to keep public records.

Under the law – known as the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security and Campus Crime Statistics Act – all federally funded colleges "shall make, keep, and maintain a daily log" of crimes reported on campus. The law requires that the log be made available for public viewing.

The college's security logbook is nearly empty.

Mike Dill, head of college security, said that to his knowledge MCCC fully complies with the Clery Act.

"We are doing what the law asks us to do," Dill said.

Recently, a March on-campus car break-in remained unrecorded in the logbook until five days after the initial crime. The delay prompted questions from faculty and staff.

Dill said the delay occurred because a student witness called the West Windsor police instead of notifying security.

Arnie Marx, supervisor of security, said the information wasn't added sooner because officials were waiting for incident details from the police.

Colleges that receive federal dollars are required to report crimes including murder, sex offenses, robbery, assault, burglary, car theft and arson. Reports must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education and must be accessible to the public.

Dill has decided to include petty thefts in the security logbook and says students have a right to know what goes on at MCCC. He added, though, that many students don't report crimes that fit under those categorized by the Clery Act.

English Professor Jim Franklin said the law's crime classifications are vague.

"Mercer does comply with the Clery Act, yet they only report a brief list," Franklin said. "Security has

Con't LOGS, P11

International Students Hit Hardest By Tuition Boost

By Asad Rizvi
The College Voice

International students at Mercer County Community College will be hardest hit by next fall's tuition increase, and financial aid won't be available to lessen the blow.

Currently, out-of-state students pay the highest tuition and fees of any students at $188.50 per credit hour. The board of trustee's vote last month to raise tuition for 2006-07 will raise their rates by $13, to $201.50.

"Prices for international students are always rising," said Yasmine Djerbal, vice president of Mercer's International Student Organization. "We pay double or triple the prices others do."

Mercer County residents will pay $98 per credit hour next year.

Because of limits placed on financial aid to non-U.S citizens, many international students will have to endure the price hikes without assistance.

Amy Immordino, an international student services advisor, said prospective foreign students must show they can support themselves before even being permitted to enroll. MCCC does not admit those who cannot sponsor themselves, she said.

Financial aid is only available for American citizens and non-citizens with alien registration cards. Students who fall outside of both categories are registered as F-1s.

"F-1s don't qualify for any financial aid, federal, state, or student loans," said Jason Taylor, associate director of financial aid.

Immordino said F-1 applicants are informed before their admission that the school cannot assist them financially.

MCCC currently enrolls 172 students with F-1 status, who hale from 44 different countries.

The following is an annomcenent from Phi Theta Kappa:

Graduating members of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of two-year Colleges, will be honored in a special ceremony preceding Commencement on May 25th. Special recognitions will be awarded to members who have been particularly active in chapter events based on the organization's Hallmarks of Leadership, Scholarship, Fellowship and Service.

Faculty, staff, as well as family and friends of graduates, are cordially invited to attend the ceremony in Kelsey Theater at 4 PM on Thursday, May 25.

Graduates are asked to bring the honors regalia they have purchased from Phi Theta Kappa register to the theater and register no later than 3:45. Graduates and their guests are requested to place a reservation with one of the chapter's advisors, Helene Plank (plankh@mccc.edu, x 3217) or Professor Laura Sosa (sosal@mccc.edu, x 3475).

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Foreign Language Society Inducts New Members

By Arthur Iurilli
The College Voice

Smells of Spanish arroz con pollo, German beef roladin, French flounder in white wine sauce, Asian pot stickers and Italian stuffed shells filled the air April 21 at Mercer County Community College's faculty dinner hall.

The food honored the linguistic dedication of nine inductees to the Kappa Iota chapter of the Alpha Mu Gamma Foreign Language Honor Society, which held its 22nd annual induction ceremony.

Belly dancers and Spanish singers also made up the night's entertainment. Chattering in different tongues was heard as inductees spent a few moments communicating in their language of study. This year's inductees represented four languages: French, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

Each inductee received no less than an "A-" in two levels of foreign language. A cumulative minimum GPA of 3.25 is required "to show they are well rounded students, not ones who do well in some classes," said Steven Richman, foreign language program coordinator and chapter co-advisor, along with Professor Joseph Bartkowicz.

About 30 students were invited this semester to join Alpha Mu Gamma-Kappa Iota and be honored at International Night, and nine were inducted.

Mercer offers courses in French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Polish, and Spanish, and plans to add Arabic to the list next year.

For the first time this year, one of the inductees was unable to speak any of those languages. This inductee was hearing impaired and used sign language to communicate with her two interpreters, who translated into English.

Con't INDUCT, P6

Features

The Highlights of Mercer County Community College

MCCC Student Rides Bike Over 1,500 Miles

By Danielle Cifelli
Features/Sports Editor

Making a trip half-way across the country is no big deal with a car, a plane or even a motorcycle. But on a bicycle?

Last summer, 20-year-old Mercer County Community College student Jesse O'Neill found himself at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas with nothing to do.

O'Neill had just been discharged from the Air Force.

"I had a problem following orders, and I got kicked out," he said. "They're like, all right, you're going home."

With no idea what to do before his first semester at MCCC, O'Neill decided to buy a red Murray mountain bike from a shop on base. Then he set out to ride from Wichita Falls, Texas, to his home in Hamilton – more than 1,500 miles.

O'Neill says he rode virtually non-stop and in all types of weather. He took the trip by himself and says his cell phone was dead for days at a time.

The two-and-a-half month journey left O'Neill with much time to reflect on himself and those around him.

"Everywhere I'd go, there are just crummy, miserable people," he recalled. "You'd see these people on the street, and you'd just look at them and you know there's no ambition, no hope for the future in their eyes.

"I saw so many people like that on this trip that it's almost overwhelming," O'Neill added.

Wearing the same outfit the entire trek, including days of rain and extreme humidity, wasn't exactly a highlight, O'Neill said.

"I'd say the hardest part was the hygiene," he said. "Because some days, you'd smell so bad, so sour, it'd make your eyes water."

During the adventure O'Neill ate only Subway sandwiches. He saved his receipts and sent them to his mother in Hamilton. When she contacted Subway about her son's eating habits, the chain offered him a sponsorship to retake the trip.

Though the adventure left O'Neill hungry for more, the hunger apparently doesn't extend to Subway sandwiches. (He says they taste "waxy.") He declined the offer but hopes to soon take another long-distance ride on his own.

"Seriously," he said, "I will never be satisfied until I have covered all the ground coast to coast – not in a car, but in a bicycle."

New Program Makes DREAMs Come True

By Danielle Cifelli
Features/Sports Editor

Susan Onaitis' office may be quaint and hidden on the library's upper floor, but the work she and others are doing for Mercer County Community College is a bold step for children with intellectual disabilities.

Developing Real Expectations for Achieving Mastery (DREAM) is a pilot program designed to give students with Down Syndrome and other intellectual disabilities a chance to get a college education and explore careers.

The College of New Jersey and MCCC have collaborated during the project's first year of planning. In the fall semester MCCC will launch a two-year program with six to eight students, while TCNJ will host a four-year version.

Onaitis, MCCC's DREAM coordinator, says the program will give higher educational opportunities to many students who before faced nothing but closed doors.

"It's a really big thing because there's nothing around here," Onaitis said. "The opportunities are very limited."

When Academic Support Services held a DREAM open house last month, between 20 and 30 families expressed interest, Onaitis said

"There was a family who traveled from Bergen County, and some families are even considering moving to Mercer County just to be a part of the program," she said.

Among other criteria, students must be 18 to 25 and have an intellectual disability – defined in the DREAM application as "characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills."

Students and their parents must complete an application and obtain three recommendations. Some prospective students have begun to meet another requirement by sitting in on Mercer academic and elective classes.

If accepted, DREAM students will be required to take an academic course, an elective class, the College Success Seminar and Introduction to Careers. Students will also work in jobs around the college.

Kelly Borden-Joye, who has been working with the program since February, says the plan is to help students explore career choices and that job shadowing will be included.

"There are even job opportunities internally at the college, such as the gym, the library or the cafeteria," Borden-Joye said. "Maybe after doing jobs at the college there is a possibility of branching out to outside businesses."

Con't DREAM, P11

African Lecture Series Focuses on Pop Music History

By William Carr
The College Voice

The soul of James Brown, the experimentation of Radiohead and the blues-driven sadness of Muddy Waters all have roots in early African-American music.

These artists and many others were part of a tour of African musical influences dating back to the slave trade conducted April 5 by James Kelly, Mercer County Community College professor of music.

Enlivened by rhythmic clapping and Kelly's own guitar playing, the lecture noted that musical styles developed by African slaves in the American colonies differed from any style of music that existed in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Kelly also aimed to convey one of the many characteristics of African music – the feel of being part of a group.

Modern styles such as blues, jazz and gospel have roots in slavery, he said.

Slaves may not have been allowed to do much, but they were allowed to sing, Kelly said. This led to the development of the "field holler," or what Kelly described as "sung talk."

Field hollering was not only significant in its often mournful lyrical content but in the way it was sung, as emotions were conveyed using a variety of techniques. Slaves used different scales and the "bending" of notes to come up with unique tones. The style evolved into what became called "the blues."

Kelly used his electric guitar to showcase aspects of traditional blues that can be found in rock-guitar riffs from the likes of Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin, demonstrating a striking similarity between old and new.

At one moment, from every section of the room came clapping and, as Kelly encouraged the audience to follow his lead, a familiar African rhythm emerged.

Kelly drew laughs when he cited a quote from noted musician and producer Brian Eno: "A nerd is a human being without enough Africa

Con't MUSIC, P11

Mercer Prof Cultivates Minds, Captivates Hearts

By Esther Mills
Managing Editor

Joan Goldstein has spent 13 years as an adjunct professor in Mercer County Community College's English and sociology departments opening her students' minds and hearts.

"I learned a lot from her class – a lot of things I wasn't taught in high school," said Timothy Moore, a Mercer student. "She opened my mind so that I could see."

Fellow professors also acclaim her.

"She's good to her students, she's kind and she's concerned," said English professor David Leeb. "She does a whole lot of good things."

"I have a following," Goldstein said. "Students follow me from course to course."

Goldstein designed a Women and Literature class which has been so popular that at times more than 50 students have enrolled. A group of nurses who worked at Saint Francis Hospital came together to take the class.

"Getting them going and personalizing it" is a technique Goldstein uses to motivate her students. Goldstein's education – a doctorate in research sociology from The Graduate Center of City University of New York; a master's degree in education and counseling from Bank Street College; and a bachelor's in English literature from the University of Iowa – lies behind her power in the classroom.

Being on the cutting-edge is nothing new for Goldstein. In 1978 she got her doctorate at a time when most women were still housewives. College professors were mostly men, and if a job opportunity arose, a good recommendation would generally be given to a less-qualified man.

"There was no incentive for professors to feel like you were entitled to your due," Goldstein said. Therefore, her motivation has always been internal. "I never thought of obstacles. I always thought of how good it was that I was doing it."

Goldstein held several teaching jobs while obtaining her doctorate, at times commuting from a job on one side of New York City to classes on the other. Though the process was arduous, her teaching skills were refined by the many hours she needed to pay for college. She taught at Brooklyn College, City College of New York, Lehman College and Hunter College – all of which helped her hone her classroom technique.

But Goldstein's talents are not limited to teaching. She has written three books: "Pine Barrens of New Jersey," "The Politics of Offshore Oil," and "Demanding Clean Food & Water: The Fight for Basic Human Rights."

Goldstein is always eager to share her written work. Last month she teamed with musician John Burkhalter to share her newest poems, "Sketches," at Princeton Marketfair's Barnes & Noble. As she read poems about her students, Burkhalter accompanied with sounds created on ancient instruments.

Students are often on her mind, and Goldstein loves to communicate with them.

"I always tell students that I will answer them if they write me," Goldstein said. "Their dialogue is so rich. They let you know who they are. I'm like the gardener – all these little flowers out there. I give them water and the sunshine – they start to grow – I am delighted – I am thrilled."

Professor Joan Goldstein with her students.

Joan Goldstein
March, 2006

Soc. 101
SOCIAL CLASS

"Who wants to be poor?" I ask, and
no one raises their hand –
"Or middle class?" and nearly
every student nods - except for
two. "Why middle class?"
And Brian says, "That's how you find love –
You need to have money." Jason who
Rarely speaks mutters, "I'm tired of
Living paycheck to paycheck." I push on. "And rich?
Who wants to be rich?" The two unspoken put their hands up,
Into the air. "And how will you achieve this?"
"By finishing school and working hard." Scott speaks
in a low voice, as if he were embarrassed to yearn for
Riches.

"Wait!" Eric calls out – his face lined with
conflict. "Can I be both rich and middle class?"
He has already chosen the middle class, but looks
At me, imploringly, as if I were a Greek oracle, deciding his
Fate; and even before I can find an answer, Eric
Crashes his fist on the edge of the chair, "No!"
He shouts, determined, "I'm tired of
Being a spoiled brat – I'll be middle-class!"
And the students cheer.

Computer Gaming Addicts

By Chris McGloin
The College Voice

At 9:15 every morning, Robyn Dmytrow forces herself out of bed for her 10 a.m. class at Mercer County Community College.

As usual, she has to rush through her morning routine to make sure she arrives on time. After scurrying like a panicked ant to get dressed she runs to her car, almost always skipping breakfast. On the 20-minute drive to the West Windsor campus she is virtually half-asleep. She still finds a way to make it to class.

After classes, though, her real day begins. She goes home and loads Final Fantasy 11 on her computer, much like she's done every other night this semester. She loses herself in the game until at least 3:00 a.m. Next morning, the cycle begins again.

Though Dmytrow's favorite field is science, she struggles just to score a C in her Ecology and Chemistry classes. Dmytrow says she maintained A's and B's her entire life until recently.

Dmytrow is an example of a trend among college students: gaming addiction.

A study done by Simon Fraser University revealed that one in every four teenage gamers believes he or she is addicted to gaming and is troubled by a lack of control. According to the study, the gaming-addict mentality does not end after the teen years and can be very prevalent among college students.

The biggest age bracket of the gaming market is 18 to 23, making stressed-out college students the most likely to become addicted.

In rare cases, addiction to gaming can become severe enough to debilitate one's life.

According to the National Institute on Media and the Family, symptoms of severe addiction among adult gamers can look much like those of drug use: obsession and preoccupation, interference with human relationships, sleep deprivation, neglect of personal hygiene, lying about use and feelings of withdrawal and depression after stopping.

One study suggests that a cause of gaming addiction may be similar to that of drug addiction, as well.

Con't GAMING, P11

A Safer Way for Students to Speed

By William Carr
The College Voice

The scene is all too familiar: a student exiting Mercer's West Windsor campus pulled over on Old Trenton Road for speeding.

A walk around campus parking lots reveals that many students own and take pride in sports cars and fast vehicles in which they may be tempted to speed. Most of these owners can tell stories of their driving recklessness or how fast they've driven on a city street.

"I love my radar detector and pay no attention to posted speed limits," admitted one such owner, MCCC student Jeremy Horta.

Another student, Andrew Morabito, said, "I have been pulled over before for speeding, and I love to drive fast."

And a driver of a silver sports car who wished to remain anonymous told of driving recently in speeds

Con't SPEED, P7

REVIEW: Slowdown Café Enlivens Heightstown

By Zohair Zaidi
The College Voice

From the sultry paninos to the soft brownies, Slowdown Café offers a variety of tastes and temptations to anyone willing to indulge.

The café, located in downtown Hightstown, aims to provide a relaxed atmosphere for those who enter its doors. Its use of soft lighting and red, vibrant tablecloths brings a touch of European class to small-town New Jersey. Along the walls of Slowdown are pictures of Hightstown dating back to the late 19th century to remind patrons of the town's history.

Michael Venderbeck bought the property three years ago in hopes of adding personality to the town. Venderbeck was involved in the revitalization of Hightstown as a council member three years ago.

"It was obvious that Hightstown needed a café where the community could meet and greet each other," Vanderbeck said.

The café serves a wide variety of hot and cold drinks. From the refreshing lattes to the stimulating peanut butter ice cream, Slowdown presents a European taste with a touch of Americana.

It also provides local rock bands with a venue.

"Local bands such as Steve have gotten popular

Con't CAFE, P11

Arts and Entertainment

Mercer's Creative Side

Prof Depicts Aspect of U.S. and Russian History

By Chris Cole
The College Voice

Paintings by Yevgeniy Fiks, a Mercer County Community College professor of visual arts, are reminders of the past and present relationship between Russia and the United States.

Fiks' black-and-white oils, which currently hang in galleries in Moscow and New York City, are recreations of scenes from American-made Soviet propaganda films released during World War II.

Like many Hollywood films, the films were unfaithful depictions of real life. While the United States had cut ties with the Soviet Union shortly after its Communist revolution of 1917, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration sought to improve the Soviet image when it became an ally against Nazi Germany.

"The films are glamorous versions of Russian life," Fiks said. "Every Russian depicted in the film, including Stalin, is forever joyful, ultimately creating a favorable image in the eyes of the U.S."

Fiks' paintings depict the films' most propagandist scenes. One painting shows a Russian man and woman, both portrayed by American actors, gleefully reading a Soviet newspaper. Another shows a beautiful Russian woman dressed in plain clothes looking through a telescope.

"The scene is obviously staged, because the woman is still notably glamorous despite her clothes, and the lightning is perfect," Fiks said.

Fiks' paintings are recreations of scenes from American-made Soviet propganda films released during World War II.

Fiks places in some of his movie-scene paintings the logos of American film studios like Warner Bros. and Metro Goldwyn-Mayer in the left-hand corners.

"I included the logos in some of the paintings because I wanted to make it clear that the Russian propaganda movies were written, directed and produced by Hollywood," he said.

Fiks, who lives in New York City, has taught computer graphics and animation at Mercer since 1999. He moved to the United States with his parents in 1994, when he was 21, and soon began exploring the history of relations between his two homes.

Allies against the Axis nations, the Soviet Union and the United States saw their relationship deteriorate after World War II. During four decades of the Cold War, U.S. perceptions of Russia changed drastically, an attitude evident in numerous American movies released between 1946 and 1990.

"In comparison with the American-produced films about Russia that inspired my paintings, movies like 'Rocky IV' depict Russians as rude, ignorant and corrupt," Fiks noted.

Unlike the movies upon which Fiks based his paintings, the artist considers his works not propaganda but reminders of the two countries' history.

"I created the paintings to educate people," Fiks said. "I am a historian, and as a historian, my intention is to inform."

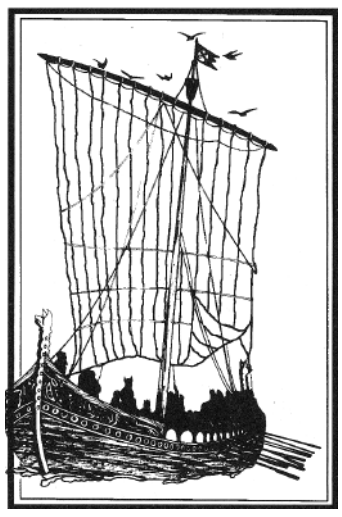
Kelsey Review Reaches Milestone With New Editions

By Christine Busacca
The College Voice

With its 25th year of publication approaching, the Kelsey Review is being reformed with a new editorial staff during its silver anniversary.

Robin Schore, dean of the Mercer County Community College liberal arts division, has resigned as the literary magazine's editor after 24 years.

"I have tired blood, and I'm the least talented of all the editors involved with the Kelsey Review," Schore said. "Fresh, younger and brighter minds are ready to take my place."



The Kelsey Review's Logo.

MCCC English professors Ed Carmien and Holly Johnson will be taking over and lead the review's five-person editorial board.

The Review's objective is to invite Mercer County residents who are writers or artists to submit their work for publication. Published every September, the review accepts short fiction, poetry, essays, brief excerpts from novels, black-and-white lined drawings and cartoons.

What makes the Review different from other publications is its regional focus.

"Mercer County is ideal," Johnson said. "It is close to numerous schools, universities and businesses that have talented individuals."

The magazine's editorial board evaluates each submission and encourages originality and freshness. Those whose work is rejected receive constructive comments on how to improve their writing for the next publication.

"As a writer who has been rejected numerous times for publication, being rejected and getting feedback is almost just as good as being published," Carmien said.

Both Johnson and Carmien believe their first challenge as editors will be keeping up the high standard that Schore created during his 24-year reign.

"Luckily for us, the other three board members have been involved with the Kelsey Review before," Johnson said. "Plus, we can always go down the hall and knock on Schore's door if we have any questions."

For the 25th anniversary, the editorial board wants to capture the history of Mercer County.

For further information about submitting material, contact Carmien at carmiene@mccc.edu or Johnson at johnsonh@mccc.edu.

Career Services "Not Applicable?" No Way!

In the 2005 Mercer County Community College Graduating Student Survey recently made available, 25%-35% of the students marked "not applicable" next to Career Services. Why? We asked ourselves in Career Services. We aren't just about jobs. We aren't just for students who don't know what they want to major in. We're really here for everyone because we help with career planning in all of its stages. Aren't career goals and career changes what most students are here for?

According to Mercer Quick Facts Fall 2005 the greatest number of students is majoring in Nursing, followed closely by those majoring in Humanities and Social Sciences. If nursing students need help with resumes and cover letters or lists of local hospitals, or suggestions of other places to work, we are here to help. We do interview coaching as well.

If your major is Humanities and Social Sciences, do you know what you can do with a major in history/? We have information to give you to explore many possibilities of areas to work in, employers to seek out and strategies to explore to get into these areas. Government, museums, libraries, historic sites, research institutes, news departments of radio and television stations and colleges and universities are a few of the places that would welcome history majors.

Would you like to know what the average pay is for workers in you major? The required education? Skills needed? Job titles? Job outlook? (Will there be opportunities for you to get a job in the field when you graduate?) Job security? We have Sigi3 on our web page to answer those questions and more. Call us at x 3397 for the access code.

INDUCT

Con't from P3

Alpha Mu Gamma does not recognize sign language because of its lack of spoken, grammatical and cultural contexts, Richman said. However, this has recently been made a topic of discussion among Alpha Mu Gamma members.

Alpha Mu Gamma is organized out of City College of Los Angeles, where the first chapter began in 1931. The Mercer chapter's first induction was held in 1984, and the 26 initial members remain Kappa Iota's largest induction.

An early inductee and former student president was Michael Beihl, inducted in 1989. Beihl went on to major in languages and returned to Mercer to coordinate the English as a Second Language program.

The chapter has about 30 active members, joining several hundred since it was founded. Those interested should speak with Richman or Bartkowicz.

COMMENTARY: "Vendetta"'s Truth Will Set You Free

By Chris Cole
The College Voice

The anti-establishment values conveyed in the recent movie "V for Vendetta" are expressed with symbolism, the same technique by which Dada Surrealist artists expressed their messages to subvert authority.

"V for Vendetta" contains layers of meaning through both symbolic dialogue and visual and verbal metaphors, which form pieces of a huge puzzle.

"Vendetta" tells the story of a totalitarian government set in England. A young woman named E.V. suddenly and seemingly at random finds herself entwined with a crusader who wears a Guy Fawkes mask and is known only as "V." The government dubs V a "terrorist"; he is the movie's hero.

The mask is a symbol; V's name is a symbol; V's whole being is a symbol.

Guy Fawkes was a revolutionary crusader in the 17th Century. The name "V" is a symbol of Fawkes' November 5 murder plot that cost him his life. V himself is a symbol of the freedom the oppressed people of the film's England crave.

Surrealism is a 20th century artistic style which posits that images are based in the human subconscious and that seemingly random objects are somehow connected.

Created by the Dadaists, Surrealism became its own political movement. The followers of Dada revolted against the idea that art created religious values; Dadaists believed that art should be interpretive and not solely a symbol of religion. They used surrealism to attack authoritative figures like the Pope, whom the Dadaists saw as a symbol of oppression.

"The Dadaists blamed the government for the First World War," says MCCC art professor Mel Leipzig. "The Dadaists were inspired by the rebellious Futurists who came before them, but the difference is that the Futurists protested by using violence while the Dadaists refused."

In "Vendetta," V says that "artists use lies to reveal the truth" while "politicians use lies to bury the truth." The Dadaists wanted people to come to their own conclusions about truth and not be controlled by power-mad, propagandistic governments.

MCCC students have different perspectives on "V for Vendetta"'s meaning.

Student Aaron Zeichner knew the plot from the comic book that inspired the film and knew that some see the film as promoting terrorism. (The movie's release was apparently delayed after the July 7, 2005, subway bombings in London.)

"To me the film is less about acts of terrorism than about tyrannical government,"

Zeichner said. "V was a symbol of the anger that people of society felt towards their government."

Student Keith Harper called the film "awesome." He said V tapped the public's unconscious emotions and "inspired the people to embrace the truth.

"In the same way that slaves would destroy a slave ship, the buildings that represented the government had to be destroyed, as if to start with a clean slate," Harper continued. "V showed the people the way but left it up to them to decide if they wanted to follow. V wanted the people to make their own choice."

Leipzig said, "Any government is the superego, because it is the oppressive force that dictates to the ego, which is the self. The rules and regulations that a government enforces are all apart of the superego."

"V for Vendetta" and Dadaist Surrealism both seek to represent the deepest truths through the use of symbols – surface signs with deeper meanings behind them. "Vendetta" and Surrealism demonstrate how truth can set the mind free.

Professor Brings Still Lifes To Life

By Christine Busacca
The College Voice

Laser pointer in hand and slideshow at the ready ready, an entertaining Professor Mel Leipzig portrayed the shifting nature of still life painting from the ancient Romans to the 21st century at a Mercer County Community College lecture April 11.

Leipzig, a Trenton resident and a Mercer professor of art and art history, said still life was originally looked upon as the "lowest form of painting."

Leipzig said that although the still life form began in ancient Rome, it wasn't perfected until the 17th century. When he showed a bowl of fruit painted by Caravaggio, he said with a chuckle, "Wouldn't you like to eat that stuff over there?"

Leipzig discussed works by Van Gogh, Dali, Cezanne, Redon, Matisse and many others. More modern artists such as Andy Warhol and his "Campbell Soup" made the cut, and Leipzig showed contemporary still lifes as well, including a few of his own pieces.

Throughout his narration, Leipzig would emphasize favorite paintings by exclaiming, "This is beautiful!" as soon as a particular slide hit the screen.

Showing one Matisse slide, Leipzig said passionately, "I find this painting unbelievable." He added, "But when I was a child I thought it was a piece of crap."

Leipzig not only educated but entertained the audience. At one point he said, "To make a good painting you do what you have to – cheat and lie."

Leipzig has participated in numerous one-man and group shows. His works are displayed in the White House Collection, Yale University Art Gallery and the New Jersey State Museum.

"Anyone who was rejected from a show, don't feel bad. All great painters were," said Leipzig, referring to Picasso, O'Keeffe, Van Gogh, Cezanne and several others.

The professor's passion and humor allowed the audience to share his enthusiasm from first slide to last.

TUITION
Con't from P1

president failed to inform students sufficiently about the reasons behind the tuition hikes.

"Wilfrid never really got into why the tuition was being raised," said Potts, who receives no financial aid assistance and also pays out-of-county tuition.

"Students at the meeting were listening and being nice," Garrison said. "There just wasn't enough time for questions."

Garrison also noted that, though any tuition hike makes an impact, Mercer students will not suffer to the same degree as other New Jersey college students. The state's $169 million cut to higher education will raise tuitions at all of New Jersey's public colleges next fall.

Few Mercer students complained immediately about the tuition increases, which remain less than those projected at colleges like Rutgers.

Banking major Doug Francimore, who uses the school's tuition waver program, said, "Mercer is still a bargain compared to other schools."

Wilfrid told trustees he doesn't expect tuition costs to hurt enrollment rates for the fall. The school is projecting 1 percent enrollment growth next year.

SPEED
Con't from P5

exceeding 150 mph on the Jersey turnpike.

What such students may not know is that they can go push their vehicles to the limits in a safe environment. Englishtown Raceway Park is no more than 25 minutes from Mercer County and is a cheap, easy, and safe place for students to enjoy their vehicles.

Located in Old Bridge township, Raceway Park features a quarter-mile drag strip, as well as a dirt track and autocross. For around $40, a person can test her car on the drag strip, as well as rent a helmet (which is required).

The number of times a person can use the track usually depends on how early she arrives. The autocross and drift events cost more but allow for more track time.

Any vehicle can be used on the track as long as it meets safety standards. After a pass is made down the track, the driver receives a sheet displaying the time and speed it took to get through the quarter mile.

State Trooper Danny Lugo said that as the weather gets nicer, he pulls over about eight or nine younger men and women for speeding in an average week. He said he rarely catches people in the act of racing but is sure it happens often.

For more information about Raceway Park visit www.racewaypark.com.

The following is an annomcenent from Phi Theta Kappa:

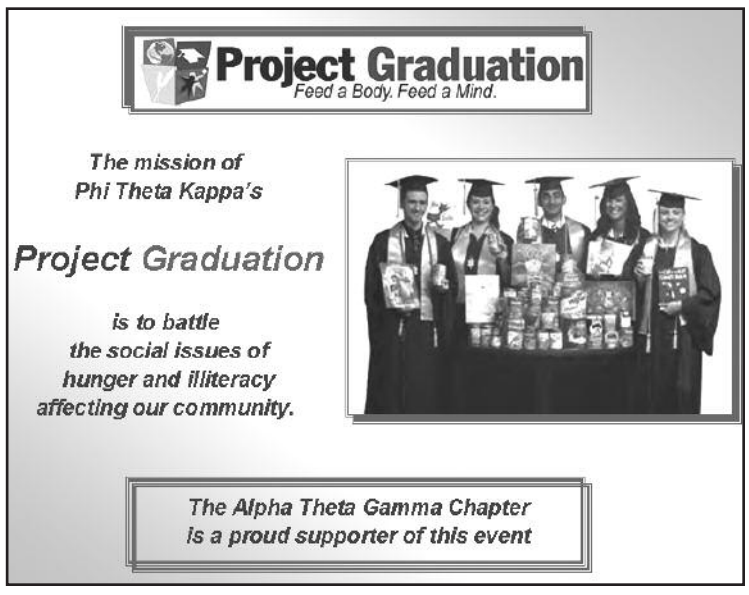
Project Graduation
Feed a body - feed a mind!

Contratulations prospective graduates! You have succeeded in comleteting your program of study here at Mercer. Think of the help you have recieved along the way: faculty, staff, family, friends, and maybe scholarship aid have helped you get where you are.

Now it is time for you to give someone less fortunate a hand. When you go to the Student Center Between May 22 and 25 to pick up your cap and gown, please take a donation of non-perishable food items of a children's book to be donated to a local shelter in Mercer County. Help battle hunger and illiteracy in our community!

Mercer's Alpha Theta Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the National Honor Society of Two-Year Colleges is supporting this event.

Barbara Wethe, Co-VP for Publicity,
Ptk.pubrel@gmail.com, 609-799-6528



Opinion

The Voices of Mercer County Community College

Do nice guys finish last?

COMMENTARY
by Chris Cole
MCCC Student

Arrogance and treachery are trademark qualities of some of society's most successful men and women.

That said, is the old saying still true today? Do nice guys really finish last?

The nice guy stands in contrast to the cutthroat personas of prominent people like Bill O'Reilly, or the contestants battling for Donald Trump's approval on television's "The Apprentice."

The nice guy doesn't get the girl. Nice guys are likely to relate more to movie characters played by Luke Wilson rather than Matthew McConaughey's hot shots.

In various fields of life, being nice can hinder success.

In corporate settings, people are often rewarded for being firm and shrewd. To make it in today's competitive job market, many people figure their surest pathway to success is to lie and cheat.

"There are times when you have to be firm, but shrewd is too harsh a word," said Mercer student Shaheen Qasir. "Sometimes when presenting an idea or point of view, saying it in a firm, authoritative manner gains more respect. Your point of view is taken seriously."

Beginning in grade school, children compete with each other socially and academically. These behaviors often continue through adulthood, as "The Apprentice" so aptly illustrates.

Witnessing the achievements of others can also fuel one's competitive side. If a man's colleague gets promoted instead of him, his instincts may tell him that he needs to outdo his colleague. Even if aggressive competitiveness is not his natural style, the ultimate prize of outshining someone else may become more important.

Failure can damage a person's confidence and self-worth. For some people, failure is not an option.

The inevitable question is whether there's a price for ruthless behavior. If someone treats others badly just to land a top position, it's assumed that he'll get what he deserves, his comeuppance.

"I disagree with the thought of shrewdness being a requirement for survival in the world," said MCCC student Greg Paul. "Sure, some people do succeed by using treachery, but those people, for the most part, lack any ethics, which stops them from exercising moral judgment. In the end, those kinds of people usually get what they deserve."

I, for one, think that being a "nice guy" like me goes a long way. There's a huge difference between being a nice person and being a pushover.

It's true that arrogant people do get ahead, but I've found that if I stay true to myself, my natural personality will get me through anything, and ultimately bring me success.

In most cases, the jerks of the world are jerks because it's the only way that they know how to be. In one way, they are antisocial because their behavior is static: they are the same mean people all of the time.

Nice guys can communicate with all types of people. They can adjust their behavior to accommodate others, and make themselves more comfortable. Nice guys are well-rounded – a quality that can generate all kinds of success.

A Fond Farewell, and a Glance Toward The Future

EDITORIAL
by Matt Witkowski
Editor-In-Chief
The College Voice

At the beginning of the spring 2006 semester, I told the newly recruited newspaper staff of The College Voice that their time on the newspaper would be a rough ride. I told them that there would be missed deadlines, botched articles, substandard layouts and confused editors.

But I also told them it would be worth it in the end.

How could we face so many potential problems?

In the fall of 2005, The College Voice got a new faculty advisor, Professor Gavin McCormick. At the same time, I needed to fulfill an elective and decided that Journalism I would be a worthy class.

On the first day, Gavin told the class that there was a newspaper, The College Voice, which needed assembly; the old advisor, an adjunct professor, had left, and almost the entire student staff had also vacated.

I decided I was up for the challenge.

Individually, Gavin and I decided that the newspaper should be much better than it had been in previous years. I identified two goals I wanted to accomplish: to bring respect, quality and relevance to the paper, and to help create a functioning structure that would transcend regimes.

Figuring out how to run the paper has largely been a mélange of trial and error for all involved, as if we were set in a dark room to wander around and create a map. I've come to expect this, and have even embraced it; I've dedicated my time on the newspaper to cutting a path for those who follow.

I didn't want the new staff to become discouraged in seeing that we were still figuring out how to run the paper, so I told them there would be expected bumps. I told them their efforts would be but a step in determining how to make the paper run, continuing the effort of the previous semester.

They, too, were up to the challenge.

The newspaper you hold in your hand is the sum total of the efforts of everyone involved in the re-creation of The College Voice over the past year.

With admitted bias, I venture to say that this issue is the best in the newspaper's history. The content is comparable to that of a real newspaper, and miles better than many college newspapers.

The quality is such that at least two editors have been contacted by The (Trenton) Times to do freelance journalism based on their work on The College Voice. This is a far point from where the newspaper once was.

I am most proud that the success we've created cannot be attributed to one single person. We would not have reached this point if of those involved this year were not on board.

While the goal of creating a quality newspaper has been achieved, creating a lasting structure has unfortunately hit a snag: at the end of this semester, Gavin will be leaving Mercer County Community College.

I'd always assumed that the lessons learned in running the paper would be kept alive by the newspaper's advisor. With Gavin leaving, that job is left to me, other staff members who will return next semester and the next advisor (who has not been selected). So much time invested by so many people cannot be allowed to fall away.

I'd like to thank the entire staff this year for being dedicated to a daunting challenge. I wish those moving on luck in wherever life may take them, and remind them that they have done something truly important with their time on the newspaper. Forever, you'll always been the first full staff of "The New College Voice."

I'd also like to thank Gavin for his wisdom, advice and dedication to the newspaper. You've personally taught me much in my time working with you, and it's unfortunate that you must leave so soon.

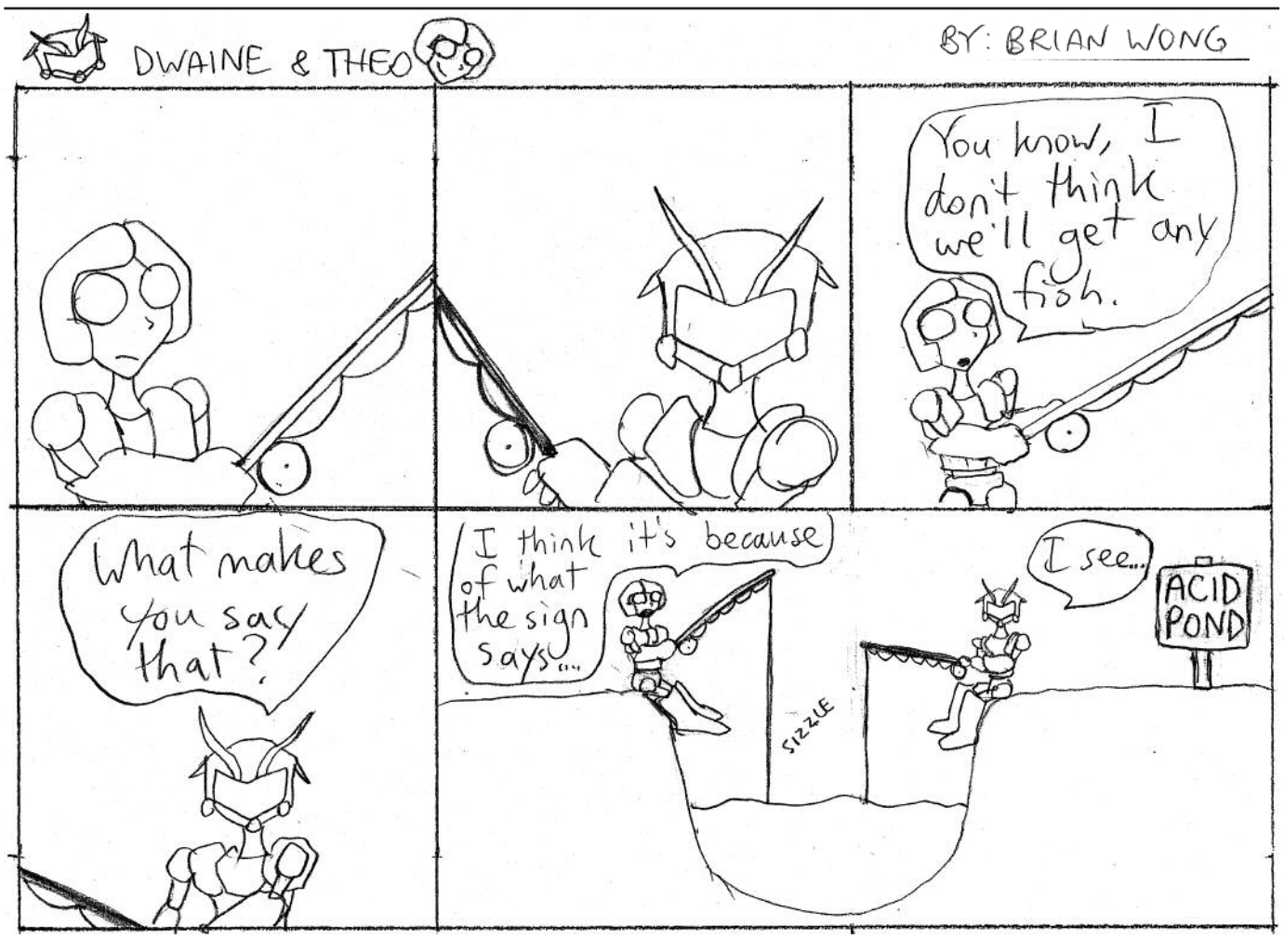
It was a pleasure working with all of you, and I promise that the future staff and I will keep the momentum going.

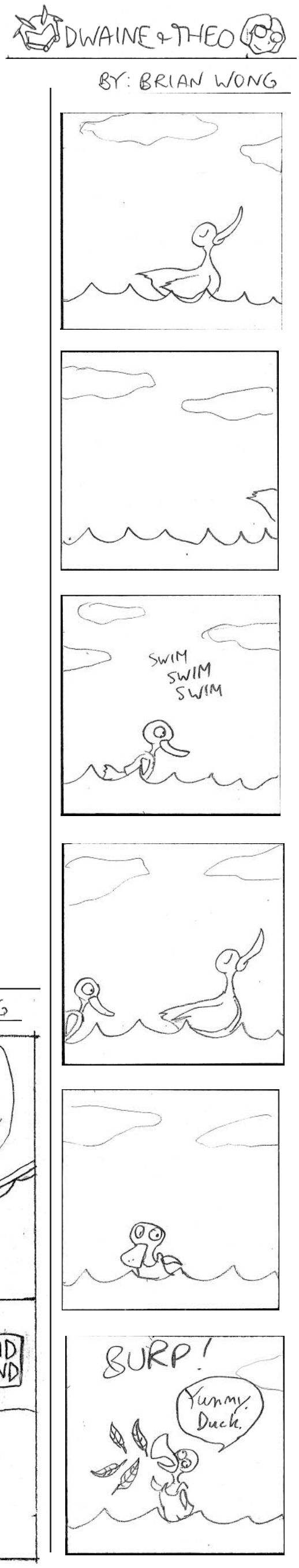
The Spring 2006 editorial team of The College Voice. From left to right, News Editor Emelyne Smith; Arts and Entertainment Editor Paul Plumeri; Professor Gavin McCormick, faculty advisor; Features/Sports Editor Danielle Cifelli; Managing Editor Esther Mills; and Editor-In-Chief Matt Witkowski. Missing is Mike Trainor, Bussiness Manager.

Comics

Comics by Mercer County Community College Students

A Manga by Maria Koehler





Classified & Games

Comics by Mercer County Community College Students

CLASSIFIED

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PUZZLES

DROW SCAMBLER

Ah... spring. Flowers are a bloomin. He's looking down on you now and would still like you to tiptoe through the tulips.

IYTN MTI

In this coded Yogi-ism each letter represents another letter.
For example, each letter "b" in the puzzle may actually be an "a" or it may be an "t" or any other letter. Keep replacing letters to decript the message. Hint: start with common one, two and three letter words then work from there.

"Brs tpg rzwjnfj p drv zb qpvtkxgh"

SUDOKU

N	M	D	I	R	O	W	P	E
M				P		W		
	R		M		N	I	D	
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	N	O					R	E
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Want to win a free copy Tristan and Isolde on DVD?

Ten Winners will get a free Tristan and Isolde DVD from The College Voice.

To enter, simply complete any one of the puzzles on this page, and send the answer to:

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See rules below.

ENTER NOW AND WIN!

Contest Rules
All staff of the College Voice are excluded from this offer. Faculty and staff are not excluded. Any answers should be emailed to mcccvoice@gmail.com. Only those answers submitted by email will be accepted. The first ten people to submit correct answers to any of the puzzles on this page including the sudoku will receive the Tristan and Isolde DVD advertised above. Confirmation will be sent out to those first ten email addresses telling you where and when you may pick up your prize.

MEETING
Con't from P2

will be hit less hard than many other schools.

"Rutgers had three representatives," Garrison said. "And they were the most outspoken because their tuition will probably go up the highest."

She added, "I thought a lot of it was silly because he couldn't do anything about what people were saying." Corzine responded to many comments by saying, "I'll take that into consideration."

Garrison said that although the discussion was healthy, it would bring about no immediate changes.

Mercer's tuition will rise by about 7 percent next fall, largely as a result of the decline in state funding. Lawmakers face a June 30 budget deadline that will ultimately determine the state's contribution to schools.

Garrison, 23, a humanities major, said she plans to run for SGA president again when her term is up in May.

"I love this position and the opportunities it gives," she said. "I would never have had the chance to meet the governor otherwise."

DODGEBALL
Con't from P2

Cycles celebrated.

The hearty band of 62 spectators spent much of the competition stomping on the gym bleachers. The Chargers had their own female fan club, and the women cursed when other fans rolled one of the Chargers' balls back into the wrong field.

Whitney Potts, vice president of the Student Government Association, impressed the audience as the last Pink Ladies' player in her round. But she did not have a chance against four players and got hit by a ball two seconds before the match ended.

The Latin Cycles are looking forward to a May 12 regional tournament in Bordentown, where the final match will be against a team of football players from the Philadelphia Eagles.

Funds raised during the tournament are set aside for statewide Phi Beta Lambda recruitment and activities, Oakes said. Goals include chartering chapters at other New Jersey colleges and increasing membership at existing chapters, he said.

Money will also help Mercer's chapter support Drug Abuse Resistance Education and fund its June trip to a national leadership conference in Nashville.

IDOL
Con't from P2

MCCC faculty and staff members Alvyn Haywood, Tonia Harrison and Reggie Grant served as judges, ranking participants with scores from 5 to 30.

Haywood, a communication and speech professor, said it was daunting to judge contestants' best efforts and said he admired those with the courage to perform before a boisterous crowd. "This is the tip of the talent iceberg here" at Mercer, he added.

Roxanne Paul won with a perfect 30 score after beating Patrick Lee in an audience scream-off. Paul, who plans to apply to Julliard, said this was "neither the first nor the last" time she'd sung before a crowd and that the winning was "fabulous."

Runner-up Lee, a radio major, said many people chose songs that were hard for them to sing and made fools of themselves. Still, he said, "Overall it was a fun event."

Professor Alvyn Haywood said he admired those with the courage to preform before a boisterous crowd.

"This is the tip of the talent iceberg here" at Mercer," he said.

Runner-up Patrick Lee said many contestants chose hard songs to sing and made fools of themselves.

Another performer, business major Will Jones, said, "It was a hit. Everyone was enjoying it, and it's something new."

One spectator, communications major Abena Ofori-atta, said the show was too short and that she'd love to see it return.

Harris said the Student Activities board is planning to repeat the contest next semester.

mcccvoice@gmail.com

GRADS
Con't from P1

class size," he said. "Mercer gave me the discipline and education to be successful at other schools."

Students touted many aspects of their coursework, citing opportunities for hands-on experience, extracurricular activities, field trips and seminars.

Foma said her education courses were aided by being able to observe an elementary school classroom and a special-needs school for autistic children, then turn the experience into an observation project.

"It was time consuming, but I learned more than I could from a text book," she said. "It gave me hands-on experience and helped me pursue special education."

To take place on the West Windsor campus quad, the commencement ceremony is scheduled to see 597 graduates receive diplomas, said Diane Campbell, dean of student services.

DREAM
Con't from P4

Students are required to commit to the college for one year and are then free to decide if the program works for them. Transferring to TCNJ is also a possibility.

"We want to keep the program open-ended and flexible so the students can decide what they want to do," Onaitis said.

Student mentors will soon be selected to help the DREAM students by showing them around campus and helping with class work. Mentors will be paid and may use the work to fulfill community service requirements of some courses.

"The mentors will work one-on-one with students much more in the beginning," Borden-Joye said. "The interaction will be much more intense, but as the semester goes on, maybe less and less."

Borden-Joye, who has a third-grade daughter with Down Syndrome, believes the program will help bring awareness of differences to Mercer.

"My daughter is in a regular third-grade class, and I believe the inclusion helps other students show empathy and better understanding for difference," she said.

DREAM is funded by two $50,000 grants given to the colleges by Laura and Steve Riggio through the National Down Syndrome Society.

MUSIC
Con't from P4

in him or her."

The variety of blues, as well as jazz and other African-rooted music, has insured its survival, Kelly said. The fundamentals behind blues and jazz have universal appeal, he said, while the feeling behind the music and the way it's conveyed make it unique.

Kelly's lecture was part of Mercer's "Africans in the Diaspora" series, which was held throughout the spring semester.

LOGS
Con't from P3

been asked to go further."

Franklin said the college was not complying with the act three years ago. He said students would ask to see the logbook and get "stonewalled" by security.

Franklin said that Eric Perkins, the school's former vice president of administration, didn't take action to bring MCCC into compliance with the Cleary Act. But he said complaints led the school to abide by the law during Robert Rose's presidency, which ended last year.

According to Franklin, in 2001 faculty members complained that someone was stealing from their offices. Security suspected that a maintenance worker had been stealing after college hours, but no legal action was taken, nor was a report ever entered in the logbook.

The Clery Act was passed in 1990 as the Campus Crime Act. In addition to maintaining a public crime log, schools must publish an annual report of their security policies and certain crime statistics for the previous three years.

Crime reports for MCCC and other colleges can be obtained from the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at http://ope.ed.gov/security/.

Although MCCC provides a table of campus crime statistics on its Web site, the listing has not been updated since 2003.

CAFE
Con't from P5

with their base as Slowdown Café," said Sarah Esralew, a cafe employee.

Recently, artists from New York have come to play, which has broadened the small café's horizons.

The live music adds to the warmth of its atmosphere, while the jazzy tunes bring much-needed character to the town. Students of the two local high schools often gather there to socialize.

Other locals have made it a gathering spot, too. It has provided a quiet place to read while enjoying a cup of coffee, along with a place for artists to unveil their artistic talents. Slowdown has made downtown Hightstown a more pleasant place.

GAMING
Con't from P5

A study conducted at the Cyclotron Unit of Hammersmith Hospital in London revealed that video games trigger a release of dopamine in the brain. Dopamine is the brain chemical triggered by drug users addicted to methamphetamines.

Cindy Matyas, MCCC student advocate and counselor, said sleep deprivation is the biggest visible effect of gaming addiction.

"Kids who play games late at night and deprive themselves of sleep are adversely affected in virtually every way," she said. "They're tired all day, they're slowed down and they can literally be a threat to themselves and others while driving under these conditions," Matyas said.

Of course, not all college gamers are addicts. MCCC student Bobby Jobst maintains A's and B's, all while considering himself a hardcore gamer.

"Kids who play games late at night and deprive themselves of sleep are adversely affected in virtually every way . They're tired all day, they're slowed down and they can literally be a threat to themselves and others.

-Cindy Matyas

"I own over 400 games," Jobst said. "But not becoming addicted to gaming all comes down to time management and maturity. I don't allow my gaming hobby to get in the way of my schoolwork or my sleep, but I'm still able to put around 20-30 hours a week into playing."

He continued, "I know a lot of my friends put off schoolwork for gaming, but I don't want to be one of those friends who acts like a parent. At the same time, it's hard to help someone in that situation even if you want to. The people who get that into games are content with what they're doing."

Matyas, who has a 15-year-old son who plays Halo 2 online for several hours a day, agrees.

"It's very difficult to help these kids when they are happy with the situation they've put themselves in," she said. "They make the choice to make themselves happy in the present, without really thinking of the consequences, and the result is kids with C's and D's thinking such grades are acceptable."

Sports

Covering the Vikings of Mercer County Community College

Soccer Coach Stays Home To Find Players Abroad

By Maria Koehler
The College Voice

Mercer County Community College's soccer coach Charlie Inverso has never gone overseas to find players. Of the international athletes who dot the star-studded rosters of his teams, he says, "Players are recruiting us."

Inverso started looking for international players in 1987, after his first year as coach. Over the years he has brought dozens of foreign players to Mercer, helping his teams win five national titles.

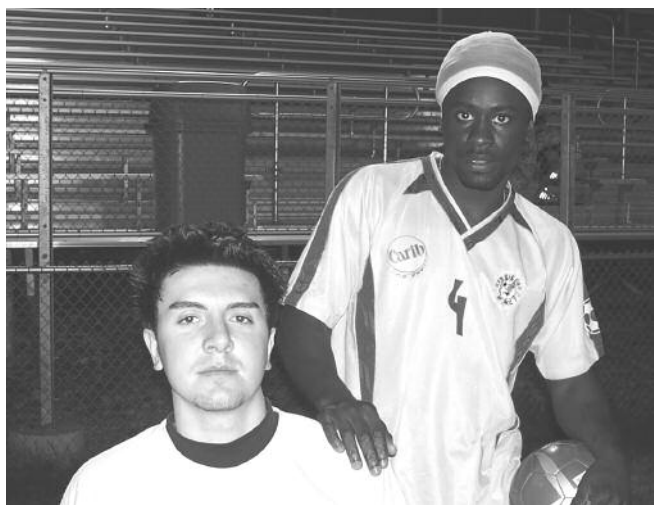
This year brought four I-20 visa holders to the squad, which lost only one match, in the national semifinals. Other players were either Americans or green-card holders.

Assistant coach Bill Daily says they are a fun group to be with because "they love to play" and are a "melting pot." He adds, "The sad thing is, they're only here for two years."

Here are profiles of three players who've found their way to West Windsor, N.J.

Jason James, team captain and a business management major from St. Johns, Grenada, feels "pretty good" about being in the United States, although he adds, "It's totally different."

Inverso's friend Marlon Glean told the coach about the defender a couple of years ago. James, now 24, says he then sent a video tape that impressed Inverso.



Marius Kapxhru (left) and Jason James (right) are both international students that have been recruited to play a sport at MCCC.

After playing for the Grenadian national team in 2004, James became Region XIX's defensive player of the year each of the last two seasons. Inverso says James is a "leader out on the field" and a "strong, mature person" who "holds the team together."

While he would play for any professional team if given the opportunity, James says his native country has no pro teams.

He proudly sports the green No. 4 jersey he's worn since coming to Mercer. The second oldest in a family of seven children, James calls home at least every other week.

James wants to transfer to Southern Connecticut University and room with one of his Mercer teammates, Marius Kapxhru.

Kapxhru, 23, came to the United States from Albania in April 2002. After the center-midfielder played in a New York league, he came to MCCC in 2004 to study business management. A St. John's University's coach told Inverso about the green-card holder.

Inverso says the 6-foot-4 Kapxhru is a "pure soccer player" and an "excellent passer" who knows how to "get himself out of tough situations."

Kapxhru, a sophomore on a full scholarship, says, "It's amazing. I just love it here." He is friends with everybody on the team, which he says is so talented it's "like an all-star team."

Kapxhru wants to transfer to Southern Connecticut University because it's only an hour from his home in New York.

Rigorous daily practices have proven no problem for him since, he says, "Coach is nice."

Kapxhru shares an apartment with two teammates, including center defender Kobi Rahav.

Rahav, 22, who hails from Israel, has studied English since the third grade and came to the United States last August. An Israeli friend who had studied at Mercer told Inverso about him.

Inverso likes the way the freshman plays and says he hopes Rahav "takes on the leadership next year."

Rahav, who twisted his ankle on artificial turf during an exhibition game in April, says it is hard to stay motivated during the off-season but adds that he's "self-motivated" once the fall rolls around.

Rahav, who studies business administration, bought a car in March, so he no longer has to travel to campus by bus. Living with teammates who've become friends and doing his own laundry has been a great experience, he said: "I've started a new life. It's like a big journey. It's fun."

Still, Rahav said he misses his native food, family, friends and dog, and he's looking forward to a trip home this month.

Cricket Fever Strikes Mercer County's Expatriots

By Zohair Zaidi
The College Voice

Cricket fever has again taken hold among Mercer County residents from India and Pakistan, who crave the end of winter the way baseball fans herald the arrival of spring training games.

Cricket is a growing sport around the world, although it isn't popular in the United States. Cricket League of New Jersey offers expatriate Indian and Pakistan communities a chance to play the sport they grew up with.

Cricket started in Britain, which exported the game across the globe as a colonial power in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The game has similarities to baseball, including bowlers (pitchers) and fielders who try to register outs opposing 11 (not nine) batters who try to score runs. Unlike baseball, there are no foul balls: cricket is played on a 22-yard pitch set in the middle of an oval ground, and a batsman can hit the ball anywhere he wants. Also, a batsman can't be struck out if he fails to hit three balls; however, he can be put out if the bowler knocks one of two wooden pegs (or "bails") off a couple of stumps (the "wicket") set behind him. Cricket is infamous for its five-day games, which aren't frequently played in the United States. Cricket League of New Jersey holds 40- "over" games, which last about six hours. (An over is set of six pitches.)

Cricket League of New Jersey has 42 registered teams from all over the state; Hightstown Cricket Club and Warriors both represent Mercer County. The league has 31 registered grounds, three in Mercer County.

Anoop Desai, captain of the Warriors, is hoping for a great season. Warriors came into existence in 1999, and Desai has been there for the entire ride. "We are an about-average team, not the best or the worst in the league," he said. Warriors managed to make it to the playoffs last year but lost their first playoff game.

Hightstown Cricket Club, founded in 2004, has climbed the ranks quickly. Venkat Krishnan, the team captain, said, "Hightstown Cricket Club has it all, and there are no individual heroes in this team." In its first season the team made the first-division playoffs (consisting of the league's top 16 teams). Krishnan is looking forward to stiff competition this season as the top-division clubs play only each other.

Cricket brings the subcontinent communities together here in the United States. The Indian and Pakistani expatriates sacrifice free time on the weekends to play, believing it's more than just sport but a way to remember their roots.

THE COLLEGE VOICE
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